

Associate Commissioner Butch Cope

Topic

Sports Report

Sports Report

Sport

Spring Baseball

Positive Developments and Highlights

NFHS Rule change this year to allow one-way communication from dugout to catcher to assist with calling of pitches.

Issues of Concern (legal, playing Rules, fiscal management, etc.)

With the new rule change, already there is discussion of extending this to use of other players as tickling down from other levels. Item was included on the NFHS Baseball Rules Questionnaire for feedback from coaches and umpires. Pace of Play was a point of emphasis this year in rules clinic in using the tools umpires have to keep the game moving. Continued sportsmanship concerns with spectators, assistant coaches and players.

Championship Update/Review

With the early success of the UK program, staff confirmed with Lexington Legends concerning the availability of Legends field as site of the first weekend (First and Second Rounds) in the event UK would be selected to host during this time. The date for the Draw show for the Spring sports is being finalized and will be communicated once confirmed.

Officials Update/Review

We continue to receive incident reports where umpires are having to deal with fans following the game, getting to their car, etc. Continued emphasis on game administration on site to address this. Numbers on licensed umpires are up slightly from last year. We have registered 137 new umpires of which 27 are a part of the junior officials program.

Staff and Worker Update

Staff is in the planning stages of event workers for the spring events, coordinating scheduling and availability based upon crossover of events.

Fiscal and Budget Issues and Review (attendance, etc.)

No known budget impact issues at this time.