

NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

1161 Route 130 North, Robbinsville, NJ 08691-1104

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

NJSIAA Softball 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.
- 15 run-rule. This rule will be in effect, after 4 innings of play if the visiting team is ahead by 15 runs, or 3 ½ if the home team is ahead by 15 runs, the game may be ended with the consent of both coaches and the umpire.

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 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 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) which 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 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 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 for 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).

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Softball Extra Innings Procedure

1. This procedure applies to all games that are tied after seven (7) complete innings and any ensuing completed innings.
2. Starting with the top of the 10th inning, the offensive team shall begin its turn at-bat with a runner on second base.
3. The player who is scheduled to bat ninth (last) in that respective half inning will be placed at second base.
 - Example - If the number 5 batter is to lead off, the number 4 batter in the batting order would be placed on second base.
4. A substitute may be inserted for the runner.

Suspended Game Procedure

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

All conference, league, & county tournament play may also play under the suspended game rule only 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.

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

Regular season games that do not fall under any of the categories above, may not play under the suspended game 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.