

July 20, 2020

Congratulations on advancing to the 2020 State Softball Tournament at Harlan Rogers Park in Ft. Dodge, Iowa. The 2020 Iowa softball season will be one for the history books and the 40 teams in five classes who navigated a shortened season, COVID-19 adjustments and school closures in April are all to be commended on advancing to Fort Dodge.

Quarterfinal games will begin on Monday, July 27. Championship games are scheduled for Thursday, July 30 and Friday, July 31. A complete list of games is attached, along with brackets for the state tournament. Championship game times may be revised slightly for Iowa PBS scheduling.

What's New for 2020

Four Fields

In order to properly social distance fans, four fields are being utilized at Harlan Rogers. See complete schedule for game times. An updated schedule with field assignments will be made once the entire state tournament field is set.

The only consolation games being played are for 3rd and 4th place on Thursday and Friday.

Team Entrances

Teams will no longer enter through the main gates where the general public gate is located. In order to minimize interaction between teams and fans waiting in line, two team entrances have been created (see map). Teams playing on Kruger Field and Iowa Central Field will park team vehicles in the lot next to Kruger Field and enter through the gate adjacent to the parking lot. Teams playing on Veterans and Dodger will be admitted at the team gate down below. Team vehicles may utilize the team gate through the access road at the far end of the main parking lot and park in the grassy area adjacent to the entry gate.

Credentials for Head Coach and Team members are included in the packet that was presented to you at the Regional Championship game. Each member of the 28-person roster should have a credential to enter the facility.

Parking

Each team will be issued two parking passes for school vehicles. Those parking passes will be applicable to either team parking area-by Kruger Field or the team parking area adjacent to Veterans and Dodger Fields.

Streaming

Games on Kruger Field and Iowa Central Field will be streamed by the IGHS AU Network. Live scoring will be kept on all fields. Following each game streamed by the IGHS AU Digital Network, a "player of the game" will be interviewed on the broadcast. The interview will take place via headset on the field to ensure social distancing. A member of the production staff will request the selected player immediately following the game.

Schools who wish to stream their games on Dodger and/or Veterans may do so for a \$150 rights fee, same as a radio broadcast. Please note: internet reception is limited on those fields. Requests to stream games on Dodger and/or Veterans should be submitted to Tom Florian (tom@ighsau.org or 515-401-1840). Please include the number of crew members (camera operators, commentators, etc.) in your request. Please limit crew size to no more than 5 personnel. Broadcast locations are subject to availability based on venue requirements. **The opportunity for schools to stream state tournament games on these two additional fields (Dodger and Veterans) at Harlan Rogers Sports Complex is a one-time exception in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Media

All media members will be directed to meet players and coaches at designated spots following the conclusion of each game. Media are asked to comply with social distancing measures and remain 6 ft. away from players and coaches during interviews. For teams playing on Kruger Field and Iowa Central Field, media will meet players and coaches on the baseball field. For teams playing on Veterans and Dodger Fields, media will meet players at the IGHS AU pop up tent.

Bleacher seating

Bleacher seating will be limited on all fields and social distancing measures will be marked on all bleachers. The middle section of bleachers on Kruger Field and Iowa Central Field are reserved for media and IGHS AU personnel due to social distancing measures enacted behind home plate and in the press boxes. Please remind fans to bring their own lawn chairs.

COVID MODIFICATIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT

All modifications in place during the regular season remain in effect for the State Softball Championships. Dugouts will be extended and marked. Players' should social distance in the dugouts and place gear/bags 6 feet apart. Do not leave the dugout. No sharing of water bottles. Sanitize hands. Coaches should social distance during team huddles. Pre-game conference at home plate will involve umpires and head coaches only with proper social distancing.

All members listed on the 28-person roster must have temperature checks before practice and/or games at Harlan Rogers.

Water coolers will NOT be placed in each team dugout. Please have all players continue to utilize their own water supply. A limited amount of bottled water will be available for each team. Bottled water is also available in the training tents for players whose supply runs out and needs re-filling.

Out of play foul balls will be returned to the defensive team dug out and put back in play from the dugout. Please continue to follow the regular season routine with respect to this.

Face Coverings

Fort Dodge is strongly recommending that face coverings be worn in the common areas of Harlan Rogers. Please share this information with your fans. The IGHSAU also strongly recommends that all teams and coaches wear masks when entering and leaving the park and when social distancing is not possible. It is each school's decision on the use of face coverings for teams and coaches when teams are not playing, but please be aware that larger crowds will be present around teams.

FACE COVERINGS ARE REQUIRED IN THE ATHLETIC TRAINING AREAS. Masks will be available for players who forget or are unable to secure their own masks due to injury, etc.

Team Fun Fact/Information Survey for TV Broadcasts

To help showcase your team, school, and community on the IGHSAU Digital Network and Iowa PBS broadcasts, please complete the "Team Fun Fact/Information Survey" available at the following link: <https://bit.ly/sb20teaminfo>. This survey includes questions for coaches to identify 2-3 performance areas that are key to their team's success in the tournament. Also included are questions for players and coaches to list additional information about themselves and each other to be referenced by the commentators during each live game broadcast. **Please complete this survey by noon on July 22nd.** Please direct questions or concerns about the Team Fun Fact/Information survey to Tom Florian (tom@ighsau.org).

T-Shirts, Team Vans and Buses

Coaches and administrators are reminded to please review designs on team t-shirts and check the messages, signs, etc. on team vans and/or the team bus for any inappropriate language and/or comments. In the past, teams had referenced "Dirty Dodge" which is extremely demeaning to our hosts in Fort Dodge.

Travel & Per Diem Supplements

Participating teams less than 125 miles from Fort Dodge will receive \$1.25 per mile one way and a \$300 food allowance for each day they play.

Participating teams more than 125 miles from Fort Dodge will receive \$1.25 per mile one way and \$300 food allowance and \$450 lodging allowance for Quarterfinal play. Teams advancing in the bracket will receive an additional \$450 lodging and \$600 food allowance for Wednesday and Thursday or Friday play.

Teams will receive a reimbursement check at the conclusion of the tournament.

Additional Expense Information

Lodging reservations and food arrangements are the responsibility of the school. Each school is responsible for making and paying for their own arrangements.

Housing

Iowa Central Community College is unable to offer team housing this year due to COVID-19 concerns and the quarantine of their fall sports athletes. Hotel information and contacts were sent out previously to ADs and Head Coaches and is also included in this packet.

Teams Under 125 miles from Fort Dodge

No housing per diem is provided for schools under 125 miles.

Team Gates

The Pass Gate team roster should be emailed to the IGHS AU to Macy Johnson macy@ighsau.org. Please bring a copy of the team roster and present to the pass gate attendant at Harlan Rogers Park upon your arrival for each game you play.

You may change the names on the roster form each day. The limit of 28 on the roster form may include as many players as you wish, but the limit is 28 for all players, coaches, trainers, managers, etc. Additional players not listed on the roster may NOT sit in the dugout, even if they pay admission to attend.

Practice Fields

Four diamonds at Harlan Rogers Park are available and may be utilized for practice or pre-game warm-up. The three fields located to the north of the game fields are Fields 4, 5, and 6. Yankee Field is located to the east of the consolation fields. There is no infield allowed on the game diamonds. Grounders may be taken in the area between the dugouts and the foul line if time permits on the playing field. No team is allowed on the baseball field next to the game fields for warm ups or practice for any reason.

The practice schedule by game times will be emailed to qualifying schools after regional finals.

There are practice diamonds available at Fort Dodge High School and at Fort Dodge St Edmond. Contact those schools to make arrangements. Please unload your team and equipment at the practice field area and move the bus or team vans to the designated parking areas. Parking for team vehicles is now located in the lot next to Kruger Field and in the grassy area next to the team entrance for Veterans and Dodger (see map).

Lineup Cards

Please present lineup cards with the first and last names of all players. Even though NFHS rules only require first initial, having complete names for the players on the lineup card is extremely helpful for our press box personnel, media and announcers to have all the information ready for the start of each game.

NFHS Rules

All NFHS softball rules and Iowa Adaptations will be followed with exceptions noted. NFHS rule 3-6-15 covers the prohibition against arguing ball and strike calls or other umpire judgment calls. Umpires have been instructed to enforce this rule at the 2020 State Softball Tournament. The penalty is a warning if it is judged to be a minor offense or an ejection. It is not a requirement to have a warning prior to an ejection.

The intent of this rule is to minimize the confrontation between coaches/players and umpires regarding pitch location but not to inhibit professional discussions. Consistent badgering from across the field or having your catcher request location of each pitch are very different from a sincere request for information made between the head coach and plate umpire.

Identification of Fields

Kruger Field (Field 1) on the pairing sheet is the west field, with Iowa Central Field (Field 2) located just east of that. Kruger Field is the field utilized for championship games on Thursday and Friday. Iowa Central Field is utilized for the third/fourth place games on Thursday and Friday. Veterans and Dodger diamonds are located just East of the parking area. Harlan Rogers Complex is three miles north of Fort Dodge on Highway 413, directly across from the airport.

Please see the attached map for the field identification at Harlan Rogers.

Delays

In case of a weather delays or cancellations, the IGHSAU will contact radio stations in the general area of Fort Dodge. We will also post the latest information on our website and release changes via social media (Follow @IGHSAU on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram).

Coaches please provide a cell phone number on your roster form so you can be reached at all times. In the event of a weather rescheduling, we also ask that each school notify their fans and parents as soon as possible. If we have a postponement, the IGHSAU reserves the right to move games to earlier start times or cancel consolation rounds.

Streaming and Iowa PBS

Only the quarterfinal and semifinal games on Kruger Field and Iowa Central Field will be available via the IGHSAU Digital Network. The link to the stream is available on the IGHSAU web site.

Thursday and Friday's Championship games will be televised and live streamed on Iowa PBS. Championship schedule can be found at (<http://www.ighsau.org>). Coaches in the championship games may be asked for in-game interviews and will be mic'd by the Iowa PBS.

Travel Party

Each team's travel party is 28 members. You may have any number of players in uniform on the respective team bench as long as you do not exceed the 28 in your traveling party. Include only those people who have a softball or school-related function on your travel party. Players, coaches, administrators, managers, scorekeepers, statisticians, bat/ball kids, etc. may be included. Parents and/or spouses and children of coaches should not be listed on the travel party unless they perform a specific duty for the team.

Admission

Admission for all sessions of the tournament is \$10 per person. Children who have not started school (kindergarten) do NOT need a ticket to enter. IGHSAU/IHSAA Administrator passes

will be honored at the public entrances or at each team entry gate with proper identification. Smoking, vaping or use tobacco products is prohibited on any of the complex property.

Parking

Parking will be North of the complex at a cost of \$10 per car.

Sports Medicine Coverage

Athletic trainers will provide coverage throughout the week. The athletic trainers are located in an air conditioned tent next to the restrooms at the softball complex. A second training station is located under the canopy at Veterans and Dodgers. Please review the enclosed letter regarding the athletic trainers.

Awards

Participant medallions and trophies will be presented to all teams on the diamond upon completion of their final game. We ask that each team designate 1-3 players (captains, seniors) to come forward and accept the trophy and medallions.

Trophies will be presented to the Champion and Runner-Up finishers in each class on the diamond immediately following each Championship game. We ask that each team designate 1-3 players (captains, seniors) to come forward and accept the trophy.

Medals and medallions will be shared with coaches for distribution to your teams.

Championship t-shirts will be presented to each coach for distribution to the winning team. Teams advancing to the championship games will be provided with protocol for post-game photos, Winners Circle, etc.

Each player will receive an Iowa Farm Bureau autograph softball. The softballs will be presented to each coach prior to the first game of the tournament. Each team is provided 18 medallions, and 20 Autograph softballs. Additional awards may be purchased by the school and ordered by the athletic director with the enclosed form. Please contact Monte Wilson at the state office to order additional awards. He can be reached at 515-401-1837 or by email at monte@ighsau.org.

Schools will be billed for extra awards or softballs ordered.

Team Photos

Teams who wish to have team photos taken following completion of their participation in the tournament are asked to first gather their belongings and leave the competition field so the next game may begin. Teams may utilize adjacent baseball fields (Fenway for teams playing on Veterans and Dodger) and the Winner's Circle area for teams playing on Kruger Field and Iowa Central Field.

Parents are welcome to enter the fields for photos, but please make sure appropriate social distancing takes place. Other teams and fans may be present as well, so please spread out and ensure safety for all.

Winner's Circle

Following the state championship games, awards will be presented to the 2nd place team, followed by the first place team. Team photos for the second place team will take place in the grassy area of the outfield on Field 1 and then the team is asked to gather their belongings from the dugout and exit the field. Parents are not allowed onto the field.

Championship teams are asked to gather their belongings and move to the Winner's Circle for team and individual photos. The Winner's Circle is an area that has been created on the baseball field behind Diamond 1 for championship teams. Teams may stay in the Winner's Circle as long as they wish. Each school is responsible for determining who is allowed into the Winner's Circle to interact with athletes and coaches. IGHSAU personnel will allow only team members onto the field until the official photo is taken.

Awards

Thursday (ceremonies will occur before starting lineups)

5:00pm - Class 5A Jack North Award-Haley Gatica, West Des Moines Valley

7:30pm - Class 4A

100 Game Winners- Hannah Ausenhus, Central Springs; Sydni Huisman, Treynor; Kayla Sproul, Columbus Catholic

Hall of Fame Honorees-Jordan Gronewold, Carlisle, 2006-10, Jodi Christensen, North Polk, 1995-99, Erin Doud, Cedar Rapids Jefferson, 1993-97, Caitlin Wnek, Clear Creek-Amana, 2008-12

Distinguished Coach

Todd Merial, head coach at Johnston, will be honored prior to the 5A Championship game on Thursday, July 30 before starting lineups.

All-Tournament Ballots

All tournament ballots will be given to coaches at the pre-game meeting at the practice field with Mike Stanley or Craig Snider before the first contest. Please remember to send your votes for the all-tournament team to Jason Eslinger.

Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship will be a point of emphasis for our fans and spectators at Ft. Dodge. Please share the Softball Sportsmanship information with your parents and fans.

Please contact the IGHSAU at 515-401-1832 with any further questions.