

2013 BASEBALL PROPOSALS TO THE IHSAA/IIAAA

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IHSBCA

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IHSBCA Proposals to the IHSAA/IIAAA

Proposal #1: Change IHSAA Bylaw 15-2.5b(4) to read “the coaching staff may offer instruction and work directly with a maximum of five athletes at a time, and...”

Proposal #2: Adopt the optional use of a courtesy runner (hereafter referred to as CR) for the pitcher and catcher during all authorized IHSAA baseball contests, including the state tournament.

Proposal #3: Change the start date of the baseball season to align with softball. For the 2013 -14 IHSAA calendar year this would be M – Wk 36 for authorized practices and M – Wk 38 for authorized contests.

IHSBCA Proposals to the IHSAA/IIAAA

Proposal #1: Change IHSAA Bylaw 15-2.5b(4) to read “the coaching staff may offer instruction and work directly with a maximum of five athletes at a time, and...”

Rationale:

The 5 to 1 rule makes sense for our sport. It mirrors the 60% (IHSAA Bylaw 15-2.2) rule used for participation out of season for team sports and it allows our coaches to do more sport specific things other than pitching/catching or hitting with two players. This rule would lend itself to outfield and infield setups that are more specific to baseball and currently unavailable. This also helps the concern we have heard about players going to their travel team for practice instead of high school open gyms where instruction is limited. Ultimately, it gives our coaches more relevant contact with their players in an environment that will mirror the spring.

77.5% of the AD's who responded to this question voted yes.
(242 Yes; 70 No; 312 Total responses)

93.7% of the Coaches who responded to this question voted yes.
(251 Yes; 17 No; 268 Total responses)

IHSBCA Proposals to the IHSAA/IIAAA

Proposal #2: Adopt the optional use of a courtesy runner (hereafter referred to as CR) for the pitcher and catcher during all authorized IHSAA baseball contests, including the state tournament.

Rationale:

The courtesy runner needs to mirror the college rule and be an optional rule, not mandatory with 2 outs. It does have 'speed up' aspects, but more importantly it is a 'participation' rule where another player(s) can get into the game. This is similar to IHSAA Bylaw 54-3.1b for football where it states that "it shall not count as a varsity quarter if a player participates only in a kicking down." That rule is a participation rule that does not require actual substitution into the game. Since baseball does not have 'free substitution' to aid in participation like other team sports, this rule allows for an option specific to our sport that fits that concept.

Courtesy runners are not a player until they are substituted into the game and, therefore, it does not count against their allotted number of games played. You cannot be a CR twice in the same inning for different people, but you can for the same person if you bat around. If you decided to run for pitcher and catcher in the same inning it HAS to be two different people. This rule doesn't require that you remove your catcher and pitcher if they are your best athlete or base runner.

66.5% of the AD's who responded to this question voted yes.
(208 Yes; 105 No; 313 Total responses)

70% of the Coaches who responded to this question voted yes.
(187 Yes; 80 No; 267 Total responses)

IHSBCA Proposals to the IHSAA/IIAAA

Proposal #3: Change the start date of the baseball season to align with softball. For the 2013 -14 IHSAA calendar year this would be M – Wk 36 for authorized practices and M – Wk 38 for authorized contests.

Rationale:

This proposal focuses on the length of the regular season and not the state tournament. We need a longer period of time to play our state tourney (than softball) due to pitching rules and arm care issues that are specific to our sport. The start of the softball sectionals and baseball sectionals are only two days apart and so we felt like it made sense to 'unify' the starting dates for the regular season of both sports.

69.2% of the AD's who responded to this question voted yes.
(216 Yes; 96 No; 312 Total responses)

84.3% of the Coaches who responded to this question voted yes.
(225 Yes; 42 No; 267 Total responses)

IHSBCA Proposals to the IHSAA/IIAAA

Method of acquiring results for IHSBCA survey

Survey questions developed by the members of the IHSBCA and were then provided to the IHSAA. The IHSAA (Ed Sullivan, IHSAA-IT Director) emailed the survey to all member schools for their consideration. After the results were received, the IHSBCA selected those items with a 2/3 approval to be part of our proposal.

IHSBCA PROPOSALS for the FALL of 2013

Every two years our sport is allowed to go before the IHSAA Executive Board and submit proposals to be considered for the betterment of our game. This year we have had five proposals brought forward by our membership for consideration. The first step to submitting any proposal to the IHSAA is a survey of our members to judge the interest level. I would like for each of you to examine the following items and indicate a YES or a NO for each one and include any comments that would be relevant to the discussion with the IHSAA. Each individual proposal needs to be considered on its own merit and not in combination with the others. A proposal will only be submitted by the IHSBCA to the IHSAA if the majority of our membership is in favor of it.

PROPOSAL #1: Would you support the seeding of the Sectional Tournament with the remainder of the State Tournament (Regional, Semi-State, and State) being done by the traditional blind draw? (Note: Currently the whole tournament is done with a blind draw.)

PROPOSAL #2: Would you support the elimination of the mileage restrictions for practice and competitions? (Note: Currently, it is 150 miles from the state line for a practice and 300 miles for a contest.)

- a) If you are not in favor of eliminating the requirements, would you support making them both the same?
- b) If you are not in favor of eliminating the requirements, would you support extending the contest mileage restriction 500 miles (for example)?
- c)

PROPOSAL #3: Would you support a player to coach ratio of 5 to 1 for off-season workouts? (Note: Currently, it is 2 to 1.)

PROPOSAL #4: Would you support the addition of an optional (not mandatory) courtesy runner for the pitcher and catcher? (Note: Currently is not an option. This would NOT be proposed as a speed up rule, although it would help in that aspect. It would be proposed as a participation rule to get more players involved in the game.)

PROPOSAL #5: Would you support the starting date for baseball being the same as softball? (Note: Currently softball starts one week before baseball.)

