

Softball Ad Hoc Committee

Minutes of meeting: June 4, 2011

Attending:

Greg Anderson – AIASUB President & Assignor

Ray Burns – Ad Hoc Chair & AIASUB Training Director

Andy Williams – AIASUB Vice President & Northern AZ Representative

Absent:

Emily Alexander – AIA Website Developer & AIASUB Technology Director

Gayla Froseth – AIASUB Area Representative

Geri Magwire – AIASUB Member at Large & Assignor

Sam Williams – AIA State Rules Interpreter

Invited Guests:

Gary Allen – AIA State Softball Observer

Gary Welchel – AIA State Commissioner of Officials –

Gary was unable to attend due to a commitment with another sport

The softball Ad Hoc meeting was held on Saturday June 4, 2011 at 10:00 AM.

The following topics were discussed:

1. Axe Bat

An Axe bat was presented for use to a school team by a local sports vendor this past season. Since the bat does display the 2004 ASA certification mark, the coach of the team was told that the bat was legal for NFHS play. However the bat does not meet the other requirements of Rule 1 Section 5 Article 2.a.

Pictures of the bat were sent to NFHS asking for a ruling on the legality of the bat. The NHFS responded that the bat was illegal at this time. The information about the bat will be presented at the upcoming NFHS Softball rules meeting where the bat and/or the current Rule will be discussed.



2. AIA Website update:

Emily Alexander sent the following statement regarding the current status of the new website. *"I have had zero communications from ANYONE since the last meeting. I am only assuming it is still on the AIA agenda for this summer. Probably early to mid June I will contact Gary (Welchel) and see what's up."*

3. State Rules Interpreter:

Phoenix currently has a process in place to deal with Rules questions by umpires. But how do we want to escalate questions to the SRI?

Discussion resulted with the following recommendation. To create a request form that would be placed on the web site. The question would be submitted to the SRI and to the Area Commissioner (or other selected person). Once the SRI responds to the individual asking the question, the question and answer would also be archived for reference on the web site.

4. Training for 2012:

Requested suggestions from this group regarding topics to be covered in 2012 classroom meetings.

Previously umpires were asked to provide input at their meetings or to send information and requests in to the Training Director or a Classroom Leader. This has resulted in three requests / responses in the past five years. Wally suggested asking for input from the umpires via an email poll.

Recommended locations for the 2012 Softball Clinics. The fall clinic suggested for Payson and the January Clinic for Lake Havasu or another city along the Colorado River.

5. Communications with umpires who work State playoffs:

Discussed several suggestions to enhance the communication process with umpires from areas outside of Phoenix who come to Phoenix to work the State playoffs. One discussed plan would be beneficial to local umpires too.

Recommended having a liaison between the AIASUB and the AIA tournament staff. This would be to enhance communication between umpires and the tournament staff. To help the umpires understand what direction the Staff and the tournament is taking and to provide input as requested.

6. Talked about the need for an umpire representative at State contest sites outside the Phoenix area. This would be a point of contact for working umpires and someone to provide a ruling if a protest should occur.