

NEYSA

GIRLS SOFTBALL

LEAGUE PLAYING

RULES

2019

New rules and/or revised rules appear in

Boldface.

NEYSA Directory

NEYSA Officials

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Division Heads

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N.E.Y.S.A.
P.O. Box 924
East Longmeadow, MA 01028

NEYSA GIRLS SOFTBALL

All meetings and picture dates will be held at:

Greenleaf Community Center
1187 1/2 Parker Street
Springfield, MA 01129:

Reference the NEYSA website at www.neysainc.org for updated meeting information.

ROSTERS:

Each team will submit three (3) identical copies of their team's roster along with valid player passes at the scheduled roster meeting. Rosters will not be approved for any team that does not submit player passes and rosters at this meeting and all games will be forfeited until valid player passes are checked for each player rostered. During the season we will be checking passes prior to games.

PLAYER PASSES:

All passes issued this year will be two (2) year passes and will cost \$8.00 each.

Passes issued in 2018 are still valid but all other passes must be updated for the 2019 season. Any player requiring a new pass must furnish a birth certificate, baptism certificate or her expired NEYSA player pass. A player needs to be present to obtain a new player's pass.

**** Player Pass must be obtained prior to playing in *any* games ****

REGISTRATION FEES

The registration fee for each team consists of NEYSA League fees and a premium for accident insurance. There is a \$50.00 forfeit fee per team. **Please issue a separate check for this:** the check will be held and returned at the end of the season if it has not been used. The registration and forfeit fees shall be paid in full at the scheduled 2019 Rules meeting for your age group. Any team not paid in full by the Roster meeting will forfeit all games until paid in full. See below table for fees for each age group.

Age Group	Team Fee	Forfeit Fee
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10 & under	\$275.00	\$50.00
12 & under	\$300.00	\$50.00
14 & under	\$330.00	\$50.00

UMPIRE FEES

Age	Fee
10 & under	\$20.00
12 & under	\$25.00
14 & under	\$25.00

All umpires shall be paid in full prior to the start of each game. The fees listed above are per team, per game, in cash only.

NOTE: In the case of a forfeit, the forfeiting team is responsible for the entire payment to the umpire(s). Forfeit fee payment or payment arrangements must be made to the Softball Administrator prior to the next scheduled game. If payment is not received the Forfeit Fee will be used.

The Regular Season will begin on or about Wednesday May 1, 2019.

Coaches are to bring a copy of their towns school schedule to the rules meeting in March for scheduling purposes. Any no play dates (up to 3) will be due at the rules meeting as well.

THERE WILL BE A \$20 GAME CHANGE FEE AFTER MAY 15th FOR ANY GAMES RESCHEDULED. We will not guarantee these changes but will do our best.

1 GENERAL RULES

- 1.1 The league is open to any and all **non-tournament**/travel girls softball teams from the City of Springfield and surrounding cities and towns. **Teams must have at least 61% of their players from the city or town the team is from.** The board of Directors may approve exceptions to the 61% requirement.
 - 1.1.1 **Reserve players do not count towards the 61% rule**
 - 1.1.2 **A team's town will be designated by the town their home field is in.**
- 1.2 -There will be **three** age groups: 14 and under, 12 and under and 10 and under.
- 1.3 -A player's age on January 1, 2019 determines the age classification in which the player is eligible to participate.
 - 1.3.1 Example 1: A player's 14th birthday falls on January 1, 2019. The player's age for determining eligibility is 14 for the 2019 season.
 - 1.3.2 Example 2: A player's 14th birthday falls on January 2, 2019 through December 31, 2019. The player was 13 on January 1st, so the player's age for determining eligibility is 13 for the 2019 season.
- 1.4 Each team in the 10U and 12U age groups shall have a minimum of twelve (12) players rostered, each team in the 14U age group shall have a minimum of eleven (11) players rostered with a maximum of twenty (20) players.
- 1.5 A player belongs to the team for which she plays her first league game.
 - 1.5.1 Teams in the 12u and 14U Age Groups are allowed two (2) reserve players from another NEYSA Team. The names of these two (2) players must be submitted with the Team Roster and are only eligible if they are on a NEYSA Roster in a lower Division or Age Group.
 - 1.5.1.1 Example 1: 14U A Team may name a 14U B player or a player from a 12U A or B team.
 - 1.5.1.2 Example 2: 14U B Team may name a player from a 12U A or B team but not a 14U A team.
 - 1.5.2 A reserve player may only be used in a situation where a team cannot field a full team and would otherwise forfeit a game.
 - 1.5.3 A reserve player cannot be used if their team of registration has a game scheduled for that same day & time.
 - 1.5.4 Reserve players may not be used in any playoff game.
 - 1.5.5 Reserve players are allowed to wear the uniform of their team of registration.
 - 1.5.6 **Any violation of the "reserve" rule will result in a forfeit by the offending team.**
- 1.6 Any team using an ineligible player shall forfeit all games in which the said ineligible player participated. An ineligible player is:
 - 1.6.1 one who is over the age limit for that division;
 - 1.6.2 one who plays under an assumed name;
 - 1.6.3 one whose name does not appear on an official league signed roster;
 - 1.6.4 one who plays on more than one team (*see Rule 1.5.1 for exceptions*); or
 - 1.6.5 one who violates any eligibility rules under the Massachusetts Interscholastic A.A.
- 1.7 Coaches may add players to their rosters through **May 15, 2019**. A player pass must be obtained for all new added players, the player pass must be obtained prior to playing in any games.
- 1.8 Both coaches shall report all scores online by 11:00 pm that evening. Failure to do so will result in omission from standings.
- 1.9 A player ejected from a game is automatically suspended from the next played league game. A second ejection shall result in an indefinite suspension of that player pending an appearance at a hearing before the Board of Directors. Any coach or manager ejected from a game must leave the field immediately or forfeit that game. The coach or manager will not be allowed at the next played game. A second ejection shall result in an indefinite suspension of that coach or manager pending an appearance at a hearing before the Board of Directors. Any person on suspension from last year is still on suspension until reinstated by the Board of Directors.

- 1.10** Any player, coach, manager, or parent causing a flagrant violation is automatically suspended for the remainder of the year. The violator may then apply to the Board of Directors for reinstatement.
- 1.10.1** A flagrant violation is the physical or verbal abuse of an umpire, coach, league official, parent or player.
- 1.10.1.1 NEYSA executive board members as well as age group coordinators may consult with the umpire to recommend the ejection on an individual committing a flagrant violation. NEYSA officials coaching in the same division are excluded from consulting the umpire.
- 1.10.1.2 If a flagrant violation is reported an investigation will be completed by the division coordinator and the findings will be shared with the executive board. The executive board will determine appropriate discipline.
- 1.10.2** Any suspension may be appealed to the Board of Directors. A fee of fifty dollars is required to start an appeal. If the suspension is overturned the \$50 will be refunded.
- 1.10.3** All protests must be in writing and accompanied by a fee of fifty dollars. A protest must be filed with the Protest Committee within forty-eight hours after the completion of the game. Protests must be made and entered into the score book by the umpire at the time of the protest. Please keep in mind that no protest of an umpire's judgement call will be accepted. Should a protest be upheld, the fifty dollars will be returned to the team submitting the protest. Should the protest be disallowed, the fifty dollars will be turned over to the League.
- 1.10.4** Should a dispute arise and a protest filed, it will be judged by the Protest Committee whose decision shall be final. You will be notified within 24 hours of the hearing. Three persons appointed by the President, will act as the Protest Committee.
- 1.11** Cell phone use is not allowed on the softball field.
- 1.11.1** Umpire will issue an initial warning followed by an ejection if the conduct continues for any coach or player who is using a cell phone on the field.
- 1.12** Concerning cancellation of games, the following rules shall apply:
- 1.12.1** Unless you hear from a league official, assume that your game will be played.
- 1.12.2** If a team forfeits 2 games, the Board may ask the team to withdraw from the League.
- 1.12.3** The forfeiting team will be responsible for the entire payment to the umpire(s).
- 1.12.4** **Changes to the final schedule will be allowed for school functions only if both teams can come to an agreement. Remember these are not guaranteed and any changes after May 15th come with a \$20.00 fee to be paid before the change is completed.**
- 1.12.5** The Springfield Parks and Recreation Department will cancel games in case of inclement weather or playing conditions, you may call the Springfield Parks Dept @ 787-6434. In the even that fields are unplayable in other towns, the NEYSA President must be notified by the town rec dept. or program coordinator of that town (not coaches) at least 3 hours before the scheduled start of the game.
- 1.12.6** In case of a rainout or unplayable field conditions the teams will reschedule the game within 48 hours. If not, the Division Coordinator will schedule the game.
- 1.13** Only the manager or designated coach may go out to talk to the umpire if any questions should arise. The designated coach/manager must present himself/herself to the umpire prior to the game. Only one coach shall be on the field at a time during a discussion with the umpire. This coach shall be the manager or designated coach only. There shall be a maximum of one manager and **three** coaches per team per game. Coaches and managers must have a NEYSA coaches pass.
- 1.14** Teams shall exchange lineups before the game and notify the opposing team of lineup changes. Each team's lineup card shall have the player's full name and uniform number.
- 1.15** Time permitted between innings is defined by NFHS Rule 6-2 Atr.5. "At the beginning of each half-inning or when a pitcher relieves another, no more than one minute may be used to deliver no more than 5 balls to the catcher or other teammate. The one-minute time limit begins from the third out of the previous half-inning. Play shall be suspended during this time."

1.15.1 NOTES:

1.15.1.1A pitcher returning in the same half-inning will not be granted any warm-up pitches.

1.15.1.2 Umpire is authorized to allow more pitches when weather is inclement or if pitcher was removed due to an injury.

1.15.1.3 A pitcher appearing for the first time in the game shall be allowed not more than seven (7) warm-up pitches.

1.16 Failure to field a team within fifteen (15) minutes after a scheduled game time results in a forfeit. If eight (8) players are available, the game must start on time or the game will be forfeited.

1.17 Player passes shall be used in this league. Player passes must be available at every game for inspection by league officials, coaches or umpires. Failure to provide player passes by the end of the game will result in a forfeiture of that game.

1.18 Equipment

1.18.1 Fielding equipment rules are defined in NFHS Rules 1-4 and 1-5

1.18.2 Bat rules are defined in NFHS Rules 1-4 and 1-5

1.18.3 Official game balls will be designated by the Board of Directors. A yellow optic cover, red-stitch, 11-inch ball (10U) and 12-inch ball (12U, 14U) with a COR of .47 shall be used. The home team must supply a new game ball. When in playoffs both teams must supply a new game ball.

1.18.4 The home team is to supply the bases which include the "double first base" and insure they are properly secured prior to the start of the game. Failure to do so will result in a forfeiture of home team status. If neither team has bases the game becomes a forfeit for both teams.

1.18.5 Sneakers, shoes with rubber soles, or shoes with rubber cleats are permissible. No metal cleats or spikes are allowed.

1.18.6 Catchers equipment rules are defined in NFHS rule 1-7.

1.18.7 Batting helmets are defined in NFHS rule 1-6. In addition to these rules NEYSA requires all helmets to have chin straps. Helmets will also fit the player properly on the head! All teams must have a minimum of five (5) full batting helmets equipped with straps. Wearing the helmet improperly or removing the helmet during a live ball play and judged by the umpire to be a deliberate act shall cause the violator to be declared out immediately. The ball will still remain live. The removal of the helmet does not remove force play situations.

1.18.8 All teams will have a first aid kit and ice packs available at each game.

1.18.9 It is mandatory for all teams **in 10U and 12U** to carry a portable pitching rubber.

1.19 UNIFORMS:

1.19.1 Uniform rules are defined in NFHS Rules 3-2 with the following exception.

1.19.2 A player shall wear baseball/softball pants, sweat pants or softball/athletic shorts. Teams may not have a mixture of pants and shorts. All players on a team will wear the same uniform. Teams wearing shorts **MUST** also wear baseball/softball socks (knee high). This is a safety rule. It is suggested they wear a slider on the leg they slide on.

1.19.3 Jewelry is permitted as long as it can be contained. No dangling earrings or necklaces.

1.20 A game will last no longer than 2 hours (including the International Tie-Breaker Rule). No new inning will start after 2 hours. The game can end in a tie. This applies to all regular season games. **playoff games cannot end in a tie and must be played out with the International Tie-Breaker rule. the championship series will have a 2 Hour and 15 Minute Time limit before going to International Tie-Breaker Rule.**

1.21 The pitcher must be replaced if she hits three (3) batters in an inning. That same pitcher will be allowed to pitch in the following inning(s). Any pitcher that hits a total of five (5) batters in one (1) game must be replaced immediately and cannot pitch again in that game.

1.22 The pitcher must start with both feet on the pitcher's rubber. Pitcher may not step back from pitching rubber during delivery. *See MIAA Rule 79.3.*

1.23 The home team shall take the first base bench.

- 1.24** The home team shall relinquish the playing field at least fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled game time to allow the visiting team time for infield practice.
- 1.25** All teams shall carry the NFHS, MIAA Softball Rule 79 and NEYSA rule books as well as any amended rules.
- 1.26** Courtesy Runner Rule:
- 1.26.1** The team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or catcher at any time. Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances. The pitcher and catcher are identified as the last players who physically played that position on defense.
- 1.26.2** The courtesy runner will be the player that made the last out.
- 1.26.3** A courtesy runner must be reported to the umpire and the opposing coach.
- 1.27** A player **MUST** play in at least one-third of the regular season games in order to play in the playoff game(s).
- 1.28** A half-inning shall consist of three (3) outs or six (6) runs, whichever comes first. As soon as the sixth run scores all play shall stop for that half-inning. No more than six (6) runs shall be counted per half-inning.
- 1.28.1** See 10-u rule 3.09.
- 1.29** Points will be awarded as follows for all games in order to determine the division standings: Win = 2 points Tie = 1 point Loss = 0 points
- 1.29.1** A maximum of seven (7) total runs will be counted for any win for the purpose of playoff seeding.
- 1.29.1.1 Example A: Team A defeats Team B by a score of 20 to 7. Only 7 runs will be calculated when determining the runs differential.
- 1.29.1.2 Example B: Team A defeats Team B by a score of 12 to 10. 2 runs will be calculated when determining the runs differential.
- 1.30** An official game called for any reason other than a forfeit or a game called because of the mercy rule (Rule 2.04), not having played five (5) complete or four and one-half (4 1/2) innings with the Home Team ahead shall be a suspended game to be resumed at the point of suspension at a time and place chosen by the Division Head.
- 1.31** Every player on each team shall play defensively for a minimum of two (2) innings on defense. Teams with fifteen (15) players or less shall make the necessary substitutions within the first four (4) innings to satisfy this requirement. Teams with more than (15) players shall substitute the remaining players in the fifth inning to satisfy this requirement. This substitution rule shall not affect the batting order in any way whatsoever. Any player inserted into the lineup, must be inserted before the beginning of the third inning. (see 2.08)
- 1.31.1** PENALTY: Failure to adhere to this rule shall result in an automatic forfeiture of the game.

2. AMENDED NFHS REGULATIONS

- 2.1. All games shall be governed by the current edition of the NFHS Softball Rules Book the MIAA Amended Rules and these NEYSA Amended Rules.
- 2.2. All Divisions shall have their own pitch modifications. This is a fast pitch league.
- 2.3. The first team member who throws a bat that causes a dangerous situation (in the judgement of the umpire) shall be given a team warning. Thereafter, any batter on that team who throws a bat causing a dangerous situation, shall be called out. The ball shall be called dead and all runners shall return to the bases that they last had at the time of the pitch.
- 2.4. For all Divisions there shall be a Mercy Rule in effect. The game ends and is official under either of these situations:
 - 2.4.1. Visitors lead by twelve (12) or more runs after five (5) or more completed innings.
 - 2.4.2. Home team leads by twelve (12) or more runs after four and one half (4 ½) or increases to such a lead in the 5th or 6th inning.
 - 2.4.3. APPROVED RULING 1: A completed inning in regards to the above rule means six complete outs unless section (b) above applies when the game is over.
- 2.5. Each team in the 10U and 12U age groups shall have a minimum of twelve (12) players rostered, each team in the 14U age group shall have a minimum of eleven (11) players rostered with a maximum of twenty (20) players.
- 2.6. If an injured player must be removed from the game, the player shall be replaced by the player whose place in the lineup is the one which precedes the injured player, if that player is on the bench. If that player is not on the bench (due to being on the bases, for example), then the next preceding player on the bench will substitute. This procedure shall be repeated, if necessary, until an appropriate substitute is found. In case of a dispute, the umpire shall have the final authority to rule on the substitution.
 - 2.6.1. If a player leaves the game for any reason other than an injury, what would have been that player's next turn at bat will be counted as an automatic out.
 - 2.6.2. A player that leaves the game for a non-injury related issue is prohibited from returning to that game.
- 2.7. Players, managers, coaches, and parents shall not address any derogatory or unsportsmanlike remarks toward opposing players, managers, coaches, umpires, league officials or spectators. Players should be encouraged to cheer for their own team.
 - 2.7.1. APPROVED RULING-Any remark, such as "can't hit", "can't pitch", "whiffer", "rubber arm", etc. shall not be permitted.
 - 2.7.2. Use of devices that produce excessive noise such as air horns are prohibited.
 - 2.7.3. See NFHS Rule 3-6 for full rule.
- 2.8. Each player on each team shall bat and all players names shall be listed in the batting order. A player arriving after the start of the game whose name is not in the batting order may be added only if at least one player in the batting order has not batted and if it is prior to the *third* inning. In that case, the player may be inserted in the last position in the batting order. If a coach puts a player in the batting order who is not present at the beginning of the game and if that player is not present when it is her first turn to bat, an automatic out will be recorded. Should that player not be available at her second turn to bat, then that position will be eliminated from the lineup, no out will be recorded, and that player will be ineligible to participate.
- 2.9. Charged conferences rules are stated in NFHS 3-7 and MIAA 79.7. Below are some points of emphasis, please see the rules listed above for full details.
 - 2.9.1. Defensive Conferences
 - 2.9.1.1. Allowed no more than total of 3 charged during 7 inning game
 - 2.9.1.2. Allowed no more than 1 charged during an inning
 - 2.9.1.3. Extra innings allow 1 more per inning
 - 2.9.1.4. Request for time out may be made by coach, player, substitute or bench personnel

- 2.9.1.5. Time granted for injured player does not count
- 2.9.1.6. Conferences do not accumulate for use in extra innings
- 2.9.1.7. Pitcher must be removed as Pitcher for remainder of game when:
 - 2.9.1.7.1. After 3 Charged Conferences in 7 innings
 - 2.9.1.7.2. After 2 charged conferences in an inning
 - 2.9.1.7.3. After 1 Charged Conference in any extra inning
- 2.9.2. Offensive Conferences
 - 2.9.2.1. No more than 1 Charged Conference per inning
 - 2.9.2.2. Considered a Conference whenever a Coach confers with any player on offense
 - 2.9.2.3. Confers with any other offensive Coach or Dugout Personnel
 - 2.9.2.4. Can be charged if it delays game in any way even if no time-out was requested
 - 2.9.2.5. Umpire shall deny another request in inning
 - 2.9.2.6. Other team may have Conference at same time
 - 2.9.2.6.1. Not Charged if it concludes when other team's concludes
- 2.10. Players benches and all areas within the designated playing area (fair and foul) are for authorized personnel as defined by the League. Authorized personnel consist of the following persons: Head Coach, **three** assistant coaches, score keeper, uniformed players on the official signed roster and umpires. **Team bench areas are not for family or friends. There are no exceptions.** Non-compliance with this rule will be dealt with by the Board of Directors.
- 2.11. NO SMOKING is allowed at any field. Team benches and the general vicinity of the field shall be considered a "NO SMOKING" area. No tobacco products of any kind are allowed. NFHS 3.6 Art 12 addresses the ban on all tobacco products.
- 2.12. No fielder shall make any fake tags on a runner. The umpire shall be the judge as to whether a tag is fake or genuine tag. This rule applies to all divisions.
 - 2.12.1. PENALTY -Obstruction shall be called; the runner awarded one additional base and a warning shall be given by the umpire to the player committing the infraction. On the second infraction by the same player, she shall be ejected from the game.
 - 2.12.2. APPROVED RULING: A fake tag is the tagging, attempting to tag, or placing a tag on the runner without the possession of the ball. The following shall not be considered a fake tag:
 - 2.12.2.1. A fielder who has received a throw and drops the ball while making the tag;
 - 2.12.2.2. A fielder who is receiving a throw in position to make a tag but does not catch the ball or drops the ball as she is making a tag;
 - 2.12.2.3. A fielder who makes a tag or attempted tag while thinking she has possession of the ball but does not. The intent of this rule is to prevent a fielder from forcing a runner to slide or slowing a runner down to prevent the runner from trying to reach the bag or from advancing to the next base. This is unsportsmanlike conduct.

3. 10 AND UNDER AMENDED RULES

- 3.1. The strike zone is that space over any part of home plate between the batter's front armpit and the top of her knees when she assumes a natural batting stance.
- 3.2. Base paths will be forty five (45) feet. The pitcher's rubber shall be (35) feet from the back point of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber.
- 3.3. No bunting shall be allowed. The offending player shall be called out; runners may not advance.
- 3.4. There shall be no stealing. The offending player shall be called out; runners may not advance.
- 3.5. There shall be no advance on a passed ball, wild pitch or wild throw from the catcher to the pitcher. The offending player shall return to the base she last had legal possession of.
- 3.6. There shall be no leading off bases. The runner shall not leave the base until after the ball is hit. The offending player shall return to the base she last had legal possession of.
- 3.7. There shall be no advance by the batter on a dropped third strike.
- 3.8. The infield fly rule shall not be used in this division.
- 3.9. The windmill is allowed but NOT required in this division. The pitcher may deliver the ball to the plate in any manner so long as it constitutes a legal underhand fast pitch delivery.
- 3.9.1. A starting pitcher can throw no more than three (3) consecutive innings. A pitcher can pitch no more than four (4) total innings in a game.
- 3.9.1.1. If the pitcher takes the mound and delivers at least one pitch, she will be considered as to having pitched in that inning whether she completes the inning or not. This rule is based upon appearance in an inning, not number of outs.
- 3.9.1.2. If a game goes into extra innings the innings limit for pitchers is removed.
- 3.10. The eleven (11) inch softball shall be used in this division.
- 3.11. **SPECIAL RULES:**
- 3.11.1. A half-inning shall consist of three (3) outs or **five** runs, whichever comes first.
- 3.11.2. All batters will start with a 1 ball, 1 strike count.
- 3.11.3. When a batted ball is returned to the pitcher who is standing within the eight-foot circle and the ball is touched by the hand or glove of the pitcher, all play shall cease. A runner who has advanced more than halfway to the next base shall be allowed to continue to that base.
- 3.11.4. In order to speed up the game it is suggested a parent (preferably) or coach stand behind the catcher (in front of the backstop) to retrieve softballs that get by the catcher. This person cannot have any contact (physical or verbal) with any player.
- 3.11.5. On any thrown ball that crosses from fair territory into foul, the runner may advance only one base. It does not matter where the ball comes to rest.
- 3.12. There shall be a Mercy Rule in effect for this division. The game ends and is official under either of these situations:
- 3.12.1. Visitors lead by twelve (12) or more runs after four (4) or more completed innings.
- 3.12.2. Home team leads by twelve (12) or more runs after three and one half innings.

4. 12 AND UNDER AMENDED RULES

- 4.1.** NFHS 2-56 Art3 defines the strike zone. The strike zone is that space over any part of home plate between the batter's forward armpit and the top of her knees when she assumes a natural batting stance.
- 4.2.** The pitcher's rubber shall be (40) feet from the back point of home plate.
- 4.3.** TIE-BREAKER RULE If, after the completion of seven (7) innings of play, the score is tied, the following tiebreaker rule will be played to determine a winning team. Starting with the top of the eighth inning, and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base (e.g., if the number five batter is the leadoff batter, the number four batter in the batting order will be placed on second base. A substitute may be inserted for the runner.) NOTE: If a team is in the tie-breaker and the absent player is the one who should begin at second base, do not declare an out. Instead, place on second base the player whose name precedes the absent player's name in the line-up

5. 14 AND UNDER AMENDED RULES

- 5.1.** NFHS 2-56 Art3 defines the strike zone. The strike zone is that space over any part of home plate between the batter's forward armpit and the top of her knees when she assumes a natural batting stance.
- 5.2.** TIE-BREAKER RULE If, after the completion of seven (7) innings of play, the score is tied, the following tiebreaker rule will be played to determine a winning team. Starting with the top of the eighth inning, and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base (e.g., if the number five batter is the leadoff batter, the number four batter in the batting order will be placed on second base. A substitute may be inserted for the runner.) NOTE: If a team is in the tie-breaker and the absent player is the one who should begin at second base, do not declare an out. Instead, place on second base the player whose name precedes the absent player's name in the line-up
- 5.3.** A team shall consist of nine (9) players in the field.

NEYSA Inc. Code of Ethics for Coaches

Purpose

This code of ethics has been developed by the **New England Youth Sports Association Inc.** as a Guideline to adopt, support and enforce. The purpose of this code is to clarify and distinguish approved and accepted professional, ethical and moral behavior from that which is detrimental to the development of Girls Softball within the NEYSA Inc.

Policy

Coaching is a privilege offered and granted to individuals who promote good sportsmanship and fair play within NEYSA Inc. sanctioned and affiliated association activities. It carries with it an obligation for each individual coach to uphold and promote the stated goals and objectives. Any conduct considered unethical or a conflict of interest shall be subject to discipline by the Board of Directors.

Article I – Responsibilities to Players

1. The coach shall never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players.
2. Coaches shall instruct players to play within the written laws of the game and within the spirit of the game at all times.
3. Coaches shall not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior to players.
4. Coaches shall not tolerate inappropriate behavior from players, parents or spectators regardless of the situation.
5. Demands placed on players' time shall never be so extensive as to interfere with academic goals or progress.
6. Coaches must never encourage players to violate NEYSA Inc. eligibility or players rules or policies.
7. Coaches shall direct players to seek proper medical attention for injuries and to follow the physician's instructions regarding treatment and recovery.

Article II – Responsibility to the League

1. Adherence to all NEYSA Inc. rules and policies, especially those regarding eligibility and team formation and member association rules and policies that are mandatory and should never be violated. It is the responsibility of each coach to know and understand these rules.
2. Any problems that cannot be resolved between coaches should be referred to the appropriate league officer or committee.

Article III – Responsibilities to the Rules of the Game

1. Coaches shall be thoroughly acquainted with and demonstrate a working knowledge of the Rules of the Game.
2. Coaches are responsible to assure their players understand the intent as well as the application of the Rules.
3. Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the Rules of the Game.
4. Coaches are responsible for their players, parents and spectator's actions on the field and must not permit them to perform with intent of causing injury to opposing players.
5. The coach must constantly strive to teach good Sportsmanship.

Article IV – Responsibility to Officials

1. Officials must have the support of coaches, players and spectators. Coaches must always refrain from criticizing officials in the presence of players or spectators.
2. Professional respect, before, during and after the game must be mutual. There must be no demeaning dialogue or gestures between official, coach or player. Coaches must not incite players or spectators or attempt to disrupt the flow of the game.

3. Comments regarding an official should be made in writing to the appropriate organization assigning the official.

Article VI – Responsibility of Public Relations

1. Coaches have a responsibility to promote the game of softball to the public. Comments and critiques of governing bodies, teams, coaches, players, parents or media must be positive and constructive.
2. Coaches have the responsibility to assist their players in conducting themselves properly when in public, when representing their team, club/league and NEYSA Inc.
 3. Coaches must not attempt to influence their club/league, the NEYSA Inc. or other clubs/leagues in political or financial dealings outside the framework of their own rules and bylaws.

Article VII – Other Responsibilities

1. The behavior of coaches must be such as to bring credit to themselves, their organization (s), NEYSA Inc. and the sport of softball.
2. While the concept of rivalry is wholly embraced, it cannot take precedence over exemplary professional conduct.
3. The attitude and conduct of the coach towards officials, players, spectators and coaches must be controlled and undemonstrative.
4. It is unacceptable for a coach to have any verbal altercation with an official, spectators, opposing coach or bench before, during or after the game.

Coaches must use their influence on spectators that demonstrate intimidating and/or unacceptable behavior towards officials, player(s) and opposing team members.

INSURANCE PROCEDURES

Each player, coach, umpire, scorekeeper and batter is covered under an accident policy provided by the New England Youth Sports Association. This policy covers any injury incurred at scheduled practices and league games including playoffs and tournaments previously approved by the NEYSA Girls Softball League.

Coverage: Accident Insurance including dental -maximum of \$1 0,000 only on an excess basis over and above any benefits or services provided by any other health insurance plan under which the participant is insured. Benefits under this policy shall be reduced to the extent necessary so that the sum of the reduced benefits and all other benefits provided for by any other plan shall not exceed the total expenses incurred by the insured person.

Procedure: I. If the injury requires medical attention, the insured should be taken to their own physician or the emergency room of the hospital.

- 1 The coach/manager should obtain the address and telephone number of the parent/guardian.
- 2 The coach/manager should contact the League immediately. All injuries must be reported within ten (10) days. The insurance company is not legally liable for any injury not reported within ten days and for which there is no subsequent claim.

To insure proper handling of the claim and to expedite payment, all questions should be directed to the League.

NEYSA CORI POLICY

This policy is applicable to the criminal history screening of prospective and current employees, subcontractors, volunteers and interns.

Where Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) and other criminal history checks may be part of a general background check for employment, volunteer work, the following practices and procedures will be followed.

I. CONDUCTING CORI SCREENING

CORI checks will only be conducted as authorized by the DCJIS and MGL c. 6, §. 172, and only after a CORI Acknowledgement Form has been completed.

If a new CORI check is to be made on a subject within a year of his/her signing of the CORI Acknowledgement Form, the subject shall be given seventy two (72) hours notice that a new CORI check will be conducted.

II. ACCESS TO CORI

All CORI obtained from the DCJIS is confidential, and access to the information must be limited to those individuals who have a “need to know”. This may include, but not be limited to, hiring managers, staff submitting the CORI requests, and staff charged with processing job applications. NEYSA must maintain and keep a current list of each individual authorized to have access to, or view, CORI. This list must be updated every six(6) months and is subject to inspection upon request by the DCJIS at any time.

III. CORI TRAINING

An informed review of a criminal record requires training. Accordingly, all personnel authorized to review or access CORI at NEYSA will review, and will be thoroughly familiar with, the educational and relevant training materials regarding CORI laws and regulations made available by the DCJIS.

Additionally, if NEYSA is an agency required by MGL c. 6, s. 171A, to maintain a CORI Policy, all personnel authorized to conduct criminal history background checks and/or to review CORI information will review, and will be thoroughly familiar with, the educational and relevant training materials regarding CORI laws and regulations made available by the DCJIS.

IV. USE OF CRIMINAL HISTORY IN BACKGROUND SCREENING

CORI used for employment purposes shall only be accessed for applicants who are otherwise qualified for the position for which they have applied.

Unless otherwise provided by law, a criminal record will not automatically disqualify an applicant. Rather, determinations of suitability based on background checks will be made consistent with this policy and any applicable law or regulations.

V. VERIFYING A SUBJECT’S IDENTITY

If a criminal record is received from the DCJIS, the information is to be closely compared with the information on the CORI Acknowledgement Form and any other identifying information provided by the applicant to ensure the record belongs to the applicant.

If the information in the CORI record provided does not exactly match the identification information provided by the applicant, a determination is to be made by an individual authorized to make such determinations based on a comparison of the CORI record and documents provided by the applicant.

VI. INQUIRING ABOUT CRIMINAL HISTORY

In connection with any decision regarding employment, volunteer opportunities, housing, or professional licensing, the subject shall be provided with a copy of the criminal history record, whether obtained from the DCJIS or from any other source, prior to questioning the subject about his or her criminal history. The source(s) of the criminal history record is also to be disclosed to the subject.

VII. DETERMINING SUITABILITY

If a determination is made, based on the information as provided in section V of this policy, that the criminal record belongs to the subject, and the subject does not dispute the record's accuracy, then the determination of suitability for the position or license will be made. Unless otherwise provided by law, factors considered in determining suitability may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) Relevance of the record to the position sought;
- (b) The nature of the work to be performed;
- (c) Time since the conviction;
- (d) Age of the candidate at the time of the offense;
- (e) Seriousness and specific circumstances of the offense;
- (f) The number of offenses;
- (g) Whether the applicant has pending charges;
- (h) Any relevant evidence of rehabilitation or lack thereof; and
- (i) Any other relevant information, including information submitted by the candidate or requested by the organization.

The applicant is to be notified of the decision and the basis for it in a timely manner.

VIII. ADVERSE DECISIONS BASED ON CORI

If an authorized official is inclined to make an adverse decision based on the results of a criminal history background check, the applicant will be notified immediately. The subject shall be provided with a copy of the organization's CORI policy and a copy of the criminal history. The source(s) of the criminal history will also be revealed. The subject will then be provided with an opportunity to dispute the accuracy of the CORI record. Subjects shall also be provided a copy of DCJIS' *Information Concerning the Process for Correcting a Criminal Record*.

IX. SECONDARY DISSEMINATION LOGS

All CORI obtained from the DCJIS is confidential and can only be disseminated as authorized by law and regulation. A central secondary dissemination log shall be used to record any dissemination of CORI outside this organization, including dissemination at the request of the subject.

X. NEYSA NEED TO KNOW LIST

The following NEYSA board members have a need to know access to CORI information.

- Jim Acciaro – Primary CORI Coordinator
- Dino Tessicini – Secondary CORI Coordinator

All determinations of suitability of volunteer candidates will be made by the two primary CORI coordinators. If a candidate wishes to appeal a decision of the Primary Coordinators the appeal shall be heard by the three members listed above.