

## **BASEBALL / SOFTBALL COMMITTEE**

January 18, 2011

### **Members Present:**

Paul Bushong, Howell  
Tom Calnen, Troy (MHSSCA)  
Tony DeMare, Dearborn  
Wes Gall, Manchester  
Ed Greenman, Battle Creek  
Dave Mammel, Coleman  
Ted Manning, Schoolcraft

Rick Noorman, Grand Rapids  
Barry Palmer, St. Johns  
Dave Pinkowski, Southgate (MIAAA)  
Mark Rademacher, Westphalia (MHSBCA)

### **Staff:**

Randy Allen  
Tom Minter  
Mark Uyl (Recorder)

The 2010-11 MHSAA Baseball / Softball Committee met in the MHSAA office building to review topics involving the MHSAA tournament series in baseball / softball.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Review of 2010 Representative Council Action:** The committee was reminded that the Representative Council approved the use of the 43-foot pitching distance in softball for all high school play (varsity, junior varsity and freshmen) beginning in 2010-11.

**National Federation Topics:** A lengthy discussion took place regarding National Federation playing rules and equipment. Most of the conversation dealt with bat standards and the baseball transition from the BESR standard to the BBCOR standard in 2012. Additional discussion centered on softball bats, softball defensive face protection, 2011 rule changes and updated concussion protocols from the NF and MHSAA.

**Tournament Procedures:** Conversation took place regarding the current tournament schedule and issues it creates with the Regional, Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Final games being played within seven calendar days. MHSAA staff will develop various models of altered Regional and Quarterfinal schedules and will provide this information to both coaches associations for further discussion. The committee encouraged MHSAA staff to expand the draw windows for conducting the District draw after the season has begun but allow schools to complete it earlier in the season. Information was also provided on cost containment and the Semifinal and Final time schedule was reviewed.

**Rules Meetings:** The rules meeting schedule was reviewed, and committee members had the opportunity to identify any additional points of emphasis. The committee was very supportive of online rules meetings, as well.

**Physical Cards:** Tom Minter led a discussion seeking input on the proposed physical card which will be larger in size and have more medical history data. The committee had no concerns with the proposed card.

**Scrimmages:** The committee had no opinion in baseball and softball regarding a prohibition against scrimmages after a team had played their last game of the season (MHSAA tournament or non-tournament) as this did not seem to be an issue for spring sports. The committee could see an issue in other sports in the fall and winter with seasons extending up until the date of the MHSAA Finals in those sports.

**Out-of-Season Update:** Members of the committee reviewed the out-of-season coaching issues, specifically the allowance of four players in some situations when coaches are working with students within their school district.

**Correspondence:** The committee reviewed a proposal from a member school that wanted all District tournament sites to seed all teams. The seeding would be done by the invited schools at the draw meeting. The committee took no action on this proposal.

**Additional Items:** One committee member expressed concern over the influence of coaches of non-school programs who are advising students not to participate on school teams and focus instead on summer and fall travel teams to better showcase their talents for college scholarship opportunities. In some cases school programs at both the varsity and JV level are in jeopardy due to the loss of players. Although such programs and coaches are beyond the reach of MHSAA regulations the issue was raised to increase awareness by the MHSAA and its membership and to continue study of possible efforts to combat the loss of students and to save school programs.

**REGIONAL AND SEMIFINAL DRAWS:** At the Regional tournament, the pairings are Lowest District Number vs. 2<sup>nd</sup> Highest District Number and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lowest District Number vs. Highest District Number . Semifinal pairings are as follows:

Division 1	QF #3 vs. QF #4	QF #2 vs. QF #1
Division 2	QF #8 vs. QF #6	QF #7 vs. QF #5
Division 3	QF #10 vs. QF #12	QF #9 vs. QF #11
Division 4	QF #16 vs. QF #15	QF #14 vs. QF #13

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**

None