



IESA BASEBALL

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES & RECOMMENDATIONS

October 31, 2011

The following members were present for the meeting: John Hickman, Clinton; Jerry McDowell, Coal City; Alex Razzo, Chillicothe, Trevor Stoecklin, Greenville, Darren Loschen, Potomac, Bob Gold, Assistant Superintendent, Eureka; and Umpire Steve Vorhies, Dallas City. Introductions were made and a review of the advisory committee's role took place.

The baseball advisory committee in its meeting on October 31, 2011, makes the following recommendations to the Board of Directors for their January 20, 2012 meeting:

1. To change the online roster and record deadline from Wednesday of week #9 to Tuesday of week #10. The online ranking would take place Wednesday and Thursday of week #10 with the seeds and regional pairing released on Friday of Week #10. **Rationale: Will give more time to accurately reflect a team's current record and is more consistent with the softball timeline.**
2. To add the following to By-Law 4.015: The home plate umpire shall declare a forfeiture of contest immediately upon verification of a pitching limitation violation. **Rationale: Because safety is at the forefront of the rationale for limiting the number of innings a pitcher can throw in one day, the committee believes it is better to immediately stop the contest if a pitching limitation violation is verified rather than allow the pitcher to continue to throw and deal with the violation after the fact. There are certainly some disadvantages to calling a game immediately including the umpires being able to safely leave the field, the controversy that will occur when a game is stopped in the middle of a contest, and fans who will not understand the decision that has been made. The baseball committee believes that despite these disadvantages, it is more important to prevent injuries to a young person's arm. Therefore, the game should be called immediately.**
3. To change By-Law 2.128 so 3 umpires are hired for each sectional game. **Rationale: The biggest reason the committee felt this was necessary is that the state finals would then not be the first time the umpires work a 3 man crew. Currently, 2 umpires are assigned to each sectional. Many of those umpires also work the IESA state finals when we switch to a 3 man crew. The mechanics umpires use are different depending on the number of umpires who work the game. Few, if any 3 man crews are used in regular season contests. That means, the first time umpires are working 3 man crews is at the IESA state finals. By working a 3 man crew at the sectional level, umpires will have some experience with the 3 man mechanics before the state level. In addition, with a 3 man crew there is better coverage of the playing field.**
4. If recommendation #3 is approved, to change By-Law 5.042 so baseball sectional umpires are paid \$45 per game. **Rationale: Currently each umpire receives \$55. This lower amount for each umpire will help offset the additional expense the IESA will incur.**
5. If recommendation #3 is approved, to change By-Law 5.023 so the baseball entry fee is \$55. **Rationale: Currently each school pays a \$50 entry fee. If recommendations #3 and #4 are approved, the cost to the IESA will be an additional \$600. The \$5 entry fee increase will cover the additional expense of adding a 3rd umpire to the sectional level.**

There were several items discussed without any recommendations from the committee. Information was presented concerning the new bat regulations that go into effect in 2012. The current pitching limitation rule was discussed at length and the committee was informed of the situation that led to forfeiture of a Class 2A baseball sectional. Discussion was held once again on limiting the number of pitches thrown in a game vs. limiting the number of innings thrown. After the discussion, there was no recommendation to change the current pitching limitations. The 2012 NFHS rule changes were discussed. The committee compliments the EastSide staff and East Peoria Central for their work in hosting the state finals; however there was a strong consensus that the wait for concessions at the state finals, especially around 10:30-12:30 was too long and steps need to be taken to address the lines at the concession areas. The committee was informed that coaches are to be in the dugout during the games. Mr. Endsley will work with the umpires to have this enforced on a

more consistent basis. Discussion was held on determining the dead ball area on the Class 3A field particularly at the bullpen areas.

The committee was asked for a listing of items they would expect a regional/sectional host to either do or provide for the competing teams. That list included:

1. Be sure the outfield grass is mowed (infield grass as well if the site has a grass infield)
2. Base lines, batter box, and outfield foul lines properly and clearly chalked
3. Be sure holes in the pitching mound and batters box have been filled in and "stomped down"
4. Provide water for players AND umpires
5. Fences and back stops are safe. While acknowledging it may not be easiest item to correct but back stops should not allow a ball to roll through the back stop when a catcher misses the ball. If the back stop is in need of repair, the hosts should fix the back stop prior to hosting
6. Administrator on site who can tend to problems should they arise
7. Restrooms that are in working order
8. Provide the book and an official scorer for all games
9. Proper supervision, especially for umpires after the contest
10. Understanding that even if the host school is not playing in a given contest, the host school is exactly that--a "host" school that is responsible for the regional/sectional contest.
11. Report scores in a timely manner on the IESA website

The committee recognizes that not all regular season games/sites are able to adopt the following but the following schedule will be used for state series play regarding infield/dugout use and is recommended for regular season play:

Home Team will use the 3rd base dugout
Visiting Team will use the 1st base dugout

Home Team takes infield first
Visiting team takes infield second
Each team gets 10 minutes of infield

Pairings were drawn for the 2012 state finals as follows:

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

Bob Gold was recognized for his service to the committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2012.