

NORTHWEST DIAMOND SERIES RULES

- **Teams are required to vacate dugouts immediately after their game.**
 - *Please host all post-game meetings outside the field of play after your game is done.*
 - Please assign players to pick up their own garbage. The next team should not be responsible for cleaning up after the previous team.
- NFHS Book will be the official rule book for all games. **All scoring decisions by umpires will be official. Protests are not allowed.**
 - **EXCEPTIONS:**
 - DH for the Pitcher Only. Teams cannot DH for a position player as allowed in HS.
 - EH allowed. Teams may use an Extra Hitter.
 - 3rd to 1st Moves Not Allowed
 - Electronic Communication systems can be used by the defense and offense.
 - Two Piece Catcher Mask allowed.
 - Balks will be Live – teams can either take the balk or the result of the play.
 - Other Rules
 - 90 Seconds between innings – clock starts when PITCHER crosses the foul line in front of their dugout. Violation of the 90 second rule may result in a ball for the batter (if the pitcher is not ready) or a strike for the pitcher (if the batter is not ready).
 - **Exception: when a new pitcher enters the game, the 90 second rule is waived to allow the pitcher his full warmup pitches**
 - No time limit on Championship Sunday.
 - Winner of coin toss has choice of home or visitors.
 - Extra Innings
 - Should time limit allow extra innings, the MLB extra inning rule will be in effect.
 - The last out of the previous inning will start at 2nd base.
 - **Coaches may replace the runner at 2nd base as per regular substitution rules. If the removed runner has already been substituted for, they will no longer be eligible to re-enter the game.**
- All games are scheduled for 7 innings.
 - All games will be subject to a drop-dead time of 2 hours 30 minutes. If drop-dead is imposed, scoring will revert back to the last fully completed inning. Umpires will announce game start time at the plate meeting.
 - **Coaches must meet with umpires to confirm time-limit has elapsed.**
 - **Umpires and tournament directors are not responsible for keeping track of time elapsed.**
 - A ten-run rule will be imposed after 5 innings of play, or 4 1/2 if the home team is winning by ten runs or greater.
 - Games will start at scheduled time to allow families and other attendees an exact start time each game.
 - **Should the previous game impose on the next game's start time, the game will begin 30 minutes after the previous game's conclusion.**
- Arm Care: USA Pitch Smart Guidelines will be in effect. Opposing teams have the right to protest the use of a pitcher based on the reported pitch count from previous games. If found to be in violation of Pitch Smart guidelines, team will need to make a pitching change and the new pitcher will be given as much time as needed to warmup.
 - 1-30 Pitches = No Rest Day
 - 31-45 pitches = 1 Days Rest
 - 46-60 Pitches = 2 Days Rest
 - 61-75 Pitches = 3 Days Rest
 - 76+ Pitches = 4 Days Rest
 - 105 Pitches = Max Pitches in a Game
 - A pitcher may finish pitching to a batter if they reach the daily pitch limit in the middle of an at-bat, but must be replaced after that batter.
 - On days teams play two games, a pitcher who throws more than 45 pitches in game one is **INELIGIBLE** to pitch in game two, and the daily max (105) will be applied when combining both games appearances.
 - **NEW 2026 – teams may freely substitute a player on defense in order to warm up a pitcher in the bullpen.**
- **Player or Coach Ejections = 1 game suspension.**
 - Ejection rules are in place as a detriment to coach/umpire conflicts that result in ejection.
 - Any ejection must be reported to the facility supervisor by the umpire, including name and number of coach/player ejected.
 - Ejected player may be in the dugout for the game they are suspended, but they cannot be in uniform.
 - Ejected coach may not be in the dugout for the game they are suspended, but they can be in the facility.
 - Suspended coach may perform pre-game duties but must leave the field once the plate meeting begins.
- **METAL SPIKES ARE NOT ALLOWED** on all AstroTurf fields. Teams must wear molded cleats or tennis shoes. Players must be removed from game if seen wearing metal cleats and are subject to substitution rules once removed. **Exception: pitchers on rainy/wet days may wear spikes.**
- **NO Sunflower Seeds, Grinds, Chewing Gum or Tobacco** products are allowed on the field or in the dugout at all fields.
 - *A \$100, non-negotiable, fine will be imposed if any of the above are found in a team's dugout, on the field in front of the dugout, or if a player is witnessed to be spitting seeds or tobacco product. The fee must be paid before the offending team's next game.*
- **6 Game Balls** will be provided for each game. Teams are responsible for the retrieval of **THEIR** foul balls, and should more than 6 balls be needed, must provide balls from their own supply. **Basic policy for foul balls... YOUR TEAM HITS IT, YOUR TEAM GETS IT.**
- Scorekeeping: GameChanger will be used for all games and scoring, including pitch count.
- Tie Breakers – applied to determine who advances in Pool Play, or seeding for Bracket Play.
 - Overall Record
 - Head to Head
 - Average Runs Allowed (ARA = (Runs Allowed x 7) / Innings Pitched)
 - Run Differential (Runs Scored / Runs Allowed)
 - Coin Toss
- All bats must be either -3 BBCOR certified or wood bats.
- NW Diamond Series requests all coaches wear baseball pants as part of your on-field uniform, but are not required.

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