

Name	Associate Commissioner Butch Cope
Topic	Sports Report
Sports Report	
Sport	Spring Baseball
Positive Developments and Highlights	Completed the playing season without any major issues.
Issues of Concern (legal, playing Rules, fiscal management, etc.)	NFHS recently adopted a rule change to permit coach to catcher communication to assist in the calling of pitches. More will be shared prior to the beginning of the 2023-2024 playing season.
Championship Update/Review	We were appreciative of Lexington Counter Clocks GM Justin Ferrarella, staff and ownership in stepping to host the first and second rounds at the recently renovated Counter Clocks Field. Positive feedback from teams was received with the new playing surface (turf). The following weekend, semifinals and final went well with strong attendance and great weather. UK was again a great host for those contests.
Officials Update/Review	Scot Allison of Carlisle (a member of the state crew) was named outstanding official in the sport of baseball. We ended the 2022-2023 season with 791 umpires, up from 769 the previous year, but still had severe challenges in many areas to get games covered. It should be a continued effort to recruit and retain officials (in all sports).
Staff and Worker Update	We were able to work through with other championships taking place in getting staffing for the events, including the assistance of the Counter Clocks and UK.
Fiscal and Budget Issues and Review (attendance, etc.)	Final attendance was up from previous years, but we are still awaiting final billing to get a final financial picture of the event.