



2017 PIAA District III M&T Bank Softball Championships

Below please find entry information, tournament regulations, dates and times for the 2017 PIAA District III Softball Tournament. Playing dates are set and will not be changed unless there is a conflict with graduation. If you anticipate a conflict with graduation, please notify me immediately of that possibility. District III will have three (4) entries in the PIAA AAAAAA (6A) tournament, five (5) entries in the AAAAA (5A) tournament, three (3) entries in AAAA (4A) tournament, two (2) entries in the AAA (3A) tournament, one (1) entry in the AA (2A) tournament and one (1) entry in the A (1A) tournament. The State Tournament will begin on Monday, June 5, 2017.

REGULATIONS

1. The National Federation (NFHS) rules with the fifteen (3 innings) and ten (5 innings) run rules will be in effect. In the case of a suspended game due to inclement weather, NFHS rules will be utilized.
2. Only PIAA-approved umpires assigned by the softball chairman or her appointee will be used for tournament games.
3. **BRACKETS** Bracket sizes have been set based on the number of teams in each classification. Brackets will be filled and teams will be seeded based on the District III-approved power-rating. The following contains information about each classification:

AAAAAA (6A) Bracket – 10 team bracket with games played on May 23, 25, 30 and June 1. Higher seed hosts games on May 23 and 25.

AAAAA (5A) Bracket – 16 team bracket with games played on May 23, 25, 30 and June 1. High seed hosts games on May 23.

AAAA (4A) Bracket - 10 team bracket with games played on May 23, 25, 30 and June 1. Higher seed hosts games on May 23 and 25.

AAA (3A) Bracket – 6 team bracket with games played on May 23, 25, and 30. Higher seed hosts games on May 23 and 25.

AA (2A) Bracket – 4 team bracket with games on May 25 and 30. Higher seed hosts games on May 25.

A (1A) Bracket – 2 team bracket with championship game at a neutral site on May 30.

In all classifications, a minimum of 10 games must be played against PIAA opponents. Games against non-PIAA opponents will not be included in calculating the OWWP.

All regular-season games up to and including games played on **Wednesday, May 17, 2017** must be included.





4. **APPLICATION** Softball will utilize the prescribed District III power-rating. Schools should report the result of each softball game played by 12:00 noon on the morning following the game using the online power-rating website. The deadline for games to count in the power-rating is **Wednesday, May 17, 2017**. Any school that does not wish to participate in the District III softball tournament and would qualify via District III power-rating must opt out by the entry deadline of May 17. Failure to do so will result in all qualified teams being entered in the tournament. All schools that qualify for the tournament must complete and return a contact information sheet detailing end-of-year events and contact information for coaches and administrators. This form will be sent to all schools via the District III server.
5. **POWER RANKING** Power-rating will be tabulated according to the District III formula as explained on the District III website at <http://piaadistrict3.org/>.
6. **HOME/VISITOR** The higher seeded team will be the **home team** for the game and shall sit in the third base dugout. The lower seeded team will be the **visiting team** for the game and shall sit in the first base dugout.
7. **GAME TIME SCHEDULE** The time schedule for games will be as follows:
 - a. The higher seeded team will have the field for the first twenty-five (25) minutes of the hour for hitting and fielding.
 - b. The lower seeded team will have the field for the next twenty-five (25) minutes of the hour for hitting and fielding.
 - c. Ten (10) minutes before the game, the umpires will conduct the pre-game meeting and review ground rules.
 - d. Game #2 of a Double-Header – Depending on the length of the first game and the playing site, batting practice may or may not be permitted on the playing field (time schedule will be determined by the game manager). Regardless of time, both teams will be given a minimum of ten (10) minutes of warm-up time for infield practice.
8. **START TIMES** Start times of Double-Headers or Single Games will typically be **4:30 PM**. The second game of a Double-Header will start at **6:30 PM**. The softball chairman at her discretion may choose to alter the start times of any games based on field availability and school event accommodations.

The second game of a double-header will not start after 8:30 pm. If the first game of a double-header is not completed by 8:15 PM, the second game will not be started and will be rescheduled for the next day. The game manager can adjust the pre-game schedule (eliminate dragging and lining the field, etc.) to get the game started before 8:30 PM. If the only way to get a game started before 8:30 pm is to eliminate infield warm-up time for both teams, the game manager may exercise this option.

In games where the 8:30 pm curfew is not a factor, the game manager shall have the option of dragging and re-lining the field between games of a double-header. The higher seeded team will have the field for ten (10) minutes followed by ten (10) minutes of use by the lower seeded team prior to the start of the game.

9. **TICKETS** Admission will be charged at all tournament games. Ticket prices for games will be **\$6.00 for Adults and \$4.00 for Students**. Grey inter-league passes will not be accepted for admission. Only white District III Committee passes and Gold District III lifetime passes are valid for admission.





10. **SITE SELECTION** – For games at neutral sites, every attempt will be made to assign games geographically central to both schools, while scheduling teams in the best facilities possible.
11. **COMPLIMENTARY ENTRIES** Schools will be provided with complimentary admission for five (5) individuals. Schools should utilize the DIII complimentary admission form for this purpose and send it to the game manager in advance of the contest.
12. **SOFTBALLS** The District III Committee will supply each site with a minimum of three (3) PIAA Official leather softballs for each game (Rawlings/Worth PX2RYL-PIAA).
13. **AWARDS** The District III championship team in each classification will receive a team trophy and 20 individual medals. The runner-up will receive 20 individual medals.
14. **SEVERE WEATHER** If severe inclement weather does not permit the District III softball tournament to finish by the PIAA state deadline, the top seeded teams remaining in the tournament will be sent to the state tournament. However, every effort will be made to finish the tournament in the time available.
15. **SCHOOL CONFLICT STATEMENT** The District III Committee will alter established game times to avoid conflicts with school graduation, baccalaureate and state or federal testing. For all other school conflicts such as dances, homecoming, banquets, et. al., the District III Committee will only alter times if facilities and game workers are available and all schools involved mutually agree to the time adjustment.
16. **GOOD LUCK TO ALL TEAMS!**

