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Florida High School Athletic Association

Board of Directors Meeting – Agenda Item

Site: FHSAA Robert W. Hughes Building Date: Sept. 27-28, 2009

Check One: Action: X

Discussion:
Information:
Presentation:

Topic (brief descriptive statement):

Softball State Final Format

Detailed Information (background, observations, etc.):

Recommendation(s):

Recommendation: Condense the FHSAA softball finals. Take the 6-day event and condense it to Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

THURSDAY 1A, 3A, 5A, /SEMIFINALS/ Use three fields, Auxiliary fields 1 and 3, plus the Stadium (rotate the stadium every year.) THURSDAY GAME TIMES 5:00 pm and 7:00pm

FRIDAY 2A, 4A, 6A, /SEMIFINALS/ same fields as Thursday GAME TIMES 12:00 pm and 2:00pm FRIDAY 1A, 3A, 5A, / FINALS All games at Stadium GAME TIMES 4:00pm, 6:00pm, and 8:00pm.

SATURDAY 2A, 4A, 6A, / FINALS All games at stadium GAME TIMES 12:00pm, 2:00pm, 4:00pm

Rationale:

Moving to a Thursday, Friday, and Saturday format means athletes, families and students will miss less time from school. The late start on Thursday means teams don't have to leave until after school on Wednesday. Softball is also a sport that works well in a Tournament format. This will give softball the best of both worlds; a tournament setting with a chance to play games in a stadium. I believe this will help attendance improve and create a great atmosphere for High School softball.

Alternative(s) to Recommendation(s):

1. Approve recommendation 2. Modify the recommendation 3. Deny the recommendation

Recommendation Amended by SAC (2009): Condense the FHSAA softball finals to a 4-day format (Wednesday – Saturday) instead of the current 6-day format, advancing 8 teams to the softball finals using single elimination and eliminating the Region Final. If the current facility were to be used, all semi-finals could be played on the auxiliary fields with finals being played on the Stadium field. There would be a staggered start for all games; playing two semi-final games at once.

Discussion and Rationale for SAC 2009 Amendment: More teams could participate, which would enhance the experience for more players. It would also cut down on travel and possibly increase attendance at the state finals. Increasing attendance would also enhance each game, the players experience and the event itself. Lastly, this would afford the FHSAA the opportunity to move the softball finals up a week, which would aid in students missing less time from school during testing and graduation. This would also streamline with many other state associations who currently use the same type of format.

Data Source:

* Athletic Directors did not endorse, due to an increased cost factor to participating schools. However, they have asked staff to possibly modify the length of the State Finals, reducing the number of days from 6 days to possibly 4 days (starting games earlier in the day).

Impact (to be completed by FHSAA staff):

SAC 1 st Reading:	Approved 6-0 [Motion: Wackes, Second: Ward]
ADAC 1 st Reading:	Not Endorsed 10-0 [Motion: Sparkman, Second: Welch]
SAC 2 nd Reading (2008):	Discussion Only [No Quorum]
SAC 3 rd Reading (2009):	Approved Amended Recommendation 6-0 [Motion: Schusterman, Second: Lewis]
ADAC 2 nd Reading (2009):	Not Endorsed 12-0 [Motion: Bell, Second: Ninestine]
Board of Directors Action:	

Mark Schusterman
Individual(s) Submitting Item

Mark Schusterman
Signature

Jamie Rohrer
FHSAA Staff Member Presenting Item

Jamie Rohrer
Signature