

**Section IX Modified
SOFTBALL BY-LAWS
Updated: August 27, 2019**

1. The current Amateur Softball Association Rules and NYSPHSAA Rules & Regulations will apply with the following exceptions:
 - a. The Softballs that can be used 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.
 - b. **Modified Level:** There will be a 40 foot pitching distance for Modified teams and Modified **MAY** play with short field if both teams agree.
 - c. **Modified Level:** 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.
 - d. **Run Rule:** There will be a 15 run rule for OCIAA Schools and a 12 run rule for MHAL Schools after 4 1/2 innings if the home team is leading, or 5 innings if the visiting team is leading.
 - e. **Dropped Third Strike:** During modified games when the third strike is dropped or not caught by the catcher, the batter is permitted to run to first base if there is no runner on first base, or with a runner on first base and two outs. In those cases, when the third strike is dropped or not caught by the catcher, the batter immediately becomes a runner.
 - f. **Time Limit:** If both schools agree prior to the start of the game, there will be a 2 hour time limit from the start of the game. This would not include time for stoppage of play due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

2. **Unsportsmanlike Conduct Rule**

Sportsmanship: The NYSPHSAA and Section IX recognize and appreciate 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. Sportsmanship pledge must be read by umpires prior to the start of each game.
5. Pre-Game Procedure (Adjust for varying start times):
- 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. Schedules:
- a. Will be developed by the Athletic Coordinator and teams may not schedule more than the approved maximum contests.
 - b. Modified will not schedule more than 14 total games.