

MINUTES OF THE IHSA GIRLS SOFTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 1, 2021

The IHSA Girls Softball Advisory Committee met virtually on Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. Committee members participating were: Becki Edmonson, Sterling (H.S.); Perry Peterson, Barrington; Josh Carlile, Manteno; Adam Eucker, Williamsville; Racxeel Medrano, Chicago (Rickover Naval Academy); A. Lyle Meador III, Orena; Wade Thomas, Benton; and Courtney Hoffman, Stanford (Olympia). Conducting the meeting was Tracie Henry, IHSA Assistant Executive Director; and also participating was Nicole Schaeftbauer, Illinois Elementary School Association Executive Director & Roger Nichols, IHSA Head Softball Clinician.

TERMS & CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. VIII. Tournament Rules- C. Playing Regulations:

Recommendation: All teams at the State Final will be required to comply with mandatory bat compression testing at the State Final. Only bats that pass the compression test will be eligible to be used in the State Final.

Rationale: Ensures the safety and equability of all bats being used in the state final.

Died for Lack of Motion

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~~ **three** innings of play- or- if the home team is ahead by a similar number of runs after ~~three~~ **two** and one-half innings.

A contest is ended and the score final if the visiting team is ahead by ~~15~~ **12** 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.

A contest is ended and the score final if the visiting team is ahead by 10 or more runs after the completion of five innings of play – or – if the home team is ahead by a similar number of runs after four and one-half innings.

- 15 after 3 innings
- 12 after 4 innings
- 10 after 5 innings

Rationale: Maintains consistency with game ending procedures in all other softball rule codes. Will help with the retention and recruitment of umpires.

Died for Lack of Motion

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee heard a report from IESA softball administrator Nicole Schaeftbauer. IESA Softball will be conducting their State Series September 24 & 25 at Champion Fields in Normal. 2021 will be the first year IESA will crown champions in three classifications (1A, 2A & 3A).
2. The committee reviewed the minutes of the 2020 IHSA Softball Advisory Committee meeting.
3. Tracie Henry reported that the IHSA is planning for a traditional state series and season. IHSA will be using GoFan digital tickets for sectional games and beyond. State Final programs will be produced in a digital format.
4. The committee reviewed feedback from the teams that participated in the 2021 IHSA State Final.
5. The committee discussed playing regionals and sectionals at the higher seed. In 2022 IHSA softball will return to predetermined geographic regionals. Tracie Henry explained that playing at the higher seed was a one-year Covid-19 modification to IHSA Board Policy 18.
6. The committee reviewed and discussed a proposal to remove sub-sectionals and play all sectional complexes through all classifications. Tracie Henry explained per IHSA Board Policy 18 sub-sectionals apply to all bracketed team sports. A change to sub-sectionals would require Board action and a modification to the Policy.
7. The committee discussed licensed vendors and allowable State Final trademarks. The committee would like clear expectations communicated to schools regarding what is allowable on custom made t-shirts and spirit wear. The committee also discussed state final merchandise and recommended keeping costs on apparel reasonable for qualifiers.
8. Tracie Henry shared that the IHSA will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of Title IX throughout the 2021-22 school year.
9. The committee recognized Becki Edmonson, Courtney Hoffman and Wade Thomas for their service to the IHSA Softball Advisory Committee after the final meeting of their terms.