

A photograph of a softball player in a blue jersey with "BEAR" on it, wearing a white helmet with a blue logo and the number "00". She is running on a red dirt field. In the background, there is a chain-link fence and several spectators. The text "Softball Coaches Packet 2026" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, 3D-style font.

Softball Coaches Packet 2026

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

WEST VIRGINIA SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES COMMISSION



2875 Staunton Turnpike, Parkersburg, WV 26104-7219

TELEPHONE: 304-485-5494

E-MAIL: wvssac@wvssac.org

WEB SITE: www.wvssac.org



BULLETIN

TO: Softball Coaches
FROM: Jason Bankston, CAA Director of Compliance
DATE: February 2026
SUBJECT: 2025-2026 Softball

Required Reading:

1. Coaches Packet
2. NFHS Rule Book (last year)
3. Interscholastic (website)

Points of Emphasis:

1. Important dates for Softball:
 - a. Season starts Monday, **March 2, 2026**
 - b. Schedules due online - **prior to first contest**
 - c. First contest may be played - **March 16, 2026**
 - d. Regional – **May 11-23, 2025**
 - e. State Tournament – **May 27-29 (Class A & AA) June 2-4 (Class AAA & AAAA)**

TOURNAMENT DATES CANNOT BE CHANGED

2. Eligibility Certificates are due online no later than the date of the first contest according to the standardized calendar. **Failure will result in a \$25 fine and forfeit of all contests played.**
3. **Please review the WVSSAC Softball Program from the February issue of [The Interscholastic](#) for more information about the softball program. Please check *The Interscholastic* “online” for changes and updates periodically. There are changes on the post season format.**
4. The Wilson A9011 softball is the WVSSAC official ball. Refer to NFHS Rule 1.3.3 for ball specifications. This ball is required for all Regional and State tournament play. The NFHS authenticating mark must be on all balls.
5. All bats shall meet the ASA bat performance standard and shall be embossed with the permanent ASA approved certification mark. Refer to asasoftball.com for current approved and banned bat list.
6. Coaches' Apparel-Refer to [The Interscholastic](#)
Players' Uniform-Refer to [The Interscholastic](#)
7. Officials for the regional and state tournaments must be registered **Class I or II** officials unless written approval is given by WVSSAC. All attempts must be exhausted to obtain Class I or Class II officials before approval can be given to use Class III.
8. **All coaches for each sport are required to complete an Emergency Action Plan prior to 1st practice (Senate Bill 40). This must be completed online - See your Athletic Director for further information.**

9. **Sportsmanship**

A. **Rule 127-4-3 Code for Interscholastic Athletics** - Coaches are hereby notified to carefully review this rule with special emphasis on **3.8**. The first high school softball ejection would result in a three (3) game suspension; the first junior high/middle softball ejection would result in a two (2) game suspension.

Suspension/Recruitment Policies- Carefully review the enclosed rule clarifications and contact me if you have questions.

10. **Head Trauma Guidelines** – Refer to the approved Return to Play/Concussion Protocol. RTP refers to return to play and return to practice. The appropriate health care professional will determine when a concussed athlete may return to participation.
11. **Use of Drugs, Medication or Food Supplements by Athletes** - It is the philosophy of the National Federation and the WVSSAC that students be encouraged and supported in their efforts to develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle. In promotion of safety and healthy lifestyles, the WVSSAC Sports Medicine Committee requests that coaches assume the responsibility of informing athletes that the use of such substances should be discontinued especially during the times when dehydration may occur and the potential of life-threatening consequences.
12. **Injury/Participation Procedure at WVSSAC Championship Events** - Assigned medical personnel (athletic trainers) will have jurisdiction concerning the return of a player to competition after an injury.
13. **Dugout Personnel - Regional and State - Each team shall be allowed a maximum of twenty-two (22) school/team personnel in the dugout or on the bench.**
14. Any bat that has cracks or dents during inspection prior to the first game of the state tournament will remain in possession of the WVSSAC until the conclusion of the tournament.
15. Varsity teams (middle and high) are required to play 7 innings. Exception is in invitational tournament. Refer to Interscholastic IIF6.
16. Regional play must begin on Monday of week 45 unless both teams agree to begin on Tuesday.
17. All State- A reminder that All State is NOT selected by the WVSSAC, but rather by the WV Sports Writers Association, (WVSWA). Ballots and other information may be found on their website, (WVSWA).
18. Continuing for the 2025-2026 school year, **the use of face protection for Pitchers, first basemen, and third basemen is MANDATORY for all softball contests.**

**2025-2026
SOFTBALL RULES CLINICS**

DATE	LOCATION	TIME	COORDINATOR
Jan 24	Interpreters' Clinic Parkersburg (WVSSAC)	1:00 pm	Jason Bankston
Jan 24	Parkersburg (WVSSAC)	1:00 pm	Jason Bankston
Jan 26	Chapmanville Regional HS	6:00 pm	George Barker
Jan 27	Huntington HS	6:00 pm	Bruce Senior
Jan 28	John Marshall HS	6:00 pm	Roger Simmons
Jan 31	Spring Mills HS	9:00 am	Glenn Simpson
Jan 31	Frankfort HS	12:30 pm	Jay Hesse
Feb 2	Robert C. Byrd HS	6:00 pm	Eric Post
Feb 3	Herbert Hoover HS	6:00 pm	Richard Parsons
Feb 5	Woodrow Wilson HS	6:00 pm	Andrew Pinnick
Feb 9	*WVSSAC Office	5:00 pm	Jason Banskton

***Make-up Clinic**

SCHOOLS: The Head Coach shall be required to attend any sports rules clinics which are sponsored by this Commission in his/her coaching assignment. Schools failing to have a head coaching position filled at the time of the clinic will be required to have a school representative present at the rule's clinic. An individual can only represent one school unless he/she is head coach at both schools. In a 9-12 school, both the varsity and 9th grade coach are required to attend. Failure to have a representative at one of the above clinics will result in a \$50.00 fine. The clinic attendance requirement may not be granted if the coach or representative is late more than 10 minutes.

§127-3-26. Softball.

26.1. Rules: Softball rules published by the NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modifications.

26.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 35 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 37.

26.3. Length of Season: The softball season will end for each team by WVSSAC tournament elimination.

26.4. Maximum Team Contests: A softball team will be permitted to play no more than 32 contests exclusive of sectional, regional and state contests.

26.5. Scrimmages: Two softball scrimmages with another high school may be conducted. (See Glossary.).

26.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on **12** separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

26.7. Student Participation:

26.7.a. A student may not play or practice on a non-school softball team while a member of the school team.

26.7.b. A student shall not participate in more than 32 games in one season, exclusive of regional and state tournament contests. Serving as a “courtesy or pinch runner” is not considered “participation” in a game.

26.8. During the sport season, a student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events. These awards must be compliant with §127-3-5. Outside the sport season students may accept only compliant awards in non-sanctioned events.

26.9. Middle Schools: The above will apply for middle schools with the following adaptations:

26.9.a. Middle school teams may play 20 games including tournaments sanctioned by the WVSSAC.

26.9.b. Middle school season will be completed by Saturday of Week 45.

26.9.c. Middle school teams are permitted two scrimmages. (See Glossary.)

SOFTBALL RULE CHANGES

Softball Rules Changes – 2026

July 09, 2025

1-8-6: No player shall transmit or record audio or video from the playing surface. New language further clarifies the use of electronic devices and what is not permitted.

Rationale: This change clearly defines the types of electronic devices prohibited by the rule.

Rule 8: Rule 8 has been reformatted for clarity. Changes have separated longer articles, and organized exceptions, penalties, and effects into outline format for better comprehension.

Rationale: Added article references to PENALTIES and EFFECTS, and Section 4 was separated into two sections addressing runners entitled to advance with and without liability to be put out to delineate differences.

10-4-2: Effective January 1, 2027, heather gray umpire pants will no longer be permitted. NFHS umpire slacks may either be charcoal gray or navy blue. The heather gray option was stricken from the rules book.

Rationale: Manufacturers have discontinued producing heather gray umpire pants. This change will assist umpires in the purchase of pants that are currently being manufactured.

2026 SOFTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES

1-6-6, 2-25-3, 3-2-3a & b, 3-2-5, 3-6-PENALTIES (Arts. 11 through 16), 4-3-1f & g, 4-3-2, 6-2-NOTE

2026 SOFTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Obstruction
2. Maintaining an Unobstructed View

NOCSAE Manual Helmet Information

NOCSAE Licensed Reconditioners

Licensed reconditioners themselves test used helmets to the original standard applicable when the helmet was new.

The NOCSAE helmet standards are voluntary test standards that have been developed to reduce head injuries by establishing requirements of impact attenuation for football helmets/face masks, baseball/softball batting helmets, baseballs and softballs, and lacrosse helmets/face masks. These standards are adopted by various regulatory bodies for sports, including the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

NOCSAE continually studies all types of helmets and test conditions, and the severity of the tests will be changed when credible evidence is presented that such changes will affect injury reduction.

The NOCSAE helmet standard is not a warranty, but simply a statement that a particular helmet met the requirements of performance tests when it was manufactured or reconditioned. For football helmets, NOCSAE does recommend that the consumer adhere to a program of periodically having used helmets recertified. Because of the difference in the amount and intensity of usage on each helmet, the consumer should use discretion regarding the frequency with which certain helmets are to be recertified.

Those helmets which meet the NOCSAE standard must bear the seal, "Meets NOCSAE standards" and the logo for that type of helmet. The seal and the logo are permanently branded on the outside rear portion of the helmet.

The NOCSAE standard does not require the use of specific brand name replacement parts when helmets are reconditioned. Neither the test nor the performance standard call for any specific materials or designs. The standard speaks only to the performance of the helmet when new, or after reconditioning and recertification.

NOCSAE licensed Reconditioners

(List Available: <http://www.naera.net/members.htm>)

ACE RECONDITIONERS

ADAMS, U.S.A.

ALL SPORT SERVICES

ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT REPAIR CORP

ATHLETIC RECONDITIONING, INC.

ATHLETIC SUPPLY

AUSTIN ATHLETIC MFG.

CAPITOL VARSITY SPORTS

CLEAN GEAR USA

CONTINENTAL ATHLETICS

E&R ATHLETICS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GRIDIRON, INC.

GUNTHER'S ATHLETIC SERVICE

HARCO RECONDITIONERS

J&H ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT RECONDITIONING

MAXLETCS SPORTS LLC

MERCURY SPORTS

PROLINE, INC

RIDDELL/ALL AMERICAN

SCHUTT SPORTS

SPORT SYSTEMS, INC.

SCHUTT RECONDITIONING EASTON

SPORTSMAN'S RECONDITIONING

STADIUM SYSTEM, INC.

SUNVALCO ATHLETIC

TUCKER MFG CO, INC.

XENITH

NOCSAE Catcher's Helmet and Mask Certification Information

Beginning January 1, 2003, the NOCSAE standard for a catcher's headgear is in effect. The NOCSAE standard for a catcher's helmet and mask only applies to products where the helmet and face guard (mask) are attached together by some means, either permanent means or something as simple as Velcro. It is not possible for a catcher's face guard (mask) or a catcher's helmet to be NOCSAE tested and certified as individual units. If however, these individual units are used together in a combination intended by the manufacturer(s), they have to be tested together to the NOCSAE standard in that combination in order to be legal. Remember the face guard (mask) portion must attach to the helmet, and only the helmets will *have* the NOCSAE stamp. This means that it will be virtually impossible for umpires on the field to determine if different manufactured components have been tested and certified together.

If the umpires have any doubt regarding the legality of any combination, then the umpires shall require the head coach to provide written documentation verifying the legality of that combination in question. The written verification shall include a statement indicating that the individually manufactured components of the combination have been tested and certified together as called for in the standard. Any helmet and mask combination that has been manufactured together as a single unit (hockey style helmets) and has been certified to meet the NOCSAE standard will have their stamp on it. Umpires can then tell if it is legal helmet by identifying stamp.

Manufacturer Certifies



Baseball/Softball Catcher's Helmet

The NOCSAE® Baseball/Softball Catcher's Helmet standard was first published in 1998. Manufacturers began making helmets to meet the NOCSAE® standard in January 1999.

This new standard requires a "full coverage" helmet with a faceguard attached. It is possible to use a helmet from one manufacturer with another manufacturer's faceguard, provided they are attached in some manner and the resulting particular combination is tested as a unit and found to meet the standard. This information should be provided in the literature that accompanies each product. The information stating that a particular combination meets the standard is required to be included in the literature for each of those components.

The consumer can readily identify certified helmets and faceguards by the seal "Manufacturer Certifies Meets NOCSAE Standard®" permanently affixed on the outside portion of each helmet. The standard applies to both traditional helmet and mask combinations, as well as the newer single piece design.

Lacrosse

A standard for the lacrosse helmet and facemask was published by NOCSAE® in 1986, and was adopted by the NCAA, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and other regulatory groups. The consumer can readily identify certified helmets by the seal "Manufacturer Certifies Meets NOCSAE Standard®" permanently affixed on the outside portion of each helmet.

Ice Hockey

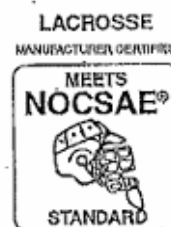
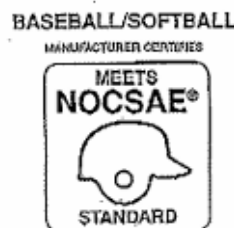
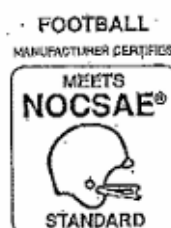
NOCSAE published a standard for Ice Hockey helmets in 2004, following research into the performance of ice hockey helmets when tested to the NOCSAE lacrosse helmet standard. Although there are many similarities between the play in lacrosse and ice hockey, including the use of a stick and an object propelled at very high velocities, there are unique impact risks with each sport, not the least of which is the presence of very hard surfaces in ice hockey. The standard has not yet been incorporated into the rules of play for any governing body, but an organization that certifies ice hockey equipment is considering whether to utilize this standard as part of its independent certification process.

Polo

A Polo helmet standard was first published by Dr. Voigt Hodgson in the early 1980s. That standard was revised and republished in 2004, with clarifications and modifications. Though the sport is played by a small number of participants, polo riders face extreme head injury risks from mallets and balls as well as falls from their horses.

Helmet Logos

The helmet logos that must be displayed on the rear outside portions of all certified helmets are as shown:



Baseball/Softball Batter's or Catcher's Helmet

A number of guidelines are in place, to assist persons responsible for the inspection of and repair/maintenance of helmets. The following list is not intended to cover every observation. It is recommended that a periodic inspection be made of all helmets.

Suggested Inspection Check List

EXTERIOR:

Check helmet fit for agreement with manufacturer's instructions and procedures

Examine shell for cracks, particularly noting any cracks around holes (where most cracks start). Replace any shells that have cracked.

DO NOT USE A HELMET WITH A CRACKED SHELL.

Examine all mounting rivets, screws, Velcro® and snaps for breakage, distortion and/or looseness. Repair as necessary.

Read instructions provided by manufacturer regarding care and maintenance procedures. Always follow these instructions.

If the helmet has a facemask attached, make sure it is a mask that has been certified to that particular helmet. A list of matched helmets should be provided with the facemask when purchased, unless the mask came with the helmet as a new set.

CAUTION:

Only paints, waxes, dyes or cleaning agents approved by the manufacturer are to be used on any helmet. It is possible to get a severe or delayed reaction by using unauthorized materials, which could permanently damage the helmet shell and affect its performance and durability.

LAYERS:

Inspect your particular helmet prior to each usage as follows:

EXTERIOR: Padded Style

Check foam padding for proper placement and any deterioration. Check for cracks in the vinyl/rubber covering of air, foam and liquid padded helmets.

Check that the protective system or foam padding has not been altered or removed.

3. Examine for helmet completeness and replace any liner parts which are missing or have become damaged or deteriorated.

4. Replace jaw pads when damaged. Check for proper installation and fit.

If any of the above inspections indicate a need for repair and/or replacement, notify your coach immediately. This is your responsibility.

NEVER WEAR A DAMAGED HELMET!

Other Considerations

In addition to compliance with the testing protocol and performance standards, NOCSAE® recommends that a helmet inventory system be adopted so that the age, usage and reconditioning frequency for each helmet can be followed. It is also recommended that football and lacrosse helmets be reconditioned and recertified as frequently as is feasible, depending on usage, condition and age of the helmet.

There is no NOCSAE standard that requires recertification of any helmet. Some helmet manufacturers may require that their helmets be reconditioned and recertified on a particular frequency as a condition of maintaining warranty coverage, or to extend the useful life of the helmet, but such recertification is not required or mandated by NOCSAE.

NOCSAE NON-HELMET STANDARDS

Soccer Shinguards

In 2002, at the request of the NCAA and the NFHS, NOCSAE began investigating the performance parameters for soccer shinguards as related to impact forces experienced in games and practices, as well as lower leg coverage and fit. Following a long review and comment period, a final standard was published in June 2006, and became effective in June 2007.

Initially the standard was incorporated into the rules of play from the NCAA and the NFHS, and as of the fall of 2008, shinguards certified to the NOCSAE standard will be required for all participants in games governed by the published rules of the NCAA and the NFHS.

SOFTBALL OR BASEBALL LINEUP CARD

School: _____

Opponent: _____

(Circle One)

Date: _____ Home Visitor

Order	Pos.	No.	STARTERS	No.	SUBSTITUTES
			Name		Name
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					

SOFTBALL OR BASEBALL LINEUP CARD

School: _____

Opponent: _____

(Circle One)

Date: _____ Home Visitor

Order	Pos.	No.	STARTERS	No.	SUBSTITUTES
			Name		Name
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

SOFTBALL OR BASEBALL LINEUP CARD

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(Circle One)

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Order	Pos.	No.	STARTERS	No.	SUBSTITUTES
			Name		Name
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					

SOFTBALL OR BASEBALL LINEUP CARD

School: _____

Opponent: _____

(Circle One)

Date: _____ Home Visitor

Order	Pos.	No.	STARTERS	No.	SUBSTITUTES
			Name		Name
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

WEST VIRGINIA SECONDARY SCHOOL
ACTIVITIES COMMISSION
2875 Staunton Turnpike
Parkersburg, WV 26104

SUBSTITUTES	
No.	Name

ALL OF MY PLAYERS ARE EQUIPPED
ACCORDING TO THE RULES

Signature of Coach _____
Umpire to complete at conclusion or point of suspension

Time Started _____ Ended _____ Innings _____
Score _____ Signature _____

CONFERENCES

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

OFFENSE									
DEFENSE									

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CONFERENCES

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

OFFENSE									
DEFENSE									

CONFERENCES

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

OFFENSE									
DEFENSE									

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRAM INFORMATION

Goal: *To provide a quality program for all championship events*

What: *State Softball Championship Program*

Deadline: *Wednesday, May 20, 2026, by NOON (No extensions past the noon deadline)*

***ALL CLASSES SHOULD SUBMIT IMMEDIATELY UPON
COMPLETION OF YOUR REGIONAL TOURNAMENT, EVEN IF
YOUR TEAM IS STILL COMPETING***

Login as the School Administrator (www.wvssac.org) and Update the Information Below:

1. Update the Eligibility Certificates Online
2. Update Your School Information/Head Coach Information/Roster Information
3. Remember what you enter online is what will be printed in the championship program, so please make sure you have reviewed this information for accuracy. This will be the school's responsibility.

Items that need to be emailed to: anna.brown@wvssac.org by to the deadline listed above:

1. Team Picture
2. Head Coach's Picture
3. Team Page Sponsor (*Team Page Sponsor refers to the person/s or business/organization that is going to pay for the team page. Example: a local business, booster club etc.*) If no sponsor is provided the school will be listed and invoiced for the team page
4. Ad-The Ad is about the size of a business card.
5. Team Page-Cost - \$125.00-Make Checks Payable to WVSSAC and Mail to Address Below

When emailing the above information. Please enter the school's name

(No Abbreviations, please) and sport in the subject line of the email.

Mail payment to:

Attn: *Anna Brown*
WVSSAC
2875 Staunton Turnpike
Parkersburg, WV 26104
Phone (304) 485-5494
Email: anna.brown@wvssac.org



Refer to the previous page
for instructions on
filling out coaching and team
information online.



Regional Tournament Directors are to give a copy of this Rooming List Information Sheet and the Rooming List to the coach of each state qualifier.

WVSSAC STATE TOURNAMENT ROOMING LIST INFORMATION

Please complete the rooming list for this year's State Tournament. Area hotels/motels usually provide rooms at a special rate to those teams and parents attending the State Tournament. Payments for teams must be made in full by a **school check** (not personal) for all expenses.

Reservations must be made as early as possible. When speaking with the hotel/motel contact, please be sure to identify your school's name and indicate that the reservations are for the state tournament.

Please check the website for the approved list of hotels/motels who will provide rooms for your sport state tournament.

Please complete the WVSSAC State Tournament Rooming List and fax a copy to the WVSSAC upon the completion of the Regional Tournament.

Hotel / Motel Policy

Effective with the 2010-2011 school year, member schools that are eligible to receive reimbursement at state championship sites **MUST** be housed at hotel/motel sites that participate in a cooperative agreement with the WVSSAC. *(Member schools will be notified by information posted on the WVSSAC website and material included in the sport specific coaches' packets as to which lodging sites have entered into an agreement with the WVSSAC.)*

Schools that choose to use unapproved lodging sites will not receive any reimbursement.

----- **HIGH SCHOOL ONLY** -----

WVSSAC STATE TOURNAMENT ROOMING LIST

**Due Monday
Following
Region**

School Name _____ Sport Softball
 Address _____
 Principal _____
 Athletic Director _____
 Coach _____
 Person In Charge of Supervision _____
 Hotel/Motel Name _____



Coach Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

- * List each person who will be staying in each room and his/her official capacity. (Coach or Player)
- * Reservations should be made as early as possible.
- * After making reservations, send a copy of the room list to Anna Brown (anna.brown@wvssac) and to the hotel/motel contact person. If any changes are made to the room list, a revised copy should be submitted to the hotel/motel management immediately upon arrival.

Room #1 Name Official Capacity 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	Room #9 Name Official Capacity 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	
Room #2 Name Official Capacity 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	Room #10 Name Official Capacity 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	
Room #3 Name Official Capacity 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	Room #11 Name Official Capacity 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	
Room #4 Name Official Capacity 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	Room #12 Name Official Capacity 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	
Room #5 Name Official Capacity 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	Room #13 Name Official Capacity 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	
Room #6 Name Official Capacity 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	Room #14 Name Official Capacity 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	
Room #7 Name Official Capacity 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	Room #15 Name Official Capacity 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	
Room #8 Name Official Capacity 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	Room #16 Name Official Capacity 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____	

4.

----- HIGH SCHOOL ONLY -----

My PIN/Password! How Do I Get It? - High School Coaches Only!

For High School Sports: Football, Volleyball, Soccer, Basketball, Wrestling, Softball and Baseball

1. Go to www.wvssac.org
2. Go to Admin Login (Located in the left-hand corner of the homepage)
3. If you have not logged into the new site to request a PIN; in the Username and Password section enter wvcoach. Click on Log In
4. On the Create New Coach Account page:
 - a. Select your School from the drop-down box
 - b. Enter your First Name
 - c. Enter your Last Name
 - d. Enter your Email Address
 - e. Select your Sport from the drop-down box
 - f. Click on Create Coach Account button
 - g. A page will display your PIN/Password. Your PIN/Password are the same. **Keep this information because we will not be able to retrieve your PIN/Password.**



COACHING REMINDERS



Practice: Team members must have 12 practices on 12 separate days - 5 days sports specific if participating in another sport during the same sports season. A student must have 5 days of practice if coming from one sports season into the next sports season without interruption of school days. Only students enrolled in the specific member school and a member of team is allowed to practice. Rule 127-2-13.

Sunday Contests: Contests or practice on Sunday is prohibited. Practice refers to any group or individual meeting to view films or activity associated with the activity of that sports season. Rule 127-3-14.

Physical Exam: Team members must have Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physician's Certificate form completed and on file before beginning practice. Rule 127-3-3. (Must be on or after May 1st.)

All-Star Competition: Any student completing athletic eligibility at the end of current school year because of age or completion of semesters of eligibility may play in two (2) all-star games upon conclusion of the season without loss of eligibility for balance of year. Rule 127-3-4.

Awards: Team members can accept awards from school sponsoring a sanctioned event or the school. Wearing apparel, championship rings, equipment, and athletic goods that exceeds \$100.00 are prohibited from any source. Rule 127-3-5.

Out of Season Coaching: Coaches may not promote, initiate, organize, supervise or participate in out-of-season events involving students of the same sport as the grade level coaching assignment and preceding grade level except as specified in Rules 127-3-7.2 and 127-3-7.3. Rule 127-3-7.7.

Amateur: Any team member competing for money, receiving any award or prize of monetary value that has not been approved by the WVSSAC, capitalizing on athletic fame or signing a professional playing contract in that sport is prohibited. Rule 127-2-11.

Participation as Ineligible: Any student who participates as ineligible may forfeit eligibility for up to 365 days. Rule 127-2-12.

Sanctioning and Travel: A member school shall not enter a contest, tournament, or competition which requires sanctioning until it is approved 30 days prior to the event. Rule 127-3-16.

For complete details regarding the above regulations and those governing team memberships, scholarship, undue influence, age, semester, etc. refer to the **Rules & Regulations Handbook** or at www.wvssac.org.

This is not a comprehensive listing.

§127-2-13. Practice.

- 13.1. Only students enrolled and eligible to be listed on the eligibility certificate for that sport in the specific member school are allowed to participate in that school's practices. Exceptions are §§127-2-3.2, 127-2-3.5, and 127-2-13.6. (Revised 2012-13)
- 13.2. The frequency and length of practice is at the discretion of each member school.
- 13.3. Member schools of the WVSSAC may practice on any day of the year with the exception of Sunday practice. §127-2-13.2 further clarifies Sunday practice.
- 13.4. Individual players of a team must have practiced:
 - 13.4.a. on **five** separate days before participating in an interscholastic scrimmage. (Effective September 13, 2021)
 - 13.4.b. on **12** separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest. The following sport(s) is exempted from the provisions of this rule: golf. (Effective September 13, 2021)
 - 13.4.c. a student athlete who is absent from practice with their team for non-medical reasons, and not under a doctor care, for more than 14 consecutive days must have the required full 12 practice days before resuming participation in a contest. Students participating in football must follow the practice progression as set forth in §127-2-13. (Revised 2011-12)
- 13.5. A student shall not be permitted to engage in interscholastic practice until that student has filed with the principal a completed Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physician's Certificate Form. §127-2-13.3 further explains this required form.
- 13.6. A student academically ineligible may begin practicing 15 school days immediately prior to the date of regaining full eligibility. (All other ineligible students may not practice.)
- 13.7. If a student has established eligibility in a sport requiring 12 separate days of practice and is continuing to participate in that sport or no school days have lapsed from one sport to another sport in a same season, the student may participate in another sport of the season after completing five separate days of sport specific practice in the second sport. (Revised 2018-19)
- 13.8. Students participating in a sport(s) in one season must have practiced 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, to be eligible to participate in a sport in the next season with the following exception: the student has continued to practice or participate in tournament play without an interruption of school days. The student must complete five separate days of sport specific practice in the second sport.

(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.



SPECTATOR SUPPORT INFORMATION FOR TOURNAMENTS

The following sport support information is provided for each specified sport. ONLY those items marked with "Yes" are allowed during tournament play (sectional, regional, and state). It is recommended that schools follow these regulations during regular season play.

Vocal cheering and support from team bench areas are encouraged, however, the items indicated on this page are for use by spectators. Schools must stress GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP when allowing any item to be used. All items must be for support of your team and not directed against the opponent.

Legend: BSK Basketball CC Cross Country SB Softball TE Tennis WR Wrestling
 BB Baseball FB Football SC Soccer TR Track & Field
 CH Cheer GO Golf SW Swimming VB Volleyball



SPORT	BSK	BB	CH	CC	FB	GO	SB	SC	SW	TE	TR	VB	WR
Apparel Required Upper/Lower Body Garments	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Balloons	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Banners on wall/ Stadium	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Cheer & Band Member "Human" Tunnels	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Permanent Signage/ Advertisement Senior Pictures	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Confetti/Paper Debris	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Hand-held Signs (one holder)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Inflatable Tunnels	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Laser Pointer	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Miniature sports Balls thrown to crowd	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Noise makers (Horns, cow bells, bells, buzzers, clickers, etc.	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Opening Prayer / Invocation	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Paper banners for team to run through	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pom poms Sprit Towels	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Recorded/taped. music over amplifying system (only pregame or halftime)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
School Band, Pep Band	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Pressurized Air Horn Electronic Bull Horn	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Megaphones (as intended)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cannons & Muskets	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
50-50 Drawing	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Reserve Seating State Only	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

DP / FLEX REMINDERS

1. A DP does not have to be used	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.
2. If used, it must be noted on the starting lineup.	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.
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.	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.
4. The STARTING DP can play defense for any of the other 9 players in the lineup.	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.
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.	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.
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.	

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.