

MINUTES OF THE IHSA GIRLS SOFTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 2, 2015

The IHSA Girls Softball Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, September 2, 2015, at 10 a.m. Committee members present were: Greg Blakey; Mt. Zion; Tammy Deter, Morrison; Laurie Jakubczak, Chicago (Mother McAuley); Bonny Kuenster; Oak Forest; Peg Mitchell, Piasa (Southwestern); Elizabeth Pawlicki, Frankfort (Lincoln-Way East); and Tim Rennels, Wauconda. Also in attendance were Tracie Henry, IHSA Assistant Executive Director; and Leslie Alappattu, Illinois Elementary School Association Assistant Executive Director. Not in attendance was M. Reid Shipley, Centralia.

TERMS & CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. VIII. Tournament Rules- C. Playing Regulations

Recommendation: If a team is winning by 15 runs at the end of 3 innings (2 1/2 if home team is winning) the game should be considered complete.

Rationale: The gaps in quality teams with quality pitching and teams lacking thereof seems to be getting greater. This will help curb any problems that might arise in sportsmanship and gamesmanship between players, coaches and parents.

Died for Lack of Motion

2. VI. Tournament Structure and Time Schedules A. Time Schedule.

Recommendation: A. Time Schedule. Starting times for regional quarterfinal games will be 4:30 p.m. unless the contest host has requested, and been approved for, a different start time from the IHSA Office. Starting times for all games will be announced by the local manager, but the Regional, Sectional and Super-sectional tournaments, games should not be played during school hours. The following starting times are recommended to the host schools: 4:30 p.m. for afternoon games and ~~7:00 p.m.~~ **6:30 p.m.** for night games, and 11:00 a.m. for Saturday games.

Rationale: The recommendation is consistent with the time host schools are requesting for night games.

Approved by Consent

3. V. Tournament Assignments and Seeding Meeting-E. Seeding and Pairings

Recommendation: ~~Non-compliance may result in IHSA review and possible sanctions imposed up on the school.~~ Any team that does not complete their seeding information will be fined \$100 by the IHSA.

Rationale: Provides a consequence for teams that do not comply with the tournament deadlines and submit their seeding.

Died for Lack of Motion

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee heard a report from IESA softball administrator Leslie Alappattu. The IESA Softball State Final is taking place at Champion Fields in Normal, IL on September 25 & 26.
2. The committee heard a report on the 2015 IHSA Softball State Tournament and review of the 1A/2A and 3A/4A State Finals from Tracie Henry. Tracie shared with the committee communication that was used via email during Regional & Sectionals to Tournament Managers regarding weather guidelines. She also reviewed the @IHSAweather Twitter feed that was implemented during the State Finals to communicate weather delays and changes with the State Final teams.
3. The committee reviewed the minutes of the 2014 IHSA Softball Advisory Committee meeting.
4. The committee reviewed the rule changes for the 2016 season that were recently approved by the NFHS. Since there was only one rule change for the 2016 season the committee discussed the need to incorporate DP/Flex education and examples into the online rules video. DP/Flex resources are available for officials in the Officials Education site and for coaches and officials on the front page of the IHSA Softball website: <http://www.ihsa.org/documents/sbg/2013-14/DP-Flex%20Cheat%20Sheet%20Card.pdf>
5. Tracie Henry reported the changes to IHSA Policy 18 Grouping and Seeding Tournament Series.

Class 1A and Class 2A: In class 1A and 2A, all state tournament series will begin in Regionals with initial seeding done by sub-sectionals. Each sub-sectional will contain 2 regional sites. Seeding for the tournament series will be done by sub-sectionals. Each sub-sectional will be seeded with the #1 and #4 assigned to one regional and #2 and #3 assigned to the other regional. The remaining teams will be assigned by geography.

Class 3A and 4A: All state tournament series will begin with a sectional complex except where excessive travel is a factor. This is determined by the IHSA administration. Where this occurs the tournament series will begin with sub-sectionals. Each sub-sectional will contain 2 regional sites. Seeding for the tournament series will be done by sub-sectionals. Each sub-sectional will be seeded with the #1 and #4 assigned to one

regional and #2 and #3 assigned to the other regional. The remaining teams will be assigned by geography.

6. The committee discussed the process of rating officials. Coaches appreciate it when officials give them cards with the ID numbers on them so they can rate the officials post-game.
7. The committee discussed pre-game warm-ups. The committee discussed the safety of two teams warming up in the outfield at the same time. The committee discussed the recommendation of requiring lite flight or whiffle balls pre-game. Tracie Henry communicated that this change would be best implemented by the conference or by an individual facility. The committee did not feel it was a concern state wide but more of a concern at specific facilities, when sharing a field for warm-ups.
8. The committee discussed composite bats and ASA Standards. Tracie reported that the NFHS did not foresee the ASA certification changing but that there is research and testing being conducted for a softer, slower softball. The NCAA experimented with different balls during the fall season in 2014.
9. The committee discussed the State Series playoff structure. Tracie received submissions of playing a double-elimination regional schedule and also an eight team State Final. Both of these changes fall outside the committee's jurisdiction and would require IHSA policy change.
10. The committee discussed 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, therefore it is required for umpires to check equipment prior to every softball game. The committee did discuss the inconsistency in how equipment checks are taking place across the State. The committee recommended discussing equipment checks with rule interpreters and potentially submitting a proposal to the NFHS.
11. The committee discussed defensive teams wearing masks. Masks are optional by rule. Currently, there is not a NOCSAE approved mask therefore masks are not required by rule.
12. Tracie explained to the committee that conference and tournament managers have the ability to implement the International Tie Breaker rule in their tournament rules/conference by-laws. The IHSA Terms and Conditions detail playing regulations for all State Series play, which **does not** include the International Tie Breaker.
13. The committee recognized Tammy Deter, Greg Blakey, Peg Mitchell and M. Reid Shipley for their service to the IHSA Softball Advisory Committee after the final meeting of their terms.