

2023-24 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. 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 2023-24

1. Reducing Travel

Reducing the amount of travel required of ACEL teams is the primary focus for all sports in 23-24. We will not solve the problem this year-- we simply do not have enough teams in the right locations, but we are making deliberate changes to mitigate the problem.

Teams are divided into geographic districts as much as is realistically possible given the number and location of committed teams.

All sports are scheduled for significantly fewer games than in past years. Generally, teams are scheduled to play all in-district teams twice and a select group of out-of district opponents once.

There is opportunity in the ACEL schedule for additional games and teams are encouraged to fill their schedule with extra games against ACEL members and/or non-members. Any extra games scheduled shall be considered scrimmage games by the ACEL and will not count toward league standings.

The league does not limit the number of games or the amount of travel for teams. In our effort to reduce travel, the ACEL is no longer **requiring** excessive travel in order to complete a league schedule.

2. 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).

3. Behavior (Section 5 of ACEL Rules)

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.

4. 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.

The ACEL digital file collection system, efilecabinet, has been renamed Revver. Login information for efilecabinet that you had last year should also work for Revver. Rosters must be uploaded by the organization to Revver. (Your AD has information for accessing the system.) The fillable roster form available from the forms and downloads section of the website must be used for roster submissions. 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* athletes.

*A newly rostered athlete is a student that has never appeared on a roster for your organization and for whom no student records exist in Revver.

The 2023-24 Softball Schedule

Softball has a 9-week regular season with an additional week for both playoffs and the state championship. For 2023-24, there are 10 varsity softball teams. Welcome to Psalms Christian Academy competing for the first time in ACEL softball!

Baseball Districts

North District

Mt. Olive Christian Academy
Psalms Christian Academy
Word of God Academy

South Central District

Acadiana Christian Athletics
Acadiana Christian School
CHEF of Baton Rouge

Southwest District

Good Samaritan Fellowship
Faith Training Christian Academy
Legacy Christian Academy
Southwest Louisiana Homeschool Athletics

Teams are districted according to geography per current ACEL policy. The ACEL South-Central and Southeast districts were consolidated out of necessity for softball. Teams are scheduled to play all in-district opponents twice and out-of-district opponents once.

Teams are scheduled for significantly fewer games this year. In our effort to reduce travel, the ACEL is no longer **requiring** excessive travel in order to complete a league schedule. Teams are encouraged to add games with ACEL members and/or non-members if more games are desired.

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

No games are scheduled for Good Friday, March 29.

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 13th.

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 16, 2024

Softball

Monday, April 15, 2024

State Championship

The 2023-24 ACEL Baseball/Softball State Championship is scheduled for Friday & Saturday, April 26-27 in Alexandria/ Pineville.

Reminders

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.

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.

Revver (formerly eFilecabinet)

Rosters, birth certificates, and grades reports must be uploaded to your organization's drawer in Revver 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 Revver.

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.

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 2023-24

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 (Updated for 23-24)

ACEL Rule 10.2.1. The maximum number of baseball pitches allowed in a game is 110. 1-35 no rest required; 36-60 pitches, 1 day of rest is required; 61-85 pitches, 2 days of rest; 86-110, 3 days of rest. The maximum 110 pitch count limit will be allowed after completion of rest periods. Pitch count limits are the same for playoffs and the state championship tournament. During the state tournament, pitch count limit can be divided into separate appearances not to exceed 110 pitches over both days. (ex. Pitcher throws 60 pitches on day 1. Pitcher is eligible to throw 50 pitches on day 2.)

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

North District

Mt. Olive Christian School Eagles—Athens
Psalms Christian Academy Ambassadors—Natchitoches
Word of God Academy Force—Shreveport

South-Central District

Acadiana Christian Athletics Defenders—Lafayette
Acadiana Christian School Lions—New Iberia
CHEF of Baton Rouge Patriots—Baton Rouge

Southwest District

Faith Training Christian Academy Patriots—Leesville
Good Samaritan Fellowship Hornets—Fred, TX
Legacy Christian Academy—Jennings
Southwest Louisiana Homeschool Athletics Knights—Lake Charles

Monday, February 12

Psalms @ WOGA
ACA @ ACS
GSF @ FTCA
SWLA @ LCA

Thursday, February 15

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

Monday, February 19

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

Thursday, February 22

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

Monday, February 26

MOCS @ Psalms
CHEF @ ACS
GSF @ LCA
SWLA @ FTCA

Thursday, February 29

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

Monday, March 4

Bye

Thursday, March 7

Psalms @ FTCA
GSF @ ACS
SWLA @ WOGA
LCA @ MOCS

Monday, March 11

Bye

Thursday, March 14

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

Monday, March 18

WOGA @ Psalms
ACS @ ACA
FTCA @ GSF
LCA @ SWLA

Thursday, March 21

Psalms @ LCA
WOGA @ ACS
CHEF @ FTCA
GSF @ ACA

Monday, March 25

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

Thursday, March 28

ACA @ WOGA
SWLA @ Psalms

Monday, April 1

Psalms @ MOCS
ACS @ CHEF
FTCA @ SWLA
LCA @ GSF

Thursday, April 4

ACS @ MOCS
ACA @ Psalms
CHEF @ WOGA

Monday, April 8

Bye

Thursday, April 11

Bye

All Games must be completed by April 12

Softball All-State Voting

Saturday,
April 13th (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 Softball 1st Round Playoff Date:
Monday, April 15, 2024**

(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 26
Semifinals

Saturday, April 27
State Championship
Consolation game