

# NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

1161 Route 130 North, Robbinsville, NJ 08691-1104

Phone 609-259-2776 ~ Fax 609-259-3047

## **NJSIAA Baseball Game-Ending Rule**

A **complete game** consists of seven complete innings. Exceptions to this are:

- The game requires extra innings because of a tie score after 7 complete innings
- The game was shortened because the home team needs none of its half of the seventh inning or only a fraction of it.
- The 10-run rule. The visiting team is behind 10 or more runs after 4 1/2 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.

An **official game** is a game that has reached 5 complete innings. Exceptions to this are:

- The away team has had 5 complete innings at bat and is behind in the score.
- The score is tied after 5 complete innings.
- Games playing under the suspended game rule will supersede this rule. Please see the suspended game regulations below.

## **Regular Season:**

- A **complete game** that is tied and in extra innings and called for weather, field conditions, or darkness will be considered final. The final score will follow the procedure below:
  - The final score will be reflected from the last completed inning, which includes ties.
    - **CL1:** If the game is tied at the completion of the 10<sup>th</sup> inning and the away team goes ahead in the top of the 11<sup>th</sup> inning and the game is called. The score will revert to the last completed inning and thus conclude as a tie.
    - **CL2:** If the game is tied at the completion of the 10<sup>th</sup> inning and the home team goes ahead in the bottom of the 11<sup>th</sup> inning, the game will end.
- Any **official game** that is called for weather, field conditions, or darkness will be considered final. The final score will follow the procedure below:
  - The final score will be reflected from the last completed inning (5<sup>th</sup> inning minimum) which includes ties; except that if the home team in its half of the incomplete inning, scores a run (or runs) that equals or exceeds the opponent's score, the final score shall be as recorded when the game is called.
    - **CL1:** If the game is tied at the completion of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning and the away team goes ahead in the top of the 6<sup>th</sup> inning and the game is called. The score will revert to the last completed inning (5<sup>th</sup>) and will remain a tie.
    - **CL2:** If the game is tied at the completion of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning and the home team ties or goes ahead in the bottom of the 6<sup>th</sup> inning and the game is called. The final score shall be as recorded when the game is called.
- If a game is called before it becomes official because of weather, field conditions, or darkness, the umpire shall declare the contest "no game". It will be up to the two schools to determine if the game will be replayed. Except if the game is played under the suspended game rule (See rule below).
- All games shall end when the visiting team is behind 10 or more runs after 4 1/2 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 (10-run rule).

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## **Suspended Game Procedure**

All NJSIAA State tournament games will be played under the suspended game rule.

All conference, league, & county tournament play will also play under the suspended game rule when a winner is needed to advance or crown a champion.

The suspended game rule will also be in play for any regular season conference, League, or county play that needs to have a winner to determine a conference, league, county, or division champion.

This would not apply when the conference has built-in rules to handle ties for division championships.

- NOTE 1: The regular season game opponents must be in the same division of the conference or league.
- NOTE 2: Any regular season tournament that requires a winner to advance may also use the suspended game rule if applicable.

All games will end when the visiting team is behind 10 or more runs after 4 1/2 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 (10-run rule)

## **Suspended Game Rule**

If a game is called before it becomes a completed game because of weather, field conditions, or darkness, the umpire shall declare the contest a "suspended game". There are no official games when the contest is played under the suspended game rule. The game must be played to completion.

A game that is suspended at any time shall be picked up at the point of interruption the next day. If the next day is a Sunday, the game may be played if both schools are permitted to play on Sundays, otherwise, the game must be played on Monday. Local conference, league, or county rules may supersede this rule with the exception of the state tournament.

All pitch count rules remain in effect regardless of the number of pitches or days in between the suspended game (except the state tournament)

In an NJSIAA State Tournament a game that is suspended and resumed the next day, the pitcher of record may continue to pitch to the extent of his eligibility provided he has pitched 50 or fewer pitches.

- If the pitcher has thrown 50 or fewer pitches before the game was suspended, that pitcher's count shall carry over to the next day and the pitcher may pitch until the maximum of 110 pitches in a game is reached.
- If the pitcher has thrown more than 50 pitches before the game was suspended, that pitcher shall be required to meet the rest period as per pitch count rule limits.