

New York State
SOFTBALL OFFICIALS
Organization, Inc.



President
James Berkery
20 Mass Ave
Cohoes, NY 12047
Phone/Fax 518-237-6682
JRBERKERY@aol.com

Vice President
Brad White
60 Spring Street
Goshen, NY 10924
914-960-9344
Bradford.h.white@gmail.com

Secretary
Lynne Nemeth
329 Roe Avenue
Elmira, NY 14901
607-259-2062 (C)
lnemeth@gstbooces.org

Treasurer
Dick James
209 Castle Creek Rd.
Binghamton, NY 13901
607-648-4227
rjames14@stny.rr.com

**2011 NEW YORK STATE SOFTBALL COMMITTEE STATE RULES &
NYSSO INTERPRETATIONS**
DIFFERENT FROM THE ASA RULE BOOK

- ◇ Wearing of HELMETS is mandatory for batter, all base runners, on-deck batter and student coaches. All batting helmets must be **NOCSAE** approved and **MUST** have the exterior warning label: (This label can be handmade and taped/glued on)
“Do not use this helmet if the shell is cracked or deformed or this interior padding is deteriorated. Severe head or neck injury, including paralysis or death may occur to you despite using this helmet. No helmet can prevent all injuries or any neck injuries a player might receive while participating in baseball or softball.”
- ◇ **Metal cleats are NOT permitted in high school softball at any level.(2010)**
- ◇ **Pitching distance for JV and Varsity players will be 43'. (2011)**
- ◇ Double-ear flap helmets for catchers are MANDATORY.
- ◇ The pitching rule governing “hands coming together” shall be interpreted as follows: **“the ball must be inside the glove”** (i.e. the glove must at least partially encapsulate the ball - merely touching the outside of the glove with the ball does not satisfy the rule).
- ◇ The tiebreaker rule (**after** 9 innings) will be employed and is **mandatory**.
- ◇ There is **NO PENALTY** for an unannounced sub.
- ◇ A game can not be played without out double first base. (V, JV, & Modified) This is a safety rule and must be enforced by the umpire.
- ◇ It will be **OPTIONAL** for each SECTION to **ADOPT** a “run rule” with a minimum of 10 runs, to terminate an official softball game. The “run rule” must be in compliance with Rule 5 – Section 3, par. a-f of the A.S.A. rule book. The “run rule” can be used for J.V. and varsity teams and will **NOT** be used beyond Sectional Play.

◇ No jewelry, which includes visible body piercing objects, shall be worn in softball. Any piece of jewelry, that is visible at the start or during a contest, is in violation of the NYSPHSAA Jewelry Rule. Religious medals must be taped to the body and under the uniform. **Medical medals must be taped to the body so they are visible.** Soft pliable barrettes are permissible, body gems are not.

◇ INTERPRETATION OF “EXCESSIVE BLOOD”

As you are aware, all National Federation game rules have a section on player’s bleeding. All use the term “excessive” when referring to the amount of blood on the uniform. To date we have not had a statewide problem in the interpretation of “excessive” blood on a uniform. Preferring to be in a position of readiness for situations, which may arise, the NYSPHSAA will interpret “excessive blood” on a uniform as follows:

Excessive blood on a uniform will mean that the part of the uniform involved is saturated with blood. Saturated does not mean a wet spot. Saturated means a major portion of the garment is covered and soaked with blood. For this to occur a serious injury would have to take place. This rarely happens during an entire season of completion.

For any blood on uniforms less than “saturated” the uniform does not have to be changed. School personnel have the responsibility of treating the bloody area with the appropriate disinfecting solution before the athlete may participate. If the uniform is ‘saturated” with blood, the uniform must be changed before the athlete may participate.

These interpretations are to be followed in the conduct of all NYSPHSAA, Inc. contests.