

MINUTES OF THE IHSA BASEBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
August 28, 2018

The IHSA Baseball Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on August 28, 2018, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Troy Whalen, Grayslake (Central); Steve Millsaps, Joliet (West); Eric Stone, Metamora; Darren Loschen, Armstrong; Jeremy Smith, Gillespie; Justin Bowling, Official; and Sam Knox, IHSA. Committee guest: Steve Endsley, IESA  
Victor Johnson, Chicago (Agricultural Science) and Don Eddy, Mascoutah were absent.

The Minutes of the August 29, 2017 meeting were accepted.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:**

None

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

None

**ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:**

1. The committee discussed new baseball rules that will be in place for the 2019 season.
2. The committee discussed the Pitch Count Tracker located on the IHSA website in the Schools Center. Coaches on the committee feel like the Pitch Count Tracker is a great use of technology to help them manage their pitching staffs.
3. The committee discussed the method of counting pitches in the postseason, including an independent pitch counter at each postseason site. The independent pitch counter should use the IHSA's pitch count tracking worksheet. The tournament host should keep each game's pitch count worksheet until the conclusion of the tournament.
4. The committee discussed the potential implementation of a 15-run rule after 4 innings in the regular season. Currently, IHSA schools use a 10-run rule after 5 innings in the regular season. In postseason games, schools use a 15-run rule after 4 innings and/or a 10-run rule after 5 innings. Individual conferences are allowed to adopt a 15-run rule after 4 innings during the regular season.
5. The committee discussed the possibility of adult coaches wearing helmets while coaching on the field at first and third base.
6. The committee discussed the concept of moving the beginning and end of the baseball season later on the calendar to avoid potential bad weather in late February and early March. This change would require a by-law amendment proposal to by-law 5.021. Any school can propose a by-law amendment to share with the Legislative Commission and member schools in Town Hall Meetings.

7. The committee discussed a proposal from the Heart of Illinois Conference aimed at adjusting the 1A/2A postseason playing schedule and dates to mirror the 3A/4A postseason playing schedule and dates.
8. The committee discussed the concept of allowing schools to play one exhibition game as a part of their 35 games, especially when they get the opportunity to play against another high school team at a minor league or major league stadium.
9. The committee discussed the number of umpires assigned to the State Finals and the pros and cons of assigning 6, 8, or 12 umpires.
10. The committee discussed the possibility of having umpires use a stop watch in games to track the time between innings so teams adhere to the rule that limits them to 1 minute between innings.
11. The committee recognized the outgoing members of the Baseball Advisory Committee: Eric Stone, Metamora and Darren Loschen, Armstrong

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.