



2019 SOFTBALL ADVISORY MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS
Thursday, October 17, 2019

ATTENDANCE

Leslie Alappattu - IESA Assistant Executive Director, Scott Bahorik – IHSA Official,
Aimee Davis – Tolono Unity Coach, Tracie Henry - IHSA Assistant Executive Director
Travis Lingafelter - Mt. Pulaski Coach, Stephanie McClure - Forrest Prairie Central Coach
Megan Nonnemacher – Bloomington JHS Coach, Mark Peter - Shorewood Troy Assistant Principal and Assistant Coach,
Perry Peterson - Barrington Station Coach and Jen Schafer - Glasford Illini Bluffs Coach

**The IESA Softball Advisory Committee makes the following recommendation to the
IESA Board of Directors for their January 31, 2020 meeting:**

RECOMMENDATION 1

Current	Each state series team shall consist of a maximum of 18 uniformed girls whose names appear on the school's regional entry form.
Proposed	Each state series team shall consist of a maximum of 20 uniformed players, two coaches, two managers, two statisticians and one scorekeeper.
Rationale	With middle school being the starting point for interscholastic athletics, it is advantageous to have a wider base of athletes participating and it can be discouraging to an athlete who has competed as a player throughout the regular season and is listed as a manager, statistician or scorekeeper when the state series begins. Making this change would maximize participation for more players on teams with higher student interest and/or schools not allowed to make cuts. Finally, this proposal retains that schools can list a maximum of 27 individuals.
GSB T&C	VII.D.1
IESA By-Law	4.023

NOT APPROVED

RECOMMENDATION 2

Current	The smallest 50% of schools entered in the IESA Girls Softball state series will be Class A and the largest 50% of schools will be Class AA.
Proposed	The teams will be divided equally into three classes each containing 1/3 of the participating schools. The smallest 1/3 of the schools will be designated as Class 1A, the next smallest 1/3 will be designated as Class 2A, and the largest 1/3 of the schools will be designated as Class 3A. If two or more schools have the same enrollment number and that number happens to be where a split occurs, all schools with the same enrollment number shall be placed in the smaller class. The time schedule for the state finals will be as follows:

Class 1A

Friday (Quarterfinals)

Game 1 - 9:30 am

Game 2 - 11:30 am

Game 3 - 1:30 pm

Game 4 - 3:30 pm

Saturday (Semifinals & Finals)

Game 5 - 9:30 am Winners of Games 1 and 2

Game 6 - 11:30 am Winners of Games 3 and 4

Game 7 - 1:30 pm Losers of Games 5 and 6 (Third Place)

Game 8 - 3:30 pm Winners of Games 5 and 6 (Championship)

Class 2A

Friday (Quarterfinals)

Game 1 - 10:00 am

Game 2 - 12:00 noon

Game 3 - 2:00 pm

Game 4 - 4:00 pm

Saturday (Semifinals & Finals)

Game 5 - 10:00 am Winners of Games 1 and 2

Game 6 - 12:00 noon Winners of Games 3 and 4

Game 7 - 2:00 pm Losers of Games 5 and 6 (Third Place)

Game 8 - 4:00 pm Winners of Games 5 and 6 (Championship)

Class 3A

Friday (Quarterfinals)

Game 1 - 10:30 am

Game 2 - 12:30 pm

Game 3 - 2:30 pm

Game 4 - 4:30 pm

Saturday (Semifinals & Finals)

Game 5 - 10:30 am Winners of Games 1 and 2

Game 6 - 12:30 pm Winners of Games 3 and 4

Game 7 - 2:30 pm Losers of Games 5 and 6 (Third Place)

Game 8 - 4:30 pm Winners of Games 5 and 6 (Championship)

Rationale As more schools are participating in IESA Softball, the growth has resulted in 9-team regionals and this will continue as more schools add softball to their IESA activities. Adding an additional class would allow schools to have an opportunity to compete against schools with a comparable enrollment.

GSB T&C I.B
IESA By-Law 4.021

APPROVED

RECOMMENDATION 3 – *only if 3 classes are not approved*

Current The IESA Softball calendar outlines dates for regional quarterfinals, semifinals and the championship game.

Proposed Add that regional play-in games will take place on Tuesday of Week 10.

Rationale Schools look to the post-season calendar when scheduling regular season games. If they know the specific date when regional play-in games will be played, schools can avoid overscheduling.

GSB T&C II, host manual (section I)

IESA By-Law None

NOT APPROVED – The addition of play-in games prior to regional quarterfinals will not be necessary due to moving to three classes beginning in 2020-21.

RECOMMENDATION 4

Current Regional quarterfinals shall take place on Wednesday of Week 10.

Proposed Regional quarterfinals shall take place on Wednesday or Thursday of Week 10 and this will be at the discretion of the regional quarterfinal host.

Rationale It can be challenging for schools to find officials available when all quarterfinals are held on the same day. Providing schools with the option to schedule the quarterfinal on either of these days provides additional flexibility and increases the chance for more officials to be available.

GSB T&C II, host manual (section I)

IESA By-Law None

APPROVED

RECOMMENDATION 5

Current The regional championship shall take place on Monday of Week 11.

Proposed Rationale The regional championship shall take place on Tuesday of Week 11. Pushing the regional championship back one day allows schools an additional day of practice between the regional semifinal and the regional championship.

GSB T&C II, host manual (section I)

IESA By-Law None

APPROVED

RECOMMENDATION 6

Current None

Proposed Add the following to the IESA Exceptions to NFHS Softball rules: Officials are expected to conduct equipment checks prior to play.

Rationale There continues to be a need for clarification throughout the season about whether or not equipment checks by officials are required at the IESA level. Listing this as an exception will help new coaches and new officials be aware of this expectation for all regular season and state series contests and it is being added in the interest of safety for the players.

GSB T&C VII.B

IESA By-Law 4.024

NOT APPROVED – The Board of Directors approved the administrative recommendation to remove the expectation that softball officials check equipment before the game (see Point of Emphasis #2 below).

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

- ~~Upon the officials' arrival to the contest, coaches and officials should communicate when equipment checks will take place (before or after warmups).~~
- Officials are no longer expected to do equipment checks prior to the start of a contest. Coaches are expected to adhere to proper equipment rules and officials are expected to enforce penalties as outlined in the NFHS Softball rules book for illegal equipment.**
- Coaches need to be cognizant of the opposing team taking the infield and should not conference with teams outside of the dugout/near the infield for an extended period during transitions and between innings.

GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS

No additional topics were discussed which are not already outlined in the listed recommendations and points of emphasis.

2020-21 STATE FINALS PAIRINGS

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

COMMITTEE SERVICE RECOGNITION

The committee recognized Stephanie McClure, coach at Forrest Prairie Central, for her service to the advisory committee for the last three years.

2020 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, October 15, 2020 @ 10:00 am

IESA ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

None