



IESA BASEBALL

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES & RECOMMENDATIONS

November 1, 2023

The following members were present for the meeting: John Staab, Champaign Edison; Joshua Stone, Morrisonville; Kurt Quick, Kankakee Bishop Mac; Wade Hunter, Roanoke-Benson; Austin McDowell, South Wilmington; Umpire George Hillard. Not in attendance; Jeffery Hull, Payson Seymour.

Introductions were made, a review of the advisory committee's role took place, last year's advisory minutes were reviewed, and upcoming state final assignments were drawn.

PitchProtect presented their product to the baseball advisory committee. PitchProtect is seeking IESA baseball schools to pilot their app during 2024 contests.

The baseball advisory committee in its meeting on November 1, 2023, makes the following recommendations to the Board of Directors for their January 26, 2023 meeting:

Recommendation #1

Current: Post Season Schedule: Quarterfinals: Wednesday- Sept 14 (week 11)
Semi-finals: Saturday- Sept 17 (week 11)
Regional Championship: Monday- Sept 19 (week 12)
Sectional: Saturday- Sept 24 (week 12)
State: Friday/Saturday Sept 30/Oct 1 (week 13)

Proposed: Regional Quarterfinals: Monday (week 12)
Regional Semi-Finals: Wednesday (week 12) (1 and 2 seeds host semi-finals)
Regional Championship: Saturday (week 12)
Sectional: Monday (week 13)
State: Friday/Saturday (week 13)

*1/2 seeds secure umpires for semi-finals following seeding. Hosts secure umpires for championship only.

Rationale: The current post-season schedule has long breaks built in between the regional championship, sectional, and state finals. There are more off days in the post season than there are during the duration of the entire regular season. The current schedule does not test who has the best overall team, but who has the best one pitcher. The proposed post-season schedule will reward who has the best overall team while still providing enough rest/time between each game for teams with limited pitching. The semi-finals contests will be played on the same date, allowing equal amount of rest for all teams.

T&C: Section II; A, B, D
Handbook: 4.011

Admin. Vote: 4-0 in favor

Board Action: **Approved**

Recommendation #2

Current: IESA baseball administrator checks if coaches have not entered pitch counts and sends reminder emails to coaches who have not entered pitches.

Proposed: IESA baseball administrator will check at the end of the regular season to see if coaches entered pitch counts throughout the season. If a coach did not enter any pitches at all during the regular season, the coach would be disqualified from post-season play.

Rationale: Coaches are required to enter pitches after each contest for the safety of student athletes. The IESA pitch counter system allows coaches to see who is available and who is not for each game. This system ensures that coaches are following the safety guidelines. If a coach did not enter a pitch at all throughout the season, they are jeopardizing safety of their players. Coaches are responsible for following the pitching guidelines/rest protocol.

T&C:

Handbook:

Admin. Vote: 4-0 in favor

Board Action: **Approved**

Recommendation #3

Current: IESA baseball administrator checks if coaches have entered pitch counts each week and send reminder emails to coaches who have not entered pitches with no penalty.

Proposed: IESA baseball administrator will check each week to see if coaches enter pitch counts from the previous week (Monday-Saturday). If a coach did not enter any pitches in the previous week, the coach will serve a one game suspension. This process will reset each week.

Rationale: There is currently no penalty for coaches who do not enter pitches following regular season contests. Coaches are required to enter pitches after each contest for the safety of student athletes. The IESA pitch counter system allows coaches to see who is available and who is not for each game. By implementing a weekly check, this will ensure that coaches are entering pitches for regular season contests.

T&C:

Handbook:

Admin. Vote: 4-0 opposed

Board Action: **No Action**

Recommendation #4

Current: Pitchers are allowed to pitch a maximum of 90 pitches for both regular season and post-season play.

Proposed: Pitchers will be allowed to extend the maximum of 90 pitches to 100 pitches for post-season play.

Rationale: By this time of the season, pitcher's arms will be in shape enough to extend their pitch count for post-season play. Like the IHSA, players have built up endurance to ensure they are safe to throw an additional 10 pitches for their most important contests. With the state tournament being held on consecutive days, the additional 10 pitches will help teams to get through three games in two days.

T&C: Section XII: B

Handbook: 4.015

Admin. Vote: 4-0 opposed

Board Action: **No Action**

Other items discussed:

- PitchProtect Pilot Program
- Regional quarterfinal date
- Regional host responsibilities
- Regular/Post season pitch count penalties
- Pitcher Re-entry rule
- The use of "high-school" fields for post-season play (maximum fence distance)
- NFHS 2024 Rule changes
- State Finals location

2024 State Final Pairings

	<u>Game 1</u>	<u>Game 2</u>	<u>Game 3</u>	<u>Game 4</u>
Class 1A-	D vs E	F vs A	G vs C	H vs B
Class 2A-	C vs H	E vs A	B vs D	G vs F
Class 3A-	H vs G	E vs B	C vs A	D vs F