

KHSAA Softball Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
March 2, 2016

The Softball Advisory Committee met at the KHSAA office in Lexington on March 2, 2016. Members present were: John Smart, Megan Miller, David Zuberer, JT Taylor, Tracy Spickard, Kalem Grasham, Jimmy Durham, Michael Melton, Lisa Correa, Bill Farley, Paul Lewis, Trent Lovett. KHSAA representatives present were: Commissioner Julian Tackett, Assistant Commissioner Darren Bilberry, Assistant Commissioner Michael Barren and Administrative Staff Support Jeanie Molloy.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bilberry followed by introductions of all attendees.

A review of the procedural items such as expense forms, committee membership updates and an overview of the agenda handouts was conducted.

The first item of discussion was an update on the face shield/mask worn by infielders. The ASTM has performed extensive testing for the past 2 years and should finalize their study in the winter of 2016. Research shows recommendation for the positions of 1<sup>st</sup> base, 3<sup>rd</sup> base and pitcher wear the face shields. Injury rates are seemingly higher in Kentucky in comparison to other states. The KHSAA Board of Control recommends the face shields be worn by first and third basemen and the pitcher.

The middle school season was reaffirmed as a local decision in further discussion. It was requested by several that middle school season be in line with the high school season. This would depend on the area of the state and whether the seasons fall the same. The decision is historically regional based.

Owensboro will be the future site of the softball state tournament by Board of Control action until 2018. There was much discussion about the facilities being considered "state" level. Field conditions and the facility itself are the main concerns. There was comparison by one or two members to the facility used for the boys' state tournament and opinions expressed that the girls' should be equivalent if not equal. It was noted by staff that the format basically precluded any other sites due to the number of games and teams. At this point Bowling Green and Owensboro are the only ones that submitted proposals for hosting the girls' state event. There was also mention by a member of the committee of the lack of time allotted between games. The concern of giving the athletes ample time to rehydrate, etc. before rushing to the next field to begin play yet again. It was expressed that one team felt rushed with no time for postgame discussion, rest etc. This however was all prior to the recently adopted schedule change. (2014)

The state tournament format was then discussed at length. The facility conditions remain a concern. It was stated that if the state went to 16 with single elimination there would be a greater chance for a university or higher quality venue, and it would be a win/win for all involved. Most agreed that venue facilities are key for any state tournament. It was the unanimous consent of the committee to move as soon as possible to a 16-team, single elimination event for the state tournament.

Several miscellaneous items were discussed such as the use of the International Tie Breaker in the 9<sup>th</sup> inning in regular and/or postseason. It was suggested by committee members that the ITB

continue not be used in postseason play, but recognized that this may need to be implemented by the staff.

The use of temporary fences measured at 210'-215' was recommended by consensus.

There were concerns to change to a blind draw versus a coin toss to determine the home team in postseason play, because it would be one less thing to concern coaches and the teams would already know where they stand.

The miscellaneous topics continued with the next item of discussion being the strike zone. Coaches were asked by the umpire reps their opinion of the current strike zone per NFHS rules. It was suggested that the officials need to be consistent with the rule book in this regard.

The last topic at the meeting was about the transition of 2 to 3 officials in a game. The standard is 3 at the higher level. In some areas, there seems to be a problem of proper rotation during postseason play, during the transition of regular to postseason. It was suggested to have a 3 man crew during a few of the regular season games to help the officials understand the rotation and to discuss scheduling these games with the revised policy boards

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.