

MINUTES OF THE IHSA BASEBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
August 30, 2011

The IHSA Baseball Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on, August 30, 2011, beginning at 10:00a.m. Committee members present were; Dave Rosene, Chicago (Jones); Glen Wilson, Woodstock (H.S.); Ken Miller, Coal City; Sean Martin, Maroa (M.-Forsyth); Greg Pohlman, Carrollton; Lee Meyer, Belleville (West); Kevin Mallehan, Official; and Craig Anderson, IHSA. Also in attendance was Dan Schoessling, President Illinois Baseball Coaches Association. David Garcia, Granville (Putnam County) was unable to attend.

The Minutes of the September 1, 2010 meeting were accepted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Item V. C. Class 3A and 4A Outside the Chicago Suburban Area:

Recommendation: Add McHenry County to the counties considered to be part of the Chicago Suburban Area where Sectional complexes would be formed.

Rational: The preference of coaches in this area continues to be to form sectional complexes when possible. McHenry county is close enough to these other counties to be included in forming a sectional complex.

Not Approved

2. Item V.C. Class 3A and 4A Outside the Chicago Suburban Area:

Recommendation: Include the 8 Metro East schools as one half of a sectional complex (2 regionals) that could be seeded 1 – 8 and divided up into 2 regionals based on the 1 – 8 seeding.

Rational: Since all of these schools are in such close proximity, this would allow for the even division of the schools by seeding into the 2 regionals versus the potential of the top 2 or 3 teams being placed in one regional.

Not Approved

3. Item V. E. Seeding and Pairings:

Recommendation: Move the Seeding date for Classes 1A – 2A to Tuesday, May 1, 2012 and for classes 3A – 4A to Tuesday, May 8, 2012.

Rational: The addition of a few more days in the spring prior to seeding will allow teams to get more games played and provide more feedback for coaches to give a proper seeding of teams.

Approved

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The committee recommends a season ending announcement from the IHSA to coaches and administrators about the pitching/throwing safety guidelines currently available on the IHSA baseball page. The timing of this announcement is appropriate as many players are moving into the summer and notification to summer coaches on player safety is necessary. The committee also recommends a single slide announcement on the rules interpretation meeting noting the location of this information at the beginning of the year.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION;

1. Bats... All bats must be BBCOR Certified for the 2012 season. The new NFHS rules will not require umpires to do bat and helmet checks. Discussion occurred on having umpires file a special report when a player is restricted to the dug-out for using an illegal bat so that school administration will become aware of players and teams trying to use illegal bats. There is a concern that coaches won't police this like they should.
2. It was requested to make Sectional sites aware of the impact of having double header games for the semi-finals versus playing Wednesday and Thursday as it provides the team that advances to the super-sectional an opportunity to have more rest than a team that did not get to play on the first day of the semi-final.
3. Discussion occurred on the sectional sites...preferring High School sites to collegiate sites in some areas of the state. Some college sites won't allow infield opportunities. At the Super-sectional level the committee agreed a college and/or minor league park is appropriate.
4. Discussion occurred on having Super-sectional sites have a host high school help with the game. Specifically, having a representative who understands the terms and conditions and processes for hosting this level game would allow the game to run much smoother for all involved.

5. Discussion occurred on Fall Baseball and its needed return particularly in the Chicago area. The process for doing this was provided.
6. Education is needed for coaches regarding open gym policies for baseball. The suggestion was made to consider supplying a Do's and Don'ts list to coaches during the rules interpretation meeting as a point of emphasis for coaches to understand the rules out of season.