



# IESA BASEBALL

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES & RECOMMENDATIONS

October 29, 2018

The following members were present for the meeting: Mitch Pruemmer, Gifford; Kyle Hasler, Minooka; Michael Hart, Champaign Jefferson; Brian Hanslow, Piasa Southwestern; Patrick Arlis, Bourbonnais UGC; and Umpire Mike Wise, Morton. Introductions were made and a review of the advisory committee's role took place.

The baseball advisory committee in its meeting on October 29, 2018, makes the following recommendations to the Board of Directors for their January 25, 2019 meeting:

1. To change by-law 4.012 so that games may begin no earlier than Wednesday of week #6 in the standardized calendar. Currently, games may begin no earlier than Saturday of week #6. **Rationale: Given that the majority of the players have played during the summer prior to the school season, the committee felt that teams would be ready to play a contest by the new proposed date. Additionally, because of the pitch count limitations, schools could "spread out" their games which would allow pitchers a few more days rest and give some options to coaches because of the pitch counts. Since there are no limitations to the number of games schools can play, allowing games to start three days earlier does not necessarily mean that schools will add games to their schedule. The intent of allowing the games to start earlier is that this will help schools manage their pitchers better and continue to adjust to the pitch count requirements.**
2. To add as an exception to NFHS rule 7-4-1: In addition to the penalty as listed in 7-4-1 for the use of an illegal bat, a player who uses an illegal bat shall be ejected immediately from the contest and be subject to the automatic next game suspension as detailed in By-Law 5.101. **Rationale: Currently, there is no punishment for the use of an illegal bat beyond the NFHS rules for the use of an illegal bat. By adding the additional penalty, there is an additional consequence if the use of an illegal bat is discovered. Additionally, umpires would no longer need to check bats before games. As it stands now, even checking bats before games does not insure that a player will not use an illegal bat. All the pre-game check does now is insure that the bats that are actually checked are legal. A team could easily hide a bat during the pre-game check and then bring the bat into play after the game has started. If this penalty is approved, there is a consequence for using an illegal bat.**
3. To change the dates allowed for seeding of the teams from Wednesday and Thursday of week 10 to only Wednesday of week 10. **Rationale: Other sports only have one day to rank teams so this would simply be aligning with what other sports are already doing. In addition, teams would find out their seeds and whether or not they are playing a quarterfinal game on Thursday instead of Friday. Those hosting a quarterfinal game would then have an additional day to get prepared for hosting.**
4. To change the date of the quarterfinal games from Tuesday of week 11 to Wednesday of week 11. **Rationale: There are two reasons for this change. If recommendation #3 is approved and this recommendation (#4) is also approved, this allows the host schools of the quarterfinal games even more time to get prepared. Also, the teams that do not have to play in the quarterfinal games because they received a higher seed, will receive a small advantage because the teams who play in the quarterfinal game and have to throw their best pitcher to win that contest may not be able to throw the same pitcher in the semi-finals because of the pitch count restrictions. The committee feels that the #1 and #2 seeded teams should have this small advantage.**

There were several items discussed without any action or recommendations from the committee. The committee discussed the current pitch count requirements and whether any changes needed to be made, including tweaking the pitch count limitations for the state finals. After discussing possible changes and the ramifications of such changes, the committee felt it was best to not make any recommendation for changing the pitch count limitations. The issue of allowing more than 18 players to be dressed for the state series contests was brought before the committee. There was no support to allow more players to be dressed than 18. Allowing the on-deck batters to use the opponents on deck circle was discussed. There was no support to make an exception to the NFHS rule which requires batters to use their team's on deck circle. A concern was expressed by a couple of schools to Mr. Endsley about hotels in the Peoria area not allowing schools cancel reservations on Friday of the state finals if they lose and as a result do not need to stay overnight. Mr. Endsley will bring the issue to the attention of the Peoria Area CVB to see if they can help. The bat requirements that are already in effect for 2019 were reviewed. There are no changes to the requirements. Schools are reminded that starting in 2019 bats with a barrel diameter of 2 1/4" are no longer allowed. There was a brief discussion on the class splits to determine classification but any recommendation for a change of this type would have to be discussed by the IESA Board of Directors as any change would affect all sports. Finally, the issue of the length of games was once again discussed. There is a concern, particularly from many umpires that the length of the games is causing a shortage of umpires who are willing to work games at this level. While this issue has been discussed before with little or no support to change the current length of games, a survey will be sent to schools to gauge interest from all schools. Any type of altering the format which fundamentally changes the game needs to be discussed in greater detail than what can be discussed in a committee meeting. The committee felt a non-binding survey of the baseball schools would aid in the future discussion of this topic. To that end, Mr. Endsley will send a survey to schools that addresses the length of games.

Pairings were drawn for the 2019 state finals as follows:

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

Kyle Hassler, Michael Hart and Mitch Pruemmer were recognized for their service to the committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2019.