

BASEBALL / SOFTBALL COMMITTEE

January 20, 2009

Members Present:

Sue Barthold, Kentwood
Jim Conway, Mt. Pleasant
Ken Dietz, Watervliet
Matt Eldred, Otsego
Keith Green, Hemlock
Clark Huntley, Morley
Cody Inglis, Traverse City
Tom Kaechele, Caledonia
Tim McDonald, Auburn

Jenny Morgan, Rochester Hills
Kristalyn Musselman, Tecumseh
Debbie Norman, Allen Park
Brian Parsons, Grandville
Mark Rademacher, Westphalia
Wayne Welton, Chelsea
Ted Williams, Munising

Staff:

Randy Allen
Mark Uyl (Recorder)

The 2008-09 MHSAA Baseball / Softball Committee met in the MHSAA Office Building to review topics involving the MHSAA tournament series in baseball / softball.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

National Federation Topics: A discussion took place regarding National Federation playing rules and equipment. Specific items covered included helmets for base coaches, softball pitching distances, ball compression standards, bat standards, metal cleats and softball double first bases.

Tournament Procedures: The committee reviewed tournament expenses for athletic trainers and field maintenance expenses with suggestions for a possible "cap" in several areas. Discussion also took place regarding the scheduling of multiple Quarterfinal games at one site to reduce expenses and the group felt that the District draw should be able to be held anytime after practice begins. Additional comments were made regarding the new Sunday policy, along with concerns about noisemakers at tournament events. A discussion also took place regarding softball game ending options.

Rules Meetings: The rules meeting schedule was reviewed, and committee members had the opportunity to identify any additional points of emphasis. An update was given regarding online rules meetings.

Out-of-Season Update: Members of the committee reviewed the out-of-season coaching issues which dealt with the preseason down time, limited player rule and open gyms. Concerns were expressed about the long winter season pushing the start of spring sports practices later into March.

Final Venue: An update was provided on the Representative Council's decision to remain in Battle Creek for the Baseball and Softball Finals with the condition that funding and facilities continue to improve. A discussion about potential rain-shortened game situations in the Semifinal and Final tournament games took place, as well.

Additional Items: There was committee consensus to move the starting times for Softball Finals earlier to 10 am, 12:30 pm, 3 pm and 5:30 pm.

Regional and Semifinal Draws: At the Regional tournament, the pairings were drawn as Lowest District # vs. Highest District # and 2nd Highest District # vs. 2nd Lowest District #. Semifinal pairings were drawn as follows:

Division 1	QF #2 vs. QF #1	QF #3 vs. QF #4
Division 2	QF #8 vs. QF #7	QF #6 vs. QF #5
Division 3	QF #9 vs. QF #12	QF #10 vs. QF #11
Division 4	QF #13 vs. QF #14	QF #15 vs. QF #16

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. For games at the middle school level, allow member schools to deviate from National Federation rules and use the bat standards currently allowed by Little League Baseball (16-0).
2. For MHSAA softball tournament games, use the International Tiebreaker beginning with the 11th inning. For regular season softball games, allow use of the International Tiebreaker by local league and conference adoption anytime after 7 innings (16-0).
3. For all Semifinal and Final baseball and softball games, require all games to be played to completion of seven innings or the published run rule differential, eliminating rain-shortened games (16-0).