

## 2009 PIAA SOFTBALL TIE-BREAKER PROCEDURE

At the completion of the 9<sup>th</sup> inning the score remains tie; the following procedure will be used without exception in all PIAA member school contests, including exhibition, regular and post-season contests at all levels of play (varsity, junior varsity, junior high, middle school).

Coaches and/or umpires cannot agree or decide to not use the PIAA approved tie-breaking procedure, it must be used. Also, the inning in which this procedure will start is not an option. It must be utilized starting with the 10<sup>th</sup> inning.

NFHS Softball Rule 4-2-6 - By State Association Adoption the PIAA Tie-breaker procedure will be as follows:

The last player that completed her turn at bat in the 9<sup>th</sup> inning will go to 2<sup>nd</sup> base to start the 10<sup>th</sup> inning. This procedure will be used until a winner can be determined.

Another way of saying it is the batter that will be the 9th batter in that inning will start at 2nd base.

The following are situations that can occur:

### SUBSTITUTING FOR THE RUNNER THAT SHOULD BE ON 2ND BASE

**SITUATION:** Can you substitute for the runner that should be the runner starting at 2<sup>nd</sup> base?

**RULING:** Yes provided you have eligible substitutes.

### USING A COURTESY RUNNER FOR THE PITCHER OR CATCHER

**SITUATION:** If the catcher or pitcher was the last batter that completed her turn at bat the previous inning, can a Courtesy Runner run for her?

**RULING:** Yes, provided that pitcher or catcher was the pitcher at the completion of the last half-inning their team was defense. You can not forecast a pitcher or catcher change.

**SITUATION:** In the bottom of the 9<sup>th</sup> inning # 22 is playing first base and # 22 was the last person to complete her turn at bat in the bottom of the 9<sup>th</sup> inning. In the top of the 10<sup>th</sup> inning # 22 properly reported and went into pitch. In the bottom of the 10<sup>th</sup> inning #22 will be the runner to start at 2<sup>nd</sup> base, can a courtesy runner be used for #22.

**RULING:** Yes, she was the pitcher of record the last half inning prior to the request.

**SITUATION:** In the top of the 9<sup>th</sup> inning # 44 playing 1<sup>st</sup> base was the last person to complete her turn at bat to end the inning. In the top of the 10<sup>th</sup> with the score tied, the visiting team coach reports to the plate umpire that # 44 will pitch in the bottom of the 10<sup>th</sup> inning. Since # 44 was the last person to complete her turn at bat in the top of the 9<sup>th</sup> inning and now reported she will pitch in the bottom of the 10<sup>th</sup> inning, the coach reports # 55 as the courtesy runner of the pitcher, is this permitted?

**RULING:** A courtesy runner is not permitted for the “projected” pitcher #44 since she has not pitched yet. The pitcher that completed the top of the 9<sup>th</sup> inning is the pitcher of record for the purposes of courtesy runner. This also applies for the catcher.

### OPTION TO USE OR NOT USE THE COURTESY RUNNER

**SITUATION:** During the pre-game conference, both coaches inform the umpires that they have agreed not to use the tie-breaker procedure, is this acceptable?

**RULING:** No. It is not an option. The tie-breaker must be used without exception in all PIAA member school contests, including exhibition, regular and post-season contests at all levels of play (varsity, junior varsity, junior high, middle school).

**SITUATION:** During the pre-game conference of a Junior Varsity, Junior High or Middle School game the coaches inform the umpires that they have agreed not to use the tie-breaker procedure, is this acceptable?

**RULING:** No. It is not an option. It must be used in the 10<sup>th</sup> inning in all PIAA member school contests, including exhibition, regular and post-season contests at all levels of play (varsity, junior varsity, junior high).

**SITUATION:** During the pre-game conference with the coaches the umpires are informed that they have agreed to start the tie-breaker rule in the a) 8<sup>th</sup> inning or b) the 12<sup>th</sup> inning.

**RULING:** No. Incorrect procedure. The tie-breaker inning to start it is not an option it must be used starting in the 10<sup>th</sup> inning in all PIAA member school contests, including exhibition, regular and post-season contests at all levels of play (varsity, junior varsity, junior high, middle school).

### **TIE-BREAKER / SHORT HANDED**

**SITUATION:** Team A is playing short handed; B5 in the 6<sup>th</sup> batting spot; B5 in the 9<sup>th</sup> inning made out # 3 to end the inning.

**NOTE** - B6 position is the short-handed position in the line-up.

**RULING:** B5 goes to 2<sup>nd</sup> base, B6 position, the short handed batting position is first to bat and is out. B7 comes to bat, one out and B5 is on 2<sup>nd</sup> base.

**SITUATION:** Team A is playing short handed in the 6<sup>th</sup> batting spot; in the 9<sup>th</sup> inning B6 made out # 3 to end the inning as a result of the short-handed rule.

**COMMENT:** Who goes to 2<sup>nd</sup> base to start the 10<sup>th</sup> inning and is there any outs to start the inning?

**RULING:** B6 batting position is out, B5 goes to 2<sup>nd</sup> base to the start the 10<sup>th</sup> inning. B7 will be the first batter and there are no outs.

### **TIE-BREAKER / SUB-VARSITY LEVELS (Playing {Scheduled} 2 – 5 inning games)**

**COMMENT:** Please remember you can only schedule 2 – 5 inning games at the sub-varsity levels; Junior Varsity, Junior High, Middle School. The tie-breaker procedure will go into effect at the conclusion of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning if the score is tied. The tie-breaker starts in the top of the 8<sup>th</sup> inning.

All of the situations above apply except the tie-breaker starts in the 8<sup>th</sup> inning.