

MINUTES OF THE IHSA GIRLS SOFTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 3, 2014

The IHSA Girls Softball Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, September 3, 2014, at 10 a.m. Committee members present were: Greg Blakey; Mt. Zion; Tammy Deter, Morrison; Julie Folliard, Oak Lawn (Richards); Lim, Chicago (Marist); Peg Mitchell, Piasa (Southwestern); M. Reid Shipley, Centralia; Tim Rennels, Wauconda; Tom Starr, Rock Falls; and Tim Rennels, Wauconda. Also in attendance were Tracie Henry, IHSA Assistant Executive Director, and John Venerable, Illinois Elementary School Association Assistant Executive Director.

TERMS & CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **XI – Officials – A. Appointments & Fees – 1**

Recommendation: Add the following language to #1: A host school can continue to request that the IHSA assign a third umpire to regional semifinal contests. The IHSA will assign a third umpire to all regional championship games, the IHSA will pay half of the regional championship game fee (\$26.75) and the host school will be responsible for the remaining half of the game fee.

Rationale: Currently the host school and/or schools in the Regional are responsible for the official's fee in the event they request that the IHSA assign a third umpire to any Regional contest. The committee felt it is important to have a third umpire present at the regional championship due to the magnitude of the regional final game.

Died for Lack of Motion

2. **V. Tournament Assignments and Seeding Meeting-E. Seeding and Pairings**

Recommendation: Any team that does not complete their seeding information will automatically become the visiting team for all post-season games. In the case that two teams meet during post-season and both did not complete their seeding the home team will be decided by a coin flip.

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

Died for Lack of Motion

3. **VIII. Tournament Rules- C. Playing Regulations:**

Recommendation: All teams at the state finals will be required to comply with mandatory bat compression testing at the State Finals. Only bats that pass the compression test will be eligible to be used in the State Finals.

Rationale: Ensures the safety and equability of all bats being used in the state final.

Died for Lack of Motion

4. **V. Tournament Assignments and Seeding Meeting-E. Seeding and Pairings**

Recommendation: Scrimmages will not be included on a team's season summary.

Rationale: Per IHSA By-law 5.272 scrimmages count toward a teams allowed 35 games. However, due to weather in Illinois many teams begin their season in an indoor dome. The structural variables inside a dome can significantly affect the outcome of the game that are not softball related. Therefore, this would allow a team to play scrimmages indoors but not include these games on their season summary win-loss record.

Died for Lack of Motion

5. **XI. Officials- 5. Officials Fee for Suspended or Postponed Contest:**

Recommendation: Add the language from the Softball Managers Manual for Officials Fees for suspended or postponed contests to the Terms and Conditions.

1. An official is notified before arriving at the site—No compensation.
2. An official arrives at the site and the contest is suspended/cancelled before it begins—A show up fee is provided to the officials, which is one half of the game fee.
3. Contest is started, and then is suspended until the next day—Official gets full fee for the started game and then a full fee for the completion of the game the next day.

Rational: Adding the language to the Terms and Conditions will make it easier for officials to locate the information as well as coaches and site managers.

Approved by Consent

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee heard a report from IESA softball administrator John Venerable.
2. The committee heard a report on the 2014 IHSA Softball State Tournament and review of the 1A/2A and 3A/4A State Finals from Tracie Henry.
3. The committee reviewed the minutes of the 2013 IHSA Softball Advisory Committee meeting.
4. The committee reviewed the rule changes for the 2015 season that were recently approved by the NFHS.
5. 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.
6. Tracie Henry discussed the Wilson 9011 WTA9011BSST (Poly Core) Softball.
7. The committee discussed playing double-headers on the Tuesday of both Regionals and Sectionals as a first option, when possible, to allow for additional scheduling flexibility if weather becomes an issue.

8. The committee discussed a recommendation to shorten the play off structure. Regionals and Sectionals would be played the first week of Regionals Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Sectionals Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The same format would be used for the following week, Super Sectional Monday and Tuesday and State Championship on Memorial Day weekend for all schools.
9. The committee discussed encouraging Sectional sites to have a tarp available for the Sectional Final.
10. The committee discussed potential softball changes forthcoming. The NCAA will be experimenting with different balls during non-conference play this season.
11. 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.
13. The committee discussed defensive teams wearing masks. Masks are optional by rule. Currently, there is not a NOCOE approved mask therefore masks are not required by rule.
14. The committee discussed IHSA Policy 18 Grouping and Seeding Tournament Series, sectional complexes vs. geographical regionals. Tracie Henry reported the IHSA Board approved a recommendation to form a sub-committee consisting of members of the Athletic Administrators Advisory Committee to review IHSA Policy 18: Grouping and Seeding State Tournament Series. The committee will be charged with reviewing the use of Sub-Sectional formats statewide in team bracketed sports and the football playoff system. Craig Anderson will be heading the sub-committee.
15. The committee recognized Julie Folliard, Bob Lim, and Tom Starr for their service to the IHSA Softball Advisory Committee after the final meeting of their terms.