

2022-2023 ACEL Softball Plan & Schedule



The General Season Information

Read the ACEL Standing Rules

Make sure to read the ACEL Standing Rules available for download from theacel.com. **ACEL Rules have change substantially from last year!** It is vitally important that you read and understand all ACEL rules. Be aware that ACEL rules and procedures are tailored to the unique needs of our Member Organizations. Therefore, some ACEL rules are unlike those customarily found in other leagues. If you have any questions about ACEL rules or operating procedures, please ask your athletic director for clarification.

If any particular situation is not covered in the ACEL Standing Rules, the current NFHS (National Federation of State High School Associations) rules apply.

Points of Emphasis for 2022-23

1. Administrator on Duty (Section 2 of ACEL Rules)

Each team is required to provide an Administrator on Duty at every ACEL event.

The Administrator on Duty:

- Must be capable and willing to fulfill the role of Administrator on Duty,
- Shall be responsible for the general organization, management and supervision of the Organization's student body, coaches and spectators before, during and after each event, (ACEL Rule 2.3)
- Shall work with the Administrator on Duty of the opposing team to handle any issue that arises beyond the scope of the officials' authority, (ACEL Rule 2.4)
- Is **NOT** responsible for the opposing team,
- May not be a coach or other individual participating in that event (scorekeeper, stat keeper, etc.),
- Must locate and introduce themselves to the Administrator on Duty of the opposing team prior to the beginning of the contest,
- Must report ACEL Rule infractions to the Executive Director via the incident report form located on the Forms and Downloads section of the ACEL website (theacel.com).

2. Behavior (Section 5 of ACEL Rules)

There were several unacceptable incidents that occurred at ACEL events last year and that trend must stop. ACEL Rules regarding behavior and sportsmanship have been expanded to clarify expectations. The standards listed in Section 5 of the ACEL Standing Rules are not optional and must be enforced by Administrators on Duty.

The goal is to have inappropriate behavior graciously corrected by the Administrators who have a relationship with the offender. Most of the issues we have had occurred because there was no one in authority with a relationship to the offender present to calm and diffuse the situation or were inflamed by adults from one team attempting the correct adults and students from the other team.

Example Scenario for handling ACEL rule violations

A spectator, player, or coach that witnesses a violation of ACEL rules should report the violation immediately to their Administrator on Duty. The Administrator on Duty should then attempt to confirm that the action is occurring.

For example, if it is reported by a spectator from Team B that a fan from Team A disrespectfully addressed an official, the spectator should immediately alert the Team B Administrator on Duty of the behavior. Team B Administrator will then notify Team A Administrator of the report. It is then the responsibility of the Team A Administrator to confirm if the action did occur or is occurring. The method of confirmation is left to the wisdom of the Team A Administrator. There will be instances when confronting the individual will be appropriate. There will also be instances when closely observing the individual is the better approach. In either case, if the Team A Administrator is able to confirm the action occurred, then that administrator is required to sanction the individual per ACEL Rule 5.6 and to report the incident and sanctions to the ACEL.

Team A Administrator should inform the Team B Administrator of the results of their investigation. Both Administrators should report the incident whether confirmed or not to the ACEL. Multiple incident reports from a variety of Organizations against a particular person, confirmed or not, become plausible proof of an individual's behavior and grounds for sanctions per ACEL rules.

If an Administrator on Duty witnesses a violation of ACEL rules, confirmation of the incident is NOT required. The Administrator on Duty must proceed with corrective sanctions and a report of the incident should be sent to the ACEL by both Administrators.

3. League Records

Rosters

Rosters must be completely filled out to include player numbers. Teams may not leave player numbers blank. Any rostered player with a blank player number will be ineligible.

Rosters must be uploaded to eFilecabinet. (Your AD has information for accessing that system.). The fillable roster form available from the forms and downloads section of the website must be used for roster submissions. Please be aware that there is an updated roster form for 2022-23. Rosters submitted on the old form will not be accepted. An instruction sheet explaining how to complete the updated roster form is available for download from the “forms and downloads” section of the website.

Student Birth Certificates and Grade Reports

Quarterly grade submissions are no longer required. Birth Certificates and transcripts/ grade reports are only required for newly rostered students.

The 2022-23 Baseball & Softball Schedule

Baseball and softball have a 9-week regular season with an additional week for both playoffs and the state championship. Please note that all available game dates on the calendar have been scheduled.

No open dates have been left for make-up games so that each team will have the maximum number of games possible. All teams have been scheduled to trade home and away games. For 2022-23 there are 10 varsity softball teams and 9 varsity baseball teams.

Districts

There are not enough baseball/softball teams to separate into districts for 2022-23.

All games must be completed

All scheduled games must be completed this year. Any game that can not be completed will be subject to a \$500 fine.

If a weather related game cancellation can not be made up, the ACEL Executive Board will consider how to handle those games on a case-by-case basis. Teams will be required to provide detailed documentation explaining why the games could not be reasonably made-up.

Good Friday, April 7

Be aware that games have been scheduled for Good Friday, April 7.

All-State Voting

All organizations participating in baseball/softball are required to attend All-State Voting even if no player is nominated for all-state from the organization. There is a \$500 fine for failure to attend. The Baseball/Softball All-State Voting meeting will be via Zoom, Saturday, April 15th.

Playoffs

Top 6 teams by regular season power points will advance to playoffs with #1 and #2 earning byes to the state semi-finals. Highest seed will host playoff games for seeds 3-6.

Official Playoff Dates

The following dates are official ACEL playoff dates. Flexibility in playoff scheduling is intended to assist the host Organization secure facilities and officials for the playoff game. Playoff schedule changes should not be made to accommodate personal conflicts or other extra-curricular activities. Earlier dates during playoff week have been chosen as the official dates reserving later dates for weather adjustments.

To change an official playoff date, both teams must agree to the change and both teams must submit a schedule change form to the ACEL.

1st Round Playoff Dates

Baseball

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Softball

Monday, April 17, 2023

State Championship

The 2021-2022 ACEL Baseball/Softball State Championship is scheduled for Friday & Saturday, April 29 & 30 in Alexandria/ Pineville.

Reminders

Coaches' Preseason Meeting

There will be a preseason coaches' meeting via Zoom, Saturday, January 21, 2023. Attendance is not mandatory but all baseball and softball coaches are encouraged to attend.

The intent of the preseason is to give coaches the opportunity to ask questions, voice concerns or offer suggestions directly to the ACEL Executive Director and is particularly beneficial to coaches new to the ACEL. The ACEL does not operate in the same way as other leagues. The ACEL customizes our process to the unique needs of our member organizations. Do not make assumptions. Read the ACEL standing rules and ask questions when in doubt.

Read the ACEL Standing Rules for 2022-2023

The 2022-23 ACEL Standing Rules are available for download from the ACEL website. The 2022-23 rules have been extensively updated. Sections containing requirements for Administrators on Duty, definitions of homeschool and private school students and behavioral standards have all been rewritten and require close review.

Baseball and Softball Commissioners

The ACEL is seeking a baseball and softball commissioner to begin work this coming season. The primary job of the commissioner will be that of a liaison between coaches and the executive director. The baseball and softball commissioners will also advise the executive director and the executive board regarding ACEL baseball/softball policy and procedure. For 2022-23, the baseball/softball commissioner position will be a volunteer position.

To apply, explain in an email to the executive director (admin@theacel.com) how you would be an asset to the ACEL as the baseball/softball commissioner. Applications will be reviewed by the executive board.

Administrator Required at Each Game

An administrator or a designated representative for each team must be in attendance at all ACEL events. The administrator may NOT be the team's coach nor may they sit on the bench. The purpose of the administrator is to handle issues that may arise with the fans, players, or coaches of their organization. The administrator must locate and introduce themselves to the administrator of the opposing team prior to the beginning of the game. Administrators for each team will work together to handle any issue that arises beyond the scope of the officials' authority.

Update Your Coach Information

Please check the members' section of the ACEL website (theacel.com) to confirm that the contact information for your coach and the location of your facility are correct. (The members' section of the website is password protected. Your administrator and athletic director have the password.) To update your information, use the "Information Update Form" available from the forms and downloads section of the website.

Rubex by eFilecabinet

Rosters, birth certificates, and grades reports must be uploaded to your organization's drawer in eFilecabinet by the dates listed on the baseball/softball page of the ACEL website. Your administrator and/or athletic director have log-in information and password for eFilecabinet. Make sure to use the "Rubex by eFilecabinet" login page and NOT the "eFilecabinet on-line" login page.

Please be aware that members cannot delete files nor can they add folders to eFilecabinet. After receiving your roster, I will make student folders for each of your athletes and notify you when those folder are ready for birth certificate and grade report uploads.

A fillable roster form is located in the athletics folder of your efilecabinet drawer or is available for download from the forms and downloads section of the website.

MaxPreps

The use of MaxPreps to report player stats for all-state consideration in the ACEL is mandatory. No all-state nomination will be accepted without an accompanying MaxPreps stat report.

Please do not underestimate the time that it can take MaxPreps to approve new organizations or to fix problems within existing accounts. ***If you are new to MaxPreps or are having issues with your MaxPreps account, NOW is the time to get those fixed.***

In order for MaxPreps to work for us as it is intended, player stats must be uploaded for each ACEL game in which an all-state nominated player participates. Stats should be uploaded routinely throughout the season. Waiting until the end of the season makes it difficult for our other teams to link to your schedule and for stat reporting to be transparent.

Follow the ACEL on Facebook

Make sure to follow the ACEL on Facebook @ACELathletics and make sure your families follow the ACEL too! Loads of ACEL information and state championship PICTURES are posted throughout the year!

Baseball/Softball Rules, Procedures & Policies

The ACEL follows the rules and regulations set by the National Federation of State High Schools (NFHS) for all sanctioned ACEL sports. ACEL supplemental policies and exceptions to NFHS rules are listed below.

ACEL Specific Rules and Policies for Baseball/ Softball 2021-2022

Schedule Changes

The ACEL allows organizations to easily change their schedules as necessary. Both the home and the away team must submit the schedule change form located on the website to change the date of a game.

Score Reporting

Scores must be reported by both the home and away teams by noon the following day. Failure to report the score will result in a fine.

Physicals and Coaches' Concussion Course

All athletes participating in league competition (boys/girls) are required to take and pass a physical examination. These physicals are good for one calendar year. Physicals must be kept on-hand by athletic directors and coaches at all ACEL events and must be presented immediately upon request.

All ACEL coaches are required to take a concussion course and be able to provide evidence/certificate of completion upon request.

Game Day Rosters

A Game Day Roster will be supplied to the opposing team from each team that exceeds 27 players on their official roster. Only players that appear on a team's official roster may be used on the game day roster. Only players listed on the game day roster are eligible to dress out for that game.

Baseball Pitch Limits

Per ACEL Rule 10.2.1, The maximum number of baseball pitches allowed is 110: 36-60 pitches, 1 day of rest is required; 61-85 pitches, 2 days of rest; 86-110, 3 days of rest. Pitch count limits are the same for playoffs and the state championship tournament.

AED

The ACEL strongly recommends that all organizations have an AED at all ACEL events.

Communicate with your Executive Director

Most problems and misunderstandings can be avoided simply through communication. Coaches, if you have a league concern please discuss it with your athletic director ASAP. In many instances athletic directors will already have related information from the ACEL. Athletic directors, please do not hesitate to contact me with any league issue you may have. The more you all communicate with me, the better I understand what is actually happening within our league, making me better able to act in the best interest of all our organizations. I cannot address what I do not know.

Sandra Merrow
ACEL Executive Director
admin@theacel.com
337-366-1394
(Leave a message, and I will get back to you.)



2022-23 ACEL Softball Schedule

Acadiana Christian Athletics Defenders—Lafayette
Acadiana Christian School Lions—New Iberia
CHEF of Baton Rouge Patriots—Baton Rouge
Faith Training Christian Academy Patriots—Leesville
Good Samaritan Fellowship Hornets—Fred, TX
Harvest Time Christian Academy Lions—Abbeville
Legacy Christian Academy—Jennings
Mt. Olive Christian School Eagles—Athens
Southwest Louisiana Homeschool Athletics Knights—Lake Charles
Word of God Academy Force—Shreveport

Monday, February 13

ACA @ ACS
HTCA @ LCA
GSF @ MOCS
FTCA @ SWLA
CHEF @ WOGA

Thursday, February 16

LCA @ ACA
ACS @ CHEF
WOGA @ FTCA
SWLA @ GSF
MOCS @ HTCA

Monday, February 20

CHEF @ ACA
ACS @ FTCA
WOGA @ GSF
SWLA @ HTCA
MOCS @ LCA

Thursday, February 23

GSF @ ACS
FTCA @ CHEF
ACA @ MOCS
LCA @ SWLA
HTCA @ WOGA

Monday, February 27

FTCA @ ACA
HTCA @ ACS
GSF @ CHEF
SWLA @ MOCS
LCA @ WOGA

Thursday, March 2

SWLA @ ACA
GSF @ FTCA
CHEF @ HTCA
ACS @ LCA
WOGA @ MOCS

Monday, March 6

MOCS @ ACS
LCA @ CHEF
HTCA @ FTCA
ACA @ GSF
WOGA @ SWLA

Thursday, March 9

MOCS @ CHEF
HTCA @ GSF
FTCA @ LCA
ACS @ SWLA
ACA @ WOGA

Monday, March 13

WOGA @ ACS
MOCS @ FTCA
ACA @ HTCA
GSF @ LCA
CHEF @ SWLA

Thursday, March 16

ACS @ ACA
LCA @ HTCA
MOCS @ GSF
SWLA @ FTCA
WOGA @ CHEF

Monday, March 20

ACA @ LCA
CHEF @ ACS
FTCA @ WOGA
GSF @ SWLA
HTCA @ MOCS

Thursday, March 23

ACA @ CHEF
FTCA @ ACS
GSF @ WOGA
HTCA @ SWLA
LCA @ MOCS

Monday, March 27

ACS @ GSF
CHEF @ FTCA
MOCS @ ACA
SWLA @ LCA
WOGA @ HTCA

Thursday, March 30

ACA @ FTCA
ACS @ HTCA
CHEF @ GSF
MOCS @ SWLA
WOGA @ LCA

Monday, April 3

ACA @ SWLA
FTCA @ GSF
HTCA @ CHEF
LCA @ ACS
MOCS @ WOGA

Thursday, April 6

ACS @ MOCS
CHEF @ LCA
FTCA @ HTCA
GSF @ ACA
SWLA @ WOGA

Monday, April 10

CHEF @ MOCS
GSF @ HTCA
LCA @ FTCA
SWLA @ ACS
WOGA @ ACA

Thursday, April 13

ACS @ WOGA
FTCA @ MOCS
HTCA @ ACA
LCA @ GSF
SWLA @ CHEF

All Games must be completed by April 14

Baseball All-State Voting

Saturday,
April 15th (via Zoom)

Playoffs

Top 6 teams by regular season power points advance to playoffs with #1 and #2 earning byes to the state semi-finals. Highest seed will host playoff games for seeds 3-6.

**Official ACEL Baseball 1st Round Playoff Date:
Tuesday, April 18, 2023**

(To change an official playoff date, both teams must agree to the change and both teams must submit a schedule change form to the ACEL.)

**ACEL Baseball State Championship
in Alexandria/Pineville**

Friday, April 28
Semifinals

Saturday, April 29
State Championship
Consolation game