

**Softball
AIA Sports Advisory Committee
Minutes
May 17, 2011**

Call to order:

Roll Call:

Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm by Dean Visser

Present

- Ed McQuade, Brent Rincon, Lee Haws(phone-in), Bill Moten(phone-in), Shelly Arredondo and Rick Sharp

Not Present

- Bob Varner, James Driggers, Mark Stener, and Becky Barris

Minutes of December 15, 2011 meeting review:

Committee approved 6-0

Selection of Chair:

Nomination of Becky Barris by Lee Haws and seconded by Bill Moten

Committee approved 6-0

Sub-Varsity time limit discussion:

Greg Anderson; long time softball official and member of AIA officials' ad-hoc committee spoke to the committee regarding the length of lower level/sub varsity softball games.

The first concern is the number of officials umpiring solo games; which is more demanding for the official as well as difficult for the Level 3 & 4(new) officials to get on field training by a certified level 1(seasoned) partner. Many of these sub varsity games can last close to 3 hours which is challenging for both the solo umpire as well as the teams participating. The thought was to have a 2 hour no new inning rule be brought forward for discussion.

The second concern is the total number of games (V, JV & Frosh) needing umpires on a given day; usually Tuesdays and Thursdays. On some days there can be close to 120 games needing umpires with the total maximum number of available umpires only at 215. Of this maximum number; 10-20% is not available on most days. With the price of gas and work schedule constraints, it is sometimes a miraculous feat to have all these games covered by at least one official.

Safety concerns:

The committee discussed the issue of shaved or altered bats and really didn't see or hear of a lot of problems with this the type of bats being used at their school sites Brent Rincon did say he was familiar with the process and shared his concern with some of the companies doing this type of alterations to the bats. The group wanted to get more data before making any recommendations as to what should be done at this point.

Metal cleats were discussed as a potential danger to the athletes, but the members didn't think there was enough information to bring forward any changes to player equipment at this time.

Length of games:

Much discussion took place regarding the run rule. The questions revolved around 15 - 20 runs after 3 innings or 15- 20 runs after 4 innings. The group felt like a proposal that everyone could see and then discuss again as a committee was the next step before recommending any changes. This also was more of an issue with the smaller schools (1A-2A) than with the bigger schools (3A-5A).

Proposal: Bill Moten – St Augustine

15 run rule after 4 innings at the discretion of the losing coach. This could be in addition to the 10 run rule after 5 innings.

Lee Haws brought up the upcoming seasons schedule and the potential challenge the 1A schools will have competing with bigger 3A schools as well as the difficulty of some schools fielding JV teams to compete with in their given schedule.

Next meeting January 16, 2012

Meeting Adjourned