



SECTION IX BY LAWS

Section IX Unsportsmanlike Conduct Rule

Sportsmanship: The NYSPHSAA and Section IX recognizes and appreciates that the influence and responsibility of the school administration with regard to good sportsmanship extends to all levels of competition. However, it must also be seen that the NYSPHSAA AND Section IX has been vested with the responsibility to ensure that all contests under its jurisdiction are conducted satisfactorily. This standard applies to all regular season and post schedule play.

I. Coach:

1. Any coach excluded by a certified official from an interschool competition for unsportsmanlike conduct is ineligible to coach any interschool competition in that sport until after the next previously scheduled contest at the same level (e.g. junior varsity, varsity, etc.) has been completed. **The coach may not be present at the game site. NOTE:** “Not being physically present at the site” means the disqualified coach is not to be present in the locker room, on the sidelines, in the stands or site area before, during or after the game/meet.
2. A coach who strikes, shoves, kicks or makes other physical contact with the intent to do so to another person (e.g. official, another coach, player, and fan) shall be expelled immediately and banned from further participation or coaching in all sports for one year from the date of the offense.
3. The coach of the player(s) who was ejected will notify his/her Athletic Director of the incident on the same day that it occurred. The Athletic Director will then contact the League Coordinator to confirm that the player(s) will not be allowed to participate in the school’s next scheduled game/games as above.

II. Player:

1. Any member of a squad ruled out of a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct or for a flagrant foul will have the following occur:
 - A. First Ejection – that player(s) cannot attend or participate in the next scheduled contest **in that sport**. If the season has ended the player(s) cannot attend or participate in the next scheduled contest in his/her next season of participation.
 - B. Second Ejection – that player(s) cannot attend or participate in the next two scheduled contests **in that sport**. If the season has ended the player(s) cannot attend or participate in the next two scheduled contests in his/her next season of participation.
 - C. Third Ejection – that player(s) cannot attend or participate in any remaining scheduled contests for the remainder of that sports season. If the season has ended the player(s) cannot attend or participate in the next three scheduled contests in his/her next season of participation.

Please note: Disqualified from one season carry over to the next season of participation.

2. Any member of the squad who strikes, shoves, kicks or makes other physical contact with the intent to do so to an official shall be expelled from the game immediately and banned from further participation in all sports for one year from the date of the offense. **NOTE:** “Member of the squad” includes player, manager, scorekeeper, timers, and statisticians.

III. Official:

1. Unprofessional conduct on the part of official such as, but not limited to, taunting, baiting, use of profanity, shall be reported by a school administrator from the aggrieved school to the Section

Executive Director. A request will be made to the appropriate sport officials' chapter to investigate the incident and to report their action to the Section in a timely manner.

2. The official who ejected the player(s) or coach shall notify the League Coordinator prior to 12:00 Noon the following day of the name(s) of the player(s) or the coach and the infraction(s). The League Coordinator shall notify the Athletic Director of the offending school.

Section IX Coaches Code of Conduct

In order to ensure that the principles of sportsmanship, fair play, skill development, and mutual respect among players, coaches, officials and spectators are the primary considerations governing competition in Section IX, the following Code of Conduct has been established and adopted.

Each coach shall:

1. Know the rules and abide by them. Instruct team members in the rules and coach his team in such a way as to motivate each player to compete according to the rules at all times.
2. Respect the game officials and refrain from questioning their decisions in a disrespectful or abusive manner. No negative comments in media.
3. Ensure that all facility rules and regulations are followed by the players, coaches and spectators, respecting at all times the property of others.
4. Assist the game officials in maintaining control of spectators during the games when necessary.
5. Respect the coaches and players of the opposing team and demonstrate appropriate gestures of sportsmanship during the play of the game and at its conclusion. Be humble and generous in victory. Be proud and courteous in defeat. Teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
6. Maintain emotional and physical control, avoiding the use of abusive language or profanity, humiliating remarks, gestures of ill temper, and physical assault upon another individual.
7. Instruct team support personnel (e.g., assistant coaches, managers, scorebook keepers, and timekeepers) in their responsibilities in accordance with established rules and procedures.
8. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on its sportsmanship, courtesy and conduct.

Section IX Spectator Code of Conduct

At the May 2023 NYSPHSAA Executive Committee the following Spectator Sportsmanship Regulation was approved:

Any negative, inappropriate, derogatory comments or actions that draw the direct attention of a supervisor or school administrator by a spectator or group of spectators are required to be addressed by the host school, Sectional or NYSPHSAA representative in the following non-sequential order depending on the comments or behavior:

- **First warning** – Directing the spectator or group of spectators to refrain from any negative comments or actions.

- **Second warning** – A personal discussion with the spectators or group of spectators on the above NYSPHSAA expectations and reminding the spectators or group of spectators of the next step, removal of the game or event, will be utilized if the behavior continues.
- **Removal from the contest** – The spectator or group of spectators will be directed to leave the facility for the remainder of the game or event. If spectators or group of spectators refuse to leave the game or event, play will be stopped until they vacate the premise.

Penalty for being removed from a game or event: Any spectator removed from a game or event will have a minimum penalty of completing the NFHS Parent Credential course or a one game suspension before they are allowed to attend any interscholastic event. Once the course is completed the spectator will provide a certificate of completion to the athletic department office. Schools are required to communicate with the offending spectator on the NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Spectator Expectations.

- Depending on the severity of the behavior/comments or future disqualifications by the offending spectator NYSPHSAA and the Section may get directly involved in the situation.

Section IX Athletics recognizes the importance of behavior and personal character in our student athletes. As such, we ask our spectators to:

1. Demonstrate a high degree of sportsmanship.
2. Show team support by making only positive comments.
3. Show respect for the judgment of coaches, officials, and referees.
4. Acknowledge fields, courts and equipment as the player's domain during contests.
5. Monitor the safety of children in the bleachers and stands.
6. Respect the law. All public schools and Section IX venues are smoke-free, substance free environment.
7. Athletic contests home, away or at a neutral site are an extension of the classroom. Therefore, all school rules are in effect.
8. Spectators will respect and obey all school officials, supervisors and site personnel at contests.
9. There will be no ringing of bells, sounding of horns, or other noise makers at indoor contests.* Outdoor use will be at the discretion of the site personnel.

*This does not apply to spirit groups including school approved pep bands or cheerleaders.

10. The throwing of debris, confetti, or other objects from the stands is prohibited. Offending individuals will be asked to leave the premises.
11. Exceptions to this behavior will lead to ejection from the event.

***Please note that individual schools may have more stringent policies. ***

Section IX Procedures for Weather Delays or Cancellations of Section IX Contests

1. In sectional competition between two individual schools, e.g. baseball, basketball, etc., the respective Superintendents of the competing school will determine if weather conditions are safe enough for travel

and competition. The Sports Chair for the contest in question will advise the respective athletic directors of the playing venue conditions.

2. In sectional competition involving multiple schools, the respective Sports Chair will advise the Executive Director or designee of any adverse conditions. The Executive Director or designee will consult with the participating schools then decide whether to hold or cancel the competition.
3. All sectional scheduling will include a make-up date, published in advance, to be used if necessary.
4. In the unlikely event that no sectional play is possible to determine a Section IX representative for state competition, the Executive Director or Designee in consultation with the respective Sports Chair will determine the sectional representative. Under ordinary circumstances, this will be the highest seed. If due to unforeseen circumstances, the highest seed is not chosen, the selection of the sectional representative by the Executive Director or Designee is final and binding.

Section IX Volleyball Committee

Name , School & e-mail	League	Phone
Amanda Zgrodek Eldred High School zgrodeka@eldred.k12.ny.us	Sectional IX Chair OCIAA Representative	School: 845-456-1100 x5020 Cell: 845-978-9895
Steve Boucher Rhinebeck High School sboucher@rhinebeckcsd.org	MHAL Representative	School: 845-871-5500 xt5535
Debra Crowe debracrowe752@gmail.com		Cell: 914-474-5460

POSTSEASON DATES
Section IX Volleyball Tournament

Wednesday, October 28th – Sectional Point cards due

Thursday, October 29th – Seeding Meeting (Committee Only)

Saturday, October 31st – Friday, November 6th – Sectional matches. Preliminary matches at site of higher seed. 3 out of 5 with all matches beginning at 5 PM unless mutual agreement by schools involved.

Sectional Championships will be held between Thursday, **November 5th** and **Sunday, November 8th**

Location: Mount Saint Mary's College, Times :TBD

SECTION IX CHAMPIONSHIPS VENUES:

It is the responsibility of the sport chairperson to consider the viability of all championship sites located within Section IX. Every consideration will be made to avoid potential scheduling issues with facilities for sectional and championship games.

The sport committees will make recommendations to the Executive Director to place all sectional finals at sites that are of the highest quality for the athletes, officials, and spectators. Once these sites for the sectional finals are established, they will not be changed due to a host team's potential involvement in the finals.

NYS Regional Semi-finals (Nov 10-12)

Class AA – **Section IX @ Section I**

Class A – **Section IX @ Section I**

Class B – **Section IX @ Section I**

NYS Regional Championship (Nov 13-15)

Class AAA – Section XI /Section VIII winner **@ Section IX/ Section I winner** (will depend on if we send a team)

Class AA – Section XI /Section VIII winner **@ Section IX/ Section I winner**

Class A – **Section IX/ Section I Winner @**Section XI / Section VIII winner

Class B – **Section IX/ Section I winner @** Section XI/ Section VIII

Class C – **Section IX @** Section II

Class D – **Section IX @** Section XI

Final Four Harding Mazzotti Arena – Glens Falls

Friday, November 20th - Sunday, November 22nd

SECTIONAL VOLLEYBALL

CLASSIFICATIONS

AAA – 1124 & up

AA – 722 – 1123

A – 449 – 721

B – 274 – 448

C – 168 – 273

D – 167 & below

TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE: All matches up to finals will be played at the higher seed home court. The host school will be responsible for providing a scorekeeper, Libero tracker, security and any other necessary personnel to secure safe environment. The home school will assume payments of officials while the traveling school will assume bus responsibility. The visiting school will also send chaperones to supervise their fans. All Finals will be played at a neutral site determined by the committee.

QUALIFYING STANDARDS: To qualify a team must achieve one of the standards listed below:

1. 500 winning percentage in division
2. 500 winning percentage in class
3. 500 winning percentage Overall
4. Committee Selection

There will be a Section appointed committee that will handle all requests from schools who do not qualify for entry into the tournament by one of the first three standards listed above. It is made up of equal reps from both leagues. It is selected from league Presidents, Section IX Officers, and League Coordinators. The school must apply to the committee 24 hours prior to the stated sport seeding meeting date. The decision of this Committee will be how a school can gain entry via Committee Selection and its decision could be appealed by the school to the Executive Director.

SEEDING CRITERIA:

1. Point Cards will be submitted on line by Wednesday, October 28th.
2. Seeding is based on either your division points/# of division games or your overall points/ # of overall games played
3. The highest index of the two must be used.
4. Any division in either league with less than four teams when the division games begin will only use their overall index.
5. Points will be earned for a win based on the chart below and a tie game the teams will split in half the points from the number of points they would have earned if they had won the game.
6. There are no negative points.
7. The tie breaker for seeding is:
 - a. Head-to-head
 - b. Class points/# of class games played.
 - c. Overall points/# of overall games played.
 - d. Coin toss
 - e. In three 3 way or greater ties, after one team breaks the tie, the remaining teams go back to the first criteria and continue until that tie is broken and so on until all ties have been resolved.
8. For purposes of what constitutes a division game the definition is as follows: Division games are the teams in your division as assigned by the MHAL or OCIAA. If you play each team twice in your division and choose to play that team a third time only the games assigned by your league count as division games

SECTION IX TOURNAMENT SEEDING POINT SYSTEM

AAA WIN AGAINST (POSITIVE)

AAA 6
AA 5

A 4
B 3
C 2
D 1

AA WIN AGAINST (POSITIVE)

AAA 7
AA 6

A 5
B 4
C 3
D 2

A WIN AGAINST (POSITIVE)

AAA 8
AA 7

A 6
B 5
C 4
D 3

B WIN AGAINST (POSITIVE) AAA9

AA 8
A 7
B 6
C 5
D 4

C WIN AGAINST (POSITIVE) AAA10

AA 9
A 8
B 7
C 6
D 5

D WIN AGAINST (POSITIVE) AAA11

AA 10
A 9
B 8
C 7
D 6

2026 Section IX Volleyball Classification

Class AAA 1124 & up	Class AA 722-1123	Class A 449-721	Class B 274-448	Class C 168-273	Class D 167 & below
Kingston	Cornwall	Beacon	Dover	John S. Burke	Chapel Field
Middletown	FDR	Goshen	Ellenville	Chester	Rockland CSD
Monroe Woodbury	Minisink Valley	Marlboro	Fallsburg	Millbrook	S.S. Seward
NFA	Poughkeepsie	Monticello	Highland	Onteora	Tuxedo
Pine Bush	Warwick	New Paltz	Liberty	Pine Plains	Webutuck
Valley Central**	Washingtonville	Our Lady of Lourdes	Mount Academy*	Rhinebeck	
		Port Jervis	James I. O'Neill	Sullivan West	
		Saugerties	Red Hook		
		Wallkill	Rondout Valley		
			Spackenkill		

*Reclassified by the Section IX Classification Committee

**Approved by the Section IX Executive Committee

2026 MHAL & OCIAA Volleyball Divisions

MHAL Division 1 (Class AA & A)	MHAL Division 2 (Class A, B, & C)	MHAL Division 3 (Class B)	MHAL Division 4 (Class C & D)
FDR	Marlboro	Dover	Millbrook
Our Lady of Lourdes	Mount Academy	Ellenville	Onteora
Poughkeepsie	New Paltz	Highland	Pine Plains
Saugerties	Red Hook	Rondout	Rhinebeck
Wallkill	Spackenkill		Webutuck

OCIAA Division 1 (Class AAA)	OCIAA Division 2 (Class AA)	OCIAA Division 3 (Class A)	OCIAA Division 4 (Class B)	OCIAA Division 5 (Class C)	OCIAA Division 6 (Class D)
Kingston	Cornwall	Beacon	Fallsburg	John S. Burke	Chapel Field
Middletown	Minisink Valley	Goshen	Liberty	Chester	Eldred (JV)
Monroe Woodbury	Warwick	Liberty	James I. O'Neill	Sullivan West	Rockland CSD
NFA	Washingtonville	Monticello		Tri-Valley (JV)	S.S. Seward
Pine Bush		Port Jervis			Tuxedo
Valley Central					

It is imperative that all teams complete their league schedule before the seeding meeting on Thursday, October 29th. If a team fails to complete their league schedule their seed will be determined by the Section IX Volleyball committee.

SECTIONAL GAME PROCEDURES

- All volleyball games are to be played according to current NCAA rules and NYSPHSAA waivers.
- The Official Ball for all Sectional, Regional, and State Level games is the Spalding TF-VB5 Navy/Silver/White (Item # 72-1358)
- Home schools are responsible for providing the following for **play-in rounds, quarterfinals and semifinals**:
 - Providing warm up balls for both teams
 - Providing Official Game Balls – Spalding VB5 (Navy/Silver/White)
 - Providing an official scorer and libero tracker
 - Providing chaperones
 - Assuring net is set up at least 30 minutes prior to game start
- Visiting Schools **must** provide chaperones to all matches.
- Winning schools are responsible for notifying the media of the results. All three newspapers (Daily Freeman, Poughkeepsie Journal, and Times Herald Record) must be notified.
- At the **SECTIONAL FINALS** Section IX will provide:
 - Official Game balls for warm ups and the match.
 - An Athletic Trainer
 - An Official Scorer
 - An Official Libero Tracker
 - An announcer
- The NFHS Network owns the right to Livestream all matches hosted by Section IX.

8. The Standard Operational Procedures will be used for Section Finals, Regionals, and the State Championship. It is recommended that this protocol be used during sectional play as well as the regular season for Varsity Matches.
Official warm up is 22 minutes. (4 minutes together, 9 minutes serving team, 9 minutes receiving team.)
Officials meet with team representatives and will signal when to start clock for warm up.

Visible Clock	Protocol
23-19	4 minutes shared time (whistles will be 19:15 and 19)
19-15	Visiting team exclusive court use (whistles will be 15:15 and 15)
15-11	Home team exclusive court use (whistles will be at 11:15 and 11)
11-6	Visiting team exclusive court use (whistles at 6:15 and 6)
6-1	Home team exclusive court use (whistles at 1:15 and 1)
1-0	Pick-up volleyballs and team huddle

National Anthem and Introductions

Match Begins

GAME OFFICIALS: Will be assigned by Section IX Committee in conjunction with the assigner.

TICKETS

1. Admission for Sectional Finals and Regional Contests hosted by Section IX will be sold through [GoFan \(https://gofan.co/app/school/NYSPHSAA9\)](https://gofan.co/app/school/NYSPHSAA9). Please share this link with your parents, spectators, and community.
2. Section IX Passes will not be honored throughout the tournament.
3. Athletic Director will provide a [gate list](#) of no more than twenty (15) to both by email (josbornection9@gmail.com, sboucher@rhinebeckcsd.org, zgrodeka@eldred.k12.ny.us) at least 48 hours prior to the contest. If a gate list exceeds fifteen the school will be billed for the additional guests. Parents of players may not be on the gate list.
4. All expenses incurred by the Volleyball Committee will be underwritten by Section IX.

PROTEST PROCEDURE FOR SECTIONALS, REGIONALS AND FINALS

1. No protest based on officials' judgments will be heard by the committee.
2. The protest committee will be determined by the Volleyball Committee selected from game Officials, Volleyball Committee Members, and neutral AD's or coaches.
3. Any coach lodging a protest will immediately notify one of the game officials that he or she is playing the game under protest and follow the following procedure:
 - A. The protesting coach will write a complete statement outlining the reasons for the protest. The written protest should be submitted to a member of the Volleyball Committee. If no committee member is present, the officials are to accept the protest and notify the Chairman immediately. The officials and Chairman (if available) will rule on the protest immediately.
4. The Protest Committee's decision will be final in all instances.

SUPERVISION AND GAME CONTROL: All participating schools are required to send the appropriate number of school personnel to supervise the spectator's actions. Serious violations of good sportsmanship may lead to the individual(s) being suspended from all further games. **Spectators are not permitted to bring/use signs or noisemakers of any type.** The following are not permitted at the games: Athletic Directors please inform your parents and student body:

1. No noise makers.
2. No Signs.
3. No horns, radios, music boxes, etc.
4. No bands
5. No body paint

Athletic Directors, coaches, and spectators should be aware that for regional contests the host sections have different rules and regulations.

All supervisors/chaperones of tournament teams will report to the score table before the match and are required to wear an armband or identifying jacket.

REGIONAL/STATE INFORMATION

NYSPHSAA provides awards for 15 players at State level play. Please plan accordingly.

NYSPHSAA HANDBOOK

Waivers of NCAA Volleyball Rules:

1. Two score keepers are permitted with a home score book as the official score book. (Feb. 2008)
2. With Section approval, the use of lines people during league play may be waived. (May 2007)
3. If uniform specifications are not compliant, these procedures will be followed:
 - a. Notify the coach of the team at fault of the violation. The team will attempt to legalize the uniform of the team member(s) in question.
 - b. If the uniform fault cannot be legalized, meet with the opposing coach to determine whether a protest will be filed.
 - c. If no protest is filed at this time, no future protest will be accepted on this issue.
 - d. If no protest is filed, follow protest procedure and play the match.
 - e. The libero uniform is exempt from this modification.
4. Waiver of rule 1.5.4 – referee stand in Boys and Girls Volleyball.
5. Waive the NCAA Challenge Review System. (July 2016)
6. Waiver of NCAA court striping (Rule 1.2.2.1); the interrupted solid boundary line. (May 2019)

NYSPHSAA Girls Volleyball Rules:

1. A contestant (or team) may participate in a maximum of two (2) matches in a day.
2. A Match shall consist of sets in a best of 3 out of 5 formats, all 25-point games. Dual and Tri-matches are consistent with the definition of a match. Each day of a tournament shall count as one (1) contest.
3. A tournament is 4 or more teams that participate in a pool play and bracket format is not a match. A bracket can consist of best 2 out of 3 or single set rounds. Scoring options are starting at 0-0 or 4-4 going until 25 points or a cap. The total number of tournament games played in one day shall not exceed fifteen (15) games. An additional 15- point game is permitted only to break ties in pool play to advance to finals as per tiebreaking procedures.
4. In tournament play, volleyball teams shall have at least ten-minutes of rest between matches.

5. Teams will be permitted eighteen (18) substitutions and will switch at 13-points in the deciding game.

6. Girls Volleyball – Standard Operating Procedures for Regionals, Semifinals, and Finals. Revised (May 2019)

Volleyball Scrimmage Rules:

1. No champion can be crowned, cannot be bracketed and no win/loss record kept. (July 2018)

A volleyball scrimmage must include one or more of the following:

1. Each server shall serve 3-5 consecutive serves regardless if the point was scored before the other team would get the ball. (rotate)
2. Games would start at point 4 all and end at point 25 **or** a game could be timed with no point cap.