



IESA BASEBALL

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES & RECOMMENDATIONS

November 2, 2015

The following members were present for the meeting: Joshua Stone, Raymond Lincolnwood, Jeremy Smith, Gillespie, Tom Knapczyk, Shorewood Troy; Steve Schafer, Glasford Illini Bluffs; Brett Huff, Alton; Mike Olson, Administrator, McNabb Putnam Country; and Umpire Ken Studebaker, Congerville. Introductions were made and a review of the advisory committee's role took place.

The baseball advisory committee in its meeting on November 2, 2015, makes the following recommendation to the Board of Directors for their January 22, 2016 meeting:

1. To change the starting times of the Saturday Class 3A games to mirror the Saturday 2A schedule. The Saturday 1A games would still start at 9:30 a.m. while the Class 2A and 3 A games would start at 10:00 a.m. **Rationale: With fewer fans on Saturday, it is easier to start two classes at the same time. (Board Action--PASSED)**
2. To add to the NFHS Rule exceptions the following: The administrators of the two teams involved in a regular season game shall decide how to complete the game if such game is suspended for any reason. **Rationale: Procedures are already in place to resume play for state series play when a suspension occurs. IESA rules do not specifically address end of game procedures for regular season games that are suspended. Approving this recommendation allows the administrators to decide if a game would be treated as a suspended game and play would resume at the point of suspension or if the contest would simply be treated as a "no game." (Board Action--PASSED)**
3. To add information the Terms and Conditions that while a team is taking its timed infield warm-up, pitchers may not throw from the pitching mound. **Rationale: Safety of all participants. Pitchers may use the bullpen area to warm-up prior to the contest. (Board Action--PASSED)**
4. To give sectional host schools the option to hire a third umpire at their expense for sectional contests. IESA would be responsible for assigning the third umpire if requested by the host school. **Rationale: With no additional expense to the IESA, this would allow those sectional hosts who are willing to pay the extra fee, to have 3 umpires allowing for better coverage of the game. (Board Action--DEFEATED)**
5. Major discussion was held concerning the length of games and various ways games could be played to reduce the amount of time it takes to complete the games. The two ideas that had the most interest were setting a two hour time limit for games and playing six innings instead of seven. There was also discussion on using an international tie breaking rule for games that go beyond seven innings. Committee members were asked to discuss these ideas with coaches in their area and report back with their findings.

Discussion was held on the following items:

**The NFHS rule requiring teams to warm-up in their own team's on-deck circle was once again discussed at length. Requests were received from several schools asking the committee to consider making an exception to the NFHS rule that would allow teams the discretion to use the opposite team's on-deck circle so the on deck batter would always be at the back of the batter currently at bat. Discussion centered on whether it would be required for on deck batters to always be at the back of the batter or whether it would be a coaches choice to put an on deck batter at the back of the batter. The coaches felt that if a given diamond's on deck circle was too close to the playing area for their comfort, they should move to an area that is safe or not use the on deck circle. The on deck circle by NFHS rule is to be a minimum of 37 ft. from home plate. There was no recommendation to require on deck batters to always position themselves behind the batter in the batter's box. Therefore, the NFHS rule requiring teams to warm up in their own on deck circle remains in effect.

**A request to keep players in dugouts after a home run was again discussed. There was no recommendation to require players to remain in the dugout after a home run but the committee did agree that the home run celebration should always allow the player to reach home plate safely.

**Discussion was held on the possibility of shortening the state series. The committee simply feels that the time allotted to complete the state series is necessary because of the uncertainty of the weather. There was also some discussion on allowing games to start earlier in the standardized calendar but again the committee felt that it was not necessary to change the starting dates for games.

Pairings were drawn for the 2016 state finals as follows:

	<u>GAME 1</u>	<u>GAME 2</u>	<u>GAME 3</u>	<u>GAME 4</u>
CLASS 1A --	H vs. F	D vs. E	C vs. B	A vs. G
CLASS 2A--	H vs. A	D vs. E	C vs. B	F vs. G
CLASS 3A--	C vs. D	A vs. F	G vs. E	B vs. H

Jeremy Smith and Tom Knapczyk were recognized for their service to the committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 31, 2016.