



# IESA BASEBALL

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES & RECOMMENDATIONS

November 3, 2014

The following members were present for the meeting: Joshua Stone, Raymond, Jeremy Smith, Gillespie, Tom Knapczyk, Shorewood Troy; Steve Schafer, Glasford Illini Bluffs; Brett Huff, Alton and Umpire Rich Cacciatori, Hudson. Introductions were made and a review of the advisory committee's role took place.

The baseball advisory committee in its meeting on November 3, 2014, makes the following recommendation to the Board of Directors for their January 23, 2015 meeting:

1. To add to the Baseball Terms and Conditions that the IESA baseball administrator has the authority to assign two sectionals to one site if a host for a sectional cannot be secured in advance and the school who is already serving as the host is willing to host two games. **NOT APPROVED**

Discussion was held on the following items:

\*\*The NFHS rule requiring teams to warm-up in their own team's on-deck circle was discussed at length. Requests were received from three different schools asking the committee to consider making an exception to the NFHS rule that would allow teams the discretion to use the opposite team's on-deck circle so the on deck batter would always be at the back of the batter currently at bat. An unfortunate accident occurred in a game this fall where a player who was in his own team's on deck circle was hit in the eye by a foul ball with numerous surgeries following the accident. In theory, this could not happen if the batter on deck was always at the back of the batter who is at bat. After much discussion the committee was split 3-3 on recommending that an exception to the NFHS rule be made. Given there wasn't a majority, no recommendation for a change is being made.

\*\*The exception to the requirement that coaches wear the uniform of the school was discussed. A Point of Emphasis will be made that coaches are expected to represent their school and that every effort should be made to wear some type of school uniform or school colored attire especially for the 24 schools who advance to the state finals. In essence, coaches should not be wearing cutoffs and flip flops (or some other inappropriate attire) when occupying the first base or third base coaching box.

\*\*For teams that advance to the finals, it is requested that an itinerary of pre-game procedures be provided. Coaches would like to know who is taking warm-up first, line-up introductions, etc. The IESA will coordinate this with the host school.

\*\*A request to start the count on each batter with one ball and one strike was discussed. There was no recommendation to do so.

\*\*A request to keep players in dugouts after a home run was discussed. There was no recommendation to require players remain in the dugout but the committee did agree that the home run celebration should always allow the player to reach home plate safely.

\*\*Rich Cacciatori explained the interpretation of the safety base. The 1<sup>st</sup> baseman is only allowed to use the orange part of the base to receive a dropped third strike throw. The batter/runner is never out for touching the white base rather than the colored base. He also explained the correct interpretation of the awarding of first base for a hit by pitch.

The committee put together a list of expected facilities/requirements for hosting state series contests at the regional and sectional level. Chief among those were restroom facilities must be available for any school hosting a regional or sectional. Schools offering to host should have a pitcher's mound, a diamond properly chalked, a scoreboard, and it is recommended that concessions are available. This information will be added to the requirements section on the Host Interest Form.

\*\*The possibility of adding a 7<sup>th</sup> grade baseball state series was once again discussed. After discussion, there was once again no support to add such a state series mainly due to the fact that the overwhelming majority of schools simply do not have enough numbers (players) to conduct a separate 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade team.

\*\*Three members of the committee, Jeremy, Joshua, and Tom received some different model baseballs from Rawlings to test those models against the current model of the Rawlings baseball that is part of the current ball adoption agreement. All three basically indicated that the models that they were given to test did not have any noticeable difference than the RIESA model that is currently being used.

\*\*The committee acknowledged the work and effort of East Peoria Central and the staff at EastSide in getting the fields in playable condition for the 2014 state finals.

Pairings were drawn for the 2015 state finals as follows:

	<u>GAME 1</u>	<u>GAME 2</u>	<u>GAME 3</u>	<u>GAME 4</u>
<b>CLASS 1A --</b>	F vs. G	C vs. B	E vs. H	D vs. A
<b>CLASS 2A--</b>	B vs. G	A vs. C	D vs. E	F vs. H
<b>CLASS 3A--</b>	B vs. D	A vs. E	F vs. H	A vs. C

The next meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2015