

AIA Baseball Sports Advisory Committee
May 22, 2024
10 am
AIA Meeting **MINUTES**

1. Roll Call

Committee members - **present in red:**

1A Coach - Reed Porter – Mogollon; 1A Admin – Sam Diaz – Ft. Thomas

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 – Chris Laughland - Rio Rico

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

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

**AIA Staff: David Hines, Jim Dean, Dan Nero, Brian Gessner, Tyler Cerimeli,
Rob McKinley**

2. Approve minutes from May 2023 Baseball SAC mtg:

Move to approve: Mark E.; 2nd by Greg R.; unanimously approved.

3. Agenda items:

- **Suspended games and resumption of play (B. Gessner):**
 - **Approved by Executive Board May 2024 (21.1 Rules below):**
 - **Brian G. and Rob M. mentioned umpires would make notes regarding situations if this occurred. ADs and Head Coaches would confer on continuation date. In-game eligibility would be maintained. Pitch Count process will continue as normal.**

21.1 **RULES**

21.1.3.3 Suspension – *A game under suspension is a game that has been delayed due to weather or field conditions that will be completed **at a later time** prior to teams and umpires leaving the field.*

*NOTE: A regular season varsity contest may not result in a tie, even if it went 5 innings. It must be played to a concluding contest win for one of the competing teams following the **“suspended”** game protocol.*

21.1.3.4 *Suspended Game Protocol*

21.1.3.4.1 *Games suspended shall be resumed at the point of interruption and played until satisfying a regulation game criterion. All lineups, substitutions, and score shall be continued from the suspended contest. Pitch count guidelines shall be in effect and apply at the time when the game is resumed. Suspended games shall be replayed on the first available agreed upon date for both teams. Games suspended in “mid-inning” revert back to the last completed inning, and the game is restarted from that point (IF TIED).*

21.1.3.4.2 *A game that has gone beyond 4 ½ or 5 innings and after suspension leaves the contest in a tie, shall be resumed at point of interruption, and played until*

satisfying a completed game criterion. All lineups, substitutions, and score shall be continued from the suspended contest. Pitch count guidelines shall be in effect and apply at the time when the game is resumed. Suspended games shall be replayed on the first available agreed upon date for both teams.

- **Free Substitutions in lower-level Baseball games?**

- **Danny Preble from Tucson Salpointe emailed our group mid-May to ask about coming up with a plan to have free defensive substitutions (with exception of the pitcher) in sub varsity AIA baseball.**

Reed P, Jason G, Jerod A, and Chris L, sent positive emails regarding this proposal.

Other discussion:

Positive:

Jerod A. – free def. subbing would lessen issue with 2 hour time limit;

Several committee members – get more kids in a game at various positions. Mark E. – confirming NO extra inning sub varsity games.

Concerns:

Brian G/Tyler C. – would this be within NFHS rules??; AIA insurance coverage?

Rob M. – we would need a formula/draft of how this would work, and get an idea of AIA Official's thoughts?

JR L. agreed to write a draft of this proposal. Shown below:

Free defensive substitutions - recommended for Sub Varsity 2025 season of play.

“The rationale for the modification is to allow more players time on the playing field. Many schools currently are not fielding multiple sub varsity teams. Numbers are decreasing in baseball. The modification would allow coaches the ability to free sub during the game on the defensive side.

A lineup card will still be presented at the plate meeting with the teams batting order which will include starting pitchers. Teams will keep lineup integrity throughout the game. Changes in the batting order and pitching changes will be reported to the Umpire at time of lineup or pitching change. All defensive changes (excluding pitching) will be handled by the coaches for their respective teams. This will allow for more if not all players on the roster to enter the game.”

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

Nick Swanson – Head Coach at Canyon View – “Open” format:

The open tournament will feature the top 8 overall seeds as qualifiers.

The higher seed will consistently serve as the home team and host the first round. In Round 1, the format is a best-of-three series, unless coaches mutually opt for a single-game showdown.

The schedule for Round 1 is as follows, if the Baseball Open were to take place in 2024:

Game 1: Friday, April 26, 2024

Game 2: Saturday, April 27, 2024

Game 3 (if necessary): A second game will take place on Saturday, 45 minutes after the conclusion of the first game.

Maintaining the same home-team dynamic, the higher seed will also host the second round. Round 2 follows a best-of-three series unless coaches agree on a single-game format. The dates for Round 2 are:

Game 1: Friday, May 3, 2024

Game 2: Saturday, May 4, 2024

Game 3 (if necessary): A second game will be played on Saturday, 45 minutes after the conclusion of the first game.

The "Open" championship game is scheduled for 7:00 PM on Friday, May 10, 2024, at Tempe Diablo Stadium.

- **JR L. mentioned most coaches he has spoken to not in favor of an Open Championship.**
- **Mr. Hines mentioned that, like AIA Basketball, with the new two year block the Baseball Coaches Association can discuss, survey the head coaches, and come up with a proposal to the Executive Board for the next two year block, if there is sufficient interest.**

- **2A Championships rotate to Tucson? (Terry A.):**

- **Mr. Hines mentioned that all of the State Championships went great this year. Very positive with few issues.**
- **Terry A. mentioned that a rotation to Tucson for the 2A Championship was brought up by several 2A coaches, including those in Metro Phoenix.**

- **Baseball – Spring 2025**

2024-25 Quick Glance Calendar is being updated:

Start of Practice: All Conferences – Mon Feb 10, 2025

Start of Competition: All Conferences – Wed Feb 26, 2025

**End of Competition: Mon Apr 28, 2025 (Play-in Games Wed Apr 30, 2025)
Tue Apr 29, 2024 (No Play-in Games)**

State Tournaments Start: as early as Sat May 3, 2025

Championships - approx. May 17, 19, 20 2025.

4. New Business:

- **Mr. Gessner wanted to mention this SAC group does a great job for the improvement of AIA Baseball for our student athletes.**

5. Next meeting:

May or Aug 2025 – 10 am @ AIA Board Room

6. Adjournment Move to approve – Mark E; JR 2nd. Unanimous approx. 11:45 am.