

SOFTBALL (as of September 16, 2024)

NUMBERS

Teams 2024-25: 11 (OU, UT depart + UA, ASU, UU)

SCHEDULING

2024-25 Scheduling Format (11 teams)

- 8 SERIES OVER 9 WEEKS (play 8 of 10 opponents)
- All opponents see everyone over two-year period.
- Rotation blends geography and maximizing RPI
- Play Fri/Sat/Sun but series with BYU would be Thurs/Fri/Sat.
- Start Dates for Conference Competition:
 - 2025 – Friday, March 7

Timeline for 2025-26 Schedules

- Currently have it approved.

CHAMPIONSHIP

Current Championship Format

- All teams participate in single-elimination championship bracket.
 - 11 teams, 4-day tournament (2025)
 - Wed – 3 games; Thurs – 4 games; Fri – 2 games; Sat – 1 game
- Championship is held one weekend prior to the start of the NCAA Tournament, ending on Saturday.
 - 2025 (OKC): Wednesday-Saturday, May 7-10 (11 teams, 4 days)
- Championship extension through 2028 is close to being finalized..

TECHNOLOGY

- DVSPORT Review – DVSPORT now required for all schools, effective 2024. Minimum of six static cameras are required. Static camera positions should be located at high home, first base, second base, third base, 1B Foul Line & 3B Foul Line.
- Video Exchange – None
- Bat Testing – Required prior to each series (Conference sends bat stickers; Different colors each week of Conference season, eff. 2023); Test each DAY of Big 12 Championship
- Data Capture – Teams are permitted to use data capture technology during Conference games by the home and/or away team.

OFFICIALS

- Liaison to Officials is Cody Little.
- Three umpires assigned to each game.
- Officials are paid by the Conference initially with fees prorated back to each institution for reimbursement of regular-season games.
- Officials Fees – Softball umpires are paid a game fee plus “Standard Conference Travel/Per Diem”. The fee is the same for non-conference and Conference games. Below are fees for the 2024-25 seasons:
 - \$575 Game Fee
 - \$350 Game Fee for Tournament Games hosted on Campus
 - Standard Conference Travel/Per Diem Policy:
 - Per Diem (travel day/no overnight stay) - \$75
 - Overnight Per Diem - \$250
 - IRS mileage with \$550 cap
 - Actual airfare, rental car costs

MISC

Official Ball

- The official softball for the Big 12 Conference is the Rawlings NC12L and shall be used for all Conference games and the Conference Championship. Agreement is co-terminus with Rawlings-NCAA agreement (currently through 2027).

Softball Conference Rules

- Halted game rule is in effect for all regular-season Conference games.
- Run rule of eight runs after five innings is used in all regular-season Conference games.
- The international tiebreaker is NOT used in regular-season Conference games.

Competition Squad

- Competition Limit for Conference regular-season games: 25
- Championship competition squad: 25
 - Additional student-athletes may travel to the Big 12 Championship at institutional discretion but cannot dress in uniform, participate in pregame warm-ups, or compete in the championship.
- See Conference Rule 10.4 for more details (in Conference Handbook).

NCAA Automatic Qualifier

- Winner of the Big 12 Championship is the league's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. Sport manual outlines additional information if championship can't be held or isn't completed.

Visiting Team Tickets

- For all sports which charge admission (with the exception of football, basketball): At a minimum, **60 complimentary tickets shall be provided for** Baseball, **Softball** and Women's Soccer, 50 for Volleyball and Wrestling, and 20 for Tennis. Should more tickets be requested, best efforts will be made, with the visiting team financially responsible. The host institution shall utilize best efforts to locate reserved seats in the area of close proximity to the visiting team bench/dugout. The visiting team will notify the host institution of its desire to utilize these tickets in a timely manner.

Coaches Meetings

- Each coaching group has a mandatory annual meeting. Failure to participate will result in a \$10,000 fine for first offense.
 - Softball coaches annual meeting is typically a videoconference in August.
 - The next annual meeting is August 27, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. CT.
- See Conference Rule 5.6.1 for more information.

Television

- Conference television partner(s) currently selects approximately five regular-season softball games per year plus selected game(s) during the championship. After Conference selections are confirmed, remaining regular-season games are available for third tier.
- Complete television details, including Big 12 Now on ESPN+ obligations, are available from Justin Nusser (jnusser@big12sports.com).

KEY CONTACTS

Sport Liaison: John Payne (jpayne@big12sports.com; 469-524-1003 o / 214-208-0888 m)

Media Liaison: Unique Beaver (ubeaver@big12sports.com; 469-524-1028 o / 304-982-9110 m)

Liaison to Officials: Cody Little (codylittle.ok@gmail.com; 405-249-9770)

LOG-IN INFORMATION FOR BIG 12 WEBSITE (to access manuals):

<https://big12sports.com/manuals>

UN: Big12ConferenceManuals

PW: WeAreTheBig12Conference

Conference Handbook (Conference Rules and Bylaws):

Go to <https://big12sports.com/index.aspx> > About > Conference Handbook