

MINUTES OF THE IHSA GIRLS SOFTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

August 31, 2016

The IHSA Girls Softball Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, August 31, 2016 at 10 a.m. Committee members present were: Shawn Byers; Stillman Valley; Laurie Jakubczak, Chicago (Mother McAuley); Bonny Kuenster; Oak Forest; Peg Mitchell, Piasa (Southwestern); Elizabeth Pawlicki, Frankfort (Lincoln-Way East); Tim Rennels, Wauconda; Todd Rogers, Carterville; and April Schermann, Normal (Community West). Also in attendance were Tracie Henry, IHSA Assistant Executive Director; and Leslie Alappattu, Illinois Elementary School Association Assistant Executive Director.

TERMS & CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. VIII. Tournament Rules- C. Playing Regulations

Recommendation: If a team is winning by 15 runs at the end of 4 innings (3 1/2 if home team is winning) the game should be considered complete.

Rationale: The gaps in quality teams with quality pitching and teams lacking thereof seems to be getting greater. This will help curb any problems that might arise in sportsmanship and gamesmanship between players, coaches and parents.

Approved by Consent

2. VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES A. Determining Home Team. 3.

Recommendation: Determining Home Team. Recommendation: 3. In Sectional complexes, the home team in each Sectional semifinal contest and the Sectional final game will be determined by the highest seed. **In all sub-sectionals, the home team in each sub-sectional will be determined by the highest seed, unless the two teams have the same seed, then a coin flip will be used to determine the home team.** The Sectional host school/local management shall determine the team benches (dugout).

Rationale: The recommendation would allow the home team to be decided by the teams sub-sectional seed which is consistent with sectional complexes.

Died for Lack of Motion

3. VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES H. Bad Weather Guidelines for Sites at the Regionals and Sectionals: 1.

Recommendation: If play cannot continue at the predetermined site, any playable site can be used to complete play **with IHSA approval.**

Rationale: It is important that the IHSA is notified when game sites are moving and also this can ensure one of the competing teams will not be granted an advantage by moving sites.

Approved by Consent

4. **VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES: F. Bad Weather Guidelines for Regional Play, G. Bad Weather Guidelines for Sectional Play.**

Recommendation: Games can be played early, due to impending weather, if both coaches and the host agree.

Rationale: Spring weather poses many challenges in getting tournament games in within the scheduled timeframe. Allowing flexibility within the Regional and Sectional weeks will help advance the tournament and will allow teams to play their games in more favorable field and weather conditions.

Died for Lack of Motion

5. **VII – Tournament Rules– J. Guidelines for Play at the State Final in Case of Bad Weather**

Recommendation: All state final games will be played as complete games. If games are suspended due to weather the teams will come back and complete the game.

Rationale: Teams are already at the same site and the magnitude of the state championship calls for teams to have opportunity to play the game to completion instead of a state champion being determined by weather conditions.

Died for Lack of Motion

6. **IX. TOURNAMENT POLICIES Q. Artificial Noise**

Recommendation: Artificial Noisemakers: All artificial noise-making devices shall be excluded from the dugouts and the field.

Rationale: “Artificial Noise” has morphed into various types of drumming, banging on buckets, and noise making. The noise making is distracting and takes away from the “ballpark/ball game” experience.

Approved by Consent

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee heard a report from IESA softball administrator Leslie Alappattu. The IESA Softball State Final is taking place at Champion Fields in Normal, IL on September 23 & 24.
2. The committee heard a report on the 2016 IHSA Softball State Tournament and review of the 1A/2A and 3A/4A State Finals from Tracie Henry. Tracie shared with the committee

tournament adjustments that were made due to extreme heat. Tracie also shared with the committee a review of the new IHSA 2016-2017 Heat Policy.

3. The committee reviewed the minutes of the 2015 IHSA Softball Advisory Committee meeting.
4. The committee reviewed the rule changes for the 2017 season that were recently approved by the NFHS.
5. Tracie Henry discussed IHSA By-law 5.272 Contest Limitations. No Girls Spring Softball team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than thirty-five (35) games exclusive of the IHSA series. Tracie received feedback from several coaches to increase the allowable limit to (40) games. Tracie informed the Advisory Committee that this would be a By-law change for the Legislative Commission, and must be submitted by a member school Principal.
6. The committee discussed the NFHS rule for umpires to check all equipment prior to a game. The NFHS did not eliminate equipment checks but the NFHS Rules book for 2017 includes a new rule 3.2.15.... All equipment shall be inspected by the umpire, and is to be placed outside the dugout/bench prior to the start of the game.
7. The committee discussed defensive teams wearing masks. Masks are optional by rule. Currently, there is not a NOCSAE approved mask therefore masks are not required by rule.
8. The committee discussed 3-person umpire crews at the regional level. Tracie Henry will add a box to the regional host forms that would allow a regional host to request and pay for a third umpire to be assigned by the IHSA.
9. The committee discussed at length having all regional, sectional and super-sectional games be played as complete 7 inning games. However, the committee just advanced a formal proposal as state championship games.
10. The committee recognized Peg Mitchell and Tim Rennels for their service to the IHSA Softball Advisory Committee after the final meeting of their terms.