

NYSPHSAA

SECTION IV



GIRLS SOFTBALL

2026

HANDBOOK

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FOREWORD

This handbook is intended for the use by all Athletic Directors & Coaches. We have tried to include all of the necessary forms and information for the Sectional and State Tournaments.

Section IV Softball will comply with the regulations set forth by National Federation of High School Sports, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association and Section IV of the NYSPHSAA.

The current rulebook issued by the NCAA will be the standard unless noted otherwise within this handbook.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 SECTIONAL CHAMPIONS

Class AAA - CORNING PAINTED POST

Class AA - HORSEHEADS

Class A - MAINE ENDWELL

CLASS B - SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY

CLASS C - DEPOSIT HANCOCK

CLASS D - EDMESTON/MORRIS

SECTION IV OFFICERS

Section IV President

Bill Dorritie: Laurens Central Schools

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Section IV Executive Director

Bill Bryant: Section IV Office

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Jeff Ferrara: Section IV Office

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Section IV Administrative Assistants

Janet McWeeney (treasurer) - mcweenej@dcmoboces.com

Danielle Woods - dwoods@dcmoboces.com

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Boys' State Chair:

James Amen – jimamen1@gmail.com

Section IV Coordinators:

AAA/AA/A - Jim Testa jtestauesb@gmail.com

B/C/D - Ed Swartout eswartwout@svsabers.com

2026 SOFTBALL LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVES

Delaware League:

Cheryl Butler, Charlotte Valley CS School: 607-278-5511 Email: butler.cheryl@charlottevalley.org

IAC:

Jim Wood, Tioga CS School: 607-953-9808 Email: jwood@tiogacentral.org

MAC:

Kim Makowski, Hancock CS School: 607-637-2511 Email: kmakowski@hancock.stier.org

STAC:

Michael Johnston Jr. CPP Cell: 607-426-1586 Email: Mjohnston@cppasd.com

Tri-Valley

David Bliss, CV-S CS School: 607-435-5175 Email: dkbliss@gmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES

Section IV 2025-2026 Rules Interpretation Meeting: TBA

FIRST DAY OF PRACTICE MONDAY MARCH 9TH

LAST GAME PLAYED FOR SEEDING POINTS THURSDAY MAY 14TH

(This is the last day for coaches to have their seeding information verified with the Section IV office. (Instructions for verifying seeding points will be mailed at a later date.)

If a coach does not verify seeding points, it will be assumed that the school is NOT entering the tournament, and brackets will be set up accordingly.

SEEDING MEETING: FRIDAY MAY 15TH @ SECTION IV OFFICE 12:00pm @ SECTION IV OFFICE

BRACKETS RELEASED SATURDAY May 16th

(Brackets will be released to all schools and media by e-mail & then posted to the Section IV Website.)

THURSDAY MAY 21ST (RAIN DATE MAY 22ND)	PRELIMINARY ROUND RD OF 16 (Class B,C,D)
	QUARTERFINAL ROUND OF 8 (Class A)
TUESDAY MAY 26TH (RAIN DATE MAY 27TH)	QUARTERFINAL ROUND of 8 (Class B, C, D)
WEDNESDAY MAY 27TH (RAIN DATE MAY 28TH)	SEMI-FINALS (CLASS AAA, AA, A)
THURSDAY MAY 28TH (RAIN DATE MAY 29TH)	SEMI-FINALS (CLASS B,C,D)
SATURDAY MAY 30TH	FINALS @ GREENLIGHTS NETWORK GRAND SLAM PARK
	TIMES???
	(RAIN DATE SUNDAY MAY 31ST)
TUESDAY JUNE 2ND & WEDNESDAY JUNE 3RD	SUB REGIONALS @ GREENLIGHTS GRAND SLAM PARK
	TIMES???
REGIONALS FINALS	June 6th @ WINNER OF Section 5/6
STATE SEMI'S & FINALS	JUNE 12TH & 13TH @ GREENLIGHTS GRAND SLAM PARK

2026 NYS Softball Championships

This is a digital-ticketed event. Cash sales will not be available on site. Kids age 5 and under are free.

<u>2026 Championships</u> <u>Greenlight Networks Grand Slam Park, Binghamton</u>		
<u>Semifinals - Friday, June 12</u>		
<u>1:00 PM</u>	<u>Class AAA Semifinals</u>	<u>Field 1</u>
<u>1:00 PM</u>	<u>Class AAA Semifinals</u>	<u>Field 3</u>
<u>2:30 PM</u>	<u>Class AA Semifinals</u>	<u>Field 2</u>
<u>2:30 PM</u>	<u>Class AA Semifinals</u>	<u>Field 4</u>
<u>10:00 AM</u>	<u>Class A Semifinals</u>	<u>Field 1</u>
<u>10:00 AM</u>	<u>Class A Semifinals</u>	<u>Field 3</u>
<u>4:00 PM</u>	<u>Class B Semifinals</u>	<u>Field 1</u>
<u>4:00 PM</u>	<u>Class B Semifinals</u>	<u>Field 3</u>
<u>5:30 PM</u>	<u>Class C Semifinals</u>	<u>Field 2</u>
<u>5:30 PM</u>	<u>Class C Semifinals</u>	<u>Field 4</u>
<u>11:30 AM</u>	<u>Class D Semifinals</u>	<u>Field 2</u>
<u>11:30 AM</u>	<u>Class D Semifinals</u>	<u>Field 4</u>
<u>Finals - Saturday, June 13</u>		
<u>11:00 AM</u>	<u>Class AAA</u>	<u>Field 4</u>
<u>11:30 AM</u>	<u>Class AA</u>	<u>Field 3</u>
<u>10:00 AM</u>	<u>Class A</u>	<u>Field 2</u>
<u>1:00 PM</u>	<u>Class B</u>	<u>Field 2</u>
<u>1:30 PM</u>	<u>Class C</u>	<u>Field 1</u>
<u>10:30 AM</u>	<u>Class D</u>	<u>Field 1</u>

CLASSIFICATION NUMBERS

Section IV			
Classification Enrollments for 2025-2026 as of 10/2025			
SOFTBALL			
CLASS AAA (1065 - UP)		CLASS C (133 - 234)	
ELMIRA	1244	TIOGA	216
ITHACA	1197	TRUMANSBURG	213
CORNING	1113	UNADILLA VALLEY/GMU	212
		GREENE	203
		MORAVIA	200
CLASS AA (670 - 1064)		UNATEGO	189
BINGHAMTON	944	MARATHON	182
HORSEHEADS	876	UNION SPRINGS	179
UNION-ENDICOTT	843	DELAWARE ACADEMY-DELHI	179
VESTAL	782	BAINBRIDGE GUILFRD	177
		GROTON	177
		OXFORD	173
CLASS A (379 - 669)		DEPOSIT-HANCOCK*	154
MAINE ENDWELL	609	HARUPURSVILLE	153
JOHNSON CITY	510	SOUTHERN CAYUGA	146
OWEGO-APALACHIN	461	NEWFIELD	143
NORWICH	417	SETON CATHOLIC CENTRAL HS	135
WAVERLY	404	ELMIRA NOTRE DAME HS (MOVED UP)	105
CHENANGO VALLEY	384		
ONEONTA	380		
CLASS B (235 - 378)		CLASS D (132 - BELOW)	
SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY	345	EDMESTON/MORRIS	112
WINDSOR	339	CHERRY VLY-SPRGFLD/SHARON SPRINGS	111
CHENANGO FORKS	317	LAURENS/MILFORD	110
DRYDEN	296	AFTON	105
WHITNEY POINT	284	RICHFIELD SPRINGS CSD/ODY	99
LANSING	273	HUNTER TANNERSVILLE	84
WATKINS GLEN/ODESSA-MOUNTOUR	267	WINDHAM ASHLAND	81
ELMIRA HEIGHTS (Thomas A. Edison HS)	258	STAMFORD/JEFFERSON	80
SIDNEY	249	MARGARETVILLE	80
SPENCER VAN ETEN/CANDOR *	248	SOUTH KORTRIGHT/ANDES	76
NEWARK VALLEY	243	CHARLOTTE VALLEY	75
WALTON/DOWNSVILLE*	242	GILBOA CONESVILLE/ROXBURY	74
		WORCESTER	68
		SCHENEVUS	63
		FRANKLIN	62

2026 SECTION IV SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

Post season sectional tournaments will run in each of the classes as determined by NYS classification.

(AAA, AA, A, B, C & D)

A. To qualify for sectional play, teams MUST:

1. Play a minimum of 6 games.
2. Teams petitioning to move up in class must do so by Apr 1, 2025.
3. The Section IV entry policy for the Softball Sectional Tournament is a 40% win percentage for overall schedule or 50% win percentage for your class schedule. Should only one school qualify in any class, the 2nd seeded team would have the option to play in the Sectional Final.

B. All teams will be seeded using the PA point system as follows:

- 5 points for a win over a school higher in class
- 4 points for a win over a school in the same class
- 3 points for a win over a school in a lower class
- 2 points for a loss to a school in a higher class
- 1 point for a loss to a school in the same class
- 0 points for a loss to a school in a lower class

To determine final point average, divide the total number of points by the number of games played. See following for tie breaker method (section F below).

*There is no such thing as a TIE in the sport of softball, all contests must be played to completion and a winner and loser determined. 'Tie games' should not be recorded on your seeding point sheets.

C. The teams which receive automatic berths will be seeded 1-16 (Class C/D) and as necessary for AAA, AA, A and B

D. If a tie exists for divisional championships and isn't broken before the seeding meeting OR if a tie exists in the PA point system, the following tie breakers will be used (in the stated order):

1. record in head to head competition
2. common opponents
3. overall record
4. league record
5. coin flip

E. Any team electing to move to a higher class for the sectional tournament will be seeded as though they had played at that class throughout the regular season. A letter of intent to move up a class must be in the Interscholastic Sports Coordinator's hand by Apr 1, 2024. This is a two-year commitment.

L. The Section IV Softball tournament is sponsored by Spaulding will use the Dudley softballs for all Sectional Rounds. Dudley will be supplying softballs for all state level play (regionals and state tournament). This softball will be the 12 LRF-FP yellow w/red stitching and .47 COR.

TOURNAMENT GAME REGULATIONS

USA FAST PITCH RULES WILL APPLY FOR SECTIONALS

Throughout the Section IV tournament, the **winning coach** is responsible for making the following calls immediately after the game. **THIS IS IMPORTANT!!**

1. First call: AAA, AA, A Jim Testa 607-341-3334 or B, C. D. Ed Swartwout 607-222-8726
2. Second email: Section IV Office: mcweenej@dcmoboces.com

All games will be played on the home field of the higher seed up to finals. The higher seed will be the home team and will provide game balls. The higher seeded team playing at home will be responsible for paying umpires and meeting other expenses. Your school may charge admission to offset expenses. Section IV will be responsible for paying umpires etc. for games at neutral sites.

****Arrival at site:** Teams are expected to arrive no earlier than 90 minutes prior to scheduled game time. Teams will not be allowed to engage in any softball related activity until 90 minutes prior to game time. If a team arrives earlier than this, they are requested to stay outside the playing area/complex. No use of the facility will be allowed and further restrictions will be enforced by the site coordinator if necessary. (From NYSPHSAA tournament handbook/Sect 4 will enforce)

Games times: Saturday games Noon. Use of field for practice will be 11:20-11:35 for the home team and 11:40-11:55 for the visiting team. Weekday game time 4:30 PM. Home team will warm up 3:50-4:05 and visitors 4:10-4:25. Game times for finals or state level play may differ.

The host school has the option of not charging admission at the semi-final games. *Regardless of admission being charged, the host school will be responsible for all expenses for that game including officials and workers.*

Championship games to be played Saturday, May 30th at Greenlights Network Grand Slam Park (former BAGSAI). Higher seeded team will remain the home team and will also have choice of dugout. Final sites and game times will be determined by the Section IV Executive Director and the Section IV coordinators. Times and or locations may be adjusted due to weather concerns or other extenuating circumstances. Championship games shall be played following NFHS rules. The NYS variance for tie breaker starts in the 10th inning.

The assignment of officials for sectional games will be done by geographic area up to the finals. Finals will be assigned on a rotating basis to officials from those chapters and who have met the requirements of the coordinator and are recommended by the evaluation forms.

Each team will have 15 minutes for infield practice. Home team followed by the visiting team. Time begins upon coordinator's indication and must end within the time allotment. Any team rituals must be done within this time frame. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Pitching warm-ups are not to be conducted inside the foul lines of the playing field. No batting practice on playing fields. No hitting against the fence.

Only team members and representatives listed on the roster are allowed in the bench area.

Protests: During sectional play, all protests must be made and resolved immediately. A protest committee consisting of site chairperson or designee, one working umpire, and another person to be named by the site chairperson will be available.

Please be reminded that exceptions cannot be made for senior trips, award banquets, proms, etc. Be prepared for any request of this nature to be denied. Check all possible conflicts at the beginning of the season and plan accordingly.

Teams who win sectionals will be given a packet of information regarding state competition. Rosters must be electronically filed on the NYSPHSAA website immediately as per packet information. Digital team photos should also be sent to the web site before playing a Regional game so if victorious, they are ready for the NYS Championship program. Failure to submit your roster and picture before regional could result in your team being left out of the program.

Any league "run rule" or "mercy rule" DOES NOT APPLY for any sectional play.

Tied and Suspended Game Rule to be used during sectional, regional and state tournaments.

1. An official game is 5 innings or 4 and one-half if the home team is ahead. If a winner can be determined and no more softball can be played that day, the game is over and a winner is declared. The game does not have to go 7 innings.
2. If a game is stopped before it becomes an official game, the game is a suspended game. This game will be picked up at that point. Score, inning, count of batter etc. should all be recorded in the scorebook.
3. If the game is stopped after having gone long enough to be an official game, however a winner cannot be determined due to a tied score. This game becomes a tied/suspended game at that point score, inning, count of batter etc., should all be recorded in the scorebook.
4. If a game is stopped after having gone long enough to become an official game and;
 - a. The visitors score a run or runs in the top half of the inning. Then game reverts back to the last completed inning and either a winner is declared, or we have a tied/suspended game. Or,
 - b. The visitors score a run or run in the top half of the inning and the home team does not complete they're at bat. The game reverts back to the last completed inning and either a winner is declared, or we have a tied/suspended game. If we have a tied/suspended game, we pick up from that point (Visitors runs in the top half of the inning and home team runs in the bottom half count). This game will be picked up at that point. Score, inning, count of batter etc., should all be recorded in the scorebook.
 - c. The home team ties the game in the bottom half of the inning but doesn't complete the inning. If we cannot play anymore we have a tied/suspended game at point. This game will be picked up at that point. Score, inning, count of batter, etc., should all be recorded in the scorebook. Or,
 - d. The home team takes the lead in the bottom half of the 5th or 6th inning, and then the game is called. At that point, the home team is declared the winner of the game and the game is over.

ADMISSION TO SECTION IV EVENTS

All teams participating in the tournament shall submit a pass list to the site chairperson on the night of the game. This pass list shall include a maximum of 20 people (coaches, players, managers, statisticians, etc.). The Varsity Cheerleaders and their Advisor only may be added to this list. Bus drivers and spectator bus chaperones will also be admitted free.

At the Arena - All players, coaches, scorekeepers, managers, etc. must enter by the back door only. Officials must also enter by the back door.

NO LEAGUE or SCHOOL PASSES will be accepted for free admission. Only those on the pass list will be admitted free. (Section IV courtesy passes and Section IV Lifetime passes will also admit two people for free.)

No bands or noisemakers including (cowbells, horns, drums, etc.) will be allowed.

GoFan Digital Ticketing will be used at Final sectional contests. (Any member school who refuses to use the GoFan Digital Ticketing platform for a Sectional Semi-Finals & Final Basketball Contest, will play that contest at the opposing school Gymnasium)

A. Sectional Finals games tickets are \$6.25 **(NO CASH ACCEPTED)**

*Card Readers available at ticket locations for credit card purchases

*General Admission – Student, Adults & Senior Citizens **(NO CASH ACCEPTED)**

*Children 10 and under are free

Section IV Athletic Courtesy Passes, Section IV LifeTime Passes and all NYSPHSAA Passes Accepted.

AWARDS

Immediately after each championship contest, individual medals and team trophies will be presented by a member of the Board of Education and/or a school administrator from the teams involved. The Section IV basketball coordinators shall assist in these brief ceremonies.

- A. The winning team and runner up team in each classification shall receive a team trophy.
- B. Each member of the winning team shall receive a gold medal and a certificate.
- C. Each member of the runner-up team shall receive a silver medal and a certificate.
- D. According to Section IV policy, a maximum of fifteen (15) medals will be awarded to players and coaches only on each team. A team desiring to purchase additional medals may contact the Section IV Interscholastic Sports Coordinator.

Note: If a certain class has less than 8 teams entering sectional play, the section does not provide runner-up medals and plaques.

Only those players on the regular season roster (submitted on the google form) will receive medals and certificates. Medals and certificates will NOT be given to JV's brought up for the Sectionals only