

MINUTES OF THE IHSA BASEBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
August 30, 2016

The IHSA Baseball Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on, August 30, 2016, beginning at 10:00a.m. Committee members present were; Brett Bildstein, Chicago (Lake View); Sean Bieterman, Aurora (Central Catholic); Eric Michaelson, Lemont (H.S.); Eric Stone, Metamora; Darren Loschen, Armstrong; Joshua Stone, Raymond (Lincolnwood); Don Eddy, Mascoutah; Sam Knox, Craig Anderson, Kurt Gibson, IHSA; Dr. Preston Wolin and Kate Compall, Center for Athletic Medicine; Steve Endsley, IESA; and Paul Belo, IHSBCA. Dustin Carter, Official, was not in attendance.

The Minutes of the September 1, 2015 meeting were accepted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Item VIII. Tournament Rules A. 1)

Recommendation: The higher seeded team in each Regional and Sectional game shall be the home team and shall bat last. If in a Sectional that uses the Sub-Sectional format, the teams both have the same seed, the home team will be determined by a coin toss. The bottom team on the bracket will call the toss.

Rationale: In the Sub-Sectional format, the possibility exists that two teams could have the same seed. Therefore, we need to determine the home team by a coin toss, similar to the format we use in the Super Sectional and State Final games.

Died for Lack of Motion

2. Item VIII. Tournament Rules B. 2)

Recommendation: The game shall end when the visiting team is behind by 15 or more runs after 3 ½ innings, or if the home team is behind by 15 or more runs after 4 innings.

Rationale: When postseason games are a significant mismatch, especially early in the Regional, the game will end when one team is ahead by 15 or more runs after either 3½ or 4 innings. The 10-run rule will still be in effect after either 4½ or 5 innings.

Approved by Consent

3. Item VIII. Tournament Rules E. 6) & F. 4)

Recommendation: The local manager shall keep the IHSA informed during bad weather. If play cannot continue at the host site, any playable site can be used to complete play, with IHSA approval.

Rationale: Host schools need to communicate any changes in game location to the IHSA. The IHSA needs to ensure that both participating teams approve of the site change, in order to avoid providing an advantage to one of the participating teams.

Approved by Consent

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

1. The committee discussed the current online seeding process and the former process when coaches meet at a common site to determine postseason seeds.
2. The committee discussed the possibility of adult coaches wearing helmets while coaching on the field at first and third base.
3. The committee talked about the open gym by-law, summer team participation and contact of coaches with players during the school year. The discussion included use of off-site training sites for baseball teams during the winter months.
4. The committee discussed reasons that the 3rd place game at the State Finals is sometimes shortened or moved to a different time.
5. The committee discussed the strength of schedule criteria in the postseason seeding process and the reasons why it should or should not be included in the seeding criteria.
6. The committee discussed the use of a safety base a first base, similar to what schools use in softball.
7. The committee discussed the potential to start the season two weeks early for pitcher and catcher workouts. This change would need to happen through the by-law change process in the fall.
8. The committee discussed the potential to extend the season two weeks longer at the end of the season in order to give schools more days of good weather in May in which to play their games. This change would need to happen through the by-law change process in the fall.
9. The committee discussed the by-law regarding a school's opportunity to have a fall baseball team if they don't have a football team.
10. The committee recognized the outgoing members of the baseball advisory committee: Brett Bildstein, Niles (North); Sean Bieterman, Aurora (Central Catholic); and Josh Stone, Raymond (Lincolnwood)