

New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association

Route 130, P.O. Box 487

Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691

TO: Baseball Coaches, Athletic Directors and Umpires
FROM: Larry L. White, Assistant Director
DATE: February 2009
RE: The 2009 National Federation Baseball Rules Modifications

NJSIAA RULES INTERPRETER

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Baseball Coaches, Athletic Directors and Umpires are advised to read all rules carefully and to note the following state approved modifications: (See Page 70)

1. Rule 1, Section. 4, Article. 4 - (p.15): For special occasions commemorative or memorial patches may be worn not to exceed **4 sq. in.** They must be worn in a uniform fashion in an appropriate and dignified manner without compromising the integrity of the uniform. **The patch must be worn on the jersey.**
2. Rule 4, Section. 2, Article. 2 (p. 35) The game shall end when the visiting team is behind 10 or more runs after 4 ½ innings, or after the fifth inning, if either team is 10 runs behind and both teams have had an equal number of times at bat. **(Adopted by the NJSIAA)**
3. Rule 4, Section. 2, Article. 4 - (p. 35): (1) A two hour time limit may be approved for **(sub-varsity)** games by mutual or conference agreement. (2) **The NJSIAA does not honor suspended games, except for state tournament games.**
4. Rule 4, Section 4, Article 1a - (pp. 35 & 36): A game shall be forfeited to the offended team by the umpire when a team is fifteen (15) minutes late in appearing or in beginning play, after the umpire calls "play" at scheduled game time. This may be set aside if the umpire considers the delay unavoidable.
5. Rule 4, Section 5, Article 1 (p. 36) Protests based upon an official's judgment or misinterpretation (misapplication) of the playing rules will not be honored by the NJSIAA.
6. Speed-up Rule - Courtesy Runners (pp. 66 & 67) are adopted in total.

HANDLING EJECTED PLAYERS/COACHES

- A. It is the coach's responsibility to provide proper supervision of all players at all times.
- B. NJSIAA procedures will supersede a playing rule which requires a coach or player to leave the premises upon disqualification; therefore, a player will be confined to the bench area to remain under the supervision of the coach. If said player continues to be disruptive or act in an unsportsmanlike manner, the official may terminate the game/event.

NOTE: All schools must present the umpires with a completed 5" x 7" lineup card (sample below) and when exercising the DH option, the designated hitter should be listed in the preferred batting position of the batting order as illustrated below, and the defensive player he is batting for should be listed immediately above the designated hitter. It is recommended that schools place their ground rules on the reverse side of the card, and cards be completed in triplicate for the home team, visiting team and umpire-in-chief.

SAMPLE LINEUP CARD

Starting Line Up		Pos.	No.	Change	Change	Change
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.	_____ 2B _____ DH					
5.						
Signature _____ School _____						
Date _____ HOME _____ VISITORS _____						

National Federation Baseball Rules mandatory provision to have each state adopt a pitching limitation rule:

1. A pitcher may not appear as a pitcher again for three (3) calendar days after having pitched six (6) or more innings on any day.
Example April 2 - Pitches 6-10 innings can't pitch again until April 6
2. A pitcher may not appear as a pitcher again for two (2) calendar days after having pitched five (5) innings.
Example April 2 - Pitches 5 innings can't pitch again until April 5
3. A pitcher may not appear as a pitcher in more than a total of ten (10) innings during any (4) calendar day period. This does not set aside 1 or 2 above.

NOTE: Any appearance by a pitcher constitutes a full inning.

An appearance occurs whenever a pitcher pitches one pitch, legal or illegal, or makes or attempts to make a play, he shall be charged for pitching one inning whether he completes the inning or not. If a pitcher takes part, or all, of his preliminary warm-up pitches but does not make one pitch or make a play before he is removed, he shall not be charged as pitching that inning.

PLAY RULINGS

PLAY 1: A replacement for pitcher F1 is announced to the umpire-in-chief. Prior to or after the newly announced pitcher (S1) has completed his authorized warm-up throws, the coach informs the umpire-in-chief that S1 will violate the pitching limitations rule if he pitches that day.

PLAY RULING: The umpire-in-chief is to allow the coach to remove the announced relief pitcher without requiring the substitute to pitch to one batter or retire the side. S1 would be ejected from the game and lose his eligibility to play for the remainder of that game. The coach will be permitted to provide a different substitute pitcher. The new substitute (S2) will be given his full warm-up throws prior to pitching. The original pitcher (F1) will not be permitted to return as pitcher until the substitute pitcher has completed pitching to one batter or retired the side. Before the umpire-in-chief accepts a person to substitute for a pitcher, he shall ask the coach if the individual being inserted in the line up as a pitcher has any pitching eligibility left to participate in the game.

PLAY 2: A team is scheduled to play a double header with the same team or with two different teams. The coach uses the same player to pitch in both games, but only allows him to pitch a total of ten (10) innings. In one instance the player pitches three (3) innings in the first and seven (7) innings in the second game. In another instance the coach uses the same pitcher for seven (7) innings in the first game and three (3) innings in the second game.

PLAY RULING: This is legal in both instances. A pitcher may not pitch in more than ten (10) innings in a four (4) calendar day period of time, but may pitch as much as ten (10) innings in one day. In each instance cited, the pitcher must rest for three calendar days.

PLAY 3: A pitcher has pitched three (3) innings on Monday, three (3) innings on Tuesday, and three (3) innings on Wednesday during the same week. What are the maximum number of innings that this person may pitch on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of that same week?

PLAY RULING: That pitcher may pitch only one (1) inning on Thursday, three (3) innings on Friday, and three (3) innings on Saturday. This is assuming that the pitcher pitches the maximum innings in each of the days given.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECORD-KEEPING (PITCHING LIMITATION RULE)

Each school must attach the NJSIAA record form to their baseball scorebooks (Varsity, JV and Freshman) to log innings pitched for each pitcher.

Home and visiting coaches are to initial in the appropriate column at the end of each game. Whenever a team is in violation, the coaches are responsible to report the violation to the NJSIAA.

Umpires are reminded they are not to suspend or forfeit any game for pitching limitation rule violations.

REGULATIONS FOR BLEEDING, OPEN WOUNDS AND BLOOD ON THE UNIFORM

A player or coach who is bleeding, who has an open wound or who has blood on his or her uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment has been administered. If medical care or treatment can be administered in a reasonable amount of time, the individual would not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is umpire judgment. The reentry rule would apply to players.

NOTE: See Infectious Disease Policy Note (4) for process.

BASEBALL SUSPENDED GAME RULE FOR STATE TOURNAMENT GAMES

All NJSIAA post season tournament baseball games must be played to the full seven innings (turns at bat) unless extra innings are necessary because if a tie score, or unless shortened because the home team needs none of its half of the seventh inning or only a fraction of it. The exception to this is the 10-run rule that the state association has adopted.

A baseball game that has not reached the point of regulation game that is called (ended) by the umpire(s) due to weather or darkness shall be replayed from the beginning of the game.

A baseball game that has reached the point of regulation game, five full innings having been played, or if the home team has scored an equal or greater number of runs in four or four and a fraction turns at bat than the visiting team has scored in five turns at bat, or if play has gone beyond five full innings, and then the game is called (ended) by the umpire(s) due to weather or darkness, the game will be considered a suspended game and the game will be resumed at the point of interruption. The pitching limitations rule stays intact.

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