

MINUTES OF THE IHSA GIRLS SOFTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

August 30, 2017

The IHSA Girls Softball Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, August 30, 2017 at 10 a.m. Committee members present were: Shawn Byers; Stillman Valley; Peter Geoff, Maple Park (Kaneland); Laurie Jakubczak, Chicago (Mother McAuley); Amy Hildebrand, Camp Point (Central); Bonny Kuenster; Oak Forest; Elizabeth Pawlicki, Frankfort (Lincoln-Way East); 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. II. DATES AND SITES A. Class 1A/2A and B. Class 3A/4A

Recommendation: Regional Quarterfinals: * These games will be played at the site of the highest seed, **unless the regional host is playing in the game. If the regional host is competing in the Quarterfinal, regardless of seed, the game will be played at the regional host site.**

Rationale: Rewards teams for wanting to host a regional and ensures that the regional host will get to play at least one State Series game on their home field.

Died for Lack of Motion

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 the southernmost sectional in Class 4A, the home team in each sectional semi-final game will be determined by the highest seed. A coin flip will be used to determine the home team in the sectional championship.** 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 team's sub-sectional seed which is consistent with sectional complexes.

Approved by Consent

3. VIII – Tournament Rules– D. Postponement of Games:

Recommendation: 1. **All state series games will be played as complete games. If games are suspended due to weather the teams will come back and complete the game.** *Strike all language from IHSA State Adoptions of NFHS Rules declaring an official game after 4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead or 5 innings if the visitor is ahead.* ~~If a game in any tournament must be postponed because of rain or wet grounds, or if a game is called by the umpires because of rain, darkness, or other reasons that are in accordance with the National Federation Softball Rules, it is ruled a “suspended game and shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time” unless provisions of~~

~~Rule 4-2-3 have been met making it a regulation game.~~ Any game that is not an official game will be considered a suspended game. 2. Postponed or called game(s) in opening round game(s) must be rescheduled for the next day, excluding Sundays. 3. If a coin toss has been made and the game does not begin and is rescheduled, the original coin toss shall stay in effect. 4. In all cases where postponements are necessary, tournament games must take precedence over all games. 5. It is recommended that no start or continuation of a suspended game will begin later than 10:00 p.m.
6. The local manager will be in charge of all site assignments for the tournament, including postponed or called games.
7. The local manager shall keep the IHSA informed during bad weather situations.

Rationale: The committee reviewed the proposal from the Mississippi Valley Conference (MVP). The committee agreed with the MVP proposal and believed that all State Series games should be played as complete games and not determined by weather conditions.

Died for Lack of Motion

4. **XI. OFFICIALS 4. State Final Tournaments**

Recommendation: Umpires for the Class 1A/2A and Class 3A/4A State Final Tournaments will be assigned by the IHSA Office. **The number of State Finals umpires will be twelve (12) in 1A/2A and twelve (12) in 3A/4A.** Coaches of participating schools and registered officials will have an opportunity to assist the IHSA Office in ranking officials who are being considered for this assignment. Each official will receive a **flat fee of \$272.00** ~~\$544.00 flat fee~~ and Head Official \$125 per day plus ~~up to three~~ nights lodging at a hotel as designated by the IHSA Administrator.

Rationale: Increasing the number of State Final Umpires from six (6) to twelve (12) each weekend will provide an opportunity for 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

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 22 & 23.
2. The committee heard a report on the 2017 IHSA Softball State Tournament and review of the 1A/2A and 3A/4A State Finals from Tracie Henry. Tracie shared with the committee the new State Tournament trophy design.
3. The committee reviewed the minutes of the 2016 IHSA Softball Advisory Committee meeting.

4. The committee reviewed the rule changes for the 2018 season that were recently approved by the NFHS. Including the addition of language to NFHS Rule 2-65-2 for intentional walks and the elimination of equipment checks by the umpires prior to the start of the game.
5. The committee discussed making masks mandatory for defensive players. Masks are optional by rule and recommended by the committee. Currently, there is not a NOCSAE approved mask therefore masks are not required by rule. The committee reviewed SMAC injury reporting data and the position statement of NOCSAE. The committee also reviewed feedback and recommendations from many coaches throughout the state in favor of mandating masks.
6. The committee discussed 3-person umpire crews at the regional level. Tracie Henry added 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. In 2016, (16) 1A/2A regional sites requested a third umpire and (18) 3A/4A regional sites requested a third umpire.
7. The committee discussed best practices for pre-game warm-ups. Using total control or whiffle balls for warm-ups prior to the start of games, especially if both teams are sharing a field prior to infield. The IHSA will create a best practice slide to include in the online rules meeting and language on the managers manual pregame timing sheet. Schools need to continue to work with their conferences and communicate with visiting teams about their policies at the home fields for pregame warm-ups.
8. Tracie Henry informed the committee that all coaches will have to submit a new Top 15 List this year for licensed officials during the high school softball season.
9. The committee recognized Laurie Jakubczak, Elizabeth Pawlicki and Bonny Kuenster for their service to the IHSA Softball Advisory Committee after the final meeting of their terms.