

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.

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.
- The 10-run rule: If after 5 innings of play, the visiting team is ahead by 10 runs, or 4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead by 10 runs the game ends.
- 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 10th inning and the away team goes ahead in the top of the 11th 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 10th inning and the home team goes ahead in the bottom of the 11th 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 (5th 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 5th inning and the away team goes ahead in the top of the 6th inning and the game is called. The score will revert to the last completed inning (5th) and will remain a tie.
 - **CL2:** If the game is tied at the completion of the 5th inning and the home team ties or goes ahead in the bottom of the 6th 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).

Baseball Mercy Rule – (10 Run Rule)

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.

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NJSIAA Baseball Suspended Game Procedure

- NJSIAA State Tournament - All NJSIAA State tournament games will be played under the suspended game rule.
- Conference, League, & County Tournaments – All conference, league, & county tournaments will play under the suspended game rule.
- Regular Season League or Conference Play - Pending league or conference approval, the suspended game rule may be used 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. Schools may not cancel previously scheduled games to complete this scenario.
- Regular Season out of Conference Play – Suspended game rule may not be used for out of conference play.

Note: All conference, league, & county tournaments regulations will supersede the above procedures except for all NJSIAA state tournament games.

NJSIAA Baseball 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. This must be discussed before the first pitch.

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 except for 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.

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SUSPENDED GAME PITCH COUNT REPORTING TO NJ.COM:

- The pitch count from a suspended game DOES count for the date the pitches were thrown – and must be reported into njschoolsports.com
- However – the game itself – the score, as well as any player stats, should NOT be reported until the date the game is completed.
- The game date on the final game report must be the date the game was completed – NOT when it was started. This is critical for power points implications.

HOW TO REPORT PITCH COUNT FOR SUSPENDED GAMES IN NJSCHOOLSPORTS.COM:

- Log in – and then, on your team's dashboard – look for the "Pitch Count" item from the menu on the left side (or the 3-dot menu).
- On the Pitch Count page, click on the number (0) for your pitcher for the date they pitched.
- The pop-up modal will give you options for TWO different scenarios:
 - Suspended Varsity Game
 - JV/Freshman Game
- NOTE 1): If your pitcher's name doesn't appear on this page, please make sure they are BOTH: 1) on your roster and 2) labeled as a pitcher by-position.
- NOTE 2): When you report the final game stats, please do report the starting pitcher's full stat line – EXCEPT for the Pitch Count stat – which, in the final game stats, should ONLY reflect the pitches they threw on the day of completion (if any).

SCENARIO:

- *"Pitcher A" throws 31 pitches on April 1 in a suspended game - (they must rest 1 day before pitching again)*
 - *Report 31 PIT for "Pitcher A" in the "pitch count" menu for a suspended varsity game on April 1*
- *Game is resumed on April 3 – "Pitcher A" is eligible to pitch again and throws 25 pitches*
 - *Do report 25 PITCHES in the full game report on April 3*
 - *Do NOT report the full 56 pitches (the total for the game over 2 days) – this will ensure the pitch count correctly tracks PIT by date (and not by game).*
 - *Since they only threw 25 pitches on April 4, "Pitcher A" is available to pitch again on April 4 (but subject to the 150 max, is only available to throw 94 pitches).*

REPORTING JV and/or FRESHMAN PITCH COUNTS:

- If you have a pitcher who pitches both at the JV or Freshman level – and has the potential to be called up to pitch in a varsity game, please report their Pitch Count stats from their JV/Freshman games
- Follow the method above, same as you could report suspended game pitch counts.