



Rhonda Dreibelbis

NCHSAA | North Carolina High School Athletic Association

Dear softball coaches,

It has been brought to our attention that some coaches, umpires, and conferences across the state are not following game-ending procedures for softball games. This email is to clear up any confusion and to ensure that, moving forward, all softball teams are following the same procedures.

The NFHS allows state associations to adopt game-ending procedures.

The NCHSAA has game-ending procedures for softball. 4.9.1 (j) on page 94 of the NCHSAA handbook states: Ten-Run Rule – the NCHSAA has adopted the ten-run rule for softball: if a team is ahead by 10 runs after five complete innings, the game is terminated.

The NCHSAA does not have a game-ending procedure that allows for a game to be terminated if one team is winning by 15 or more runs after three innings.

Beginning today (March 16, 2023) all games must be played to completion unless the 10-run rule after five innings apply.

If a team walks off the field or decides not to play the contest, it will be deemed a forfeit and should be entered as such in MaxPreps.

Please make sure that all conference by-laws are changed to reflect the NCHSAA game-ending procedures.

If softball coaches wish for the NCHSAA to adopt a rule allowing a game to be terminated if a team is ahead by 15 or more runs after 3 complete innings, and there is mutual agreement, a proposal must be submitted to the NCHSAA Board of Directors. The proposal should come from the softball coach's association, with the North Carolina Coaches Association being notified.

\*\* This information has also been shared with softball regional supervisors and umpires.\*\*

Sincerely,

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Thanks,

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