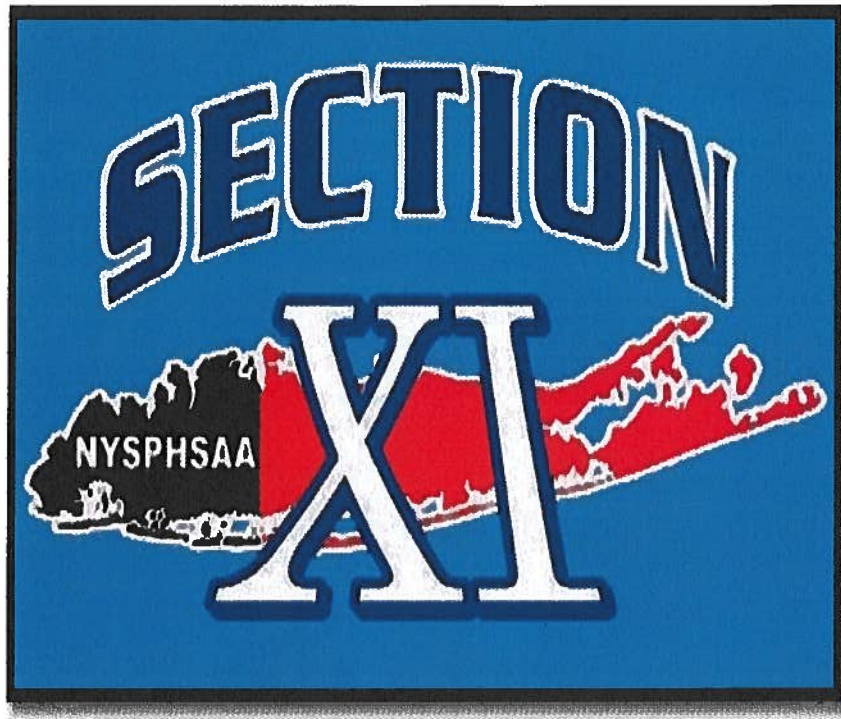




High School FOOTBALL

“A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE”

2026



Suffolk County Football

Tim Horan, CAA

Section XI Football Chair

West Islip Public Schools

The Michael and Christine Freyer Administration Building

100 Sherman Avenue. West Islip, New York 11795

TEL: (631) 930-1540 FAX: (631) 893-3245

t.horan@wi.k12.ny.us

August 2026

Dear Section XI Football Coaches,

Welcome to the 2026 football season! It is my pleasure to serve as the Section XI football chairperson...and I look forward to another successful season while working with the Suffolk County Football Coaches Association.

It is my job to serve as your liaison to the NYS Public High School Athletic Association & Section XI. Please do not hesitate to call me at the West Islip Administration Building at 631-930-1540 or e-mail me at t.horan@wi.k12.ny.us should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Tim Horan

Tim Horan
Section XI Football Chairperson



Suffolk County Football

Tim Horan, CAA

Section XI Football Chair

TEL: (631) 930-1540 FAX: (631) 893-3245

Agenda- 2026 HS Football Coaches Meeting

1. WELCOME
2. GREGG SARRA/ANDY SLAWSON- NEWSDAY SPORTS - PRESEASON SURVEY; GAME RESULTS; STATS, etc.
3. Len Genova- NFF; TOM BRUNO- T & D SPORTS; JOHN CAMPOLETTANO- LI BLITZ
Faith Curtis- Southern Recognition Inc
5. DAN COLLETTI- 2026 RULE CHANGES - Question & Answer session
 - a) Coaches- Shortage of officials; **WORK WITH OFFICIALS!!!!!!!!!!**
 - b) Jr Football Officials Program- Encourage Players to Participate
6. IMPORTANT DATES
 - 2026 START DATE- **MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2026**
 - 10 INDIVIDUAL & TEAM PRACTICES REQUIRED FOR SCRIM/GAME

7. SEASON/PRACTICE

a) 2 DAYS- 3 DAYS- 5 DAYS (10 days)

The first two (2) days of practice must be noncontact, without the use of personal protective equipment and mechanical blocking devices. (May 2023) The use of cones, ropes, ladders, step- over dummies, soft **hand shields** and similar devices as teaching aids is permissible. Helmets may be worn. The next three (3) days provide a transition from the conditioning phase to full contact. During this phase, players are permitted to wear helmet and shoulder pads. Blocking dummies, sleds and similar devices are permitted. During this phase, player to player tackling drills, team scrimmaging, running full contact plays, etc., is not permitted. The following five (5) days consist of contact practice with full protective equipment and the use of all training devices. (Feb. 2019) Full player to player contact and team scrimmaging is permitted. **NOTE:** For any violation of this rule, the head coach will be suspended from the next regularly scheduled contest. The coach may not be present at the game site nor communicate in any manner during the contest with any person present at the site. Not being present at the site means the disqualified coach is not present in the locker room, on the sidelines, in the stands or site area before, during or after the game.

b) COMBINED PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS- UPDATED

A. Coaches will instruct their own players. B. "Live Contact" is permitted but not required. C. Athletes/ Teams may not participate in a combined practice until the first five (5) day of practice have been completed. D. Drills may not exceed more than nine (9) players from each team. (Feb. 2023) E. 11-man football may conduct 11-on-11 drills for a maximum of 10 offensive AND 10 defensive plays. (May 2024)

c) FOOTBALL CONTACT LIMITATIONS

Contact in the sport of football for High school and modified football teams shall have no more than two "Full-Contact practices" per week during the season; with no Full- Contact" session to exceed 90 minutes. "Full- contact" means a practice where drills or live action is conducted that involves collisions at game speed, where players execute tackles and other activity that is typical of an actual tackle football game. Limitation of "Full-Contact practices" will begin with the 13th day (high school and the 14th day (modified).

d) JV/VARSITY EXCEPTION-

A football player shall be permitted to participate in both the JV and Varsity football games for his school without violating the nights rest rule and maximum number of contests. The following requirements must be met: (July 2020) 1. The player shall participate in 10 or less plays on one of the two contests 2. There be a TWO-NIGHT rest period between the two contests.

e) SPORTSMANSHIP /MISCONDUCT/DISQUALIFICATION PENALTY-

Section XI policy- players disqualified will be ineligible the next full game.

f) TARGETING DISQUALIFICATION-

NYSPHSAA & SECTION XI- A player who is **disqualified** for "targeting" (by a certified official) may not participate in the next **two halves** (sits remainder of half plus next 2 halves).

g) Equipment- LEGAL pants must be worn at all times-cover knees.NFHS rules enforced.

h) 10-5 Rule : Thursday, August 27, 2026 is the last day of the 10-5 rule (for all fall sports). Starting **Friday, August 28, 2026** there is NO 10-5 rule.

I) SCRIMMAGE RULES

Football scrimmages shall be governed by the following:

1. No official score is kept. 2. No definite time is set or kept. 3. Coaches are permitted on the field to provide instruction and make corrections. 4. Different configurations governing possession time and down and distance situations (than those normally used in a game) may be used to govern play. 5. Unlimited time-outs and stoppages of play are permitted and encouraged for the purpose of both providing instruction and adequate rest periods. 6. The use of officials would be permitted and encouraged whenever possible for the purpose of instruction regarding the rules and proper application of rules. 7. No kickoffs are permitted. 8. Punts and extra point kick attempts may involve live play until the ball is kicked. Punts may not be advanced and all fumbled punts and muffs will be blown dead immediately. 9. The total number of plays should be recorded to prevent an individual player from being involved in more than a maximum of 90 live contact plays during the entire scrimmage. 10. No admission may be charged. 11. The participation of student support groups such as cheerleaders, bands, kick lines, etc., are prohibited.

J) MAXIMUM NUMBER of CONTESTS- "Exception: In the sport of Football, when a team receives a forfeit win, the forfeit win will NOT count towards the maximum number of contests. The team who accepts the forfeit can reschedule a game that will count towards the maximum number of contests."

K) LOPSIDED SCORE STRATEGIES

L) SPALDING ALPHA BALL- REQUIRED IN PLAYOFFS

M) NYSPHSAA REPRESENTATION: Player must be dressed and eligible for a minimum of 3 games to be eligible for post season play. Players who do not meet this criteria must get a medical waiver from their Section.

8. 2026 CALENDAR/PLAYOFF INFORMATION- All teams can play 10 GAMES

a) **Updated County Championship Dates/Times**

9. WEATHER - -HEAT ACCLIMAZATION/ COLD/HEAT ALERTS; THUNDER/ LIGHTENING- KNOW POLICIES

10. DUAL PARTICIPATION – KICKING -FORMS TO ME & SECTION XI PRIOR TO FIRST GAME

11. PORTABLE ENDZONE CAMERAS – BOTH TEAMS HAVE OPTION (HOME AND AWAY)

12. RISK MINIMIZATION

A) NOCSAE- 10 YEAR HELMET LIFE EXPECTANCY- NO **2017** OR OLDER

B) TOMMY TOUGH STANDARDS- Endorsed throughout the NYSPHSAA

C) Physicals/Dom Murray Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act

13. NFF Events- Media Day August ; Kickoff Classic Week 1 ; Scholar Athlete Brunch- Sun. April ?

14. STEVE FASCIANI- SCFCA

15. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Updated- 2026 FOOTBALL Calendar

(Last Day 10-5 rule ends Thurs August 27 ; no time restrictions starting Fri Aug 28)

WEEK 1	Monday, Aug 17- Sat, Aug 22	Practice Day 1 - 6
WEEK 2	Saturday, August 29	SCRIMMAGE
WEEK 3	Saturday, Sept 5	SCRIMMAGE/ GAME 1 Division 4
WEEK 4	Wednesday, SEPT 9	GAME 1 Div 1 & 3 Rosh Hashanah Fri 9/11 ev & Sat 9/12
	Thursday, SEPT 10	GAME 1 Div 2 & 4 (opposite play dates from 2024)
WEEK 5	Saturday, SEPT 19	GAME 2 (Yom Kippur Mon Sept 21)
WEEK 6	Saturday, SEPT 26	GAME 3
WEEK 7	Saturday, Oct 3	GAME 4
WEEK 8	Saturday, Oct 10	GAME 5
WEEK 9	Saturday, OCT 17	GAME 6
WEEK 10	Saturday, OCT 24	GAME 7
WEEK 11	Saturday, OCT 31	GAME 8
WEEK 12	Saturday, NOV 7	Qualifier GAME 9 NON LEAGUE for Non Playoff Teams
WEEK 13	Saturday, NOV 14	Semi <u>GAME 10</u> NON LEAGUE for Non Playoff & Teams No Longer in Playoffs
WEEK 14	Saturday, NOV 21	GAME 11 COUNTY CHAMP
WEEK 15	Fri NOV 27 & Sat 28	GAME 12 LIC (Thanksgiving Weekend)

NYSPHSAA: With Section approval, a team may participate in no more than ten (10) interschool football contests, **excluding** sectional championships. **Every team can take advantage of the opportunity to play 10 games per season.**

Football Tournament Dates – 2026

Section XI Qualifier

Friday, November 6, 2025	Higher Seed	4:00 p.m. or later
Saturday, November 7, 2026	Higher Seed	1:00 p.m. or earlier

Section XI Semi's

Friday, November 13, 2026	Higher Seed	4:00 p.m. or later
Saturday, November 14, 2026	Higher Seed	1:00 p.m. or earlier

*Section XI Finals

Thursday, November 19, 2026	Stony Brook University	6:00 p.m.	Division II
Friday, November 20, 2026	Stony Brook University	4:00 p.m.	Division IV
Friday, November 20, 2026	Stony Brook University	7:30 p.m.	Division I
Saturday, November 21, 2026	Stony Brook University	6:00 p.m.	Division III

Long Island Championships

Friday, November 27, 2026	Hofstra University	12:00 noon	Class II
Friday, November 27, 2026	Hofstra University	4:30 p.m.	Class IV
*Saturday, November 28, 2026	Stony Brook University	12:00 noon	Class I
*Saturday, November 28, 2026	Stony Brook University	4:30 p.m.	Class III

*Subject to change

**SECTION XI
SPORT COMMITTEE 2026-2027
SPORT CHAIR AND
COACHES" REPRESENTATIVES**

Sport: _____ FOOTBALL _____

Chair: _____ Tim Horan _____

2026 FOOTBALL COACHES REPS

DIV I	CHRIS BOLTREK	WARD MELVILLE
	SEAN KLUBER	LONGWOOD

DIV II	PAT CAMPBELL	NORTHPORT
	JAMIE FABIAN	BELLPORT

DIV III	STEVE MILETI	WEST ISLIP
	BRIAN SCHAUMLOFFEL	WESTHAMPTON

DIV IV	VINNY AMMIRATO	MT SINAI
	RICK PUNZONE	BABYLON

Steve Fasciani-	PRESIDENT SCFCA
Mike Marratto-	VICE PRESIDENT SCFCA
Greg Lauri-	SECRETARY SCFCA
Rick Punzone-	TREASURER SCFCA

2026 SUFFOLK COUNTY FOOTBALL SEEDING

DIVISION I

1. Ward Melville
2. Sachem North
3. William Floyd
4. Longwood
5. Connetquot
6. Walt Whitman
7. Brentwood
8. Patchogue- Medford
9. Sachem East
10. Bay Shore
11. Central Islip
12. Riverhead

DIVISION II

1. Half Hollow Hills East
2. North Babylon
3. Northport
4. Huntington
5. Newfield
6. Bellport
7. Lindenhurst
8. Smithtown East
9. Copiague
10. Deer Park
11. Centereach
12. Commack

DIVISION III

1. East Islip
2. West Islip
3. Westhampton Beach
4. Hauppauge
5. Islip
6. Smithtown West
7. Comsewogue
8. Rocky Point
9. Half Hollow Hills West
10. Eastport S Manor
11. East Hampton
12. West Babylon

DIVISION IV

1. Sayville
2. Bayport/Blue Point
3. Mt. Sinai
4. Harborfields
5. Babylon
6. Miller Place
7. John Glenn/Elwood
8. Kings Park
9. Shoreham Wading River
10. *Hamp Bays/ Southampton
11. Center Moriches
12. Amityville
13. Wyandanch
14. Port Jefferson
15. Greenport/Matt/ SH

*Ineligible for post season

**FOOTBALL DUAL PARTICIPATION
SOCCER PLAYER/FOOTBALL KICKER
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. Athletes who are being considered for dual participation as a soccer player and kicker on the football squad must be high school level students. Students may not be selectively classified from the middle school for this dual participation. Dual participation is permitted on Varsity, JV and JV9 football and soccer teams only.
2. The minimum number of practices required prior to scrimmages and contests are sport specific.
3. Rescheduling of contests will not be permitted to resolve conflicts in soccer and football schedules. Athletic Directors must determine the sport in which the soccer player/football kicker will participate.
4. While participating in football, the dual participant will not be considered a field player and can only participate in kicking situations. These situations will include PAT, field goal, kick-off, free kick following safety, or any free kick and punting situation.
5. Schools utilizing dual participants must designate the individual. That information must be sent to all opponents as well as the football coordinator prior to the first contest. The information should include the athlete's name, grade, height, weight and jersey number.
6. All fake kicks are permitted provided that the designated kicker lines up in a normal kicking position prior to the snap.
7. The misconduct policy is sport specific.

FOOTBALL DUAL PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION FORM	
SCHOOL YEAR	
SCHOOL	
COACH	
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR	
ATHLETE'S NAME	
GRADE	
HEIGHT	
WEIGHT	
JERSEY #	
Prior to first contest: E-mail Section XI Football Coordinator at t.horan@wi.k12.ny.us E-mail Section XI Executive Director at tcombs@sectionxi.org E-mail Athletic Director of all opponents	

SPORTSMANSHIP

In all sports, players and coaches will rate their opponents' sportsmanship at every contest. Season team averages will determine winners in each league/division/device. The officials' rating card will include a sportsmanship rating of opponents at every contest (league and non-league). All teams at all levels of all sports are expected to submit these ratings.

Certificates and recognition will be given to those teams best exemplifying sportsmanship.

Every sport has its own rules and regulations that must be known and respected by coaches and athletes and enforced consistently by officials. However, there are certain behavioral standards that elevate an athletic event from a mere contest to a positive educational experience. Section XI's purpose in implementing this system is to encourage coaches and athletes to focus on these behavioral standards.



Suffolk County Football
Tim Horan, CAA
Section XI Football Chair
West Islip Public Schools
The Michael and Christine Freyer Administration Building
100 Sherman Avenue. West Islip, New York 11795
TEL: (631) 930-1540 FAX: (631) 893-3245

Suggested Strategies to Implement in Lopsided Football Contests

Stronger/ Winning Team:

- 1) Substitute reserve players early in the contest
- 2) Call basic offensive running plays
- 3) Predetermine 'give' to inside runner when calling a triple option play
- 4) Refrain from throwing the ball
- 5) Agree to running the clock in second half if score is lopsided

Weaker/ Losing Team:

- 1) Don't call a blitz brigade every defensive play when opponent is calling basic running plays
- 2) When on defense, cover all wide receivers (don't leave wide receivers wide open by putting 11 guys in the box).
- 3) Don't onside kick late in a game if you are trailing by multiple scores and your opponent (winning team) has already substituted starters in an effort to control score from getting further lopsided.
- 4) Substitute accordingly
- 5) Agree to running the clock in second half if score is lopsided

Any concerns...athletic director needs to communicate with the athletic director from the opposing school. If concern is not resolved, athletic director may consider communicating with the Section XI sportsmanship committee.

Medical Waivers for NYSPHSAA Regulation

Waivers of the minimum number of required participations may be granted for medical reasons only. To request such a waiver, the athletic director must submit:

- a. written request for such to the Executive Director,
- b. medical documentation of the illness/injury indicating specific dates, and
- c. a record of the athlete's participation.

The athletic director will be notified of approval/disapproval.

FOOTBALL**General Rules and Regulations**

1. National Federation rules.
2. Game Jerseys: The visiting team shall wear white or light-colored jerseys, unless a change is agreed to by the athletic directors of both schools.
3. Scouting: No scouting at practices is permitted. Scouting at scrimmages is only permitted by mutual agreement of the coaches.
4. Videotape Exchange: Tape of the most recent game shall be available on Sunday or Monday as agreed upon by the coaches.
5. It is recommended that a physician be present at all football games. If the services of a physician cannot be obtained, coverage should be provided by persons qualified to give emergency care (e.g. physician assistants, emergency squads, athletic trainers). From NYSPHSAA Handbook.
6. At all varsity games an adult shall be a member of the chain crew and will be available to consult with the head linesman at least 15 minutes before game time.
7. Protests: Judgment calls may not be protested.

To protest a decision which may have resulted from misapplication or misinterpretation of a rule, the coach must (a) direct a player or incoming substitute to request a timeout for a coach-referee conference prior to the time the ball becomes alive following the play to be reviewed, and (b) request the referee to review his decision.

The referee must review the decision which may have resulted from misapplication or misinterpretation of a rule with the coach; confer with the other game officials; have access to the current editions of the National Federation Official High School Rule and Case Books which shall be in the possession of the down marker man; and render a final decision.

A charged time-out occurs when no change in the ruling results. An official's time-out occurs when a coach-referee conference concerning the misapplication of a rule results in the referee altering his ruling.

A delay of game - 5 yard penalty shall be assessed for a coach-referee conference after all permissible charged time-outs for the coach's team have been used, and during which the referee is requested to reconsider the application of a rule and no change in the ruling results.

8. Division standings will be determined by implementing the Power Rating Point System.
9. Division schedules will be devised based on the coaches' seeding of division teams.
10. Pre-Season Practice Format - NYSPHSAA Rules (Approved by the Athletic Council 1/11/11):
 - a. The first two days of practice must be non-contact, without the use of protective equipment and mechanical blocking devices. The use of cones, ropes, ladders, step-over dummies, soft hand shields and similar devices as teaching aides is permissible. Helmets may be worn.
 - b. The next three days provide a transition from the conditioning phase to full contact. During this phase, players are permitted to wear a helmet and shoulder pads. Blocking dummies, sleds, and similar devices are permitted. During this phase, player-to-player tackling drills, team scrimmaging, running full contact plays, etc., are not permitted.
 - c. The following five days consist of contact practice with full protective equipment and the use of all training devices. Full player-to-player contact and team scrimmaging is permitted.
 - d. Interscholastic scrimmages/contests may commence after ten practices have been completed by the individual player and team.
11. The 20-yard line overtime procedure for breaking ties will be used in all division games.
12. In any school which does not field a varsity football team, a student in his/her final year of athletic eligibility is prohibited from playing at the junior varsity level.

13. High school soccer players are given the opportunity to participate in football as kickers. (Approved 1/10/07)

14. The visiting varsity football teams are provided the opportunity to set up a portable endzone camera. Portable is defined as a unit which can be carried by one person (no trucks, cherry pickers, lifts, etc.). Home school determines which endzone visiting team portable endzone camera will be located. Lack of an endzone camera by one team will not preclude the other team from using an endzone camera.

NYSPHSAA/Section XI Sports Standards

Approved at Section XI Athletic Council 5/18/04

The minimum number of eligible players required for a team to participate in a contest (game or scrimmage) is:

- 16 - HS (Varsity, JV, JV9)
- 16 - Modified (Approved by the Athletic Council 1/13/09)

Seeding Procedures

1. The Section XI sport chairman will schedule division seeding meetings.
2. Team information forms requesting pertinent data will be completed by each coach in preparation for the seeding process.
3. At the meeting, team information forms and division seeding forms will be distributed.

4. Each voting representative will be expected to report on their anticipated strength and/or weakness and provide a suggested ranking for their own team within the division. Speaking order:

14 teams: 8, 7, 9, 6, 10, 5, 11, 4, 12, 3, 13, 2, 14, 1
 13 teams: 7, 8, 6, 9, 5, 10, 4, 11, 3, 12, 2, 13, 1
 12 teams: 7, 6, 8, 5, 9, 4, 10, 3, 11, 2, 12, 1
 11 teams: 6, 7, 5, 8, 4, 9, 3, 10, 2, 11, 1

5. Time should be allowed for coaches to review data and rank all other teams (excluding their own) within the division. Following the speaking order, each coach will report his ranking.

6. Teams not represented will be ranked by coaches in attendance. The average rankings of coaches in attendance will be used.

7. **New Seeding Variable-** In an effort to improve accuracy of seeding, the highest seed rank (highest single seed) and the lowest seed rank (lowest single seed) of the subjective ranking will not be included in each teams total score. For example from a 14 team division: Team A receives seed ranks of 2, 3, 4, 3, 4, 3, 5, 4, 3, 4, 2, 3 and 8. The subjective total score for Team A would NOT include one of the 2 seeds and the 8 seed. The subjective total score for Team A would be calculated using the remaining eleven scores. (3/12/18)

8. A subjective ranking will be devised from the rankings by totaling the scores (numerical ranking) for each team. The lowest score will be the highest ranked, etc.

9. a. If a team competed in a higher division the previous year, it will be placed a half position higher than its finish the previous year.
 b. If a team competed in a lower division the previous year, it will be placed a half position lower than the previous year.

10. Ties in subjective seeding will be broken by:

- Team's own ranking
- Where they finished previous year

11. If one team drops in a division after June 1st, any contest scheduled with that team will be considered a forfeit. Approved 1/15/14

12. If one team drops in any division prior to June 1st, the Football Committee will reconvene and approve the scheduling procedure. Approved 1/15/14

13. If two teams drop in any division prior to August 1st, a new schedule will be developed for that division. Approved 3/8/11

14. The divisional semi-final will be scheduled at the higher seed with the home school determining the date (Friday or Saturday) and time of the contest.

15. Football

- 8 power-ranked games will be scheduled which will determine the final standings.

- A 9th football game will be scheduled as follows:

~ Section XI tournament qualifying round at higher seed: 1 vs. 8; 2 vs. 7; 3 vs. 6; 4 vs. 5

~ Winning team will qualify for the tournament semi-final. Teams will be seeded for the semi-final based on the regular season

results.

~ No admission will be charged.

~ Schools are responsible for their own costs.

~ Night games will be permitted.

New Team Criteria- In an effort to encourage new football teams and reflect current times, any school that did not have a varsity football team the year before (did not play 1 game) will be added to a division determined by ADs through conference voting for a 2 year growth period (Not Eligible for playoffs if a team is placed outside enrollment). The ♦New Team♦ cannot displace another football team's placement.

Power Rating Point System

Division standings will be determined by implementing the Power Rating Point System. At the completion of a division schedule, the following procedure will be:

STEP I

Assign the proper winning and losing percentage rating to each team based on its record. (See chart)

Example:

Team X: record 5-2-1, winning raw score .71, losing raw score .29

Team Y: record 8-3-1, winning raw score .73, losing raw score .27

STEP II

Determine each team's individual point total as follows:

- For every win, add the winning percentage raw scores of the opponent.
- For every loss, subtract the losing raw scores of the opponent.
- Add each team's own winning percentage raw score to the total.

STEP III

Set the final standings by ranking the teams in order using accumulated point totals. Results may be curved to prevent the publication of a negative total for any team by adding a like positive number (100 points) to all scores.

Strength of Schedule Point System

Fourteen Teams	Thirteen Teams	Twelve Teams
1st seed = 14 pts	1st seed = 13 pts	1st seed = 12 pts

2nd seed = 13 pts	2nd seed = 12 pts	2nd seed = 11 pts
3rd seed = 12 pts	3rd seed = 11 pts	3rd seed = 10 pts
4th seed = 11 pts	4th seed = 10 pts	4th seed = 9 pts
5th seed = 10 pts	5th seed = 9 pts	5th seed = 8 pts
6th seed = 9 pts	6th seed = 8 pts	6th seed = 7 pts
7th seed = 8 pts	7th seed = 7 pts	7th seed = 6 pts
8th seed = 7 pts	8th seed = 6 pts	8th seed = 5 pts
9th seed = 6 pts	9th seed = 5 pts	9th seed = 4 pts
10th seed = 5 pts	10th seed = 4 pts	10th seed = 3 pts
11th seed = 4 pts	11th seed = 3 pts	11th seed = 2 pts
12th seed = 3 pts	12th seed = 2 pts	12th seed = 1 pt
13th seed = 2 pts	13th seed = 1 pt	
14th seed = 1 pt		

Double Relief Scheduling Option- If athletic directors, after consultation with their varsity head football coach, **WITHIN** any single division, feel the Double Relief **OPTION** is appropriate for their division for any given season, they can vote to implement it with a 75% majority. If a division votes to implement the Double Relief **OPTION**, it will be followed for that one season. Athletic Directors wishing to pursue this **OPTION**, must submit a request to the Section XI Executive Director and Football Chairperson 1 week prior to the annual spring football seeding meeting. (3/12/18)

Ties in Division Standings

The procedure for breaking ties in division standings (teams with exact power points):

1. Head-to-head record breaks ties in point standings in favor of the winner.
2. Comparative record versus the highest finishing common opponent. If the record is the same, continue to compare the performance of each team against the highest finishing common opponents in descending order until the tie is broken.
3. If the tie has not been broken using common opponents, it will be broken by the team that beat the highest finishing uncommon opponent.
4. If the tie is still not broken, the highest ranked team as determined by division coaches at the pre-schedule meeting will be the team given the higher final division standing.

(Approved Oct. 99)

Section XI Tournament Games:

Effective July 1, 2014, Section XI has adopted SPALDING as the official ball used in all Section XI playoff contests. Schools are mandated to use a SPALDING product exclusively during ALL ROUNDS of the Section XI playoffs.

Alpha Spalding Football Penalty: Penalties for teams who use a non-Alphi Spalding football during a post season Section XI game (includes kicking game) 3/12/18

- 1st Offense: Unsportsmanlike penalty on head coach- 15 yard penalty & loss of down*
- 2nd Offense: -Unsportsmanlike penalty on head coach (head coach ejected)- 15 yard penalty & loss of down*
- Additional Offenses: 15 yard penalty with loss of down*
- *Kick-off: Re-kick and access penalty

Points of interest:

1) If an official accidentally receives a non Alpha Spalding ball throughout the game, they are encouraged to return the non Alpha Spalding ball to the team bench in exchange for a Alpha Spalding ball and NOT implement a penalty. Penalties are only to be assessed AFTER a team using a non Alpha Spalding ball.

2) Kick-offs- If kicking team uses a non Alpha Spalding ball, the kick will be a re-kick and penalty assessed according to above.

A. Semi-final and final games are sponsored by Section XI. The host school will be reimbursed for expenses as stipulated by Section XI. Admission will be charged.

B. Postponements - The decision to postpone the Section XI Division Semi-Final shall be made by the home school Athletic Director. The decision to postpone the Section XI Division Final shall be made in concert with Section XI and the sport chairman. (Approved 3/10/09)

C. Protests - The on-field officials shall be the official protest committee. All protests shall be made to the referee prior to the play following the contested ruling. The referee will convene the protest committee, which will render a decision before play continues. Said decision is final!

D. The 20-yard line overtime system for breaking ties will be used in all Section XI tournament games.

E. Halftime will be 20 minutes in length. Each school will be allotted eight minutes for an appropriate presentation of their choosing.

Long Island Championships - All teams will be responsible for supplying and using the Spalding Alpha Ball (3/12/18)

Varsity Football 20-Yard Line Overtime Procedure

If at the end of the fourth quarter the teams have the identical scores, the tie will be resolved by the following method approved by the New

York State Public High School Athletic Association. All game rules will apply except:

- a. No try will be made if the winner of the game has been determined;
- b. If Team B scores a safety, the game is ended;
- c. If Team B gains possession, the down and series for Team A ends immediately;
- d. No free kick privileges are awarded following a fair catch or awarded fair catch.

When the score is tied at the end of the fourth quarter, the referee will instruct both teams to return to their respective team boxes. There will be a three-minute intermission during which both teams may confer with their coaches. All officials will assemble at the 50-yard line and review the procedure. The referee shall inform each coach that unused time outs do not carry over. The linesman will go to the team on the side of the field where the line-to-gain equipment is located, and the line judge will go to the other team and escort the respective team captains to the center of the field for the coin toss.

At the coin toss, the visiting team captain shall be given the privilege of calling the coin while it is in the air. The winner of the toss shall be given the choice of defense or offense, or of designating the end of the field at which the ball will be put in play. The referee will indicate the winner of the toss by placing a hand on his shoulder. To indicate which team will go on offense first, the referee will place a ball in the team captain's chest area while he is facing the goal toward which his team will advance and give the first down signal. The other team captain will face the offensive captain with his back toward the goal which he will defend.

Each team shall be permitted one additional time-out for each extra period. The team scoring the greater number of points in the overtime shall be declared the winner. The final score shall be determined by totaling all points scored by each team during the regulation and overtime periods.

To start the overtime, the offensive team (Team A) shall put the ball in play, first and 10 on Team B's 20-yard line anywhere between the inbound lines. Team A shall have a series of four downs. The series shall be terminated by any score by Team A or, if Team B had possession, at the end of any down. Team A shall be awarded a new series when:

- a. NFHS rules apply;
- b. Team A recovers a scrimmage-kick (field goal attempt) between the goal lines after it has been touched first by Team B beyond the neutral zone;
- c. When Team B is guilty of roughing the kicker, or place kicker holder or passer.

If Team A scores a touchdown, it is entitled to the opportunity to try for points, except when it is unnecessary to break the tie. A field goal attempt is permitted during any down. If the defensive team gains possession, the ball becomes dead immediately and Team A's series is ended.

After team A has completed its series, Team B will become the offensive team with the ball in its possession at the 20-yard line anywhere between the inbound lines. The same end of the field will be used for both possessions in order to insure equal game conditions and conserve time.

If the score remains tied after each team has been given one series, the procedure shall be repeated until a winner is determined. There will be an intermission of two minutes during which the loser of the coin toss will be given first choice of the options. If additional periods are required, first choice of options will be alternated.

Rev: 1/16

SAFETY- RELATED POLICIES

HEAT ALERT POLICY

1. **Modified Heat Alert** - When the heat index reaches 88 (equivalent to T.H.I. of 73), practice sessions or contests in all sports must include:

- a. Forced, frequent water breaks (every 10-15 minutes).
- b. Loose clothing, light colored shorts and tee shirts (mesh recommended) for practice sessions.
- c. Frequent rest breaks in shaded areas.
- d. For football and lacrosse, mandatory water breaks every 15 minutes during which all players must remove helmets. Those players not participating in contact activities during practice, games or scrimmages shall not wear helmets.

NOTE: During all contests, the rules are to be modified to permit additional time outs for rest and forced water breaks.

2. **Full Heat Alert** - When the heat index reaches 95 (equivalent to T.H.I. of 78), **no** physical activity in any sport is permitted. Team meetings are permitted.

3. **Notification of Schools** - The Section XI Safety Chairman, will monitor the heat index and will initiate a heat alert by notifying the Section XI Office as to the course of action. The Section XI staff will communicate this information to each member district through the Connect-Ed system, with specific instructions for heat alert implementation. (Rev 5/10)

4. No sport is exempt from modified or full heat alerts. (1/16/02)

PRE-SCHOOL PRACTICE HOURS

Fall season pre-school practice sessions may only be conducted prior to 10:00 AM and/or after 5:00 PM. This applies to all sports except golf and swimming. This restriction is discontinued for the fall season as follows:

*2026-27 - 10-5 rule ends August 27 at midnight (approved 2/26/25)

End Date	No 10-5 Rule
Sunday, August 27, 2023	Monday, August 28, 2023
Sunday, September 1, 2024*	Monday, September 2, 2024
Sunday, August 31, 2025	Monday, September 1, 2025
Thurs Sunday, August 30, 2026	FR Monday, August 31, 2026
Sunday, August 29, 2027	Monday, August 30, 2027
Sunday, August 27, 2028	Monday, August 28, 2028

(Approved 5/11/23)

PROCEDURES FOR THE PREVENTION OF HEAT ILLNESS

1. Ten minute rest breaks during each hour of practice in hot weather to include:
 - a. Loosening of uniform jerseys and pads to facilitate cooling.
 - b. Free intake of water to replace fluid losses.
 - c. Rest break conducted in a shaded area.
2. Water must be freely available to players during practice sessions and games at all levels.
3. Strict adherence to the mandatory regulation for preseason football practice format.
4. Rubberized or other types of non-porous sweat suits may not be used under any circumstances.
5. During pre-school days (August and September), practices are to be conducted prior to 10:00 AM and/or after 5:00 PM. This policy does not apply to school teams that are conducting practice sessions at overnight camps located off Long Island. However, the temperature and humidity must be

monitored during these practice sessions; and if the heat index reaches the minimum levels established by Section XI, the heat alert policy will apply. Complete daily records of the heat index must be maintained by coaches.

6. During a modified heat alert, the host school will notify contest/scrimmage officials that there will be mandatory water breaks at approximately 15 minute intervals.

HEAT ILLNESS - extracted from NYS Education Department material

Practice for athletic competition and participation in various forms of physical activity are frequently conducted in very warm and humid weather. Under such conditions, special precautions must be observed. Otherwise, the athlete is subject to:

- a. heat fatigue, depletion of salt and water due to excessive sweating,
- b. heat exhaustion, excessive depletion of salt and water, or
- c. heat stroke, overheating from breakdown of the sweating mechanism.

Heat fatigue dulls the athlete's skill and alertness and makes him/her more vulnerable to injury. The other two heat illnesses can result in serious physical harm and even death. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are preventable by careful control of various factors in the conditioning program of the athlete. With the start of practice, it is essential to provide for gradual acclimatization to hot weather activity. Equally important is the need to adjust salt and water intake to weather conditions. As the athlete becomes accustomed to hot weather activity, he/she perspires more freely (and thus dissipates body heat) and excretes less salt (and thus conserves sodium). With a graduated training regimen, such acclimatization can be expected after a period of one week.

The idea that water should be withheld from athletes during workouts has no scientific foundation. In fact, such restriction, by depleting water in the body, can lead to heat fatigue and serious heat illness. During exercise in the heat, it is essential to replace the water lost by perspiration. Water should be available on the practice and game field AT ALL TIMES and in large quantities. THERE IS NO REASON WHY COLD OR ICE WATER SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN.

Salt also needs to be replaced daily, particularly during the acclimatization period. Extra salting of the athlete's food within the bounds of taste will accomplish this purpose. Salt tablets, particularly on an empty stomach, can be irritating and may be poorly absorbed. Adding two teaspoons of salt to a gallon of flavored water used for drinking during hot weather workouts offers a better approach. The preparation of the saline solution should be under the direction of the school medical doctor.

At the beginning of practice (particularly for the fall season) it must be recognized that the level of conditioning for each player is variable, and it must be assumed that no player is acclimatized to the heat. It is absolutely essential that the conditioning and acclimatization programs at the onset of practice begin at a modest level and progress slowly during the first week of practice.

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES to help prevent heat illness during the pre-season in football, soccer, cross country and field hockey:

1. The use of a weight chart to record each player's weight before and after every practice. Any player losing more than 3% body weight should receive special attention to insure adequate fluid replacement.
2. Revisions in the conduct of practice sessions when the heat index becomes critical :
 - a. shorten the length of practice sessions.
 - b. revise type and amount of clothing and equipment (shorts, mesh jerseys, etc).
 - c. reduce degree of exertion required during practice sessions.
 - d. change soaked T-shirts.
 - e. give 10-minute rest breaks every hour.
3. Guidelines for the conduct of practice sessions:
 - a. With temperature of 80-90 degrees and humidity under 70%, observe carefully for the few athletes particularly susceptible to the heat.
 - b. With temperature of 80-90 degrees and humidity over 70% or temperature of 90-100 degrees and humidity under 70%, players should be given 10-minute rest periods every hour, T-shirts should be changed when soaked, and all athletes should be carefully observed.

c. With temperature of 90-100 degrees and humidity over 70% or temperature over 100 degrees, practice should be postponed or a shortened program should be conducted in shorts and T-shirts.

FIRST AID MEASURES: Call ambulance and/or police immediately.

Heat Stroke: Collapse - with dry warm skin - indicates sweating mechanism failure and rising body temperature. **THIS IS AN EMERGENCY; DELAY COULD BE FATAL.** Immediately cool athlete by the most expedient means (immersion in cool water is best method). Obtain medical care at once.

Heat Exhaustion: Weakness - with profuse sweating - indicates state of shock due to depletion of salt and water. Place in shade with head level or lower than body. Give sips of diluted salt water if conscious. Obtain medical care at once.

Heat Index Record Chart
(for overnight camps off Long Island)

School _____ Site _____

Year _____ Coach _____

DAY/DATE	TIME	HEAT INDEX AT START OF PRACTICE	LENGTH OF PRACTICE	DETERMINATION

HEAT ALERT INFORMATION

The safety chairman will call Metro Weather Service on a daily basis to monitor temperature/humidity conditions. Weather services are now using 'heat index' instead of 'THI' for relative temperature/humidity conditions. Therefore, the following indexes shall be used in determining modified or full heat alerts:

1. When the **Heat Index** reaches **88** (equivalent to THI of 73), a *Modified Heat Alert* shall be in effect.
2. When the **Heat Index** reaches **95** (equivalent to THI of 78), a *Full Heat Alert* shall be in effect.

PRE-SCHOOL PRACTICE HOURS - ALL SPORTS

a. Practice sessions may be conducted **ONLY prior to 10AM and after 5PM**. This applies to all sports except golf and swimming. Starting ~~on the Saturday prior to each Labor Day~~ this restriction is discontinued for the fall season. (Approved 9/22/03)

Section XI, in cooperation with the safety chairman, monitors weather conditions with the aid of Metro Weather Service. When the heat index reaches 88, a heat alert will be in effect. No sport is exempt from modified or full heat alerts. Schools will be notified by the Section XI office when a heat alert exists. (A notice will also be placed on the website.)

Schools **may not** conduct practices or contests in any sport when a full heat alert is in effect. However, team meetings where there is **no physical activity** are permissible.

Coaches are reminded that **water is to be available** in the activity area at **all times and in large quantities**.

b. Football Camps:

The Section XI policy for pre-school days as it relates to practices conducted prior to 10AM and after 5PM is not in effect for teams attending such camps away from Long Island. However, the following guidelines for those teams should be observed:

- (1) When the heat index reaches 88, a modified heat alert will be in effect and practices should be modified.
- (2) When the heat index reaches 95, a full heat alert shall be in effect and practices must be cancelled.

WIND CHILL POLICYSECTION XI WIND CHILL PROCEDURES

1. Post-Season Contests: The Section XI Safety Chairman, in consultation with the Executive Director, will monitor *RealFeel* (wind chill) one hour prior to the start of a Section XI post-season contest and will alert member schools according to the NYSPHSAA Wind Chill Procedures.

2. Regular Season Contests or Practices: Member school districts must use the NYSPHSAA Wind Chill Procedures to determine if an alert or cancellation of events at their school is warranted.

NYSPHSAA WIND CHILL PROCEDURES

Administration of Wind Chill Policy:

1. Wind Chill will be checked 1 hour before the contest/practice by a certified athletic trainer, athletic director, or school designee when the air temperature is 39 degrees (Fahrenheit) or lower.
2. The athletic trainer, athletic director, or school designee will use the [accuweather.com](http://www.accuweather.com) website to determine the wind chill index for the area of the contest/practice. The [accuweather.com](http://www.accuweather.com) website can be reached through the NYSPHSAA website. Once a person is on the [accuweather.com](http://www.accuweather.com) website, they will put in the zip code for the location of the contest/practice and the website will give them the air temperature as well as the *RealFeel* temperature (wind chill).
3. If the *RealFeel* temperature (wind chill) is 10 degrees or below, the athletic trainer, athletic director, or school designee must re-check the *RealFeel* (wind chill) at halftime or midway point of the contest. If the *RealFeel* (wind chill) temperature is -11 degrees (Fahrenheit) or lower, the contest will be suspended.

Please refer to the following chart to take the appropriate actions:

	<i>RealFeel</i> (wind chill) above 40 degrees	Full activity. No restrictions
R E C O M M E N D E D	Wind Chill Caution: <i>RealFeel</i> (wind chill) 36 degrees to 20 degrees	Stay adequately hydrated. Notify coaches of the threat of cold-related illnesses. Have students and coaches dress in layers of clothing.
	Wind Chill Watch: <i>RealFeel</i> (wind chill) 19 degrees to 10 degrees	Stay adequately hydrated. Notify coaches of the threat of cold-related illnesses. Have students and coaches dress in layers of clothing. Cover the head and neck to prevent heat loss.
	Wind Chill Warning: <i>RealFeel</i> (wind chill) 9 degrees to -10 degrees	Stay adequately hydrated. Notify coaches of the threat of cold-related illnesses. Have students and coaches dress in layers of clothing. Cover the head and neck to prevent heat loss. Consider postponing practice to a time when <i>RealFeel</i> temperature is much higher. Reduce the amount of time for an outdoor practice session.
REQUIRED	Wind Chill Alert: <i>RealFeel</i> (wind chill) -11 degrees or lower	No outside activity, practice or contest, should be held.

GUIDELINES FOR AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS AT INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTESTS:

Section 136.4 of the NYS Commissioner of Education Regulation (9/2002) requires that schools provide, maintain and have readily available sufficient automated external defibrillator equipment necessary to address emergency situations by trained and certified personnel; accordingly, the following guidelines are established.

1. The **home school** is to be responsible for providing AED-trained personnel and a sufficient number of AED's at all interscholastic contests such that an AED can be effectively administered within less than 3 minutes to a stricken student-athlete.
2. Prior to each contest, the home school coaching staff is to advise the visiting coaching staff and officials of the location of the AED and the personnel designated to utilize it.
3. All medical or AED-trained personnel that are present at the contest are to be identified prior to the contest.
4. All athletic emergencies are to be reported to the Athletic Directors of the respective districts immediately following the contest.
5. No contest will take place without an AED available and able to be administered as per #1 above.

SECTION XI CONTESTS

1. At cross country meets conducted at off-site locations, those schools designated as the home schools will be responsible to bring the AED and trained personnel to use it. The personnel from home schools will be assigned to a specific location on the course.

at nysphsaa.org/ Schools must complete a Foreign Student Reporting Form and submit it to the Section XI office. The Foreign Student Reporting Form is available below in the forms section.

SAFETY- RELATED POLICIES

HEAT ALERT POLICY

1. Modified Heat Alert- When the heat index reaches 88 (equivalent to T.H.I. of 73), practice sessions or contests in all sports must include:
 - a. Forced, frequent water breaks (every 10-15 minutes).
 - b. Loose clothing, light colored shorts and tee shirts (mesh recommended) for practice sessions.
 - c. Frequent rest breaks in shaded areas.
 - d. For football and lacrosse, mandatory water breaks every 15 minutes during which all players must remove helmets. Those players not participating in contact activities during practice, games or scrimmages shall not wear helmets.
2. Full Heat Alert – When the heat index reaches 95 (equivalent to T.H.I. of 78), **no** physical activity in any sport is permitted. Team meetings are permitted.
3. Notification of Schools – The Section XI Safety Chairman, will monitor the heat index and will initiate a heat alert by notifying the Section XI Office as to the course of action. The Section XI staff will communicate this information to each member district through the Connect-Ed system, with specific instructions for heat alert implementation. (Rev 5/10)
4. No sport is exempt from modified or full heat alerts. (1/16/02)

SECTION XI CONTEST INTERRUPTION – THUNDER/LIGHTNING POLICY New for 2026-27

Applied to regular season through NYSPHSAA Finals:

1. Thunder and lightning necessitate that contest be suspended. The occurrence of thunder and/or lightning is not subject to interpretation or discussion- thunder is thunder, lightning is lightning. a. With your site administrator, set up a plan for shelter prior to the start of any contest.



- a. Suspect play and direct participants to go to shelter, a building normally occupied by the public or if a building is unavailable, participants should go inside a vehicle with a solid metal top (e.g. bus, van, and car).
- b. Do not permit people to stand under or near a tree; and have all stay away from poles, antennas, towers and underground watering systems.
- c. After the last boom is heard, strike is seen or lightning has not been detected within 15 miles of the event by using the My Lightning Tracker App (Jan. 2024), wait 30 minutes before resuming play or competition.

WEATHER PROBLEMS, EMERGENCIES, SCHOOL CLOSINGS (as printed in the directory on page 16): In the case of a postponement due to **rain, snow or emergency**, the home school notifies the assigned officials and advises them to contact Section XI for reassignment.

Make sure you notify us via the edit system when you cancel a contest (different from postponing – a cancellation will not be rescheduled). Use the comment section and indicate CANCELLED-NO RESCHEDULE. Otherwise the officials may get paid and then you will be billed.

INTERSTATE AND INTERNATIONAL ATHLETIC EVENTS

If you are planning any such event, you must visit the NYSPHSAA website (www.nysphsaa.org) and print the appropriate forms. Only these forms will be accepted.

Informative Websites:

Hazing information:

www.stophazing.org

FALL 2026-27 SPORT ASSIGNMENTS	Sport Coordinator	Ext	NOT DURING LUNCH

SECTION XI
NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
1 INDEPENDENCE HILL SUITE 201 FARMINGVILLE, NY 11738
631-366-0700

THOMAS COMBS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PETE BLIEBERG
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

To: All Sports Chairpersons
From: Tom Combs
RE: Sportsmanship

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association and Section XI would like to ask your cooperation in the promoting of the importance of proper sportsmanship at all of its athletic contests.

Trash talking, inappropriate comments and general poor sportsmanship have become an increasing problem and we would ask that you communicate the following guidelines with the coaches at your Mandatory Coaches Meeting.

- 1. There will be zero tolerance for harassing statements related to gender, race, ethnicity, disabilities, sexual orientation or religion by players, coaches, fans or officials.** It is our goal to reinforce our expectations of proper sportsmanship at all times. Incidents or violations will be handled through the regulations outlined in the NYS and Section XI procedures with the appropriate penalties administered.
- 2. We have asked the officials to deal with this type of behavior with immediate and strict enforcement.**
- 3. Officials are not to be involved directly with the spectators.** Officials will report this type of behavior with fans directly to the home school and follow proper procedures. Home school game administration will be responsible for the conduct at the game site.
- 4. Serious incidents or violations shall be reported to Section XI on the next Business day.**
- 5. Coaches are asked to reinforce proper sportsmanship with their players on a regular basis and model good sportsmanship themselves.**
- 6. Athletic Directors are asked to please review with their coaches the NYSPHSAA expectations and monitor their athletes and staff.**

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in creating a positive, enjoyable and healthy athletic experience for all.

cc: Anthony Desimone

SECTION XI
NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
1 INDEPENDENCE HILL SUITE 201 FARMINGVILLE, NY 11738
631-366-0700

THOMAS COMBS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PETE BLIEBERG
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

DATE: August 2026
TO: Section XI Coaches of Officiated Sports
FROM: Thomas J. Combs
RE: **Rating Officials**

Section XI provides a vehicle for coaches to evaluate the performance of game officials. It is our feeling that the system we use is the most comprehensive and effective method possible. We ask for your cooperation in this effort.

Some specifics we wish to reiterate:

1. At the conclusion of each contest, coaches are obligated to rate officials and opponents.
2. Officials DO NOT have access to the sources of their ratings. Confidentiality is a major priority. Even Section Sport Chairs are precluded from having this information. The Presidents of the officials' groups will verify the confidentiality of your ratings. Only the Section office staff has knowledge of rating sources.
3. The success of the rating system is totally dependent on your cooperation.
4. When evaluating each official, carefully consider the keys to each category:

Excellent	(5)	Should be reserved for a truly <u>outstanding performance</u> , a performance you would want on a championship contest. Over the course of a season, there should be very few 5's given.
Good	(4)	Means just that - a <u>good</u> performance, <u>not outstanding</u> , but <u>better than acceptable</u> - no complaints. Generally, we would expect to see more 4's than any other rating.
Acceptable	(3)	Should speak for itself. We would expect a fair number of these.
Poor	(2)	Definite flaws; contest was <u>seriously</u> affected. Hopefully, you will not need to give many during a season.
Inadequate	(1)	Absolutely unacceptable throughout the contest. Hopefully, your need to use this will be rare.

Each individual rating chosen (on each category) is a separate computer entry. The computer "computes" for each official by adding the total points and dividing by 5. This is the overall game rating for the official. This results in overall ratings such as 4.2, 3.4, 3.6, or 3.8 in addition to the whole numbers.

Best regards for an enjoyable and productive season.

Updated 2/2023

SECTION XI
NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
1 INDEPENDENCE HILL SUITE 201 FARMINGVILLE, NY 11738
631-366-0700

THOMAS COMBS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PETE BLIEBERG
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

To: All Coaches
From: Thomas J. Combs
RE: Automatic External Defibrillators

**THE FOLLOWING POLICIES ARE IN PLACE AND MUST BE FOLLOWED RELATED TO
AEDS AND EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS**

Coaches are reminded that Section 136.4 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education (9/2002) requires that schools provide and maintain sufficient automated external defibrillator equipment be available to ensure ready and appropriate access for use during emergencies as well as trained personnel to administer.

In order to provide an efficient and consistent handling of emergency situations the following steps **MUST** be followed:

1. The **Home School** is to be responsible for providing AED-trained personnel and a sufficient number of AED's at all interscholastic contests such that an AED can be effectively administered within 2-3 minutes to a stricken student-athlete, coach or spectator.
2. Prior to each contest, the home school coaching staff is to advise the visiting coaching staff and officials of the location of the AED and the personnel designated to utilize it.
3. All medical or AED-trained personnel that are present at the contest are to be identified prior to the contest.
4. All athletic emergencies are to be reported to the Athletic Directors of the respective districts immediately following the contest.
5. No contest will take place without an AED available and able to be administered as per #1 above.

Thank you for your cooperation and best of luck this season.

NYSACFO Enforcement of NFHS Rule 1-5-1e

I. NFHS Rule 1-5-1e

Rule 1: The Game, Field, Players and Equipment

Section 5: Player Equipment

Article 1: Mandatory Equipment. Each player shall participate while wearing the following pieces of properly fitted equipment, which shall be professionally manufactured and not altered to decrease protection.

- e: Pants which completely cover the knees, thigh guards and knee pads and any portion of any knee brace that does not extend below the pants

II. Enforcement Process

- a. Athletic Directors and Coaches will order properly sized pants and outfit players with pants that adhere to rule 1-5-1e. (i.e. "Pants which completely cover the knees")
- b. Officials during pre-game will remind players that pants must cover the knees or they will not be allowed to participate. Officials will also remind players that pants that are of proper length, must be pulled down to cover the knees or they will not be permitted to participate.
- c. A player entering the game with pants that are too short to cover the knees will be asked to return to the bench and the Head Coach will be assessed an unsportsmanlike penalty for allowing players to use illegal equipment. (Rule 9-8-1h)
- d. A player that has rolled up or tucked his pants in a way that they do not cover the knees will not be permitted to play. Officials will request a player entering the game to return to the sideline and pull his pants down to cover the knees.
- e. Repeated offenses for rolling up or tucking pants above the knees will result in the assessment of an unsportsmanlike penalty on the Head Coach. (Rule 9-8-1h)
- f. A second unsportsmanlike penalty on the Head Coach results in disqualification of the Head Coach. Per the NYSPHSAA Handbook, a coach who receives a disqualification penalty shall not participate in the next regularly scheduled contest.

III. NFHS News Letter

- a. Dr. Karissa Niehoff, in NFHS's January 8, 2025 NFHS News Letter stated the following:

The other disturbing development at the college level that is becoming more challenging for our membership is the lack of enforcement of uniform rules. The "individual over team" focus of college sports these days is on full display with many players' pants in football. Pants? Hardly. Call them shorts or cut-offs.

Adherence to playing rules must be enforced at the high school level, and being properly dressed is a part of NFHS playing rules in all sports. Again, the focus is on the team, not the individual. There are dress codes that must be followed in the classroom -- it should be no different on the football field or basketball court.

“Tommy Tough” Football Safety Standards

NYSPHSAA

Section XI in its never ending mission to provide its student-athletes with positive and safe athletic experiences has embarked on a journey to make the great game of football even better. Through the vision of the Cutinella Family and the stakeholders of Suffolk County football it is our hope that we can introduce and implement changes that will protect the integrity of the game, minimize risk and allow for positive growth.

Meetings with the Section XI Football Committee, Section XI Safety Committee, Suffolk County Football Officials Association and the Suffolk County Football Coaches Association have zeroed in on the following goals that will begin to be implemented in the spring of 2016 in Section XI and throughout NYS in 2017.

1. **Implementation of a mandatory safety statement that will be read pre-game by the officials to all players in grades 7-12 at all contests commencing in the fall of 2016.**
2. **Identification of a “Player Safety Coach,” as per USA Football.**
3. **Develop, promote and implement an education program for Athletic Directors, coaches, players, parents, spectators and communities focusing on safety and proper techniques as it relates to illegal helmet contacts. Programs will be designed and implemented targeting all stakeholders with our vision of minimizing risk thereby creating a safer game for all participants. Programs will begin in spring 2016.**
4. **Support officials associations in the enforcing of NFHS rules and regulations related to the penalties for illegal contacts and hits. Flagrant fouls will result in the appropriate yardage penalty as well as the ejection of the athlete from the contest. The illegal hits of targeting, illegal helmet contact (butt blocking, face tackling and spearing) and defenseless player hits will result in the appropriate yardage penalty as well as the player being removed from the field for at least one play.**
5. **Players and/or coaches ejected from a contest will be suspended from the next regularly scheduled contest as per the NYSPHSAA and Section XI Misconduct Policy. Repeated infractions may lead to additional penalties.**
6. **The Suffolk County Football Coaches Association has pledged its support to the officials to make the calls necessary to minimize the risks of the all participants as well as maintain the integrity of the game.**
7. **Support head coaches in the downloading of game film to the Officials Association for their review and use in the education and professional growth of all of its membership.**
8. **Support and work with USA Football in its efforts to promote and implement programs that are being created for the benefit of all in the game.**
9. **Work with Suffolk County Officials Association and Coaches Association in its commitment to dramatically reduce illegal hits. Data on the illegal hits of targeting, illegal helmet contact (butt blocking, face tackling and spearing) and defenseless player hits will be tracked and reported to Section XI for compilation. This data will aid us in the evaluation of our work.**
10. **Work with our Officials Association in the exploration and development of the best possible evaluation programs.**
11. **Commitment to bring each of these initiatives to the NYSPHSAA and NFHS level.**

We are confident that through the implementation of these strategies and commitment by all who love this great game we can create an even better experience for our student-athletes.

Pre-Game Officials Statement:

“In an effort to minimize risks to you and your opponent, helmets are not to be considered weapons and are not to be used as weapons. Helmets are not to be intentionally used to initiate illegal helmet contact against an opponent, such as spearing, targeting, butt blocking and face tackling.”

Sample Public Announcement During Football Game (should be announced at least 2 times during contest):

“The (insert name of both schools) school districts salute the Suffolk County Football coaches, officials and Athletic Administrators for implementing the Tommy Tough Football Standards, thereby reducing risks for all Suffolk County football players. We ask all spectators to join the Suffolk County coaches in supporting the officials when they make calls pertaining to targeting, illegal helmet contact and defenseless player hits. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Reminder....

RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES FOR AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS AT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONTESTS

- ❖ The home school is responsible for providing trained personnel and an adequate number of AEDs at all interscholastic contests.
- ❖ At cross country meets conducted at off-site locations, those schools designated as the home schools will bring an AED and the trained personnel to use it. The personnel from home schools will be assigned to a specific location on the course. All competing schools will receive AED location maps for this site at the beginning of the season.
- ❖ At Section XI sponsored team tournaments, the higher seeded team will be responsible for providing trained personnel and an AED.
- ❖ At Section XI sponsored individual sport tournament events, the host school will be responsible for providing trained personnel and an AED.
- ❖ At Section XI sponsored individual sport tournament events conducted at non-school sites, the sport chairman will designate particular schools to be responsible for providing trained personnel and an AED.
- ❖ On the occasion where a home school will not be providing an AED and trained personnel at a contest, it is the responsibility of that home school to so notify the visiting school in a timely manner.



2024 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES CHANGE

Clarified Home Team Uniform Requirement For Each Player [1-5-1b(3)] — The jerseys of the home team shall all be the same dark color(s) that clearly contrasts with white.

2024 EDITORIAL CHANGES

Football Helmet Warning Statement; 1-3-1b; 1-3-1g; 1-3-1i(5); 1-5-1a(1); 1-5-1b(2), (3); 1-5-1c(5); 1-5-1d(5)a; 1-5-2b; 1-5-3b(6); 1-5-3c(6); 1-7(7); 1-8; 2-8; 2-32-16; 5-2-4; 7-2 PENALTY; TABLE 7-5; 9-2 PENALTY; 9-5-1g; 9-8-1j; 9-8 PENALTY; 10-3-1c NOTE; 10-4; 10-5; TABLE 10-4; PENALTY SUMMARY; NFHS OFFICIAL FOOTBALL SIGNALS.

2024 POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Sportsmanship and Altercation Prevention and Protocol
2. Player Equipment and Enforcement
3. Formations

****FINAL as of June 1, 2024**



2023 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES CHANGES

Clarified That Towels Do Not Have To Be The Same Solid Color For Each Player [1-5-3a(5)a 4, 5 (NEW)]

Player towels may contain one manufacturer's logo and/or one school logo neither exceeding 2¼ square inches. Towels must be a solid color but now do not have to be the same solid color for each player. Towels may not be ball- or penalty-flag colored.

Clarified When A Player Is Inbounds After Being Out of Bounds [2-29-1]

This change clarifies when a player is inbounds after being out of bounds. There is no change to any foul or subsequent penalty provisions, or any rules related to illegal participation or the provisions regarding eligibility to catch a pass.

Added A List Of Criteria To Help Identify Players Who Should Be Defined As Defenseless Receivers [2-32-16d, 9-4-3g]

This change adds to the list of criteria to help identify players who should be defined as defenseless receivers related to application of unnecessary or excessive contact. This clarification should help game officials and coaches by defining allowable contact against defenseless receivers.

Intentional Grounding Exception Changed [7-5-2 EXCEPTION 2a, c (NEW)]

This change permits the exception for intentional grounding to the first and only player to possess the ball after the snap ends.

Removed "Intentional" From Pass Interference in TABLE 7-5 [TABLE 7-5(2)c (DELETE), 7-5 PENALTY]

By removing "intentional" from pass interference, this change puts the rule in line with how it is already enforced which is a 15-yard penalty.

Changes In Basic Spot Penalty Enforcement [10-4, 6]

This change restructures and clarifies the amendments to Rule 10 to eliminate the excessive penalty enforcements for offensive fouls that occur behind the line of scrimmage. This revision stipulates the basic spot for enforcement of fouls behind the line of scrimmage is the previous spot rather than the spot of the foul. Current penalties for illegal kicking, batting and participation fouls, and provisions for offensive fouls occurring in the end zone that may result in a safety remain intact.

Clarification On The Ball Being Handed Forward On A Running Play [Six-Player – Rule 7 (NEW)]

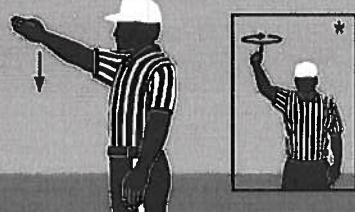
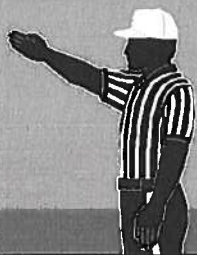
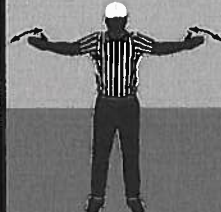
The change allows the ball to be handed forward on a running play, including to the guards/ends, while prohibiting handing the ball to the snapper provided both players are behind the neutral zone.

2023 EDITORIAL CHANGES

3-6-1b(1), NINE-, EIGHT- AND SIX-PLAYER RULES DIFFERENCES – RULES 2 and 7.



NFHS OFFICIAL FOOTBALL SIGNALS

1 Ball ready for play *Untimed down 	2 Start clock 	3 Time-out Discretionary or injury time-out (followed by tapping hands on chest) 		
4 TV/radio time-out 	5 Touchdown, Field goal, Point(s) after touchdown 	6 Safety 	7 Dead ball foul, Touchback (move side to side) 	
8 First down 	9 Loss of down 	10 Incomplete forward pass Penalty declined No play, no score Toss option deferred 	11 Legal touching of forward pass or scrimmage kick 	12 Inadvertent whistle 
13 Disregard flag 	14 End of period 	15 Sideline warning 	16 First touching Illegal touching 	17 Reset play clock to 25 seconds (Use both hands to have play clock reset to 40 seconds) 
18 Encroachment 	19 False start Illegal formation Free kick infraction 	20 Illegal shift (2 hands) Illegal motion (1 hand) 	21 Delay of game 	22 Substitution infraction 



NFHS OFFICIAL FOOTBALL SIGNALS

23 Disconcerting act	24 Illegal helmet contact Targeting	25 Illegal horse-collar tackle	26 Illegal blindside block	27 Unsportsmanlike conduct Noncontact foul
28 Illegal participation	29 Sideline interference (Face press box)	30 Running into or Roughing kicker or holder	31 Illegal batting/kicking (Followed by pointing toward toe for kicking)	32 Invalid fair catch Illegal fair catch signal
33 Forward pass interference Kick catching interference	34 Roughing passer	35 Illegal pass/forward handing (Face press box)	36 Intentional grounding	37 Ineligible downfield on pass
38 Personal foul	39 Clipping	40 Blocking below waist	41 Chop block	42 Holding/ obstruction Illegal use of hands/arms
43 Illegal block	44 Helping runner Interlocked blocking	45 Grasping face mask or helmet opening	46 Tripping	47 Disqualification



NFHS GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR FOOTBALL LINE-TO-GAIN CREWS

The typical line-to-gain crew consists of at least three individuals – A DOWN-MARKER INDICATOR OPERATOR and two to hold the rods. Unless otherwise possible by use of a fourth crew member, the DOWN-MARKER INDICATOR OPERATOR will attach the clip as specified. In some cases where a fourth crew member is present, that member may also be requested to record penalties on a chart provided by the game officials. It is strongly recommended that the members of the crew be adults and wear distinctive vests or jackets furnished by home or game management. Remind crew members that they are assistant officials, not fans.

PREGAME DUTIES

1. The line-to-gain crew shall meet the HEAD LINESMAN on the sideline opposite the press box at least 15 minutes before game time and also five minutes prior to the second-half kickoff. If an auxiliary down-marker indicator is used, the operator shall meet the LINE JUDGE on the press-box side at the same time.
2. The HEAD LINESMAN shall make certain that the official line-to-gain and down-marker indicators have been placed opposite the press box or on the designated sideline and that all are in good working order and conform to the rules. The LINE JUDGE shall make certain that the auxiliary down-marker indicator is in good working order and is placed on the opposite side of the field from the line-to-gain crew.
3. The complete concentration of the crew is absolutely necessary if crew members are to discharge their duties efficiently. The crew must refrain from showing any partisan reaction to the events taking place on the playing field. The crew must be prepared to act immediately on instructions from the HEAD LINESMAN so that teams and all concerned will know the exact situation concerning the down and yards to be gained. The crew shall not move or change the number of the down until signaled to do so by the HEAD LINESMAN. The AUXILIARY DOWN-MARKER INDICATOR OPERATOR shall act only on instructions from the LINE JUDGE. The crew must remain impartial and may not communicate down and distance information to members of the coaching staff or team.
4. While serving on the line-to-gain crew, the crew shall refrain from using items that would distract them from their responsibility (i.e. using electronic devices).

GAME PROCEDURES

1. On the HEAD LINESMAN'S signal, the crew shall move as quickly as possible to the next position.
2. When a runner or pass receiver is going out of bounds in the immediate vicinity, the involved crew member is to quickly and carefully drop the marker and move away from the sideline, keeping his/her eye on the spot of the marker. The crew members away from the play should hold their positions if possible.
3. The HEAD LINESMAN will set the spot of all first downs by going to the sidelines and marking, while facing the field, the exact spot where the rear stake will be set. The front crew member will then be sure the chain is fully extended before setting his/her stake.
4. The DOWN-MARKER INDICATOR OPERATOR, on every new series of downs, will set the down-marker indicator at the spot marked by the HEAD LINESMAN. When the line-to-gain equipment is moved, the rear rod is to be set behind the down-marker indicator and then the clip shall be placed at the back edge of the 5-yard line nearest the rear rod. The down-marker indicator must be held at all times in an upright position with the down correctly shown.
5. The DOWN-MARKER INDICATOR OPERATOR is to show the number of the down just completed and shall not indicate the new down until so notified by the HEAD LINESMAN. On instruction from the HEAD LINESMAN, the DOWN-MARKER INDICATOR OPERATOR will move the down-marker indicator to a new position with the marker indicator placed at the forward point of the ball and change the marker indicator to the correct down.
6. On all measurements for first down when the chain is moved onto the field, the DOWN-MARKER INDICATOR OPERATOR is to place his/her marker indicator at the spot of the front rod until a new series of downs is declared or the chain is returned to its previous position.
7. The chain is not extended if it is a first-and-goal situation. The HEAD LINESMAN should provide the DOWN-MARKER INDICATOR OPERATOR a bean bag in this situation to mark location of the box in case it is moved during the down.
8. The DOWN-MARKER INDICATOR OPERATOR should place the marker indicator on the line of scrimmage on all try situations. This will aid players and game officials in determining the line of scrimmage on all plays toward the sideline. The chain will not be placed on a try.
9. If the sidelines become crowded and the crew does not have room to efficiently discharge its duties, the crew is to notify the HEAD LINESMAN immediately so that a time-out may be called and sidelines cleared before the game will be allowed to proceed.
10. If the game is delayed for any reason, the crew will stay with the game officials.
11. The official line-to-gain and down-marker indicators shall be operated approximately 2 yards outside the sideline opposite the press box, except in stadiums where the total playing enclosure does not permit. Unofficial auxiliary line-to-gain and down-marker indicators may be used on the sideline opposite the official line-to-gain and down-marker indicators, and shall be operated approximately 2 yards outside the sideline, except in stadiums where the total playing enclosure does not permit. All indicators shall be operated as far off the sideline (up to 2 yards) as facilities permit and as directed by the HEAD LINESMAN and LINE JUDGE.
12. With the 40- or 25-second play clock, it is possible the ball may be snapped prior to the down-marker indicator being set. Should this rare situation occur, the HEAD LINESMAN shall drop a bean bag at the spot where the DOWN-MARKER INDICATOR OPERATOR shall spot the down-marker indicator.



NFHS GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR FOOTBALL GAME AND PLAY CLOCK OPERATORS

- A.** The game and play clock operators should report to the game officials at the stadium at least 30 minutes before game time for the following purposes:
1. To synchronize timer's watch with official game time as established by the game official responsible for timing.
 2. To advise game officials whether the game clock operator and/or play clock operator will be in the press box or on the field/side-line. Determine procedure for communications with both operators and test procedures prior to the games.
 3. To discuss coordination of starting, stopping and adjusting the game clock or play clock in accordance with the playing rules.
 4. To discuss if the game clock horn (mechanical signal) can be turned off. Preference is for the game clock horn (mechanical signal) to be turned off for the duration of the game.
- B.** The game clock is normally started 30 minutes before game time. The halftime intermission will start on the referee's signal when the players and game officials leave the field. All pregame and halftime activities shall be synchronized with the game clock. The mandatory three-minute warm-up period will be put on the game clock after the intermission time has elapsed and shall be started immediately.
- C.** The game clock operator shall have an extra stopwatch available. In case of failure of the game clock, the game clock operator shall immediately contact the game officials, giving them the correct data regarding the official time. The game official responsible for timing will then pick up the correct game time on the stopwatch. If the game clock becomes inoperative and is subsequently repaired, it will not be used again until the next period or when the referee determines it is operational. The public-address announcer shall indicate the game clock will not be official until the malfunction is corrected and a subsequent announcement is made on the public-address system.
- D. Game Clock Procedures**
1. The game clock operator is an integral member of the officiating crew and game administration. Unfair advantages occur when the game clock is not started or stopped correctly by rule. Great care must be exercised to see that no time lag occurs in starting or stopping the game clock.
 2. On all free kicks, the nearest game official(s) will signal the legal touching of the ball by indicating that the game clock should start.
 3. Any game official may signal a time-out; therefore, the game clock operator should be alert to stop the game clock.
 4. The incompletion signal will stop the game clock.
 5. The game clock operator will automatically stop the clock following a touchdown, field goal, touchback or safety after the appropriate scoring signal has been made.
 6. After the game clock has been stopped, the referee will start it again on the referee's start-the-clock signal and if no such signal is given, the game clock operator will start the clock on the snap without the signal from the referee.
 7. The referee may start the game clock again in certain instances before the ready-for-play.
 8. The try is not a timed down.
 9. There are instances when a period shall be extended by an untimed down. During these extensions, leave the game clock at :00. Do not reset the game clock for the next period until the referee declares the period over by facing the press box and holding the ball overhead.
 10. Each state association may decide whether or not to utilize a running game clock in certain situations, and the procedures for those situations.
- E. Play Clock Procedures**
1. The following set of instructions is for the play clock operators to assist with the rules on the play clock that now involves a 40-second or 25-second possibility for a delay of game. The following are the instructions for the 40-second and the 25-second play clock, to be used if and when visible play clocks are available to be used.
 2. Note to the Play Clock Operator: Starting the 40-second play clock "immediately" is to be interpreted as starting the 40 seconds as quickly as the covering official signals the end of the down using Signal #3 (time-out) or Signal #7 (dead ball with one arm straight up) or Signal #10 (incomplete pass). These are the only three signals you should expect at the end of a down prior to the 40-second play clock starting.
 3. The following addresses the play situations that require the 40-second option:
 - (a) The Team A (offense) runner is stopped inbounds short of a first down. The game clock continues to run and the 40-second play clock is started immediately except at the end of a 4th down.
 - (b) The Team A (offense) runner is stopped inbounds beyond the line-to-gain (first down). The game clock is stopped for the first down and the 40-second play clock is started immediately. The referee will then restart (wind) the game clock (no whistle involved) as quickly as the football is placed on the ground and ready for play.
 - (c) The Team A (offense) runner or a Team A fumble or a Team A backward pass goes out of bounds. The game clock is stopped and the 40-second play clock is started immediately. The game clock will not start again until the next legal snap.
 - (d) A Team A (offense) legal forward pass is incomplete. The game clock is stopped and the 40-second play clock is started immediately. The game clock will not start again until the next legal snap.