

AIA Baseball Sports Advisory Committee

May 31, 2023

10 am

AIA Meeting Agenda

Minutes

1. Roll Call

Committee members – Present/Zoom in RED:

1A Coach - Reed Porter – Mogollon; 1A Admin – Phil Echeverria – Williams

2A Coach Terry Antonio – San Carlos; 2A Admin – TBD

3A Coach Ty Bennett – Page; 3A Admin – Barry Cromer – Crismon

4A Coach Greg Rice – Deer Valley; 4A Admin – TBD

5A Coach Jerod Aker – Apollo; 5A Admin – Mark Ernster – Peoria Dist.

6A Coach JR Langston – Westwood; 6A Admin – Jason Grantham – Red Mtn.

AIA Staff: Joe Paddock, Dan Nero, Brian Gessner, Rob McKinley

2. Approve agenda minutes from May 2022:

Minutes from May 2022 – Adjusted vote of coaches wearing helmets on the field to 8-1; (Phil E.) Move to approved minutes – approved unanimously.

3. Selection of Chairman:

Chairman for 2023-24 – Reed Porter – unanimous.

4. Agenda items:

- Suspended games and resumption of play (B. Gessner):

Concerns came up with State Softball games this May 2023. Pros and cons were discussed of thoughts of restarting suspended games from point of interruption. B. Gessner will provide agreed upon language to be presented to AIA Executive Board in Fall 2023.

- Regions (JR Langston):

??

- Pitch Clock (JR):

General discussion re: pitch clock. Basic consensus was overall positive as this did keep games moving along better. Coaches and ADs mentioned Umpires did a good job of letting coaches know before the games of the process. Brian G. mentioned some schools may experiment with actual pitch clocks (unofficial) on their fields.

- **Open Division (JR and Jerod A.):**

Jerod A. mentioned some coaches discussing a possible Open Division. Mr. Hines welcomed Head Baseball Coaches to come up with a plan (similar to what AIA Head Basketball Coaches did to get Open Basketball proposals going).

- **Helmets on Coaches (Reed P.)**

Reed P. discussed coaches wearing helmets on the field. Initially some coaches forgot to put a helmet on coming out of the dugout, but during the course of the season it became more normal. Brian G. mentioned two incidents this past season (one SB and one BB) of coaches being struck in the head. All understand the safety concerns.

- **1A Playoff Format (Reed):**

Reed mentioned the 1A Playoff Format with games being played over three weekends, a team with one pitcher could get to the finals. Phil E. added that this could be the case but playing the first two rounds on Saturdays kept kids in school and helped with travel for teams and families.

- **Baseball – Spring 2024**

2023-24 Quick Glance Calendar being updated:

Start of Practice: All Conferences – Mon Feb 5, 2024

Start of Competition: All Conferences – Wed Feb 21, 2024

End of Competition: Mon Apr 22, 2024 (Play-in Games Wed Apr 24, 2024)
Tue Apr 23, 2024 (No Play-in Games)

State Tournaments Start: as early as Sat Apr 27, 2024

Championships - approx. May 11, 13, 14, 2024.

5. New Business:

Rob M. mentioned:

- Clarifying language for Sub Varsity time limit – no new inning can start after two hours. Sub Varsity games may end in a tie.
- Balk Rule – allow the result of the pitch if it benefits the batting team?

Jared A. asked about Coach/Catcher/Pitcher electronic communication? Rob M. mentioned NFHS will be meeting about tech communication between Coach and Catcher.

6. Next meeting:

May 22, 2024 – 10 am @ AIA Board Room

7. Adjournment