



Section One Operational Standards

Overview: The rules governing play, eligibility, and participation shall be those outlined by the NYSPHSAA Handbook. Specific Sport Standards are subject to change based upon the rules of the Association governing the game. The National Federation (NFHS) or other such rules which govern a sport shall prevail.

Eligibility

1. Athlete Eligibility - JV to varsity, varsity to JV: Follow NYSPHSAA standard *regarding no restriction on movement between levels (Freshman, JV, and Varsity) but cannot exceed maximum number of contests and must follow nights rest. (adopted 09/2020)*
2. A senior's participation on a Junior Varsity team will be permitted in all sports under the following restrictions: *(adopted 11/2021)*
 - A senior who has started the season at the JV level and has played one game is not eligible to be promoted to Varsity for participation in regular or postseason play outside of the following exceptions:
 - **Exception 1A** – In “emergency” situations, this standard will allow a senior playing on JV to compete in a regular season Varsity contest and then return to the JV team after the game (one-time occurrence only).
 - **Exception 1B** – If the JV team is dropped, the senior on the JV team may be promoted to the Varsity team. Still those seniors should remain ineligible for postseason play.
 - A senior who starts the season at the Varsity level and plays in one game may not participate on the JV team during that season.
3. A student may participate in only one sport during a season, including FALL cheerleading.
 - Students (partners) who participate in Unified Sports are eligible to participate in an interscholastic team during the same season. Participation in the Unified Sports program does not conclude that participation in both the Unified Sports and interscholastic team during the same season would violate the intent of a student participating in two interscholastic teams in the same season. *(adopted 04/2019)*
4. Section One policy is more restrictive than NYSPHSAA and requires the school to remain at their BEDS classification as per the respective sport.

Sport Specific

5. **Baseball:** Coaches are not required to be in uniform.
6. **Ice Hockey:** Outdoor rinks have been approved for postseason use following the NYSPHSAA windchill guidelines. *(adopted 01/2020)*
7. **Track & Field:** Within Section One, four (4) classifications have been adopted for the use of Indoor & Outdoor class championships. The class breakdown will be based upon BEDS and is as follows: *(adopted 09/2021)*
 - Class AA ≥ 1150
 - Class A 800 – 1149
 - Class B 450 – 799
 - Class C ≤ 449

Scouting

8. Filming is prohibited from the bench and team designated areas.
9. The use of film is allowed for scouting purposes. No special arrangements will be made for filming when scouting. Scouting may be done only in the spectator area. No end zone scouting is permitted.
10. No one may scout any scrimmage in any sports, other than football. A scrimmage is a practice. Please refer to football standards for specific scouting guidelines.

Sportsmanship

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association requires officials to enforce all sportsmanship rules for athletes and coaches. The Section One Standards committee supports the NYSPHSAA statement and will not tolerate negative statements or actions between opposing players, especially trash-talking, taunting, or baiting of opponents including racial or discriminatory comments or slurs.

11. An ejected athlete may attend the next game and sit on the bench but may not be in uniform.
 - A forfeited game does not fulfil the prescribed penalty of a game suspension.
 - Schools can be more restrictive and withhold an athlete from attending the game.
 - The penalty must be served during the next regularly scheduled game at the same level. *(NYSPHSAA 7/2020)*
12. Spectators may not single out any athlete during a contest. This includes derogatory comments including the use of a player's name or uniform number.

Event Management

13. It is recommended that the basketball shot clock be operated by an adult.
14. It is recommended for all field sports (except football) that, whenever possible, both teams should be on the same side opposite the spectator area.
15. It is recommended that the visiting team provide easily identifiable event staff and supervisors.
16. Noisemakers of any kind are prohibited from all Section 1 activities.
17. Spectator remarks that are deemed inappropriate must be addressed immediately by school personnel.
18. Signs that obstruct a view, are offensive in nature and/or deemed inappropriate by an Athletic Director or Site Coordinator are not permitted.

Scheduling

19. Site determination for all home contests is determined by the host school.
20. In case of postponement, contests should be re-scheduled on the next day if possible. If not, the first open date for both schools must be used for the make-up. Some schools may play on Sundays if feasible and should be done with mutual agreement. LEAGUE games take precedence over non-league games.
21. For VARSITY ONLY - It is recommended that if a contest which is cancelled due to unplayable conditions cannot be rescheduled at the home site or a neutral site prior to the Sectional Seeding Meeting, then the contest should be played at the site of the "visiting" school.

Game rescheduling protocol:

- Regular Season:
 - The next available day for both teams.
 - Post Season: *(all options must be exhausted)*
 - Home team hosts at their site
 - If unplayable, host needs to find an alternate site
 - If host cannot secure an alternate site but the "visiting" team can the game is to be played at the visitor's site, but Home and Visitor team designation remains.
22. All attempts should be made to avoid forfeiture of a contest. However, in the event of this occurrence, it will count in the final league standings.

Scheduling continued

23. Forfeiture or no contest must be reported to the Section One office and mutually agreed upon in writing by both member schools.
 - Forfeitures must be declared no later than 5:00pm of the Last Day to Play (LDTP). Both Athletic Directors must acknowledge, in writing, to the Section 1 Office by the designated time. The team that forfeits (losing team) will not receive bonus points for the scheduled contest. The winning team is entitled to bonus points should they apply. *(adopted 12/2022)*
24. If a school drops a varsity team on/after the first day to play all league opponents will be granted a win and may not replace those games, however, all non-league opponents have the opportunity to replace the games or accept a forfeit.
 - Prior to the first day to play all teams can replace all games in the event a school drops their varsity team.
25. The standard starting time for regular season contests (other than football) played on school days shall be 4:30 P.M.; weekend games will be 11:00 A.M.
 - Where sports play back-to-back (i.e. basketball, volleyball, etc.) the host school determines the order of the games (i.e. varsity, JV).
 - Ice Hockey start times are subject to rink availability.

Awards & Championships

26. Only Varsity Championships are recognized by Section One.
27. League Championships will be determined by the team with the most amount of League wins.
 - If identical records exist there will be Co-League Champions. Individual leagues can vote on league championship format (i.e., double round, single round, etc.)
 - If a **double round** is selected and a team asks for the schedule to be adjusted for competitive reasons, they forfeit their right to a league title.
 - If the league selects a **single round**, then the first contest counts towards the league championship and no rights are forfeited.
 - In sports with ties, if teams are tied in wins, the league championship will then be determined by the teams that have fewest losses.

In the event that a standard or ethics violation is willfully violated the school will be reported to the Section One office for further action by the Athletic Council.