



2010-11 IHSAA Modifications

Softball NFHS Rule 4-2-3: A state association may adopt game-ending procedures that determine how games are ended, including suspended games. However, if a state association does not have established game-ending procedures, by mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the plate umpire, any remaining play may be shortened at any time or the game terminated.

Softball Note 1: If a state association has adopted game-ending procedures, only those game ending procedures may be used should the opposing coaches wish to terminate a game.

Softball Note 2: By state association adoption, the number of innings for one or both games in a doubleheader may be scheduled for five innings. Current state association game-ending procedures still apply.

IHSAA State Association Softball Adoptions

Ending A Game

A. Regular Season

1. A regulation game consists of 7 innings unless extended because of a tie score or unless shortened during innings 5, 6 or 7 because the home team needs none of its half of the 7th inning or only a fraction of it; or because of weather, darkness, or similar conditions. If a game is halted before it is an official game, it must be started over. During season play, there are no suspended games except for conference games. Conferences may adopt the tournament procedure for suspended games.
2. A Regular Season Game Called With a Tie Score – Shall be a tie game. Batting and fielding records are counted but the game is not counted in computing percentages of games won and lost.
3. Tie-Breaker Procedures - Indiana has adopted the International Tie-Breaker for regular season tournaments only.
4. A game shall end when, after the completion of 5 innings, a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat.

B. IHSAA Tournament Series

1. A regulation game consists of 7 innings unless extended because of a tie score or unless shortened because the home team needs none or only a fraction of its 7th inning or unless 1 team is leading by 10 runs after 5 innings.
2. If a game in any tournament must be postponed because of rain or wet grounds, or if a game is called by the umpires because of rain, darkness or other reasons, it shall be ruled a suspended game and shall be continued from point of suspension at a later time. Any game that is not an official game will be considered a suspended game.
3. If a postponed or called game/s is an opening round game/s, the game/s must be rescheduled for the next scheduled date. If a champion cannot be determined by the designated date, the tournament director should contact the Association Office.
4. If a game is called with the score tied after enough innings have been played to constitute a regulation game, it shall be considered a suspended game and shall be continued from point of suspension. Play shall be resumed on the next playable date at the exact point where the game was terminated.
5. A game shall end when, after the completion of 5 innings, a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat.

C. Game Ending Procedures For Junior Varsity and Freshman Games

1. By prior mutual agreement of opposing schools, sub-varsity regular season games may be played to five innings.
2. By prior mutual agreement of opposing schools, sub-varsity regular season tournaments may be played to five innings.

Rule 4-3-1a

A game shall be forfeited to the offended team by the umpire when a team is late in appearing or in beginning play after the umpire calls "Play Ball". State associations are authorized to specify the time frame and/or circumstances before a forfeit will be declared for a late arrival by one of the teams.

Modification: Prior to the start of the contest, the athletic director/tournament director/site manager shall be responsible for judging whether a contest should be forfeited. Umpires should rely upon the best judgment of the host regarding whether a game should be forfeited

IHSAA Rule 107-3

The maximum number of season games for any team or student excluding the IHSAA tournament series shall be:

- a. 28 and no tournament; or
- b. 26 and one tournament

If a player or team participates in more than one tournament per season, the number of games played in excess shall be included in the 26 games permitted during the season. A player who participates in a game as a pinch hitter, pinch runner, or courtesy runner, does not count that game toward the maximum number of game limitation for that player.

Any player who enters a game at the varsity, junior varsity, or freshman level, excluding entering as a pinch hitter, pinch runner, or courtesy runner, must count that game toward the maximum number of games she is allowed. This includes players who participate in junior varsity or freshman games in which less than seven innings are played.

It is an **unacceptable practice** to establish a predetermined number of batters per inning. It is also not permissible to waive the substitution rule. IHSAA member schools and umpires are instructed to report such a violation to the IHSAA office immediately.

International Tie-Breaker

The International Tie-Breaker may be utilized for regular season tournaments only.

Starting with the top of the 8th inning, and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base. (e.g., if the number five batter is the lead off batter, the number four batter in the batting order will be placed on second base).

A substitute may be inserted for the runner, provided the action is within NFHS Softball Rules.