

MINUTES OF THE IHSA GIRLS SOFTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 4, 2013

The IHSA Girls Softball Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, September 4, 2013, at 10 a.m. Committee members present were: Greg Blakey; Mt. Zion; Tammy Deter, Morrison; Julie Folliard, Oak Lawn (Richards); Larry Friedrichs, Lincolnshire (Stevenson), Peg Mitchell, Piasa (Southwestern); M. Reid Shipley, Centralia; and Tom Starr, Rock Falls. Also in attendance were Tracie Henry, IHSA Assistant Executive Director; Matt Troha; IHSA Assistant Executive Director; and John Venerable, Illinois Elementary School Association Assistant Executive Director. Not present was committee member Bob Lim, Chicago (Marist).

TERMS & CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. VII – Tournament Rules– J. Guidelines for Play at the State Final in Case of Bad Weather

Recommendation: All championship games will be played as complete games. If games are suspended due to weather the teams will come back and complete the game.

Rationale: Teams are already at the same site and the magnitude of the state championship calls for teams to have opportunity to play the game to completion instead of a state champion being determined by weather.

Died for lack of motion

NFHS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Rule 3-5 - Coaching – Article 3

Recommendation: The committee recommends that NFHS Rule 3-5-3 be modified to include: all coaches on the field must wear closed toe shoes.

Rationale: Closed toe shoes are a safe practice for coaches.

Approved by Consent

2. Rule 1-8 – Other Equipment – Article 6

Recommendation: Video and replay equipment shall not be used for coaching purposes during the course of the current game by any team personnel including players. Electronic coaching devices can be used for scoring or stat programs.

Rationale: Coaches and teams should not have the ability to use video during the course of the game. Using video could allow coaches to film catcher positions and pitch signals from the opposing team.

Died for lack of motion

STATE ADOPTIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. NFHS Rule 1-8 – Other Equipment – Article 6

Recommendation: The committee recommends that the committee not adopt NFHS Rule 1-8-6. Video and replay equipment shall not be used for coaching purposes during the course of the current game by any team personnel including players. Electronic coaching devices can be used for scoring or stat programs.

Rationale: Coaches and teams should not have the ability to use video during the course of the game. Using video could allow coaches to film catcher positions and pitch signals from the opposing team.

Died for lack of motion

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee heard a report from IESA softball administrator John Venerable.
2. The committee heard a report on the 2012 IHSA Softball State Tournament, which included the debut of the new time format and review of the 1A/2A and 3A/4A tournaments from Matt Troha.
3. The committee reviewed the minutes of the 2012 IHSA Softball Advisory Committee meeting.
4. The committee reviewed the rule changes for the 2014 season that were recently approved by the NFHS.
5. The committee discussed pre-game warm-ups. The committee discussed the safety concern when a team is taking infield and the opposing team's pitcher and catcher are warming up in foul territory on the infield.
6. The committee discussed completing all regional and sectional games or implementing a certain wait time before a game is called.
7. The committee discussed concerns regarding the durability of the Baden softballs. The committee also discussed the possibility of using a poly core ball vs. the cork core Baden softball. The IHSA Board of Directors approved a recommendation to open up the IHSA Official Ball Contract to vendor bids. Baden Sports is the official ball of the IHSA and the current deal with Baden expires after the 2013-14 school year. The IHSA anticipates the Board selecting a new bid by March of 2014 for the following 5 years.
8. The committee discussed the having separate baseball and softball calendars.
9. The committee discussed adjusting game times during the softball state series to avoid conflicts with track and or graduation.
10. The committee discussed potential softball changes forthcoming. The NCAA will be experimenting with different balls during non-conference play this season.

11. The committee discusses the NFHS rule for umpires to check all equipment prior to a game. Other sports and organizations have eliminated the pregame equipment check but it remains a rule in the NFHS Softball Rules book.
12. The committee discussed the use of metal cleats. By NFHS rule it is an option for teams to wear metal.
13. The committee discussed defensive teams wearing masks. Masks are optional by rule. Currently, there is not a NOCOE approved mask therefore masks are not required by rule.
14. The committee recommends referencing in the terms and conditions where the pregame timing for the state series is located in the managers manual.