

Softball  
AIA Sports Advisory Committee  
Minutes  
Wednesday January 15, 2014

**Call to order:**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Rick Sharpe

**Roll Call:**

Present

\* Ed McQuade, James Driggers, Rick Sharp, Mark Steiner, Bill Moten, Amanda Amann (phone in ) Kevin Sanderfer( phone in ) Lee Haws ( phone in )

Not Present

\* Shelly Arredondo

**Minutes of May 14, 2013 meeting review**

A motion by James Driggers and a second by Bill Moten to approve the minutes from May 15, 2013 - Motion passed unanimously

**Section and Division nomination and selection process of coaches and athletes**

Discussion occurred concerning the favorable reaction to selecting the top 10 players; regardless of position. Additional comments focused on the favorable flexibility offered by including the utility position. It was also mentioned that while the softball selection process mirrored the baseball selection process, the committee would welcome discussion concerning flexibility for future changes, that reflect the unique characteristics of softball. The committee also agreed that the overall reaction to the selection process is favorable from coaches, with satisfaction that the utility position would offer the right representation.

**State Tournament Information**

Dean Visser restated the state tournament brackets which have been available on the AIA website. There was significant discussion about the first round beginning May 3<sup>rd</sup>, which is earlier than last year. The committee commended the savings in cost for travel and lodging because the teams could come to the tournament and return home, as opposed to a first round/second round format that went

Friday/Saturday. The committee was pleased that greater consideration was given to lower division rural schools that seem to have the greatest travel distance. Reaction has been favorable to the format. Dean Visser provided additional information concerning the staffing demands for fields and games that deserved consideration when planning for the tournaments.

#### Number of automatic qualifiers per section

A forty-five minute discussion occurred concerning the ability of teams to qualify for the tournament based on section placement, power points gained from losses to bigger schools, and the commitment to giving every section possible the guarantee of 2 automatic qualifiers to the state tournament. The committee wanted to make sure that the size of each conference allowed for the appropriate number of automatic qualifiers. Divisions I and II are significantly smaller than Divisions III and IV. The overall view was that the section assignments were as equitable as possible. It was generally agreed that power points are still the best measure of qualification. Dean mentioned that section assignments would be reviewed after the two year block ended. Geographic restrictions limited some of options to balancing the difference in section size. The overall feeling of the committee was that fairness had prevailed.

#### Frosh and JV schedules during spring break tournaments

The committee wanted to explore ways to decrease the gaps between games for freshman and JV teams who were not able to play when their varsity teams were in tournaments. This problem primarily affects Division I and Division II schools. Some freshman and JV teams have experienced 21 day gaps between contest when a varsity tournament is followed by spring break, or contest cancellations. Proposed possible solutions were giving freshman and JV teams the ability to play a 20 game season, and/or having freshman and JV round robin tournaments. Dean mentioned the problems of finding umpires, finding enough dates, and the possibility of 4 game weeks. The committee also reviewed the unique nature of softball as justification for consideration. The committee also expressed concern for teams with limited pitching and catching, which could quickly deteriorate the quality of the games.

Next meeting

May 21, 2014; 10:00 am @ AIA offices

Meeting Adjourned