

MINUTES OF THE IHSA GIRLS SOFTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
August 29, 2012

The IHSA Girls Softball Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, August 29, 2012, at 10 a.m. Committee members present were: Amber Allan, Litchfield; Nate Emrick, Cobden; Julie Folliard, Oak Lawn (Richards); Larry Friedrichs, Lincolnshire (Stevenson); Bob Lim, Chicago (Marist); Deb Nelson, LaSalle (L.-Peru); Tom Starr, Rock Falls (Official). Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) Assistant Executive Director John Venerable and IHSA Assistant Executive Director Matt Troha were also in attendance.

TERMS & CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. VI – Tournament Structure and Time Schedules – A. Time Schedules

Recommendation: The committee recommends that the aforementioned Terms & Conditions sub-section 5 be amended to read (all times pushed back half hour):

Friday

Session 1

Game 1	10:00 a.m.	Class 1A/3A Semifinal #1
Game 2	12:30 p.m.	Class 1A/3A Semifinal #2

Session 2

Game 3	3:00 p.m.	Class 2A/4A Semifinal #1
Game 4	5:30 p.m.	Class 2A/4A Semifinal #2

Saturday

Session 3

Game 5	10:00 a.m.	Class 1A/3A Third-Place Game
Game 6	12:30 p.m.	Class 1A/3A State Championship Game

Session 4

Game 7	3:00 p.m.	Class 2A/4A Third-Place Game
Game 8	5:30 p.m.	Class 2A/4A State Championship Game

Rationale: With the schedule being moved to a continuous format last year, moving back the start time of the first game would allow the teams playing in the first game more preparation time, bring the start time more in line with regular-season start times and be the same start time used at the baseball state finals.

Approved

2. **II – Sites and Dates – A. Class 1A/2A and B. Class 3A/4A**

Recommendation: The committee recommends that the Sectional semifinal dates in both the Class 1A/2A and Class 3A/4A tournaments be moved from Wednesday/Thursday to Tuesday/Wednesday. Sectional Finals would remain on Saturday for both.

Rationale: Moving the games forward one day provides for an extra rain date, while still leaving Monday open for any Regionals that have not been completed. Under the current format, if Wednesday is rained out, Thursday's winner is provided a day off, while Friday's is not, despite no declared seeding advantage.

Approved

3. **VIII – Tournament Rules – A. Determining Home Team - 2 and 4**

Recommendation: Add the following language to subsection 2 and 4:

2 - Coin tosses must occur no later than one hour before the scheduled start time of the contest. In the event that both coaches are present following the second Sectional semifinal, the coin toss may be conducted at that time.

4 - Coin tosses must occur no later than one hour before the scheduled start time of the contest.

Rationale: Teams need to know who is home and away in plenty of time so they can occupy the correct dugouts and plan their pregame warm-ups accordingly. Often times, the winning coach from the first Sectional Semifinal game will be scouting at the second game. With both coaches in attendance, the coin toss can be conducted then, so teams know where to report as soon as they arrive for the Sectional final.

Died for Lack of Motion

4. **XI – Officials – A. Appointments & Fees - 1**

Recommendation: Add the following language to #1: A host school can continue to request that the IHSA assign a third umpire to Regional semifinal and final contests. In the event a third official is requested, the IHSA will pay half of each game fee (\$26.75) and the host school will be responsible for the remaining half of the game fee for each game.

Rationale: Currently the host school and/or schools in the Regional are responsible for the official's fee in the event they request that the IHSA assign a third umpire to any Regional contest. This change would help ease the financial burden and likely result in more schools utilizing three-umpire crews in Regional contests, benefitting both the teams and umpires.

Died for Lack of Motion

5. **IV – Host Financial Arrangements - A. All Quarterfinal Regional games**

Recommendation: Regional host will issue checks to game officials for all levels of the regional.

Rational: Certain quarterfinal host sites are not as familiar with the process for paying for officials in the post season. Since the Regional host is completing the financial report on-line and likely more familiar with the process, the committee believed umpires would be paid in a more timely fashion if the designated host completes the payment to the officials.

Died for Lack of Motion

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Recommendation:** The committee recommends that the IHSA provide an official pregame warm-up schedule that mirrors that used by the IHSA at the state finals to be included in the Tournament Manager Manual and utilized by all hosts at the Regional, Sectional and Super-Sectional levels.

Rationale: This will help clear up any confusion over who takes pregame infield warm-up's and when, as well as creating a standard practice for teams as they advance in the state tournament.

- 2. Recommendation:** The committee recommends that the IHSA Board of Directors utilize Sub-Sectionals that send the Top 4 seeds in each Sectional to different Regional sites in softball for all Sectionals in Class 1A and 2A and for Sectionals outside the Chicagoland Sectional Complex boundary in Class 3A and 4A.

Rationale: The committee believes this move would make Regionals and Sectionals more competitive.

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee heard a report from IESA softball administrator John Venerable.
2. The committee heard a report on the 2011 IHSA Softball State Tournament, which included the debut of the new time format, from Matt Troha.
3. The committee reviewed the minutes of the 2011 IHSA Softball Advisory Committee meeting.
4. The committee reviewed the rule changes for the 2013 season that were recently approved by the NFHS.
5. The committee talked about poly core softballs vs. cork core softballs. The committee asked Matt Troha to gather more information on the balls to help shape a potential future recommendation.
6. The committee discussed proposing an NFHS national rule change that would disallow an opposing pitcher from warming up anywhere in the infield (fair or foul territory) or the outfield (fair territory) while the opposing team is taking its pregame infield warm-up.
7. The committee discussed proposing an NFHS national rule change that would require appropriate closed toe footwear be worn by coaches.
8. The committee discussed the future of facemasks and the potential impact on the NFHS rules once a NOCSAE approved defensive softball mask is created.
9. The committee discussed the recent procedure change by the NFHS in baseball that requires coaches to certify the legality of all equipment in lieu of umpires checking equipment before games.
10. The committee discussed potentially moving Regional final games to Friday to help athletes who may also qualified for the IHSA Girls Track & Field state meet, as well as schools who may be playing in baseball and softball Regional finals. The committee agreed that the current Saturday setup is preferred.
11. The committee discussed the durability of the Baden softball.

12. The committee discussed injuries related to metal spikes.
13. The committee discussed IHSA/umpire protocol for dealing with sportsmanship issues with fans.
14. The committee recognized Nate Emrick and Deb Nelson for their service to the IHSA Softball Advisory Committee after the final meeting of their terms.