

# MPSSAA

## “MERCY” RULE FOR FOOTBALL

Maryland has adopted the following rule regarding the use of running time. After the first half, any time the score differential reaches 35 points or more, the following changes, and only these changes, will be made regarding rules determining when the clock will and will not be stopped.

- A. Once a 35-point differential exists in the second half, the clock will only be stopped when:
- (1) A player is injured or apparently injured.
  - (2) A charged (team) time-out occurs.
  - (3) A score occurs that reduces the point spread to less than 35 points.
  - (4) A period ends.
- B. The use of this rule does not preclude the use of Rule 3-1-3 which reads, “A period or periods may be shortened in any emergency by agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee. By mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee, any remaining period may be shortened at any time or the game terminated.”

(July 2014)