

# Baseball Advisory Committee

Minutes

**May 18, 2015, 11:00am**

jetBlue Park

11500 Fenway South Drive

Fort Myers, FL 33913

## Attendance:

Tom Duffin – Miami

Dale Hall – Ocala

Dale Klaus – FHSAA

Tom LoSauro – Lineman High School, Orlando

Richard Steed – Tallahassee

Larry Taylor – South Gulf Umpires Assoc.

Tom Woodley –

1. Review procedures, agenda, complete expense voucher Klaus
  - This meeting will discuss the proposed agenda items
  - We vote on recommendations today, and what passes will be presented in a September meeting with Athletic Directors Advisory Committee. If a member of the current Advisory Committee presents it, it might pass easier than if an FHSAA Administrator presents it. If it passes with ADs, it will then be presented to the FHSAA Board of Directors. Typically changes are on a two-year cycle, but can be fast-tracked if necessary changes need to be made.
  - No expense vouchers
  
2. Purpose and Introductions Klaus
  - Everyone introduced themselves (see attendance)
  
3. Selection of Chairperson Committee
  - Tom LoSauro nominated and appointed Chairperson of this Advisory Committee meeting
  
4. Review of 2014 Baseball Committee Minutes Committee
  - **Motion:** to accept 2014 minutes: R. Steed
  - **Second:** T. Woodley
  
5. Review of 2015 Baseball State Championships Committee

- Typically, meet after State Championships are over, but whatever is said now about the venue or the championships themselves can be brought up in the post-event meeting.
- The only issues have been parking, but that is decided by the venue, and people that are not on the pass gate list must pay admission.
- As of right now, there is an option for a two-year roll over at jetBlue Park, so FHSAA will sit down with Lee County Sports Commission after the event and discuss a possibility of two more years, or the location will go out to bid again.

## 6. New Business

### a.) Baseball Regional Playoff Qualifiers

T. LoSauro

- Premise is that when you play an entire regular season, it should have meaning, so during the course of the regular season, when one team establishes themselves as a number one seed (having played the other teams at least twice) they should automatically continue to regionals. This prevents the best teams from being automatically eliminated by teams they have already beaten and allows the best players to experience big games and possibility of being seen by scouts.
- The objective that the best team should when the state championship, so the best in the district should get an automatic bid to go to regionals, and the district tournament should be used to decide who the second team is.
- *Recommendation: In a six team district or larger, if they play each other two times during the regular season that the number one seed automatically qualifies to move onto the regional playoff...*
- **Motion:** T. LoSauro
- **Second:** T. Duffin
- **Unanimously passed**

### b.) Addition to Current Mercy Rule

T. Woodley

- Suggested amending current mercy rule to be worded, 15 runs after four innings. Recommended as is.
- *Recommendation: 15 run rule after four innings.*
- **Motion:** T. Woodley
- **Second:** T. LoSauro
- **Unanimously passed**

### c.) Number of Regular Season Games

R. Steed

- Baseball has a tradition of being played through more games and it allows kids to have more opportunities to play. The game

of baseball is played better in climates like in the state of Florida and has better athletes as proven by the draft, but doesn't get to showcase the talent in so few of games. Finances could be an issue, but different programs can determine what scheduling would be best for their individual program.

- *Recommendation: Increase number of regular season games from 25, not to exceed 30 games...*
- **Motion:** R. Steed
- **Second:** T. Woodley
- **Unanimously passed**

d.) 10 Hitters for JV Games T. Woodley

- Junior Varsity is a training level for players, so allowing ten batters in the line-up will give more opportunity to more athletes.
- *Recommendation: Opportunity for JV coaches to bat ten in the line-up.*
- **Motion:** T. Woodley
- **Second:** D. Hall
- **Unanimously passed**

Adjourn for lunch, 11:46am

e.) Number of Players on Active Roster R. Steed

- Increasing the active roster from 20 to 24 players allows more kids a possibility to get into the game and to bring up JV players during playoffs. The size of the roster gives no competitive edge, and telling a player who has worked hard at practice that they cannot dress out for a playoff game is wrong.
- *Recommendation: Increase the number of players on the state entry list by 20%.*
- **Motion:** R. Steed
- **Second:** T. Duffin
- **Unanimously passed**

f.) Number of Players Allowed in Uniform During Playoffs R. Steed

- Eliminated as a recommendation, because it was resolved by Agenda Item 6E

g.) Coach Ejections T. Woodley

- Proposed is an official warning before ejecting a coach from a game. Want to have consistency and a set rule of giving a coach a formal warning, which would restrict him to the dug out, and only then could have the possibility of being ejected if violating that warning by leaving the dug out.

- *Recommendation: 4.1.1.1 Competition Rules, Line 3-3-1 “Penalty. Coaches or players will not be restricted to the dug out for violations...” needs to be removed. A formal warning must be given before ejection occurs.*
- **Motion:** T. Woodley
- **Second:** R. Steed
- **Unanimously passed**

h.) Regional and Final Four Format R. Steed

- More games are necessary to determine the true winner; playing games two out of three gives the better team the better chance of advancing.
- *Recommendation: Regional finals move to a best two out of three format.*
- **Motion:** R. Steed
- **Second:** T. LoSauro
- **Unanimously passed**

i.) Amend 4-2-3 for Playoffs Only D. Klaus

- For the playoff games, athletes have worked all year to get to that point and are taught to never give up, so the games should be played to completion. This has been an issue recently and should be revisited and discussed.
- *Recommendation: Amend the 4-2-3 rule for the playoffs, so that playoff games must be played to their completion.*
- **Motion:** T. Woodley
- **Second:** T. Duffin
- **Unanimously passed**

7. Roundtable Discussion Committee

- T. LoSauro – wants to look at the possibility of condensing the playoff format by playing the Friday directly after, not waiting until the following Tuesday for Regional Semifinals.
- D. Klaus – some umpires have discussed going back to home and visitor uniforms... this seems impractical for schools with small budgets and doesn't seem to be an issue.
- D. Hall – discussed the difference between college and high school for rules for where pitchers feet must be with L. Taylor

8. Adjournment T. LoSauro

- Motion to adjourn, 1:13pm