

## DIAA APPROVED POLICIES and PROCEDURES

The following policies and procedures were approved by the DIAA Board of Directors and will be in effect for the current school year.

### **APPEAL OF ONE GAME SUSPENSION [Regulation 1007, 2.3.1]**

In some sports, a coach or player can be ejected for a violation of the playing rules that is not sportsmanship related. A rules violation that is technical in nature and does not involve physical or verbal misconduct may not necessarily be a sportsmanship violation. If such an ejection occurs, the President/Incidents Coordinator of the officials' association or the Athletic Director/Principal of the offending school should notify the Executive Director as soon as possible. The Executive Director will investigate the incident and make a concerted effort to resolve the situation prior to the next contest for which the suspended coach or player would ordinarily be eligible. If, however, the Executive Director is unable to make a decision before the next contest, the suspension remains in effect. **Under no circumstances will a suspended coach or player be allowed to participate or even be present at the game site while his/her appeal is being adjudicated. The Executive Director's decision to uphold or rescind the one-game suspension is final.** If the Executive Director is out of town or unavailable to make a ruling, the appeal may be directed to the Chairperson of the DIAA Board of Directors.

### **BENCH PERSONNEL RULE**

Any player who leaves the team bench area and enters the playing field, court, or mat during a fight or other physical confrontation and is identified by the game officials shall be ejected from the contest. Any player who commits such an offense and is ejected by the game officials shall also be ineligible for the next contest at that level of competition and all contests at any other level of competition in the interim. Additional penalties may be imposed if a player leaving the bench area becomes involved in the altercation.

### **HEAD COACH ENTERING PLAYING AREA DURING ALTERCATION**

If a fight breaks out during the game, each **head coach** may immediately enter the playing area in order to restrain, separate, or remove any of his/her players who are involved in the altercation. **ONLY** the **head coaches** may enter the playing area without being beckoned by the contest officials.

### **CUMULATIVE UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT RULE**

A coach who is guilty of repeated acts of unsportsmanlike conduct during a season shall be ineligible for the next contest. (at the same level of competition in which the most recent violation occurred and all contests at any other level of competition in the interim) When he/she has been assessed the penalties or committed the infractions listed below.

- Football - three (3) unsportsmanlike conduct penalties
- Soccer\* - three (3) yellow cards
- Field Hockey - three (3) yellow cards or any combination of five (5) green & yellow cards.
- Volleyball - three (3) red cards or any combination of five (5) yellow & red cards
- Basketball - three (3) direct technical fouls
- Wrestling - three (3) unsportsmanlike conduct penalties
- Baseball - three (3) bench confinements
- Softball - three (3) bench confinements
- Boys' Lacrosse - three (3) unsportsmanlike conduct fouls; or any combination of five (5) conduct and unsportsmanlike conduct fouls
- Girls' Lacrosse - three (3) yellow cards

\*Soccer has adopted a cumulative unsportsmanlike conduct penalty for players. Soccer Officials must report ALL cards (yellow and red) assessed to players & coaches

### **SCRIMMAGE LIMITS**

The DIAA Board of Directors has limited the number of scrimmages to three competitions dates each season. Scrimmages may occur at any time during the sports season. Teams that qualify for a DIAA State Tournament, except football, are permitted a fourth scrimmage date in their sport. The opponent must be another state tournament team or a team that has not used all its allowable scrimmage dates.

## **SUSPENSION OF PLAY DUE TO THE PRESENCE OF THUNDER AND/OR LIGHTNING POLICY**

The DIAA Board of Directors has adopted the NFHS Guidelines on Handling Contests During Lightning Disturbances as their official policy. Please refer to your sport specific Rule Book for these Guidelines or from the NFHS website at <http://www.nfhs.org/sports-resource-content/guidelines-on-handling-practices-and-contests-during-lightning-or-thunder-disturbances/> The basic premise of this Policy is as follows: The site management or the contest officials, if they have assumed control of the game, will stop the game at the first sound of thunder, or observation of cloud to ground lightning. The playing area will be cleared and all participants and spectators will be advised to seek shelter. The contest will not be resumed until **30 minutes** after the last clap of thunder was heard or flash of lightning was seen.

## **PROHIBITION AGAINST USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

Contest officials shall not use any tobacco products from the time they arrive at the game site until after they depart from the game site when officiating any event sanctioned by the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association. Smoking on all state property (public schools) is prohibited by law.

## **REQUESTS FOR ACCOMODATIONS FOR MEDICAL OR RELIGIOUS REASONS**

Each state association may, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities and/or special needs, as well as those individuals with unique and extenuating circumstances. The accommodations should not fundamentally alter the sport, heighten risk to the athlete/others or place opponents at a disadvantage. The school must request a review of the proposed rule accommodation by contacting the DIAA office or that sport's rules interpreter. DIAA will rule on the legality of the accommodation, if approved the school needs to keep the approval letter on file and the Coach needs to take a copy of the approval letter with them to EVERY contest and surrender a copy of the letter to the Game Officials.

## **FAILURE TO PROVIDE GAME BALL(S) WITH NFHS MARK**

Game balls used at the varsity level in all sports for which the NFHS publishes playing rules must be imprinted with the NFHS authenticating mark. There are no exceptions to this requirement. Tennis balls and golf balls are not required to be imprinted with the aforementioned mark.

If the team that is responsible for providing the game ball(s) does not have one that is properly marked, the officials should use the opposing team's ball(s) provided it is properly marked. If neither team has a ball(s) that is properly marked, the officials must allow the game to be played and then contact their Incident Coordinator who must, in turn, contact the DIAA office. Failure to use a ball(s) with the NFHS authenticating mark in a varsity game will result in the offending school being assessed a penalty as determined by the Executive Director.

## **USE OF INTRA-ORAL TOOTH AND MOUTH PROTECTOR**

The wearing of a protective mouth guard shall be mandatory for anyone participating in the following sports: football, soccer, boy's lacrosse, wrestling, volleyball, field hockey, basketball, softball, baseball and girl's lacrosse who is wearing a metal dental appliance such as braces. The intra-oral tooth and mouth protector (mouth guard) shall be of any readily visible color (Please refer to sport specific policies regarding the use of white or clear mouth guards.) It shall include an occlusal (protecting and separating the biting surfaces) and labial (protecting the teeth and supporting structures) portion and cover the posterior teeth with adequate thickness. Simply stated; if an athlete has metal braces, he/she must wear a top and bottom mouth guard.

*Revised 11/2017*

## **DIAA Water Break Stoppage Policy for Game Competition**

In continuous play sports such as soccer, field hockey, and girls' lacrosse, when the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature [WBGT] reaches 89.6 degrees, or the combination of temperature and humidity equals 160 when added together, a water break shall be given, at the midway point of each half {20 minutes for soccer, 15 minutes for field hockey and 12.5 minutes for Girls' Lacrosse}. These breaks shall be a minimum of a 3 minutes and a maximum of 5 minutes. Referees will retain the right to enact the policy as they feel conditions may warrant.

Stoppages shall be called using the following procedure:

- The Policy will be announced in the Pre-Game Meeting to Coaches so they know to expect the stoppage.
- The stoppage will be called as close to the midway point in time as possible.
- The ball must be in the attacking team's defensive half.
- The team in possession must not be in an attack/scoring situation.
- After a goal would be the optimum time.

Strongly Suggested stoppage points are as follows:

### **Soccer**

- After a goal
- A throw in from the attacking team's defensive half
- Before a goal kick

### **Field Hockey**

- After a goal
- Penalty Corner
- 16yard hit coming out of the circle
- Free hit by Defense in their half of the field

### **Girls' Lacrosse**

- After a goal
- 8 meter free possession
- A throw by the defense in their half of the field
- Free position by the defense in their half of the field

## STATE ASSOCIATION [DIAA] ADOPTION OF NFHS PLAYING RULES

### DIAA SOCCER RULES ADOPTIONS/MODIFICATIONS

4-2-1h Exception (2) By state association adoption, players may wear soft and yielding caps during inclement weather. Caps must be alike in color.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has approved the wearing of soft and yielding caps during inclement weather provided the caps are of the same color.*

4-2-5 Each State Association may, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities and/or special needs, as well as those individuals with unique circumstances. The accommodations should not fundamentally alter the sport, heighten risk to the athletes/others or place opponents at a disadvantage.

*The DIAA Board has established the following procedure for schools to request an accommodation based on disability, and/or a special need. The athletic director must contact either the DIAA State Rules Interpreter (John Brady) or the Executive Director in order to obtain clearance for the player to participate in a scrimmage or a game with the accommodation. The State Rules Interpreter or the Executive Director will inspect the accommodation. If, in their opinion the accommodation meets the rule above, it will be approved for use. The Executive Director will forward a letter to that effect to the player's athletic director. A copy of the letter should then be provided to the officials before each game in which the player is in uniform.*

5-1-1 Note If a state high school association chooses not to select a particular officiating system, competing schools may do so by prior mutual agreement.

*The DIAA Board of Directors does not mandate the use of one particular officiating system during the regular season. The contract between DAAD on behalf of all DIAA member schools which sponsor either boys' or girls' soccer and the softball officials associations (Delaware Soccer Officials' Association and the Diamond State Soccer Officials' Association) obligates both associations to provide a minimum of two officials for all sub-varsity and varsity contests. However, a conference, or in non-conference games, the host school could request the local chapter provide an additional official and the game(s) could be officiated by a three-person crew using the diagonal system. Provision of a third official is contingent upon the local officials' association's ability to provide sufficient qualified officials. Local officials' associations may elect to provide a third official at the cost of two officials. Arrangements to use the three-man diagonal system must be agreed upon by the host school's athletic director, with the concurrence of the opposing school, and the officials' association assigner prior to the day of the game. In the absence of an agreement the dual officiating system would be used.*

5-1-3a The officials shall be dressed alike in uniforms primarily consisting of:  
A shirt approved by the state association; in the event of a color conflict between the officials and either team, the officials shall change to a jersey of a color distinct from both teams.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has given permission to the Delaware Soccer Officials' Association and the Diamond State Soccer Officials' Association to wear a vertically stripped black and white shirt, a solid black shirt with white collar and cuffs, or a solid colored shirt other than black (fuchsia, orange, or yellow) with contrasting collar and cuffs, provided the color contrasts with the jerseys of the competing teams. The Associations are also authorized to use the same shirts used by USSF Officials.*

5-1-3f Unless otherwise prohibited by the state association, electronic communication devices may be used by officials to communicate.

*The DIAA Board has not taken action on this article.*

- 6-2-1 The home school timer shall be the official timer. However, by mutual agreement of the opposing coaches or by state high school association adoption, the official time may be kept by the head referee.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has designated the head referee as the official timer for all regular season and State Tournament contests.*

- 6-3-1 The home school shall designate the official scorer. However, by mutual agreement of the opposing coaches or by state high school association adoption, the official score may be kept by the head referee.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has designated the head referee as the official scorer for all regular season contests. The Boys' or Girls' Soccer Committee will provide the official scorer in all state tournament games.*

- 6-3-3 By state association adoption, a fourth official may be appointed to assume the duties of the scorer. The fourth official is under the jurisdiction of the head referee and performs those duties as assigned.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has taken no action on this provision. Consequently, the referee is the official scorer (6-3-1). The Boys' or Girls' Soccer Committee will provide the official scorer in all state tournament games.*

- 7-1-1 Two equal halves of 40 minutes each shall be played unless, by state high school association adoption, four equal quarters of 20 minutes each are specified. It is recommended junior high schools play 30-minute halves unless by state high school association adoption, four equal quarters of 15 minutes each are specified.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has not approved the playing of four equal quarters of 20 minutes at the high school level or four equal quarters of 15 minutes at the middle school level. Therefore, high school and middle school games will consist of two equal halves of the appropriate length.*

- 7-1-2 Periods may be shortened by state high school association adoption, or if mutually agreed upon or in any emergency, by agreement of the coaches or ordered by the head referee, provided it is determined to shorten the periods before the game or before the second half begins and all remaining periods are the same length.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has not adopted any guidelines for shortening the length of periods. However, periods may be shortened in accordance with the provisions of this rule.*

- 7-1-3 In the event a game must be suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue play, the head referee shall declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been played. If less than one half of the game has been played, the game may be rescheduled from the start, or restarted from the suspension of play according to state association adoption.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has determined that a game which is interrupted during the first half will be replayed from the start. The game should be rescheduled for the next available date and will be considered a postponed contest with regards to DIAA Regulation 1008 4.3.1 (middle school/junior high) or DIAA Regulation 1009 4.3.1 (high school) Maximum Game Schedules and Designated Sport Season.*

7-1-5 By state association adoption, a goal differential may be established whereby at the end of the first half if one team has gained the established goal differential or if it secures such differential during the second half, the game shall be ended.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has taken no action with regards to establishing a goal differential which would result in a game being ended before the normal expiration of the second half. Therefore, no game will be ended before the normal expiration of the second half unless suspended as per NFHS Soccer Rule 7-1-3.*

7-3-1 Regular season games which are tied at the end of 80 minutes of play may be resolved by procedures adopted by state high school associations.

*See 7-3-1 Note below.*

7-3-1 Note No overtime procedures shall exceed 20 minutes of play during the regular season.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has authorized the use of the following regular season tie-breaking procedure for ALL regular season varsity matches;*

*There will be a five-minute intermission between the end of regulation play and the first ten-minute sudden victory overtime period. A coin toss will determine which team will kick off. All game rules will be in effect. The first team to score in overtime will be declared the winner. If neither team has scored after 10 minutes of play, there will be a two-minute intermission and then the teams will play a second and final 10-minute sudden-victory overtime period. The loser of the coin toss prior to the first overtime will kick off to start the second overtime. If the game is still tied after two overtime periods, it will officially end in a draw.*

12-8-1 Note By state association adoption, incidental use of vulgar or profane language may be a disqualification (red card).

*The DIAA Board of Directors has approved the disqualification for vulgar or profane language.*

12-8-3 Note The rules committee strongly recommends that recommends that each state high school association adopt a policy wherein a disqualified player or coach disqualified under articles 2 and 3 shall be barred from participating in the next contest(s).

*The DIAA Board of Directors has authorized a procedure which requires any player or coach ejected from a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct also be ineligible to participate in the next contest at any level.*

## DIAA BASEBALL RULES ADOPTIONS/MODIFICATIONS

1-4-4 By state association adoption, to allow for special occasions, commemorative or memorial patches, that will be uniformly placed, not to exceed 4 square inches, to be worn on jerseys in an appropriate and dignified manner without compromising the integrity of the uniform.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has approved the wearing of commemorative or memorial patches provided they conform to the aforementioned specifications. The placement and size must be confirmed with the DIAA Executive Director prior to wearing.*

1-2-9 By state association adoption, a double first base is permitted. The double first base shall be a white base and a colored base. The colored base shall be located in foul territory.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has taken no action on this provision.*

2-33-1 Suggested speed-up rules.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has approved the use of courtesy runners by either team for both regular season and state tournament play. The use of courtesy runners is not subject to conference approval or mutual consent of the opposing coaches. The courtesy runner rules are as follows:*

- *At any time, the team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher. Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.*
- *The same individual runner may not be used for both positions (pitcher and catcher) during the game.*
- *Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.*
- *A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or the catcher and then be used as a substitute for another player in that half inning. If an injury, illness or ejection occurs and no other runners are available, the courtesy runner may be used as a substitute.*
- *The umpire-in-chief shall record and announce to the scorer, courtesy runner participation.*
- *A player who violates the courtesy-runner rule is considered to be an illegal substitute.*
- *Exception: Should an injury, illness or ejection occur to the courtesy runner, another courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher may run.*

### **AFTER PUTOUTS**

- *After a putout in the outfield and with no runners on base, the ball shall be thrown to a cutoff man and, if desired, to one additional infielder before being returned to the pitcher for delivery to the next batter.*
- *After a putout in the infield and with no runners on base, the ball shall be returned directly to the pitcher.*
- *Following the final out in any inning, the ball shall be given to the nearest umpire. The plate umpire shall give the ball to the catcher. The base umpire shall place the ball on the pitcher's plate.*

4-2-2 Any game that is tied at the end of 4½ or at least five full innings when the game is called shall be a tie game, unless the state association has adopted a specific game ending procedure.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has adopted the completed/suspended game rule for regular season play only.*

### Completed/Suspended Game Rule

*A game called for any reason in which a winner cannot be determined or a game called at any time for mechanical failure (artificial lights, watering systems, etc.) will be considered a*

suspended game. Such a game will be continued from the point of suspension, with the lineups and batting orders for both teams exactly the same as at the time of suspension subject to the rules of the game. The rule is as follows:

1. If a game is stopped prior to the completion of 4 1/2 innings, it is a suspended game and will be resumed from the point of interruption.
2. If a game is stopped after 4 1/2 innings or in the bottom of the 5th inning and the home team is ahead, it is a completed game and the home team is declared the winner. If the score is tied or the visiting team is ahead, it is a suspended game and will be resumed from the point of interruption.
3. If a game is stopped after 5 or 6 innings and either team is ahead, it is a completed game and that team is declared the winner. If the score is tied, it is a suspended game and will be resumed from the point of interruption.
4. If a game is called in the top of the 6th inning, after 5 1/2 innings, in the top of the 7th inning, or after 6 1/2 innings, the score reverts back to the last completed inning. If either team was ahead, it is a completed game and that team is declared the winner. If the score was tied, it is a suspended game and will be resumed from the point of interruption.
5. If a game is stopped in the bottom of the 6th or 7th inning, the score reverts back to the last completed inning unless the home team scored to tie or take the lead in the bottom of the incomplete inning. If so, the score remains as it was when the game was discontinued. In either case, it is a suspended game if the score was tied and will be resumed from the point of interruption.

4-2-4

A state association may adopt game-ending procedures that determine how games are ended, including suspended games. However, if a state does not adopt game ending procedures, by mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the umpire-in-chief, any remaining play may be shortened or the game terminated. 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.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has adopted the completed/suspended game rule (see 4-2-2 above) for regular season play only. All state tournament games will be played to the full seven innings, except if the mercy rule can be applied. No other completed/suspended game rule may be used.*

*The DIAA Board of Directors has also adopted the 10-run mercy rule at the varsity level for both regular season and state tournament play. No other mercy rule may be used except at the sub-varsity level (including all middle school games).*

#### 10-Run Mercy Rule

*A game will be called if five or more full innings have been completed and either team is leading by 10 or more runs. In addition, a game will be called if, after 4 ½ innings or after the completion of the visitor's half of a subsequent inning, the home team is leading by 10 or more runs. The final score will be as recorded when the game was called.*

- *If a DIAA member school is competing out of state and the opposing school's state athletic association has mandated a different mercy rule, then that rule will be in effect. If an out-of-state school is competing in Delaware, the 10-run mercy rule will be in effect. The use of the 10-run mercy rule is mandatory at the varsity level and is not subject to conference adoption or mutual consent of the opposing coaches.*
- *At the sub-varsity level (including all middle school games), conference mercy rules will be in effect. In non-conference games or if a conference has not adopted a mercy rule at the sub-varsity level, the game may be shortened or terminated in accordance with the provisions of NFHS Rule 4-2-4.*

4-3-1

By state association adoption, a regulation called game where a winner cannot be determined (4-2-3) shall be counted as ½ game won and ½ game lost for each team.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has taken no action on this provision and consequently, the aforementioned completed/suspended game rule will be applied.*

4-4-1a 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." State associations are authorized to specify the time frame and/or circumstance before a forfeit will be declared for a late arrival by one of the teams;

*The DIAA Board of Directors has determined that the game will be played regardless of the visiting team's arrival time provided they notify the host school within 30 minutes of the scheduled starting time that they will be late. If the visiting team does not notify the host school as indicated above, they will forfeit the game if they don't arrive within 30 minutes of the scheduled starting time.*

4-5-1 It is optional on the part of a state association as to whether protests are permitted. When allowed, protests are permitted regarding rules one through nine only. When protests are submitted to organizations which do allow the filing, such protest must be submitted using a prescribed procedure. All individual and team averages shall be included in the official records, except that no pitcher shall be credited with a victory or charged with a loss in such a game, if the game is not regulation.

*The DIAA Board of Directors permits protests only during the regular season. Protests in conference games are adjudicated in accordance with the procedure established by the conference. Protests in non-conference games are submitted to the DIAA Executive Director who, in consultation with the DIAA State Rules Interpreter, will render a decision. Protests are not permitted during the state tournament.*

6-1-6 Each state association shall have a pitching restriction policy based on the number of pitches thrown to afford pitchers a required rest period between pitching appearances.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has adopted the following pitch limits for both the regular season and state tournament play for High School.*

<i>Pitches Thrown</i>	<i>Rest Period</i>
<i>1-25</i>	<i>None (no days)</i>
<i>26-50</i>	<i>1 day</i>
<i>51-80</i>	<i>2 days</i>
<i>81-105</i>	<i>3 days</i>

- *There is a one day limit of 105 pitches by the pitcher. However, the pitcher may finish the batter if the 105 pitch is reached during the at bat.*
- *A maximum of 205 pitches may be thrown in a seven (7) period day.*
- *There is a maximum of 85 pitches for the first six games of the season. All teams become eligible for the 105 pitch count after one team finished their sixth contest.*
- *Doubleheaders: A player is ineligible to pitch in the second game of the day if during the first game he/she throws 25-39 pitches in two consecutive innings and/or throws more than 40 pitches in any one inning. The pitcher starting the second game will be held to the 105 pitch limit. Any pitches thrown during the first game will be counted towards this 105 pitch limit for the day.*

*The DIAA Board of Directors has adopted the following pitch limits Middle School.*

<b>Pitches Thrown</b>	<b>Rest Period</b>
1-20	None (no days)
21-35	1 day

36-50	2 days
51-65	3 days
66-90	4 days

- *There is a one day limit of 90 pitches by the pitcher. However, the pitcher may finish the batter if the 90 pitch is reached during the at bat.*
- *A maximum of 175 pitches may be thrown in a seven (7) period day.*
- *There is a maximum of 70 pitches for the first four games of the season. All teams become eligible for the 90 pitch count after one team finished their fourth contes.*

10-1-9

Umpires shall wear gray slacks, and navy pullover shirt or state association adopted shirt.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has granted permission for umpires to wear the following NFHS approved shirts: navy with red and white trim, powder blue with navy and white trim, powder blue with red, navy and white trim, powder blue with black trim, black with white trim, cream with black trim, scarlet red with navy and white trim, grey with black trim. Umpires are to wear grey slacks (heather or charcoal shades) and a navy blue hat, preferably sized. Umpires have three options for hats during regular season play: plain navy, an approved association hat or the approved DIAA-lettered hat. All Umpires assigned to a game must wear the EXACT same matching uniform options (Hat, Shirt & Slacks).*

- *For the state tournament only the plain navy or DIAA-lettered hat may be worn.*

## DIAA BOYS' LACROSSE RULES ADOPTIONS/MODIFICATIONS

- 1-9-1h Note One American flag, not to exceed 2 inches by 3 inches, may be worn or occupy space on each item of uniform apparel. By state association adoption, to allow for occasions, commemorative or memorial patches, not to exceed 4 square inches, may be worn on the uniform without compromising its integrity.

*Requests to wear a commemorative or memorial patch on the jersey must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director who will evaluate each request on its merits and respond in writing.*

- 1-11-2 Each state association may, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities or special needs, as well as those individuals with unique and extenuating circumstances. The accommodations should not fundamentally alter the sport, heighten risk to the athlete/others or place opponents at a disadvantage.

*The DIAA Board has established the following procedure for schools to request an accommodation based on disability, and/or a special need. The athletic director must contact either the DIAA State Rules Interpreter or the Executive Director in order to obtain clearance for the player to participate in a scrimmage or a game with the accommodation. The State Rules Interpreter or the Executive Director will inspect the accommodation. If, in their opinion the accommodation meets the rule above, it will be approved for use. The Executive Director will forward a letter to that effect to the player's athletic director. A copy of the letter should then be provided to the officials before each game in which the player is in uniform.*

- 3-2 There shall be two-minute intervals between the first and second periods and between the third and fourth periods of a game. During these intermissions, all rules governing play of the game remain in force. The intermission between the second and third periods shall be 10 minutes, unless another time is mutually agreed upon by the coaches, conference, league or state association. The teams may leave the field, and all rules governing play of the game remain in force.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has not taken any action on this provision and consequently, there are no state association guidelines pertaining to the length of the intermission between the second and third periods. In the absence of any state association rules, conference guidelines would apply and in the absence of any conference rules, the intermission will be ten minutes in length unless the opposing head coaches mutually agree to a different length of time prior to the start of the game.*

- 3-5 If a game is interrupted because of events beyond the control of the responsible authorities, it shall be continued from the point of interruption unless there are conference, league or state association rules which apply to cover the situation.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has not taken any action on this provision and consequently, there are no state association guidelines pertaining to interrupted games. In the absence of any state association rules, conference guidelines would apply and in the absence of any conference rules, the opposing schools would have to decide before leaving the game site whether the game would be resumed from the point of interruption or terminated with the existing score.*

## DIAA GIRLS LACROSSE RULES ADOPTIONS/MODIFICATIONS

- 2-7 Note Each state association may, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities and/or special needs, religious considerations as well as those individuals with unique and extenuating circumstances. The accommodations should not fundamentally alter the sorts, allow an otherwise illegal piece of equipment, create risk to the athlete/others or place opponents at a disadvantage.
- The DIAA Board has established the following procedure for schools to request an accommodation based on disability, and/or a special need. The athletic director must contact either the DIAA State Rules Interpreter or the Executive Director in order to obtain clearance for the player to participate in a scrimmage or a game with the accommodation. The State Rules Interpreter or the Executive Director will inspect the accommodation. If, in their opinion the accommodation meets the rule above, it will be approved for use. The Executive Director will forward a letter to that effect to the player's athletic director. A copy of the letter should then be provided to the officials before each game in which the player is in uniform.*
- 2-9-4 An American flag, not to exceed 2 by 3 inches, and either a commemorative or memorial patch, not to exceed 4 square inches and with written state association approval, may be worn on the jersey provided neither the flag nor the patch interferes with the visibility of the number.
- Requests to wear an American flag or either a commemorative or memorial patch on the jersey must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director who will evaluate each request on its merits and respond in writing.*
- 4-6-1 The NFHS/US Lacrosse Rule Book Overtime Procedures as written in 4.6.1 will be followed for regular season and State Tournament play. (pg. 30)

## DIAA SOFTBALL RULES ADOPTIONS/MODIFICATIONS

1-2-1 Note By state association adoption, a double first base is permitted.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has approved the use of a double first base. The decision to use a double first base is left to the discretion of the host school unless a conference has adopted it, in which case the double first base will be used in all conference games.*

3-2-1 State Associations may, on an individual basis, permit a player to participate while wearing a different style uniform for religious reasons, inclement weather, etc.

*If a player has a religious reason for wearing a different style uniform, her athletic director must contact the Executive Director in order to obtain clearance for the player to participate in a scrimmage or a game. The State Rules Interpreter or the Executive Director will attend a practice session and inspect the uniform. If, in their opinion, the uniform is acceptable it will be approved for use. The Executive Director will forward a letter to that effect to the player's athletic director. The letter should then be provided to the officials before each game in which the player is in uniform.*

3-2-13 Note Each state association may, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities or special needs, as well as those individuals with unique and extenuating circumstances. The accommodations should not fundamentally alter the sport, heighten risk to the athlete/others or place opponents at a disadvantage.

*The DIAA Board has established the following procedure for schools to request an accommodation based on disability, and/or a special need. The athletic director must contact either the DIAA State Rules Interpreter or the Executive Director in order to obtain clearance for the player to participate in a scrimmage or a game with the accommodation. The State Rules Interpreter or the Executive Director will inspect the accommodation. If, in their opinion the accommodation meets the rule above, it will be approved for use. The Executive Director will forward a letter to that effect to the player's athletic director. A copy of the letter should then be provided to the officials before each game in which the player is in uniform.*

3-2-4 One American flag (2 inch x 3 inch maximum) may be worn or occupy space on the jersey. By state association adoption, for special occasions, a commemorative or memorial patch, not to exceed 4 square inches, may be worn on the uniform without compromising its integrity.

*Requests to wear either a commemorative or memorial patch on the jersey must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director who will evaluate each request on its merits and respond in writing.*

4-2-3 A state association may adopt game-ending procedures that determine how games are ended, including suspended games.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has adopted the completed/suspended game rule for regular season play only. All state tournament games will be played to the full seven innings, except if the mercy rule can be applied. No other completed/suspended game rule may be used.*

*The DIAA Board of Directors has also adopted the 10-run mercy rule at the varsity level for both regular season and state tournament play. No other mercy rule may be used except at the sub-varsity level (including all middle school games).*

### **Completed/Suspended Game Rule**

A game called for any reason in which a winner cannot be determined or a game called at anytime for mechanical failure (artificial lights, watering systems, etc.) will be considered a suspended game. Such a game will be continued from the point of suspension, with the lineups and batting orders for both teams exactly the same as at the time of suspension subject to the rules of the game. The completed/suspended game rule will be in effect for both regular season and state tournament play during the season. The rule is as follows:

1. If a game is stopped prior to the completion of 4 1/2 innings, it is a suspended game and will be resumed from the point of interruption.
2. If a game is stopped after 4 1/2 innings or in the bottom of the 5th inning and the home team is ahead, it is a completed game and the home team is declared the winner. If the score is tied or the visiting team is ahead, it is a suspended game and will be resumed from the point of interruption.
3. If a game is stopped after 5 or 6 innings and either team is ahead, it is a completed game and that team is declared the winner. If the score is tied, it is a suspended game and will be resumed from the point of interruption.
4. If a game is called in the top of the 6th inning, after 5 1/2 innings, in the top of the 7th inning, or after 6 1/2 innings, the score reverts back to the last completed inning. If either team was ahead, it is a completed game and that team is declared the winner. If the score was tied, it is a suspended game and will be resumed from the point of interruption.
5. If a game is stopped in the bottom of the 6th or 7th inning, the score reverts back to the last completed inning unless the home team scored to tie or take the lead in the bottom of the incomplete inning. If so, the score remains as it was when the game was discontinued. In either case, it is a suspended game if the score was tied and will be resumed from the point of interruption.

### **10-Run Mercy Rule**

A game will be called if five or more full innings have been completed and either team is leading by 10 or more runs. In addition, a game will be called if, after 4 ½ innings or after the completion of the visitor's half of a subsequent inning, the home team is leading by 10 or more runs. The final score will be as recorded when the game was called.

- If a DIAA member school is competing out of state and the opposing school's state athletic association has mandated a different mercy rule, then that rule will be in effect. If an out-of-state school is competing in Delaware, the 10-run mercy rule will be in effect.
- At the subvarsity level (including all middle school games), conference mercy rules will be in effect. In non-conference games or if a conference has not adopted a mercy rule at the subvarsity level, the game may be shortened or terminated in accordance with the provisions of NFHS Rule 4-2-3.

4-2-3 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.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has adopted the completed/suspended game rule for regular season play only. No other completed/suspended game rule may be used. The DIAA Board of Directors has also approved the use of the 10-run mercy rule at the varsity level for regular season play by conference adoption. No other mercy rule may be used except at the subvarsity level (including all middle school games).*

4-2-3 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.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has taken no action on this provision. Consequently, both games of a doubleheader will be scheduled for seven innings.*

4-2-6 By state association adoption, the tie-breaker procedure may be instituted at a point in the game specified by the state association.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has approved the use of the International tie-breaker system at the varsity level for all regular season play. It will be in effect for all games played in the state. The tie-breaker may not be used until the top of the 10th inning. The offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat immediately before that inning's leadoff batter on second base. The player who is running can be substituted in accordance with the substitution rules.*

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.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has determined that the game will be played regardless of the visiting team's arrival time provided they notify the host school within 30 minutes of the scheduled starting time that they will be late. If the visiting team does not notify the host school as stipulated above, they will forfeit the game if they don't arrive within 30 minutes of the scheduled starting time.*

4-4-1 It is optional on the part of a state association as to whether protests are permitted. When allowed, protests are permitted regarding rules one through nine only. When protests are submitted to organizations which do allow the filing, such protest shall be submitted using a prescribed procedure (10-2-3i). All individual and team averages shall be included in the official records, except that no pitcher shall be credited with a victory or a loss in such a game if the game is not completed.

*The DIAA Board of Directors permits protests only during the regular season. Protests in conference games are adjudicated in accordance with the procedure established by the conference. Protests in nonconference games are submitted to the DIAA Executive Director who, in consultation with the DIAA State Rules Interpreter, will render a decision. Protests are not permitted during the state tournament.*

5-2-1b Note After 30 minutes, the umpire may declare the game ended or, by state association adoption, suspended.

*If a game is interrupted and cannot be resumed for at least 30 minutes, the umpire may call the game in which case the completed/suspended game rule will be applied to determine if the game must be continued at a later date.*

10-4-2 *The DIAA Board of Directors has approved the following modifications of the proper uniform for all umpires. These modifications are for regular season and tournament play. The NFHS allows this under Softball Rule 10-4-2, as an administrative decision of the state association.*

*All Umpires who work a game as a crew will be in the same matching shirt, pants and hat. All umpires may wear one of three approved navy blue hats: plain navy blue, navy blue with the Association lettering, navy blue with DIAA lettering. All umpires working a game may wear one of the following approved colored shirts: powder blue with navy and white trim, powder blue with red, navy and white trim, powder blue with black trim navy with red and white trim, black with white trim, cream with black trim, scarlet red with navy and white trim, grey with black trim. All umpires working a game may wear one of the following approved slacks: heather grey or navy blue.*

*\*Powder Blue Shirts are the preferred NFHS color.*