

NJSIAA Softball Rules Modifications 2025

Game Halted, Suspended, Ended

Rule 2, Section 25, Article 1 (p. 23)

Rule 4, Section 2 (p. 42)

Approved for all tournament and regular season play. A tournament game is resumed from the point of suspension at a later date. A regular season game is resumed at a later date if not already a regulation game.

Uniforms

Rule 3, Section 2, Article 1 (p. 31)

Players may participate while wearing a different style uniform for religious reasons (notification to NJSIAA) or inclement weather.

Conduct

Rule 3, Section 6, Article 13 (p. 38)

Eye black should be used as intended with one single color and no intimidating, offensive, or “unsporting” marking on the face or under the eyes. Smearing is not a violation.

Conduct

Rule 3, Section 6 (p. 38)

The head coach provides proper supervision of all players at all times. NJSIAA procedures supersede a playing rule which requires a coach or player to leave the premises upon disqualification. An ejected player is confined to the bench area to remain under the supervision of the head coach. If the ejected player remains disruptive or unsportsmanlike the umpire may terminate the game.

Line-Up Card

Rule 3, Article 3 (p. 30)

The head coach presents the umpires with a completed lineup card. When exercising the DP/Flex option, the designated player is listed in her position of the batting order and the flex player she is batting for is listed in the tenth position. Line up cards should be in triplicate for the home team, the visitors and the umpire-in-chief.

Ending a Game

Rule 4, Section 2, Article 3 and Article 7 (p. 42)

Only the umpire may end a game.

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.

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 may be ended with the consent of both coaches and the umpire.

Tie-Breaking Procedure

Rule 4, Article 5-6 (p. 43)

At the top of the 10th inning and during each half inning used to enforce the tie breaker, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat ninth being placed at second base. (Example: If the number five batter leads off, the number four batter is on second base. A substitute may be inserted for the runner.)

Forfeit

Rule 4, Section 3, Article 1a, (p. 43)

An umpire may terminate a game but only the NJSIAA may declare a forfeit.

Protests

Rule 4, Section 4 (p. 44)

Not permitted

Illegal Bat

Rule 7, Section 4, Article 2, (p. 59)

Penalty: When the illegal bat is an altered or non-approved bat, the batter and head coach are ejected. Damaged bats are not illegal and are removed from the game without penalty. This does not carry the additional penalty of the NJSIAA Disqualification Rule.

Pick-Off Play at First Base

A pick-off play at first base is called by the plate umpire if the field official is in the "C" or "D" positions.

Sub-Varsity Games

Leagues and conferences can establish sub-varsity game modifications with approval of the NJSIAA.

Sub-Varsity Extra Hitter and Defensive Substitution

This allows for wider sub-varsity student/athlete participation by adding an extra hitter to the batting order and permission for free defensive position substitution. Sub-varsity coaches may switch player defensive positions without impacting the batting line up and without notification to the plate umpire or opposing coach.

1. The extra hitter (EH) and defensive substitution are for sub-varsity softball.
2. An EH can be added to the line-up anywhere in the batting order at the pregame line-up exchange between the head coach and the umpires.
3. The batting order cannot be changed once the line-up is approved by the head coach and accepted by the home plate umpire at the pregame meeting.
4. The use of an extra hitter does not prevent a sub-varsity team from also applying the DP/Flex rule prior to the game.
5. Use of the EH and Flex causes the Flex to be listed in the 11th position.
6. A sub-varsity team with an extra hitter and no available substitutes which experiences an injury to a starting player shall have the injured player's spot in the batting order skipped without penalty.
7. However, the batting position of a player ejected from the game, without an available substitute, shall be deemed an automatic out in the line-up.
8. Batting order changes must consist of re-entry at the same spot in the line-up.
9. Defensive position changes are permitted without umpire consultation with the exception of a pitching change. The opposing team and home plate umpire shall be notified of all pitching changes.
10. Conference rules supersede this when a game is in-conference.
11. Non-conference opponents are not required to invoke the free defensive player substitution rule if one of the two head coaches' objects.

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