

**MINUTES OF THE IHSA GIRLS SOFTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**September 8, 2011**

The IHSA Girls Softball Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Thursday, September 8, 2011, at 10 a.m. Committee members present were: Nate Emrick, Cobden; Larry Friedrichs, Lincolnshire (Stevenson); Colleen Kilduff, Mother McAuley; Deb Nelson, LaSalle (L.-Peru); Dominic Nicosia, Chicago (Official); Amber Shelton, Litchfield; John Young, Lemont (H.S). Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) Assistant Executive Director Julie Cochran, Pekin High School head softball coach and IHSA 3A/4A State Final Tournament Director Gigi MacIntosh, IHSA Assistant Executive Director Matt Troha were also in attendance.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**1. VIII. – Tournament Rules – C. Playing Regulations**

**Recommendation:** The committee recommends that tournament games will be seven innings except games in which one team has a lead of 15 or more runs at the end of the third inning or any time after (at the end of 2 -1/2 innings if the team in the lead is at bat in the last half of the inning) or ten or more runs at the end of the fifth inning or any time after (at the end of 4 -1/2 innings if the team in the lead is at bat in the last half of the inning).

**Rationale:** The committee believes that a limited number of contests will be affected by this change, mostly at the Regional level, and that it promotes the best interest of the players, coaches, officials and fans involved. This change may also encourage schools who drop out of the State Series because of a perceived inability to compete against their opponent more willing to play in lieu of forfeiting.

Not Approved

**2. VI. – Tournament Structure and Time Schedules – A. Time Schedules**

**Recommendation:** To change the time schedule as reflected below.

**Friday**

Session 1

Game 1	9:30 a.m.	Class 1A/3A Semifinal #1
Game 2	12:00 p.m.	Class 1A/3A Semifinal #2

Session 2

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

**Saturday**

Session 3

Game 5	9:30 a.m.	Class 1A/3A Third-Place Game
Game 6	Noon	Class 1A/3A State Championship Game

Session 4

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

**Rationale:** With weather often changing the state final tournament schedule, the committee believes it is more prudent to move the time schedule forward to a continuous format to allow for easier scheduling changes. It is much easier on players, coaches and fans to push games back, instead of moving them earlier.

Approved

### 3. VI. – Tournament Structure and Time Schedules – A. Time Schedules

**Recommendation:** To move both championship games to the second session.

#### **Saturday**

##### Session 3

Game 5 9:30 a.m. Class 1A/3A Third-Place Game

Game 6 12:00 p.m. Class 2A/4A Third-Place Game

##### Session 4

Game 7 2:30 p.m. Class 1A/3A State Championship Game

Game 8 5:00 p.m. Class 2A/4A State Championship Game

**Rationale:** Moving both championship games to the second session would draw more fans and create an even more exiting atmosphere for the title games. This change in conjunction with the aforementioned time changes to the schedule would still make it reasonable time and travel-wise for the teams competing in the third-place games to attend the championship games if they wished to.

Not Approved

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **Recommendation:** Add a new sub-section (#3) to State Adoption 4-2-3 Use of game ending procedures that reads as follows:

#3 (in any regular-season contest) a contest is ended and the score final if the visiting team is ahead by 15 or more runs any time after the completion of three innings of play – or – if the home team is ahead by a similar number of runs after two and one-half innings, provided the involved schools have agreed prior to the start of the contest to this game ending procedure.

**Rationale:** Coaches and umpires are reporting contests with score differentials reaching 30 and 40 runs that last three hours or longer, as well as games that could reach that benchmark if not for teams creating automatic outs, which can be embarrassing for the opposing team. The committee believes that in the best interest of sportsmanship and safety for the players on both teams that if both schools agree prior to the contest, because of a significant discrepancy in talent, this game ending procedure should be allowed to be used.

2. **Recommendation:** Add a new State Adoption for Rule 4-3-1A Forfeited Game that reads as follows:

Per NFHS Rule 4-3-1A, the IHSA has no time limit arrival rule that would result in forfeiture for a team arriving late to a contest.

**Rationale:** Umpires have incorrectly enforced forfeitures for teams arriving late to contests. This clarifies that there is no time limit for a late arrival that results in forfeiture.

### **ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

1. The committee heard a report from IESA softball administrator Julie Cochran. Julie reaffirmed that IESA is continuing to use the 40 foot pitching distance and that 200 schools are currently participating in the IESA state tournament.
2. The committee heard a report on the Class 1A/2A IHSA Softball State Tournament from Matt Troha and the Class 3A/4A tournament from Gigi Macintosh.
3. The committee reviewed the minutes of the 2010 IHSA Softball Advisory Committee meeting.
4. The committee discussed the unification of the IHSA School and Manager Manuals and Terms & Conditions for each sport.
5. The committee discussed the future of facemasks and whether they could potentially become mandatory nationally for pitchers and/or infielders once a NOCSAE approved defensive softball mask is created.
6. The committee discussed whether nationally mandating mouth guards for pitchers and/or infielders might be a better alternative step to mandatory defensive facemasks.
7. The committee discussed NFHS outlawing composite bats in baseball last season and the complications created as certain composite bats were then legalized during the season. The committee also discussed that the NFHS's future safety efforts appear to be more geared toward reviewing/altering the ball specifications as opposed to bats.
8. The committee discussed the 2011 NFHS Rules Committee Meeting and select rules proposal considered or enacted upon by the national committee.
9. The committee discussed mandating that on-deck hitters always occupy the on-deck circle behind the batter.
10. The committee discussed pitchers starting with one foot on the pitcher's plate vs. two feet on the pitchers plate. It was clarified that two feet is allowed, although it is not mandated like in some other summer/travel leagues.
11. The committee discussed intentionally walking a player on four pitches vs. allowing them to advance automatically like baseball.
12. The committee discussed the Baden softball and expressed concerns with the durability of the softball and its liveliness.
13. The committee discussed Super-Sectional site selection at collegiate sites vs. high school sites.
14. The committee discussed NFHS rules on in-game coaching attire.

15. The committee discussed the current postseason official assigning practice of trying to prevent seeing the same umpires in consecutive rounds. The committee prefers the current practice and is opposed to moving crews along together from the Sectional to State Final round, as it potentially weakens crews at other sites and will be difficult to assign geographically.
16. The committee discussed lineup card protocol.
17. The committee recognized Colleen Kilduff, Dominic Nicosia and John Young for their service to the IHSA Softball Advisory Committee after the final meeting of their terms.

**2011 IHSA Athletic Administrators Advisory Committee Meeting  
Girls Softball Addendum**

**Surrounding State Association Softball Mercy Rule Information**

Arkansas	15 runs after 3 innings or 10 runs after 5 innings
<i>Illinois</i>	<i>10 runs after 5 innings</i>
Indiana	10 runs after 5 innings
Iowa	12 runs after 3 innings or 10 runs after 5 innings
Kansas	10 runs after 5 innings during regular season...15 runs after 3 innings in postseason
Kentucky	15 runs after 3 innings or 10 runs after 5 innings
Minnesota	10 runs after 5 innings
Michigan	15 runs after 3 innings or 10 runs after 5 innings
Missouri	15 runs after 3 innings or 10 runs after 5 innings
Nebraska	12 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, 8 runs after 5 innings
North Dakota	10 runs after 5 innings
Ohio	10 runs after 5 innings
Oklahoma	10 runs after 5 innings
Wisconsin	10 runs after 5 innings

*Illinois Elementary School Association uses 15 runs after 3 innings or 10 runs after 5 innings*