

2026 CHSAA BYLAWS – Points of Emphasis

All CHSAA play is governed by 2026 Federation rules with the following additions and exceptions:

1. The official ball will be the RAWLINGS R100-H2 or H3. This ball or any of the following will be used on the J.V. and Freshman levels: RAWLINGS RNF – RAWLINGS FSRHS – WILSON A1010 HS1-RS
2. The major league appeal rule will be used. In short, the appeal cannot be verbal and must be done while the ball is live.
3. Visitation Rule: On the second trip per pitcher, per inning, the pitcher must be removed (as a pitcher) and cannot return as the pitcher. However, if the pitcher is removed on the first trip, he may be moved to another position or go to the dugout. He may return as a pitcher provided that he has re-entry rights. The coach may remove a pitcher without using a visit by informing the plate umpire of the change. A coach may move the pitcher to another position and then return that same pitcher once per inning, provided that he has re-entry rights.
4. Modified P/DH Rule: If being used, the P/DH must be declared on the lineup card prior to the game. If the P/DH is used, he begins the game hitting for himself. If he leaves the mound, he must also leave the field – he may not play any other position. He now becomes the DH for the player who replaced him on the field. The lineup has now been converted to a lineup with a designated hitter. A courtesy runner may be used for the P/DH only when he is in the game as a pitcher.

POINTS OF EMPHASIS:

A pitcher may only be designated as the P/DH before the game:

- a. He may never play the field.
 - b. He may not pitch again after leaving the field
5. Mercy Rule: There will be a 10 run rule. The losing team must bat 5 times and if the differential is reached in the top of the inning, the losing team must bat in the bottom of the inning. Effective April 1st, 2026. 15 after 4 and 20 after 3 will also be considered Mercy Rule situations.
 6. Any player or coach ejected from any game must sit out his team's next two league games. Any coach who is ejected from the contest must leave the facility. If a member of the school's staff is not available to coach, the game will be declared a forfeit. Ejected players remain in the dugout. Coaches and players may be restricted to the dugout as per Federation rules.

7. Catch and Carry Rule: At all fields, if an infielder, pitcher, or catcher makes a good catch and his momentum carries him into dead territory, the ball is dead and no runners may advance. If it happens to an outfielder, the ball is dead and all runners are awarded one base
8. Extra Player Rule: Freshmen and JV Only - A ten man batting order may be used in Freshmen and JV games. Any nine of the ten players can play the field at any time. A designated hitter and an extra player can be used at the same time.
9. All Varsity “AA” games must be played to completion. “A” Division, JV, and Freshman regular season games will follow Federation rules so ties and the “no game” situation are possible.
10. Wooden Bats Only: The use of non-wood bats as described by New York City law is banned in all CHSAA league and playoff competition. Approved bats must be made of 100% wood or must be composite bats that have been approved by MLB for use at certain levels of minor league play. Any on field penalties for use of an illegal bat will be determined by the rules set forth in the National Federation rulebook. The determination of a bat’s legality is at the sole discretion of the umpire and is not subject to protest. Bats determined to be illegal should be removed from the game and given to the coach of the offending team.
11. All types of “artificial noise” and noisemakers are banned at all games.
12. The home team must take their pre-game infield practice first.
13. An AED must be present in all games played on public fields in New York City.
14. Pitch Count Limits Per Game: Varsity 105 pitches; JV: 90 pitches. When a pitcher reaches the pitch count limit, the pitcher must be removed from the game. If the pitcher is in the middle of a count, the pitcher may finish pitching to that batter.
15. 1B/3B Pickoffs – effective March 1, 2026, the 3B/1B pickoff move will be considered illegal and declared a balk, aligning with the MLB rule change instituted a few years ago
16. Wins count for two points and extra inning losses count as one point in the standings. Points are only used as one of the tiebreakers. Please note extra-inning games when submitting results

17. The head coach shall be held accountable for the conduct of all team personnel, both on the field of play and within the dugout. Any behavior originating from the dugout that is deemed inappropriate by the umpires (including, but not limited to, bench jockeying, taunting, or similar actions), and for which the specific offending individual(s) cannot be identified, shall be addressed as follows:

1. First offense: The head coach shall be issued a warning and directed to immediately address and control team conduct.
2. Second offense: The head coach shall be restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game for the purpose of monitoring team behavior.
3. Third offense: The head coach shall be ejected from the game.

Should inappropriate conduct persist following the ejection of the head coach, the game shall be declared a forfeit.

18. A student-athlete may move up to varsity and participate in up to three games while maintaining eligibility to return to a lower level. Participation in a fourth varsity game makes the athlete ineligible to return to the lower level.

Notes:

- Rule does not apply to movement between freshman and junior varsity levels.
- Athletes may not exceed the maximum number of allowable games per season.
- Athletes may not participate in varsity and junior varsity contests on the same day.
- A player must actually play to be considered a participant

NOTE: All call-ups should be submitted to the chairman by than 9 a.m the day after the game. Prior to the start of the season, coaches will also be asked to submit a list of lower-level players who will most likely play at the varsity level for the season. This will help avoid unnecessary call-up notifications.