

CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE  
30 Realty Drive, Cheshire, Connecticut 06410

**73<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL CIAC 2026 BOYS BASEBALL INFORMATION PACKET**

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**73<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL 2026 CIAC BASEBALL INFORMATION PACKET**

**PART I – IMPORTANT BASEBALL INFORMATION**

**ALERT**

If there is a reasonable doubt about some decision being in conflict with the rules, the head coach has the right to an appeal of the umpires decision and seek its reversal. To ask a question about a call on the field, the head coach may only meet the calling umpire at the midpoint of their respective foul line. To ask a question about a call at the plate or when making a lineup change, the head coach may not enter the dirt circle around home plate.

**A. SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT**

Student-athletes can sometimes emulate behaviors they witness at collegiate and professional levels that are unsportsmanlike and have no place in our educationally based high school athletic programs. In keeping with the standards set forth in the CIAC “Class Act” program, and in the interest of respecting one another, and in the spirit of good sportsmanship, we strongly encourage coaches speak to all your players and have them keep the focus of their comments and gestures positive and directed toward your own team. Any unsportsmanlike acts witnessed by a game official or opposing coach will be directed to the CIAC for further action.

**B. SEASON LIMITATIONS START DATES AND PRACTICE GUIDELINES**

Pitchers and Catchers – Saturday, March 14, 2026 (Now includes 10 pitchers, 4 catchers)

First Full Team Practice – Saturday, March 21, 2026

Date to Play First Contest – Saturday, April 4, 2026

All sports teams and individual athletes must have a minimum of ten (10) exertional practice days with their school before the date of the first scheduled competition. No team/athlete shall practice/compete more than six (6) consecutive days to provide a day of rest. Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays may be used unless prohibited by local board policy.

**C. PLAYING DATES PER WEEK**

The number of playing dates permitted each week in the sport of baseball may not exceed three (3), one of which may be used each week to schedule and play a doubleheader (can be the same teams, different teams, day/night doubleheaders). The maximum number of games per season is twenty (20).

- 1) **Will four games per week be permitted if on one of the three playing dates a doubleheader is played?**  
Yes, as long as they are within the regular season.
  
- 2) **May a postponed game be played in addition to the games scheduled on the three playing dates in one week?**  
Yes.

**D. AMERICAN LEGION TRY-OUTS DURING THE BASEBALL SEASON**

American Legion officials may approach potential team candidates at any time, but there can be no practice or tryout of any kind from the first CIAC game through the conclusion of the CIAC tournament. Legion practice can be held at the conclusion of the regular season for boys on high school teams who are not in tournaments.

## **E. ALL SCHEDULED GAMES MUST BE PLAYED**

All member schools must make every effort to complete their season as scheduled, including make-up games. Any effort to gain an advantage in tournament play by not playing a game is unacceptable and is subject to action by the CIAC Board of Control. Cancellation of any regular season contest / make-up to play in a league tournament will not be allowed.

NOTE: The 4:00 p.m. curfew on the last day to count has been removed, however, schools are urged not to schedule a night game unless it is absolutely necessary to make-up a postponed game.

## **F. SCRIMMAGES**

Teams must have a minimum of three (3) days of practice prior to scheduling a full team scrimmage. All sports teams and individual athletes must have a minimum of ten (10) physical/exertional practice days with their school before the date of the first scheduled competition. No team/athlete shall practice/compete with their school more than six (6) consecutive days to provide a day of rest. Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays may be used unless prohibited by local board policy. Sunday practices may be counted to fulfill the 10-day requirement.

## **G. PITCH COUNT RULE**

- 1) **CIAC Pitching Limitation Rule** – This rule applies to a pitcher regardless of the level at which he is pitching (**includes Freshman, JV and Varsity and regular season, league and state championships playoffs**) and is based on the number of legal pitches thrown in a game/day. The pitch count is based on pitches thrown to the batters during their time at bat. Warm-up pitches allowed before each inning and those warm-ups allowed by the umpire in case of injury or game delay do not count. All NFHS substitution and pitching rules must be followed.

- If a pitcher throws 1-25 pitches in a day, no calendar day of rest is required before pitching again.
- If a pitcher throws 26-50 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.
- If a pitcher throws 51-75 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a pitcher throws 76-110 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- **There is a maximum of 110 pitches per game or in any one day.**

**If a pitcher reaches the 110 pitch limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until one of the following occurs.**

- **The batter reaches base,**
- **That batter is retired, or**
- **The third out is recorded to complete that half-inning or game.**

Note: A calendar day means that if a pitcher throws 76 pitches on Tuesday, that player may not pitch again until Saturday. If they throw 25 pitches on Tuesday, the player may pitch again on the next day which is Wednesday. The starting time of the game does not matter in the calculation of when a pitcher is eligible to pitch again.

- 2) **Inning-by-Inning Pitch Count Verification** – **It is the responsibility of the two opposing coaches to confirm each other's pitch count at the end of each half inning for games at all levels of play.**
- 3) **Post-game Pitch Count Certification** – **At the conclusion of the game the two opposing coaches need to verify pitch counts for all pitchers used and certify the pitches thrown by signing each other's verification form for games at all levels of play. Any discrepancy will defer to the home team verification form count. (The CIAC Pitch Count Form can be found at <http://casci.ac/2784> )**
- 4) **Post-game Reporting** – Within 24 hours from the conclusion of a game at any level of play each coach will enter the pitches thrown on the CIAC website reporting form for each athlete who pitched at that level. This will now be available for viewing by CIAC member schools.

- 5) **Line-Up Card** – Prior to each game the coach will list the name(s) on the back of the line-up card of any pitcher who is unavailable to pitch that day as determined by the CIAC Pitching Limitation Rule.
- 6) **Mechanism for Counting Pitches** – Each school is required to develop a mechanism for accurately counting pitches for their own team **as well as counting pitches for their opponents at all levels of play.**
- 7) **CIAC Pitching Limitation Rule Penalty** – The pitch count is based on legal pitches thrown in a game/day and the corresponding day(s) of required rest or pitching to an additional batter(s) once they have reached the maximum pitch limitation. The use of an ineligible pitcher, one who has violated this rule, shall result in all of the following sanctions:
  - a. Forfeiture of the game in which the ineligible pitcher participated.
  - b. The coach will be disqualified and will be ineligible to participate in all contests until he/she sits out for the next contest at the same level of play.
  - c. The ineligible pitcher must sit out as a pitcher for the remainder of required days of rest from the previous game in addition to sitting out the required days of rest that corresponds to the game they illegally pitched.

## **H. CIAC PITCHING LIMITATION RULE Q & A**

- 1) **How do we define a legal pitch?**
  - A legal pitch is any pitch thrown in a game that results in a ball, a strike (called or swinging), or a fair or foul batted ball.
  - Illegal pitches, warm-up pitches, throws following any play, pick-offs, and throws during or following a “balk” are NOT counted as “pitches” for the purpose of this rule.
- 2) **Does the pitch count need to be kept by an adult?**
  - Each school and head coach is responsible for determining the process by which pitches will be counted. As long as the result is accurate, the count can be kept by anyone. However, the head coach is ultimately responsible for certifying and reporting accurate pitch counts.
- 3) **How will pitch counts be reported?**
  - All pitch counts (at all levels – Varsity, Sophomore, Freshman) must be reported “online” on a game-by-game basis immediately after the game, or within 24 hours from the conclusion of the game.
- 4) **How does each team know who is ineligible to pitch on game day?**
  - At the home plate conference, prior to the game, each coach will list the name(s) on the back of the line-up card of any players that are ineligible to pitch that day.
  - In addition, coaches can view the online submissions of their opponent and view the pitch counts, if they want to determine the information in advance.
- 5) **Are pitch counts cumulative if a pitcher appears in more than one game in a day?**
  - Yes – They are cumulative and the pitch count that must be recorded is the total number of legal pitches thrown that day.
  - Pitch counts also accumulate if a pitcher appears at different levels (Fr, JV, Varsity) on the same day.
- 6) **How will pitch counts be “verified” during a game?**
  - At the conclusion of each half-inning, each team’s coach or their designee will verify the number of pitches thrown with the opposing coach.
  - Verification should also be made whenever a pitching change is made.
- 7) **How will pitch count discrepancies be settled?**
  - Discrepancies will be settled before the next half inning begins. If the coaches cannot reach a common conclusion, the home team scorebook (pitch count) will prevail.

- 8) **How will pitch counts be certified at the conclusion of the game?**
- The two opposing coaches will verify pitch counts for all pitchers used in the game at all levels of play (Varsity, Sophomore, Freshman) and certify the totals by signing the other team's "Pitcher Verification" form.
  - If there is an unresolvable discrepancy with the pitch counts, the home team pitch count will prevail. (Note: The CIAC Pitch Verification Form will be made available and included with the tournament packet.
- 9) **Are umpires required to count or verify pitches or settle a dispute relative to the pitch count?**
- No – Pitch counts and their verification and certification are the responsibility of each school and their respective head coach.
  - It is not the role of the umpire to adjudicate pitch count disputes.
- 10) **If a game is stopped for any reason how will that affect the pitch counts?**
- A legal pitch thrown is always a pitch counted and the corresponding number of days of rest is required before a pitcher is eligible to pitch again.
  - If a game is halted for any reason BEFORE it is considered to be "regulation" (NO GAME), pitch counts must be counted, verified and reported.
  - A game that is halted for any reason AFTER it becomes "regulation" and a winner cannot be determined (SUSPENDED GAME), pitch counts must be verified and reported.
  - i.e. Any pitcher who throws 26 or more pitches in a stopped game is not eligible to pitch the next day. Any pitcher who throws 51 pitches is not eligible to pitch until they have had 1 full calendar day of rest, etc.
- 11) **When a suspended game is continued the next day or at a later date, how is the eligibility of ALL pitchers determined, including those that pitched on the original game date?**
- Provided a pitcher is allowed to continue in the game by NFHS rule their eligibility to pitch depends on the CIAC Pitching Limitation Rule, which is based on the number of pitches thrown in a game / day and the days of required rest.
  - Specifically, when the game is continued on the next day, any pitcher who threw 26 or more pitches cannot pitch.
  - However, if the game is continued at a later date, ALL pitchers, including a pitcher that threw 110 or more pitches on the original game date, would be eligible to pitch, provided the required days of rest are met.
- 12) **When a pitcher reaches a "threshold" (OTHER THAN THE MAX 110 pitches) can that pitcher finish that batter without exceeding the actual threshold?**
- No – As soon as a threshold is reached (OTHER THAN 110) the pitcher can be removed or additional pitches will be counted toward the NEXT threshold.
  - EXCEPTION – A pitcher who reaches the 110 pitch threshold is permitted to finish the batter they are facing without penalty until one of the following occurs: the batter reaches base; that batter is retired; or the third out is recorded to complete that half-inning or game.
- 13) **A pitcher throws 70 pitches on a Monday and is not eligible to pitch again until Thursday. However, the pitcher illegally pitches on Wednesday and throws 52 pitches. What is the penalty?**
- The game he pitched on Wednesday is forfeited AND the coach is disqualified for the next game AND the pitcher must sit the one remaining day from his original rest period in addition to two more days for the pitches thrown (52) on Wednesday.
- 14) **Can a pitcher who pitched 75 pitches on Monday and is not eligible to pitch again until Thursday play a field position on Wednesday?**
- Yes.
- 15) **Can a pitcher who is ineligible for violating the pitch count rule, and sitting out additional days of rest, play a field position during the rest period?**
- Yes.

16) **Who is responsible for discovery of a violation to the pitching limitation rule and when must it be reported?**

- A violation can be reported by either school and must be reported to the CIAC immediately after the violation is discovered.

17) **Can a pitcher be removed to another defensive position and then return to pitch?**

- Yes. As long as there are no other restrictions in the NFHS Rulebook that will preclude him from returning to the pitching position, but the pitch count continues to accumulate each time a pitcher returns to pitch.

18) **How do the pitch count regulations apply to an ambidextrous pitcher?**

- If a pitcher is ambidextrous the pitch count limitations apply to each pitcher; not to each arm.

**I. BAT RULE**

Since January 1, 2012, all bats not made of a single piece of wood shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be labeled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. No BBCOR label, sticker or decal will be accepted on any non-wood bat. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of one inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color to read: "BBCOR.50."

**As of this date the following bats have been decertified by the NFHS. If any other bats become decertified during the season the NFHS website will be updated ( [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org) )**

**Currently, there are three (3) non-wood baseball bats that the NFHS has decertified for use in high school competition. This short list is subject to change. Additional non-wood baseball bats could possibly be added to this list. The decertified bats are the following:**

**Marucci Cat 5<sup>2</sup> 33" non-wood baseball bat (decertification notice date – February 21, 2012)**  
**Reebok Vector TLS 32" non-wood baseball bat (decertification notice date – March 26, 2012)**  
**Reebok Vector TLS 33" non-wood baseball bat (decertification notice date – March 26, 2012)**

**These bats should be considered non-compliant and subject to NFHS Baseball Rules 4-1-3b and 7-4-1a.**

**J. SAFETY ALERT**

**Using an altered, modified or doctored bat is a Federal Crime!** Since altering a bat puts pitchers and fielders at risk the CIAC urges all coaches to take this very seriously as each coach will have to certify they are using legal equipment prior to each game and they may be held liable for any injuries resulting from the use of an altered or modified bat.

**K. REGULAR SEASON EXTRA HITTER RULE (Sub Varsity Games ONLY)**

The National Federation has permitted the CIAC Baseball Committee to experiment with the "Extra Hitter Rule" (**sub varsity**).

- The Extra Hitter Rule **may** be implemented on a game-to-game basis at the **discretion of each coach**. If a team is unable or unwilling to use an EH the opposing coach still has the right to do so.
- The EH (if used)
  - a. Must be declared as part of the line-up prior to the start of each game
  - b. Is considered a starting player for the purpose of substitution and re-entry
  - c. May bat in any spot in the batting order
  - d. May be implemented with or without a DH (designated hitter)
  - e. Cannot appear as a defensive player in the game at any time
  - f. May not substitute (pinch hit or pinch run) for anyone else in the line-up
  - g. May be substituted for by any player who has not participated previously
  - h. May be dissolved at any time during the game only if there has been an injury, illness or ejection and no other player is available to fill the spot

Note: Participating teams are asked to keep official date on the number of times/games the EH is used. The Baseball Committee will review this data and the comments of coaches for future consideration.

#### **L. UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS AT CIAC EVENTS**

The use of unmanned aerial systems, often referred to as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at all CIAC-sanctioned events. This policy includes not only the restricted playing area of the venue(s), but also the physical confines of the entire stadium/field/arena structure. For the purpose of this policy, an unmanned aerial system is any aircraft without a human pilot on board.

#### **M. BASEBALL OFFICIALS REGARDING POSTPONED GAMES**

**Weather or Emergency Related Postponements** – If a school official is unable to reach the assigned official by phone a minimum of two (2) hours before game time the school should contact the Commissioner assigning the official or the individual designated to fulfill this responsibility and notify that person of the cancellation. If this is done, the school’s obligation to notify officials will be fulfilled. Failure to do so will require full payment of the game fee.

**Non-Emergency Related Postponements** – Games cancelled for non-emergency related reasons must be done 24 hours in advance of the scheduled game time. The school should contact the Commissioner assigning the official or the individual designated to fulfill this responsibility and notify that person of the cancellation. If this is done, the school’s obligation to notify officials will be fulfilled. Failure to do so will require full payment of the game fee.

#### **N. REGULAR SEASON GAME ENDING PROCEDURE**

All games in the regular season will use this game ending procedure:

- Rule 4-2-1, 2, 3 and 4 ... during the regular season, a “regulation game” (4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead – 5 full innings if the visiting team is ahead) is called for any reason other than forfeit (WHERE A WINNER CANNOT BE DETERMINED according to NFHS Rule 4-2-2; shall be treated as a SUSPENDED game and shall be completed at some later date.
- A game that has NOT reached “regulation length” shall be declared “NO GAME” (regardless of the score) and shall be replayed from the beginning at some later date.
- **Please Note:** Although a contest is declared “NO GAME” THE CIAC PITCHING LIMITATION RULE SHALL STILL BE APPLIED.
- **10 Run Rule in Effect** – The game shall end when the visiting team is behind ten (10) or more runs after 4 ½ innings or after the fifth inning, if either team is 10 runs behind and both teams have had an equal number of times at bat.
- The CIAC tournament game ending procedure is different – See CIAC rule 7.2.a.

#### **O. NATIONAL FEDERATION RULE CHANGES**

**1-2-9, 2-5-1h, 2-16-1h, 8-2-1, 8-2-2(a)1-7, 8-2-7, 8-4-1g(1)** – Modified that the double first base will be mandatory effective January 1, 2027 and associated rule changes.

**1-4-4** Clarified what is allowed on a school’s official baseball uniform.

**1-6-3** Clarified what is not allowed to be worn by a player to record or transmit audio or video feeds.

**2-10-3** Clarified the definition of a player-to-player defensive meeting.

**3-4-6** Clarified the difference from a player-to-player meeting and a charged conference.

#### **2026 Baseball Points of Emphasis**

1. Discipline
2. Sportsmanship (Bench Jockeying and Props)
3. Proper Pitching Positions
4. Running Lane Awareness

## PART II – TOURNAMENT PREPARATION

### 1.0 QUALIFYING

- 1.1 To be eligible for consideration in the tournament, a team must play a minimum of ten (10) games against a varsity opponent and only the first two (2) games played with any single opponent will be counted towards tournament qualification. All teams will qualify for the tournament with a win/loss record of 40%. In a classification where fewer than 32 teams meet the 40% qualifying standard, a full bracket of 32 will be achieved by qualifying teams with the next highest winning percentages. If ties exist when comparing winning percentages the prevailing tie-breaker system will be used (see 5.2) to determine who will fill the bracket.
- 1.2 Only games played with Conference member schools, American School for the Deaf, or out-of-state schools who are members of their state athletic association shall be considered. Refer to the CIAC Handbook page 121, 5.2 Rules for Out-of-State Contests, for complete details on out-of-state games. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the unreported out-of-state game being counted as a loss.
- 1.3 Games played with non-member Connecticut secondary schools shall not be considered in the rating of teams.

### 2.0 FORFEITS

- 2.1 Member schools will be required to submit regular season schedules for team sports controlled by CIAC in which member schools participate. Determination of forfeitures will be based on this schedule.  
  
A forfeit game shall count as a victory for the team declared the winner and as a loss for the team declared a loser in determining tournament qualifications and ratings. For tournament qualifications only the following reasons for a forfeit shall be accepted.
- 2.2 A team shall forfeit a game or games if through a violation it is required to do so under the CIAC Rules of Eligibility.
- 2.3 A team shall forfeit a game if the game official declares the game a forfeit as a result of a National Federation rule violation, or a team refuses to play after being instructed to do so by the game official.
- 2.4 Forfeitures will be honored by each CIAC sports committee when there is mutual agreement between the principals of the two schools involved in the game not played. Each principal must submit on the official CIAC Canceled Game – Forfeiture Form his/her decision and it must be received in the CIAC office within 72 hours following the time of the scheduled contest. On the eve of a tournament when there is not sufficient time for normal administrative procedures (72 hours) if a question of team forfeiture arises the Executive Director or his designee, in consultation with the Chairman of the sports committee affected and the principals of the two schools will make an appropriate ad hoc decision in consideration of the best interests of the tournament as a whole.
- 2.5 All games listed on the original schedule and submitted to the CIAC which are not played and have not been forfeited in accordance with this policy will be considered by each sport committee as No Contest and shall not count for tournament qualification and ratings unless it affects the minimum number of games required to qualify for tournament participation. In this instance the sport committee shall review the evidence submitted by the teams involved and may grant an exception from the minimum game number requirement. The minimum winning percentage as determined by the individual sports committee must be met under all circumstances.

Member schools must make every effort to complete their season as scheduled, including make-up games. Any effort to gain an advantage in tournament play by not playing a game is unacceptable and is subject to action by the CIAC Board of Control. Cancellation of any regular season contest/make-up to play in a league tournament will not be allowed.

### 3.0 DIVISIONS

3.1 Only institutional members of the Conference may enter this tournament which will be in four (4) divisions. Placement of schools has been based on the October 1, 2024 boy enrollment. **Tournament divisions are available on the baseball page at CIACsports.com.**

LL – 620 and Over

L – 418-619

M – 281-417

S – Up to 280

### 4.0 ENTRY PROCEDURE

4.1 **Schedule** – Must be completed and submitted via the Arbiter. Games cannot be added to schedule after April 4, 2026.

4.2 **Change of Division** – Athletic Directors wanting to change division must send a letter (email) to Henry Rondon – [hrondon@casciac.org](mailto:hrondon@casciac.org) by March 6, 2026. Teams can only apply to move up in division. Teams cannot move down. Teams, if approved to move up must stay in that division for one (1) year.

4.3 **Team Rosters** – Rosters must be submitted by **Friday, May 22, 2026**. You need an access log in from your athletic director to complete the form. To complete the team roster form:

- Go to the CIAC website at [casciac.org](http://casciac.org)
- In the lefthand column select “Eligibility Center”
- Select “Team Roster / Tournament Roster”
- Check off each player that is on your roster

4.4 **Game Scores** – All regular season scores must be entered online on the day of the game as soon as possible following the game’s completion. LIST SCORES FOR ENTIRE SCHEDULE INCLUDING FORFEITS AND CANCELLATIONS.

- Scores must be entered on the new CIAC website at <https://ciac.fpssports.org/>.
- In the lefthand column select “Schedules – High School”
- At the top of the page select the school and “baseball” as the sport, then the team’s schedule will be displayed
- Click on the green score entry button to make the entries
- Only logged in users with security permission to enter scores for this sport will see the score entry button for their school’s games
- The system will display a score entry screen that is specific for baseball
- Enter the team scores

**Reporting Final Scores** – **Regardless of regular season postponed games, the date of Thursday, May 28, 2026 must be the final day to count for the tournament. All games played up to Thursday, May 28 must be completed and scores reported to the CIAC office.**

4.5 **Entry Fee** – There is a \$100 entry fee for baseball. Entry fee is to be mailed to the CIAC, 30 Realty Drive, Cheshire, CT 06410.

4.6 **CIAC Entry Policy**

- No tournament entries will be accepted after the established deadline except those approved by the CIAC Board of Control.
- Corrections requested by a school to an entry form that was submitted by the established deadline but prior to seeding/pairing data being published on the web site, will be assessed a fee of \$50 per correction to a maximum of \$250.
- All requests for corrections must be submitted on a support ticket via the online eligibility center. **No phone request will be considered.**

**Tournament Regulations Violation** – If a school fails to comply with tournament regulations and such requires the CIAC tournament sports committee, central office staff, or the CIAC Board of Control to redo any portion of the tournament pairings or such non-compliance adversely impacts the management of the tournament, an administrative violation fee of \$500 will be imposed upon the school before entry into the tournament will be allowed.

5.0 **RANKING / SEEDING**

5.1 The ranking of teams shall be determined by the percentage method: the number of games won divided by the number of games played.

5.2 ONLY in case of ties the Committee will determine the rankings in the following order:

- 1) Undefeated teams – most wins
- 2) Higher number of games played
- 3) Tie-breaker points for each team (determined by the sum of wins of defeated opponents – one point for each of their wins)
- 4) By lot

5.3 A TEAM MAINTAINS ITS INITIAL PERCENTAGE RANKING THROUGHOUT THE TOURNAMENT.

5.4 In case more than thirty-two (32) teams qualify with 40%, a **qualifying round game will be held on Saturday, May 30, 2026.**

5.5 Order of play if more than 32 teams qualify for the tournament in any division.

If 33 teams	If 34 teams	If 35 teams	If 36 teams
32 vs 33	32 vs 33	32 vs 33	32 vs 33
	31 vs 34	31 vs 34	31 vs 34
		30 vs 35	30 vs 35
			29 vs 36

5.6 All brackets in the baseball tournament will be filled – no more byes – A team must play a minimum of ten (10) games against a varsity opponent and only the first two (2) games played with any single opponent will be counted towards tournament qualification. All teams will qualify for the tournament with a win/loss record of 40%. In a classification where fewer than 32 teams meet the 40% qualifying standard, a full bracket of 32 will be achieved by qualifying teams with the next highest winning percentages. If ties exist when comparing winning percentages the prevailing tie-breaker system will be used (see 5.2) to determine who will fill the bracket.

## 5.7 **Tournament Format**

<u>First Round</u>	<u>Second Round</u>	<u>Quarter-finals</u>	<u>Semi-finals</u>	<u>Finals</u>
1 vs 32				
16 vs 17	1 vs 16			
8 vs 25		1 vs 8		
9 vs 24	8 vs 9			
4 vs 29			1 vs 4	
13 vs 20	4 vs 13			
5 vs 28		4 vs 5		
12 vs 21	5 vs 12			
2 vs 31				1 vs 2
15 vs 18	2 vs 15			
7 vs 26		2 vs 7		
10 vs 23	7 vs 10			
3 vs 30			2 vs 3	
14 vs 19	3 vs 14			
6 vs 27		3 vs 6		
11 vs 22	6 vs 11			

5.8 ***Ranking and pairing information will be made available via the CIAC web site – [www.ciacsports.com](http://www.ciacsports.com) on Friday, May 29, 2026.***

## 6.0 **SITES AND DATES**

6.1 Member schools may start conditioning practice for pitchers on but not before Saturday, March 14, 2026.

6.2 Member schools may start practice on but not before Saturday, March 21, 2026

6.3 Member schools may play the first game on but not before Saturday, April 4, 2026.

### 6.4 **Scheduled Playing Dates for the 2026 Baseball Tournament**

- Thursday, May 28, 2026 – Last date to count for tournament qualification
- Saturday, May 30, 2026 – Qualifying round at higher seed
- Monday, June 1, 2026 – First round at higher seed
- Tuesday, June 2, 2026 – Second round at higher seed
- Saturday, June 6, 2026 – Quarter-finals at higher seed
- Postponements **MUST** be played on the following day

**Note: Night games in all rounds up to the semi-finals are not permitted unless there is an extenuating circumstance and must have the tournament director's permission. These games will be scheduled for 3:30 p.m. unless by mutual consent they need to be played earlier.**

- Tuesday, June 9 – Semi-finals at neutral site
- Friday and Saturday, June 12 and 13 – Finals at Palmer Field, Middletown

6.5 In the event of inclement weather, the site director may postpone the game provided the tournament director has been notified prior to postponing. The postponed game will be played on the next day including Sunday. No make-up game played on Sunday may start prior to 12:30 p.m. See rule 7.2.a. of this packet regarding postponed game procedures.

- 6.6 All qualifying, first round, second round and quarter-final games will be played on the field of the higher ranked team based on the original percentage rankings. The host school shall provide a site director who should be someone other than the coach.
- 6.7 In the event the higher ranked team cannot provide a field that meets a minimum standard or it cannot be played on the scheduled day due to unplayable field conditions, the game shall be played on the opponent's field providing it does meet the minimum standards and it can be made ready. If neither team's field meets the minimum standards (see National Federation rule) the game may be played at a field designated by the Tournament Director.
- Note: For CIAC tournament contests, the Tournament Director may relocate a game from the higher seeded team's home field when the host school's turf field prohibits the use of footwear customarily worn by the visiting team on natural grass fields during the regular season. The Tournament Director's determination under this provision shall be final.**
- 6.8 Due to the pitching rule the quarter-final game MUST be played on the designated day unless moved for inclement conditions in which case it must be played on the following day, even if it means moving the site.
- 6.9 The Tournament Director will determine the sites and times for all semi-finals and finals. Night games may be scheduled. The Tournament Director will designate the site director.

## **PART III – TOURNAMENT RULES AND PROCEDURES**

### **7.0 TOURNAMENT RULES AND PROCEDURES**

- 7.1 The official National Federation Baseball Rules will prevail for the tournament with the following clarifications or state options.
- 7.2 All CIAC tournament games will be played in their entirety. **THERE IS NO 10 RUN RULE DURING THE CIAC TOURNAMENT.**
- a. Any tournament games which must be halted for whatever reason will be declared suspended and the game will be continued from the point of suspension, with lineup and batting order of each team the same as the line-up and batting order at the moment of suspension.
- b. Extra innings will be played until a winner can be determined if a winner cannot be determined at the completion of seven full innings of play.
- 7.3 Beginning with the quarter-final games, the umpire must consult with the site director before a game is suspended because of inclement weather.
- 7.4 **BALL – The following tournament balls will be used throughout the entire tournament: SPALDING TF PRO BASEBALL and must possess a NOCSAE seal.**
- 7.5 Throughout the tournament, the higher ranked team shall have the choice of taking or not taking the last time at bat and choice of dugouts. In the event of a postponement or suspension of game, all conditions described herein shall prevail when the game is played or resumed.
- 7.6 For all games the site director will notify both teams of the location of the field, the time of the game and the time of batting and infield practice as well as any special ground rules.

- 7.7 **Pre-Game Batting** – For the semi-final and final rounds ALL batting done at the site prior to the game must be done in the batting cages provided and there will be NO batting on the field. It is recommended that batting for all rounds prior to the semi-finals be done at your own school unless the host site can provide adequate and safe accommodations. At NO time should both teams be batting from the field at the same time.
- 7.8 The home team scorer will be considered the official scorer through the semi-finals.
- 7.9 In the event of any situation not covered in the rules, the decision of the Committee or its representatives shall be final. Selection of teams and sites by the Committee is final.
- 7.10 **Reporting of Tournament Games** – PLEASE – IMMEDIATELY following a tournament game **BOTH TEAM COACHES FOR ALL DIVISIONS** will telephone game scores to: **DAMIAN FRASSINELLI – Cell – (860) 305-1013**. Please arrange to have someone from the site call from a cell phone.

## 8.0 TIME OF GAMES

- 8.1 All weekday games will start no earlier than 3:30 p.m. except by mutual agreement. **There will be NO games scheduled after 4:00 p.m.** If rain causes postponements, these games will be played on the next day, including Sundays. The site director will have the authority to postpone games in the event of inclement weather and in case of a postponed game, the site director will immediately notify the Tournament Director prior to the team's departing. (Also see 6.4) Any Saturday make-up quarter-final game times are by mutual agreement due to S.A.T.'s but night games are not allowed unless there is an extenuating circumstance.

## 9.0 EXPENSES AND TICKETS

- 9.1 Expenses for all qualifying, first and second round games will be borne by the participating teams. The host team will pay all game expenses including officials and shall provide the site director who should be someone other than the coach. The visiting team will pay its own traveling expenses.
- a. It is recommended that each school provide a trainer or qualified medical personnel at all CIAC tournament games.
- 9.2 Schools will bear all traveling expenses.
- 9.3 If in the qualifying, first or second round games schools wish to charge admission to defer their expenses, they must notify the principal and Athletic Director of the visiting school in advance.
- 9.4 The baseball committee will pay a site director fee, pay the umpires, and provide one dozen balls for quarter-final games. In addition, the CIAC will reimburse each host school expenses for essential personnel (i.e. ticket taker, scorer, etc.) submitted on the game reporting form for each quarter-final game up to \$200.
- 9.5 The Baseball Committee will pay all game expenses directly associated with the staging of the semi-finals and final tournament games.

- 9.6 Charges for admission to tournament quarter-final and semi-final games: \*  
(\*Price subject to change depending upon venue)

\$5.00 – Senior Citizens (age 65 and older) and Students (grades 1-12)  
\$10.00 – Adults (all others not in the above categories)  
Free – Children five (5) and under  
Free – Military in uniform or with I.D.

**Championship game tickets will be \$10**  
**Free – Children five (5) and under**  
**Free – Military in uniform or with I.D.**

**ALL TICKET SALES FOR CIAC TOURNAMENT GAMES WILL BE SOLD AND REDEEMED VIA DIGITAL TICKETING.**

- 9.7 During the 2026 tournament, the following passes will be honored at all games where an admission is charged.
- a. Official CIAC Baseball Pass (head varsity baseball coaches – REQUEST MUST BE IN WRITING)
  - b. Principal (or designee) and athletic director of participating schools
  - c. CIAC baseball officials membership card
  - d. Press Card
  - e. No other complimentary admissions will be permitted

## 10.0 OFFICIALS

- 10.1 Each varsity head coach must file the selection of officials form by Friday, May 8, 2026. From these ballots and the names submitted by each board, a list of tournament caliber officials will be developed and used for assignment purposes. You are invited to submit a maximum of eight (8) umpires from the Board that services your home games during the regular season. You are also encouraged to list a maximum of three (3) umpires from any other Board(s) that you believe are tournament caliber officials. In addition, **at this time only**, you have the option to identify no more than two (2) umpires whose services you prefer not to have, **STARTING WITH THE QUARTER-FINAL ROUND ASSIGNED BY THE CIAC.**
- Go to [casciac.org](http://casciac.org)
  - In the lefthand column click “Eligibility Center
  - Click “Officials Voting”
  - At the top of the page select baseball
- 10.2 The Commissioner of the local board that services the higher ranked team will assign two (2) or three (3) umpires for all qualifying, first and second round games played at the site of the home team. **The home team must notify the Commissioner on the day the pairings are released to confirm the details of the game and to request that umpires be assigned.** Since the official’s fees, prior to the quarter-finals, is the responsibility of the home team, the decision to use two or three umpires rests with the home team.
- 10.3 From the preliminary round tournament list and based on the coaches ballots, a smaller Master List of umpires is developed which is used by the coordinator of officials in making assignments. Starting with the quarter-final games, the CIAC officials coordinator will assign the umpires, using the smaller Master List as the source. Three (3) umpires will be assigned in the quarter-final and semi-final games and four (4) man crews will be used in the championship games. The local commissioners will assign two (2) or three (3) umpires for all preliminary round games as specified by the home team.
- 10.4 During tournament play no official is to work more than one game each day. Exception: an official may complete a game not already scheduled on a day he is assigned a game.

- 10.5 Identity of the umpires assigned by the coordinator of officials will not be disclosed prior to the game.
- 10.6 Coaches are reminded that open criticism of officials to the media is not appropriate. The baseball committee perceives such comments as a detriment to the tournament.

## 11.0 SUPERVISION AND SPORTSMANSHIP

- 11.1 In the interest of crowd control and proper supervision the CIAC Board of Control has approved the tournament regulation requiring the principal of the participating schools or his/her designee to attend all tournament games. The school administrator should identify him/herself to the site director.
- 11.2 When a member school's coach is ejected from a game for an infraction as prescribed by the rules, the game may not continue until the member school replaces the ejected coach with a certified coach. If this cannot be accomplished within 15 minutes after the ejection, the official-in-charge will declare a forfeit win for the opposing team.
- 11.3 **All coaches who are disqualified at any level will be suspended for the next two games (page 96 in the CIAC Handbook), take two NFHS coaching courses ("Teaching and Modeling Behavior" and "Sportsmanship") and the school will pay a \$50 fine. In addition to the two-game suspension and fine, the CIAC reserves the right to review any incident that results in a coach's disqualification and may assess additional game suspensions up to and including a one-year ban. The fine and proof of taking the coaching courses must be submitted to the CIAC office before the coach can resume his coaching responsibilities.**
- 11.4 Use of tobacco or vaping products and controlled substances or possession of alcoholic beverages of any kind, including champagne, are not permitted on the field of play, including dugouts, or within the field or part at which a tournament game is scheduled. Many towns or fields which we use have local ordinances prohibiting use of tobacco products and controlled substances or possession of alcoholic beverages. The principal or his/her designee at the game shall see that this rule is enforced and adhered to by the teams.

### 11.5 Bench and Field Conduct

Personnel – Only coaches, players, other team members, statisticians, managers and trainers will be allowed in the dugout or bench area.

Conduct – The above identified personnel shall not be outside the designated dugout (bench) or bull pen area if not a batter, runner, on-deck batter, in the coach's box or one of the nine players on defense.

NOTE: ONLY THE HEAD COACH MAY APPROACH THE UMPIRE ON A DISPUTED CALL.

- 11.6 **Disqualification and Ejections** – When an athlete or coach is disqualified during a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike misconduct, that athlete or coach is ineligible to participate or attend any contest until withheld from the next contest for an athlete and the next two (2) contests for a coach at that level of play. (Refer to CIAC Disqualification/Ejection Rule in the CIAC Handbook for the entire regulation.)
- 11.6 **SPORTSMANSHIP** – Member schools are expected to conduct their relations with each other at all levels of competition in a spirit of good sportsmanship. The school administration is responsible for the athletic program, including the policies and procedures relating to sportsmanship and the conduct of activities in the school. The CIAC "Class Act" standards will be used in all CIAC contests. The CIAC Standards for Sportsmanship as defined in the Class Act program are found at [http://ciacsports.com/site/?page\\_id=10438](http://ciacsports.com/site/?page_id=10438).

## 12.0 PROTESTS

- 12.1 Each sports committee will establish a Protest Committee whose purpose will be to adjudicate all protests relating to the operation of the tournament, including the application and administration of tournament regulations. National Federation or CIAC game rule interpretations and game officials judgments cannot be protested. The Protest Committee for each sport shall consist of the Assistant Executive Director for CIAC, the Chairman of the Tournament Committee, an administrator member of the sports committee, the Tournament Director, and the Coaches' Chairman on the sport committee. All Protest Committee decisions are appealable to the CIAC Board of Control as provided in the CIAC by-laws.
- 12.2 On the eve of a tournament when there is not sufficient time for normal administrative procedures and Board of Control hearings, if a question of interpretation of tournament regulations or the operation of the tournament arises, the Chairman of the CIAC Board of Control, the Executive Director of CIAC, and the Chairman of the Tournament Committee in question will make an appropriate ad hoc decision in consideration of the best interest of the tournament as a whole.
- 12.3 **Decisions by Game Officials** – Protests arising from the decisions, interpretations and misapplication of the National Federation or CIAC game rules by officials during the contest will not be considered. The decisions and interpretations of the rules by the officials are final.

If there is a reasonable doubt about some decision being in conflict with the rules, the head coach has the right to an appeal of the umpires decision and seek its reversal. To ask a question about a call on the field, the head coach may only meet the calling umpire at the midpoint of their respective foul line. To ask a question about a call at the plate or when making a lineup change, the head coach may not enter the dirt circle around home plate.

The record of the official scorekeeper at the conclusion of the contest is final unless an error is discovered. Such error shall be corrected as covered by specific contest rules.

Any team leaving the contest area before the conclusion of the contest because of dissatisfaction with the officiating will render the school liable to disciplinary action by the Conference.

## 13.0 VIDEOTAPING

- 13.1 **Videotaping and Filming** – The use of electronic communication equipment, includes, but is not limited to computer, film, television, web blasts and video tape.
- 13.2 **Regular Season / CIAC Contests** – Any use of tape or film for coaching purposes must comply with the National Federation rule book restrictions for each sport, individual athletic league rules, and local board of education policy.
- 13.3 **CIAC Tournament Contests**
- a. **Videotaping or filming by participating schools** – Videotaping or filming tournament games by participating schools is permitted, provided prior arrangements are made with the CIAC and the Site Director.
  - b. **Videotaping or filming by spectators**
    - Shall be for personal use
    - Shall not interfere with the view of the athletic contest by other spectators
    - Equipment will not be permitted in any playing area – only in spectator seating area
    - Equipment shall not create a safety hazard
    - Violations of this regulation may result in the removal of the offender(s) from the premises.

- c. Videotaping or filming/broadcasting for commercial purposes – Commercial enterprises must have prior approval from the Site/Tournament Director. Broadcast/Commercially videotape application(s) regulations are online at [www.ciacsports.com](http://www.ciacsports.com).

Permission to broadcast any CIAC tournament event, in any format, must be granted by CIAC by contacting John Holt, Director of Media.

- d. Videotaping or filming for commercial-free, non-profit purposes – Non-profit commercial enterprises must have prior approval from the state tournament director. Application online at [www.ciacsports.com](http://www.ciacsports.com). No fees are charged.
- e. Photographing for a commercial venture is prohibited unless first approved by CIAC.

## 14.0 MEDIA POLICY

The CIAC places tremendous value on the role the media plays in promoting and highlighting high school sports. To that purpose CIAC tournament venues and hosts should make every effort to provide a working environment conducive to all media (print, broadcast and internet-based) covering our events. The following are **minimum standards**, developed in consultation with the CIAC Media Advisory Committee, which should be provided for working media at all CIAC tournament sites:

- 1) A minimum of one hour following the conclusion of post-game interviews to write in the press box, press area or a suitable facility in close proximity to the site of the event (i.e. office, classroom, etc).
- 2) Access to electric power (shared power strip, etc.)
- 3) Access to wireless internet service.

Site directors should communicate these requirements to any staff person who may be responsible for the administration of the event. If for some reason a site will not be able to provide these items for a contest, a site representative should inform the CIAC in advance and work with the media on site before the game and work to provide a reasonable solution to the issue. Members of the media who will be covering events are directed to contact the appropriate site as far in advance as possible to inform them they will be at the event and discuss what arrangements will be made for working media at the site.

## PART IV – REGULATIONS FOR CONDITIONING WEEK -- DRILLS

### REGULATIONS FOR CONDITIONING WEEK FOR BASEBALL PITCHERS

1. The conditioning program is limited to **ten (10)** pitchers and four (4) catchers in grades 9 through 12. This limits the number of participants to fourteen per school with no substitutions for absentees or dropouts allowed. Winter sport athletes still in season are ineligible to take part in this program.
2. Baseball conditioning for pitchers (10) and catchers (4) may be conducted for no more than five (5) days per athlete (Saturday through Friday) the week prior to the first date for baseball practice as designated by the CIAC.
3. Only one session per day is permitted – the maximum length of the session is one hour and 30 minutes (1½ hours).
4. The program can be conducted indoors or out depending on the weather.
5. Balls, gloves and catcher’s protective equipment are the only equipment permitted. (Bats, batting tees, fungos, batting cages, pitching machines, etc., are strictly prohibited.)
6. The program may consist only of warm-ups, stretching, calisthenics, weight training, running, other conditioning exercises and throwing. Throwing is permitted only because it is an important aspect of conditioning the arm.

7. A coach must be present at all conditioning sessions.

NOTE: IT IS A VIOLATION OF CIAC RULES TO ALLOW WORK ON FIELDING, COVERING BASES, PICK-OFFS OR ANY OTHER RELATED FUNDAMENTS, AND THEREFORE, THESE TYPES OF DRILLS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED. ALSO IT SHOULD NOT BE USED AS A TRYOUT, AND TEAM CUTS ARE NOT PERMITTED.

Safety Precautions – Catchers should wear full equipment. Do not use anyone to assume a batters position while pitchers are throwing, since although pitching control may be an outcome of the program, it is not a program objective.

Member schools found in violation of the above rules will be subject to disciplinary review by the CIAC Baseball Committee and possible action by the CIAC Board of Control.

### **Conditioning Questions and Answers:**

1. **Now that I have seven (7) days to get five (5) days of conditioning in for my pitchers can I bring in ten (10) varsity pitchers on four days and ten (10) JV/Freshman pitchers for three days?**
  - No, you cannot substitute players and can ONLY bring in 10 total pitchers from your roster.
2. **Do I have to bring in all 10 pitchers and 4 catchers during the five days I select for conditioning?**
  - No, a coach can utilize all 7 days and you are allowed to split the group as long as no one player is there for more than a total of 5 sessions on 5 different days.
3. **Can I hold two sessions on one day and split my 10 pitchers and 4 catchers in order to work in smaller groups?**
  - No, more than one (1) session per day is NOT permissible.

### **PART V - COACHING CERTIFICATIONS**

For a list of all coaching certifications and links to forms go here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KnzXy81GK9x88bY1-5JBSuP-8SY34sdc/edit?usp=sharing&oid=104830910406558409235&rtpof=true&sd+5473>

**Volunteer Coaches** – The State of Connecticut Department of Education does not distinguish between volunteer or paid coaches when considering certifications or responsibilities. All coaches who are responsible for, or instruct students in any way must follow Connecticut State Law for certifications and responsibilities. Therefore, volunteer coaches are required to obtain the same certifications as all other coaches.