

**Section IX**  
**MODIFIED BASEBALL BY-LAWS**  
**Updated March 19, 2019**

1. The current National Federation of State High School Association Baseball Rules, NYSPHSAA Rules & Regulations and the following adopted modifications will apply.
  - a. Modified baseball will use a fifteen (15) run rule after 4 ½ innings if the home team is leading by 15 runs or more, or 5 innings if the visiting team is leading by 15 runs or more.
  - b. 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. Baseballs: All baseballs used in modified competition must have the NFHS Authenticating Mark on the ball. Effective January 1, 2020, balls shall meet the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture and the NOCSAE mark will be required on all balls. The home school is responsible for three (3) new baseballs. Weather conditions may necessitate the need for additional baseballs.
3. Baseball Umpires:
  - a. Will be assigned by the Athletic Coordinator, which includes all league, non-league and scrimmages games.
4. 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., group rules
  - d. 4:00 p.m., play ball
  - e. Visiting team may have batting practice if there are two (2) batting areas.
  - f. If the visiting team arrives late, an adequate warm-up of no less than 15 minutes will be allowed. The home team should already have warmed-up and be ready to play.
5. Schedules:
  - a. Will be developed by the Athletic Coordinator.
  - b. Modified may not schedule more than 14 total games.

**Game Conditions: See Modified Sports Standards Chart**

**1. Pitchers must participate in at least 10 practices before an interschool game.**

**2. Doubleheaders:** A team may play two (2) games in one day twice during a season, either a doubleheader against a single opponent, or two successive games against two different opponents. The following doubleheader restrictions must be followed:

- a) The maximum number of doubleheaders allowed is two (2).
- b) A team may not play three (3) games in two (2) consecutive days. No more than four (4) games a week may be played.

- c) Pitching limitations remain the same.
- d) Each game of the doubleheader is to be six (6) innings. No team may play more than 14 innings in one day. This allows a total maximum of two (2) extra innings in the event of tie game(s).

**3. Equipment-**

- a) Catchers shall wear the full protective equipment of helmet, mask with throat protector, chest protector, shin guards and cup.
- b) Batters and base runners shall wear protective headgear.
- c) Any player warming up a pitcher, on or off the diamond, shall wear a mask.
- d) Sneakers, shoes with molded soles, molded cleats and metal cleats are permitted in the modified program.

**Game Rules:**

1. Regulation game shall be 7 innings. With Section/League approval, a “Mercy Rule” will be permitted; allowing a game to end after a team at the short end of the 15-run rule has completed their fifth at bat. (Dec. 2010)

2. The following pitch count must be followed for all modified pitchers:

Max # Pitches	# Nights Rest
<b>Modified</b>	<b>Modified</b>
61-75	4
41-60	3
21-40	2
1-20	1

3. Designated hitter will not be allowed.

4. An extra player, referred to as EP is optional (on a game-by-game basis), but if one is used, it must be known prior to the start of the game (official lineup card) and be listed on the scoring sheet in the regular batting order. If the EP is used, he must be used for the entire game. Failure to complete the game with the EP results in the forfeiture of the game (except in case of injury or ejection from game with no eligible players left to enter, the rules permit play with eight men). If an EP is used, all 10 players bat, but only 9 can play defense each inning. The person designated as the EP (not a defensive player at the start of the game) may at a later time play a defensive position; the defensive player now is only a batter for that inning and not a fielder. There will always be one player in the lineup not on the field defensively. The EP may be substituted for at any time, either by a pinch-hitter who then becomes the EP. The substitute must be a player who has not yet been in the game. Substitutes and re-entry will be treated as in the past. A starter may re-enter the game into his same batting order position.

5. The re-entry rule may be waived only if an injured player must be replaced and all eligible substitutions were used during the game.

6. With Section/League approval, when the team at bat has two outs with the catcher on base, a pinch runner may be used to allow the catcher to get his/her gear on prior to the third out. (The pinch runner is a player who is a substitute, or in the case that all substitutes have been used, a player off the bench who is not currently in the lineup. This rule does not change the normal substitution rules and does not overshadow the need to get all players in the lineup; it allows for

cutting time off the transition between innings).

7. With Section/League approval, a new substitution game rule may be used to maximize modified players' participation in their baseball/softball games. The official lineup card will list all players on the team in a designated Batting order, allowing any of the players listed in a slot to bat when that slot occurs.

## 6. **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.