



COED SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

UPDATED MAY 2023

**DIVISION: HAPPY HOUR
WEEKNIGHTS**

Season Details:

League consists of doubleheader regular season games, **7 innings or 1 hour time limit**, whichever comes first, (2 extra innings during playoffs with international rules, and for Finals, international rules will apply in the 2nd extra inning) & 2 Post Season games. Top 4 teams will make the playoffs.

Slow modified pitch game, no fastpitch or high arc is allowed. Umpire will notify a pitcher to slow down, if they need to. **Umpires will call out flat pitches, if batter swings there will be no penalty.**

This is a CO-ED league, which means each team must have a minimum of 3 women players on the field.

The maximum number of men on the field (defense) is 7, minimum of women on the field (if available) is 3. You can always use women in place of men and an unlimited number of women as EH's.

PRE GAME:

Both managers should ALWAYS discuss rules, BEFORE the game. 99% of the calls made by the umpires are JUDGMENT calls-**there is no arguing an umpire's judgment calls.** Sometimes because of field conditions (and **only** field conditions) the umpire may need to tweak a rule-that is permitted as long as both managers are notified and agree to it.

Managers will exchange lineup cards and provide one to the umpire, which also includes bench players. Full names must be used.

GAME STARTING TIME AND GRACE PERIOD:

Teams will have no more than a 10 minute grace period for teams to have the minimum number of players to start a game which is 6 men and 2 women. At that point the umpire will start the game and the teams will play with whatever players are available. Umpires will let the teams be aware of how much time is left to finish the games.

SCOREBOOKS:

Each team MUST keep a scorebook of their own team and should keep a scorebook on the opposing team. You can not argue line up mistakes if you don't keep track with other teams scorebook or have their lineup card. So it's crucial to keep track.

Managers MUST announce all lineup changes-BEFORE they happen (and record it in their scorebook) to the umpire and opposing manager.

After each game, both Managers must provide a copy of their scorebook to the umpire who will take a picture and send it in to the league for record.

POST GAME:

After completion of the game, each manager is required to clean the bench and leave the dugout immediately so the next team can set up for their game. Any Fines received by the parks department will be the responsibility of the team that does not follow the park's department rule.

BATTING:

If a team starts with 9 players, a 10th player may be added into the batting lineup in the 10th batting slot, but only if the team has not yet reached that slot in the order.

If a team plays with 7, 8 or 9 players with 3 women on the field, there will be no automatic out. Automatic outs will be enforced when there are less than 3 women on the field.

In the case of a team losing a player during the game, if there is no one to replace him/her in the batting order, that slot in the order becomes an automatic out. If the player is lost due to injury, it will be to the opposing manager's discretion as to whether the "automatic out" rule goes into effect. An opposing manager may, out of generosity, allow this particular rule to be voided, depending on the situation, but she/he has no obligation to do so.

COURTESY FOUL BALL

Each Batter starts with a 1-1 count, gets only 1 courtesy foul ball after 2 strikes, a 2nd foul ball is an out.

Scenario 1: If 2nd strike is the result of a ball going foul, they can foul a ball once more and then the next swing the ball must be in fair play.

Scenario 2: If the batter gets called looking on the 2nd strike, they can only foul the ball once, and the next swing the ball must be in fair play. Umpires will have back up balls to keep the game moving.

Another important item: **Interference from a source outside of our game.**

Unfortunately we play in an area where space is very limited, while our games are going on there are other games and/or activities happening on the same fields. Therefore, if the ball hits a player or person on another field, it is considered a live ball and in play.

WOMEN IN THE BATTING ORDER:

Women must bat before or after the 3rd consecutive male batter Example- If a female player is batting 1st in the lineup, the **5th** batter must be female, and the **9th** batter must be female. **You cannot bat four men in a row.** **If you bat 12 or more the same rules apply.**

GROUND RULES:

GAMES are on either EAST RIVER Field 3 or 4. Fence, tree, and out of play rules for those 2 fields will be discussed by umpire before the game.

Batted balls that hit a fielder, that go out of bounds -the batter and runners get the base they were going to-from when the ball went out of bounds-plus one base.

Overthrows-

Thrown balls that go beyond that line or over the fences-batter and/or runners get the base they were going to at the time the ball was thrown-plus one base. **The bases rewarded is based on where the base the runner was going to when the fielder released the ball.**

UMPIRES:

Regular season games have one umpire. **They are paid \$30 per team, per game.** Extra Inning pay is \$5 per half inning. Each team **must pay** the umpire at the field at the end of the game.

FORFEITS:

The forfeiting team must pay the umpires for BOTH teams. In other words if your team forfeits a game it's \$60. Any team that forfeits more than 4 games during the regular season will be disqualified from future league play until the following requirements are met: \$120 fine paid to the league and \$180 paid to the league for forfeit insurance.

SUBSTITUTIONS AND RE-ENTRY:

All substitutions must be announced to the umpire and opposing manager as they are happening, not after the fact. **All players have 1 re-entry** and they MUST bat in their original spot in the batting order –same for substitutes.

BORROWED PLAYERS RULE:

- a. Can only be used during the Regular Season-not for Playoffs.
- b. The players you borrow cannot replace players from your team.
- c. Borrowed players **can only be used if a team has 9 players or less** and need to field 10 players. If the team's players show up during the game they must replace the borrowed players at the end of the half inning being played.
- d. **Teams using borrowed players must receive approval from the league, borrowed player's manager, and the opposing manager. Opposing manager can agree to which borrowed player can play, and where their position must be in the game, if chosen by the opponent.**
- e. If the team can only field 9 players or less, they will not have an auto out unless they are missing women. **(7 men 2 women = 1 auto out, or 7 men 1 woman = 2 auto outs). No women will result in forfeit.**
- f. If and when roster players arrive they must replace borrowed players-men for men, women for women, unless the borrowing team has 4 or more women, then a roster man can replace the 4th (or 5th) woman.

COURTESY RUNNERS:

Each team may use 2 Courtesy Runners per game, 1 for Men, 1 for Women.

If a position player is injured, they can get a courtesy runner, however, they must be replaced by a bench player on the field for no less than 2 innings. If you have less than 10 players at the game, then you will have to play with one less player on the field.

For safety and liability reasons. Please do not put your players at risk just to win a game. If you subject your player to continue playing while injured, you will be held accountable for any related medical expenses the player incurred, and subject to ban from the league. The league will not be held liable for any physical detriment to the players due to the manager's or player's decision to continue playing while hurt.

There will be two bases at first base. The outside bag is the runner's base, and the batter must run to that bag. The inside bag is the fielder's base, and the fielder must tag that bag to record an out. **If the fielder touches the runner's bag, it is not considered an out.**

If the batter runs to the inside bag, the umpire will call him out even if he beats the throw. A runner who gets on base safely and makes the turn towards second base must use the inside base, and a runner diving back to first base must also use the inside base. The outside bag is considered "safe" for a runner only when he is running down the line towards first base from the batter's box, not once he has passed first base.

WOMEN SPECIFIC RULES:

1. **FEMALE Line:** The outfielders must be behind the 2nd cones in the outfield. The outfield cones 100 feet beyond first, second and third base. **Only when the ball exit the bat, can outfielders start running in.** The area between the bases and the Female Line is designated as the Woman Line Zone.
2. **Infielders cannot play on the grass or beyond marked area (if on baseball field for BOTH Genders.)**
3. **For FEMALE BATTERS-Infielders can only start moving back when the ball exits from the bat. Don't be that guy that tries to time it, the result will be a hit.**
4. YOU CAN NOT PLAY 5 INFIELDRS AND/OR ROVER VS FEMALE BATTERS
5. AT LEAST 3 FEMALES ON THE FIELD.
IF YOU ONLY HAVE 2 YOU CAN ONLY HAVE 9 FIELDERS.

MEN BAT/RUN/FIELD FOR MEN, WOMEN FOR WOMEN-UNLESS YOU HAVE MORE THAN 3 WOMEN PLAYING, THEN A WOMEN CAN REPLACE A MAN.

6. WHEN A MALE BATTING IN FRONT OF A FEMALE IN THE BATTING ORDER IS WALKED ON 3 STRAIGHT BALLS, HE WILL GET 2nd BASE and THE FEMALE PLAYER HAS TO HIT.

LEADS:

NO LEADING-Runners must wait for the ball to be hit before they can leave the base. Anyone caught leading, the umpire will call them out. If a runner jumps during a missed swing, it will be considered an out. **CONTACT ONLY!**

BASERUNNING, TAGS, ETC:

A runner must slide into a bag where a fielder is attempting to field a throw, or has the ball and is going to make a tag play. “Barreling in” “running over” or any other intentional physical contact by the runner will be an immediate cause for ejection from the game and possible suspension from league play.

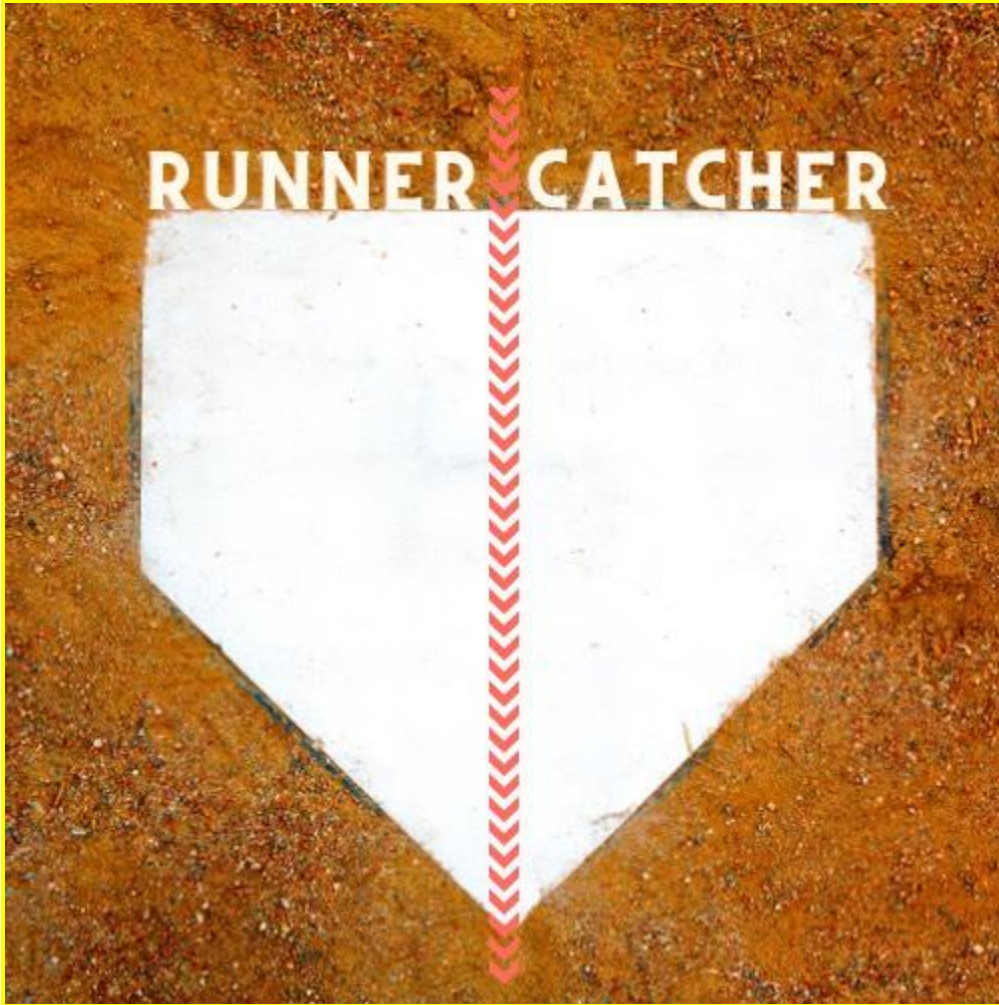
Similarly, a fielder cannot block a base when he does not have the ball or he has no chance of making a play. In addition, a fielder may not “phantom tag” as this can cause a runner to be injured.

Double plays- A runner must either give themselves up and get out of the way to allow the fielder to throw, or slide into the base. **If you run standing up, on a close double play, you will be called out.**

Defending home plate:

- any plays coming to the plate, catcher cannot be directly behind or on home plate
- To avoid collisions on tag plays, catchers must be in front and right half of home plate (SEE DIAGRAM)
- Catchers can not have foot on home plate except on force plays, which they are only allowed one foot on the plate on their half of the plate (no 2 feet blocking the entire plate)
- if the pitcher is making the tag at home, same applies to them and catcher must be on either backstop side but not directly behind home plate.
- Runners will have the left half of home plate

- Runners must slide or give themselves up on close plays. If a runner doesn't slide on close plays, they will be called out.



The intent of this section of the rules is to prevent injuries to players. It will be the umpire's decision as to whether these rules have been followed on any specific play, and he will rule accordingly.

PITCHING:

Pitchers must throw a lob pitch with a **slight arc**, no Flat pitches, The ball must be pitched underhand in an arch (**no higher than 8 feet or lower than 5 feet**).

If the umpire calls the pitch flat, and the hitter makes contact, it will be the result of the contact with the ball and not deemed a re-do.

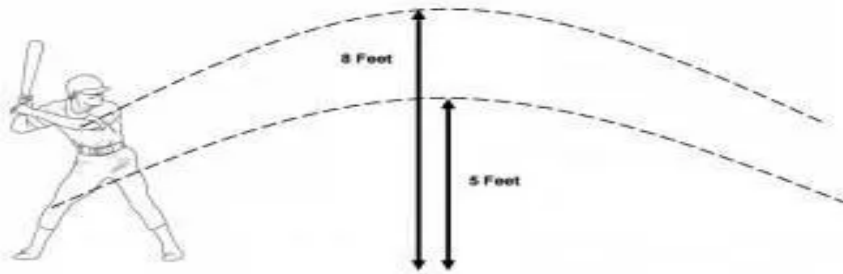
At least one foot must start and finish on the rubber.

STRIKE ZONE: The strike zone will vary with the height of the pitch as well as the height of the batter. Where the batter stands in the box has no bearing on the strike zone. ASA rules define the zone as front knee/back shoulder while the batter is standing adjacent to the plate. If a batter is not standing adjacent to the plate, the umpire must make a mental adjustment by taking the size of the batter and visualizing him/her adjacent to the plate. If any part of the ball crosses any white portion of the plate, it is a strike. A pitch can land in an area wide of the plate and still be a legitimate strike.

See Illustration on next page

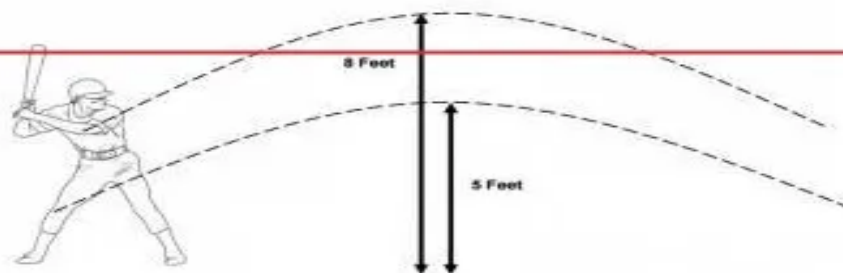
WSL - Pitch Height

Legal Pitch: A legal pitch is defined as an underhanded lob with an arc of at least five feet and no more than 8 feet. For reference, a basketball hoop is ten feet high.



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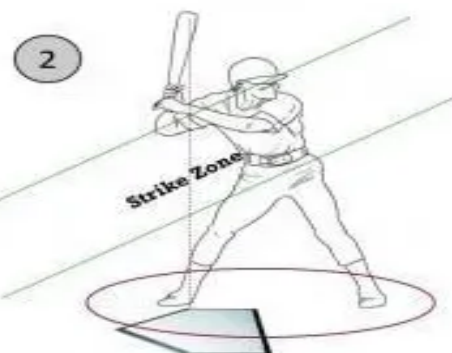
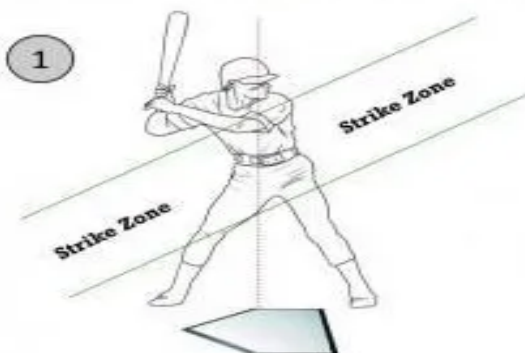
WSL - Strike Zone

Strike Zone: The strike zone goes from the batter's front shoulder to back knee. The pitch can come into the zone via an arc of 5 to 8 feet but can't be higher than the front shoulder upon entering the zone and can't be lower than the back knee when exiting the zone. It does not matter how deep the ball lands upon exiting.



WSL - Strike Zone

Strike Zone: The strike zone is relative to the plate. It goes from the batter's front shoulder to back knee when the batter is standing in line with the plate (1) but if a batter is moved up or back in the box, the dimensions of the strike zone does not move with the batter (2).



***Illustration courtesy of Williamsburg Softball League**

There will be no arguments on balls and strikes.

BATS:

All Association bats are approved for play

COMMUNITY BAT RULE:

ALL BATS ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL PLAYERS IN THE GAME. IF YOU DO NOT WANT OTHER PLAYERS USING YOUR BAT, LEAVE IT HOME.

NOTE: If you intentional slam the bat on the ground, throw the bat after your follow through swing, toss it back to the on deck batter or gate, or use it in a way not intended to be used, which is swing and make contact with the ball, and it breaks, you are responsible financially to the owner of the bat.

Illegally rolled or shaved bats will not be allowed **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

If you are caught with a shaved bat (as determined by the umpire), **you will be ejected from the game and suspended for the next game.**

Umpire should check all bats prior to the game. Any time a player, manager or umpire sees

an illegal bat-either before or after it's used in a game, it should be taken out of play immediately.

If a batter gets a hit with it-he/she is out. Any batter who is in the batter's box with an illegal bat

can be called out by the umpire or on appeal to the umpire by the opposing manager.

CLEATS/SPIKES:

Turf Rubber or Plastic cleats are approved. **Metal spikes are not allowed.**

RAIN/SUSPENDED GAME:

If a game is canceled before the start of the 4th inning, a rescheduled game will start as a new game. If a game was canceled after a completion of the 4th inning, it is considered an official game.

In case of rain or any other occurrence causing a suspension of a game, that game will be completed at a later date from the exact same point and situation as when the suspension occurred. All players who were in the game originally and are available for the completion will bat in the same exact order. Other players must be used to fill in batting slots where players unavailable to attend the completion date were batting. Also, on the completion date, if a team has less players than before it will not be

penalized unless they only have 8 players, at which point the number 9 slot in the batting order would be an automatic out.

Example: If team A had a batting order of 12 on June 6th and got only 3 innings in before rain caused a suspension, when the game was completed on July 15th they only had 11 players-that's permitted-no automatic out will be charged.

ROSTERS & UNIFORMS:

Rosters will consist of **30 players max.**

Season Rosters are due by the end of 4th week of the season, a 2 game deduction for each player on the team is made for each week after the 4th week, that the roster is not sent in. NO EXCEPTIONS.

If a player is on more than one roster, they must email the league to let us know which team they will play for during the season, no later than the end of week 4. They will not be eligible for playoffs, if a decision is not made in a timely manner, **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

You cannot switch teams after the end of week 4.

Playoff Eligibility- All Players must play a minimum of 4 regular season games to qualify for playoffs. A position player must have 2 plate appearances to count as an official game played. Pitchers that are not hitting, must pitch 3 innings to count as a game; the Umpire must sign the scorebook to confirm they did so.

Teams must have uniforms no later than 5th week of league play.

MERCY RULE:

The “Mercy Rule” is 15 after 4 innings, or 10 runs after 5 innings . Home team always gets a chance to bat if the Away team goes ahead by mercy amount (innings 4, 5, 6, or 7).

Mercy rule for the entire Playoffs

PLAYOFFS:

4 teams make the playoffs (2 rounds of playoffs). The order of finish will be determined as follows:

1. Winning Percentage or Games Behind- if teams play an uneven number of games .
 - a) best record
 - b) run differential between the 2 or more teams that are tied
 - c) best head to head record (if more than 2 teams involved, combined record vs each)
 - d) best head to head total run differential during their match up.

Any tie in record will go to the next tie breaker and so on down the list.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

Masks MUST be worn by all catchers. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Throwing the bat on your follow through is an automatic out-dead ball. If it happens a second time the player will not be allowed to hit for the rest of that game.

A Valid US or NYS Government Issued ID must be shown, if the opposing manager questions use of non-roster players during playoffs.

Due to rainout or any other cancellations, teams may have to play make up games to be announced. Game Day decisions on rainouts will be made no later than 1 hour prior to game time.

ON DECK BATTER:

Please have only one on deck batter near the entrance towards home plate. Other players must be far away from the on deck batter so not to draw confusion. ON DECK Batter must be visible to the defensive team and umpire.

Attempting to deceive the defensive team of “Who’s On Deck Batter?”-will be considered unsportsmanlike and will negate the automatic 2 base walk to the male batter following 3 consecutive balls. The male batter will only be able to take 1st base

This is a judgment call by the umpire. Managers need to clearly announce to the umpire and other team -who the on deck batter is. Pitchers should stop the game and ask the umpire to ask the batting team’s manager to loudly announce to both teams- who is on deck.

Disputes with Umpire:

Only Managers and Assistant Manager –may BRIEFLY discuss calls/rules with the umpire. When the umpire says it’s time to stop arguing and play ball-it’s time to stop arguing and play ball.

Managers-YOU are

responsible for your player’s actions. Please set a good example.

Drinking of alcoholic beverages and/or using drugs. during games- including between games- is illegal, prohibited, and violates the NYC Park Dept permit rules. You will be ejected and suspended 1 game if you are found to be in violation of this rule. The NYC Parks Department is very strict with the rules in Central Park.

PLAYER CONDUCT:

We would like all our participants to set a good example of our organization and the league by promoting sportsmanship and fair play. Although competition may become intense, we expect our participants to maintain good sportsmanship throughout the game and the season.

VIOLATIONS OF CODE OF CONDUCT-

Any player who commits the offense of Abusive Behavior Level 1 is ejected from the game and receive a 1 game suspension. 2nd offense will result in an ejection and suspension from the league.

- Vulgar, abusive, sexist, racist, discriminatory comments or gestures towards an opponent, umpire or spectator
- Verbal threat of violence towards an opponent, umpire or spectator
- Throwing equipment in anger at the ground, bleachers, or fence
- Excessive arguing over judgment calls
- Intentionally tripping a player

Any player who commits the offense of Abusive Behavior Level 2 will receive a league suspension, and may be subject to criminal prosecution.

- Attempting to punch, kick, or strike an opponent, umpire or spectator
- Attempting to maliciously strike an opponent, umpire or spectator with a ball, glove, or bat
- Brandishing/Displaying any type of weapon (including equipment) in a menacing/threatening manner
- Charging/Confronting another individual in a combative/threatening manner
- Sexual harassment of any players in any form.
- Spitting on an opponent, umpire, or spectator,

These rules are our own rules, and they are to be used as an addendum to the official ASA rules. Each team manager should keep the rulebook with them at every game so there is never a question about a call or rule. Protests will be lodged with the league's commissioner and managers in official ASA fashion or they will be dismissed. Remember almost all the calls by the umpire are JUDGMENT calls, and therefore cannot be protested.

Ejected players have 5 minutes to leave the game area, leave the permitted field immediately and must be 300 feet or more away.

Finally, we are doing this for FUN & A GREAT CAUSE! Any anti-social behavior such as excessive arguing, cursing, verbal threats, disrespecting players on opposing teams and/or the umpires, overly aggressive play or physical violence of any type is strictly prohibited and will result in suspensions and/or banishment from further league play. Managers-YOU are responsible for your player's actions.

Please keep this in perspective: **This is recreational co-ed softball not Game 7 of the World Series.**

PS SOFTBALL OFFICIAL RULES ARE IN ADDITION TO OR AMENDMENTS OF THE ASA 2022 RULEBOOK WHICH ARE THE OFFICIAL BASIC RULES OF THE LEAGUE

COVID-19 RULES

Even though the positive rates are going down and more people are getting vaccinated, we still have ways to go to end this pandemic. In order to stay safe and continue to have league play, The City and the Park's Department has made requirements each league must follow.

1-Teams must wipe down their benches after games.

2- Managers should have Hand Sanitizer and First Aid Kit made readily available for players.

3- Players will need to fill out Covid-19 Affidavit prior to playing and consent to Contract Tracing by NYS and NYC, if they do test positive during the season.

4- Players should not play, if they tested positive for Covid within 7 days before the next game. However, they can play, only if they show proof they test negative and we have confirmed it with the tester.

5- If you would like to use an opposing team's equipment, you need to make sure to ask them first!

6- Lastly, no spitting, no licking your fingers or wiping sweat with your hands. Bring a towel or wipe with you on the field if needed.