

Softball for Girls

January 31, 2022	<i>First Practice Date/ Schedules Due</i>	May 13 & 14	<i>State Tournament</i>
February 21	<i>First Playing Date Note: a team may play one pre-season game or tourney</i>	May 16-18	<i>State Championship Series</i>
March 7 & 8	<i>Student Government Spring Convention - No Games scheduled on the 7th or before 4:00 on the 8th</i>	May 21	<i>North-South All-Star Game</i>

Rules

1. National Federation Rules shall be the official rules unless SCISA has an otherwise stated policy.
2. Each softball playing school must may complete the **online clinic** on the SCISA website. Completion of the online clinic shall be recognized by the Head Coach filing a complete 2022 SCISA Questionnaire (also on the website). There is a \$100 fine for failure to complete the online clinic.

Mandatory Policies and Procedures

Mandatory Policies and Coaching Requirements

1. All schools shall have a written: Concussion Policy / Heat and Athletic Participation Policy
Emergency Action Plans to include athletic venues (*Event Management Tool*)
- *Coaching Staffs must have copies of all school policies and must be in compliance.*
2. **Annually**, every coach must complete the NFHS online courses:
Concussion in Sports (<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/concussion-in-sports-2>)
Heat Illness Prevention (all **fall sports** coaches) (<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/heat-illness-prevention-2>)
3. All coaches shall be **CPR and AED** certified.
4. All coaches will complete the following NFHS courses **every two years** (after initially completing a course):
NFHS Sportsmanship Course (<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/sportsmanship-2>)
Bullying, Hazing and Inappropriate Behaviors (<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/bullying-hazing-and-inappropriate-behaviors>)
Engaging Effectively with Parents (<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/engaging-effectively-with-parents>)
Protecting Students From Abuse (new 2021) (<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/protecting-students-from-abuse>)
Sudden Cardiac Arrest (<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/sudden-cardiac-arrest>)

Technology Requirements for Practice/Games

All schools shall have **Lightning Detection Device** or subscribe to a **Lightning Detection Service** and have it on-site to assist game management with inclement weather decisions and/or stoppage/resumption of play. The school official who is responsible for monitoring the weather will be identified to the umpires prior to the game

Officials

SCISA certified umpires must be used in all games and at all levels of play. The region director will assign an umpiring crew (two umpires) to work all contests.

Approved Speed-Up Rules

SCISA approved Speed-Up Rules:

- (1) *The pitcher and/or catcher may have a courtesy runner. The runner must be an eligible substitute. The same runner may not be used for both positions in the same inning.*
- (2) *Intentional walks will be issued upon request.*
- (3) *After each out, the ball should go directly to the pitcher.*
- (4) *The Ten (10) Run Rule (5 innings) and the 15 Run Rule (3 innings) is in effect in all SCISA Games.*
- (5) *The International Tie-breaker procedure will be used if the game advances to the 8th inning & beyond.*

Game Rules and Policies

1. If a team is 30 minutes late without notification of reason, the umpire will declare the game a forfeit. Fifteen (15) minutes is the maximum warm-up period for a late team.
2. It shall be considered a **complete game** after either 4 1/2 innings (if the home team is ahead) or after 5 complete innings, if the contest is stopped for rain, darkness... If a game is stopped due to weather conditions before the 4 1/2 or 5 inning rule, then a suspended game shall be called. The contest will be resumed from the point it was suspended..
3. A student cannot participate in a JV game and Varsity contest on the same day. Participation is defined as dressed in the team uniform and in the team area or named in the score book.
4. Game Limitation: Player and Teams are limited to 26 games. Contact SCISA with scheduling concerns.
5. Coaches should carefully review the *Protest* procedures as stated in the **Blue Book**. If a protest is declared, it must be done so at the time of the play and before the next pitch. The head coach/AD must notify SCISA within 24 hours.

Team: Level of Competition

Levels of Competition: (Note- Students must also meet all other SCISA eligibility standards)

Varsity Teams: Eligible students in grades **8-12** may participate in varsity softball.

Note: To address player safety, coaches and parents must carefully evaluate the skill level and physical competitiveness of students below the 9th grade before permitting participation on any varsity teams.

Junior Varsity Teams: Eligible students in grades **6-10** may participate in junior varsity softball.

Note: To address player safety, coaches and parents must carefully evaluate the skill level and physical competitiveness of students below the 9th grade before permitting participation on any junior varsity team.

B-Teams: Eligible students in grades **5-8** may participate in B-Teams softball.

Note: To address player safety, coaches and parents must carefully evaluate the skill level and physical competitiveness of students below the 7th grade before permitting participation on any B-Team.

Home Team Responsibilities

1. **Event Security/Game Management:**

- A. A **Designated Representative** is required of both teams (see Article XIII, Section V). He/she shall be introduced/identified to the referee prior to the game and introduced by the PA during pre-game announcements.
- B. **Uniformed Police Officer:** SCISA does not require the use of a uniformed police officer at softball games. Each school should carefully examine plans for event management and security. The Home Team is in charge of spectators and game events.

2. **Playing Field:**

- A. The Home Team shall provide a safe playing field which meet regulations. Fields may be inspected upon request prior to the start of a series. Conditions such as lighting, pitcher's mound, field playability, may cause a change in location or starting time.
- B. The Home Administration is responsible for deciding if weather conditions are unfavorable (under normal weather conditions) or if the field is unplayable. If this determination is made, the visiting team, the SCISAA Office, and the officials must be notified. If the officials are not notified before they leave, they must be paid mileage. The game should be rescheduled for the next playable day.
- C. A double first base is permitted.

3. **Public Address Announcer:** The public address announcer is a vital member of the game management team. He or she should be provided with at least the following guidelines:

- A. All Public Address Announcers should begin all athletic contests with a welcome and a sportsmanship statement.
- B. Introduce each school's Designated Representative and inform the audience that if called upon, he/she will be assisting game management with safety and sportsmanship rules.
- C. The Public Address Announcer must be aware that in the event of an emergency (such as dangerous weather) that he/she will be the primary source of information and will be called upon to provide instructions/directions.
- D. The Public Address Announcer must maintain a professional posture, **showing the same amount of enthusiasm and excitement for Both Teams**. Please remain "unbiased and neutral". A public address announcer is not a "color" commentator. We acknowledge that there will exist some "home flavor" but the accomplishments of all of the children playing should be recognized.

6. **Reporting Game Results:** The Home Team shall report the game results to the news media.

Coaching Notes

Coaching Notes:

1. Sportsmanship: What you permit, you promote! Coaches must emphasize and promote good sportsmanship and fair play.
2. **SCISA Player-of-the-Week.** Coaches are reminded to nominate outstanding individual performances each Monday. Email stats and additional player information along with a picture to athletics@scisa.org.
3. SCISA Community Service Award: **"True Champions Give Back"**. The South Carolina Independent School Association shall honor every varsity team who takes part in a community service program with a certificate recognizing the team and naming the community service project. SCISA has adopted the motto, **"True Champions Give Back"** signifying the association's belief that an important part in the education of our young people is an awareness of the needs and service opportunities that exist around them. Each team shall submit a report detailing the service project, the number of participants, the number of man hours, photos,...etc.

North-South All-Stars / All-State

- ♦ North-South All-Stars and selection to the SCISA All-State Team is based primarily on a player's ranking on the All-Region Team. Each region shall submit to SCISA an All-Region Team naming a Player-of-the-Year and ranking the remaining players from #2 to the last selection in the region. The list shall include each player's grade and position.
- ♦ The selection committee reserves the right to weigh a team and/or region's performance in the state play-offs in both selection processes.

Mandatory Equipment

1. While on defense, all pitchers, 3rd and 1st basemen must wear a protective face gear. Face/head protection worn by defenders shall have non-glare (not mirror-like) outer surface.
2. Adult base coaches shall wear a protective cap in the 1st & 3rd base coaching boxes (cannot coach bases without wearing a protective cap).

SCISA Policies

1. Non-Appeal Play: On failing to proper tag-up or a runner missing a base, SCISA umpires will declare the runners out once the ball is declared dead.
2. Assistant Coaches: Rule prohibits any member of the coaching staff who is not the head coach from leaving the vicinity of the dugout or coaching box to dispute a judgment call by an umpire. Penalty: both the head coach & the offending coach is restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game.
3. SCISA has established a “halo” around all baseball umpires. This “halo” is an area of approximately two feet around an umpire. If a coach in arguing a call, breeches the “halo”, the coach will at least be automatically restricted to the dugout.
4. **Coaches in Dugouts While on Defense.** The rules & SCISA Policies prohibit the practice of coaches sitting in front of his/her dugout or creating a dead ball area in front of his/her dugout for purpose of calling pitches.

Head Coach Verifies Equipment

Head Coaches are duty bound to verify that their players are legally equipped and are using legal equipment. The integrity of the game demands that coaching staffs and players to only use legal equipment and not to tolerate the use of illegal equipment. Illegal equipment can jeopardize player safety and unfairly tilt the concept of a level playing field.

Organized Practice

First Practice Date: Monday, January 31, 2022

School-year Softball Restrictions: July 29, 2021 - January 30, 2022 (and after the season ends).

A coach may practice with no more than four players at a time.

Softball Play-offs: Championship Series

- Home Team shall contact the visiting team to provide directions and game information.
- Game Time - Both schools can mutually agree to a game time. Schools are asked to consider drive time and exam schedules. Otherwise, the home team can declare an afternoon game at 5:00 or a night game at 6:00.
- All Speed-up Rules are in effect, including 15 and 10-Run Rule.
- **In case of rain**, the game will be played the next playable day. If a game is stopped due to weather conditions a suspended game shall be declared. The contest will be resumed from the point it was suspended.
- Home Teams shall file a Financial Statement for each Home Game, all rounds.

SPORTSMANSHIP: Coaches are reminded to make sure that “chatter” from their team bench is positive and supporting their team not taunting the other team. Designated Reps should introduce themselves to each other and be proactive during the game.