

In January, the Executive Board passed the request to allow postseason play-in games for baseball starting in the 2023-24 school year. With this passage, the MHSA Handbook does not address game ending procedures for a play-in game. The MHSA baseball ad-hoc committee is proposing the following language to go into effect this postseason:

Postseason play-in games suspended before 4 1/2 or 5 innings because of weather, darkness or games that are tied – resume from the point of interruption if the game can be continued at a later time, unless the opposing coaches wish to terminate the game and determine a winner.

If the game is suspended and the game cannot be played at a later time, the higher seeded team (#2 seed) is declared the winner. In case of a tie, the higher seeded team is declared the winner.

Rationale: If the game is played on Saturday and suspended, the first part of the rule would be in effect since the game could be played Monday or on Sunday with MHSA Executive Director approval. If the game is played on Monday and suspended, there is no other option to resume the game since Tuesday will not be approved to complete the game. By NFHS rule, any game played 5 full innings or more, is a regulation game. Also, by NFHS rule, if a game is suspended and the game is a blowout, coaches can agree to terminate the game and determine a winner. However, the rule says it has to be part of the game ending procedure language. If approved for the postseason language, we should think about adding it to the regular season language for next season.