

New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association

Route 130, P.O. Box 487

Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691

TO: Baseball Coaches, Athletic Directors and Umpires
FROM: Larry L. White, Assistant Director
DATE: February 2017
RE: The 2017 National Federation Baseball Rules Modifications

NJSIAA RULES INTERPRETER
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Baseball Coaches, Athletic Directors and Umpires are advised to read all rules carefully and to note the following state approved modifications: (See Page 68)

1. Rule 1, Section. 4, Article. 4 - (p.13): For special occasions commemorative or memorial patches may be worn not to exceed **4 sq. in.** They must be worn in a uniform fashion in an appropriate and dignified manner without compromising the integrity of the uniform. **The patch must be worn on the jersey.**
2. Rule 4, Section. 2, Article. 2 (p. 32) The game shall end when the visiting team is behind 10 or more runs after 4 ½ 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. **(Adopted by the NJSIAA)**
3. Rule 4, Section. 2, Article. 4 - (p. 33): (1) A two hour time limit may be approved for **(sub-varsity)** games by mutual or conference agreement. (2) **The NJSIAA does not honor suspended games, except for state tournament games.**
4. Rule 4, Section 4, Article 1a - (pp. 33): A game shall be forfeited to the offended team by the umpire when a team is fifteen (15) minutes late in appearing or in beginning play, after the umpire calls "play" at scheduled game time. **This may be set aside if the umpire considers the delay unavoidable.**
5. Rule 4, Section 5, Article 1 (p. 34) Protests based upon an official's judgment or misinterpretation (misapplication) of the playing rules will not be honored by the NJSIAA.
6. Speed-up Rule - Courtesy Runners (pp. 64) are adopted in total.

HANDLING EJECTED PLAYERS/COACHES

- A. It is the coach's responsibility to provide proper supervision of all players at all times.
- B. NJSIAA procedures will supersede a playing rule which requires a coach or player to leave the premises upon disqualification; therefore, a player will be confined to the bench area to remain under the supervision of the coach. If said player continues to be disruptive or act in an unsportsmanlike manner, the official may terminate the game/event.

NOTE: All schools must present the umpires with a completed 5" x 7" lineup card and when exercising the DH option, the designated hitter should be listed right above the defensive player in which the DH is batting for.

2017 NJSIAA BASEBALL PITCHING LIMITATION RULE

National Federation Baseball Rules mandatory provision to have each state adopt a pitch limit rule;
National Federation Baseball Rules mandatory provision to have each state adopt a pitching limitation / pitch count rule.

The Head Coach must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the pitching limit below. Pitcher may remain or re-enter the game at another position per substitution rule.

Maximum of 110 pitches per game; NJSIAA Baseball.

If a pitcher reaches a pitch limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until one of the following occurs.

- The batter reaches base,
 - That batter is retired, or
 - The third out is recorded to complete that half-inning or game.
- a. If a pitcher pitches 91-110 in a day, four calendar days of rest is required.
 - b. If a pitcher pitches 71-90 pitches in a day, three calendar days of rest is required.
 - c. If a pitcher pitches 51-70 pitches in a day, two calendar days of rest is required.
 - d. If a pitcher pitches 31-50 pitches in a day, one calendar days of rest is required.
 - e. If a pitcher pitches 1-30 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.
 - A pitcher cannot pitch on 3 consecutive calendar days.
 - A pitcher cannot pitch more than 50 pitches in a two day calendar period.
 - A pitcher cannot exceed 140 pitches in a five day calendar period.

A player may be used as a pitcher in more than one game per day. The combined number of pitches per day will determine the amount of rest required.

In a NJSIAA State Tournament game suspended by darkness, weather or other cause resumed the next day, the pitcher of record may continue to pitch to the extent of his eligibility provided he has pitched less than 50 pitches.

1. If the pitcher has thrown 50 or less pitches before the game was suspended, that pitcher's count shall carry over to the next day and pitcher may pitch until the maximum of 110 pitches in a game is reached.
2. 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 limits above..

Failure to remove a pitcher when he has reached the maximum number of pitches thrown is the basis for protest by the opposing coach. If the protest is upheld, the penalty shall be forfeiture of the game.

The use of a pitcher not observing the required rest period, is the basis for protest by the opposing coach. If the protest is upheld, the penalty shall be forfeiture of the game.

Before every game, both Head Coaches shall exchange their pitching logs as part of the pre-game conference with umpires. This shall include names, numbers and pitches thrown by each pitcher.

In addition, the name(s) and number(s) of all ineligible pitchers for that games shall be identified on each team's lineup card.

Umpires are reminded they are **not** to suspend or terminate any game for pitch count rule violation. Schools are responsible for reporting use of ineligible pitchers to the NJSIAA.

PLAY RULINGS

Play 1:

A replacement for F1 is announced to the umpire-in-chief. Prior to or immediately after the newly announced S1 has completed his authorized warm-up throws, the Head Coach informs the umpire-in-chief that S1 cannot pitch as he has not met the required period of rest.

Play Ruling:

The umpire-in-chief is to allow the Head Coach to remove the announced relief pitcher without requiring S1 to pitch to one batter or retire the side as stated in the NFHS Baseball rule book. The Head Coach and S1 are ejected from the game. The new substitute, S-2, will be given his full warm-up throws prior to pitching. F1 may not return to the pitching position until S-2 has completed pitching to one batter or retired the side. If S2 requires more than 8 warm-up throws, F1 may not return as a pitcher but may play other positions.

Play 2:

A team is scheduled to play two games on the same day. The Head Coach allows the same pitcher to pitch in both games. In game one he throws 47 pitches. In game two he throws 21 pitches. How many days rest is he required to observe before he can pitch again?

Play Ruling:

The Head Coach shall add the totals of games 1 and 2 together to reach a total of 68 pitches thrown on that day. Two calendar days of rest is required before the Head Coach may use him to pitch in a game.

Play 3:

Head Coach utilizes #41 as a closer. May he pitch every day as long as he throws 30 pitches or less each day?

Play Ruling:

No, a pitcher cannot pitch on 3 consecutive calendar days, and a pitcher cannot pitch more than 50 pitches in a two day period.

NJSIAA Pitch Count Enforcement and Recording

The Home School shall provide and “Official Adult Pitch Counter” and this person shall count pitches for both schools. This count is official.

- The pitch counts are to be verified with representatives of both teams after each half-inning.
- If there is a discrepancy between the Official Pitch Counter and one or both team’s representatives, the following process shall be followed:
 1. If both teams agree on a pitch number, that number shall be recorded in place of the Official Pitch Counter.
 2. If both teams disagree on a pitch number, the Official Pitch Counter’s number shall be recorded.

When the home school is unable to provide an “Official Adult Pitch Counter”, the following process shall be followed:

- Both team’s pitch counter shall meet at the end of each half-inning to verify the pitch count. If there is no agreement among the team’s pitch counters, the following process shall be followed:
 1. Both team’s pitch counters and coaches shall consult with the game’s umpires. They have authority to rectify the pitch count issues **IF** they have definite knowledge of the exact number of pitches thrown. Under no circumstances shall the umpires allow this to become a lengthy delay. The game is to be resumed as quickly as possible.
 2. If the umpires have no definite knowledge, the home school pitch count shall be the official number of pitches recorded.

Home schools must provide an "Official Adult Pitch Counter" for NJSIAA tournament games up to and including the Sectional Final. NJSIAA will provide "Official Adult Pitch Counter" at all neutral site games in rounds 5 and 6 (State Semi-Final and State Final contests).

REGULATIONS FOR BLEEDING, OPEN WOUNDS AND BLOOD ON THE UNIFORM

A player, coach or umpire who is bleeding, who has an open wound or who has blood on his or her uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment has been administered. If medical care or treatment can be administered in a reasonable amount of time, the individual would not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is umpire judgment. The reentry rule would apply to players.

NOTE: See Infectious Disease Policy Note (4) for process.

BASEBALL SUSPENDED GAME RULE FOR STATE TOURNAMENT GAMES

All NJSIAA post season tournament baseball games must be played to the full seven innings (turns at bat) unless extra innings are necessary because of a tie score, or unless shortened because the home team needs none of its half of the seventh inning or only a fraction of it. The exception to this is the 10-run rule that the state association has adopted.

A BASEBALL GAME THAT IS SUSPENDED AT ANY TIME DURING THE GAME SHALL BE PICKED UP AT THE POINT OF INTERRUPTION AND THEN COMPLETED AS THE ABOVE PARAGRAPH STATES.

REGULAR SEASON GAMES – PLEASE NOTE THE POWER POINT SLIDE THAT REFERS TO HOW A REGULAR SEASON GAME THAT IS TIED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE GAME SHALL BE HANDLED.