

**Football mercy rule approved The measure will keep the clock running in the second half if the lead is 35 points or more.**

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ROBBINSVILLE — The NJSIAA's executive committee yesterday unanimously approved a mercy rule for football games starting in September.

Under the plan, a running clock will be used in the second half if a team is ahead by 35 points or more. The clock will stop only for a time-out, a score, an injury or a penalty. The clock will continue running if a player runs out of bounds or after an incomplete pass.

NJSIAA officials said the new rule would promote sportsmanship.