

New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association

Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691

TO: Softball Coaches, Athletic Directors and Umpires
FROM: Kim DeGraw-Cole, Assistant Director, kcole@njsiaa.org
DATE: February 2021
SUBJECT: The 2020 National Federation Softball Rule Modifications
*COVID Considerations & Modifications will be a separate document.

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Softball Coaches, Athletic Directors and Umpires are advised to read all the rules, the comments on the rules and the points of emphasis carefully. Any notes listed below are approved "By State Adoption". All others are not in effect. (See pg. 83 2020 NFHS Softball Rules Book)

1. Rule 4, Section 2, Article 3, (p. 42) (1) By NJSIAA regulations only the umpire may end games.
(2) 10 run-rule will be in effect.

TIE BREAKING PROCEDURE

At the top of the 10th inning, during each half inning used to enforce the tie breaker, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat ninth in that respective half inning being placed at second base. (e.g.: If the number five batter is to lead off, the number four batter in the batting order will be placed on second base. A substitute may be inserted for the runner.)

GAME ENDING PROCEDURE

After 4 innings of play, or 3 ½, if the home team is ahead by **15 runs**, the game may be ended with the consent of both coaches and the umpire. Rule 4, Section 2, Article 3 (p.42)

2. Rule 4, Section 3, Article 1a, (p. 42) An umpire in New Jersey may terminate a game but only NJSIAA may Award a forfeit.
3. Rule 7, Section 4, Article 2, (p. 59) Penalty: When the illegal bat is an altered or non-approved bat, the batter And the head coach will be ejected. Note: Damaged bats are not illegal and are removed from the game without penalty.
This will not carry the additional penalty of the NJSIAA Disqualification Rule.
4. Rule 2, Section 26, Article 1 (p. 23)
Rule 4, Section 2 (p. 41-42) Approval of the Suspended/Halted Game for all regular season play and for all Tournaments (Invitational, County, Conference, State)

Suspended/Halted Game:
The Softball Rules committee approved the Suspended/Halted Game as per the NFHS Softball Rules book, Rule 2, Section 26, Article 1 (p. 23) and Rule 4, Section 2 (p. 41) will be utilized during **Regular Season** and for **all Tournament Play** so that games would be resumed from the point of interruption, *if not a regulation game*.
5. Rule 3, Section 2, Article 1 (p. 31) Players may participate while wearing a different style uniform for religious reasons (notification to NJSIAA) or inclement weather. Adopted by NJ.
Officials shall permit the student to participate if verified by the coach.
6. Rule 3, Section 6, Article 13 (p.38) Eye Black is to be used as intended: one single color, one single line under the eye to prevent sun glare. No intimidating marking on the face or under the eye are permitted. (Umpires are cautioned, that smearing is not a violation).

SOFTBALL SUSPENDED GAME RULE FOR STATE TOURNAMENT GAMES

All NJSIAA post season tournament softball games must be played to the full seven innings (turns at bat) unless extra innings are necessary because of 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 or if both school administrators agree to let the score stand at the suspension. The exception to this is the 10-run rule that the state association has adopted.

Protests to the NJSIAA (Rule 4, Section 4) are not permitted.

HANDLING EJECTED PLAYER

- 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.

PROPER LINE-UP CARD

NOTE: All schools must present the umpires with a completed lineup card (sample on back of this sheet). When exercising the DP option, the designated player should be listed in the preferred batting position of the batting order as illustrated below, and the flex player she is batting for should be listed in the tenth (10th) position. 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.	DP					
5.						
10.	Flex (FP)					

Signature _____	School _____
Date _____	Home _____ Visitors _____

PICK-OFF PLAY MECHANIC MODIFICATION

With the field umpire in the "C" or "D" position only, when there is a pick-off play at first, the plate umpire will make that call.