



New York State SOFTBALL OFFICIALS, Inc.

Hudson Valley Chapter

10 Birchbrook Drive

(914) 949-0569

(914) 610-1666 [Cell Phone]

James A. Berger, Softball Chairperson

John F. Morgan, Rules Interpreter

TO: All HVBO Umpires

DATE: April 21, 2008

SUBJECT: **REVISED** Mandatory 15-Run Ahead Rule

Effective IMMEDIATELY for the remainder of the 2008 softball season, the 15-Run Ahead Rule (Mercy Rule) has been revised. The revision is if the visiting team goes ahead by 15 or more runs in either the top of the 6th inning or the top of the 7th inning, the home team must receive their final turn at bat.

A 15-run ahead rule will end the game if the home team is leading by 15 or more runs after 4½ innings. In other words, the home team is ahead by 15 runs and the losing team has batted at least five times (five innings).

For example: The blue team is the home team and is ahead 12-0 after four innings. In the bottom of the 5th inning, the blue team scores three runs ... Game Over

<u>Teams</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>		<u>Runs</u>
Red Team	0	0	0	0	0				0
Blue Team	4	2	5	1	3 ♠				15

♠ - (Regardless of the number of outs, stop the game as soon as the blue team has gone ahead by 15 runs and their opponent has batted at least five times.)

Revised example: The green team is the visiting team. Going in the top of the 6th inning, the green team is ahead by 14 runs. The green team scores a run and is now ahead by 15 runs. The game is not over. The home team must bat in the bottom of the 6th inning. If the orange team scores a run in the bottom of the 6th inning, the game will go a full 7 innings.

<u>Teams</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>		<u>Runs</u>
Green Team	4	5	2	3	3	1	?		18
Orange Team	0	2	0	1	0	♣?	♣?		3?

♣ - (If the visiting team goes ahead by 15 or more runs in either the top of the 6th inning or the top of the 7th inning, the home team must receive their possible final turn at bat.)

Remember, the 15-run ahead rule is mandatory at all levels of play – Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshmen, and Modified.