

AIA Baseball Sports Advisory Committee

October 2, 2012

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present:

Mark Goodman/1A Adm.	Billy Duarte/1A Coach
Garye LaFevers/2A Adm.	Bill Swift/2A Coach
Mike Briguglio/3A Adm.	Art Griffith/3A Coach
Jeff Feldman/4A Adm.	Matt Denny/4A Coach
Mark Cisterna/5A Adm.-Chair	Eric Kibler/5A Coach

Past Business:

1. Minutes from AIA Basketball Sport Advisory May 14, 2012 meeting reviewed/approved

2. New Business:

a. Nomination and voting by committee for AIA Baseball Advisory Chair

Mark Cisterna was nominated to be the Baseball Advisory Chair for the 2012-2013 school year.

Mark Cisterna was selected by unanimous consensus vote to continue as committee chair

b. Discuss concept of extra competitions (home run derby events) and the sanctioning process for approval of extra competitions

Jeff Feldman made a presentation regarding extra competitions. (note: the issue of three point shot contest, slam dunk contest and homerun derbies came to the attention of the AIA during the 2011-2012 school year as competitions that were in conflict with AIA bylaw; article 14.1 (non-school competition) He indicated that he was seeking feedback from the AIA Baseball Advisory Committee (as he did with the Basketball Committee) that can be given to the AIA Executive Board when they discuss the issue at a future board meeting. He presented a draft handout of rules that he proposes could be implemented in future homerun derbies for both baseball and softball.

The committee discussed potential parameters for homerun derby competitions. Liability issues (such as if the pitches would come from a machine, an opposing coach, a players coach, who would be in the field, ect) were discussed as they relate to the AIA liability and catastrophic insurance coverage. Also discussed were possible limitation on players for the number of extra competition an individual player would be allowed, supervision responsibilities of the competitor player school coaches, and possible sanctioning solutions (part of an invitational tournament sanction paperwork submission or as a separate event on it's own merits).

Consensus recommendation that homerun derby for baseball be allowed with a few adjustments to the rules, primarily related to liability related issues. It is also recommended that a player be limited to two such competitions under the supervision of their school coach.

c. MaxPreps Seeding Program/Team qualifying criteria for 2013 AIA State Baseball Tournament
The AIA power rank tabulation system has been replaced, through a partnership with MaxPreps, by the AIA seeding program. The computer tabulation formula is proprietary and therefore protected. The AIA Seedings powered by MaxPreps utilizes a different formula than MaxPreps utilizes for the MaxPrep ranking that is published on the MaxPreps website.

Mark Cisterna expressed that there were complaints by coaches when the AIA utilized it's own power rank fully disclosed formula so the Executive Board sought a solution to the concerns which resulted in the AIA Seeding program powered by MaxPreps. Now no one knows the "secret sauce" seeding formula and coaches are struggling to understand what the criteria is for seeding tabulation. Concern was raised that coaches of team sports didn't know there was going to be a change away from previous AIA power rank program and that transparency in the process was lacking. It was expressed that coaches and administrators need to know more information regarding the criteria so they can schedule freedom games (in the future) in a manner that will help their team get into the state playoffs.

Committee members also expressed that, at the time of this meeting, the scheduling recommendation from the AIA Scheduling Committee to the AIA Executive Board is unknown and the ultimate decision by the board regarding scheduling hasn't been determined yet.

d. Out of state team requests to be in AIA sanctioned tournaments

The number of out of state teams that are being invited or requesting to come to Arizona to participate in spring baseball tournaments is increasing. The increased games, many being held at host school as program fundraisers, put a strain on the AIA Officials to meet the need for regular season games for all levels of AIA school teams and invitational tournaments for and with Arizona teams.

School athletic directors and their coaches should be wary of out of state coaches of club teams attempting to bring their teams in as school teams. In addition, junior varsity and freshman teams are not permitted to play in invitationals per bylaws.

e. Discuss changing AIA Recognition Baseball Selection from voting for position players to voting for the best thirteen players regardless of position.

The committee discussed the concept of selecting the best thirteen players, without regard to position. Many of the best players either play the same position or play multiple positions. Coaches are nominating players for multiple positions.

It is proposed that ten position players and three pitchers be selected (total of twenty-six for the first and second team) with no repeat selection of an individual.

It is also proposed that for a player to be nominated and named to the all division level of recognition, the player must have been selected to their section first team

Consensus approval of both proposals by committee

f. Update on AIA scheduling committee proposal

The AIA Scheduling Committee has recommended that each team in a section be scheduled by computer to play each team in their section once. Note: schools will have freedom games and can

schedule teams they wish, regardless of section or division through mutual agreement of the two schools.

Committee discussed whether to utilize overall schedule seeding as the criteria for determining section champion or whether to the won/loss record in the section (computer scheduled games) for determination of section champion.

Committee recommends use of won/loss record in the section (computer scheduled games) for determination of section champion by consensus vote.

g. School division placement appeals

The criteria set forth is AIA bylaw ; article 8.1.11 was reviewed with the committee in preparation of the division placement appeals.

4. Consensus items for the AIA Executive Board's consideration.

The committee, by consensus, recommends the following:

- *home run derby for baseball be allowed with a few adjustments to the rules, primarily related to liability related issues. It is also recommended that a player be limited to two such competitions under the supervision of their school coach.*
- *that ten position players and three pitchers be selected (total of twenty-six for the first and second team) with no repeat selection of an individual*
- *that for a player to be nominated and named to the all division level of recognition, the player must have been selected to their section first team*
- *won/loss record in the section (computer scheduled games) for determination of section champion by consensus vote*

Next meeting: TBD

Meeting adjourned

