



IESA BASEBALL

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES & RECOMMENDATIONS

November 2, 2022

The following members were present for the meeting: John Staab, Champaign Edison; Joshua Stone, Morrisonville; Kurt Quick, Kankakee Bishop Mac; Jim Kohlbacher, Liberty; Wade Hunter, Roanoke-Benson; Umpire George Hillard. Not in attendance; Jeffery Hull, Payson Seymour.

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

The baseball advisory committee in its meeting on November 2, 2022, makes the following recommendations to the Board of Directors for their January 27, 2022 meeting:

Recommendation #1

Current: A portable pitching mound may not be used in the state series. [1-2-7]

Proposed: Portable pitching mounds be allowed for postseason play under the following conditions:

1. The size of the portable mound will be as such where a pitcher may step back off the pitching rubber, stride towards home plate during a pitch, or execute a pick off move to any base without stepping off the mound.
2. The size of the portable mound will be as such where a pitcher may step back off the pitching rubber, stride towards home plate during a pitch, or execute a pick off move to any base whereas the slope in each direction would be equivalent to that of a normal regulation dirt mound.
3. The portable mound will be free of any defections, including holes, tears, and loose material on any parts of the mound.

Rationale: The overall quality of portable pitching mounds has drastically improved in recent years. More schools are playing on turf fields requiring a portable mound to be used. The IESA has had to turn down many schools who wanted to host post season events because the use of the portable mound wasn't allowed. If the portable mound meets the required conditions, it will be nicer to pitch from compared to most dirt mounds.

T&C: Section XII; B

Handbook: 4.014

Admin. Vote: 4-0 in Favor

Board Action: **Approved**

Recommendation #2

- Current:** All state series games shall be played to 7 innings (except in the case of a mercy rule game and the third-place game of the state finals). The third-place game shall be played to a maximum of 5 innings. If both teams are tied after five innings, both teams will be awarded 3rd place. [4-2-1; 4-2-3]
- Proposed:** All state series games shall be played to 7 innings except in the case of a mercy rule game and the third-place game of the state finals. The third-place game shall be played to whichever happens first: 7 innings or 2 hours in time limit. The time limit is consistent with regular season rules, no inning may begin after 2 hours from the first pitch. If both teams are tied after this point, the game will continue using the international tie breaker rule until a winner is determined.
- Rationale:** A state final trophy game is one of the most important games of the year for both teams participating. Each team deserves the right to play the game until there is a winner. The international tie breaker rule will prevent the game from having additional extra innings. Adding a time limit to the game will still ensure that the championship game starts near its scheduled time.
- T&C:** Section XII; B
- Handbook:** 4.014
- Admin. Vote:** 4-0 in Favor
- Board Action:** **Approved**

Recommendation #3

- Current:** Seeding procedure: The IESA will confirm all seeds and break any ties. Note: The IESA will break all ties by a coin flip.
- Proposed:** Seeding procedure: The IESA will break any ties by first checking to see if the teams have played each other. If the teams have played each other, the IESA will use the head-to-head result to break the tie before going to a coin flip.
- Rationale:** In the result of a tie, the most logical way to break the tie would be to see if one team has already beaten the other team. This is a much fairer way of deciding who gets a higher seed, rather than flipping a coin. Teams are attempting to schedule regional opponents in the regular season to gain a higher seed. The head-to-head result vs a regional opponent needs to hold some weight when seeding.
- T&C:** Section VIII; B
- Handbook:** 3.122

Admin. Vote: 4-0 Opposed

Board Action: **No action**

Recommendation #4

Current: Post Season Schedule: Quarterfinals: Wednesday- Sept 14 (week 11)

Semi-finals: Saturday- Sept 17 (week 11)

Regional Championship: Monday- Sept 19 (week 12)

Sectional: Saturday- Sept 24 (week 12)

State: Friday/Saturday Sept 30/Oct 1 (week 13)

Proposed: Quarterfinals: Saturday- Sept 18 (week 12)

Semi-finals: Tuesday- Sept 20 / Wednesday-Sept 21 (week 12)

Regional Championship: Friday- Sept 23 (week 12)

Sectional: Monday- Sept 26 (week 13)

State: Friday/Saturday Sept 30/Oct 1 (week 13)

Rationale: There are too many days off between games. There are more off days in the post season than there are during the duration of the entire regular season. This allows a team to have one pitcher carry a team to the state semi finals instead of rewarding the all-around better teams. Scheduling the dates closer to each other will allow the regular season to extend a week longer, allowing more regular season games to be played for all participating teams. The new format allows rain dates in between each round and still provides enough rest/time between each game for teams to have enough pitching.

T&C: Section II; A, B, D

Handbook: 4.011

Admin. Vote: 4-0 Opposed

Board Action: **No action**

Recommendation #5

- Current: There is no penalty for a coach if he/she doesn't input their pitchers pitch count into the IESA website following their game.
- Proposed: Each team's coach must input their pitch counts for each pitcher into the IESA website by 10am the following morning for all post season games. If a coach doesn't input their pitches, all available pitchers would drop down one tier of available pitches in the pitching limitations chart for the next game. (90 to 70. 70 to 50) (Post season only)
- Rationale: If the IESA is going to require coaches to enter pitch counts into the IESA website, and the IESA website is going to be the main source to provide pitch count documentation, then there needs to be a penalty in place for coaches who don't enter their pitch counts.
- T&C: Section XII; B
- Handbook: 4.015
- Admin. Vote: 4-0 in favor
- Board Action: **Approved with the change from 10am to noon**

Other items discussed:

- The use of "high-school" fields for post-season play
- Home vs Away Team choice in the post-season
- Intentional walks counting towards pitch count
- Post-season hosting (higher seed host regional semi-finals)
- Post-season pitch count
- Metal Spikes
- 6 inning games
- On-deck circle
- Umpire pay
- NFHS 2023 Rule changes
- State Finals location

2023 State Final Pairings

	<u>Game 1</u>	<u>Game 2</u>	<u>Game 3</u>	<u>Game 4</u>
Class 1A-	D vs F	A vs C	E vs B	G vs H
Class 2A-	E vs H	B vs G	C vs A	D vs F
Class 3A-	A vs F	D vs B	H vs G	E vs C