

## **MINUTES OF THE IHSA GIRLS SOFTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**August 31, 2022**

The IHSA Girls Softball Advisory Committee met virtually on Wednesday, August 31, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. Committee members participating were: Nicole Hayner, Pontiac (H.S.); Perry Peterson, Barrington; Josh Carlile, Manteno;; Adam Eucker, Williamsville; Racxeel Medrano, Chicago (Rickover Naval Academy); A. Lyle Meador III, Orena; and Joy Neal, Marion. Conducting the meeting was Tracie Henry, IHSA Assistant Executive Director; and also participating was Kristen D'Alfonso, Illinois Elementary School Association Executive Director & Roger Nichols, IHSA Head Softball Clinician.

### **TERMS & CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS**

NONE

### **ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

NONE

### **ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

1. The committee heard a report from IESA Softball Administrator Kristen D'Alfonso . IESA Softball will be conducting their State Series September 23 & 24 at Champion Fields in Normal. 2022 will be the second year IESA will crown champions in three classifications (1A, 2A & 3A).
2. The committee reviewed the minutes of the 2021 IHSA Softball Advisory Committee meeting.
3. Tracie Henry reported that GoFan digital tickets will be used 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 2022 IHSA State Final. Positive feedback was shared regarding the Louisville Slugger Sports Complex (LLSC). The teams really enjoyed the team celebration on Thursday evening hosted by Discover Peoria and LLSC. Tracie reported to the committee that beginning in 2023 LLSC will be charging for parking during the IHSA State Final. In addition, Tracie communicated that the quad fields will be available on Thursday and Friday for team practices. However, on Saturday pre-game warm-up will only be available indoors at the dome.
5. The committee discussed classifications. Tracie communicated that 2022-2023 is year two of the two-year cycle for enrollments and classification.
6. The committee reviewed the NFHS Softball Rule changes for 2022-2023. The new rule changes now permit the wearing of jewelry.
7. The committee discussed continued difficulty ordering and receiving Wilson Softball product. Tracie Henry discussed the NFHS 1-3-3 Rule Change regarding legal softballs. *Ball tolerance specifications for the 12-inch Fast Pitch Softball have been standardized for NFHS, NCAA, and USA Softball. After conducting research on whether the minimal*

*changes might have an impact on safety, it was determined that changing the weight from 6¼ to 6½ ounces would not increase batted ball speed. Any balls manufactured with the former specifications will be permitted through 2024, to allow for state associations manufacturers to reduce current inventory. The new ball specifications are permitted for use during the 2022-23 season and will be required by January 1, 2025.*

8. The committee discussed modifying regional and sectional date language to allow greater flexibility. Week 46 1A/2A Regionals; Week 47 3A/4A Regionals. All quarterfinal games must be complete before regional semifinal games can begin and semifinal games must be complete before the championship game can begin. If a game is moved from its regularly scheduled date both competing schools and the host school must agree. Week 47 1A/2A Sectionals; Week 48 3A/4A Sectionals. Semifinal games must be complete before the championship game can begin. If a game is moved from its regularly scheduled date both competing schools and the host school must agree. The committee will reflect on the discussion and decide if they want to formalize this language into a recommendation at the 2023-2024 advisory meeting.
9. The committee discussed the process of the IHSA assigning a third umpire to all regional games. Currently, the regional host school can request a third umpire be assigned to the regional at the cost of the host school.
10. Concerns were shared about Policy #36 Managing Heat and Heat Illness. Committee members requested a voice in the SMAC process. Tracie encouraged the committee members to reach out to the SMAC committee directly and Tracie would share the feedback with the IHSA Sports Medicine Administrator.
11. The committee recognized Perry Peterson and Adam Eucker for their service to the IHSA Softball Advisory Committee after the final meeting of their terms.