



**Softball Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 16, 2013
Minutes and Recommendations**

The following members were present for the meeting: Coaches: Adam Streenz, Peoria Christian; Bob Barnes, Canton Ingersoll Middle School; John Stromberger, Eureka Middle School; Nicole Duncheon, East Peoria Central; Bill Craven, Griggsville Perry Middle School; Chuck Trainor, Dwight JHS; Umpires: Chris Smith; Administrators: Jim Moxley, Athletic Director, Fisher Junior High School.

Introductions were made and a review of the role of the advisory committee took place. The IESA Softball Advisory Committee, in its meeting of October 16, makes the following recommendations to the IESA Board of Directors for its January 24, 2014 meeting:

Recommendation #1: To add to the Terms and Conditions the following:

The starting time for all IESA Girls Softball sectional games shall be 11:00 a.m. on the Saturday of Week 11.

Rationale: Currently, IESA Girls Softball sectional games begin at 1:00 p.m. on the Saturday of Week 11. Changing the mandatory starting time allows officials and participating teams the opportunity to finish and proceed home much earlier in the day. The 11:00 a.m. start time would also add two hours of additional flexibility in regards to weather, while waiting out delays. By changing the girls softball sectional start time from 1:00 p.m. to 11:00 a.m., the IESA would also be staying consistent with boys baseball, which too begins their sectional games at 11:00 a.m. **Board Action - Approved**

Recommendation #2: To add to the Terms and Condition and to revise IESA By-Law 4.024 Exceptions to National Federation Rules as follows:

All Class 1A and 2A State Championship games will be played to completion. If games are suspended due to weather, the teams will return and complete the game the following Monday. However, the game could be ended by mutual agreement from both head coaches, pending the game has exceeded the necessary five innings of play.

Rationale: A state championship should never be decided by weather, as both teams should have the opportunity to finish the game to completion. **Board Action - Not Approved**

Committee Discussion:

1. The 2013 Girls Softball State Tournament received encouraging feedback, with a special thanks to the Town of Normal and Normal Chiddix for their contributions.
2. Regional host protocol was discussed with several new changes instituted by the committee.
 - a. The regional play-in game host will supply the balls for that contest.
 - b. The overall regional host will hire all the officials, including the play-in games.
3. The committee discussed the mandating of facemasks for the fielding team, with no recommendation made.
4. The committee discussed the expansion of the state tournament format, with teams playing one game per day over a three day period (Thurs, Fri, Sat). No recommendation was made.
5. Per the Girls Basketball Advisory Committee's request, the Softball Advisory Committee examined the length of the softball state series. A decision was made against shortening the state series.
6. Summer league club softball was discussed in generalities.
7. NFHS
 - a. 2014 NFHS Softball Rules Changes were discussed with no exceptions recommended.

2014 State Pairings

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

POE

1. Legal Equipment
2. Field Dimensions
3. Player Safety

Date of the next meeting: October 15, 2014

Chris Smith was recognized for his service to the Softball Advisory Committee and to the membership.