

Here are some early reminders:

ROSTERS Submit your “Prospective Officials Roster” with any possible new official. This should be done in one, complete document and not piecemeal. This form is solely to make the test available to new umpires. This is NOT the spring roster. Even if an official is on the Prospective Officials Roster and they pass the test and pay dues to your association, they are not eligible to step on the field until they are rostered with NYSSO on the Spring Roster and they are insured.

TEST The test will be released within the next few days. We are updating the website to remove any outdated material, which umpires should not rely on. This is primarily due to the change from USA Softball to NFHS Softball. We are also in the process of adjusting any “approved rulings” as necessary. Umpires may not take the test until they attend a rules interpretation. Umpires shall strive to pass the test on the first attempt

TIMING DEVICES All umpires are required by NYSSO/NYSPHSAA to carry a timing device either in their pocket or attached to their belt for managing the 60 seconds between innings rules. The base umpire (or plate umpire in a single umpire game or 3rd base umpire in a three-umpire game) will announce “30 seconds” or “30 seconds to play” at the half-way point. This is mandatory – it is not optional.

UNIFORM CHANGES All uniform changes are in effect for this season with the exception of the change to pants, which is an optional change by chapter adoption. However, as stated at this year’s meeting and quoting the NYSSO Constitution and By-Laws, the state uniform is required for all post-season play. “Optional” uniforms are for “regular” season games. Article V – A – 2.

PANTS Do Fechheimer pants meet the NYSSO pants requirements for 2027? NO! These pants are not color-matching, the material is different, the style is different, and the stitching is different. They would defeat the “uniformity” justification of the rule change. NYSSO is working with Ump-Attire to set up discounted rates for umpires for later in the season. Unfortunately, just based on supply and demand and the time it takes for the company to set up a NYSSO site on their website, we cannot push it through immediately. Stay tuned.