

MINUTES OF THE IHSA BASEBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

August 29, 2017

The IHSA Baseball Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on August 29, 2017, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Victor Johnson, Chicago (Agricultural Science); Nick Kearfott, DeKalb; Eric Michaelson, Lemont (H.S.); Eric Stone, Metamora; Darren Loschen, Armstrong; Jeremy Smith, Gillespie; Don Eddy, Mascoutah; Dustin Carter, Official; and Sam Knox, IHSA. Committee guests included: Steve Endsley, IESA and Paul Belo, Palatine (H.S.) representing the Illinois High School Baseball Coaches Association

The Minutes of the August 30, 2016 meeting were accepted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Item VIII. Tournament Rules C. 2)

Recommendation: Increase the maximum number of pitches a pitcher is allowed to throw in a postseason game to 115.

Rationale: The current pitch count chart uses the same maximum number of pitches (105) at the start of the season and at the end of the season. The committee feels that we should consider a postseason maximum of 115 pitches, which would put Illinois more in line with the average number of maximum pitches allowed by other states on a nationwide basis.

Approved by Board

2. Item XI. Officials E.

Recommendation: Increase the number of State Finals umpires from six (6) in 1A/2A and six (6) in 3A/4A to twelve (12) in 1A/2A and twelve (12) in 3A/4A. Each umpire will umpire two games at the State Finals instead of the traditional four games. Each umpire will be paid a flat fee of \$272 plus up to two nights lodging at a hotel designated by the IHSA Administrator.

Rationale: In this format, more umpires who are deserving of a State Finals assignment would have the opportunity to officiate on the final weekend of the season.

Approved by Board

Administrative Recommendation

Umpire crews in all postseason games shall have the choice of the color of shirt the umpires wear, as long as all umpires in the crew wear the same color shirt with appropriate IHSA patches. If the crew doesn't have matching shirts that differ from the traditional navy blue shirt, then all crew members must wear the traditional navy blue shirt with appropriate IHSA patches.

Rationale: The IHSA currently allows umpires to choose their shirt color for regular season games, as long as all crew members match. Some umpires feel that a lighter color (Columbia blue, etc.) shirt will help them stay cooler on the field in postseason games when the temperature is usually warmer than it is during the regular season.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

1. The committee shared positive feedback regarding the Pitch Count Tracker located on the IHSA website in the Schools Center.
2. The committee discussed the method of counting pitches in the postseason, including an independent pitch counter at each postseason site. The committee stressed the original intent of the independent pitch counter. If the two coaches disagree about the number of pitches at any point in the game, and they seek assistance from the independent pitch counter, the independent pitch counter's number will be the official number.
3. The committee discussed a proposal from the Mississippi Valley Conference regarding NFHS rule 4-2-3; Ending a Regulation Game.
4. The committee discussed potential ways to adjust the postseason playing schedule and dates, including: moving the 1A/2A postseason dates to mirror the 3A/4A dates.
5. The committee discussed the importance of playing Sectional tournaments at sites with lights and the additional importance of setting the initial schedule with both Sectional semifinal games on Wednesday.
6. The committee discussed the possibility of adult coaches wearing helmets while coaching on the field at first and third base.
7. The committee discussed the effects of the multiplier and success factor on non-boundaried schools.
8. The committee discussed the postseason seeding format in the Sectional complex model and in the Sub-Sectional model. Since IHSA Policy 18 (Grouping and Seeding State Tournament Series) covers this topic, committee members learned that they need to cooperate with their school's Official Representative and contact IHSA board members with thoughts on potentially changing Policy 18.
9. The committee recognized the outgoing members of the Baseball Advisory Committee: Eric Michaelson, Lemont (H.S.); Dustin Carter, Official

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.