

SOFTBALL TIE-BREAKING PROCEDURE

Beginning with the 2006 Softball season, the NJSIAA has adopted a tie-breaking procedure, beginning in the 10th inning of any tied softball contest. The tie-breaking procedure (often referred to as the "International" or "Olympic" tie-breaker) is as follows:

"While using the tie-breaker, each half-inning begins by placing a runner on second base. That runner is the player in the batting order who precedes the lead-off batter of that inning. Then the game proceeds a full inning or until a winner is determined in that inning."

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- ◆ The tie-breaker is implemented beginning with the first batter in the 10th inning.
- ◆ The player who starts the inning on 2nd base (in the 10th and any subsequent innings) is the player in the batting order who precedes the lead-off batter in that inning. This is not necessarily the person who made the last out in the prior inning (see example below).
- ◆ The tie-breaking procedure is played in complete "3 out" innings -- it is not "sudden death."

EXAMPLE

In a game between the Team A and Team B, the game is tied 2-2 at the end of eight complete innings. Team A is the home team. A recap of the 9th inning is as follows:

In the top of the 9th inning, the first batter for Team A, the #8 batter in the batting order, reached first base on an error by the defensive right fielder. The second batter (#9 in the batting order) struck out. The third batter in the inning (#1 in the batting order) bunted safely, advancing the runner (#8 in the batting order) from 1st to 2nd. The next batter (fourth batter in the inning, #2 in the batting order) struck out. The fifth batter (#3 in the batting order) hit a grounder to the shortstop, who tagged the runner going from 2nd to 3rd (#8 batter in the order) for the third out.

In the bottom of the 9th, the first three batters for Team B (#7, #8, and #9 in the batting order) strike out.

The top of the 10th inning will begin with Team A's #4 batter at the plate, and the #3 batter on 2nd base. Once the top of the inning is complete, whether or not the Team A scores, Team B will bat. Team B will have their #1 batter at the plate and their #9 batter on 2nd base. If Team B scores more runs than Team A, the game is over. If a tie still exists, additional inning(s) will be played using the tie-breaking procedure. The runner who starts the inning on 2nd base will always be the batter in the batting order who precedes the lead-off batter for that inning.

International Tie Breaker Rule

During each half inning of the inning used to enforce the tie breaker, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat ninth in that respective half inning being placed at second base. (e.g., if the number five batter is to lead off, the number four batter in the batting order will be placed on second base. A substitute may be inserted for the runner.)

It is the responsibility of the umpire and scorekeeper to notify the teams involved as to what player starts at second base. If the wrong player is placed on the base and it is brought to the umpire's attention, there is no penalty, correct the error and place the correct person on the base. This should occur whether a pitch has been thrown, or if the runner has advanced a base. If a substitute has been entered without reporting, and one pitch has been thrown, the umpire should enforce the illegal substitute penalty when it is brought to his attention.

In scoring, the run scored by a player starting as a runner at second base shall be charged to the defensive team and not the pitcher. Depending on the judgment of the official scorekeeper, a run scored by any other player will be charged to the pitcher's ERA.