



IESA BASEBALL

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES & RECOMMENDATIONS

October 30, 2017

The following members were present for the meeting: Steve Schafer, Glasford Illini Bluffs; Mitch Pruemer, Gifford; Kyle Hasler, Minooka; Michael Hart, Champaign Jefferson; Eric Christian, Bloomington; Brian Hanslow, Piasa Southwestern 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 October 30, 2017, makes the following recommendations to the Board of Directors for their January 19, 2018 meeting:

1. To change By-Law 4.014 which contains an exception to the NFHS bat rules to read as follows:
The following bats are legal for use in 2018 IESA contests:
 - a. Any non-wood bat containing a silkscreened or permanently marked BBCOR label as detailed in section 1-3-2 of the NFHS baseball rules book or;
 - b. Any bat 30 inches and under that has a greater than minus three drop provided the bat barrel diameter does not exceed 2 1/4 inches or;
 - c. Any bat 30 inches and under that has a greater than minus three drop and a barrel diameter no larger than 2 5/8 inches provide that bat contains the USA Baseball logo or;
 - d. Any wood bat that meets the NFHS standards as detailed in section 1-3-2 and 1-3-3 of the NFHS baseball rules book.

NOTE 1: Any bat 31 inches and over must meet the NFHS bat guidelines and contain the BBCOR label.

NOTE 2: Any bat 31 inches and over and has a greater than a minus 3 drop with the USA Baseball logo is an illegal bat.

NOTE 3: Any non-wood bat with a barrel diameter greater than 2 5/8" is illegal.

NOTE 4: Effective with the 2019 season, no bat with a 2 1/4" barrel will be legal.

Rationale: Bat manufacturers are phasing out the production of bats with 2 1/4 inch diameter barrels. IESA has allowed these smaller barreled bats in past years because it is a bat that students in our member schools are able to swing. But, because bat manufacturers are no longer going to produce 2 1/4" barrel bats, the bats with the USA Baseball logo that have a 2 5/8" barrel with a greater than minus 3 drop give our students another option. These bats with the USA Baseball logo have BBCOR like characteristics. A 30 inch and under bat with a 2 1/4" barrel would still be legal as many players have used these bats in previous years and may have been recently purchased. Eventually, the 2 1/4" inch barrel bats will disappear because as noted above the bat manufacturers are stopping production of that size bat. However, given that 2 1/4" bats may have recently been purchased the committee wants to allow their use for one more year but then completely phase out their use beginning in 2019 given that there are options with the new USA Baseball logo bats to swing a greater than minus three drop bat. **Board Action-- Approved**

2. To change By-Law 4.015 which contains an exception to the NFHS pitching rules to read as follows:
Any pitcher (either the starting pitcher or any relief pitcher) withdrawn from the mound or game may return to the pitching position once per game as long as it is within the legal re/entry rule.
Rationale: NFHS rules allow a player removed as the pitcher to return to the pitching position once per inning. IESA currently has an exception to this rule that allows only the

starting pitcher to return to the pitching position once per game. The committee is recommending that any pitcher withdrawn from the pitching position may return to the pitching position once per game---not just the starting pitcher. Because of the new pitch count limitations, this change makes sense. For example, if a relief pitcher is removed from the mound, under the current rules, he could not return to the pitching position. But, if this change is approved, a coach would have the option to bring in that same relief pitcher without using another pitcher and therefore save a totally new pitcher from having any pitch count against him. **Board Action--Approved**

3. To add to the Terms and Conditions concerning game protocol: Games must be played in bracket order. For example, when the regional semi-finals are played, the first semi-final game (which generally includes the #1 seed) must be played before the second semi-final game on Saturday. Additionally, the first regional semi-final game must be scheduled no later than 10:00 a.m.

Rationale: Apparently, some regional hosts are playing the semi-final game which contains the higher seeded teams before the semi-final game which generally involves the number one seeded team. Some of the regional semi-final games are not starting until 12 noon or after which makes for a long day for the participating schools especially for the teams playing in the second game of the day. Board Action--Approved with the following modification: First semi-final games must be scheduled no later than 11:00 a.m.

Discussion was held on a variety of issues without any recommendations for a change. Topics discussed included:

- a. Portable Pitching Mounds---The committee was not in favor of allowing portable pitching mounds in the state series due to the fact that there is no standard sized portable mound.
- b. Pitch Counts---After a lengthy discussion, the committee did not want to make any changes to the pitch counts that are currently in effect. They felt it was better to stay with the current limitations for a t least one additional year to give coaches another year of working within the limitations rather than make a change after one year.
- c. Shortening games---The committee discussed the possibility of capping games at 2 hours, shortening games to six innings instead of seven, and the possibility of starting batters with a 1-1 count all in an effort to reduce the length of the games. There was no support for these ideas.
- d. Game ending procedures for regular season games that are suspended were briefly discussed. Mr. Endsley explained that wording of the current by-law is likely to be changed which will allow the administrators of the competing teams to decide on how or if a regular season game is finalized when a regular season game is suspended.

During the discussion on pitch counts, the question of who is responsible to keep the pitch counts during the state series was raised. The committee believes that is the responsibility of the host school to keep an official pitch count for each pitcher during the state series. To that end, regional and sectional hosts will be required to keep the official pitch count for the games they host. However, coaches are reminded that they must still meet after every even numbered inning to compare pitch counts.

Pairings were drawn for the 2018 state finals as follows:

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

Steve Schafer, Ken Studebaker and Mike Olson were recognized for their service to the committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2018.