

MHSAA BASEBALL COMMITTEE MINUTES

East Lansing, January 16, 2019

Members Present:

Chris Andrews, Portage
Steve Babbitt, Blissfield
Jeremy Beal, Hudson
Jeff Calcaterra, Birmingham
Brian Gordon, Novi
Dan Cimini, Gross Pointe
Pete Ryan, Saginaw
Brian Osborn, Fowlerville
Mike Brya, Dewitt
Joel Bont, Byron Center

Kevin Sankey, Sparta
Jason Smith, Saranac
John Young, Howell

Staff Present:

Brent Rice (Recorder)

The 2018-19 MHSAA Baseball Committee met to review topics involving MHSAA Baseball. After introductions were completed, the committee reviewed the terms of appointment to the Officials Review Committee, the charge and mission of the group relative to the decision-making process and the minutes from the previous meeting.

The Baseball and Softball Committee members met jointly to review Representative Council action, including (a) classification, (b) the work of the Site Selection Committee, and (c) the new baseball tournament calendar for 2018-19. The two committees then separated to address sport-specific topics.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Tournament Procedure: The committee reviewed District draw options, including the provision for District groups (by unanimous agreement) to play their District Semifinal and Final games on Friday instead of Saturday.

Scheduling was further discussed in regards to the new tournament format for MHSAA baseball in the 2018-19 season. Specifically, the splitting of the Pre-Regional and Regional Finals (Regional round) with one game on Wednesday (Pre-Regional) hosted at a District host site, and the Super Regional (two Regional Finals and a Super Regional) being hosted by a separate host. We then discussed the award protocol for winners and losers in these rounds.

Health and Safety: The committee was informed and discussed a NFHS point of emphasis regarding the use of so-called C-flaps on helmets. They were informed that these are only allowable if (1) included at the time of manufacture and with a helmet NOCSAE certified, or (2) added post-manufacture if the flap is NOCSAE certified itself and is approved by the manufacturer of the helmet. Committee members were informed that there currently are no flaps that are NOCSAE certified on their own, and that there is little likelihood that a helmet manufacturer would warranty any additions post-manufacture.

Committee members were also notified that MHSAA umpires will not be “policing” this issue as head coaches attest that their players are legally and properly equipped before the start of the game.

Out-of-Season Coaching Regulations: The committee was reminded of the importance that coaches are informed of, and follow, MHSAA Handbook Regulation regarding out-of-season coaching. Specifically, we discussed the pre-season down time and the 4-player rule. There was extended discussion on the 4-player rule as it affects multi-school school districts and single-school school districts differently.

Playing Equipment Standards: The committee discussed both bat and ball standards, with most of the discussion revolving around the use of NOCSAE certified baseballs. Some committee members expressed concern over the additional costs from particular manufacturers. It was asked when the current sponsor baseball manufacturer contract was due to expire, and recommendations were provided as to less expensive options for potential sponsors [through 2020 season].

INFORMATION ITEMS (NO DISCUSSION)

1. Pitch Count Regulations
2. New Lights at Michigan State University
3. RIO Injury Surveillance Report