

**ORANGE COUNTY INTERSCHOLASTIC
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
SOFTBALL BY-LAWS
Updated: March 2017**

1. The current Amateur Softball Association Rules and NYSPHSAA Rules & Regulations will apply with the following OCIAA exceptions:
 - a. There will be a 43 foot pitching distance for JV and Varsity contests. Modified teams will play with the short field and 40 foot pitching distance.
 - b. **Modified Teams: Any pitcher pitching more than four (4) innings in one game must have at least two (2) nights of rest before pitching again. When removed from pitching, the contestant may play any other position.**
 - c. During modified games when the third strike is dropped or not caught by the catcher, the batter is out, and is not permitted to run to first base. The ball is dead and there is no advancement on the bases.
 - d. There will be a 15 run rule after 4 1/2 innings if the home team is leading, or 5 innings if the visiting team is leading. This rule will be for Varsity and Junior Varsity games, not at the Modified level.
 - e. Modified Only - If a player is substituted, that player(s) be allowed to re-enter the game in case of an injury if no other eligible player is available so that a team may complete that game with ten (10) players.
 - f. On fields that have curfews, an inning started before the curfew will be played to completion.
 - g. The Softballs that can be used during OCIAA softball shall be the Optic Yellow Dudley # **SB12LRFY-FP-NFHS** - red stitched or the State ball that must be used beginning with Section IX tournament: **Spalding/Dudley 4H-311Y**. It is recommended that schools use this ball during the regular season. The home school is responsible for three (3) new softballs. Weather conditions may necessitate the need for additional softballs.

2. **Unsportsmanlike Conduct Rule**

Sportsmanship: The NYSPHSAA and Section IX recognizes and appreciates that the influence and responsibility of the school administration with regard to good sportsmanship extends to all levels of competition. However, it must also be seen that the NYSPHSAA AND Section IX has been vested with the responsibility to ensure that all contests under its jurisdiction are conducted satisfactorily. This standard applies to all regular season and post schedule play.

I. Coach (There is no appeal to a coach ejection. The official's decision is final). (Please refer to the NYSPHSAA Handbook – Sportsmanship; Standard 27b):

1. Any coach excluded by a certified official from an interschool competition for unsportsmanlike conduct is ineligible to coach any interschool competition in that sport until after the next previously scheduled contest at the same level (e.g. junior varsity, varsity, etc.) has been

completed. **The coach may not be present at the game site. NOTE:** “Not being physically present at the site” means the disqualified coach is not to be present in the locker room, on the sidelines, in the stands or site area before, during or after the game/meet.

2. A coach who strikes, shoves, kicks or makes other physical contact with the intent to do so to another person (e.g. official, another coach, player, fan) shall be expelled immediately and banned from further participation or coaching in all sports for one year from the date of the offense.

3. The coach that was ejected will notify his/her Athletic Director of the incident on the same day that it occurred. The Athletic Director will then contact the League Coordinator as the coach(s) will not be allowed to participate in the school's next scheduled game/games as above.

II. Player Ejections: (There is no appeal to a player ejection. The official's decision is final).

1. Any member of a squad ruled out of a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct (flagrant foul, two technical fouls in basketball, two yellow cards, red card, inappropriate language or taunting, fighting, etc.), the following action is **required** by the NYSPHSAA Regulations detailed in Standard #27b:

A. First Ejection – that player(s) cannot attend or participate in the next scheduled contest **in that sport**. If the season has ended the player(s) cannot attend or participate in the next scheduled contest in his/her next season of participation.

B. Second Ejection – that player(s) cannot attend or participate in the next two scheduled contests **in that sport**. If the season has ended the player(s) cannot attend or participate in the next two scheduled contests in his/her next season of participation.

C. Third Ejection – that player(s) cannot attend or participate in any remaining scheduled contests for the remainder of that sports season – including sectional, regional and state contests. If the season has ended the player(s) cannot attend or participate in the next three scheduled contests in his/her next season of participation.

***Please note: Disqualifications from one season will carry over to the next season of participation.**

2. Any member of the squad who strikes, shoves, kicks or makes other physical contact with the intent to do so to an official shall be expelled from the game immediately and banned from further participation in all sports for one year from the date of the offense. **NOTE:** “Member of the squad” includes player, manager, scorekeeper, timers, and statisticians.

3. Communication Responsibilities regarding ejections:

A. The coach of the player(s) who was/were ejected will notify his/her Athletic Administrator by 12 noon the following day. The Athletic Administrator must report the ejection to their respective League Coordinator by 12 noon the following day.

III. Official:

1. Unprofessional conduct on the part of official such as, but not limited to, taunting, baiting, use of profanity, shall be reported by a school administrator from the aggrieved school to the Section Executive Director. A request will be made to the appropriate sport officials' chapter to investigate the incident and to report their action to the Section in a timely manner.

2. The official who ejected the player(s) or coach shall notify the League Coordinator prior to 12:00 Noon the following day of the name(s) of the player(s) or the coach and the infraction(s). The League Coordinator shall notify the Athletic Director of the offending school.

4. Softball Umpires:

- a. Will be assigned by the Athletic Coordinator, which includes all league, non-league and scrimmages games.
 - b. All JV and Varsity coaches teams will rate both officials working games and can send in the rating reports through their Athletic Director to the Athletic Coordinator. However, Coaches are encouraged to register for online access and submit ratings online themselves immediately after a game.
 - c. Sportsmanship pledge must be read by umpires prior to the start of each game.
5. Pre-Game Procedure:
- a. 3:25 p.m. till 3:40 p.m. - home team has field for warm-up.
 - b. 3:40 p.m. till 3:55 p.m. - visiting team has field for warm-up.
 - c. 3:55 p.m. - ground rules
 - d. 4:00 p.m. - play ball
 - e. Visiting team may have batting practice if there are 2 (two) batting areas.
 - f. If a team arrives late, a 15 minute field warm-up will be allowed. The home team should already be warmed-up and ready to play.
6. Championships:
- a. The OCIAA Softball League will consist of divisions. There will be a champion in each division based on win/lose record within division play. If there is a tie based on division record, the following will be used to determine that division champion:
 - (1) Head-to-head between the teams which are tied.
 - (2) If teams are still tied co-champions will be declared.
 - b. Each team must supply a typed roster with the following information: name, grade, position, number 2 copies.
 - c. The tie breaker procedure that will be used in games is stated in the Amateur Softball Association Rule Book.
7. Awards (Varsity Only):
- a. Plaques: 6 Divisions
 - b. OCIAA Patches: Each individual school may purchase their own patches if they choose to do so.
8. Schedules:
- a. Will be developed by the Athletic Coordinator and teams may not schedule more than the approved maximum contests.
 - b. Each Junior Varsity and Varsity team may not schedule more than **20** total games.
 - c. Modified will not schedule more than 14 total games.