

Maryland Tiebreaker Procedure 2023

As authorized by NF 4-2-5

Beginning with the eighth inning, each half inning will begin with the last completed turn at bat from the previous inning (or her legal substitute or courtesy runner) on second base.

[Note: Enforcement of an “automatic out” as described in NFHS Rule 3-3-8b or 4-3-1g shall never be interpreted to create an out before the extra inning is begun.] After the leadoff batter has completed her turn at bat, any “automatic out” in the batting order will be an automatic out as prescribed in NFHS Rule 7-4-1.

See below for the definitions of “substitutes” and “case examples.”

NF 2-57-1 . . . Substitute – A substitute is a player not listed on the lineup as a starter but who may legally replace a starting player; any player who enters the game; the DP when the DP plays defense for the FLEX; or the FLEX when the FLEX plays offense for the DP.

NF 2-57-2 . . . Unreported Substitute – An unreported substitute is a substitute who has a legal right to participate in the game but has not reported to the umpire prior to participation (3-3-4, 3-6-7). All substitutions must be reported to the umpire.

Note: A courtesy runner is not a substitute but must be reported to the umpire. (8-9-7)

NF 2-57-3 . . . Illegal Substitute – An illegal substitute is a player who enters or reenters the game without eligibility to do so (illegal re-entry); a player who re-enters the game in the wrong position in the batting order; (FP) the FLEX who enters the game as a batter or runner in a different position in the batting order than the DP; or a player who violates the courtesy runner rule.

Case example: Play #1 In a tiebreaker inning, #17 was the last completed at bat from the previous inning but #12 was sent to 2nd base to start the inning. #12 had been tagged out to end the preceding inning. This error is detected by the defensive team, (1) prior to a pitch being thrown to the next batter, or (2) after a pitch has been thrown to the next batter.

Ruling: In (1) since no pitches had been thrown, her illegal entry into the game had not been completed and this is a correctable situation without penalty. #17 or her legal substitute or courtesy runner may be placed on 2nd base and play resumes. In (2) the illegal entry has been completed and #12 has become an illegal substitute. #12 is called out and she is restricted to the bench for the remainder of the game.

Case example: Play #2 In a tiebreaker inning, #15 (pitcher of record) was the last completed at bat from the previous inning but #10 was sent to 2nd base to start the inning. #10 had been a courtesy runner for the pitcher (#15) earlier in this game but the coach did not notify the umpire that #10 would be a courtesy runner in this inning. This error is detected by the defensive team, (1) prior to a pitch being thrown to the next batter, or (2) after a pitch has been thrown to the next batter.

Ruling: In (1) since no pitches had been thrown to the next batter, this is correctable. The offensive coach can report her as a courtesy runner. In (2) #10 has become an unreported substitute because she is still permitted to become a legal substitute. #15 has left the game but can reenter legally if she had not previously re-entered the game.

The coach must report the entry of a courtesy runner into the game each time a courtesy runner enters the game.

Case example: Play #3 In a tiebreaker inning, #19 was the last completed at bat from the previous inning but #14 was sent to 2nd base to start the inning. #14 had been tagged out to end the preceding inning. After reaching a 0-2 count, the batter hits a clean base hit scoring #14 from 2nd base. The error is detected by the defensive team,

(1) prior to a pitch being thrown to the next batter or prior to the infielders leaving fair territory and the catcher vacating her normal position, or (2) after a pitch being thrown to the next batter or after the infielders have left fair territory and the catcher has vacated her normal position.

Ruling: In (1) #14 is called out, her run is nullified, and she is restricted to the bench for the remainder of the game. In (2) the run scored by #14 would score because this appeal must be made before a pitch is thrown to the next batter or the infielders and catcher have left their positions.

Case example: Play #4 In the 5th inning, #26 from team A was injured and could not continue. Team A had no more legal substitutes available, so Team A was required to take an automatic out in the 6th spot in the batting where #26 had been batting. After 7 full innings the game was tied. In (1), the last completed at bat was the 6th spot in the batting order (automatic out), or in (2), the lead off batter would have been the 6th spot in the batting order.

Ruling: In (1) the player in the 5th spot in the batting order becomes the runner who starts the tiebreaker inning at second base and the player in the 7th spot in the batting order becomes the leadoff batter. In (2) the player in the 5th spot in the batting order starts the inning at second base in the tiebreaker inning and the player in the 7th spot in the batting order becomes the leadoff batter.

Additional Comment: If the last completed turn at bat was the 4th spot in the batting order, this player would start the tiebreaker inning at second base and the player in the 5th spot in the order becomes the leadoff batter. After the leadoff batter completes her

turn at bat, an out occurs because the 6th spot in the batting order is an automatic out.