



2023-2024 MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Softball, Girls

A. Bench and Field Conduct Rule Modification:

Coaches, players, or other team personnel must be in the dugout (bench area) or dead-ball territory (as defined by Rule 2, Section 22, Article 4) during the opponent's infield practice prior to the start of each game. **Penalty:** The umpire shall warn the offender unless the offense is judged to be major, in which case an ejection shall occur. Any subsequent offense shall result in restriction to the dugout and/or ejection of the offender(s).

B. On-Deck Circle: All on-deck batters must use the on-deck circle that is located behind the batter, with the exception of the batter who is leading off the $\frac{1}{2}$ inning – that batter may remain in front of their dugout.

C. 10-Run Rule: Calls for the game to end if a team is ahead by at least 10 runs after 5 innings of a 7-inning game.

D. 15-Run Rule: A game ends after 4 innings (3-1/2) when a team is 15 or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat. This is effective for regular and post-season play.

E. Regulation Game: It is a regulation game if: (a) 5 full innings have been played; or if the team second at bat has scored an equal or greater number of runs in 4 or 4 and a fraction terms at bat than the opponent has scored in 5 terms at bat; or (b) play has gone beyond 5 full innings.

In (b), if the game is called when the teams have not had an equal number of completed terms at bat, the score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last completed inning; unless the home team, in their 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 as recorded when the game is called.

F. Suspended Games (Regular Season and Section Tournament): A suspended game is any game that is ended **before** it becomes a regulation game or a regulation game that has a tie score when ended. If darkness, rain or other cause interference with play so that the umpire calls the game before it is a regulation game, such game shall be declared a suspended game.

G. Tie Regulation Season Games: Each year during regular season play some conference games, after going five full innings or more are called because of rain, darkness or other cause while the score is tied. According to the rule this is a tie game. Batting and fielding records are counted but the game is not counted in computing percentages of games won or lost. There is, however, by rule this choice; by conference adoption, a regulation called game with tie score shall be counted as half game won and half game lost for each team.

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I. Time Limit Procedure: In invitational tournaments games may be played with a time limit as prescribed by the host tournament team. Under this rule, no new inning will start after the prescribed time limit unless the game is tied. If a game is tied the tie-breaker rule, identified in I. below, will be used to determine a winning team. The host tournament team will decide in which inning the tiebreaker rule will be used.

H. Tie-Breaker Rule: In the event that the Tie Breaker rule is used the following procedures shall apply: At the start of the inning in which the tie-breaker rule is used, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in the respective half inning being placed on second base (e.g., if the number 5 batter is the leadoff batter, the number 4 batter in the batting order will be placed on second base). The umpire and scorekeeper will determine that the proper runner has been placed at second base and the inning shall begin.

I. Double First Base: Double first base is required for all regular and post-season games.

J. Umpire Uniform: The uniform for softball officials is: heather gray (default), charcoal, or NCAA style dark gray pants & black belt, powder blue pullover with white and navy-blue trim (default) can use alternative umpire shirts provided the crew matches in color and style. Mostly black shoes, navy blue sized hat. A navy jacket with powder blue and white shoulder stripes is acceptable but if worn, must match with the other umpire(s). A gray or navy-blue ball bag is acceptable.