

NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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2022 Baseball Rule Modifications

Baseball Coaches, Athletic Directors, and Umpires are advised to read all rules carefully and to note the following state-approved modifications:

Rule 1, Section. 4, Article. 4 - (p.13): 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. NJSIAA Approval must be secured prior to placing any commemorative or memorial patch on the uniform.

Rule 2, Section 33, Article 1 (p. 65) Speed Up Rules are adopted in its entirety. Courtesy Runner rules apply to all games; put-out rules are allowed by conference/tournament adoption.

Rule 4, Section. 2, Article. 2 (p. 33) 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.

Rule 4, Section. 2, Article. 4 - (p. 34): (1) A two-hour time limit may be approved for (sub-varsity) games by mutual or conference agreement. (2) The NJSIAA did not approve suspended games during regular season play, except to determine a conference or division title at end of the season. (3) See below for Suspended Game Rule pertaining to State Tournament play; Conferences may adopt for Conference and County Tournament play.

Rule 4, Section 4, Article 1a - (pp. 34): 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. Athletic Directors and/or Site Management shall relay pertinent information to game umpires, i.e., the bus has broken down.

Rule 4, Section 5, Article 1 (p. 35) Protests based upon an official's judgment or misinterpretation (misapplication) of the playing rules will not be honored by the NJSIAA.

Rule 10, Section 1, Article 9 Umpires shall wear the navy blue pullover shirt or state association adopted shirt (Black Shirt). All umpires shall wear the same color shirt during a game, and if they cannot agree, navy blue will be the default color. All other color shirts are prohibited for high school games in New Jersey. Please refer to Officials Handbook for additional information.

BASEBALL SUSPENDED GAME RULES 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 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. The exception to this is the 10-run rule that the state association has adopted.

A BASEBALL GAME THAT IS SUSPENDED AT ANY TIME DURING THE GAME SHALL BE PICKED UP AT THE POINT OF INTERRUPTION AND THEN COMPLETED AS THE ABOVE PARAGRAPH STATES.

Adult Coaches must wear a Helmet in the Coach's Box

Any adult coaching in the first or third base coach's box shall wear a helmet. The helmet may be:

- Tradition hard-shell with a visor and no ear flaps.
- Single ear flap.
- Double ear flap.

No plastic hat liners or inserts may be worn within a cloth hat to meet this requirement.

All baseball officials are required to enforce this policy and shall not start ANY inning until ALL coaches on the field are in compliance with this NJSIAA safety policy

The NJSIAA is highly recommending that all Middle Schools adopt this safety policy for coaches.

Sunglasses

High School baseball is an extra-curricular activity and an extension of the classroom.

Coaches are expected to direct their players to wear sunglasses as designed and not as a fashion statement. During the 2022 season, umpires will not enforce the previous sunglass policy and let the coaches handle it. Umpires are to only involve themselves when sunglasses present a glare that is considered potentially dangerous to other players.

Data will be collected during the 2022 season that will determine future sunglass policy.

Eye Black

Only one Straight Line or Strip of Eye Black is permitted under each eye. If a manufactured strip has the maker's name displayed when applied, it is legal.

High School baseball is an extension of the classroom and a valuable learning experience in good sportsmanship. Wearing eye black in "War Paint" style is a form of intimidation and not to be allowed.

- Umpires are directed to leave enforcement to the coach and involve themselves only when the eye black is determined to be taunting or derogatory reference to religion, race, sex and other groups.

Bench / Dugout Area

The primary responsibility of officials, athletic directors, and coaches is the safety of participants. This includes adult coaches as well as student-athletes.

NFHS rules require players and coaches to be within the confines of the bench/dugout area while the ball is live. It is recommended that the bench/dugout area be protected by a fence. No one shall be permitted to stand in the open area that serves as an entrance to the bench/dugout area unless protected by a closed gate.

If the bench/dugout area is not protected by a fence, coaches may utilize a temporary protective device, i.e., a batting practice screen, to sit behind. The bench/dugout area may only be extended away from home plate; not toward home plate.

Coaches may not create a dead ball area and sit in front of the bench/dugout area's protective fence even if protected by the backstop fencing.