

Softball
AIA Sports Advisory Committee
Executive Summary
December 15, 2010

Roll Call: Meeting called to order at 3:30 pm by Dean Visser

Present

- Lee Haws, Becky Barris, and Rick Sharp

Not Present

- Bob Varner, Shelly Arrendondo, Ed McQuade, , Bill Molton, James Driggers, Mark Stener, and Brent Rincon

Minutes of October 11, 2010 meeting review: committee approved 3-0

Sport by-laws:

Discussion

26.1 RULES

- 26.1.1 Official rules for girls softball shall be those published in the current edition of the National Federation Softball Rules Book.
- 26.1.2 School athletic programs at all levels are subject to disciplinary action when a school team is removed from the floor or field prior to completion of the contest.
- 26.1.3 Suspended Game - A suspended game shall be continued from the point of suspension providing the game has a direct bearing in qualifying for ~~regional sectional~~ or post-season tournaments.
 - 26.1.3.1 A game ending with the score tied will be treated as a suspended game providing it is a legal game (four and one-half or five innings).
 - 26.1.3.2 ~~The host school is responsible for reporting suspended games to the Region Secretary within three days after the game.~~ The schools involved in the suspended game are responsible for the scheduling of the completed game.
 - 26.1.3.3 Suspended games shall be replayed at least three weeks before the Post-Season Softball Tournament, if possible.

DETERMINATION: The AIA Executive Board determined that any suspended or postponed games in the Post-Season Softball Tournament will be played from the point of suspension. (Ex. Bd. 3/78)
- 26.1.4 10-Run Rule - A softball game shall end any time after five innings, or after four and one-half (4-1/2) innings when a team is ten or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat.
- 26.1.5 Invitational softball tournaments may impose a time limit and/or the tie-breaker procedure described in Article 26.1.6 as procedures for ending games.

- 26.1.6 Starting with the top of the eighth inning, and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective inning being placed on second base (e.g. if the number four batter is the leadoff batter, the number three batter in the batting order will be placed on second base.) This procedure will be followed until a winner is determined in a complete inning. Should the player scheduled to be put on second base be a player who has left the game and an out is being called for her time at bat, no out shall be called and the player put on second shall be the player who precedes the one being called out in the batting order.
- 26.1.7 ~~By Conference determination,~~ By mutual consent of the school/teams involved sub-varsity softball games shall may have a time limit of no new inning being allowed to start after the conclusion of one hour and 45 minutes. A game shall be considered regulation, no matter how many innings have been played, after one hour and 45 minutes have been played and the inning in progress when the time expires is completed or immediately when time expires if the team last at bat is batting and is ahead in score. If the game is tied when time expires and the inning in progress is completed, it will remain a tie score. If the game is tied at the end of seven (7) innings and time has not expired, the game will continue into extra innings until a winner is decided or time expires - whichever comes first. If the game is still tied when time expires in extra innings, and the inning in progress is completed, it will remain a tie score. Time shall begin at the end of the pre-game conference at home plate between coaches, captains, and umpires.

26.2 SEASON OF SPORT

- 26.2.1 The AIA Standardized Calendar shall be used to identify the starting week for practice, competition and the conclusion of post-season competition.
- 26.2.2 The season of competition for a school shall conclude with that school's last AIA sanctioned competition.

26.2.3	<u>Spring Season</u>			
	<u>1A/2A/3A</u>	Practice	no sooner than the	32nd week
	<u>Division III & IV</u>	Competition	no sooner than the	35th week
		Championship	to be concluded by the	45th week
	<u>Division I & II</u>	Practice	no sooner than the	32nd week
		Competition	no sooner than Wednesday of the	34th week
		Championship	to be concluded by the	45th week

~~26.2.3.1 — Check Conference Handbook for specific dates.~~

Q: *May a student on the high school softball team practice with another softball team before her high school season of competition is completed?*
 A: No. (See Article 14, Section 14.4) (Ex. Bd. 2/76)

DETERMINATION: *Slow pitch and fast pitch softball are different sports but, because of similarities in slow pitch and fast pitch softball, AIA interpretation is they are considered the same sport and no competitor may compete in slow pitch and fast pitch softball at the same time during the season of competition. (Ex. Bd. 11/79)*

26.3 PRESEASON INTERSCHOOL VARSITY SCRIMMAGE

- 26.3.1 A member school shall be permitted to schedule one interschool varsity scrimmage which shall be played in accordance with the following criteria:
- 26.3.1.1 Game uniforms shall not be worn.
 - 26.3.1.2 Scrimmage shall consist of seven innings.
 - 26.3.1.3 There shall be one or two AIA officials on the field.
 - 26.3.1.4 Offense and defense may switch when five runs are scored in one inning.
 - 26.3.1.5 Scoreboards shall not be used.
 - 26.3.1.6 Scorebooks may be used for purposes of evaluation only.
 - 26.3.1.7 Scrimmage is open to the public but there is no charge for admission.
 - 26.3.1.8 No scores called into the newspapers.
 - 26.3.1.9 Unlimited amount of substitutions and reentry on players.

26.3.2 Schools may hold multi-school scrimmages while adhering to bylaw 26.3.

26.4 SCHEDULES

- 26.4.1 ~~Each Region will develop its own schedule as provided for in the AIA Bylaws. The AIA will develop schedules as determined by the AIA Executive Board.~~
- 26.4.2 In the absence of a master schedule, a school must have a regularly organized program to qualify for the post-season tournament. (See Article 12)
- 26.4.3 If scheduling difficulties occur, schedules may be increased by one game. ~~The additional game shall be approved by the AIA Executive Board.~~

26.5 NUMBER OF GAMES IN SEASON

- 26.5.1 No school shall schedule more than 20 varsity games, including two invitationals, which shall count as one game each.
- 26.5.2 No school shall schedule more than 19 junior varsity or freshman games per team.
- 26.5.3 No player shall participate in more than 20 softball games per season, excluding qualifying and post-season tournaments.
- ~~26.5.3.1 EXCEPTION: 1A Conference players may participate in an unlimited number of softball games per season, excluding qualifying and post-season tournaments.~~
- ~~26.5.3.2 EXCEPTION: 2A Conference schools, because of their limited enrollment, may permit a player to participate in an unlimited number of games per season, excluding qualifying and post-season tournaments.~~
- 26.5.3.1 EXCEPTION: Division III & IV schools, because of their limited enrollment, may permit a player to participate in 50% more matches or games than the regularly scheduled matches or games per season, excluding qualifying and post-season tournaments.
Example: If a school scheduled 20 games or matches, each player could participate in 50% more games or matches for a total of 30.

26.6 CONTEST PARTICIPATION

26.6.1 When a student enters an interscholastic contest, regardless of the length of time, it shall be considered participation in the interscholastic contest.

26.7 INTERSCHOOL COMPETITION

~~26.7.1 Only tennis shoes per NFHS Rule Book are permissible.~~

~~26.7.1~~

~~26.7.2~~ Each team will be limited to a ten-minute warm up on the field.

26.8 COACHES / COACHING

26.8.1 The AIA shall not have regulations concerning coaches coaching their own school teams during the summer vacation period. Summer vacation shall be identified as beginning with the **last day of school** and extending to the first day of permissive football practice for each Conference.

26.8.2 Coaches may coach their own teams and/or team members beyond the first day of permissive football practice, providing the team is participating in a summer league play-off game or tournament.

26.8.3 Coaches / Players - Game participation outside the season of sport between coaches and players of a single school for fund raising or entertainment purposes will not jeopardize the eligibility of any high school player.

26.9 SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

26.9.1 The only school equipment which may be used out-of-season is weightlifting equipment and the playing field, which includes bases, home plate and pitcher's rubber.

26.9.2 School Transportation During Summer - School provided transportation for summer activities is a local option.

26.10 TOURNAMENTS – POST-SEASON

~~26.10.1 Region Tournaments~~

~~26.10.1.1 Regional qualifiers for the post-season tournament shall be determined by each Conference.~~

~~26.10.1~~

~~26.10.2~~ Post-Season Tournaments

NOTE: See Article 12 for additional post-season tournament rules.

~~26.10.1.1~~

~~26.10.2.1~~ Dates and Sites

~~26.10.2.1.1 Conferences may recommend the dates and sites of post-season tournaments.~~

~~26.10.1.1.1~~

~~26.10.2.1.2~~

The AIA Executive Board shall determine the dates and sites of post-season tournaments.

~~26.10.1.2~~

~~26.10.2.2~~

There shall be ~~individual and/or a team~~ post-season tournaments as determined by the Executive Board.

- ~~26.10.2.3~~ **26.10.1.3** All post-season tournaments may be single or double elimination as determined by the Executive Board.
- 26.10.1.4** Post-season tournament bracketing shall be determined by the AIA.
- 26.10.1.5** No more than 22 players shall suit up, participate or be listed on a roster for a post-season tournament game.
- 26.10.3 Awards - The AIA shall be responsible for the purchase and standardization of all post-season tournament awards. (See Article 13, Section 13.1)
- 26.10.4 Practice on Site - A practice or competition on the site of the ~~Region-or~~ Post-Season Championship Tournament, except for a regularly scheduled contest, is not permitted for seven calendar days prior to the ~~Region-or~~ Post-Season Championships, except in the case of the host school.
- DETERMINATION: The host school may participate at the site only if that is their regular practice site. (Ex. Bd. 10/77)*
- 26.10.5 Protests
- 26.10.5.1 In the event of a question or a protest during a ~~qualifying tournament-or~~ post-season tournament, the decision of the Tournament Director and/or Tournament Games Committee shall be final.
- 26.10.5.2 Regular season protests, if any, will be handled as indicated in the current edition of the National Federation Softball Rules Book.

Consistent tie breaker procedures for the team tournament beginning 2010-2011:

Discussion: The committee was split on their recommendation.