

# MINUTES OF THE IHSA GIRLS SOFTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

August 29, 2018

The IHSA Girls Softball Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, August 29, 2018 at 10 a.m. Committee members present were: Shawn Byers; Stillman Valley; Peter Geoff, Dekalb; Kevin Hayhurst, Beecher; Amy Hildebrand, Camp Point (Central); J.D. Koziarski, Chicago (Horizon/McKinley); Travis Pate, Greenville; Todd Rogers, Carterville; and April Schermann, Normal (Community West). Also in attendance were Tracie Henry, IHSA Assistant Executive Director; and Leslie Alappattu, Illinois Elementary School Association Assistant Executive Director.

## TERMS & CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. II. DATES AND SITES A. Class 1A/2A and B. Class 3A/4A

**Recommendation:** **Regional Finals** 1A/2A: **Friday, May 17** or Saturday, May 18. The Sectional semifinal games may be played on Tuesday, May 21, and Wednesday, May 22. The Sectional Final (Championship) shall ~~may~~ be played on **Friday, May 24** or Saturday, May 25.

**Regional Finals** 3A/4A: **Friday, May 24** or Saturday, May 25. The Sectional semifinal games may be played on Tuesday, May 21, and Wednesday, May 22. The Sectional Final (Championship) shall ~~may~~ be played on **Friday, May 24** or Saturday, May 25.

**Rationale:** Allows additional scheduling flexibility for playing Regional and Sectional Championships. Many teams are already playing Friday Championships due to Graduation. Regionals that schedule a Tuesday double-header would prefer a Friday Championship.

Approved by Consent

### 2. VI. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND TIME SCHEDULES

**Recommendation:** 5. All state final contests will be played on Field #2 at EastSide Centre, unless conditions dictate moving a contest(s) to a different field, using the following time schedule:

<b>Saturday</b>	Session 3	Game 5	<del>10:00 a.m.</del> <b>9:00 a.m.</b> (3 <sup>rd</sup> place game)
	Session 3	Game 6	<del>12:30 p.m.</del> <b>11:30 a.m.</b> (Championship)
	Session 4	Game 7	<del>2:00 p.m.</del> <b>1:00 p.m.</b> (3 <sup>rd</sup> place game)
	Session 4	Game 8	<del>3:30 p.m.</del> <b>3:30 p.m.</b> (Championship)

**Rationale:** Teams are already in East Peoria on Saturday and starting game times earlier allows for more time to get games played in the event of inclement weather.

Approved by Consent

## **STATE ASSOCIATION ADOPTION**

### **1. NFHS 4.2.3 ENDING A GAME**

**Recommendation:** A contest is ended and the score final if the visiting team is ahead by 15 or more runs after the completion of four innings of play- or- if the home team is ahead by a similar number of runs after three and one-half innings.

**Rationale:** Maintains consistency with game ending procedures used during the state series.

Approved by Consent

## **ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

1. The committee heard a report from IESA softball administrator Leslie Alappattu. The IESA Softball State Final is taking place at Champion Fields in Normal, IL on September 21 & 22.
2. The committee heard a report on the 2017 IHSA Softball State Tournament and review of the 1A/2A and 3A/4A State Finals from Tracie Henry. Tracie shared positive feedback on assigning 12 umpires to the State Final and reviewed IHSA Policy 36. Managing Heat and Heat Illness.
3. The committee reviewed the minutes of the 2017 IHSA Softball Advisory Committee meeting.
4. The committee reviewed the rule changes for the 2019 season that were recently approved by the NFHS. The committee discussed the 2018 NFHS Rules changes allowing for intentional walks and the elimination of equipment checks by the umpires prior to the start of the game. The committee's opinion was that the 2018 NFHS changes were favorable.
5. The committee discussed making masks mandatory for defensive players. Masks are optional by rule and recommended by the committee. Currently, there is not a NOCSAE approved mask therefore masks are not required by rule. The committee also reviewed feedback and recommendations from many coaches throughout the state in favor of mandating masks. The committee voted upon requiring masks for pitchers, first base and third base. The recommendation did not pass out of the committee.
6. The committee reviewed the process of rating umpires and submitting a special report.
7. Tracie Henry shared with the committee that IHSA is releasing an app in 2018-19 that will allow coaches to rate umpires via their mobile device for up to 48 hours after a contest.

8. The committee reviewed IHSA By-law 5.004 which no longer limits a softball team to only playing 5 games in a tournament during that member schools' official spring break. The committee also discussed IHSA By-law 5.271, Season Limitations. The committee is not in favor of playing softball in the fall.
9. The committee heard feedback about State Final seating and Super Sectional sites needing additional staffing and supervision for fan seating.
10. The committee recognized Shawn Byers, April Schermann and Todd Rogers for their service to the IHSA Softball Advisory Committee after the final meeting of their terms.