



IESA SOFTBALL

2009 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES & RECOMMENDATIONS

October 28, 2009

The following members were present for the meeting: Administrator; Thad Walker, Umpire; Frank Spina; Coaches; Mike Zumpf, Dana Curby, Leanne Bonifas, Chris Walker, Dan Carter, Matt McDonald, and Board of Director Representative Chris Collins.

Introductions were made and a review of the advisory committee's role took place.

The Committee makes the following recommendation to the Board of Directors for its January 22, 2010 meeting:

- Approved**
1. **Recommendation:** Exception to NFHS Rule Pitching distance to stay at 40 feet.
Rationale: Age groups in other associations are still at 40' or less. Member schools surveyed came back unanimous to stay at 40'.
 2. **Recommendation:** Regular season games that are called before completion of the required number of innings in NFHS rule 4-2-2 shall be declared a "no game" by the umpire.
Rationale: The clarification of game ending procedure gives some guidance to member schools on how to handle games that end due to weather or darkness in the regular season. IESA state series will continue to play the suspended game policy that is already in place.
 3. **Recommendation:** Exception to NFHS: Upon agreement of both coaches, prior to the start of a regular season game, the international tie breaker rule may be used anytime after the 7th inning. The international tiebreaker rule will not be used for state series games.

The international tiebreaker rule: At the beginning of each team's at-bat the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player scheduled to bat ninth in that half inning being placed on 2nd base. It is not sudden death. Each team has an opportunity to bat each inning. The game ends when one team is ahead at the end of an inning.

Rationale: Gives clarification and permission to teams of how and when the international tiebreaker rule may be used.

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4. **Recommendation:** Exception to NFHS rules Metal cleats: If a player is found wearing metal cleats the player must be replaced with a legal substitute immediately. The player may re-enter per NFHS rule 3-3-5. Any subsequent player found wearing metal cleats thereafter will be restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game.
Rationale: Gives a consistent penalty for metal cleats as NFHS rulebook now makes them permissible.

Note: Baseball Metal Cleat penalty accepted for both baseball and softball.

Penalty for a player found wearing metal cleats: The player will be immediately removed from the game without the opportunity to return to the game.

The Softball Advisory Committee would like once again like to thank Normal Chiddix and the Town of Normal for the exceptional administration of the state tournament.

Other topics discussed:

1. 2010 IESA POE
 - Sportsmanship
 - DP/Flex
 - Metal Cleats
 - Game Ending Procedures
2. Online Seeding:
 - Committee asked that the online seeding instructions be more prominently displayed in the initial mailing. Some confusion among coaches on how to complete this online seeding.
 - Committee asked Board of Directors to consider displaying seed results to all those participating in the online seeding process.
 - Recommended making the first step of the online seeding process open at the beginning of the season.
 - Asked the IESA to contact official's associations and ask them to help remind coaches of the approaching deadlines at pre-game meetings.

- Discussion was had about schools with fewer than 3 games prior to regional play being able to participate in the seeding process.
- 3. Quarterfinal games in regional play were discussed. Quarterfinal games will continue to be played at the high seeded team. Regional hosts will continue to higher officials for all quarterfinal games. Rawlings balls will be shipped to the host school and quarterfinal winners will receive a ball upon arriving at the host school for the semifinal game.
- 4. 2010 NFHS rule changes were discussed.
- 5. On Deck Circles were discussed and the committee felt that the safety issue of the circle placement should be left in the judgment of the officials.
- 6. Defensive Safety Masks were discussed. No recommendation at this time.
- 7. Coaching Education was discussed and the committee asked that additional information be added to the activity update for clarification purposes. Examples: 1st base coach (parent filling in for an assistant coach not in attendance must be certified) and ASA coaching certification (does not meet IESA coaching education requirement).
- 8. The hiring of unlicensed officials was discussed. It was explained that a warning is issued to a member school the first time they do not hire a licensed official and if there are multiple offenses that the school could face additional penalties or sanctions from the Executive Director or the Board of Directors.

2010 State Pairings

	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Game 4
Class A	E vs. D	G vs. A	B vs. F	H vs. C
Class AA	B vs. H	F vs. G	C vs. E	A vs. D

Leanne Bonifas, Mike Zumpf and Dana Curby were recognized for his service to the advisory committee and to the Association.

The date was set for the next meeting; Wednesday, October 27, 2010.