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NJSIAA Softball Game-Ending Rule

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

1. The game requires extra innings because of a tie score after 7 complete innings
2. 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:

1. The away team has had 5 complete innings at bat and is behind in the score.
2. The score is tied after 5 complete innings.
3. 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.
4. The 15-run rule: If after 4 innings of play, the visiting team is ahead by 15 runs, or 3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead by 15 runs the game ends.
5. Games playing under the suspended game rule will supersede this rule. Please see the suspended game regulations below.

Regular Season:

1. 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 be reflected from the last completed inning, which includes ties. The final score will follow the procedure below:
 - 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.
2. An official game that is called for weather, field conditions, or darkness will be considered final. 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. The final score will follow the procedure below:
 - 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.
3. 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).

Softball Suspended Game Rule

1. NJSIAA State Tournament - All NJSIAA State tournament games will be played under the suspended game rule.
2. Conference, League, & County Tournaments – All conference, league, & county tournaments will play under the suspended game rule.
3. 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. Schools may not cancel previously scheduled games to complete this scenario until after the cutoff.
4. 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.

Softball Suspended Game Procedure

1. 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.
2. 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.

Softball Mercy Rules

1. The 15-run rule: If after 4 innings of play, the visiting team is ahead by 15 runs, or 3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead by 15 runs the game ends.
2. 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.