

MINUTES OF THE IHSA GIRLS SOFTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 4, 2019

The IHSA Girls Softball Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at 10 a.m. Committee members present were: Becki Edmonson, Sterling (H.S.); Peter Goff, DeKalb; Kevin Hayhurst, Beecher; Amy Hildebrand, Camp Point (Central); J.D. Koziarski, Chicago (Horizon/McKinley); Travis Pate, Greenville; Wade Thomas, Benton; and Courtney Hoffman, Stanford (Olympia). Also in attendance were Tracie Henry, IHSA Assistant Executive Director; and Leslie Alappattu, Illinois Elementary School Association Assistant Executive Director.

TERMS & CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

NONE

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

NONE

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 27 & 28.
2. The committee heard a report on the 2019 IHSA Softball State Tournament and review of the 1A/2A and 3A/4A State Finals from Tracie Henry. Tracie shared positive feedback on the second year of assigning 12 umpires to the State Final. Tracie Henry shared the sad news of Head Clinician and UIC Chris Long passing two days after the 3A/4A Softball State Final. Roger Nichols was introduced to the group as the new Softball Head Clinician.
3. The committee reviewed the minutes of the 2018 IHSA Softball Advisory Committee meeting.
4. The committee discussed the 2019 NFHS Rules changes that were in play last season: permitting media from live-ball territory; clarifying that an adjustable knob is permitted if permanently fastened by the manufacture; and in the case of an illegal pitch, the batter is awarded a ball. The penalty that permitted base runners to be awarded one base without liability to be put out was removed when an illegal pitch occurred. The committee's opinion was that the 2019 NFHS changes were favorable. The committee reviewed the rule changes for the 2020 season that were recently approved by the NFHS and can be found at ihsa.org.
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 also reviewed opinions and proposals from many coaches throughout the state in favor of mandating masks.

6. The committee reviewed a proposal to play regional quarterfinal games at the regional host site, not the site of the highest seed. The proposal did not receive support from the committee.
7. The committee discussed a proposal for the top seeds in a regional and sectional to be given the option to be the host school. The committee did not support the proposal since it would be such a close turnaround time from the seeding deadline.
8. The committee discussed playing the National Anthem prior to all games at the State Final. The committee likes the current format.
9. The committee discussed a recommendation to play all Super Sectionals at college/university fields. The committee supported the current site selection process for Super Sectionals.
10. The committee reviewed IHSA By-laws 5.271 Season Limitations and 5.272 Contest Limitations.
11. The committee reviewed feedback regarding NFHS Rules 3.2.12 pg. 32 players prohibited from wearing jewelry and 7.4.8 pg. 59 the batter hits a ball while the foot is completely outside the batter's box. The committee supports the language of the current rules.
12. The committee was informed that 2020 is the last year of the IHSA Softball State Final contract in East Peoria and the request for proposals will be posted on the IHSA website for State Final sites from 2021-2025.
13. The committee recognized Peter Goff and Amy Hildebrand for their service to the IHSA Softball Advisory Committee after the final meeting of their terms.