



2015 SOFTBALL ADVISORY MEETING
Minutes and Recommendations
October 15, 2015

The following members were present for this meeting:

Fred McNeeley (Official, Princeville), Jim Moxley (Administrator, Fisher JHS), Nicole Duncheon (Coach, East Peoria), Bob Barnes (Coach, Canton Ingersoll), John Stromberger (Coach, Eureka MS), Josh Carlile (Coach, Manteno MS), and Greg Streeval (Coach, Blue Mound Meridian)

Not in attendance for this meeting was:

Adam Streenz (Coach, Peoria Christian)

The IESA Softball Advisory Committee, in its meeting on October 15, 2015, makes the following recommendations to the IESA Board of Directors for their January 22, 2016, meeting:

A. Softball Terms and Conditions Changes

1. Start date of softball games - Section II, Part A
 - Current* Games may begin on Saturday of Week 5.
 - Proposed* Games may begin on Saturday of Week 4. **NOT APPROVED**
 - Rationale* Softball games are currently 4.5 weeks of the season (from when games can begin until the start of regional quarterfinals). Adding on one week for games to be played does not interfere with other activities, would allow schools to schedule additional games that there is not currently room for in their schedule and would allow more games to be scheduled prior to school beginning; some schools will be able to take advantage of the extra week of games to shift current games to earlier in the season and reduce the days student-athletes are released from school early for a weeknight game. In addition, with the addition of the weekend, schools would be able to enter an additional Saturday tournament if the opportunity is available.
2. Remove 1 day of online ranking - Section VII, Part B, #3
 - Current* In the second step, schools will rank all participating schools in their regional except their own, based on the information each team submitted online in the previous step. Each school will have two days to complete this step of the online seeding process.
 - Proposed* In the second step, schools will rank all participating schools in their regional except their own, based on the information each team submitted online in the previous step. Each school will have one day to complete this step of the online seeding process. **APPROVED**
 - Rationale* Because of the turnaround time for regional brackets being posted (this past school year, brackets were posted on Friday, Labor Day was on Monday and games began on Wednesday), reducing the online ranking phase to one day would allow brackets to be posted one day sooner thus allowing schools, teams, and families to have an extra day for planning transportation and securing officials for regional quarterfinal games. The committee agreed that the online ranking process does not need to be done over 2 days, but instead, could efficiently be accomplished the day following the online roster/record deadline.
3. Require the higher-seeded team in regional quarterfinals to secure officials - Section VI, Part A and Section XI, Part C
 - Current* *Section VI, Part A* - Each school hosting a regional game must hire and contract two IHSA registered officials for each game, the costs of which are to be split by participating schools. *Section XI, Part B* - Schools hosting a game or games, with approval from the other competing schools, shall contract umpires for regional games. The overall regional host will hire all the officials, including the play-in games.

<i>Proposed</i>	For the regional quarterfinal game, the home team as designated by the playing location of the quarterfinal game will be responsible for contracting and hiring two IHSA-licensed officials for the regional quarterfinal game, the costs of which are to be split by the schools participating in each of those games. The regional host designated by the IESA will contract and hire two IHSA-licensed officials for both the regional semifinal and the regional championship game, the costs of which are to be split by the schools participating in each of those individual games. APPROVED
<i>Rationale</i>	The current verbiage in two different parts of the terms and conditions can be interpreted differently and has led to some confusion in determining who is responsible for hiring the regional quarterfinal officials as "host" is often associated with the school who is sponsoring the contest. The proposal outlines who is responsible for hiring officials for regional quarterfinals and specifies that regional hosts as designated by IESA are responsible for hiring IHSA-licensed officials for regional semifinals and the regional championship game. Since regional quarterfinals are not always played at the site of the IESA-designated regional host, and due to the geographic distance that exists between the regional host and the location of a regional quarterfinal game, it is often not feasible for the regional host to know of the quality and caliber of officials in the area in which a game may be taking place since it may not be near the regional host's home location. If the approval to move to one day of online ranking is approved, the home teams participating in the regional quarterfinal game will also have one extra day to secure officials for the regional quarterfinal game.

B. Committee Discussion Topics

1. Discussed what constitutes A games, B games and extra innings played by teams
 - Clarification about A and B games will be provided by the start of the 2016-17 school year
2. Discussed removing the responsibility of game officials checking bats and helmets before the game
 - No recommendation from committee
3. Discussed hiring a third official for sectional games
 - No recommendation from committee
4. Discussed stressing sportsmanship and respect for opponents, coaches, and facilities
 - This will be added as a Point of Emphasis for the 2016-17 school year
5. Discussed including all school administration on the trophy presentation roster for the state finals
 - 26 medals will still be distributed to schools
 - Schools can make adjustments to titles listed as needed
6. Discussed mandating that regional semifinals cannot begin before regional quarterfinals are finished
 - No recommendation from committee
7. Discussed who is designated as the home team in regional games
 - Home team status is designated as the higher-seeded team in the regional bracket
8. Discussed the overlap between the girls' basketball and girls' softball seasons
 - No recommendation from committee
9. Discussed reducing the number of sports available to female athletes in the fall season
 - No recommendation from committee
10. Discussed moving to 3 classes of softball
 - May be taken to the Board for consideration when 240 schools participate in the state series
 - No recommendation from committee
11. Discussed allowing a spring tryout for softball
 - No recommendation from committee
12. Discussed requiring the use of face masks
 - There is currently not a NOCSAE stamp of safety on face masks
 - No recommendation from committee
13. Discussed having a standardized lineup card available to teams participating in state series prior to arrival
 - An electronic lineup card will be made available on the IESA softball site
 - Teams participating in state series will have access to complete lineup cards in advance
 - Teams without appropriate lineup cards will be required to complete them at the coin flip
14. Discussed creating opportunity for schools to rate officials throughout the regular season
 - Communicated this request to Nicole Schaeftbauer (IESA Associate Executive Director) to present to the officials' advisory committee in the spring

C. Determine pairings for 2016-2017 state finals

	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Game 4
Class A	D vs. C	E vs. A	B vs. F	G vs. H
Class AA	D vs. F	E vs. B	G vs. C	A vs. H

D. Recognition

1. The committee recognized Nicole Duncheon and Adam Streenz for their service to the softball advisory committee and their commitment to the Association and its membership.

E. 2016-2017 Softball Advisory Committee Meeting

1. The next meeting date will be on Thursday, October 13, 2016 @ 10:00 am.

F. IESA Administrator Responsibilities

1. Follow up with Nicole Schaeftbauer after officials' advisory committee meeting in spring about online ratings of officials during regular season
2. Make electronic lineup card available on softball site for use throughout regular season and state series