



IESA BASEBALL

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES & RECOMMENDATIONS

November 5, 2019

The following members were present for the meeting: Brian Hanslow, Piasa Southwestern; Patrick Arlis, Bourbonnais UGC; Eric Christian, Bloomington JHS; Chuck Shempf, Normal Chiddix, Brandon Porter, Brimfield; Austin McDowell, South Wilmington; Umpire Mike Wise, Morton; and Tim Damery, Principal Metamora, GS, Administrator. Introductions were made and a review of the advisory committee's role took place.

The baseball advisory committee in its meeting on November 5, 2019, makes the following recommendations to the Board of Directors for their January 31, 2020 meeting:

RECOMMENDATION #1

Current	A 15 run rule is in effect after three innings and a 10 run rule is in effect after five innings.
Proposed	To add that a game would be a complete game if a team was ahead by 12 runs (or more) after four innings.
Rationale	Given the pitch count limitations that are in place today, a 12 run after four innings allows a game to be considered a complete game one inning earlier which helps to save a pitcher's pitch count.
T&C	Section VII; B
Handbook	4.014
Board Action	Approved

RECOMMENDATION #2

Current	The host school is responsible for setting the start times of the regional semi-final contests and the regional championship game. The first semi-final contest must start no later than 11:00 a.m.
Proposed	To require that the regional championship game start at 4:00 p.m.
Rationale	The committee was not in favor of requiring all state series games be played a full 7 innings to be considered a complete game. For example, if darkness would cause a game to be called and according to NFHS rule it is a complete game, then the game shall be considered a complete game. It would NOT be a suspended game and resumed the next day and played to a full 7 innings. The committee believes that if it is a complete game according to the NFHS rule, then both teams accept the game result when darkness caused the game to be called. By requiring all championship games to be start at 4:00 p.m. this lessens the chances that game will be called for darkness. While there are some regional games that already set 4:00 for their start time, those regional championships that don't start until 4:30 can often run into darkness issues
T&C	Section !!; A
Handbook	None
Board Action	Modified. The wording will be recommended and not required. Facilities with lights may start later

RECOMMENDATION #3

Current	A game is considered a complete game when it meets rule 4-2 of the NFHS baseball rules. Generally games are seven innings unless it ends because of a 10 or 15 run rule or is called because of darkness/weather.
Proposed	To add to the NFHS exceptions to allow schools to mutually agree before a regular season game begins to a game with fewer than 7 innings that would still be considered a complete game. Such game would count toward a school's season record.

Rationale Given the pitch count limitations that are in place today, schools often times have trouble finding enough pitchers. There was no support to mandate that all games are complete after 5 or 6 innings or institute a time limit on regular season games but the committee felt that if schools wanted to mutually agree before a contest begins to a shortened game that they should be allowed to do so. For instance, two schools would agree before the game begins that the game that day will only be a 5 inning game. Should the schools agree to a 5 inning game, the 15 run rule would still be in effect (and possibly the 12 run rule if recommendation #1 is approved). Once a game begins and schools did not agree to a shortened game, then the game must be played to the full 7 innings.

T&C None

Handbook 4.014

Board Action **Approved with a modification. Change the wording that it would be considered a complete game with a minimum of 5 innings instead of fewer than 7 innings. That way, schools could not say a 3 inning game is a considered a complete game.**

RECOMMENDATION #4

Current The third place game is played after the conclusion of the second semi-final contest. The championship game is played after the conclusion of the third place game.

Proposed The championship game is played after the conclusion of the second semi-final contest. The third place game is played after the conclusion of the championship place game.

Rationale Discussion was held by the committee concerning weather and delays that bad weather can cause. Similar to the IHSA policy, the committee was willing to make a day of game decision to play the championship game before the 3rd place game if it looked like weather could cause a problem. Rather than be a day of game decision, the committee is recommending that the championship game be played after the second semi-final contest. By scheduling the games in this order, teams would know going into the tournament the schedule and could plan accordingly.

T&C Section II; E

Handbook None

Board Action **NOT APPROVED**

RECOMMENDATION #5

Current Games are considered official when they meet NFHS rule 4-2 or any game ending procedures adopted by the IESA.

Proposed The third place game shall have a time limit of 1 hour 45 minutes. No new inning can start after 1 hour 45 minutes. If the game is tied, both teams will be declared 3rd place winners. The game can end sooner if any of the 15 or 10 run rules have been met. (12 run rule would be included if recommendation #1 is met.)

Rationale This recommendation is once again being driven by the pitch count limitations. Teams are running out of pitchers by the time they reach the 3rd game I two days. Additionally, many coaches (not all but many) use the third place game to give all team members a chance to play and bat so there is less emphasis on winning the game and more emphasis on everyone participating. The majority of the coaches who have played in the third place game since pitch count limitations were instituted were in favor of a 5 inning third place game. However, the committee was in favor of a time limit instead of a set number of innings.

T&C Section II; E Section VII B

Handbook 4.014

Board Action **Approved with a modification. Rather than a time limit of 1 hour 45 minutes, there will be a 5 inning limitation. If the score is tied after 5 innings, both teams would be declared 3rd place winners.**

Several items were discussed by the committee. Portable pitching mounds were discussed in great length. After discussion, the committee reiterated that they were not in favor of allowing portable pitching mounds in the state series. While the committee acknowledges that there are some portable mounds which

are more representative of a traditional mound, they feel there are too many safety issues with portable mounds to allow them in the state series. Mr. Endsley will instruct state series hosts on how to handle rescheduling of contests when there are weather-related issues. The length of jr. high games and the time it takes for games to be played was once again discussed. There is a general consensus that games take too long. Mr. Endsley will work with Mr. Wise to develop a Point of Emphasis list that teams should follow to help speed up games.

Pairings were drawn for the 2020 state finals as follows:

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

Eric Christian and Brian Hanslow were recognized for their service to the committee. The next meeting of the committee was set for November 2, 2020.