NE Jr. League “Mercy Rule” Guidelines

Seniors:

The mercy rule states that once the score differential reaches 35 points after the second half, the clock will only stop for injuries, time-outs, penalties, and scores.

Youth:

Mercy Rule

1) Once a team has built a lead equal to or greater than 28 points the NFHS Mercy Rule will apply. Also, on change of possession the losing team will take possession on their 40-yard line unless the change of possession occurs within the opposing team’s 40-yard line. The winning team will take possession on their 20-yard line, regardless of where or how the change of possession occurred, unless the change is inside their 20-yard line, in which case the change will occur as normal. Invoking the Mercy Rule does not mean the game is over. If the trailing team closes to less than 28 points normal rules will go back into effect. The entire game will be played and the team with the most points wins.

Juniors:

The mercy rule states that once the score differential reaches 35 points after the second half, the clock will only stop for injuries, time-outs, penalties, and scores.