

CHSAA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT
January 28, 2025

SOFTBALL COMMITTEE

Marty Tonjes, Horizon

CR 26

Chair

I. MAJOR CHANGES FROM LAST YEAR'S REPORT:

A. As a tier 2 option for hosting, 4A and 5A should host a one day Round of 32 event by utilizing a nearby second site if the host does not have 2 fields. Any 2 day Round of 32 event would need approval from CHSAA. No teams participating in that particular round of 32 should be considered for the second site.

B. Head-to-head will be included as a seeding protocol once the top 32 qualified teams are determined. Clear evidence would allow teams to be moved one spot at maximum based upon a head-to-head regular season game if they are consecutive seeds on the bracket. If the scenario exists where three or more consecutive seeded teams have all played one another, they will remain as originally placed on the bracket.

II. RATIONALE:

A. Aligning sites to run a one day event reduces travel and creates competitive equity for schools playing a similar number of games on one day.

B. Adding a head to head factor to seeding will better seed the top 32 teams.

III. FINANCIAL IMPACT:

A. Could save schools money by not spending the night at a two day event and reducing travel costs.

B. None

IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Meeting took place on November 13, 2024

B. Committee discussed scenarios around an administrative forfeit at regionals. Outcome was that a forfeit will be treated as a loss.

V. SEASONAL INFORMATION

A. First Practice: August 11

B. First Competition/Scrimmage: August 14

C. End of Regular Season: October 11

D. Round of 32 : October 17-18

E. State Tournament: October 24-25

VI. QUALIFYING FORMAT AND LEAGUE ASSIGNMENT BY CLASS

A. Class 3A (1-658)				
<u>3A Denver Metro (4)</u>	<u>3A Tri Peaks I (5)</u>	<u>3A Patriot (10)</u>	<u>3A Lower Platte (4)</u>	<u>3A/4A Frontier (9)</u>
Forge Christian	Alamosa	Brush	Burlington	Jefferson
Jefferson Academy	Lamar	Eaton	Holyoke	Bennett
Peak to Peak	Rocky Ford	Lyons	Limon	Englewood
The Academy	SECO Angels (co-op Wiley-Eads)	Platte Valley	Wray	Middle Park
	La Junta	Res. Christian		Arvada
<u>3A/4A Longs Peak (9)</u>		Sterling		Platte Canyon
Greeley Central	<u>3A Tri Peaks II (4)</u>	Strasburg	<u>3A/4A CSML North (6)</u>	Alameda
Wellington	Dolores Huerta Prep	University	Classical Academy	Sheridan (JV only)
	Woodland Park	Valley	Mitchell	
<u>3A Western Slope (7)</u>	James Irwin	Weld Central	Sand Creek	
Aspen	Florence			<u>3A/4A Denver Prep (3)</u>
Basalt				Denver West
Cedaredge	<u>3A/4A Colorado (4)</u>		<u>3A/4A CSML South (5)</u>	John F. Kennedy
Delta	Skyview		Harrison (JV)	Abraham Lincoln
Gunnison				
Meeker	<u>3A/4A/5A Granite Peaks (13)</u>		<u>Independent (1)</u>	
Montezuma-Cortez	Skyline		Moffat County	

Round of 32 Qualification: For 3A, a minimum of 17 games must be played for postseason eligibility. Thirty-two (32) teams advance to the regional bracket through league play and RPI/MaxPreps. All league champions are automatic qualifiers. To qualify as a league champion, the league must have a minimum of five teams.

Schools in a multiple-class league may earn an automatic qualifier for their classification only if they win the league outright. This will mean that if a 3A or 5A school wins the multi-class league title, any 4A school in that league can only qualify for the 4A regionals through RPI/MaxPreps.

The top 32 teams in the classification based on the final RPI/MaxPreps rankings will qualify for the post-season bracket. Each conference champion will automatically be placed on the playoff bracket. Conference champions are determined by the conference Bylaws or policies. If a conference champion is not ranked in the top 32 based on the final RPI/MaxPreps ranking, they will replace the lowest-ranked team that is not a conference champion in the top 32.

Round of 32 Seeding: The regionals will be seeded by a committee of administrators appointed by the CHSAA assistant commissioner responsible for softball and will utilize the following process: All qualifying teams will be ranked using RPI and MaxPreps, with each holding equal value. The eight teams that rank highest by seeding criteria will host the round of 32 tournaments. The remaining teams will be placed on the bracket, using the same system as above, avoiding first round league match-up. The committee may elect to move the bottom eight teams for geographical purposes.

3A State Qualification: The round of 32 teams shall play a single elimination regional tournament to determine the state tournament qualifiers.

3A State Tournament: The 16 state qualifiers will be reseeded 1-16 based on the above criteria and play a single elimination tournament. Winners of each round of 32 site will be seeded 1-8, 2nd place teams from each site will be seeded 9-16 based on the above criteria.

B. Class 4A Leagues (659-1418)			
<u>3A/4A Colorado (4)</u>	<u>3A/4A Longs Peak (9)</u>	<u>3A/4A CSML South (5)</u>	<u>4A South Central (5)</u>
Thornton	Mountain View	Canon City	Pueblo Centennial
Aurora Central	Northridge	Coronado	Pueblo Central
Adams City	Roosevelt	Mesa Ridge	Pueblo County
Gateway	Severance	Palmer	Pueblo East
	Thompson Valley	Widefield	Pueblo South
<u>4A/5A Centennial (8)</u>	Timnath		
Mullen	Berthoud	<u>3A/4A CSML North (6)</u>	<u>4A Pikes Peak (6)</u>
		Elizabeth	Air Academy
<u>4A/5A Continental (11)</u>	<u>4A/5A Northern (7)</u>	Falcon	Cheyenne Mountain
Ponderosa	Windsor	Sierra	Discovery Canyon
			Lewis-Palmer
	<u>3A/4A/5A Granite Peaks (13)</u>	<u>4A/5A Denver Prep (8)</u>	Palmer Ridge
<u>4A Jefferson Co. (9)</u>	Holy Family	Montbello	Lutheran
Dakota Ridge	Longmont	Hinkley	
Conifer	Mead	G. Washington	<u>4A/5A Southwestern (6)</u>
D'Evelyn	Silver Creek	Thomas Jefferson	Durango
Evergreen	Frederick		Montrose
Golden	Niwot	<u>4A/5A Rocky Mountain (7)</u>	Palisade
Green Mountain		Westminster	
Pomona	<u>3A/4A Frontier (9)</u>	Northglenn	<u>4A Western Slope (3)</u>
Standley Lake	Centaurus		Eagle Valley
Wheat Ridge	Fort Lupton		Rifle

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Schools in a multiple-class league may earn an automatic qualifier for their classification only if they win the league outright. This will mean that if a 3A or 5A school wins the multi-class league title, any 4A school in that league can only qualify for the 4A regionals through RPI.

The top 32 teams in the classification based on the final RPI/MaxPreps rankings will qualify for the post-season bracket. Each conference champion will automatically be placed on the playoff bracket. Conference champions are determined by the conference Bylaws or policies. If a conference

champion is not ranked in the top 32 based on the final RPI/MaxPreps ranking, they will replace the lowest-ranked team that is not a conference champion in the top 32.

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4A State Qualification: The regional teams shall play a modified double-elimination regional tournament to determine the state qualifiers.

4A State Tournament: The 16 state qualifiers will be reseeded 1-16 based on the above criteria and play a single elimination tournament. Winners of each round of 32 site will be seeded 1-8, 2nd place teams from each site will be seeded 9-16 based on the above criteria.

C. Class 5A Leagues (1419+)		
<u>4A/5A Centennial (8)</u>	<u>4A/5A Continental (11)</u>	<u>4A/5A Denver Prep (8)</u>
Arapahoe	Castle View	Denver East
Cherokee Trail	Chaparral	Rangeview
Cherry Creek	Douglas County	Denver South
Eaglecrest	Heritage	Vista PEAK
Grandview	Highlands Ranch	Denver North
Smoky Hill	Legend	Northfield
	Mountain Vista	
	Regis Jesuit	<u>4A/5A Northern (7)</u>
<u>5A CSML (6)</u>	Rock Canyon	Greeley West
Doherty	ThunderRidge	Fort Collins
Ftn-Ft Carson		Fossil Ridge
Liberty	<u>5A Jefferson Co. (7)</u>	Loveland
Rampart	Arvada West	Poudre
Vista Ridge	Bear Creek	Rocky Mountain
Pine Creek	Chatfield	
Pueblo West	Columbine	<u>5A Independent</u>
	Lakewood	Overland
<u>3A/4A/5A Granite Peaks (13)</u>	Ralston Valley	
Broomfield	Valor Christian	<u>4A/5A Rocky Mountain (7)</u>
Erie		Brighton
Fairview	<u>4A/5A Southwestern (6)</u>	Mountain Range
Horizon	Fruita Monument	Boulder
Legacy	Central Gr. Jct.	Prairie View
Monarch	Grand Junction	Riverdale Ridge

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The top 32 teams in the classification based on the final RPI/MaxPreps rankings will qualify for the post-season bracket. Each conference champion will automatically be placed on the playoff bracket. Conference champions are determined by the conference Bylaws or policies. If a conference champion is not ranked in the top 32 based on the final RPI/MaxPreps ranking, they will replace the lowest-ranked team that is not a conference champion in the top 32.

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5A State Qualification: The regional teams shall play a modified double-elimination regional tournament to determine the state qualifiers.

5A State Tournament: The 16 state qualifiers will be reseeded 1-16 based on the above criteria and play a single elimination tournament. Winners of each round of 32 site will be seeded 1-8, 2nd place teams from each site will be seeded 9-16 based on the above criteria.

VI. COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Marty Tonjes, Chair, Horizon (2027), **Jon Watson**, Fruita Monument (2025), **Jarrett Sweckard**, Fountain Fort Carson (2025), **Marla Tappy**, Brush (2025), **Deb Kortbawi**, Highlands Ranch (2025), **Mitchell Martinez**, Holy Family (2026), **Brenna Milliken**, Arvada West (2026), **Kevin Michelson**, Gunnison (2027), **Michael Felice**, Mesa Ridge (2027), **Emily Dunn**, Timnath (2027), **Chris Medina**, Lamar (2027)