

AIA Baseball Sports Advisory Committee
May 16, 2013
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present:

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

Absent:

Bill Swift/2A Coach
Art Griffith/3A Coach

Past Business:

1. Minutes from AIA Baseball Sport Advisory January 16, 2013 meeting reviewed/approved

2. New Business:

a. *Game forfeits (effect on seeding/bylaw requirement/penalties)(B. Duarte)*

Billy Duarte shared that people (coaches) have been confused on what is considered a forfeit and what is considered a cancellation. Concern is that, at the end of this current season, several schools canceled games (sent required bylaw; article 11.4.4.1 and 11.4.4.1.1 paperwork to the AIA) and cancellation did not negatively effect their seeding placement for the state baseball tournament.

Committee members discussed that there were cancellation approvals requested of the AIA Executive Board that appeared to be strategic in nature. The example that was presented was the request for agreement to cancel a contest (AIA form 11.4 B) with the indication that the school making the request did not have enough eligible players to field a team, but yet a few days later, against a lesser capable opponent, the school fielded a team for a game.

The committee discussed the MaxPreps information regarding forfeits that was shared with the membership at the March 7th meeting at the AIA (see link:

<http://www.aia365.com/authors/jgarcia/2596/notes-from-informational-meeting-with-maxpreps-aia365-reps>). Several committee members expressed concern that the present practice of dealing with a forfeit as a game not having value in the AIA seeding formula allows a team to choose to forfeit or cancel a game and not be negatively effected.

The committee discussed the desire to have a side by side comparison of the 2013 final AIA baseball seeding (forfeits not included in formula) and the 2013 final AIA baseball seeding with

forfeits included in formula. The contention is that one or more teams that forfeited or cancelled games benefited by making the state baseball tournament bracket (Division IV) over a team (or teams) played their full AIA master schedule.

Mark Goodman expressed that forfeitures due to limited players on a specific game day (in both baseball and softball) has been a constant occurrence in the past for the small schools. It was proposed that the AIA Baseball Committee recommend to the AIA Executive Board to include forfeits in the seeding formula powered by MaxPreps . It was also proposed that a game should only be allowed to be brought to the AIA Executive Board as a cancellation if both schools agree to the cancellation. The committee came to a consensus agreement to recommend both proposals to the AIA Executive Board.

b. Sectional/Division Recognition coaches meetings.....How can we increase attendance at those meetings (G. LaFevers)

The committee discussed the lack of attendance by varsity coaches at their section meeting that are held to discuss players nominated for recognition in the AIA Recognition Program. There continues to be concern that some players that deserve recognition don't have the opportunity to be recognized because their coaches don't get the nominations into the AIA system (forget, miss deadline, not given password). As a whole, the baseball coaches on the AIA Baseball Advisory Committee receive negative feedback from their colleagues regarding the AIA online recognition nomination and voting process. Several coaches expressed a desire, with the sections being smaller going forward, to go back to the old process the nomination and selection occurring at a section coaches meeting. The committee coaches representing the conferences would prefer each section send their section first and second team selections to the AIA for publication (ten position players and three pitchers) and that the first team section selections would automatically be the nominees for selection to the all division teams.

The committee came to a consensus agreement to recommend the following proposals to the AIA Executive Board:

- Change the AIA Recognition Program process for baseball to select their all section/all division selections at a meeting of section/division coaches (either in person or through conference call attendance).
- Selections for both all section recognition and all division recognition would be required to be sent to the AIA for publication on AIA365.com by a specified deadline date.

3. Additional New Business:

a. Discussion regarding possible changes to the present double elimination format utilized for Division I and Division II (Mirrored by AIA Softball Division I and Division II)

Concern was raised that the team coming through the winners bracket doesn't have a true double elimination factor as do the other seven teams that make up the double elimination aspect of the Division I and Division II AIA State Baseball Tournament. Mark Cisterna indicated that if a change to the format is desired by coaches, the coaches or coach needs to put together a proposed format and bring it forward as an agenda item to a future meeting of the AIA Baseball Advisory Committee.

b. How are officials selected for the AIA State Tournament?

Several committee members expressed concern that some umpires that were assigned to the AIA State Baseball tournament were assigned to work games at a division level they had not worked during the regular season. The question was raised "How are umpires selected to work the AIA State Tournament?"

Gary Whelchel, AIA Commissioner of Officials, came into the meeting to address the question. Gary shared the following information:

- No official was assigned in the 2013 State Baseball Tournament that was placed at a level they were not familiar with or worked during the season – with the possible exception of a normal D1-D2 official working D4.
- Selection is based upon evaluations throughout the season, coaches input through the on-line evaluation system, and previous seasons placement in the tournament.

4. Consensus recommendation:

The AIA Baseball Advisory Committee came to a consensus agreement to recommend the following proposals to the AIA Executive Board:

- The AIA Baseball Committee recommend to the AIA Executive Board to include forfeits in the seeding formula powered by MaxPreps . It was also proposed that a game should only be allowed to be brought to the AIA Executive Board as a cancellation if both schools agree to the cancellation. The committee came to a consensus agreement to recommend both proposals to the AIA Executive Board.
- Change the AIA Recognition Program process for baseball to select their all section/all division selections at a meeting of section/division coaches (either in person or through conference call attendance).
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Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: TBD