

CIF SOUTHERN SECTION | SOFTBALL



# SEASON PREVIEW



2025 - 2026



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TO: CIF-SS VARSITY SOFTBALL COACHES

FROM: THOM SIMMONS, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

DATE: JANUARY 15, 2026

RE: 2026 SOFTBALL SEASON

## 2026 SOFTBALL SEASON PREVIEW

The Girls' Softball Packet has been prepared to assist you in the organization of your school's Girls' Softball program. The enclosed is important information for preparation of the upcoming season. Please share this information with your coaching staff

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## 2026 SOFTBALL CALENDAR AND PLAYOFF DATES

FIRST CONTEST	<p>MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup></p> <p>The initial date on which a school may schedule and conduct an interscholastic contest. If a school chooses to have a scrimmage (maximum 2 scrimmages), it must be on or after February 16<sup>th</sup> and before their first official contest.</p>
SIT OUT PERIOD	FRIDAY, MARCH 27 <sup>TH</sup>
LAST CONTEST	<p>WEDNESDAY, MAY 6<sup>TH</sup></p> <p>All competitions (league and non-league) See Bylaw 3008 for end of competition guidelines.</p>
LEAGUE ENTRIES	<p><b>DUE WEDNESDAY, MAY 6<sup>TH</sup></b> <b>BY 9:00 PM in CIFSSHome</b></p>
PAIRINGS DAY	<p>MONDAY, MAY 11<sup>TH</sup> AT 9:00 AM</p> <p>Playoff Brackets can be found at <a href="http://www.cifss.org">www.cifss.org</a></p>
PLAYOFFS	<p>MAY 14<sup>TH</sup>, 15<sup>TH</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> &amp; 23<sup>rd</sup></p> <p>BREAKDOWN ON NEXT PAGE</p>
CIF-SS FINALS	THURSDAY, MAY 28 <sup>TH</sup> – SATURDAY, MAY 30 <sup>th</sup>
STATE REGIONAL TOURNAMENT	JUNE 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , & 6 <sup>th</sup>

## 2026 SOFTBALL PLAYOFF DATES BREAKDOWN

ROUND 1	THURSDAY, MAY 14 <sup>TH</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>
ROUND 2	SATURDAY, MAY 16 <sup>th</sup>
QUARTERFINAL	WEDNESDAY, MAY 20 <sup>TH</sup>
SEMIFINAL	SATURDAY, MAY 23 <sup>RD</sup>
FINALS	THURSDAY, MAY 28 <sup>TH</sup> – SATURDAY, MAY 31 <sup>ST</sup>

## SOFTBALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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**Determination of Playoff Divisions – Softball.**

With the passage of the new competitive equity playoff system (CIFSS Council, January 2024), and changes to Bylaws 3519 and 3520, the way we group playoff divisions has changed. To summarize, playoff divisions will be created at the end of the regular season based on a team’s current win/loss data.

It is imperative that coaches/athletic directors enter their full schedule, and score results consistently throughout the season. Member schools who fail to accurately enter complete regular season results into the CIFSSHome system will not be placed into a playoff division and will be ineligible to participate in the Southern Section Championship Playoff Tournament.

Schools (via the coach and/or AD email) will be getting updates of missing scores throughout the season. Those vacancies must be filled. Schools tend to use “TBA” as opponent names in tournament situations as placeholders. Please review your results carefully, entering actual tournament opponents played and the game scores. Please look through your schedule and scores on CIFSSHome (not another platform) as all data retrieval will be from CIFSSHome.

Massey Ratings, the same power ranking system the CIFSS has used in various sports since 2014, will continue to be used. The only thing changing is the timeframe of data used to feed this system. Previously, the two most recent year’s results would feed Massey Ratings for pre-season divisional placement. Now, only the current year will be used for in-season divisional placement. The benefit of this is being placed in a division based on the accolades of the team a school currently has, rather than the success of the team in the two previous years.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL SCHEDULES AND SCORES ARE COMPLETED BY WEDNESDAY, MAY 6TH (END OF DAY) OR SOONER!**

Last League and Contest Date: Wednesday, May 6th (NO GAMES MAY BE PLAYED AFTER THIS DATE, AT ANY LEVEL).  
Score Reconciliation: Thursday, May 8th (NO GAMES ARE BEING PLAYED, THE SEASON HAS ENDED FOR ALL LEVELS). ALL SCORES SHOULD BE IN BY THAT DATE. Playoff Bracket Release: Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. First Round Games: The week of Monday, April 12th  
(consult the schedule contained within the Playoff Bulletin for all divisional playoff contest dates).

# MASSEY RATINGS

- **Inputs**

The computer considers the outcome of each game. Optionally, some games may be assigned more or less weight than usual (e.g. playoffs or exhibitions). All games are analyzed in concert, so that the impressiveness of each win is constantly being re-evaluated in light of the other results.

- **Model**

The mathematical rating model is based on maximizing the retrospective probability of the observed game results. Each outcome generates a “force” on the teams involved, attempting to push the winner above the loser. But as the algorithm adjusts the ratings to create an equilibrium, a ripple effect occurs throughout the entire network of teams. Opponents’ opponents’ opponents’ ... ad infinitum are influenced by some degree. By chains of interaction, it is possible to compare teams that are geographically dispersed.

- **Margin of Victory**

Each game score is translated to a probability that the winner is really the better team. A narrow win of 27-24 might translate to 58%, while a blowout of 45-14 gives 98%. The cap of 100% enforces diminishing returns to running up the score.

- **Pace**

The model does not discriminate against styles of play that result in fewer total points. In football for example, a team that typically wins games 24-10 may be considered more impressive than a team that wins 49-31 barnburners.

- **Strength of Schedule**

Each team is measured by its performance relative to the opposition faced. Ratings and strength of schedule are calculated simultaneously so that schematically

$$\text{rating} = \text{performance} + \text{strength of schedule}$$

The model is able to accurately compare e.g. a team that went 9-1 against weak competition to a team that went 6-4 against a brutal schedule.

- **Mismatches**

The model derives most of its information from games between teams of similar strength. Therefore there should be no incentive to scheduling inferior opponents, since there is limited reward to wins and potentially large downside in the unlikely event of an upset. With regard to strength of schedule, it is more difficult for an elite team to face #2 and #100 than to face #39 and #40.

- **Head-to-Head**

Sometimes lower ranked teams defeat higher ranked teams. These “upsets” are inevitable and should be tolerated since each team is rated according to its entire “body of work”. A single head-to-head result is not always consistent with rankings derived as a best fit for the entire season.

- **Objectivity**

All teams are treated equally and anonymously, without regard to name brands or affiliations. The computer can assess bad or mediocre teams just as well as the teams at the top.

- **Rating and Power**

A team’s rating is designed to reward the most impressive resumes, giving more credit to wins, regardless of how dominant they were. In contrast, the “Power” of a team is more indicative of the true strength of the team. The power of a team is broken in to offensive and defensive components, which can be combined to forecast typical scores for a given matchup, as well as the associated probabilities of winning.



**THE  
BEST  
USE  
THE  
BEST**

**GATORADE**



## IN SEASON RANKINGS

With the passage of the new competitive equity playoff system in January 2024 and changes to Bylaw 3519 and 3520 a weekly Top 10 poll will not be necessary. The playoff divisions will be created at the end of the regular season based on the current year's data.

It is **IMPERATIVE** that COACHES enter their full schedule and record results constantly throughout the season. Member schools who fail to accurately enter complete regular season results into the CIFSSHome ([www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org)) system will not be placed into a playoff division and will be **INELIGIBLE** to participate in the Southern Section Championship playoffs. For the 2026 season, Massey Ratings will be used to provide overall team rankings.

At the halfway point of the season and then each week to follow until the end of the regular season on Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> we will post in-season rankings of all Southern Section teams participating in softball.

Posting dates are:

Tuesday, March 31

Wednesday, April 8

Tuesday, April 14

Tuesday, April 21

Tuesday, April 28

Tuesday, May 5

## APPROVED SANCTIONED EVENTS

Please refer to the CIF Southern Section website ([www.cifss.org](http://www.cifss.org)) for the latest Sanctioned Events, as events are updated daily.

Sanctioned Events download directions:

click on ***GOVERNANCE TAB***

click on ***SANCTIONED EVENTS***

select ***SOFTBALL***

click on ***SEARCH***

This page will display the most up to date information on:

**Softball Approved Sanctioned Events**

## SOFTBALL 2026 LEAGUES/SCHOOLS/DIVISIONS

Updated: 1/13/2026

ENT LEAGUE	DIV	ENT LEAGUE	DIV	ENT LEAGUE	DIV	ENT LEAGUE	DIV
<b>3 605</b> Artesia Cerritos Glenn Oxford Academy Pioneer Whitney		<b>3 BIG VIII</b> Centennial/Corona Corona King, Martin Luther Norco Roosevelt, Eleanor Santiago/Corona		<b>3 COASTAL CANYON</b> Camarillo Moorpark Oak Park Royal Simi Valley		<b>3 EMPIRE</b> Fullerton Garden Grove Kennedy/La Palma Seegerstrom Valencia/Placentia	
<b>3 AGAPE</b> Academy Careers & Exploration Big Bear Cobalt Institute Lucerne Valley Silver Valley Victor Valley Christian		<b>4 CAMINO REAL</b> Bishop Conaty-Loretto Cantwell-Sacred Heart of Mary La Salle Mary Star of the Sea Ramona Convent St. Anthony St. Monica Preparatory		<b>3 CRESTVIEW</b> Canyon/Anaheim Cypress El Modena La Habra Pacifica/Garden Grove		<b>4 FOOTHILL</b> Canyon/Canyon Country Castaic Golden Valley/Santa Clarita Hart High Saugus Valencia/Valencia West Ranch	
<b>3 ALMONT</b> Alhambra/Alhambra Bell Gardens Mark Keppel Montebello San Gabriel Schurr		<b>4 CHANNEL</b> Buena Dos Pueblos Oxnard Pacifica/Oxnard Rio Mesa San Marcos/SB Santa Barbara Ventura		<b>3 CROSS VALLEY</b> Academy/Academic Excellence Excelsior Charter Hesperia Christian Riverside Prep University Prep		<b>3 FREEWAY</b> Brea Olinda El Dorado Sonora Villa Park Yorba Linda	
<b>3 AMBASSADOR</b> Aquinas Arrowhead Christian Linfield Christian Ontario Christian Woodcrest Christian		<b>3 CITRUS BELT</b> Beaumont Cajon Citrus Valley Redlands Redlands East Valley Yucaipa		<b>3 DEL REY</b> Bishop Amat Bishop Montgomery Paraclete St. Joseph/Lakewood St. Paul		<b>2 GATEWAY</b> Downey Gahr La Mirada Mayfair	
<b>2 ANGELUS</b> Alemany Flintridge Sacred Heart Immaculate Heart Marymount		<b>3 CITRUS COAST</b> Carpinteria Channel Islands Fillmore Hueneme Nordhoff Santa Paula		<b>3 DEL RIO</b> California El Rancho La Serna Santa Fe Whittier		<b>3 GOLD COAST</b> Brentwood Crossroads Oakwood The Archer School for Girls Viewpoint Windward	
<b>3 ARROWHEAD</b> California Lutheran California School/Deaf (CSDR) Hamilton La Sierra Academy Sherman Indian United Christian Academy		<b>3 COAST</b> Anaheim Loara Los Amigos Santa Ana Valley Santiago/Garden Grove		<b>3 DESERT EMPIRE</b> La Quinta/La Quinta Palm Desert Palm Springs Rancho Mirage Shadow Hills Xavier Prep		<b>4 GOLDEN</b> Antelope Valley Eastside Highland Knight, Pete Lancaster Littlerock Palmdale Quartz Hill	
<b>3 BASELINE</b> Chino Hills Etiwanda Los Osos Rancho Cucamonga Upland		<b>2 COAST VALLEY</b> Coast Union Coastal Christian Shandon Valley Christian/Santa Maria		<b>3 DESERT SKY</b> Adelanto Barstow Granite Hills/Apple Valley Silverado Victor Valley		<b>3 GOLDEN WEST</b> Buena Park Calvary Chapel/Santa Ana Katella Ocean View Westminster	
<b>3 BAY</b> El Segundo North Torrance South Torrance Torrance West Torrance				<b>2 DESERT VALLEY</b> Coachella Valley Indio Twentynine Palms Yucca Valley			

**LEAGUE**

**3 GROVE**

Century  
Orange  
Rancho Alamitos  
Savanna  
Western

**3 HACIENDA**

Alta Loma  
Colony  
Los Altos/Hacienda Heights  
San Dimas  
South Hills

**3 HERITAGE**

Desert Christian/Lancaster  
Faith Baptist  
Palmdale Academy Charter  
Santa Clarita Christian  
Vasquez

**3 INLAND VALLEY**

Citrus Hill  
Heritage/Menifee  
Lakeside/Lake Elsinore  
Perris  
Rancho Christian  
Vista Del Lago/Moreno Valley

**3 IVY**

Arlington  
Liberty/Winchester  
North, J.W.  
Orange Vista  
Poly/Riverside  
Valley View

**3 MAJESTIC**

Bethel Christian/Riverside  
Calvary Baptist  
Cornerstone Chr./Wildomar  
Crossroads Christian  
Norton Science/Language Academy  
Packinghouse Christian

**3 MARMONTE**

Agoura  
Calabasas  
Newbury Park  
Oaks Christian  
Thousand Oaks  
Westlake

**3 MID-CITIES**

Bellflower  
Dominguez  
Firebaugh  
Lynwood  
Norwalk  
Paramount

**LEAGUE**

**3 MIRAMONTE**

Bassett  
Edgewood  
Ganesha  
La Puente  
Pomona  
Workman

**3 MISSION**

Chaminade  
Harvard-Westlake  
Louisville  
Notre Dame/SO  
Sierra Canyon

**4 MISSION VALLEY**

Arroyo  
El Monte  
Gabrielino  
Marshall/Pasadena  
Mountain View  
Rosemead  
South El Monte

**3 MOJAVE RIVER**

Apple Valley  
Burroughs/Ridgecrest  
Hesperia  
Oak Hills  
Serrano  
Sultana

**3 MONTVIEW**

Azusa  
Baldwin Park  
Duarte  
Garey  
Nogales  
Sierra Vista

**4 MOORE**

Cabrillo/Long Beach  
Compton  
Jordan  
Lakewood  
Millikan  
Poly/Long Beach  
Wilson/Long Beach

**3 MOUNTAIN PASS**

Elsinore  
San Jacinto  
Tahquitz  
Temescal Canyon  
West Valley

**LEAGUE**

**3 MOUNTAIN VALLEY**

Entrepreneur/Highland  
Indian Springs  
Miller, A.B.  
Pacific  
San Bernardino

**3 MT. BALDY**

Chaffey  
Chino  
Diamond Ranch  
Don Lugo  
Montclair  
Ontario

**3 MULHOLLAND**

Animo Leadership  
Compton Early College  
Environmental Charter  
Hawthorne MSA  
Lennox Academy

**3 NORTH HILLS**

Crean Lutheran  
Esperanza  
Foothill/Santa Ana  
Sunny Hills  
Troy

**4 OCEAN**

Beverly Hills  
Centennial/Compton  
Culver City  
Hawthorne  
Lawndale  
Leuzinger  
Santa Monica

**3 OLYMPIC**

Heritage Christian  
Maranatha  
Valley Christian/Cerritos  
Village Christian  
Whittier Christian

**3 ORANGE**

Bolsa Grande  
Estancia  
La Quinta/Westminster  
Magnolia  
Saddleback

**3 ORANGE COAST**

Costa Mesa  
Godinez  
Laguna Hills  
Santa Ana  
Tustin

**LEAGUE**

**4 PACIFIC**

Arcadia  
Burbank  
Burrroughs/Burbank  
Crescenta Valley  
Glendale  
Hoover/Glendale  
Muir  
Pasadena

**3 PACIFIC COAST**

Irvine  
Northwood  
Portola  
Rosary Academy  
University  
Woodbridge

**3 PALOMARES**

Ayala, Ruben  
Bonita  
Claremont  
Diamond Bar  
Glendora  
Walnut

**3 PIONEER**

Mira Costa  
Palos Verdes  
Peninsula  
Redondo Union  
Wiseburn Da Vinci

**3 PREP**

Chadwick  
Flintridge Prep  
Mayfield  
Poly/Pasadena  
Rio Hondo Prep  
Westridge

**3 RIO HONDO**

La Canada  
Monrovia  
San Marino  
South Pasadena  
Temple City

**3 RIVER VALLEY**

Jurupa Valley  
La Sierra  
Norte Vista  
Patriot  
Ramona/Riverside  
Rubidoux

**3 SAN ANDREAS**

Arroyo Valley  
Eisenhower  
Jurupa Hills  
Rialto  
San Geronio

**5 SAN JOAQUIN**

Legacy College Prep  
Avalon  
Calvary Chapel/Downey  
Capistrano Valley Christian  
Cristo Rey OC  
Samueli Academy  
Southlands Christian  
Vista Meridian Global Academy  
Webb  
Western Christian

**4 SANTA FE**

Pomona Catholic  
Sacred Heart/Los Angeles  
Serra  
St. Bernard  
St. Genevieve  
St. Marys Academy  
St. Pius X - St. Matthias Academy

**3 SEA VIEW**

Beckman, Arnold  
Dana Hills  
El Toro  
San Juan Hills  
Trabuco Hills

**2 SKYLINE**

Arroyo Valley  
Fontana  
Notre Dame/Riverside  
Rim of the World

**3 SOUTH COAST**

Aliso Niguel  
Capistrano Valley  
Mission Viejo  
San Clemente  
Tesoro

**4 SOUTH VALLEY**

California Military Institute  
Desert Christian Academy  
Nuvview Bridge  
San Jacinto Leadership Academy  
San Jacinto Valley Academy  
Santa Rosa Academy  
St. Jeanne de Lestonnac  
Temecula Prep

**3 SOUTHWESTERN**

Chaparral  
Great Oak  
Murrieta Mesa  
Murrieta Valley  
Temecula Valley  
Vista Murrieta

**2 SUN VALLEY**

Banning  
Cathedral City  
Desert Hot Springs  
Desert Mirage

**3 SUNBELT**

Canyon Springs  
Hemet  
Hillcrest  
Moreno Valley  
Paloma Valley  
Rancho Verde

**3 SUNKIST**

Carter  
Colton  
Grand Terrace  
Kaiser  
Summit

**4 SUNSET**

Corona Del Mar  
Edison/HB  
Fountain Valley  
Huntington Beach  
Los Alamitos  
Marina  
Newport Harbor

**3 TRI-COUNTY PREMIER**

Desert Chapel  
Loma Linda Academy  
Mesa Grande  
Noli Indian  
Public Safety Academy  
Redlands Adventist

**2 TRINITY**

JSerra Catholic  
Lutheran/Orange  
Mater Dei  
Santa Margarita

**3 TRI-VALLEY**

Bishop Diego  
Foothill Technology  
Grace  
Santa Clara  
St. Bonaventure

**3 VALLE VISTA**

Charter Oak  
Covina  
Northview  
Rowland  
West Covina  
Wilson/Hacienda Heights

**FREELANCE**

Providence/Burbank

**231**  
**auto-bids**

## CIFSSHOME REQUIREMENTS

**SCHEDULES & SCORES** Complete your schedule in CIFSSHome prior to your season as well as update scores following each contest

**Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches:** It is very important that you enter your entire season schedule into CIFSSHOME ([www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org)) as well as update the scores immediately following your contests.

Log in @ [www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org) (If you do not have a log in & password as a coach, check with your Athletic Director). Once you are logged in:

-On the left panel, click on "Teams", select "Softball"

To **Add a game:**

- On the left panel, click on "Events", select "Add Event", choose Game under "Event Type", choose date of game under "Event Date", choose **SOFTBALL** under "Sport", choose Varsity under "Level", type the opposing school name in "Add Opponent", choose the type of game under "Select Game Type", click on Home, Away or Neutral under "Location", choose "Start Time" Click on "Save" to add one game or "Save & Duplicate" for multiple games.

- To **Submit your score:**


- On the left panel, click on "Teams", select "Teams Manager", scroll down to **SOFTBALL**, and click on VR to add Varsity scores. Click on "Post Result" button, enter your team's score, enter the opponent's score, result should auto populate with either "W", "L" or "T" based on the correct match score entered. If the game was a forfeit, click on the Yes box, enter the set scores in "Notes".

**Make sure that your overall and team records are correct on your team page**

### VARSITY COACHES

**Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches:** It is very important that you enter your SOFTBALL coaches (Head & Assistants) into CIFSSHome ([www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org)) no later than **THURSDAY, APRIL 23.**


Log in @ [www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org) (If you do not have a log in & password as a coach, check with your Athletic Director).

- Click on the "Users" tab, click on "User Manager", click on  in the upper right-hand corner to add Coaches and Assistant Coaches. Enter the information requested on the "Add School User" page. Choose "Active" to provide the coach with access to CIFSSHome or "Inactive" for directory purposes only. Choose Yes or No to give the coach access to all sport, click **Submit**. Choose the applicable options on the Assign Coach to Team page, click Save or Add Another to add additional coach(s).

### VARSITY TEAM INFORMATION (TEAM PHOTO)

**Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches:** It is very important that you enter your entire SOFTBALL Varsity roster into CIFSSHome ([www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org)) no later than **MONDAY, APRIL 6.**

Log in @ [www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org) (If you do not have a log in & password as a coach, check with your Athletic Director).

- Click on the "Teams" tab, click "Teams Manager", click on "Softball", click on the "Team Photo" tab, Click on the  under "TEAM PICTURE", choose the file, click **Submit**.

### VARSITY TEAM INFORMATION (ROSTERS)

**Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches:** It is very important that you enter your entire SOFTBALL Varsity roster into CIFSSHome ([www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org)) no later than **THURSDAY, APRIL 23.**

Log in @ [www.cifsshome.org](http://www.cifsshome.org) (If you do not have a log in & password as a coach, check with your Athletic Director).

- Click on the "Teams" tab, click on "Teams Manager", click on "Softball", select 

You can UPLOAD your roster using the instructions below (1) or you can enter each player one by one (2).

**Required roster information for SOFTBALL is:**

First Name, Last Name, Birth date, Year, Number, Position & Eligibility

**(1) To ADD roster players one by one:**

- Click  on and complete fields required for **SOFTBALL**.

**(2) To Import a Roster using an Excel sample file:**

- Download the [sample file](#) and delete the "contents only".

- Copy and paste or type your roster information into the file as the contents and save the file to your computer.


- Only an excel file (**xls**) can be uploaded that is the exact same format as the sample file.

- Columns for information not required for your sport may be left blank, but the **HEADER INFORMATION MUST REMAIN EXACTLY AS THE SAMPLE.**

- **Required Columns for SOFTBALL are:**

### First Name, Last Name, Birth date, Year, Number, Position & Eligibility

Import

- Click on to find your file, then click on
- To confirm the roster has been uploaded, your players' names will be uploaded in the "Official Roster" section.
- Click on the 

### SCHOOL LOGO

Log in @ [www.cifsshhome.org](http://www.cifsshhome.org)

- Click on the "Configuration" tab
- Click on "School Info"
- Click on "Choose File" (.PNG file format is preferred)
- Choose the "No" option for Hide from Directory?
- Click Save

### SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

Log in @ [www.cifsshhome.org](http://www.cifsshhome.org)

- Click on the "Configuration" tab
- Enter all school account names available next to the social media options (ie. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)
- These accounts are used during playoffs and for Games of the Week

Choose File

MANTRA  
REVERSE

*Joelyn Alo*  
JOEYNN ALO

MANTRA  
REVERSE

PERFORMANCE COMES WITH HARD WORK,  
UNYIELDING DRIVE, AND A STRONG MANTRA.  
BUT SOMETIMES YOU NEED TO REVERSE  
YOUR MINDSET.

INTRODUCING THE ALL-NEW MANTRA REVERSE  
SOFTBALL BAT FROM RAWLINGS. THIS  
TWO-PIECE BAT IS REVERSE ENGINEERED WITH  
AN INNER BARREL THAT'S INVERTED AND  
SEPARATED FROM THE OUTER BARREL. THE  
RESULTING SPACE BETWEEN THE TWO BARRELS  
YIELDS MORE CONSISTENT FLEX THROUGHOUT  
THE ENTIRETY OF THE BARREL, CREATING  
OPTIMAL TRAMPOLINE AND POWER. ITS LIGHT,  
EVENLY DISTRIBUTED SWING WEIGHT AND  
PREMIUM IN/TENSE CARBON COMPOSITE  
CONSTRUCTION, ENSURE THE MANTRA REVERSE  
DELIVERS EXPLOSIVE POP AT THE PLATE.

**REVERSE YOUR MINDSET AND  
REIGNITE YOUR OFFENSE!**

OFFICIAL SOFTBALL OF THE



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# Official Softball



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*\*This ball will be provided for the championship final game*



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**Rawlings**  
 DREAMSEAM



APPROVED FOR PLAY  
**Rawlings**  
 RED DOT

**\*The official ball rule is mandatory for all CIF-SS playoff rounds.**

*Contracted through: June 30, 2026*

**Official Ball Rule:**

Should a school fail to provide the correct game ball, the game will always be played. Teams/schools failing to utilize the correct official ball in CIF-SS playoffs will be reported by officials to CIF-SS and will not be allowed to host their next available home playoff game. Penalty will carry over to the next season if not enforceable this season due to elimination.



This communication is to provide step-by-step instructions on how to ensure a bat is approved for use in NFHS Softball games. These instructions are focused on ensuring a bat has the proper certification mark and does not appear on the USA Softball's Non-Approved Bats with Certification Marks list. They do not include instructions for visual inspections to ensure the specific bat complies with Rule 1-5-1b, c and e.

1. Ensure that the bat bears one of the three certification marks shown in figure 1-6, shown below.
  - a. If one of these marks is present, continue to step 2.
  - b. If one of these marks are NOT present on the bat STOP at this point. This bat is NOT approved for use in NFHS Softball.



Figure 1-6

<p>Pass step 1, they have one of the required certification marks. Proceed to Step 2</p>	<p>STOP! These do not contain one of the required certification marks and are NOT approved for use in NFHS Softball.</p>

2. For bats that pass step 1 and bear one of the required certification marks, compare their model number with the USA Softball's Non-Approved Bat List with Certification Marks list. This list can be found at <https://usa.asasoftball.com/e/BB1P2000.asp> and contains photos and model numbers of bats that were once approved but for various reasons are now non-approved.
  - a. It should be noted that many bats look very similar, and their model numbers are also very close. For a bat that contains a proper certification mark to be non-approved that bats model number must be the model number found on the USA Softball's Non-Approved Bat List with Certification Marks list.
  - b. As seen on the small portion of the USA Softball's Non-Approved Bat List with Certification Marks list shown below, the Easton Synergy model SCN3 is now a Non-Approved bat.
  - c. Although this bat does pass step 1 and contains a required certification mark (yellow circle) it can be seen that its model number (red circles) is listed on the USA Softball's Non-Approved Bat List with Certification Marks. Due to the model number appearing on this list, this bat is NOT approved for use in NFHS Softball.
  - d. For other bats that pass step 1 and their model number does NOT match any of the model numbers listed on the USA Softball's Non-Approved Bat List with Certification Marks list it is approved for use in NFHS Softball.

**USA Softball Non-Approved Bat List with Certification Marks**

2/5/2025





## 2026 NFHS SOFTBALL RULES CHANGES

**1-9-6:** With the increasing accessibility and use of electronic devices, it is important to establish clear boundaries for their use in competitive softball. Players shall not record audio or video while on the playing surface, as doing so presents significant safety risks and potential distractions that can compromise the integrity of the game. Movement and recording during live play—whether with handheld devices, wearable cameras, or phones—can interfere with a player's ability to perform safely and effectively. Handheld equipment may limit a player's capacity to catch or throw a ball, while wearable devices can become entanglement hazards or create impact risks during high-speed plays or collisions. Additionally, extra foot traffic or positioning for the sake of capturing footage can unintentionally place individuals in the path of play, leading to unnecessary contact or disruption. Beyond safety, the use of recording equipment on the field raises concerns around focus and liability. Players distracted by filming may not respond as quickly to the ball or to their teammates, and their inattention could increase the chance of injury. Moreover, audio recordings introduce privacy and liability considerations, especially when capturing conversations during competition. For these reasons, no player is permitted to record while on the field of play. The emphasis must remain on maintaining a safe, focused, and fair playing environment for all participants.

**Rule 8:** To improve clarity and enhance the overall usability of the rules, the existing content was reorganized into a structured outline format. This new layout allows for easier navigation and better comprehension of key concepts by clearly separating topics and presenting information in a logical, accessible sequence. One significant change involved dividing the original Section 8-4 into two distinct sections. This split more clearly distinguishes between situations in which runners are entitled to advance without liability to be put out and those where they advance with liability. By isolating these scenarios, officials, coaches, and players can more readily understand the conditions under which runners are protected or at risk during play. Additionally, article references were added to corresponding PENALTIES and EFFECTS. This change provides direct links between specific rule violations and their consequences, eliminating ambiguity and helping users quickly identify the appropriate rulings and applications. The result is a cleaner, more intuitive rule structure that supports accurate rule enforcement and improved learning.

**10-4-2:** Effective January 1, 2027, heather gray umpire pants will no longer be permitted for use, as manufacturers have discontinued their production. This update reflects a practical shift to ensure that umpires can purchase and wear uniform pants that are currently being manufactured and readily available through suppliers. Moving forward, umpires will be expected to wear pants in either charcoal gray or navy, both of which are actively produced and supported by major manufacturers. The transition to these colors—particularly charcoal gray—provides consistency in appearance while allowing state associations and officials to align with what is accessible in the current marketplace. This change comes in response to ongoing

feedback from state associations, which emphasized the challenges officials face in locating heather gray pants and the need for standardized, available uniform options. By establishing a clear implementation date and aligning with existing production trends, this adjustment supports both uniformity and ease of compliance across all levels of competition. Pants in either heather or charcoal gray will be legal until January 1, 2027, when charcoal pants will be required.



## 2026 NFHS Softball Points of Emphasis

### **Obstruction**

Obstruction is defined as the act of a defensive player who hinders or impedes a batter's attempt to make contact with a pitch or interferes with the legal progress of a runner or batter-runner advancing on the bases. This interference may be intentional or unintentional, and it can be either physical or verbal. However, obstruction does not apply if the defensive player is in possession of the ball or is making the initial play on a batted ball.

The central element in identifying obstruction lies in whether the runner's progress is actually impeded. If the runner or batter-runner is not affected—if there is no delay, no forced alteration of their path, or no hesitation—then by rule, obstruction has not occurred. A defensive player's mere presence or positioning, even if questionable, cannot be ruled as obstruction unless it results in an actual impediment to the runner. An exception exists only for a fake tag, which in itself constitutes obstruction, regardless of whether physical impediment occurs.

Impeding a runner means creating a negative effect on their ability to run the bases. This might include a runner slowing down, altering their intended path, stopping altogether, retreating to the previous base, or making contact with a fielder that disrupts their movement. These examples underscore that the umpire must rely on judgment to determine both whether the runner was impeded and to what extent their progress was affected.

Unlike many rule violations in softball that carry standardized penalties—such as awarding two bases for a thrown ball that goes out of play or one base for a pitched ball entering dead ball territory—obstruction rulings are situational and vary based on the specifics of each play. The purpose of the obstruction award is not to penalize the defensive team arbitrarily, but to nullify the negative effect of the obstruction. The runner is not being granted an advantage; rather, they are being restored to the position they would have achieved had the obstruction not occurred. This could mean advancing the runner or, in some cases, returning them to a previous base—whatever is necessary to correct the disruption caused by the obstruction, based on the umpire's judgment.

### **Maintaining an Unobstructed View of the Play**

There are times when an umpire must move from their primary position to maintain an unobstructed view of a play. This is mentioned several times in the NFHS Softball Umpire Manual but, until now, there has not been any guidance for the umpire in the manual. Information has been added to the Umpire Manual to explain

aspects of the play that should be considered when moving from the primary position to maintain an unobstructed view of the play.

There are key interactions of the four elements (offense, defense, ball, and base) on each play that need to be viewed clearly in order to make a judgment call. On tag plays:

- Defense contacting the offense with the ball (tagging the runner)
- Defense controlling the ball through the process of applying the tag
- Offense contacting the base.

All three of these key interactions must remain within the umpire's view in order to make an accurate judgment call on the play. Also, when adjusting, an umpire needs to maintain proper distance as to ensure no key interactions of the play are missed.

Details of each play like:

- Defensive positioning
- Direction, height and timing of the throw
- Path of the runner
- Timing of the ball and runner arriving near the base

All these items need to be evaluated in each particular play prior to moving from the primary positioning as each play develops slightly differently. Understanding how these items are going to come together on a particular play allows the umpire to determine where the key interactions will occur, allowing them to adjust, when necessary, to maintain an unobstructed view of the play.

## BLUE BOOK RULES 2025-2026 – GENERAL

Following are key points coaches should review with their assistants and participants about CIF-SS rules and regulations as set down in the Blue Book. This list is NOT all-inclusive and only highlights some of the key areas.

### **201. STANDARDS OF ELIGIBILITY**

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=55>

### **210. PHYSICAL ASSAULT**

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=86>

### **212. AMATEUR STATUS**

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=88>

### **220. BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION**

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=92>

### **500. AUTHORIZED PARTICIPATION**

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=98>

### **503.G ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT / PHYSICAL EXAMINATION**

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=103>

### **503.H ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT / CONCUSSION PROTOCOL**

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=103>

### **503.M PLAYER CONDUCT**

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=105>

### **503M. COACH EJECTION**

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=105>

### **506. PRACTICE ALLOWANCE**

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=110>

### **600. COMPETITION ON AN OUTSIDE TEAM**

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=120>

### **1227. SUNDAY RESTRICTION**

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=148>

### **1228. NOISEMAKERS PROHIBITED**

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=148>

## BLUE BOOK RULES 2025-2026 – SOFTBALL

Following are key points coaches should review with their assistants and participants about CIF-SS rules and regulations as set down in the Blue Book. This list is NOT all-inclusive and only highlights some of the key areas for Softball.

### 2800. LENGTH OF GAMES

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=187>

### 2801. OFFICIAL NATIONAL FEDERATION AUTHENTICATION MARK

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=187>

### 2802. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=187>

### 2803. REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=187>

### 2804. RULES

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=187>

### 2805. SCRIMMAGES

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=187>

### 2806. STARTING DATES FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTESTS

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=187>

### 2807. MAXIMUM TEAM CONTESTS

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=188>

### 2808. END OF COMPETITION

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=188>

### 2809. OUTSIDE COMPETITION BY AN INDIVIDUAL

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=188>

### 2810. SOFTBALL-BASEBALL SLOW-PITCH DISTINCTIONS

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=188>

### 2811. NIGHT SOFTBALL GAME TIME LIMIT

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=188>

### 2812. COUNTING A GAME

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=188>

### 2813. PLAYOFFS

<https://cifss.org/resources/blue-book/?gotopage=188>



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**CALIFORNIA SOFTBALL OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION**  
**UNIT PRESIDENT'S 2025**

Consider inviting a representative from the Softball Officials Association to your coaches meeting at the beginning of the season! Begin a dialogue - share expectations and concerns.  
Make it a positive experience!

**Channel Coast**

Mel Titus – [mel\\_titus@yahoo.com](mailto:mel_titus@yahoo.com)

Area of Coverage: Santa Barbara - Simi Valley.

Cities covered (partial list): Goleta-Santa Barbara-Ventura-Oxnard-Camarillo-Thousand Oaks-Simi Valley.

**Coachella Valley**

Dave Stewart – [victory01@cs.com](mailto:victory01@cs.com)

Area of Coverage: Banning – Yucca Valley - Indio.

Cities covered (partial list): Banning–Twenty-nine Palms-Palm Springs-La Quinta-Coachella-Indio-Anza-Mecca.

**Foothill/Citrus**

David Terrazas – [universaldzignz@aol.com](mailto:universaldzignz@aol.com)

Area of Coverage: Azusa - Rancho Cucamonga.

Cities covered (partial list): Azusa-La Puente-Covina-Pomona-Chino-Rancho Cucamonga.

**Inland**

Damian Walton – [damianwalton94@gmail.com](mailto:damianwalton94@gmail.com)

Area of Coverage: Fontana – Temecula - Beaumont.

Cities covered (partial list): Fontana-Jurupa Valley-Norco-Riverside-Lake Elsinore-Temecula-Hemet-San Jacinto – Yucaipa - Moreno Valley-San Bernardino-Rim of the World.

**Long Beach/Whittier**

Maria Jacky Hernandez - [maria.jacqueline.hernandez02@gmail.com](mailto:maria.jacqueline.hernandez02@gmail.com)

Area of Coverage: Bellflower – Glendale - Norwalk.

Cities covered (partial list): Long Beach-Bellflower-Downey-Whittier

**Los Padres**

Dean Benedix – [debenedix3@gmail.com](mailto:debenedix3@gmail.com)

Area of Coverage: Paso Robles - Goleta.

Cities covered (partial list): Paso Robles-San Luis Obispo-Nipomo-Santa Maria-Lompoc-Goleta

**CALIFORNIA SOFTBALL OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION**  
**UNIT PRESIDENT'S 2025 (Continued)**

**Mojave Desert**

Doug Martin – [leftcoastref@yahoo.com](mailto:leftcoastref@yahoo.com)

Area of Coverage: Gorman – Mojave - Adelanto.

Cities covered (partial list): Gorman-Lancaster-Mojave-Palmdale-Phelan-Adelanto

**Orange County**

Allen Evensen - [alevensen@roadrunner.com](mailto:alevensen@roadrunner.com)

Area of Coverage: Anaheim - Yorba Linda – San Clemente.

Cities covered (partial list): Fullerton-Anaheim–Huntington Beach–Irvine–Laguna Niguel–Yorba Linda - Costa Mesa

**San Fernando**

Kent Jacobsen - [gmcswkj@aol.com](mailto:gmcswkj@aol.com)

Area of Coverage: Santa Clarita – Chatsworth - Burbank.

Cities covered (partial list): Saugus–Valencia–Canoga Park–Sherman Oaks-Burbank

**San Gabriel**

Phil Sheridan – [sheridanphl@yahoo.com](mailto:sheridanphl@yahoo.com)

Area of Coverage: La Canada – Alhambra – El Monte.

Cities covered (partial list): Flintridge–Pasadena–Alhambra–Arcadia–El Monte

**South Bay**

Keith Gibbs - [gibbssbsoftball@gmail.com](mailto:gibbssbsoftball@gmail.com) / [keithg80@yahoo.com](mailto:keithg80@yahoo.com)

Area of Coverage: Malibu – Inglewood – Torrance.

Cities covered (partial list): Santa Monica–Hawthorne–Redondo Beach–Rolling Hills–Westchester

**Victorville/Barstow**

Bill Smith – [smittys2117@yahoo.com](mailto:smittys2117@yahoo.com)

Area of Coverage: Barstow – Victorville – Big Bear.

Cities covered (partial list): Barstow–Hesperia-Apple Valley

## Regional Opt Out

If a school elects to opt out of participation in the Regional Playoffs, the Principal is REQUIRED to provide written notification to the Section Commissioner prior to the school's Section Semi-Final contest.

Failure to comply will result in an automatic \$1,000 fine and may trigger additional sanctions as determined by CIF. [CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE OPT-OUT FORM](#)

## CIF-SS HISTORY RECORD BOOK

The CIF-SS Record Book is updated on a yearly basis and can be found here.

<https://cifss.org/record-book/>

The CIF-SS Communications Office will automatically update information on championship teams, scores, and Players of the Year. Should your team, an athlete on your team, or a coach, meet a milestone record, then please complete this form.

<https://cifss.org/record-book-request/>

Please note we only record the top 10 in each category.

## ALL CIF-SS

The All CIF-SS teams are decided by the coaches' committees for each sport.

To be considered, your coach must submit their nominations to the CIF Southern Section by the given date.

**SOFTBALL NOMINATIONS ARE DUE BY June 1, 2026**

Please see the Google Form in the Downloads Section of the Softball page.

[All CIF SS Softball Nomination Form 2026](#)

The CIF-SS will receive the first team list from the committee and release those on [www.cifss.org](http://www.cifss.org). We will also mail the first team certificates to the athlete's school.

The CIF-SS office does not collect 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> team information. If the sport has a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> team, that information will be available through the coaches committee.

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## HEALTH AND SAFETY

It is the expectation of the CIF Southern Section that your Athletic Coaches and Administration will take every measure to ensure the health and safety of your student athletes.

The following are key points of emphasis coaches should review with their staff and players about CIF Southern Section rules and regulations in the 2025-26 CIF Southern Section Blue Book. This list is not all-inclusive but only highlights key areas. For necessary forms and additional information regarding Heat Safety, Hydration and other Sports Medicine resources, please go to [www.cifss.org](http://www.cifss.org) and click on the "Sports Medicine" tab on the blue toolbar.

Additional resources can be found at [www.cifstate.org](http://www.cifstate.org) under the "Sports Medicine" tab on the white toolbar

### PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

An annual physical examination, or a statement by a medical practitioner, is required for a student to take part in any authorized school practice session and/or pre-season conditioning period. This physical examination will be valid for a period of one year from the date of the examination. A student will be excused from this physical examination only if there is compliance with the Education Code (parent's refusal to consent). CIF Health and Safety Committee strongly recommends schools use the Pre-Participation Examination form that is endorsed by five major medical societies, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, American orthopedic Sports Medicine, and the American osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine. All CIF schools must have school board approved forms.

### CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

A student athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from competition at the time for the remainder of the day. A student-athlete who has been removed from play may not return to play until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in education and management of concussion and receives written clearance to return to play from that health care provider. If a licensed health care provider, trained in education and management of concussion determines that the athlete sustained a concussion or a head injury, the athlete is required to complete a graduated return to play protocol of no less than seven (7) full days from the time of diagnosis under the supervision of a licensed health care provider. On a yearly basis, a concussion and head injury information sheet shall be signed and returned by all athletes and the athlete's parent/guardian/caregiver before the athlete's initial practice or competition. (Approved May 2010 Federated Council/Revised January 2015 Federated Council)

Question: What is meant by "licensed health care provider?"

Answer: the "scope of practice" for licensed health care providers and medical professionals is defined by California state statutes. This scope of practice will limit the evaluation to a medical doctor (MD) or doctor of osteopathy (DO).

## HEALTH AND SAFETY (continued)

### STEROID PROHIBITION

All schools shall adopt policies prohibiting the use and abuse of androgenic/anabolic steroids. All member schools shall have participating students and their parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver agree that the athlete will not use steroids without the written prescription of a fully licensed physician (as recognized by the AMA) to treat a medical condition.

NOTE: Article 1-12.N. (Revised May 2005 Federated Council)

### SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST PROTOCOL

A student-athlete who passes out or faints while participating in, or immediately following, an athletic activity or who is known to have passed out or fainted while participating in or immediately following an athletic activity, must be removed immediately from participating in a practice or game for the remainder of the day. A student-athlete who has been removed from play after displaying signs and symptoms associated with sudden cardiac arrest may not return to play until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider and receives written clearance to return to play from that health care provider. On a yearly basis, a Sudden Cardiac Arrest information sheet shall be signed and returned by all athletes and the athlete's parent/guardian/caregiver before the athlete's initial practice or competition.

Question: What is meant by "licensed health care provider?"

Answer: the "scope of practice" for licensed health care providers and medical professionals is defined by California state statutes. This scope of practice will limit the evaluation to a medical doctor (MD) or doctor of osteopathy (DO).