

2021 - 2022



**Softball
Officials
Packet**

SOFTBALL OFFICIALS TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Interscholastic Softball Program February 2022 **Online**

How to sign onto WVSSAC and enter in Password and E-mail address	3
How to sign onto Arbiter and take the Part I and Part II Exam	3
Part I and Part II Exam - Tournament Nomination and Game Report Dates	4
Entering Game Reports	5
How to Enter Self Nomination Forms	6
Softball Rules Clinic Dates & Locations.	7
Softball Officials Bulletin	8-9
Softball Rules Revisions / Editorial Changes / Points of Emphasis	10

Attendance at the WVSSAC sponsored rules clinic is a requirement to officiate the 2022 season. (see Additional Option for Clinic Attendance in your Officials' Handbook) located on our website.

Yearly Requirements	11
Bench Clearing Rule	12
Game Suspension Guideline	13
Concussion in Sports – What You Need to Know	14
Return to Play – Protocol	15
Emergency Action Plan	16-17
DP / FLEX Reminders	18

For additional information related to sports medicine issues concerning athletic participation, please click the “School Resources” tab on the opening page of our website.

My Officials' Packet! Where is it?

1. Go to www.wvssac.org
2. On the SSAC homepage. Locate and click on Officials
3. Once the Officials page opens look for Officials Packets and click on the sport. Example: Football Officials Packet

How Do I Login To The Officials' Management Page?

1. Go to www.wvssac.org
2. Click on Admin Login.
3. Type in your Registration Number and password. Remember both are case sensitive.
4. Click on Login.
5. This will take you to the officials management page.

How to Login to the WV Central Hub/Arbiter Site for Part 1 and Part 2 Tests:

1. Go to www.arbitersports.com
2. Enter your email address and password.
3. Click Sign in.
4. Your accounts on Arbiter should show up, if not, click on Switch Views in the upper right hand corner.
5. Click on the WV-Central Hub - Account Type - Central Hub
6. Click on the Testing Tab
7. Look under Open Test
8. Find the appropriate test
9. Click on Take Test

How to Login to Register Online on the WV Central Hub/Arbiter Site:

1. Go to www.arbitersports.com (Using Google Chrome and a desktop computer)
2. Click Login (Located in the upper right-hand corner)
3. Enter your email address and password
4. Click Sign-in
5. Your accounts on Arbiter should show up/if not, click on Switch Views in the upper right hand corner.
6. Click on WV-Central Hub - Account Type - Central Hub
7. Click on registration.
8. You will see the following choices: 21-22 Active or 21-22 Inactive. Then click on the "Register" button.
9. Update your personal information. Then click "Next".
10. Complete the payment information.

Note: The new system keeps track of background checks on file. If your previous background check has expired, you will be charged the \$10 fee. Also, late fees (\$25 per sport) will be assessed if you register after the initial deadline. Keep the email from Pro-Pay as your receipt.

DO'S and DON'TS:

DO read, follow and understand the instructions before you log in to the WVSSAC and/or WV Central Hub site on Arbiter Sports!

DO write down your password after you change it. They are case sensitive!

DON'T PROCRASTINATE!

DON'T use Auto Complete to remember passwords.

DON'T share your email address with other officials!

REMEMBER:

If you are having difficulty in logging into the WVSSAC site as an Official, call 304-485-5494 on the WV Central Hub site with Arbiter Sports please contact 1-800-311-4060.

Part I Test Window

Baseball – Softball – February 28, 2022 - March 14, 2022

Track – February 28, 2022 - March 14, 2022

Part II Test Window

Baseball - Softball – March 21, 2022 – April 4, 2022

Track – No Part II Test

Deadline For Self Nomination Forms-Online

Baseball – Open March 16, 2022 - Close April 15, 2022

Softball – Open March 16, 2022 - Close April 15, 2022

Deadline For Game Reports-Online

Baseball - Softball – July 1, 2022

Baseball – Softball:

Note: Failure to take Part I – Loss of 5 points on classification scale

Failure to take Part II – Suspension the following year.

Track:

Note: Failure to take Part I – Suspension the current season

WEST VIRGINIA SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES COMMISSION



2875 Staunton Turnpike, Parkersburg, WV 26104-7219

TELEPHONE: 304-485-5494
FAX NUMBER: 304-428-5431

E-MAIL: wvssac@wvssac.org
WEB SITE: www.wvssac.org



BULLETIN

TO: All Officials
FROM: WVSSAC
SUBJECT: Entering Game Reports

Below are the instructions and due dates for submitting game reports. Due Dates can be found in your Officials' Packet online. Game Reports will not be accepted if faxed or mailed to the WVSSAC.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Login to the WVSSAC Website: www.wvssac.org
2. Go to Admin Login (Located in the left-hand corner)
3. Type in your Username (Registration Number).
4. Type in your Password. Write it down and use it when you login to the SSAC website as an official
5. Click on Login
6. You are now on the Officials Management Page.
7. You need to click on Submit Game Reports.
8. Once at the game report form you can start entering your game reports. Remember to update and save for each game you enter. Make sure you select the sport your entering game reports for.
9. There is not a Submit button, when you update and save that will save your game reports to the file.

GAME REPORT DUE DATES:

FOOTBALL - VOLLEYBALL - SOCCER: DECEMBER 1, 2021

BASKETBALL - WRESTLING: JUNE 1, 2022

BASEBALL - SOFTBALL: JULY 1, 2022

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BULLETIN

HOW TO ENTER SELF NOMINATION FORMS

1. Go to our website and click on Admin Login
2. At User Name enter your registration number IN ALL CAPS.
3. At Password enter your password that you have created.
4. Once you're on the Officials Management Page click on Self Nomination Forms
5. In the upper left hand corner of the screen check and see if you are on the correct sport. If you are, Click on Load Self Nomination Form.
6. Once you're on the Self Nomination Form page you enter the month, day, and year.
7. Click if it's boys or girls.
8. Click if its college, varsity, jv, middle/other.
9. Click your position.
10. Click and select the Home Team. If the team is a non-member school you need to click in the box that says Non-Member School and type in the school name.
11. Click on and select the Visitor Team. If the team is a non-member school you need to click in the box that says Non-Member School and type in the school name.
12. Click on Add Game. This Key will start a new entry below the one you just entered.
13. When you have entered in all the games you need to qualify for tournament assignment, Go to and READ the Section on How to Submit Application. You must check mark all the boxes. When all boxes are marked the Save Application button will appear.
14. Click on the Save Application button. This is the same as Submit Application.
15. The screen will go blank and you need to click on the back to menu button in the upper left hand corner.
16. Click on the Load Self Nomination button again and check all the games you have entered. If everything looks ok you don't need to do anything else just logout. If you need to make any changes or corrections, make your corrections and click save application again.

If you have followed the Instructions above correctly you will receive an e-mail confirmation that you're Self Nomination Form has been received.

You don't need to contact this office if you have received an e-mail.

Please remember to update you e-mail address if you have any changes.

2021-2022 Spring Sports Clinics

**Spring Clinics for 2021-22 will be online.
Schools and officials will be emailed the link
when the clinics are available.**

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BULLETIN

TO: Softball Officials
FROM: Cindy Daniel, Ed. D., Assistant Executive Director
DATE: February- 2022
SUBJECT: 2021-22 Softball Season

At Your Local Board You Will Receive:

1. **2022 Rule Book, 2022 Case Book, 2022 & 2023 Officials Manual**
2. Introductory Cards (15)
3. Return Registration Card

Special Points of Emphasis:

1. Important dates for softball:
 - * Season starts Monday, February 28, 2022
 - * 1st contest may be played March 16, 2022
 - * Sectional Tournament - May 2-14, 2022
 - * Regional Tournament - May 16-21, 2022
 - * State Tournament - May 25-26, 2022

Officials shall not accept any sectional assignment with dates in violation of this regulation. The games must be played on consecutive days once the tournament is started (weather permitting) and reverts to single elimination if not completed by rain date for both Sectional and Regional Tournaments.

2. Sectional Tournament play may be single or double elimination. Regional Tournament play is double elimination. The State Tournament will be a four team double elimination in each class.

Softball Post Season Tournament: See The Interscholastic for tournament specifics.

3. The 2022 State Softball Tournament will be held at Little Creek Park in South Charleston **on May 25-26, 2022.**
4. ~~The WVSSAC will conduct Softball Rules Clinics for the 2020 season. All officials are required to attend. A list of sites and dates is enclosed. Rule clinic video will be sent to boards.~~
5. The WVSSAC adopted the **Dudley Thunder Heat yellow optic red stitched raised ball** for tournament play. Ball compression is 375, Cor. 47 and must have NF authenticating mark.
6. **Only** WVSSAC registered softball officials shall be used for regular season and tournament games. Class I and II officials are to be used for tournament play.
7. The 8-run rule will be in effect for all regular season games and tournament play.
8. A 15 run rule will be in effect for all regular season games from the third inning and before fourth 1/2 inning.
9. Suspended games may be played if coaches mutually agree prior to the start of the game. A suspended game is a game to be completed at a later date and shall be resumed at the point of interruption. **Please discuss this in pregame conference.**
10. Invitational and sanctioned high school tournaments must be regulation seven (7) inning games. There is no time limit allowance or shortening of innings.
11. All games in sectional, regional, and state tournaments will be played under suspended game rules. Tournament games stopped because of rain, lightning, etc., will be resumed at the point of interruption and continue for the regulation seven (7) innings; the eight (8) run rule will be in effect for Sectional, Regional, and all State Tournament play.
12. Tie Breaker Procedure:

The Tie Breaker may only be used in regular season and at the beginning of the 8th inning; however, there must be mutual consent of both coaches at pre-game. If there is not mutual consent, the Tie Breaker may not be used. The Tie Breaker will not be used in WVSSAC tournament play.

INTERNATIONAL TIE BREAKER:

National Federation Rule 4-2-6: While using the tie breaker, each half-inning begins by placing a runner on second base. That runner is the player in the batting order who proceeds the lead off batter in that inning. Then the game proceeds a full inning or until a winner is determined in that inning.

13. For Regional Tournament: If mutually agreed upon by both schools, the home team may be responsible for securing umpires for the entire tournament.
14. Middle school varsity teams must play 7 inning games. Note that the 10 and 8 run rules also remain in effect.
15. At all school levels (middle school, or high school), all subvarsity games may be limited to 1 hour 30 minutes (provided the inning has been completed) or 7 innings or conclusion of the game. The choice of these two game ending procedures must be determined by the coaches prior to the start of the game. This will be communicated to the officials during the pre-game conference. If coaches cannot reach agreement, the game will be seven innings. Note that the 15 and 8 run rules would also remain in effect. Subvarsity games may also use the Tie Breaker (see #12).
NOTE: This is not an option for varsity level games.
16. Please review the 2022 February Interscholastic for more information about the softball program.
17. A Softball Rule Interpretation Meeting will be conducted at the WVSSAC office on Saturday, January 29, 2022 at 1:00 pm. **Each Board should send at least the rules interpreter; this official must be a WV registered official. Officials whose boards are not represented at this meeting will not be considered for tournament selection.** There will be no charge for this meeting.
18. Umpires will be required to present an Introductory Card at the pre-game conference. **Officials are also required to sign the score book and include registration numbers.**
19. We have recommended that all officials working athletic contests should have written contracts with the host school (refer to p. 23 of the Officials' Handbook GAME CONTRACTS). Contracts may be obtained from the WVSSAC office.
20. All temporary body markings and face paint must be removed. Permanent body markings must be covered if the game official determines the marking is objectionable. Note: This is an official's determination and is not protestable. **Eye Black can only be used for the purpose for which it is intended.**
21. Officials should review the following information which may be found in The Interscholastic: Spectator Support Information and Game Suspension Policy.
22. Game Reports are due no later than July 1, 2022. Game Reports will be submitted online.
23. For state tournament play, four person officiating crews will be used. The Coaches Committee has recommended that four person crews also be contracted for regional play.
24. Officials are reminded that only authorized/school/county coaches are allowed on the field during warm-up, conferences, game, etc.
25. Double first base is permitted if home team chooses for regular season only.
26. Courtesy Runner Rule - Please review this rule very carefully.
27. Officials' Uniform - Refer to proper uniform according to your ON LINE Officials' Handbook.
28. The Officials' Handbook for will no longer be printed. You can find the Handbook on our web site. Information is enclosed.
29. Four innings or less played in a JV Contest will not count toward the individual game total maximums.
30. Games that extend past midnight will be a continuation of same day and will not count as a new calendar day. A new day is defined as beginning at sunrise.
31. Important COVID modifications: Please read the COVID 19 modifications carefully! Modifications are included in the rule clinic video. They are also posted on the WVSSAC website. Rule Clinic videos will be sent to each board and will also be on the WVSSAC website.

NOTE: The Part II Examination is mandatory for all registered officials. The Part II Examination will be taken on Arbiter.

Softball Rules Changes - 2022

1-2-1: Clarifies bases may be designed to disengage from their anchor system.

Rationale: This change places rule language with other regulations covering the field and its equipment.

1-3-3: Aligns ball tolerance specifications with other rule codes.

Rationale: Balls manufactured with the former specifications will be permitted through 2024, to allow for manufacturers and schools to reduce current inventory. The new ball specifications are permitted for use during the 2021-22 season and will be required by January 1, 2025.

3-2-5b: Removes the language prohibiting hard items to control the hair in the sport of softball.

Rationale: Clarifies adornments such as beads can be worn in the hair and aligns language with other NFHS rules codes.

3-2-5c: Permits players to wear soft and secure headwear for religious purposes without prior state association approval.

Rationale: Eliminates the need for authorization from the state associations for religious headwear.

3-5-3: When in live ball areas, a coach shall be attired in a school uniform or jersey/coaching shirt with slacks, shorts, or other leg coverings in school colors or colors of khaki, black, white or gray.

Rationale: Updated language clarifies items which can be worn by coaches in a live-ball area.

3-6-21 & PENALTY: Establishes the penalty when a damaged bat that was previously removed is re-introduced into the game.

Rationale: The penalty outlines protocol for dealing with situations in which a damaged bat is removed, then re-introduced to the game.

6-2-2 & NOTE: Removes language from Rule 6-2-2 and places it as a NOTE under the PENALTY.

Rationale: The language and rule reference is a reminder to players, coaches and officials about distracting items worn by the pitcher, but is not a part of Rule 6-2-2.

8-2-6: Clarifies a runner is considered outside the running lane when either foot last contacting the ground completely outside the lane.

Rationale: New language more adequately describes the intent of the rule and will provide more consistent enforcement.

2022 SOFTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES

2-4-3, 2-37, 2-38-2, 2-38-3, 2-38-4, 3-2-12, 3-7-1 NOTE, 4-2-3 NOTE 2, 5-1 Dead Ball Table, 7-3-1, 7-4-2 NOTE, 7-4-6, 7-4-7, 7-4-15 NEW, 7-5-4 PENALTY 1, 9-5 EXCEPTION 1 and 3

SOFTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Huddles Between Innings
2. Guidance for Pitcher Utilization
3. Assisting A Runner
4. Simulating Taking a Sign

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BULLETIN

YEARLY REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTERED OFFICIALS

1. **MUST BE A** CURRENTLY REGISTERED OFFICIAL AND **MUST BELONG** TO A LOCAL BOARD, IN ORDER TO OFFICIATE ANY SPORT. **(NO OFFICIAL MAY OFFICIATE UNTIL REGISTRATION IS COMPLETE.)**
2. **MUST ATTEND** THE WVSSAC SPONSORED RULES CLINIC IN THE SPORT FOR WHICH HE/SHE IS REGISTERED. FAILURE TO ATTEND THE STATE CLINIC WILL CAUSE YOU TO FORFEIT REGISTRATION FEES AND SUSPEND YOU THE CURRENT SEASON IN THAT SPORT.
3. **ATTEND A MINIMUM** OF FOUR (4) LOCAL BOARD MEETINGS. FAILURE TO ATTEND THE MINIMUM MEETINGS WILL RESULT IN SUSPENSION FOR THE NEXT FOLLOWING SEASON IN THAT SPORT.
4. **MUST TAKE NF PART I TEST ONLINE.**
5. **MUST TAKE THE NF PART II EXAM.** FAILURE TO TAKE THE PART II EXAM WILL RESULT IN SUSPENSION FOR THE FOLLOWING SEASON IN THAT SPORT.
6. **MUST SUBMIT** GAME REPORTS BY THE SPECIFIED DATES AS LISTED ON THE BACK OF THE GAME REPORTS, IN THE OFFICIALS HANDBOOK, AND IN YOUR SPORT BULLETIN.

(Ejection Rule / Bench Clearing)

§127-4-3. Code for Interscholastic Athletics.

3.7. Statement of Policy. Insofar as unsportsmanlike actions by students, school administrators, officials, coaches, faculty members, and spectators are concerned, the identical items under the Sportsmanship Rule along with the following guides will be referred to by the WVSSAC:

3.7.a. The school whose coach behaves in a manner likely to have adverse influence on the attitudes of students or spectators may be provided with the choice of taking disciplinary action against that coach or having the entire school disciplined by the WVSSAC.

3.7.b. Any student who in protest lays hands or attempts to lay hands upon an official may be declared ineligible by the principal or by the WVSSAC for up to one year. Any student who strikes an opponent, coach, or a spectator during or following an athletic event may be declared ineligible by the principal or the WVSSAC for a specified period of time up to one year, depending on the seriousness of the act.

3.7.c. Any coach, student, or bench personnel ejected by an official will be suspended for the remainder of the game, match, meet or contest. The coach, student, or bench personnel ejected by an official will also be suspended in additional contest(s); the suspension will be assessed based upon ten (10) percent of the allowed regular season contests or post season progression in a playoff tournament for each sport. Any tenth of a percentage from .1 to .4 will be a suspension equal to the whole number of the percent. Any tenth from .5 to .9 will be an additional contest added to the whole number. The suspension will include the number of indicated contests in that sport and at that level and all other sport contests in the interim at any level. A second ejection will result in the doubling of the suspension assessed for the first ejection. If an individual is ejected for a third time during the same sport season, the individual will be suspended from participating or coaching for 365 calendar days from the date of ejection. In accordance with Rule 127315.3, an individual ejected by an official may not appeal that ejection, or any subsequent suspension that is a consequence of the ejection by an official. (Revised 2012-13; 2015-16)

3.7.c.1. Any coach, player or bench personnel who has been ejected shall not be permitted to attend any contest(s) during said suspension. He/she shall not be affiliated with the team in any capacity. This would include but not be limited to transportation to or from the contest, meeting with the team before, during or after said contest. He/she is not permitted to be in sight or sound of said contest venue. Regular practice or team meetings not affiliated with a contest are permitted. (Revised 2007-08)

3.7.c.2. If suspensions are imposed to a student or bench personnel at the end of the sport season and no contest remains, the suspension is carried over to that particular sport until the next school year. In the case of a senior student, the penalty will continue to the next WVSSAC sponsored sport.

3.7.c.3. Any coach suspension that cannot be enforced during the sport season in which the ejection occurs will be enforced at the beginning of the next season of that same sport.

3.7.d. In case of spectators physically molesting an official, administrator, coach, or student, the school may be given one of two options: 1) file charges against the offender (s) or 2) accept discipline from the WVSSAC. Any person found guilty of W. Va. Code §61-2-15(a) Assault, Battery on Athletic Officials, while these individuals are working or as a result of working an athletic contest, shall be banned from all WVSSAC athletic events for a minimum of 365 days from the date of being found guilty. The school filing charges shall notify the WVSSAC of the incident and outcome of any legal action.

3.7.e. The school that does not lend complete cooperation in the host school's effort to promote the spirit of good sportsmanship may be disciplined by the WVSSAC.

3.7.f. A coach may be considered as committing unsportsmanlike conduct if they make degrading remarks about officials during or after a game either on the field of play, from the bench, or through any public news media, argues with officials, or goes through motions indicating dislike for a decision, protests the decision and actions of officials pertaining to the game during and after the contest, or detains the official on the field of play following a game to request a ruling or explanation of some phase of the game. If a coach feels he/she has a legitimate criticism of a penalty call or a request for a rule interpretation, such criticism or request should be made in the privacy of the coach's office or the official's quarters and should be made in a courteous manner.

3.7.g. A student or team attendant shall not leave the bench area, team box area, or their designated off-field area during a game or contest other than during that time permitted by game or contest rules. A coach shall not leave the bench area, team box area, or the designated off-field area during a game or contest other than during that time permitted by game or contest rules unless a student altercation is taking place and the official requests assistance. Violation of this rule shall cause the coach, student, or team attendant to be immediately ejected from the contest; team penalized according to game or contest rules; and that coach, student, or team attendant will not be eligible to participate in the next contest as outlined in §127-4-2.3. (Revised 2019-20)

3.8. Procedure. Unsportsmanship action must be reported in detail to the WVSSAC. A copy of the complaint must also be filed with the principal of the school involved. Each principal involved shall report such information or answers to the report as they deem appropriate. Upon receipt of all reports, the Executive Director and/or the Board of Directors of the WVSSAC shall investigate and adjudicate such reports in accordance with the powers afforded in §127-1-8.6 and 8.7 and §127-1-12.2 and 12.3 of the Constitution. Penalties up to and including suspension of member schools may be made in accordance with §127-4.

3.9. The following defines the different types of disciplinary action which may be assessed for violation of any WVSSAC rule by a member school, administrator, coach, athlete or contest official: (Revised 2007-08)

3.9.a. Warning. A warning may be given by the Executive Director or Assistant Executive Director. It is official notice that an inexcusable, unethical, or unsportsmanship action has occurred, is a matter of record, and that such an occurrence must not be repeated.

3.9.b. Probation. Probation is a much more severe type of warning and may be expressed two ways: 1) a school, coach, student, or team attendant on probation is told that further violations will lead to a fine or suspension; and/or 2) a school on probation is on conditional WVSSAC membership but may engage in its regular schedule, sanctioned events, and all WVSSAC tournament play, providing a program is filed with the Executive Director of the WVSSAC indicating measures to be taken to alleviate this problem which caused the school to be placed on probation.

3.9.c. Suspension. A school/coach suspended from the WVSSAC may not meet in interscholastic competition of any kind with a WVSSAC member school or a school that is a member of another state associated with the National Federation of State High School Associations.

3.9.d. Fine. A fine may be levied by the Executive Director.

3.9.e. Each of these sanctions (Warning, Probation, Suspension and Fine) may be imposed or levied separately, or in a combination of one or more sanctions.

3.10. Appeals. All cases involving disciplinary action against member schools, coaches, students, team attendants, or officials may be protested in accordance with §127-6. However, disciplinary action imposed by an official, including disciplinary action that is a consequence of a decision by an official, such as a suspension for an additional game or games as a consequence of an ejection, is governed by Rule 127-3-15.3 and is not subject to appeal.

3.11. Review of Ejections. Disciplinary action imposed by a contest official, including disciplinary action that results in a suspension for an additional game or games as a consequence of an ejection, is not subject to appeal pursuant to Rule §127-6. However, if the individual ejected believes the ejection was improper, he/she may request a review of the ejection by his/her principal. If the principal believes there is merit in the requested review, the principal shall complete and submit the WVSSAC Ejection Review Form within 24 hours or the next business day of the ejection to the Executive Director of the WVSSAC. If a review is properly requested, the WVSSAC will review the officials' special report, the WVSSAC Ejection Review Form, and such other information as the WVSSAC deems appropriate. Upon review, the WVSSAC Executive Director or the designated Assistant Director will either sustain the ejection and any consequent suspension(s), or will determine the ejection was improper and void any consequent suspension(s). A decision by the WVSSAC upon reviewing an ejection is not subject to appeal pursuant to Rule §127-6.

**National Federation of State
High School Associations**



**GUIDELINES ON HANDLING PRACTICES AND CONTESTS
DURING LIGHTNING OR THUNDER DISTURBANCES**

These guidelines provide a default policy to those responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of practices and contests based on the presence of lightning or thunder. The preferred sources from which to request such a policy for your facility would include your state high school activities association and the nearest office of the National Weather Service.

PROACTIVE PLANNING

1. Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during practices and contests.
 2. Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safer areas and determine the amount of time needed to get everyone to a designated safer area:
 - a. A designated safer place is a substantial building with plumbing and wiring where people live or work, such as a school, gymnasium or library. An alternate safer place from the threat of lightning is a fully enclosed (not convertible or soft top) metal car or school bus.
 3. Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:
 - a. When thunder is heard or lightning is seen*, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for at least 30 minutes and vacate the outdoor activity to the previously designated safer location immediately.
 - b. 30-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or lightning is witnessed* prior to resuming play.
 - c. Any subsequent thunder or lightning* after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
 - d. When lightning-detection devices or mobile phone apps are available, this technology could be used to assist in making a decision to suspend play if a lightning strike is noted to be within 10 miles of the event location. However, you should never depend on the reliability of these devices and, thus, hearing thunder or seeing lightning* should always take precedence over information from a mobile app or lightning-detection device.
- * – At night, under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it may be safe to continue an event. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low on the horizon, the storm may not pose a threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty.
4. Review the lightning safety policy annually with all administrators, coaches and game personnel and train all personnel.
 5. Inform student-athletes and their parents of the lightning policy at start of the season.

Revised and Approved March 2018



Concussion Course Required

All **Coaches** are required to take the free course “Concussion in Sports” annually.

If the **Coach** took the course last year, he/she **MUST** take the course again before they are permitted to coach.

You must go through the purchase/checkout process for the free course in order to get credit for the current year and to be able to print the certificate.

All **New Coaches** must take the course now. Follow the directions “**New to NFHS Learn? Register Now**” on www.nfhslearn.com

Concussion in Sports - What You Need to Know Ordering Information at www.nfhslearn.com



Steps to access the FREE course:

1. Go to www.nfhslearn.com
2. Sign in with your e-mail and password if you have previously registered.
3. If you need to register, it will only take a couple of minutes. All users at www.nfhslearn.com must be registered with a unique e-mail address and password.
4. Toward the upper left-hand part of the screen , you will see the “Click to Access This Free Course” for “**Concussion in Sports — What You Need to Know.**”
5. You can order licenses as an individual to take the course yourself OR you can purchase courses in bulk if you intend to distribute the courses to others (there is a limit of 99 licenses per any one order).
6. Note: You will need to click on “Save” once you have put the course(s) in your cart and before you can proceed to Checkout.
7. As you go through the process you will see that you are using the “purchasing process” that is standard for NFHS Coach Education courses. You are not being charged anything for the Concussion courses. You do have the ability to order other courses at the same time, and you will be asked for payment for those.
8. You can then start the course if you ordered as an individual or begin distributing the licenses if you ordered in bulk.
9. If necessary, refer to the form regarding distributing bulk licenses. It can be found in the Locker Room at www.nfhslearn.com.

The online concussion course is offered at no cost to the user. Once you have finished, you will be added to the database as having completed the course. The name of the individual completing the course will appear in the “Coach Search” feature as having completed this course along with any other courses completed at www.nfhslearn.com.



WVSSAC

Return to Play (RTP) Protocol

An athlete removed from a contest that shows signs/symptoms of a concussion shall be immediately evaluated by an appropriate health care professional. If no appropriate health care professional is available, the athlete shall not be allowed to RTP.

When the athlete is evaluated by the appropriate health care professional, if it is determined the athlete has suffered a concussion, the athlete shall not be permitted to RTP until successful completion of the progressions and clearance to RTP. If it is determined by the appropriate health care professional that the athlete did not suffer a concussion, the athlete may be returned to play as deemed appropriate by the health care professional. In all cases, when an athlete has been evaluated for signs and symptoms, the concussion report must be submitted within 7 days.

RTP shall be delayed until athlete is asymptomatic and has undergone a progression of tests to determine if they are able to RTP. **Each step / test in the progression takes 24 hours (1 per day)**

The progression shall follow: (Neuro-cognitive testing is strongly recommended.)

- No activity with complete physical and cognitive rest
- Light aerobic exercise (less than 70% of maximum heart rate)
- Sport specific exercise (drills specific to the athlete's sport)
- Non-contact training drills (more intense sport drills with no contact from other players)
- Full participation practice (following written medical clearance)
- Return to Play (normal game play)

If any symptoms occur during the progression, the athlete should rest for 24 hours before attempting the same progression again.

Appropriate Health Care Professional

Note: Any of the following who have appropriate training in the evaluation and management of head injuries.

- Medical Doctor (MD)
- Doctor of Osteopathy (DO)
- Doctor of Chiropractic (DC)
- Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP)
- Physician Assistant (PA-C)
- Licensed or Registered Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC/R, LAT, ATC)
- Licensed Physical Therapist

Approved Board of Directors 5/06/10. Revised May 2019

New EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN New

§127-2-15. Emergency Action Plan (EAP). (Revised 2020-21)

15.1. Effective December 31, 2017, each member school shall adopt and submit to the WVSSAC and to the county board of education an EAP for athletics, designed to respond to athletic injuries that occur on school property during school-sponsored athletic practices and events.

15.2. Each EAP shall include:

15.2.a. Implementation of the EAP for every sport at every level. The EAP shall discuss how it is to be implemented with the participation of the school's principal and athletic director (if any), coaches, and athletes.

15.2.b. Training. The EAP shall include any necessary training for any person designated as responsible for any portion of the implementation of the EAP. Training may be in person or online, as may be available to the school.

15.2.c. Protocol for summoning emergency medical assistance. The EAP shall discuss how the school's sports teams will assign responsibility for summoning emergency medical assistance in the case of an emergency during a practice or event.

15.2.d. Protocol for beginning Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). The EAP shall discuss how the school's sports teams will assign responsibility for beginning CPR in the event it is necessary. Each sports team must have individuals trained in CPR. The school shall provide proper training to any individual assigned responsibility for performing CPR.

15.2.e. Requirement for Automated External Defibrillator (AED); Protocol for the use of AED. Each member school will have an AED on the school or event grounds during the duration of all athletic events and practices. The EAP must address how the school's sports teams will assign responsibility for retrieving and using an AED in the event it is necessary. Each sports team must be instructed on the location of the nearest AED to any practice or event facility. The school shall provide proper training to any individual assigned responsibility for using an AED. (2021-22)

15.2.f. Protocol for the treatment of heat stroke. The EAP must address how the school's sports teams will prepare for and treat heat stroke. Each sports team that practices outdoors is recommended to have available an emersion tub, and must have water, ice, and towels, to be used for the treatment of heat stroke. The EAP must address how the school's sports teams will assign responsibility for obtaining these items and preparing them before a practice or game begins.

15.2.g. Written records. The EAP shall require that each of the school's sports teams assign responsibility for the items discussed above at the beginning of each season, and record those assignments on a written record, which record shall be retained by the sports team and the school.

15.2.h. Symptoms and risk factors for sudden cardiac arrest. The EAP shall require that schools train athletes, coaches, and volunteers about the symptoms and risk factors for sudden cardiac arrest.

15.2.i. Coordination with local Emergency Medical Systems. The EAP shall require that schools coordinate with their local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel, notifying EMS personnel of the availability of AEDs at the school, and notifying EMS personnel of the EAP adopted by the school.

15.2.j. Follow up retraining. The EAP shall require that school sports teams that respond to an emergency incident meet to discuss their response after the incident has passed. Discussion shall center on the team's response to the incident, areas for improvement, and retraining that may be necessary, and any counseling that may be required for the individuals involved.

15.3. Schools may, but are not required to adopt the Anyone Can Save a Life Program (available at www.anyonecansavealife.org), which meets all of the requirements of this rule, to be implemented as that schools EAP in compliance with this rule.

15.4. Each EAP adopted pursuant to this rule shall be provided to the county board of education, and shall be retained by the county board of education until the EAP is superseded by a revised EAP.

DP / FLEX REMINDERS

<p>1. A DP does not have to be used</p> <p>2. If used, it must be noted on the starting lineup.</p>	<p>7. If the starting DP plays defense for the FLEX player, the FLEX player has left the game and the team continues with 9 players.</p> <p>8. The FLEX player can bat or run, but only in the original DP's position. Therefore, the FLEX player and the DP can never be on offense simultaneously.</p>
<p>3. A team using the DP starts the game with 10 players on the lineup card, but could end the game with 9 or 10.</p>	<p>9. When the FLEX player bats for the DP, the FLEX player bats in position of the original DP. The DP is considered to have left the game, but the FLEX player has not.</p>
<p>4. The STARTING DP can play defense for any of the other 9 players in the lineup.</p>	<p>10. If the DP re-enters the game, she must do so in her original batting order position and the FLEX player could: (A) move back to the No. 10 position in the lineup, or (B) leave the game. If the FLEX player moves back to the 10th position in the lineup, the team resumes the game with 10 players and the FLEX player has never left the game.</p>
<p>5. If the starting DP plays defense for a player listed within the first 9 batting positions in the lineup, that player will continue to bat in her original position in the lineup and has not left the game.</p>	<p>11. A substitute can enter the game for either the DP or the FLEX position. The substitute can enter on defense, or as a pinch hitter or pinch runner.</p>
<p>6. The player listed in the 10th position in the lineup will play defense only and will be called a FLEX player. The DP and the FLEX player can play defense simultaneously.</p>	

REMINDERS:

- 1) The DP can never be on DEFENSE ONLY.
- 2) The FLEX player can never be on OFFENSE ONLY.
- 3) The DP and FLEX player can never be on offense at the same time.
- 4) The STARTER and the SUBSTITUTE cannot be in the game at the same time.
- 5) The starting DP and FLEX player have one re-entry just as any other player.
- 6) Once the game is started with the DP/FLEX positions in the lineup, those positions are available for the entire game.
- 7) The penalty for illegal re-entry of the DP or FLEX player is always restriction to the bench/dugout.
- 8) If the player is on offense, she is called out. If the player is on defense, the team on offense may have the choice of taking the result of the play or accepting the penalty.