

SRI Bulletin May 18, 2022
One Rule, One Mechanic, One Interpretation

Umpires and Administrators,

We are coming into the playoff time in your local associations. This is an exciting time for the student athletes, their schools, and for us the umpiring crews. We must be at our best with our ability and focus. Here are some important reminders going in to these critical games.

Important reminders:

> INTERRUPTED CONTESTS:

- a. If fewer than 4 and 1/2 or 5 innings have been played, the contest shall be continued from the point of interruption.
- b. If 4 and 1/2 (home team ahead) or 5 innings have been played and the score is not tied, the contest is declared an official game.
- c. If play has gone beyond five full innings, teams have had an equal number of completed turns at bat and the score is tied, the contest shall be continued from the point of interruption.
- d. If play has gone beyond five full innings and is called when the teams have not had an equal number of completed turns at bat, the score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last completed inning, unless the home team in its half of the incomplete inning, scores a run (or runs) which equals or exceeds the opponent's score, in which case, the final score shall be recorded when the game is called. If the score was tied at the end of the last completed inning, the contest shall be continued from the point of interruption.
- e. Be sure to note all game situations in the official book, and on your line-up cards. Turn the line-up cards over to the home score book, and notify your commissioner as soon as you leave the field.

> Score Differential: If a 15-run score differential occurs at the completion of three full innings or a 10-run score differential occurs at the completion of five full innings or anytime thereafter, the game shall be terminated and considered a completed game. ***NOTE: if agreed upon by both coaches, once a softball team has reached a 15-run lead after three innings they may continue to play. The exception to allow flexibility with this rule needs to be addressed prior to the contest during the pre-game conference when both head coaches and umpires are present. The mandatory score differential rule of 10-runs after five full innings is still in effect.***

> Tie-Break Rule: WILL be in effect for all OSAA playoff games, beginning in the 10th inning.

> Lightning Policy: Make sure you know the OSAA Lightning Policy prior to the contest.

> Rain Delays: For games on grass fields, umpires should wait a minimum of 30 minutes. For games on artificial turf fields, umpires should wait a minimum of 60 minutes.

> Rule 10 Section 1 ART 2: Umpire judgement begins upon the arrival of one umpire within the confines of the field and ends when the umpires leave the field of play at the conclusion of the game. Be sure all umpire crews are aware of field and playing conditions. Please use informed accurate judgement while administering these important contests and judging playing conditions.

SRI Note of interest:

> **Bat Sensor attachment:** The bat sensor attachments are NOT approved for High School play by the NFHS rules committee. NFHS considers it an altered bat. Rule 1-5 Art 2 A - The knob may be molded, lathed, welded or permanently fastened. These sensors are not permanently fastened and render the bat altered and it becomes illegal. The penalty for using an illegal bat is Rule 7-4 Art 2 Penalty: When an illegal bat is an altered or a non-approved bat, the batter and head coach are ejected.

> **Obstruction:** When the defense prevents the runner or batter runner from advancing without being in position of the ball. This can happen in a rundown situation. Be aware of where the defenders are when involved in these types of situations.

> **Interference:** Make sure you call these infractions when you see them. These are immediate dead ball and must be called. Do not let an interference play continue.

> **Game ending procedures:** We all know these games must be concluded in the playoffs. Read the rules carefully for game ending procedures. Run ahead rules, tie-breaker rules and interrupted contest conditions. The plate umpire must know these rules.

Have a great playoff season.

John Christensen

OSAA SB - SRI