



2025 SOFTBALL ADVISORY MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS
October 23, 2025 – Virtual

ATTENDANCE

Jackie Litwiller - IESA Assistant Executive Director; Roger Nichols – Umpire Bloomington; Aaron Eisfelder – Umpire, Jacksonville; Travis Lingafelter, Buffalo Tri-City (Coop) -Coach; Perry Peterson - Barrington Station-Coach; Zach Campbell - Warrensburg Latham-Coach; Candy Wagner – Jersey Community Middle School-Coach; Dave Jones – Lemont Old Quarry, Administrator; Renae Leander – Cambridge JHS (Coop), Coach; Jeana Block – Villa Grove, Coach

The IESA Softball Advisory Committee makes the following recommendation to the IESA Board of Directors for their January 30, 2026, meeting:

RECOMMENDATION 1 – Post Season Calendar Amended

Current	The Regional Quarterfinal game is on Monday, Sept. 7 th (Labor Day)
Proposed	Give the host school the option of Tuesday, Sept. 8 th for the quarterfinal game in 2026 and all future years that it falls on Labor Day, with the understanding that there is no longer a rain date for the quarterfinal game. If weather is an issue Monday may need to be looked at.
Discussion	Allowing the host school to make the decision based on what works best for them and their school.
Rationale	Allowing flexibility with the holiday weekend, to get the quarterfinal game in.
IESA By-Law	NA
Admin vote	4-0
Board Action	Approved

RECOMMENDATION 2 – Parameters for regional game times.

Current	Regional Weekday Game Time is 4:30pm and no later than 5:30pm if your school does not have lights. Regional Championship game time on Saturday is 11am.
Proposed	Allow the host schools flexibility in their time scheduling withing the parameters listed. Weekday games between 4pm and 5:30pm Saturday game time between 10am and Noon, if a later time is necessary approval from the IESA Office is needed.
Discussion	Discussion about travel as well as hosting flexibility.
Rationale	This will give hosts more flexibility in their scheduling of game times.
IESA By-Law	NA
Admin vote	4-0
Board Action	Approved

RECOMMENDATION 3 – Adjust State Final Start times.

Current	1A – 9:30am, 11:30am, 1:30pm and 3:30pm 2A – 10am, Noon, 2pm and 4pm 3A – 10:30am, 12:30pm, 2:30pm and 4:30pm
Proposed	1A & 3A games begin at 9:30am, followed by 11:30am, 1:30pm and 3:30pm 2A games begin at 10:00 am, followed by Noon, 2:00pm and 4:00pm
Discussion	Discussion on fan entry, travel, team arrival.
Rationale	In 3 of the 5 years of the 3 Class system, Class 3A has not finished before 9pm on Friday. The venue can support two classes starting at the same time as well as starting earlier.
IESA By-Law	NA
Admin vote	4-0
Board Action	Approved

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

- 1) Coaching Etiquette – role of the Assistant Coach – add this to the IESA Softball Preseason Video.

GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Classifications - IESA by-laws.
2. Discussed 2025 season.
3. The last batter from the previous inning is place on 2nd base – play then continues under regular rule – recommended to leave current wording.
4. 2 Hour Time Limit – lengthy discussion both for and against.
5. Discussion of the baseball/softball post season overlap – baseball advisory is bringing forward recommendations.
6. Removal of a host school – higher seed hosts all post season games – no change recommended.
7. Host school hires all regional umpires including quarterfinal games – not supported by advisory.
8. Reviewed the IHSA advisory minutes.
9. Reviewed the 2026 NFHS Rules Changes.
10. Tents allowable at State Finals – yes past the dugouts and in the outfield.

2026 STATE FINALS PAIRINGS

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

COMMITTEE SERVICE RECOGNITION

Candy Wagner, Zach Campbell and Roger Nichols – Thank you!

2026 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 10am – In Person

IESA ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Continue to send out the weekly updates. Discussion with Chris Frasco for Officials POE on handling coaches; specifically assistant coaches.