

**SECTION XI**  
**NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**  
1 INDEPENDENCE HILL SUITE 201 FARMINGVILLE, NY 11738  
631-366-0700

THOMAS COMBS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PETE BLIEBERG  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

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To: All Sports Chairpersons  
From: Tom Combs  
**RE: Sportsmanship**

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association and Section XI would like to ask your cooperation in the promoting of the importance of proper sportsmanship at all of its athletic contests.

Trash talking, inappropriate comments and general poor sportsmanship have become an increasing problem and we would ask that you communicate the following guidelines with the coaches at your Mandatory Coaches Meeting.

1. **There will be zero tolerance for harassing statements related to gender, race, ethnicity, disabilities, sexual orientation or religion by players, coaches, fans or officials.** It is our goal to reinforce our expectations of proper sportsmanship at all times. Incidents or violations will be handled through the regulations outlined in the NYS and Section XI procedures with the appropriate penalties administered.
2. **We have asked the officials to deal with this type of behavior with immediate and strict enforcement.**
3. **Officials are not to be involved directly with the spectators.** Officials will report this type of behavior with fans directly to the home school and follow proper procedures. Home school game administration will be responsible for the conduct at the game site.
4. **Serious incidents or violations shall be reported to Section XI on the next Business day.**
5. Coaches are asked to reinforce proper sportsmanship with their players on a regular basis and model good sportsmanship themselves.
6. Athletic Directors are asked to please review with their coaches the NYSPHSAA expectations and monitor their athletes and staff.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in creating a positive, enjoyable and healthy athletic experience for all.

cc: Jim Doig

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To: All Coaches  
From: Thomas J. Combs  
RE: Automatic External Defibrillators

**THE FOLLOWING POLICIES ARE IN PLACE AND MUST BE FOLLOWED RELATED TO**  
**AEDS AND EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS**

Coaches are reminded that Section 136.4 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education (9/2002) requires that schools provide and maintain sufficient automated external defibrillator equipment be available to ensure ready and appropriate access for use during emergencies as well as trained personnel to administer.

In order to provide an efficient and consistent handling of emergency situations the following steps **MUST** be followed:

1. The **Home School** is to be responsible for providing AED-trained personnel and a sufficient number of AED's at all interscholastic contests such that an AED can be effectively administered within 2-3 minutes to a stricken student-athlete, coach or spectator.
2. Prior to each contest, the home school coaching staff is to advise the visiting coaching staff and officials of the location of the AED and the personnel designated to utilize it.
3. All medical or AED-trained personnel that are present at the contest are to be identified prior to the contest.
4. All athletic emergencies are to be reported to the Athletic Directors of the respective districts immediately following the contest.
5. No contest will take place without an AED available and able to be administered as per #1 above.

Thank you for your cooperation and best of luck this season.

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DATE: August 2021  
TO: Section XI Coaches of Officiated Sports  
FROM: Thomas J. Combs  
RE: **Rating Officials**

Section XI provides a vehicle for coaches to evaluate the performance of game officials. It is our feeling that the system we use is the most comprehensive and effective method possible. We ask for your cooperation in this effort.

Some specifics we wish to reiterate:

1. We are committed to protecting the right of each and every coach to rate officials. We believe it to be an obligation of each and every coach to evaluate, though fully understand that your main focus is appropriately your coaching task.
2. Officials DO NOT have access to the sources of their ratings. Confidentiality is a major priority. Even Section Sport Chairs are precluded from having this information. Though we work closely with the Presidents of officials groups, they will verify the confidentiality of your ratings. Only the Section office staff has knowledge of rating sources.
3. The success of the rating system is totally dependent on your cooperation.
4. When evaluating each official, carefully consider the keys to each category:

Excellent	(5)	Should be reserved for the truly <u>outstanding performance</u> , a performance you would want on a championship contest. Over the course of a season, there should be very few 5's given.
Good	(4)	Means just that - a <u>good performance, not outstanding</u> , but <u>better than acceptable</u> - no complaints. Generally, we would expect to see more 4's than any other rating.
Acceptable	(3)	Should speak for itself. We would expect a fair number of these.
Poor	(2)	Definite flaws; contest was <u>seriously</u> affected. Hopefully, you will not need to give many during a season.
Inadequate	(1)	Absolutely unacceptable throughout the contest. Hopefully, your need to use this will be rare.

Each individual rating chosen (on each category) is a separate computer entry. The computer "computes" for each official by adding the total points and dividing by 5. This is the overall game rating for the official. This results in overall ratings such as 4.2, 3.4, 3.6, or 3.8 in addition to the whole numbers.

Best regards for an enjoyable and productive season.