

TO: ALL PRINCIPALS AND ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

FROM: CRAIG GINDLESPERGER, SOFTBALL CHAIRPERSON, STATISTICIAN

SUBJECT: DISTRICT 5 SOFTBALL INFORMATION

DATE: February, 2026 – updated April 27, 2026, updated May 6, 2026

- I. It is that time of year again for the submission of softball schedules for ranking purposes. Rating sheets are to be submitted via email in an Excel file prior to the first regular season play date of Friday, March 13, 2026.
- II. District 5 Softball Rating system
 - A. Ranking is determined by total points accumulated divided by the total games played, excluding tournaments, scrimmages, and exhibitions.
- III. District 5 Teams by Classification (Sorted Alphabetically)

“A”	“AA”	“AAA”	“AAAA”
Berlin	Chestnut Ridge	Bedford+ D-6	Somerset+D-9
Fannett-Metal	Conemaugh Township		
Forbes Road	Everett		
Meyersdale	McConnellsburg		
Northern Bedford	North Star		
Rockwood	Tussey Mountain		
Salisbury (not in 26)	Windber		
Shade	Perry Traditional Academy=D-8		
Southern Fulton			
Turkeyfoot			

- A. The top 6 rated schools will compete in the Class A District 5 Tournament. Teams that have a .500 record or better the day of the district cutoff will be included in the District 5 Playoffs (Subject to Change).
- B. The top 6 rated AA schools will compete in the Class AA District 5 Tournament. Teams that have a .500 record or better the day of the district cutoff will be included in the District 5 Playoffs (Subject to Change).
- C. District 5 AAA schools (Bedford) will compete in the District 5-6 AAA Tournament with D-5 included in the D-6 rankings as a Regional.
- D. District 5 AAAA schools (Somerset) competes against the District 9 Champion for a Regional.
- E. PIAA has 6 Classifications for ranking purposes. (A, AA, AAA, 4A, 5A 6A)

IV. Important Dates

March 2, 2026	PIAA Softball	1st Legal Practice Date
March 13, 2026	PIAA Softball	1 st Regular Season Contest Date
April 27, 2026	District 5 Softball	Deadline to Opt Out of Playoffs
May 16, 2026	District 5 Softball	District Cutoff
May 17, 2026	District 5 Softball	Seeding Meeting = Online with balls delivered!
May 18, 2026	District 5 Class “A” Softball	Play In (If Necessary)

May 20, 2026	District 5 Class "A" Softball	1 st Round
May 26, 2026	District 5 Class "A" Softball	Semifinals
May 28, 2026	District 5 Class "A" Softball	Championship
May, 19, 2026	District 5 Class "AA" Softball	1 st Round
May, 21, 2026	District 5 Class "AA" Softball	Semifinals
May, 27, 2026 May 18, 21 and 28/26 Champ. D-6 runs the AAA playoffs! May 27 th after Memorial Day.	District 5 Class "AA" Softball District 5/6 "AAA" Regional District 5/9 "AAAA" Regional (D-5 hosts at Windber)	Championship ¼, Semifinals & Finals (High seed hosts) Championship (D-5 to host at Windber)
May 30, 2026	All Classes	District Deadline
June 1, 2026	All Classes	PIAA First Round
June 4, 2026	All Classes	PIAA Quarterfinals
June 8, 2026	All Classes	PIAA Semifinals
June 11 and 12, 2026	All Classes	PIAA Championships @ Penn State

All play-off dates are **subject to change** due to inclement weather or any unforeseen circumstances. In such an event, the next day will likely become the make-up date.

V. Point System

- A. A team receives 6 points for a win.
- B. Bonus points are awarded on the following basis:
 1. 1 point awarded for a win over a Class A school, total 7 points
 2. 2 points awarded for a win over a Class AA school, total 8 points
 3. 3 points awarded for a win over a Class AAA school, total 9 points
 4. 4 points awarded for a win over a Class AAAA school, total 10 points
 5. 5 points awarded for a win over a Class AAAAA school, total 11 points.
 6. 6 points awarded for a win over a Class AAAAAA school, total 12 points
- C. No points are awarded for a loss regardless of PIAA Classification
- D. Victories over out of state opponents or non-P.I.A.A. opponents will receive the lowest point total of 7 points. If the District 5 Softball Chairman is provided the out of state opponent's verification of school enrollment figures from the opposing school's administration in writing prior to the due date of the ratings sheets deadline, that opponents classification may be changed to fit the PIAA enrollment classification.
- E. Rankings are based on all school schedules that are turned into the District 5 Softball statistician by the first legal playing date for the season and no games added after the season begins may be counted. This may be subject to change based on unforeseen circumstances.
- F. Ranking is in order of total points accumulated divided by the number of games played, excluding tournaments, scrimmages, and exhibition games.
- G. Forfeiture of contests will be governed by PIAA rules.

VI. Tie Breaker System for Ranking Only

- A. Head to Head victor if the teams played each other
- B. Winning percentage versus all common opponents in all games played (regardless of the number of times two schools play each other)
- C. Bonus points as calculated by wins by defeated opponents divided by games played
- D. Winning percentage calculated by wins divided by games played.
Ties count as half. Edited 5/6/26
- E. Greatest number of wins, excluding tournaments
- F. Coin toss at site convenient to both schools

VII. The following play-in scenarios will exist if more than eight teams qualify for the playoffs:

- Teams will play on the play-in date to determine which team enters the playoff brackets.
- If nine teams qualify, team #9 would play team #8 at team #8's home field. The winner of that game would move to the #8 spot on the bracket.

- If ten teams qualify, team #7 would play team #10 at team #7's home field and team #8 would play team #9 at team #8's home field. The winners would enter the regular bracket.
- The Tie Breaker System does not apply for teams finishing with an identical ranking that are required to play a play in game. Teams with identical rankings in a play-in scenario will play at a neutral site.

VIII. School Hosting Status (Subject to Change)

- Fannett-Metal has the same hosting status as any other District 5 school
- First round and Semi-Final games in A and AA will be played at the site of the higher seeded team. Beyond the Semi-Final round, games will be played at a neutral site.
- In AAA and AAAAA, hosting status will be determined at a later date.

IX. Softball Schedule Form

- Complete the Softball schedule form with information concerning your school. Note that a minimum of 12 games must be played to qualify for the playoffs. The minimum number of contests may be subject to change based on unforeseen circumstances.
- Please e-mail a copy of this form to the District 5 Statisticians **prior** to the 1st legal playing date of March 13,2026.

Please send the schedule on the original form located on District 5 website. This should be completed using Microsoft Excel.

The original rating from and all updates are to be sent via email to District 5 Softball Chairman, Statistician, and Tournament Director:

CRAIG GINDLESPERGER, A.D.

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C. Submission of rating sheets by athletic directors no later than 9:00 a.m. to the statistician are as follows:

1. Monday, April 6
2. Monday, April 13
3. Monday, April 20
4. Monday, April 27
5. Monday, May 4
6. Monday, May 11 then daily until district cutoff.

D. Results should be e-mailed on dates listed above. Schools not reporting will appear at the bottom of the rankings.

X. To be eligible for the playoffs, all teams must have their schedule complete by the district cutoff date. Any scheduling difficulties should be referred to the District 5 Softball Chairman. Games that are unable to be completed by the district cutoff date will require written notification from both participating schools to the District 5 Softball Chairman.

XI. In A, the 6 highest ranked teams at the district cut-off date will qualify for the District 5 playoffs. Any team with a .500 or better record at the district cut-off date will also qualify for the playoffs. See Section VII in this document for seeding information regarding play-in scenarios. The four

highest ranked teams in Class A will get home site advantage and will be the home team in the first round of the playoffs. (Subject to Change)

1st Round - # 1 Team bye
Class A # 2 Team bye
3 Team vs. # 6 Team
#4 Team vs. #5 Team

After the semi-final round, all games will be played on a neutral site with the highest ranked team as the home team.

2nd Round - 1 plays winner of 4/5 winner
2 plays winner of 3/6 winner

The championship game will be played at a neutral site. The highest ranked team is the home team.

XII. In the Class AA Tournament, the top 6 ranked teams at the district cut-off date will qualify for the District 5/8 playoffs. Any team with a .500 or better record at the district cut-off date will also qualify for the playoffs. In a five-team bracket, #4 will host #5 in a play-in contest with the winner advancing to the semi-finals to play the #1 seed. In a six-team bracket, #3 will host #6 and #4 will host #5 in play-in contests. The lowest-ranked winning team from the play-in round will advance to play the #1 team in the semi-finals while the other play-in winner would face the #2 seed in the semi-finals. The championship game will be played at a neutral site with the highest ranked team being designated as the home team. (Subject to Change)

XIII. In Class AAA, District 5 team will participate in the District 6 Tournament with details listed.

XIV. In Class AAAA, District 5 teams will participate in the District 5-9 tournament with details to be announced later.

XV. Pre-game Practice

A. The home team or “designated” home team shall have the field first. For a 4:30 start, the home team shall have the field from 3:25 until 3:55

B. The visiting team or “designated” visiting team shall have the field second. For a 4:30 start, the visitors shall have the field from 3:55 until 4:25

XVI. Designation of Bench or Dugout - The site/game manager shall designate the location of each team’s bench/bullpen prior to pre-game practice.

XVII. Ticket Prices for Playoffs:

Preliminary Rounds of District 5 Playoff Events: Student - \$3.00 Championships : Students- \$4.00
Adult - \$6.00 Adults- \$8.00

XVIII. Number of Teams advancing to state playoffs (Subject to Change)

Softball Class “A”—The District 5 Champion advance to the PIAA Tournament in 2026.

Softball Class “AA”—The District 5/8 (a Regional) Champion will advance to the PIAA Tournament in 2026. **D-8 was out in 25.**

Softball Class “AAA”—The District 5/6 (a Regional) Champion & Runner-up will advance to the PIAA Tournament in 2026.

Softball Class “AAAA”- The District 5/9 Regional Champion will advance to the 2026 Tournament.

For more information, please refer to Pages 46-49 of the following link:

<http://www.piaa.org/assets/web/documents/Handbook - Section III - Rules and Regulations.pdf>

- XIX. Playoff Game Balls—Dudley (Spalding) 43-147 (Red Stitch) will be provided by District 5.
- XX. Playoff Umpires will be assigned by the District 5 Committee
- XXI. Playoff Times - All games will begin at 4:30 unless a time change is approved by the District Chairperson.
- XXII. District 5 rankings will be emailed to the media by the District 5 Softball Statistician.
- XXIII. District 5 Forfeit Policy—The District 5 Forfeit Policy can be found on Page 11 of the District 5 Handbook at: <http://district5.piaa.org/DISTRICT%20%20FORMS/index.html>