



2022-2023 MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

To: Activities/Athletic Directors of Member Schools
From: Erich Martens, Executive Director, MSHSL
Re: Baseball and Softball Spring 2023
Date: April 7, 2023

Due to the unseasonably cool temperatures, poor field conditions, frozen turf, etc., the MSHSL Board of Directors took action to increase the opportunities for member schools to schedule and complete contests in a condensed season. This memo identifies a process to be used for the regular season only for the Spring 2023 baseball and softball season.

In addition, the language regarding the official's emergency waiver process is also included; this is not new language, yet a good reminder for the hiring of officials.

Length of Games

The length of a baseball or softball game may be amended as follows:

- By mutual agreement of the schools, two member schools may agree to play two 5 inning games in a doubleheader format, or as currently available, doubleheaders may be played with the first game lasting 7 innings and the second game lasting 5 innings or until a "regulation game" (According to NFHS Rules) is completed.
 - A doubleheader for the 2023 spring season may also consist of different opponents for the second game. (Minnesota modification to NFHS baseball Rules 4-2-4, softball 4-2-4a)
- Single games must still be played under the NFHS rules requiring 7 inning games or until a "regulation game" is completed.
- Appropriate application of the rules regarding "regulation game" and "suspended game" is required. To review these rules, see the **Rules, Policies, and Bylaws** document posted on the softball and baseball activity pages and on the coach and AD Dashboards.

Officials Waiver Process (Reminder)

Waiver requests for less than the minimum required officials will not be granted unless the request meets the definition of emergency as listed in the *Officials Waiver Memo*. This Memo can be found in the MSHSL Resources section of the AD Dashboard. An emergency is defined as receiving notice from a contracted official that they cannot fulfill their contract for a pending contest because of an emergency, or you may have a "no-show."

Registered/eligible officials shall be contracted for all varsity contests. The following arrangements can be used if an emergency occurs involving previously contracted officials by following the waiver process*:

- **Softball:** One registered/eligible official is required per Bylaw 413.00 and two are recommended. Using a single non-registered or ineligible official requires a waiver*.
- **Baseball:** Two registered/eligible officials are required per Bylaw 413.00. Using one registered and one non-registered official or using only one registered/eligible official requires a waiver*.

*A waiver must be obtained by the Activities Director or Head Coach by sending an email to Jason Nickleby, MSHSL Assistant Director, at jnickleby@mshsl.org prior to the first pitch of the contest. The waiver is in effect upon the submission of the email. Verification of the receipt of the waiver will take place within 24 hours.

Please note that schools are only given one waiver per year, per school, per sport.