

SWAC Softball Tournament Host Guidelines and Best Practices

The following host guidelines are applicable to softball sectional and state tournaments. The following guidelines are taken from the [SWAC Manual](#) with additional suggestions for best practices to ensure a smoothly run tournament. For further clarification and specifics regarding these and other duties and guidelines, refer to the [SWAC Manual](#). By agreeing to host either a sectional or state tournament, you are indicating that you have read, understood, and can abide by these guidelines.

- **Field Dimensions**
 - Pitching Distances
 - 8U – 35' with a BlueFlame Pitching Machine set to 32mph
 - 10U – 35'
 - 12U – 40'
 - 14U+ - 43'
 - Base Distance – 60' for all ages
- Lights are required for night games
- Scoreboards if possible
- 2 NFHS softball certified officials per game. Potentially use 3 NFHS softball certified officials for championship games
- Tournament brackets posted on site

Other Things To Consider

- On site EMS or a first aid station
- Potentially security since there will be many teams on site
- At least one score keeper to keep a score panel and official book
- Drag and line fields between games if possible
- Always go over the DP/Flex rule during your coaches meeting
- On site concessions
- On site photographer
- Create tournament t-shirts to sell
- A cooled area to bring players into if they overheat
- Water coolers inside the dugouts
- Fans inside the dugouts if possible

Refer to **Section 14.0** in the SWAC Manual for specific rules and regulations for softball tournaments.