

Summary of 6th Region Athletic Directors' Feedback on the 2025 Super Regional ("Super 6th") Format and Draw Procedures

Overall Evaluation of Structure

Athletic Directors overwhelmingly described the Super Regional structure as "effective," "great," and "excellent." The pod system and seeded rounds were praised for creating a stronger, more competitive tournament. Several noted that the format rewarded district performance by granting home-field advantage in early rounds.

Fairness and Competitive Balance

Athletic Directors consistently said the format provided a fair and balanced competitive experience for all schools. They highlighted that the structure ensured the best teams advanced to the final rounds and represented the region at state level. A few ADs acknowledged facing tougher opponents earlier but still agreed the approach was fair and aligned with the format's objectives.

Being part of a realignment committee, there were many discussions about how we would like to see which schools would be in the 6th and 7th regions. Most members of this committee felt comfortable supporting which schools would be in the 6th region and who would be in the 7th region. The bigger sticking point for this committee was which schools would be in each district. This super region format reduces this concern, because all teams will have the opportunity to advance to a final four of a region without necessarily getting knocked out of the region tournament in a district tournament.

Benefits for Student-Athletes

All Athletic Directors reported benefits for student-athletes, including:

- More meaningful regular-season games with higher stakes.
- Expanded opportunities for players who might not otherwise get to compete at a regional level.
- Increased exposure from social and mainstream media and stronger competition each round.

Several ADs also suggested continuing to recognize student-athletes through district-level honors (e.g., All-District Teams) to preserve some of the old format's traditions and recognizing more kids for an outstanding season and not just a single tournament.

Fan Experience and Community Involvement

Feedback highlighted greater attendance, excitement, and school spirit compared to previous years. Examples included “electric” atmospheres at final games and entire communities attending championship matchups. Hosting pods locally also drew fans who would not normally travel to a district tournament. Some schools reported that, for the first time, the regional tournament turned a profit.

Finances

Some district tournaments have lost money due to the expenses of umpires, KHSAA awards, District winner and Runner-up, All-Tournament awards, security and tournament workers. With more competitive games in pods (3 games over two days), it was easier to cover expenses. In fact, some schools reported that, for the first time, the regional tournament turned a profit.

Equity and Formats Between Baseball and Softball

Nearly all Athletic Directors stated there were no inequities between baseball and softball under the new format. A few noted that running the tournaments simultaneously allowed fans to attend both, which had not been possible before. These super regional tournaments were held during the same time frame as the 7th region’s district and region tournaments. And we were able to have joint semi-finals and finals with the 7th region as we have done in the past. By going to the new format, the 6th region was able to schedule the games to mirror similarities with the state tournaments that take two weekends to complete. This super region format allowed teams to be competitive with a true number 1 and 2 pitcher like the state tournaments allow. This format also allowed the #1 seed in a district to host the first round and quarterfinal rounds. In the district-region format, the #1 seed still hosted the quarterfinal round before moving to a neutral site.

District Champions Crowned and Student-Athletes Honored from each school

District champions and runner-ups were celebrated during the first round of the Super Regional. All teams within the District aligned by the KHSAA will play during the regular season to determine seeding placement. All Athletic Directors agree that this makes more emphasis on regular season games, which makes these games exciting and meaningful for seeding in post season play. This is the exact type of seeding that we see each year in the football district regular season play which is supported by the KHSAA. Student-Athletes were recognized from each school during each round for making the Regional All Tournament team and received medals on the championship night of each sport.

Support for Continuing and Expanding the Format

- **Baseball & Softball:** Unanimous support for continuing the Super Regional format in future years.
- **Soccer 2025:** Unanimous support to adopt the format.
- **Volleyball 2025:** Majority support to adopt the format.

Key Takeaways for the Board

- The Super Regional format successfully increased competitiveness, fairness, and excitement.
- It produced tangible benefits for student-athletes and communities.
- Financially, all schools saw improved revenues.
- Stakeholders recommend keeping the model for baseball and softball and extending it to soccer and volleyball in 2025.
- Consider adding back some form of district-level recognition to maintain tradition sending the teams to media for students to be recognized before the regional tournament.

Executive Summary

Athletic Directors across the 6th Region overwhelmingly report that the 2025 Super Regional (“Super 6th”) format for baseball and softball was highly successful. The new structure increased fairness and competitiveness, boosted attendance and community engagement, benefited student-athletes, and improved financial outcomes. Respondents recommend keeping the model for baseball and softball and expanding it to soccer and volleyball in 2025, with only minor adjustments (such as preserving district-level recognition).

Kentucky High School Athletic Association

Super 6th Region Tournament – Official Draw Procedures (2025)

I. Order of Draw

- Draw order for the 2025 tournament: **21, 22, 23, 24**
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II. Assignment of Pills

Pill Numbers	Source of Teams	Purpose
1, 3, 5, 7	District Winners / Pod Locations	Establish pod locations
2, 4	#2 seeds from districts that drew 5 & 7	Prevent early same-district matchups; #1 may only face #2 or #3 from own district in the Regional Final
6, 8	#2 seeds from districts that drew 1 & 3	Same protection as above

- **Third-Place Teams:** Placed in the bracket on the same side as their district's #2 seed (opposite their district's #1).
 - **Fourth-Place Teams:** Assigned to play a #1 seed to complete district representation in each pod.
 - **Pod Balance:** Each pod will have a representative from each of the four districts.
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III. Special Circumstances

Situation	Procedure
Only 3 teams in a district	Add a 4th team from a district with 5 teams.
More than 16 teams entered	Play-in game will be scheduled from a pod not connected to the #1 seed's district of the 5th-place team.
Only 2 teams in a district ("football scenario")	Add a 3rd team from a district with 5 teams; 4th-place team from that district becomes the 3rd-place team in the 2-team district. This allows one bye for a #1 seed. The moved team will not face its home district's #2 in the first round.

IV. Awards Procedures

At Each Pod

- Present **District Championship** and **District Runner-Up Trophies** before the first game.
- After each game, award **one All-Region medal** to a player from each losing team (selected by the coach).

At Final Four Sites

- After their respective games, each losing team introduces **two All-Region players** (selected by the coach) for recognition (**plaques**).

Championship Game

- Losing team: **three players recognized** (plaques)
 - Winning team: **four players recognized** (plaques)
 - Runner-Up: **Team Trophy**
 - Champion: **Team Trophy & 25 Individual Medals**
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V. Suggested Dates and Times

Sport	Round	Date / Time
Baseball I	Play-In Game	Sat (any time) or Sun 3:00 p.m.+
	1st Round	Mon 5:30 p.m. / 7:30 p.m.
	2nd Round	Wed 7:00 p.m.
	Final Four	Mon, May 19 – TBD by Baseball Committee UL
	Championship	Wed, May 21 – TBD by Baseball Committee UL
Softball	1st Round	Tue 5:30 p.m. / 7:30 p.m.
	2nd Round	Thu 7:00 p.m.
	Final Four	Mon, May 19 – 11:00 a.m. / 1:00 p.m. (set) UL
	Championship	Wed, May 21 – 5:30 p.m. (set) UL

Here is the link that you can see how both softball and baseball regional looked like after the draw and completion of the tournament:

[2025 Super Regional Live Bracket](#) (Completed)

This is what we sent to all coaches and athletic directors in advance:

6th Region Super Regional

Draw Date 5/16 - Southern HS 10 am

- 2024 teams District tourney teams - 16 for baseball (4 from each District); 15 for softball (5,4,4,2)
 - Expect the brackets to be different each year; It should be mandated that if you fill a team and play your district opponents you should participate in the super regional.
 - **By April 14th** we need a solid number of teams we will have for the SR. This will help us out deciding the bracket and if it's an even bracket or an odd bracket with byes.
 - **All regular season District play must be completed by 5/9. Make sure all districts have their tie breakers in place.**
 - Softball District issues - District 24 has 5 teams ; District 22 has 2 teams
 - How to overcome this issue: ??
 - District 24 sends #4 seed to become the #3 seed in District 22
 - 1st round and 2nd round of regional - 2 game pod (1 v 4 and 2 v 3) played at **District Winners**
 - Within this pod they will pay for the 1st and 2nd place trophies - given to the teams prior to their prospective games - Regular Season champs and runner ups - as done in football playoffs.
 - 5/19 - 5/20 1st round
 - 5/22 -5/23 2nd round
 - Revenue/expenditure split will be with the teams in your pod only
 - 3rd and 4th round games
 - UL in conjunction with the 7th region
 - Split with only the teams that make it to UL
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- Player of the game medallions (All Region) to the **losing** teams region player given after the games of round 1 and 2. 3rd and 4th round all region players will be announced after the championship games as in the past. The other players can be recognized at that time also.
 - 1st round - 1 player (8)
 - 2nd round - 1 player (4)
 - 3rd round - 2 players (4)
 - 4th round - 3 from R/U and 4 from Champion