

AIA Baseball Sports Advisory Committee
Executive Board Summary
Wednesday, February 12, 2014
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.

1. Roll Call

Committee Members Present:

<i>Rene Pacheco/1A Admin</i>	<i>Billy Duarte/1A Coach</i>
<i>Garye LaFevers/2A Admin</i>	<i>Mike Briguglio/3A Admin</i>
<i>Jeff Feldman/4A Admin</i>	<i>Matt Denny/4A Coach</i>
<i>Mark Cisterna/5A Admin</i>	<i>Eric Kibler/5A Coach</i>

Committee Members Present:

Art Griffith/3A Coach

2. Review of AIA Baseball Sport Advisory Meeting minutes from 5/16/13
Minutes approved

3. New Business

a. AIA State Baseball Championships conflicts with school graduations (Mark Cisterna)

AIA staff will look into the possibility of a change of date. The Division I/Division II games are both set to be televised and softball is set for Monday televised play for Division I/Division II Championship games.

(Note: latest update: The AIA contract with Fox Sports/Arizona locks the doubleheader AIA State Baseball Championship for Division I/Division II to be held on Tuesday, May 20th, 2014.

b. Discuss changing Division I/Division II final eight format. (Eric Kibler)

Summation of proposal #1:

Round #1 and #2 would utilize the same format presently used.

Reseed the eight teams coming out of Round #2, begin pool A and pool B play with the following:

Rd. #3 Winners (pool A-teams #'s 1,4,5,8/Pool B- teams #'s 2,3,6,7)-four games

Rd. #4 Losers Rd. #3 -four games

Rd. #4 Winners Rd. #3 -four games

Rd. #5 Losers- winners of L Rd.#4 vs. losers of W Rd. #4-four games

Rd.#6 Losers- winners of L Rd. #5 -two games

Rd. #5 Winners - winners of W Rd. #4 -two games

Rd. #7 Losers- winners of L Rd.#6 vs. losers of W Rd. #5-two games

Rd. #6 Winners - winner of W Rd. #5 vs. winner of L Rd. #7 –pool champion to determine championship game teams

Note: If winner bracket team wins first game, W team advances, rd. #6 over

If loser bracket team wins first game, second game played, W team advances, rd. #6 over

Rd. #7 Winners Championship Pool A winner vs. Pool B winner

Purpose: Creates a true single elimination championship game. Eliminates the concern that presently exists with a tournament team advancing undefeated to the championship game

and not having a playback opportunity if they are defeated by the loser bracket winning team.

Proposal #2:

All regular season section champions get a first round bye. First round byes would be determined by the AIA seeding rank. The section champions would be guaranteed no less than the #8 seed.

These items were tabled to allow committee members to get feedback from the groups they represent (Division I and II coaches/4A and 5A Conference committees).

c. *New pitching rule.....how are umpires going to interpret the new rule? (Garye LaFevers)*

Gary Whelchel, AIA Commissioner of Officials, handed out an explanation and diagram demonstrating the change that was made to NFHS baseball rule 6-1-3 which re-emphasizes the need for pitchers to be in a proper set position. The new rule emphasizes that the so-called hybrid stance, which is difficult for the offensive team and/or the umpires to determine the stance of the pitcher, is illegal.

6-1-3 reads that before starting the delivery, he(the pitcher) shall stand with his entire non-pivot foot in front of a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher's plate and with his entire pivot foot in contact with or directly in front of and parallel to the pitcher's plate.

For the set position, the pivot foot must be parallel to the pitcher's plate and the non-pivot foot must be in front of the pitcher's plate.

For the windup position (no change with the rule) the non-pivot foot shall be in position on or behind a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher's plate.

Gary indicated that this is how the new rule has been explained to the umpires in their meetings and that with his evaluators in the field, the desire is to be as consistent with this rule as possible. He indicated that if coaches see an inconsistency among the umpires, his office needs to be alerted so that he can communicate with direction to his officials.

d. *Discussion on baseball contest – forfeits. (Billy Duarte)*

e. *Discuss AIA seeding with forfeits resulting in a win for the team receiving the forfeit in comparison to forfeit as a non contest. (Billy Duarte)*

Agenda items d and e were discussed as linked items.

Information from the FAQ on the AIA seeding formula powered by MaxPreps was shared

Why do forfeits not count in the seedings?

Forfeits are unfortunate, however there's no context for a forfeit to indicate what a team would actually do on the field. A misconception is that not counting forfeits incentivizes teams to dodge higher ranked teams. The reality is if a lower ranked team intentionally forfeits a game against a higher ranked team,

that team is most likely hurting its rating by losing the opportunity to improve their strength of schedule, regardless of the game result. This will usually hurt their rating over the course of the season.

If a team lost a game, and then forfeits, does the winning team not get the win?

No. If a game had been played, and the losing team has to forfeit that game, then the winning team would not be penalized and that win would still be included in the rankings.

Chuck Schmidt understands that this is a paradigm shift from the way most have come to know and understand forfeits and the declaration of the team forfeited to as the contest winner. When the AIA went to the present formula, it was a response to the AIA's membership to be sure the best teams made it to the playoffs. The best way to do that, it was determined, was to place value on actual performance. A win by forfeit does not measure actual team performance.

Concern was expressed that a team might knowingly violate an AIA bylaw to gain an advantage in the seeding due to the way forfeits are calculated.

The AIA continues to look at comparisons of the specific sports seeding result with the current forfeit non-valued and with the forfeit valued.

f. Baseball qualifying for AIA State Tournament. (Billy Duarte)

The following is from AIA365.com-Baseball Tournament Info (see link):

<http://www.aia365.com/championships/baseball>

State Tournament Qualifying

Division I & II (24 team bracket): Based on section standings, the top one (1) team in each section will earn an automatic bid to the state tournament. All other teams, for a total of 24, will qualify to the state tournament based on their overall ranking. The bracket will be seeded according to overall ranking of the 24 teams. Teams seeded No. 1 to No. 8 will get a first round by. The first two rounds of the tournament will be single elimination to get to the final eight (8) teams. The final eight (8) teams will then play a double elimination tournament. There will be only one game for the championship, and the team out of the winning bracket will be the designated home team for the championship game.

- *Division I: Four (4) automatic bids, 20 at-large qualifiers based on ranking*
- *Division II: Seven (7) automatic bids, 17 at-large qualifiers based on ranking*

Division III & IV (24 team bracket): Based on section standings, the top one (1) team in each section will earn an automatic bid to the state tournament. All other teams, for a total of 24, will qualify to the state tournament based on their overall ranking. The bracket will be seeded according to overall ranking of the 24 teams. Teams seeded No. 1 to No. 8 will get a first round by. The tournament will consist of five rounds and will be single elimination.

- *Division III: Six (6) automatic bids, 18 at-large qualifiers based on ranking*
- *Division IV: Six (6) automatic bids, 18 at-large qualifiers based on ranking*

g. AIA Baseball recognition process

Concerns were expressed that the online nomination and voting process are not producing recognition teams (section and division) that are truly representative. It was expressed that

the coaches want the nominations and voting to take place a meeting with the results being given to the AIA for posting and creation of the recognition certificates. Chuck Schmidt expressed that one primary reason for the online process was the lack of transparency the previous region/conference selection process had.

Chuck indicated a desire to have himself and Brian Bolitho meet with several representative coaches to discuss their ideas regarding resolving the coaches concerns regarding the AIA Recognition program process.

- h. Consensus recommendations for the AIA Executive Board.

A subcommittee of the coaches from the AIA Baseball Advisory Committee will meet with Chuck Schmidt and Brian Bolitho to discuss ideas for improving the AIA supported recognition program for baseball. Time and date to be determined.

Note: Update...due to spring breaks and availability, the two meetings that were scheduled were cancelled. This item will be on the agenda for the April 3rd, 2014 meeting.

4. Adjournment

Next meeting: Thursday, April 3, 2014 (9:00 am – 12:00 noon)