



IOWA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Baseball Winter Memo

December 1, 2023

Good morning, Head Baseball Coaches & AD's –

Below is IHSAA winter memo regarding some reminders & updates from baseball advisory and approved by our board.

1. Umpire Recommendations

As of this morning, we only have about a third of our member schools that have completed their umpire recommendations for this past season. AD's and head baseball coaches, please ensure this is taken care of ASAP. This is an important metric used when assigning umpires for postseason as well as identifying umpires that should be seen and evaluated for postseason consideration as well. Reminder that this form is available on Bound for completion. Please contact myself or Whitney here at our office if you are having any issues completing this.

2. Number of Games & Playing Dates

A lot of discussion has been had on the number of baseball contests played for some time now. In working to find some common ground, for the 2024-2025 school year (2025 baseball season), teams will still be able to play 40 games. However, will be only allowed to play a total of 24 dates. This hybrid scheduling model will allow schools to play up to 40 games but can only play a total of 24 total dates in a season (excluding postseason play). This was done in conjunction with our baseball advisory committee to combat some of the issues that have arisen, while still allowing teams that are able to play 40 contests to do so. Again, this will be for the 2025 season, not the upcoming 2024 season.

3. Season Placement

After thorough discussion on baseball season placement with coaches, ADs, advisory groups, etc. There are currently no plans to adjust the placement of the baseball season from its current dates on the unified calendar. Baseball currently runs from week 44 on the NFHS calendar (Monday, April 29 for 2024) through our state tournament series on week 3 of the NFHS calendar (July 22-26 for 2024).

4. 2024 Rule Changes

Below is a link that has all the NFHS rule changes for 2024. I will highlight a big change with electronic communication 1-6-2 (NEW). Starting in 2024, one-way electronic communication devices are permitted from the dugout to the catcher while the team is on defense for the purpose of calling pitches. The rationale of this is for the purpose of calling pitches from dugout. Should also help with speed of play and believe further additions to electronic communication could be permitted by the NFHS in future years if this initial step is shown to be successful.

nfhs.org/sports-resource-content/baseball-rules-changes-2024/

Thanks, and do not hesitate to reach out with any questions throughout this off-season leading up to pitchers and catchers reporting. Hope to see many of you at the IHSBCA Clinic in Cedar Rapids in January!



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