

Associate Commissioner Butch Cope

Topic

Sports Report

Sports Report

Sport

Spring Baseball

Positive Developments and Highlights

There were no real issues during the regular season and the NFHS Baseball Rules Questionnaire was distributed to umpires and coaches for feedback on any issues they are seeing.

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

With the adoption of the double first base by the NFHS Rules Committee and Board, this will be a rule beginning in 2027. It was already in the book by state adoption, but will be mandatory with the 27 season. Costs should be minimal for member schools as there are manufacturers that have this without having to have major facility changes. Discussion at the NFHS Summer Meeting was held about the future of technology (further advancement of communication from bench to players and bat technology) will continue.

Championship Update/Review

Despite the challenging weather all spring sports faced, Baseball was able to get both weekends in with as minimal of schedule adjustment as possible. This is important to keep pitching limitations consistent for all teams involved and rounds. We continue to appreciate the efforts of the University of Kentucky administration and staff for hosting the event.

Officials Update/Review

Umpires numbers were up slightly but some areas of the state remain stretched to cover games.

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

State Event total revenue was down slightly this year, likely due to battling the inclement weather.

Noteworthy Changes / Anticipates Changes

Other than the double first base mention reference above, nothing in the immediate future.