



BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL COACHES MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021

- Please mute your microphones.
- Use the chat function for questions.
- Please hold verbal questions or comments until the end of the presentation.

India Weaver, Athletic Director

Tongela Taylor, Administrative Assistant

Lecia Schluterman, Athletics Specialist

Kai Washington, Head Athletic Trainer

Reed Willis, Athletics Specialist

AGENDA

- **Introduction**
- **Calendar/schedules**
- **General Covid-19 safety measures**
- **Sport Specific Covid-19 safety measures**
- **Eligibility/Compliance**
- **NOCSAE Compliance**
- **Lightning policy**
- **Rainouts**
- **Covid-19 cancellations**
- **Pitch Count/arm conditioning**
- **Minimum Time Limits**
- **Post season hosts**

INTRODUCTION

Reed Willis

Athletics Specialist
Baseball and Softball
Coordinator

willisrh@scsk12.org

(901)416-2918 (office)

(901)237-5968 (cell)

Lou Stackley

Baseball/Softball Agent

alstackley@sports-ems.com

(901)488-8490 (cell)

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL CALENDAR

Important Dates

March 3	Baseball & Softball Coaches Meeting	5:00 pm	Teams
Upon completion of Spring Sport checklist (AD and Principal approval)	First date of practice		
March 15	First games allowed by TMSAA		
March 29-April 2	SCS Spring Break		
April 5	First week for SCIAA scheduled district games		
*April 23	SCIAA Championship Meeting		Teams
*April 26-May 1	SCIAA Championship Tournament		TBA
May 10-11	TMSAA West TN A Softball Sectionals		Away TBD
May 10-11	TMSAA West TN AA Softball Sectionals		Brighton/Munford
May 10-11	TMSAA West TN A Baseball Sectionals		Dyer County
May 12-13	TMSAA West TN AA Baseball Sectionals		USA Baseball Stadium, Millington
May 21-22	TMSAA Baseball & Softball State Championships		Hendersonville, TN

*Tentative Dates

2021 PARTICIPATION BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

Participating Small Schools

(according to collected data)

Georgian Hills
Grandview?
Woodstock (SB)
Treadwell
Chickasaw (BB)
JP Freeman
Oakhaven
Bellevue
STEAM Academy

Participating Large Schools

(according to collected data)

Kate Bond
Ridgeway Middle
Colonial Middle
White Station Middle
A Maceo Walker
Hickory Ridge
Highland Oaks
Sherwood Middle

- ❖ If your school is not listed here and you plan to play, please let me know.
- ❖ If a school is listed here that is not participating in either softball or baseball, please let me know.

GENERAL COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES

CDC/HEALTH DEPT/NFHS/TSSAA Guiding Principles:

- Daily Screenings and Monitoring Logs of students, staff, fans etc.
- Adherence and encouraging social distancing 6 feet minimum at all times whenever possible.
- Eliminate use of communal/personal items whenever possible athletic towels, clothing, water bottles, shoes between students etc...).
- Cleaning hands before, intermittently during and after practices/competitions
- Require cloth facemasks for students, staff, administration, fans etc... where applicable.
- Engage in frequent cleaning/sanitizing of athletic equipment and facilities.
- Scrimmages and/or practicing with another team are not allowed.

SPORT SPECIFIC COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES

<https://cms-files.tssaa.org/documents/tssaa/2020/COVID-19-Regulations-and-Considerations-2021-02-01.pdf>

SPORT SPECIFIC COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES

COVID RECOMMENDATIONS

- Umpires, prior to arrival find out what the school / school system requires / recommends.
- Coaches & umpires should wear a mask during the pre-game meeting.
- Umpires can wear a mask during the game.
- Those in the dugout should wear a mask at all times.
- Players can wear a mask on the field.
- If there is a discussion / disagreement between coaches and the umpire(s), a mask should be worn by all involved in the conversation.



COMPLIANCE

Coaches Documentation:

- Current CPR & First Aid for all faculty and non-faculty coaches
- Signed Concussion Information Sheet, certificate of completion of an approved Concussion education course for all coaches and athletic directors (TN Public Chapter 148)
- Signed Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information Sheet, certificate of completion of NFHS education course for all coaches and athletic directors (TN Public Chapter 325)
- Complete SCS Covid-19 Safe Schools Training
- Complete NFHS Covid-19 for Coaches and Administration

COMPLIANCE

Student-Athlete Documentation:

- Completed and signed Athlete's Health Record:
- Valid Physicals **dated April 15, 2020 or later** and signed by FNP, MD or PA
- Emergency Information, Informed consent & Acknowledgement of Risk
- **Covid-19 Informed Consent & Assumption of Risk**
- Concussion Information Sheet initialed and signed by the student athlete and parent (TN Public Chapter 148)
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information Sheet initialed and signed by the student-athlete and parent (TN Public Chapter 325)

REQUIREMENTS

- Create protocols/plans for practice/competition preparedness i.e. times & locations, processes for entry & exit, team scheduling, fan management, equipment cleaning etc.
- Plan for virtual and in-person students.
- Practices limited to essential personnel only
- Students considered high risk should be identified along with appropriate action plan in case of emergency
- Consider staggered scheduling of school teams to avoid crossing groups
- No physical contact celebrations
- No Concessions

REQUIREMENTS

- Fans allowed w/masks per TSSAA 1/3 capacity or less guidelines and/or per third party vendor guidelines
- Students should wear masks at all times when not engaged in activity and unable to social distance. Athletic Staff should be in masks.
- No scrimmages, jamborees, or other types of practice with other teams is permitted.
- Temp. check and screening of all attendees/participants. Coaches
- should be responsible for pre-screening teams before participation.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

SCREENING

- Complete a daily questionnaire to include temp. check for student, coaches and other essential athletic personnel prior to participation and store in secure location.
- Any person with positive symptoms reported should not be allowed to take part in activities and reported via the Student Accident Database
- Students with pre-existing conditions should be identified along with appropriate plan in case of emergency

EXPOSURES

- Any information received that an employee (coach) or student athlete has tested positive would be immediately provided to School Operations Administrators in accordance with the AOSS manual.
- That information would be relayed to Health Services and Risk Management for further action.
- Wait for further direction

PRACTICE/GAMES



EVERY SCHOOL IS REQUIRED TO SUBMIT PROOF THAT THEY ARE IN COMPLIANCE BY SUBMITTING THE CHECKLIST TO SCIAA. THE CHECKLIST INDICATES THAT ALL TEAMS PARTICIPATING HAVE A PLAN IN PLACE AND ALL NECESSARY PAPERWORK HAS BEEN SIGNED AND REVIEWED BEFORE BEGINNING ANY ACTIVITY



ADS HAVE BEEN GIVEN THIS INFORMATION AND IT CAN BE FOUND ON THE SCIAA WEBSITE (SCIAA.ORG) UNDER ATHLETIC HEALTH SERVICES



THE TEMPERATURE CHECKS AND SCREENINGS MONITORING FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE PRACTICE BEGINS (EVEN IF DONE EARLIER IN THE DAY AT SCHOOL) AND BEFORE GAMES. MUST INCLUDE ALL PLAYERS, COACHES, OFFICIALS AND ANY OTHER PEOPLE PRESENT.



SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS IN PRACTICE AND COMPETITION PLANS MUST BE FOLLOWED AT ALL TIMES. SPORT SPECIFIC CHANGES WILL BE MENTIONED LATER IN PRESENTATION



NO BUILDING ACCESS IS APPROVED AT THIS TIME

PRACTICE/GAMES

PRACTICE

- Can begin when all requirements have been met and checklist submitted by school

GAMES

- Can begin March 15th or later (as long as all requirements have been met)
- The SCIAA district schedule will begin after spring break. Teams may schedule non-league games if desired prior to spring break if all documents and plans are in place and the principal and AD approve.

LIGHTNING SAFETY

- Thirty-minute rule: Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard, or lightning is witnessed* prior to resuming play.
- Any subsequent thunder or lightning* after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.

LIGHTNING

DO's & DON'Ts

Late spring through early fall is a prime time for outdoor sports—it's also when lightning is most prevalent. Each year, an average of 25 million lightning flashes strike the ground in the United States, making lightning the most dangerous and frequently encountered thunderstorm hazard. Stay safe and active outdoors by following these lightning do's and don'ts.

- ✓ **DO** establish a chain of command and identify who makes the call to remove players from the field.
- ✓ **DO** designate a weather watcher to monitor the local weather.
- ✗ **DON'T** forget that lightning is most common from afternoon to early evening.
- ✓ **DO** postpone outdoor activities if a thunderstorm is eminent.
- ✓ **DO** identify a safe, fully enclosed building—such as a school, field house, library or other habitable building—to use if lightning begins.
- ✓ **DO** seek shelter in a fully enclosed metal vehicle, such as a school bus, car or van.
- ✗ **DON'T** evacuate to open structures including picnic, park, sun, bus, rain and shelters as well as storage sheds, tents, dugouts, refreshment stands, screened porches, press boxes and open garages.

- ✓ **DO** stand away from showers, sinks, locker rooms, indoor pools, appliances and electronics.
- ✗ **DON'T** stand near open water, on elevated areas or under tall objects, such as trees, poles and towers.
- ✓ **DO** allow individuals to head indoors to wait out the storm if they feel in danger.
- ✗ **DON'T** resume activities until 30 minutes after the last strike of lightning is seen and the last sound of thunder is heard.
- ✓ **DO** call EMS if someone suffers a lightning-related injury.
- ✓ **DO** move the victim with care indoors, if necessary.
- ✗ **DON'T** believe myths—lightning victims don't carry a charge; they're safe to touch.
- ✓ **DO** evaluate the airway breathing and circulation, and begin CPR, if necessary.



Christ Community
HEALTH SERVICES



Student Health Clinics

Open Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 5 p.m

Call (901) 842-2379 or text "SCS901" to 91999

East High School
Sheffield CTC
Westwood High School

For WellChild, Contact Karen Pease at 901-827-5858.
Minimum number of physicals are required for
Wellchild to conduct on-site physicals.

NOCSAE BASEBALL REQUIREMENTS

The following items must be NOCSAE certified:

- Baseballs (new in 2020)
- Chest Protectors (new in 2020)
- Batting Helmets
- Catcher Helmets



RAINOUTS

Inclement Weather: Cancellation or postponement of games for inclement weather is the responsibility Athletic Director of the home team or his/her representative. The final decision and notification to the visiting team, umpire or assigning agent, and the SCIAA must be made by 11:00 a.m. on the day of the game. If there is any question as to playing conditions of Park Commission fields, the final decision for determining whether or not the field is playable will be made by the Park Commission representative.

Rescheduling Inclement Weather Games: The home team is responsible for obtaining field assignments for make-up games and contacting assigning agents to obtain umpires. **The home team is responsible for contacting the visiting team within *three* days of the postponed game and setting a playing date for the rescheduled game.**

RAINOUT RESCHEDULING PROCEDURE

1. The home team will make the decision whether a game is rained out. For games played on Parks Services fields, call (901)323-0023 for updated information on playability of fields. I will send out information via email regarding playability of Parks fields as I get it.
2. Notify the opposing team, umpires or assigning agent (Tony Walsh), and SCIAA baseball/softball coordinator (Reed Willis) by 11:00 am on the day of the game.
3. Try to have reschedule dates available when notifying opposing coaches of a rainout.
4. The home team is responsible for contacting the visiting team within 3 days of the postponed game to reschedule the game.
5. When a new date is agreed upon for the reschedule, contact Andrew Fisher to schedule a field if a Parks Services field is to be used.
6. After confirming the date and field assignment, communicate the reschedule information to Tony Walsh for the scheduling of umpires.
7. Notify Reed Willis of the new game date, time, and location.

PARKS SERVICES FIELDS

All games at Tobey (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday) & Willow (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) must be completed by 6:00 pm. Drop dead, no excuses! I will update any changes as I receive them from Memphis Parks and Rec.

Andrew Fisher (901) 636-5580 office andrew.fisher@memphistn.gov

Games postponed on Park Commission fields should be rescheduled through the Park Commission office. Please contact them at (901)636-5580 between 10am and 12pm, daily. The participating teams should reschedule games postponed on school fields.

UMPIRES

The home school is responsible for changes of the field location --You must notify the umpire's assigning agent of any change:

Baseball & Softball Assigning Agent: Tony Walsh(901) 634-5201 twalsh06@aol.com

Notes:

1. All umpires are required to contact the home team school by **12:00 noon on game day**. Check with your financial secretary to insure that the officials have called in. Do not leave for your playing field without 100% assurance that your officials are assigned and are aware of your game.
2. Any changes on game day, coaches are required to contact the umpires or an assigning officer by 11:00 a.m. of game day or be in jeopardy of paying game fees.
3. In case it becomes necessary to postpone a regular game after the umpires have arrived, but before any play takes place, the umpires shall be entitled to collect only half of the fee.

COVID-19 CANCELLATIONS

What TSSAA states about COVID-19 Cancellations:

“TSSAA Regulations do not require schools to play a district or region schedule in order to determine who advances to the postseason. Individual districts have always had the autonomy to decide how to treat games that are not played for whatever reason. (flu, weather, etc.)”

For SCIAA games:

You may choose to make up games if possible, but the reality is that if you have cancellations due to COVID-19, it will be difficult to have time to reschedule the games. Games between 2 SCIAA schools that are cancelled due to COVID-19 that are not made up will be recorded as a no-contest.

It is recommended that you communicate with teams in your district prior to the start of the season to determine an equitable method for determining district tournament seeding, runner-up, and district champion. Have a plan for seeding if a team or teams is unable to complete a full district schedule.

PITCH COUNT

THESE RULES ARE IN REGARD TO THE POSITION OF BASEBALL PITCHER.

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

1. Make sure properly warmed up prior to any throwing activity. Use proper equipment to aid in the warm up. (Surgical tubing, etc...)
2. Make sure a proper dynamic and static stretching plan is followed prior to throwing.
3. Educate pitchers on proper mechanics and techniques of throwing.
4. Monitor for signs of mechanical breakdown and fatigue.
5. Take immediate action if a pitcher complains of pain.
6. Consult a trainer/doctor/trained coach upon completion of game pitching activity.
7. Put in place and follow a prescribed post pitching rehabilitation program.
8. Make every effort to avoid pitching a player in multiple games on the same day.

RULES:

1. A player cannot pitch three (3) days in a row regardless of number of pitches thrown. Using a pitcher three (3) days in a row would violate the rule regarding using an ineligible player.
2. Each pitch will count as a pitch. Even if a pitcher surpasses a cutoff number, the pitch count will be exactly the number of pitches thrown. No pitch count will revert to another number. (ie. 120 pitches will be 120 pitches)
3. It is strongly recommended that coaches check with the opposing team between each half inning to make sure both teams agree to and record the same pitch count.
4. In case of disagreement, the home team's count will be the final accepted count.
5. Both teams are required to sign each other's pitch count form at the end of each game.
6. The pitch count will apply to any player who pitches and is cumulative each day. JV pitch count and high school varsity pitch count are linked together. Example: a pitcher who pitches 45 Varsity pitches on Monday is not permitted to pitch JV on Tuesday.
7. The pitch count applies to regular season and postseason.
8. A pitcher may pitch in Game 1 of a doubleheader and return to pitch in Game 2 of the same doubleheader. The pitches in Game 2 will be added to the Game 1 total for the purposes of determining the number of days' rest needed.

PITCH COUNT (BASEBALL)

Level	Maximum pitches per day	Daily Pitch Allowances by Calendar Days of Rest				
		0 days	1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days
Middle School (6-8 grade)	85	1-19	20-35	36-50	51-66	67-85
High School Freshman/JV	100	1-25	26-40	41-65	66-80	81-100
High School Varsity	120	1-25	26-55	56-75	76-105	106-120

Penalty for violation of the Pitch Count Rule

1st Time – Forfeit; \$50 fine; coach suspended for one game at each level the violation occurred.

2nd Time – Forfeit; \$250 fine; coach suspended for two games at each level the violation occurred.

3rd Time – Forfeit; \$500 fine; coach suspended for four games at each level the violation occurred.

The SCIAA urges coaches to check with opposing team between each inning to ensure pitch counts are the same. If you see a coach not charting pitch counts, please make note of it on your sheet and contact the SCIAA Office the next day, schlutermank@scsk12.org.

GAME INFORMATION

Limits

TMSAA limits middle schools to play a maximum of 16 games played. The SCIAA Championship tournament will count as two games in the TMSAA limit. Coaches are welcome to schedule more games up to the max 16. Non-league games must be reported to the SCIAA by March 15th. Schools will be responsible for fields and umpires if submitted after the deadline.

Admission

Admission charge is optional. \$5.00 max ticket price.

Line-up Cards: Coaches should exchange line-up cards before the start of each game. The player's uniform number is to be included. This is necessary due to the re-entry rule. **The exchange of line-up cards is currently discouraged by TSSAA due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Options for exchanging lineups are by text or by using a whiteboard with lineup hung outside of the dugout.**

BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL RULES

503. Limits Upon Games

503.5 Middle School Baseball - No new inning will begin 1 ½ hours after the official starting time of the contest, except in case of tie games, which should be played to completion.

Middle Softball – No new inning will begin 1 hour and 15 minutes after the official starting time of the contest, except in the case of tie games, which should be played to completion.

503.6 Baseball - If a team is ahead by ten (10) runs after five (5) complete innings of a seven-inning game has been played, the game will be called as a complete game, provided there is a mutual agreement between the two coaches. Softball – If a team is ahead by fifteen (15) runs after three (3) complete innings or ten (10) runs after five (5) innings of a seven inning game has been played, the game will be called as a complete game, provided there is mutual agreement between the coaches.

510. SCIAA Championship

Schools must play all league games to be eligible to participate in the SCIAA championship. (This could be amended if there are cancellations due to Covid-19). All league games that are cancelled must be scheduled within three working days. Forfeits for championship purposes must go through the SCIAA office. Forfeiting a regular season game will remove the team from consideration for the Championship. The SCIAA Championship format will be determined prior to each season.

BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL RULES

105. Inclement Weather and Postponed Games

105.1 Inclement Weather - When school is cancelled because of inclement weather conditions, all athletic events will be postponed. The home school is responsible for notifying officials and calling everyone involved in the contest.

105.5 Guidelines for Forfeiting Athletic Contests

Forfeit - Any game that is cancelled by a school for reasons other than weather related conditions.

- a. To keep from paying a fine, the forfeiting schools must notify the opposing school and the SCIAA office in writing at least 24 hours before the contest.
- b. Officials should be notified of game cancellation by 11:00 a.m. on the day of a scheduled contest. If the school fails to notify the officials, the forfeiting school must pay and will not receive reimbursement from the Athletic Office.
- c. Both schools in a forfeiting situation should send a letter to the SCIAA office and a copy to the opposing school principal.
- d. The fines for forfeiting are two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for major sports, fifty dollars (\$50.00) for minor sports. ***Baseball and Softball are both defined as major sports.***
- e. If a school fails to notify the opposing team by 11:00 am in writing on the day of a scheduled contest the forfeiting school must pay the cost of the bus for the visiting team if a bus charge is incurred.
- f. The forfeited game will not be rescheduled.
- g. If there is a continued pattern of forfeiting in any sport, the Athletic Manager may request an explanation.
- h. Any school that has a forfeit situation must notify the SCIAA within 24 hours. Failure to notify the SCIAA in writing will result in a no contest for championship purposes.
- i. A forfeit will remove the forfeiting team from consideration for the SCIAA Championship.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Field Dimensions

Baseball Bases-80' Pitching Rubber-54'
(Sectional and State Championship games will be played at 60'-90')

Softball Bases-60' Pitching Rubber-43'

Dugout Area

- Only coaches and players are allowed in the dugout area.
- When a team is on offense only 4 people are allowed outside of the dugout (batter in the box, on deck batter, 1st base coach, 3rd base coach). If a student is coaching a base, he/she must have on a batter's helmet.
- When a team is on defense no one is allowed outside of the dugout. **Areas behind the dugout may be used to increase social distancing. Masks must be worn at all times in the dugout.**

Helpful Links

NFHS Learn (Concussion, Sudden Cardiac Arrest, COVID-19 courses, and more):

<https://nfhslearn.com/courses>

SCIAA Athletic Health Services including:

<https://sciaa.digitalsports.com/health/>

SCIAA MS baseball and softball page:

<https://sciaa.digitalsports.com/middle-school-sports-information/ms-baseball-softball/>

TSSAA Return to Play Policies and Guidelines:

<https://tssaa.org/returntoplay>

TSSAA Sport Specific Guidelines:

<https://cms-files.tssaa.org/documents/tssaa/2020/COVID-19-Regulations-and-Considerations-2021-02-01.pdf>

**Questions or
comments?**

