

# **Nassau County Softball Officials Association (NCSBOA)**

## **General Membership Board Meeting**

### **BOCES Office, Garden City, NY**

Thursday March 5, 2026

Meeting called to order at 7:32pm by Chairperson Larry Steimer.

#### **Association Administration and Communication**

- **Attendance Tracking and Contact Protocol**

Patty introduced a new attendance card system where members sign weekly next to the date and verify their contact information. Members must return signed cards before leaving the meeting to confirm attendance.

Larry emphasized that umpires should not contact BOCES directly unless in emergencies (e.g., flat tire, game incidents). All game-related issues, especially ejections or incidents, must be reported first to Larry to streamline communication and avoid confusion.

Email communication is encouraged; members should notify if they are not receiving emails.

- **Scheduling and Zebra Web Usage**

Members were reminded to promptly accept or turn back games on Zebra Web to avoid fees. Blocking availability is advised to prevent unwanted assignments. Turnbacks require an appeal form submission to avoid penalties.

Zebra Web issues, including app updates, were discussed; members should keep availability current and monitor schedule changes. Text notifications from Zebra Web are recommended for timely updates.

- **Dues and Payments**

Dues for 2027 are \$125 for active members and \$35 for inactive members. Payment is due by May 7th, 2026 to ensure inclusion on the active roster and insurance coverage. Electronic payment via QR code or mail is accepted. Late payments may result in suspension from umpiring.

Members were urged to include their name and year in payment memos to avoid confusion.

#### **Uniform and Equipment Standards**

- **Uniform Changes and Presentation**

State mandates require all ball bags to be blue starting this season; gray or black ball bags are prohibited.

Heather gray pants are allowed this year but will be replaced by charcoal gray non-pleated pants in 2027. Partners should coordinate uniform colors for consistency.

Members were reminded to maintain a neat appearance: polished shoes, clean pants, and appropriate cold-weather gear such as gloves and earmuffs.

An inspection for uniforms is scheduled for March 10th.

- **Timing Devices for Pace of Play**

Umpires must carry a handheld timing device (stopwatch or buzzer) to monitor pace of play, though enforcement is currently encouraged rather than strict. Use of phones or watches for timing is prohibited.

Pace of play expectations include 60 seconds after the last out to start the next inning and limits on warm-up pitches to encourage game flow. At 30 seconds the base umpire should announce 30 seconds left.

## **Rules, Testing, and Mechanics**

- **State Test and Preparation**

The state softball test is mandatory before officiating the first game. It is an open-book test with a question bank; members are encouraged to study collaboratively to improve scores.

Test retakes are managed by a single state official and may take up to a week for reset. Members must use the email registered with the state to access the test.

Passing score is 76%. Test resources and tutorials will be shared via email and posted on the website.

- **Rule Clarifications and Updates**

Rick provided detailed explanations on key rules including:

- Legal pitches require hands apart on the pitching plate and a pause simulating sign-taking.
- Obstruction vs. interference distinctions, emphasizing obstruction occurs only when a runner is impeded, hindered or confusing a runner
- Double first base usage and appeals on missed bases.
- Clarifications on appeal plays, look-back rules, and live ball situations.
- Prohibition of on-field recording devices except one-way communication between coach and catcher.
- Enforcement of sportsmanship and pace of play with practical examples.

- **Mechanics and Positioning**

Emphasis on maintaining clear, unobstructed views of plays, adjusting positioning as needed rather than strictly adhering to angles.

Umpires should communicate pregame and during games, including plate assignments and uniform coordination.

## **Contract and Administrative Procedures**

- **Contract Highlights and Appeals Process**

Marie reviewed the new contract terms, emphasizing:

- The importance of controlling availability and submitting appeals within five business days for turnbacks or late starts.
- Late starts require submission within three days.
- Confirmation calls must be made individually to the home team or opponent's administrative assistant, with records kept.
- Appeals must be documented with forms available on Zebra Web and Secviii.org.
- No full fee for canceled games on the day of the contest; half-fee may apply under certain conditions.
- Travel fees were removed; \$25 compensation applies if a team drops out mid-season.
- Officials should not make themselves available to officiate for schools they are connected with.

- **Incentives and Reporting**

Officials can receive incentives for officiating in multiple sports or recruiting new officials. Sportsmanship and injury reports should be filed appropriately, with anonymity maintained for players.

The concussion protocol now allows trainers or designated personnel to clear players for return, reducing umpire involvement beyond removal from play.

## **Treasurer's Report and Miscellaneous**

- **Financial Update**

Treasurer Pete reported a balance of \$12,421.02, including recent interest. Members reminded to specify payment purpose clearly.

- **Upcoming Events and Reminders**

- Next meeting: March 10th at 7:30 p.m. for uniform inspection.
- Members encouraged to discard meeting papers on exit and meet with mentors if new.
- 50/50 raffle conducted at meeting end.

Ralph Fornoles

Recording Secretary

NCSBOA

3/5/2026 General Membership Meeting 1 "Interpretation Meeting"

ABSENT:

PRIOR REQUESTS TO BE EXCUSED: