

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

BASEBALL COMMITTEE MINUTES

East Lansing, January 11, 2018, 9:30 a.m.

Members Present:

Steve Babbitt, Blissfield

Jeremy Beal, Hudson

Matt Brawley, Cassopolis

Jeff Calcaterra, West Bloomfield

Dan Cimini, Grosse Pointe (MHSBCA)

Jeff Conway, Dearborn

Brian Gordon, Novi

Drew Johnson, Otisville

Denny Krynicki, Grand Rapids

Scott Lueck, Oscoda

Steve Newkirk, Clare

Brian Osborn, Fowlerville

Kevin Sankey, Big Rapids

Matt Sheick, Petoskey

MHSAA Staff:

Mark Uyl (Recorder)

Guest:

Dan Tinkey, St. Joseph (MATS)

The 2017-18 MHSAA Baseball Committee meeting began with a review of the MHSAA decision making process and charge of the Baseball Committee. Agenda items were compiled from correspondence, staff, committee members and the coaches' association. Initially, Baseball Committee members met jointly with Softball Committee members to review Representative Council action, including (a) the separate classification of the two sports, (b) the work of the Site Selection Committee, and (c) the newly-adopted baseball tournament calendar for 2018-19. The two committees then separated to address sport-specific topics.

BASEBALL DISCUSSION ITEMS

National Federation Topics: The committee was provided a summary of the 2018 Baseball rule changes, editorial changes and points of emphasis. Baseball bat and ball standards were also reviewed, along with the use of the high-seam (HS level) baseball vs. the flat-seam (NCAA) ball. Additional discussion centered on MHSAA concussion protocols for participants and umpires.

Pitch Count Regulation: The committee was provided handouts on the current Baseball pitch count regulation, procedures and forms. Full results of the September 2017 Pitch Count survey were shared with committee members, and the survey responses from the 855 respondents (coaches and athletic directors) were reviewed and discussed. For the 2019 season, there was strong support for all recording and reporting to be done with an online "app" approved by the MHSAA. A draft information packet was provided by Dan Tinkey (Michigan Athletic Trainers Society) regarding additional resources and information on arm conditioning and pre-season preparation will soon be posted on the Baseball page at MHSAA.com in partnership between the MHSAA and MATS.

Baseball Regional Tournament Format in 2019: The new Regional tournament format was discussed that will start the Regional round of play for Baseball on

Wednesday following the District with single games at 64 sites for all District champions (Regional Semifinal) and then the Saturday Regional Final games for two Regions (10 am and 12:30 pm) followed immediately by a “Super Regional” game (formerly the QF) game at 3pm to determine the four Semifinalists at each of the four sites. The committee supported keeping the same number of awards (trophies and medals) as in past years, and also keeping the same number of awards the same in Baseball and Softball (no change). The committee also supported conducting the awards presentation to both teams immediately following the Super Regional game with awards being given to the Super Regional champion (advancing to the Semifinal) and the Regional champion (the loser of the 3pm game).

Tournament Groupings and Procedures: Staff provided a preliminary copy of the Baseball tournament groupings and assignments for 2018, and spent time discussing the Friday District option and host site expectations to provide a pitch count “tracker” for all tournament games at a site.

Finals Venue and Schedule: The committee was provided a report and time schedule for the Finals venue at Michigan State University. There was strong support for this venue, and plans are being made in making a good experience even better in East Lansing in 2018 and beyond.

Travel Rule and Scrimmages: The committee had a long discussion on the current MHSAA travel rule and the current allowance of teams being able to conduct practice sessions outside of 300 one-way miles when an out-of-state travel form is submitted and approved to the MHSAA, usually done over spring break. It was suggested that MHSAA member schools could realize real benefits of securing facilities and keeping costs down if schools could share facilities at these warmer weather locations to practice jointly and use up to the four allowable scrimmage dates only with other MHSAA member schools that have completed all required approval paperwork.

Recommendations to the Representative Council

1. In 2019, continue to award the same number of Regional trophies and medals (32 trophies + individual medals) with the new Regional format, keeping the same number of 32 Regional-level awards the same with the “old” tournament format and the same number of Regional-level awards as Softball. For the 16 winners of the Super Regional games, the Regional trophy would read “Super Regional Champion”. For the 16 losers of the Super Regional game, the Regional trophy would read “Regional Champion”. The awards would be given to both teams and individuals following the Super Regional game (3pm) on that Saturday. (14-0)
2. For Baseball schools that receive MHSAA approval to travel out-of-state to practice, allow those approved schools to share facilities by practicing jointly and/or scrimmage (up to 4 days using allowed scrimmage dates) only with and against other approved MHSAA member schools. This will allow approved member schools to better share costs and utilize facilities after getting approval to travel out-of-state for spring break workouts. (14-0)