



To: NJSIAA Program Review Committee

From: Al Stumpf, Assistant Director and Derryk Sellers, Assistant Director

Date: May 12, 2025

RE: Soccer Mercy Rule

Proposal

NJSIAA staff, with the support of the Soccer Committee and the Association's Leagues & Conferences, propose state adoption of a mercy rule in the sport of boys and girls soccer. The mercy rule will be as follows:

“The game will end at the 20-minute mark of the second half if the goal differential is six (6) or more goals. After the 20-minute mark of the second half, the game will end once the goal differential becomes six (6) or more goals.”

This mercy rule will be in place for all interscholastic contests, including but not limited to, regular season, league/conference tournament and state tournament contests excluding the state championship finals. This mercy rule will supersede any previous rules adopted by a league and/or conference.

Rationale

Statewide adoption of a mercy rule that is applicable to all interscholastic contests will bring consistency across all leagues and conferences and simplify application of the mercy rule for coaches and officials. It is in the Association's best interest to adopt a statewide mercy rule that is easily understood by all participants and site administrators. This will mitigate the risk of confusion or arguments that can take place when member schools are competing in non-league/conference contests.