

BASEBALL / SOFTBALL COMMITTEE

January 15, 2013

Committee Members:

Eric Albright, Midland	Scott Theisen, Saline (MHSBCA)
Brad Antcliff, Beal City	John Thompson, Brighton
Paul Gaudard, Flint	Dave VanNord, Hudsonville
Dallas Lintner, Owosso	Ron Van Sloten, Rudyard
Ted Manning, Schoolcraft	Scott Warriner, Eaton Rapids
Casei Marlan, Mason	Don Watchowski, Ortonville
Paul Marwede, Alpena (MHSBCA)	Marc West, Madison Hts.
Brian Neel, Mattawan	Tom Willette, Plymouth
Tim Penfield, Middleville	Betty Wroubel, Pontiac
Meg Seng, Ann Arbor (MIAAA)	<u>Staff:</u>
Aaron Setlak, Warren	Randy Allen
	Mark Uyl (Recorder)

The 2012-13 MHSAA Baseball / Softball Committee met in the MHSAA office building to review topics involving the MHSAA tournament series in baseball / softball.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

National Federation Topics: Discussion took place regarding National Federation playing rules and equipment. Most of the conversation dealt with bats and bat standards in both sports. Baseball made the transition to BBCOR certified bats for the 2012 season and softball continues to encounter issues surrounding altered bats. Additional discussion centered on softball defensive face protection, the 2013 NF rule changes, use of double first base, pitching limitations, use of the "extra hitter" in baseball and MHSAA concussion protocols.

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 developed various models of altered Regional and Quarterfinal schedules and provided this information to the committee. Discussion also took place on the Friday District option, District draw procedures and site expectations.

Finals Venue: The committee discussed concerns about the Final venue in Battle Creek regarding the quality of the facility. While it was noted the tournament is organized and well-run by the local management, concerns were voiced about the quality of the playing venue and plans for future maintenance and improvements. The committee directed staff to continue to explore options in finding the best possible facilities in providing students with the best possible Finals experience.

Regular Season Scheduling: The committee was provided the history and rationale of the 56 games-plus-dates regulation. Conversation centered on the issues and confusion that exists from time to time with this rule when it comes to tournament scheduling, rain situations and rescheduled games. Alternative solutions and ideas were discussed by the committee at length.

Rules Meetings: The rules meeting schedule was reviewed, and committee members had the opportunity to identify any additional points of emphasis. These points of emphasis from the committee will include the force-play slide rule, line up cards and requirements of a legal catcher's helmet/mask combination.

Out-of-Season Update: Members of the committee briefly reviewed and discussed out-of-season coaching issues, specifically the positive and negative aspects of the four-player rule when compared with other options such as contact days.

Regional and Semifinal Draws: At the Regional tournament, the pairings are the Highest District Number vs. 2nd Highest District Number and Lowest District Number vs. 2nd Lowest District Number . Semifinal pairings are as follows:

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

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. In Baseball, allow the use of the Extra Hitter (EH) as a deviation to NF playing rules. The EH would be optional and would allow those teams wishing to use it the opportunity to bat 10 players in the line-up rather than nine. The EH would be subject to all other applicable substitution rules (18-2).
2. Edit *MHSAA Handbook*, Regulation II, Section 10 for Baseball and Softball to read as follows:

A student or team shall compete in no more than four scrimmages and in no more than a maximum of 36 games, exclusive of the MHSAA tournament (20-0).