

MINUTES OF THE IHSA GIRLS SOFTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

August 31, 2023

The IHSA Girls Softball Advisory Committee met virtually on Thursday, August 31, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. Committee members participating were: Nicole Capalbo, Palatine; Josh Carlile, Manteno; Janet Crownhart, Amboy; Nicole Hayner, Pontiac; Joy Neal, Marion; and A. Lyle Meador III, Oren. Conducting the meeting was Tracie Henry, IHSA Assistant Executive Director; and also participating was Jackie Litweiller, Illinois Elementary School Association Executive Director & Roger Nichols, IHSA Head Softball Clinician.

TERMS & CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. II. DATES AND SITES

Recommendation:

A. Class 1A/ 2A: Regional play shall begin on Monday, May 13, 2024. All play will follow the schedule below, as determined by the number of teams in a respective bracket. *Regional Quarterfinals: Monday, May 13, 2024 *These games will be played at the site of the highest seed. Regional Semifinals: Tuesday, May 14, and Wednesday, May 15, 2024 *Regional Semifinal and Final will be played at the Regional host site. *Regional Finals: Friday, May 17 or Saturday, May 28, 2024. **Class 1A/2A Regionals will be played Week 46.**

The Sectional semifinal games may be played on Tuesday, May 21, and Wednesday, May 22. The Sectional Final (Championship) shall be played on Friday, May 24 or Saturday, May 25. The Super-Sectional games shall be played on Monday, May 27. **Class 1A/2A Sectionals will be played Week 47. Regional and Sectional games cannot be played before 3:00 p.m. on weekdays.**

B. Class 3A/4A – Regional play shall begin on Monday, May 20, 2024. All play will follow the schedule below, as determined by the number of teams in a respective bracket. Regional Quarterfinals*: Monday, May 20, 2024 *These games will be played at the site of the highest seed. Regional Semifinals: Tuesday, May 21, and Wednesday May 22, 2024. Regional Semifinal and Final will be played at the Regional host site. Regional Finals: Friday May 24 or Saturday, May 25, 2024. **Class 3A/4A Regionals will be played Week 47.** The Sectional semifinal games may be played on Tuesday, May 28, and Wednesday, May 29. The Sectional Final (Championship) shall be played on Friday, May 31 or Saturday, June 1. The Super-Sectional games shall be played on Monday, June 3. **Class 3A/4A Sectionals will be played Week 48. Regional and Sectional games cannot be played before 3:00 p.m. on weekdays.**

Rationale: Allows greater date flexibility for host schools and competing teams especially when hosts are working around school graduations while providing a reasonable start time for weekday games.

2. VI. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND TIME SCHEDULES 5.

Recommendation:

Session 4

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| Game 7 | 2:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. (3rd place game) |
| Game 8 | 4:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m. (approx. Championship) |

Rationale: The moderate adjustment reflects an attainable Championship Saturday time schedule.

STATE ASSOCIATION ADOPTION

1. NFHS 4.2.3 ENDING A GAME

Recommendation: A contest is ended and the score is final if the visiting team is ahead by 15 or more runs after the completion of ~~four~~ **three** innings of play- or- if the home team is ahead by a similar number of runs after ~~three~~ **two** and one-half innings.

A contest is ended and the score is final if the visiting team is ahead by ~~15~~ **12** or more runs after the completion of **four** innings of play- or- if the home team is ahead by a similar number of runs after three and one-half innings.

A contest is ended and the score is final if the visiting team is ahead by 10 or more runs after the completion of five innings of play – or – if the home team is ahead by a similar number of runs after four and one-half innings.

- 15 after 3 innings
- 12 after 4 innings
- 10 after 5 innings

Rationale: Maintains consistency with game ending procedures in all other softball rule codes. Will help with the retention and recruitment of umpires. Provides a game ending procedure for games with a significant run differential so JV and Freshman games can play the most innings possible in a double-header schedule.

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee heard a report from IESA softball administrator Jackie Litwiller. IESA Softball will be conducting their State Series September 22 & 23 at Champion Fields in Normal. 2023 will be the third year IESA will crown champions in three classifications (1A, 2A & 3A). A time limit for softball games is a discussion topic at the IESA level.
2. The committee reviewed the minutes of the 2022 IHSA Softball Advisory Committee meeting.
3. Tracie Henry reported the IHSA will be using GoFan digital tickets for sectional games and beyond. State Final programs will be produced in a digital format.
4. The committee reviewed feedback from the teams that participated in the 2023 IHSA State Final. The team celebration and indoor practice facility on Saturday were favorable.
5. The committee discussed a proposal to play all regional games at the higher seed until the Sectional level. Some challenges included the lack of timeliness to schedule transportation, potential quick turnaround to schedule hosting personnel, altering the umpire assignment process by having two semi-finals at different sites and the inability for teams to scout during the regional.

6. The committee reviewed and discussed a proposal to play regional quarterfinal games at the geographic regional host site. The committee preferred the current language for playing regional quarterfinal games at the site of the highest seed.
7. The committee discussed [NFHS Rule Changes for 2024](#).
8. The committee reviewed a proposal for NFHS Rule 1.1.4 to mark the pitcher's lane for high school softball games. The pitcher's lane is the area to which the pitcher is restricted to remain within or partially within when delivering the pitch. It is 8-foot lines drawn within the outer edges of the pitcher's plate remaining 24 inches wide from the pitcher's plate to where it intersects the pitcher's circle. The committee would support the rule change as it would assist officials with consistently determining what is and is not within the pitching lane. With the addition of the disengagement of the pitcher from the ground being allowed pitchers need to maintain their lane in the circle. The lanes eliminate umpires estimating where the lines are.
9. The committee recognized Josh Carlile, Lyle Meador and Racxeel Medrano for their service to the IHSA Softball Advisory Committee after the final meeting of their terms.