

MINUTES OF THE IHSA GIRLS SOFTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
September 2, 2009

The IHSA Girls Softball Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, September 2, 2009, at 10 a.m. Committee members present were: Kelly Coons, Streator (Twp.); Greg Hale, Pinckneyville; Mark Janesky, Sidell (Jamaica); Colleen Kilduff, Mother McAuley; Dwain Nance, Marengo; Greg Neisler, Raymond (Lincolnwood); Dominic Nicosia, Chicago and John Young, Lemont (H.S). Assistant Executive Director Matt Troha and State Final Manager Deb Neff, East Peoria (H.S.) were also in attendance.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. VIII – Tournament Rules – A. Determining Home Team

Recommendation: Eliminate the second paragraph, which reads: “In the Sectional semifinal round and championship game, the highest seeded team is the home team. The Sectional host school local management shall determine the team benches (dugout).”

Replace with: “In Sectionals that feed from Regionals, the home team in each Sectional semifinal contest and the Sectional final game will be determined by a coin flip, which will be called by the team from the bottom of the bracket. The Sectional host school/local management shall determine the team benches (dugout).”

In Sectional complexes, the home team in each Sectional semifinal contest and the Sectional final game will be determined by the highest seed. The Sectional host school/local management shall determine the team benches (dugout).”

Rationale: The current language still reflects the practice prior to the return to true geographical Regionals for most of the state in 2008-09. The first paragraph distinguishes protocol for Regionals feeding into Sectionals, while the second clarifies protocol for Sectional complexes.

Approved

2. VIII – Tournament Rules – A. Determining Home Team

Recommendation: Add the italicized text to the fifth paragraph, which currently reads: “In the State Final tournament, at a meeting of the coaches of the teams participating in the State Final tournament, home team privileges shall be determined by a coin flip. *The team from the bottom of the bracket shall call the coin toss.*”

Rationale: Coin tosses to determine home teams in other rounds are called by the team from the bottom of the bracket. This has been protocol at the State Finals in the past based on the other rounds, but this simply clarifies that protocol.

Approved

3. VI – Tournament Structure and Time Schedules – A. Time Schedule

Recommendation: Add new #4 to read: “Starting times for any State Series contests that fall on Memorial Day will be 11 a.m., unless the contest host has requested, and been approved for, a different start time from the IHSA Office.

Rationale: The Advisory Committee felt that it was in the best interest of the student-athletes, coaches, officials, administrators and fans to play Memorial Day games earlier in the afternoon. A large majority of schools were granted permission to move their Memorial Day games up to early afternoon start times in 2009.

Approved as Amended (See below)

Amended:

Friday game schedule will be as follows:

| | |
|--------|-----------|
| Game 1 | 10:00 am. |
| Game 2 | 12:00 pm |
| Game 3 | 3:00 pm |
| Game 4 | 5:00 pm |

Saturday game schedule will be as follows:

| | |
|--------|--|
| Game 5 | 9:00 am |
| Game 6 | The championship game will begin immediately after the conclusion of the third place game and awards. |
| Game 7 | 3:00 pm |
| Game 8 | The championship game will begin immediately after the conclusion of the third place game and awards. |

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee reviewed the meetings of the 2008 committee meeting.
2. The committee heard a report from state finals manager Debi Neff regarding the recently-completed state finals. Debi updated the committee on the status of the State Final field, which may undergo some cosmetic upgrades around the perimeter of the field.
3. The committee discussed if the use of radar guns at State Series contests by fans or scouting coaches should be prohibited. They will continue to monitor the situation.
4. The committee reviewed the meeting minutes from the NFHS Softball Rules Committee.
5. The committee discussed the impact of moving the pitching distance back to 43 feet this season. The safety of infielders, including the use of facemasks was discussed.

6. The committee discussed the pitching distance at the non-varsity levels. They asked Matt Troha to compile data on the runs scores and average game times at the non-varsity level for the coming season. They will review this information at the 2010 meeting and further discuss the pitching distance at non-varsity levels.
7. The committee discussed the Third-Place contest at the State Finals and whether speed-up rules, such as the International Tiebreaker, or the use of a different field should be used for these games to better accommodate the tournament schedule.
8. The committee discussed the use of the batting cage facility at the State Finals, which is owned by an outside entity and is not available to all IHSA schools during the State Finals.
9. The committee discussed the introduction of the IESA State Champions at the IHSA State Finals and if there was a better way to integrate them into the schedule.
10. The committee discussed the move to on-line rules meeting and on-line seeding during the 2009 season.
11. The committee discussed the switch to the Baden Softball beginning with the 2010 State Series.
12. The committee discussed ways to better integrate the softball coaching community into the state finals, the state final coaching roundtables and the coaching associations.
13. The committee discussed the use of three-person umpiring crews at the Regional Tournament level.
14. The committee discussed rule discrepancies between baseball and softball (i.e. intentional walks, lineups cards, courtesy runners) and whether it would be positive thing for umpires doing both sports to make them more uniform.
15. The committee discussed illegal pitch calls and unanimously agreed that they are called in frequently and rarely after the opening month of the season. Calling the illegal pitch will be an NFHS Point of Emphasis for the coming season.