

SOFTBALL
Coaches Advisory Committee Meeting
September 13, 2006

MINUTES

This summary represents the recommendations of the Committee and is not to be construed as a change of existing rules or regulations. Final action on all items will be taken by the Board of Control at their October meeting.

Committee Members: Craig Diedrich (Athens), Doug Schmitz (Bruce), Brad Brogley (Seymour), Richard Frost (Neenah), Jane Briehl (River Valley), and Karen Scarseth (Wisconsin Rapids). Marcy Thurwachter attended the meeting representing the WIAA. The meeting was chaired by Karen Scarseth and the minutes were recorded by Marcy Thurwachter.

Craig Diedrich (Athens) and Jane Briehl (River Valley) received a WIAA pin in recognition of their first year of service on this committee. Doug Schmitz (Bruce) and Brad Brogley (Seymour) received a certificate of appreciation for their three years of service on the committee.

I. SEASON REGULATIONS

A. Minutes

Last year's minutes and action taken by the Board of Control were reviewed.

It was recommended to accept the minutes. Passed unanimously.

B. Season Regulations

The 2006 WIAA Spring Edition of Season Regulations, pages 27-29 were reviewed.

Coaches continue to feel that softball would be better served if additional contests were allowed. This can be a cost effective measure if traveling a distance and playing multiple games.

It was recommended that of the 20 contests currently allowed, two contests may be designated as multi-games between another school or schools, which will count as one of the maximum total contests provided no members of any team are dismissed from academic classes in order to play or travel. Passed unanimously.

II. TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

A. Tournament Regulations

The 2006 WIAA Spring Edition of Season Regulations, pages 30-34 were reviewed.

1. Divisional Placements

Marcy reviewed the current language regarding the Divisional placement of schools for the tournament series. The current method has created an imbalance between Divisions 3 (117 schools) and 4 (95 schools).

It was recommended that the language be changed to Divisions 3 and 4 – the remainder of schools sponsoring softball be evenly divided. Passed unanimously.

B. Seeding

1. Dates

Due to the inclement weather many teams did not have enough games in to make the process valid. The committee would like to see the seed meeting dates moved to a later date.

It was recommended that the seed meetings for Divisions 2, 3, and 4 be held Sunday, May 6 and for Division 1 Wednesday, May 9. Passed unanimously.

2. Ethical Voting

Karen Scarseth related her frustration with seed meeting voting that followed conference lines as opposed to placement of teams based on the criteria. Marcy reviewed some calls requesting that conferences be split as basketball has done. After a lengthy discussion the committee decided to take no action.

C. Goodman Diamond

The State tournament and site continue to receive positive remarks. The Advisory Committee would still like to see the format changed so that Division 1 does not play quarter and semi-finals on Thursday.

D. WIAA Assignment of All Tournament Officials

Generally, the committee received positive feedback regarding the tournament officials assignments. Marcy shared her thoughts on the process and related the need for coaches to continue to rank umpires as this is the starting point in the process.

E. Score Reporting

Marcy reported that the opening round of tournament play resulted in nearly a third of the scores going unreported. This delays the posting of the next round officials assignments.

III. SOFTBALL RULES

A. 2007 NFHS Major Softball Rules Changes

The National Federation Softball Rules Changes for the 2007 season were reviewed. Karen Scarseth is currently the coaches representative to the NFHS Softball Rules Committee. She gave a thorough review of the new rules for 2007.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Items from Committee

1. A discussion of tournament sites resulted in the committee recommending that Marcy provide the umpires working sectionals an evaluation form to report the appropriateness of the site they worked.
2. Pitching will once again be emphasized at the spring meetings.
3. Measures to take when NOCSAE tags wear off facemask.

B. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m.