

2016 Baseball Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2016

The Baseball Advisory Committee meeting was called to order by Associate Commissioner Butch Cope at 1:40 p.m. Present were Khristian Elliott, Michael Quinn, Les Broady, David Dawson, David Burns, Jeff Schulken, Jamie Keene, Kevin Clary, Marc Taylor, Arthur Ballard, Jeff Ely, Andy Strain, Butch Cope, Julian Tackett, and Larrecia Williams. Absent were Bob Mantooth, Brad Morgan, Sally Zimmerman, Shane Simpkins, Ryan Nolan, Jerry Allen and Assistant Commissioner Sarah Bridenbaugh.

Mr. Cope reminded the Advisory Committee that their purpose was to be a sounding board and to make recommendations to be reviewed by the staff and then possibly the Board of Control. The committees' input is important to the KHSAA and Board of Control.

Mr. Cope announced that Mr. Elliott (Region 1), and Mr. Broady (Region 4) will be rotating off the committee and will be recognized at this year's Rawlings/KHSAA State Tournament. Mr. Cope introduced the new committee members to the group: Jamie Keene (Region 10), Arthur Ballard (Region 14), Kevin Clary (Region 11) and Bob Mantooth (Region 3).

Mr. Cope informed the committee that he and Commissioner Tackett attended the NFHS Baseball Arm-Care Symposium. Among the topics discussed by the group were arm care injury and pitch count limitations. Data from the NFHS Symposium was shared with the Board of Control at its November meeting. At its January meeting, the KHSAA Board of Control had a second and final reading and adopted a pitch count limitation beginning with the 2016 baseball playing season. The Board, upon receipt of a great deal of recent data, adopted the proposal in response to concerns regarding student safety expressed both locally and nationally concerning arm injuries and overuse. The new rules will mandate rest based on pitches thrown as detailed on the KHSAA website under pitching limitations.

Mr. Clary asked how issues with pitch counts would be handled and who would resolve them. Mr. Cope stated that the coaches should discuss pitch count issues at the end of each inning with the designated pitch count recorder. Mr. Cope also commented that no adjustments will be given at the end of the game. The home team pitch count recorder information is official. Umpires are not involved in the issues of discussing the pitch limitations.

Mr. Cope shared that he will continue to compile a list of questions and answers that come into the office and post them in a blog. Mr. Taylor asked about the location of the pitch counter recorder. It was highly recommended by Mr. Strain and several committee members that the pitch

count recorder be located near the home team dugout, but in clear line to communicate with the official scorer.

Mr. Dawson mentioned that Game Changer is an application that is used by some teams to record scores. Game Changer provides free stat tracking and team management tools for basketball, baseball and softball teams.

The next item of discussion was an update on the revised baseball tournament schedule. The new schedule will provide a minimum of three days of rest between the quarterfinals and the semifinals. This year's Rawlings/KHSAA State Baseball Tournament will be played Thursday, June 9 through Saturday, June 11 and Friday, June 17 through Saturday, June 18.

Mr. Cope informed the committee the online rules clinic is now available as of February 1, 2016.

Mr. Strain opened a discussion about uniforms. Clarification on arm sleeves worn by the pitcher along with colors was discussed.

A concern was brought up by the committee regarding teams taking excessive warm-up time after arriving late for a game. Mr. Clary suggested a 30 minute warm-up time protocol for teams arriving late to a game. Mr. Cope will devise a draft on a recommended procedure and report back to committee.

The Committee discussed the scheduling of JV and Varsity games. The committee discussed who has jurisdiction with regards to weather when it's too cold to play. Until the umpire has jurisdiction, the home team makes the call.

Mr. Cope discussed competition rules, point of emphasis, game interruption, and interrupted games not completed.

Mr. Quinn discussed regional tournaments and scheduling issues by other teams within that region playing at the regional host site.

The committee discussed the recommended pitch count for middle school students regarding pitching on the high school level. Mr. Cope stated the more restrictive rest provision applies.

There being no further items to be discussed the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.