

Welcome to Softball Training



Agenda

- Evaluations
- DP/FLEX
- DP/FLEX Demo
- Rule Clarifications
- NFHS Resources

Evaluations

EOA EVAL PROGRAM

Objective

- Why do we do evaluations:
 - TO BE BETTER
 - a. Better officials
 - b. A better association



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Grading

- What is grading based on:
 1. **Rules:** As written in NFHS rules manual
 2. **Mechanics:** As written in the NFHS Umpires manual
 3. **Standards:** As adopted by the association

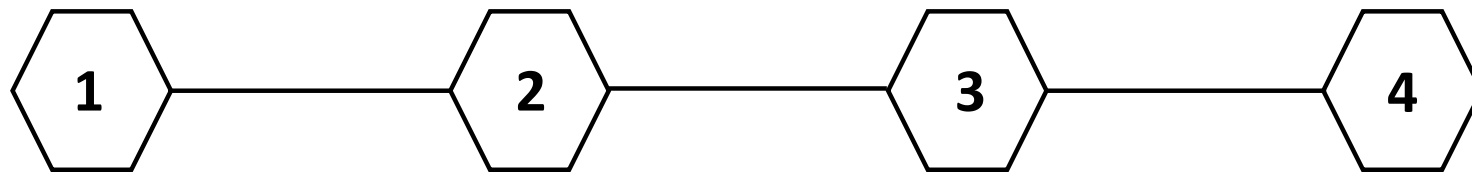
Examples:

- Contact partner 24 hour in advance.
- Show up 30 minutes prior to game time.

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Grading Scale



- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <84% Accuracy• Deviates from the rules, mechanics or standards | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 85-94% Accuracy• Occasionally deviates from the rules, mechanics or standards | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 95-99% Accuracy• Seldom deviates from the rules, mechanics or standards | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 100% Accuracy• Never deviates from the rules, mechanics or standards |
|--|--|--|---|

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Grading Scale



- Did not happen during this game

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Evaluator's Remarks & Observations

- **Comments:** This describes the type of game it was and your overall performance.
- **Strengths:** These are positive points that the evaluator observed.
- **Opportunities:** These are points observed during the game that could be improved on.
- **Recommendations:** Recommendation to the commissioner for future umpiring games. i.e. level (MS/JV/VR)

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Criteria – Attitude

- Professional demeanor
- Desire to learn
- Glad to be there
- Doesn't carry a chip from past



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Criteria – Appearance

- Uniform is clean and neat (wrinkle free)
- Shoes are clean and shined
- Facial hair is neatly trimmed if present



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Criteria – Strike Zone

- Calls consistent zone
- Correct size for playing ability
- Doesn't change after situation
- Gets situation strikes



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Criteria – Reaction to Pressure

- Strike zone does not change
- Body language remains positive
- Continues mechanics properly
- Does not over-react
- Continues to THINK logically



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Criteria – Knowledge & Interpretation of Rules

- Adheres to and applies the rules as written or interpreted by the association
- Communicate with partner if any confusion to the rule

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Criteria – Timing

- Does not anticipate play / pitch
- Does not render decisions before definitions are met
- Lets it happen , then provides decision
- Takes appropriate time to make the call



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Criteria – Game Control

- Documents all substitutions and charge conferences.
- Controls time between innings
- Controls time between pitches
- Controls batter between pitches
- Controls coaches
- Support partner

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Criteria – Plate Mechanics

- Proper head height and in the slot, not overtop or on the other side, allows unobstructed view of entire plate
- Eyes Remain horizontal with ground
- Does not flinch or drift with pitches
- Does not set unusually high or deep as to draw attention or questioning of judgement

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Criteria – Base Mechanics

- Attains the appropriate angle and distance for plays
- Not too close or too far from play
- Works to get angle OVER distance when appropriate
- Adjusts positions for poor throws or unusual plays
- Reacts instinctively to situations



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Criteria – Coach Communications



- Conducts themselves professionally
- Treats coach as an umpire wants to be treated
- Utilizes natural pauses in game to communicate with coaches/score keepers

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Criteria – Pregame

- Umpire conducts pregame with partner with sufficient detail to outline responsibilities
- Conducts plate conference

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Criteria – Post Game

- Accompanies partner from field to car
- Reviews performance actively
 - Asks questions
- Provides partner feedback
- Remains in the parking lot until both vehicles start properly or mutually dismissed by partner

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Criteria – Partner Communications

- Contacted at least 24 hours before game
- Site, time and location to meet
- Begins all communication with eye contact
- Uses somewhat discreet signals prior to pitch
- Verbalizes changing coverages



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Criteria – Arrival Time

- Arrives at least 30 minutes prior to scheduled start time
- Umpire conducts pregame with partner with sufficient detail to outline responsibilities

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Criteria – Hustle

- Runs athletically and keeps pace with players
- Works to better positioning
- Reacts to developing plays
- Does not walk on the field, jogs to position



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Criteria – Voice

- Uses adequate voice for communication
- Varies voice with situations
- Uses proper terms (Out, Safe, etc)



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Criteria – Signals

- Uses proper mechanics in calls
- Uses established signals for communication with partner
- Establishes eye contact when signaling with partner

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Criteria – Assertiveness

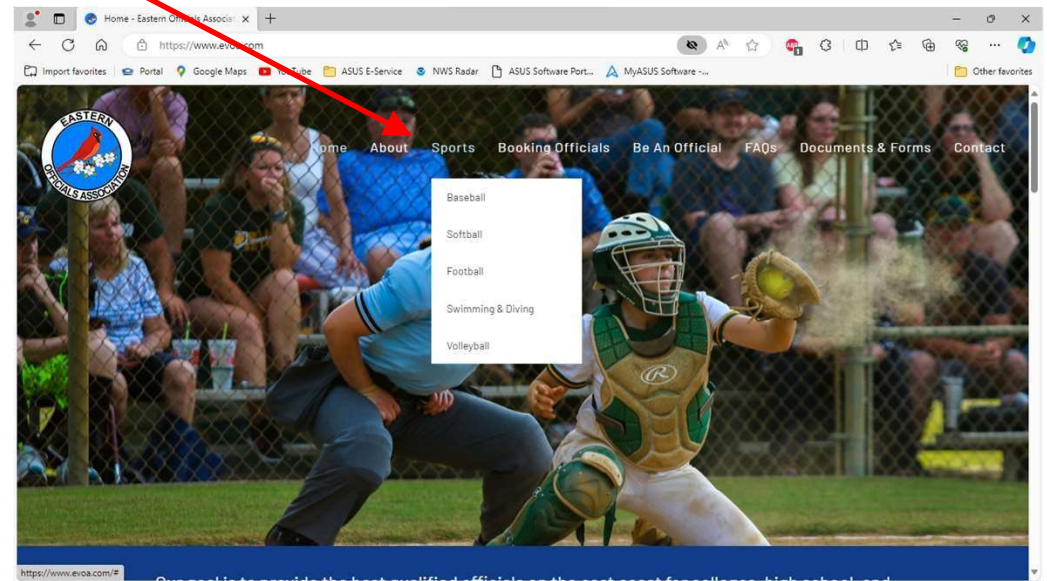
- Uses proper level of assertiveness for situation
 - Is actively “into play”
 - Uses voice to establish presence
-

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Umpires Use

- Move your mouse over Sports and select 'Softball'.

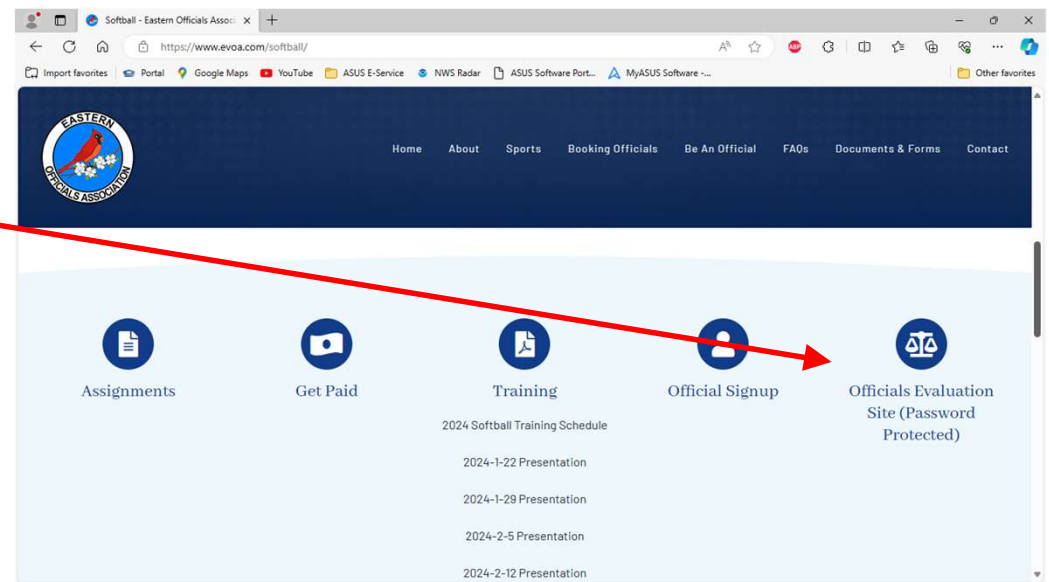


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Umpires Use

- Scroll down until you see the ICONS.
- Select the hyperlink 'Officials Evaluation Site (Password Protected)' under the Scale Icon.



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Evaluators

- Cara Headrick
- Mike Casteen
- Cheryl Crossman
- Paul DeRenzo
- Bob Gardner
- Jose Gilbert
- Susanna Hodges
- Laura Kaiser
- Rickie Kyle
- Dwain Miller
- Chip Moran
- Jeremy Niedzwiecki
- Sheldon Parsons
- Jeff Sampson
- Sam Serman
- Robert Toran
- Rich Vargas
- Scott Warren

DP / FLEX

DP/Flex

- Allows for flexibility to get more players in the game
- Must be declared in the lineup to start the game. It cannot be used after the start if not indicated at the beginning.
- DP and Flex are intertwined in the same batting position
 - Flex can only play offense in the DP batting position.



Team : Flying Eagles

Coach: Ben There

	Number	Name	Position
1	17	J. Mora	1st (3)
2	31	D. Best	LF (7)
3	8	L. Laurinaitis	RF(9)
4	14	F. Bunch	CF (8)
5	23	D. Marino	DP
6	1	Z. Taylor	2nd (4)
7	6	M. Morrison	3rd (5)
8	18	B. Nice	P (1)
9	34	C. West	C (2)
10	00	J. Lewis	Flex/SS (6)

Lineup Card has all the proper elements

- Team Name
- Head Coach name
- Starting lineup with First Initial, Last Name, Number, and Position
- Subs with First Initial, Last Name and Number

Substitutes

Number	Name
4	W. Inn
12	N. Busy
25	S. Little

DP/Flex

- Typically, each position in the lineup has a player that

- Plays Offense (bats and runs)



- Plays Defense (use their mitt)



DP/Flex

- DP



- Must play offense to start
- Must be indicate in the lineup with DP in the lineup at the beginning of the game
- Possible options as the game continues
 - Plays Offense only
 - Plays Offense and Defense
 - Sits on the Bench
- Never Changes Position in the Batting Lineup

DP/Flex



- Flex

- Must play defense to start
- Must be indicated in the lineup in the 10th spot
- Possible options as the game continues
 - Plays Defense Only
 - Play Defense and Offense
 - Sit on the Bench

DP/Flex

- If the Flex Plays Offense (Hit or Run)

- Can only be in the DP slot
- Lineup is now down to 9
- Consider a sub for whomever occupies the DP slot
- Can be moved back to defense only and the lineup is back to 10



DP/Flex

- If the DP Plays Defense (Uses their Mitt)
 - If for the Flex
 - Considered a substitution on the Flex
 - Lineup is now down to nine
 - Flex can be reentered and lineup is back to 10
 - If for someone other than the flex
 - DP takes the defense position
 - The player not playing defense is offense only, but they are not the DP. DP must remain in the same slot as the start of the game.
 - Lineup is still at 10



Rule Clarifications

Rule Clarifications

- Is there a “no huddle” rule?
 - No. The Defense has 1 minute to get 5 warmup pitches and be ready. Any huddles should be part of the 1 minute.
- Will high schools put lines for the pitching lane?
 - No requirement for this in NFHS
- Is there a no artificial noise maker rule?
 - Rule 3.6.13.c refers to any unsporting behavior and gives the umpire leeway to determine what is unsporting
 - Rule 3.6.8 prohibits the use of bullhorns or amplifiers for coaching use

NFHS Resources

NFHS Resources

- Website is <https://nfhs.org/>
- Softball Page Resources

Softball Resources

General

Bat Certification Marks and USA Softball Non-Approved Bats with Certification Marks

DP/FLEX Strategies for Coaches [PDF](#)

Rule 3 PowerPoint - DP FLEX [PDF](#)

Rule 3 PowerPoint - Substitutes and Lineup Card [PDF](#)

Rule 4 PowerPoint - Pre-Game and Post-Game [PDF](#)

Rule 5 PowerPoint - Dead Ball and Suspension of Play [PDF](#)

Rule 7 PowerPoint - Batter [PDF](#)

Rule 7 PowerPoint - Batting Out of Order [PDF](#)

Rule 8 PowerPoint - Lookback Rule [PDF](#)

Softball Pitching Videos [PDF](#)

Rules

Major Rule Differences - NFHS, NCAA, and USA Softball [PDF](#)

Softball Comments on the Rules - 2024

Softball Field Diagram [PDF](#)

Softball Illegal Player Penalty Chart [PDF](#)

Softball Points of Emphasis - 2024

Softball Rules Interpretations - 2024

Softball Signal Chart [PDF](#)

Softball Uniform Rules [PDF](#)

Softball Virtual Casebook [PDF](#)

Safety

NAERA Standards for Reconditioning - 2023 [PDF](#)

NFHS Concussion Courses

NFHS Resources

- Website is <https://nfhslearn.com>
- Umpiring Softball Course
 - Game Management
 - Interference
 - Obstruction

Next Meeting and Test

- **Next Meeting will be a midseason meeting to be announced**
- **You should be done with the test and clinic**

Questions?

