

Baseball Coaches Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

August 31, 2009

Robert W. Hughes Building – Gainesville FL

Justin Harrison called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The following committee members were in attendance: Charlie Warner, Pace High School, Matt McCool, Palatka High School, John Gwynes, Ed White High School, Frank Permuy, Gaither High School, Jerry Albert, Coral Springs Charter High School, Pat McQuaid, Nova High School, and Butch Goble, South Gulf Umpires Association (Fort Myers). Dr. Peggy Jones, Associate Executive Director, Gary Pigott, Senior Director of Athletics, Justin Harrison, Associate Director of Athletics, Kimberly Critton, Intern, and Alex Ozuna, Intern, were also in attendance.

1. Mr. Harrison welcomed the committee members to the FHSAA office. He explained the procedure for completing the expense vouchers.
2. Each committee member introduced themselves. Mr. Harrison reminded the committee that the Board of Directors approved an official serving as an ex-officio member of the committee, and he said that Butch Goble is serving that position.
3. Pat McQuaid, Nova High School, was selected chairman by a unanimous vote.
4. The 2008 meeting minutes were accepted as presented.
5. The committee discussed the feedback they had received about the Region Finals using the best 2 out of 3 format. Mr. Harrison brought financial data from the last four year's region finals and mentioned that the FHSAA had received one complaint about the travel costs. The Committee agreed that the positives outweighed the negatives. They proposed the following:
 - a. Keep the region finals in the best 2 out of 3 format.
 - i. Motion – McQuaid, 2nd – Gwynes, 6 – 0 to approve
 - b. Using the best 2 of 3 games format for the region finals, have game one on Friday at 7 p.m., game two on Saturday at 4 p.m., and game three, if necessary, 60 minutes following game two. If the visiting school has to travel more than 60 miles, then the following format will be used (unless the visiting school denies this format): game one on Friday at 4 p.m., game two on Friday at 7 p.m., and game three, if necessary, on Saturday.
 - i. Motion – Warner, 2nd – Gwynes, 6 – 0 to approve
 - c. The committee recommended rearranging the brackets so the district winner and the district runner-up would meet in the region final.
 - i. Motion – McCool, 2nd – Permuy, 6 – 0 to approve
6. The committee reviewed the 2008-09 FHSAA Baseball Manual and felt that no changes were needed.
7. The committee reviewed the 2009 State Tournament. Mr. Harrison commented on the terrific job done by the Treasure Coast Sports Commission and the St. Lucie County Athletic Directors. Several committee members were either in attendance or knew people who attended and seconded the terrific job put on by the hosts.

8. Mr. Harrison went over the NFHS rule changes for the 2009-10 school year. The committee did express a little concern about the head coach being restricted to the dugout for the first offense of an assistant coach disputing a call by an umpire.
9. The committee did not have any Old Business to discuss.
10. The committee discussed two items in New Business.
 - a. Only players and adult coaches in uniform of the team may occupy a team dugout or bench area. The only exception to this requirement is for an athletic trainer and/or principal (or his/her designee) of the school.
 - i. The committee inquired about having a student manager/scorekeeper/statistician and student trainer in the dugout or bench area.
 - ii. Mr. Harrison said he would research this item and get back to the committee.
 - b. The committee discussed the middle school bat experiment idea proposed by Board of Director member Summers. The committee voted to not approve it based on the potential legal issues. If the NFHS would cover the legality issues then the committee may be more receptive to the idea. Even so, there were some safety concerns.
11. There were not any FACA recommendations. Several topics were discussed:
 - a. Awards Presentations at Clinics
 - b. Variety of speakers
 - c. Mandatory FHSAA rules presentation?
 - i. Mr. Harrison informed the committee that the NFHS Baseball Rules Interpretation meeting occurs about three weeks after the FACA Baseball Clinic in December.
12. Mr. Harrison provided the number of ejections for the 2008-09 Baseball season. Mr. Harrison also brought up the number of brawls and the ejections in the state finals. The committee wanted to have research on the people ejected and whether the coach works for the school in another capacity or the coach is just brought in to coach. Mr. Harrison discussed the new levels of suspension for the current school year. The committee voiced a concern about a potential two week suspension occurring during a holiday period or spring break when no games are being played.
13. Several topics were discussed during the open agenda.
 - a. The baseball website needs to be up-to-date with its information. Mr. Harrison assured the committee that this would be fixed.
 - b. The committee discussed whether the NFHS will endorse coaches wearing helmets while in the coach's boxes. Mr. Harrison informed the committee that he would contact the NFHS to see if this was on the horizon.
 - c. The committee expressed its interest, unanimously, in having the NFHS adopt the NCAA designated hitter rule. This would allow more flexibility with substitutions.
 - d. Members of the committee discussed the number of players allowed on the entry list. There was a mention on how it was done in the past and that would be preferred. It would allow 25 student-athletes to be listed but only 20 of those could dress out for a single game. Another option would be to increase the number to 22 student-athletes.

- e. The limit of the number of games was also brought up. The concern stated was high school student-athletes were turning towards outside leagues (American Legion, AAU, etc.) instead of playing high school baseball. The committee also felt that the number of games should be increased above 25. Baseball is a very different sport compared to the other sports and should be viewed as such. With pitchers not being able to throw every day, a team goes out into the field with a different set of players from one game to the next. It was because of this reason; the idea to increase the number of games was discussed. The idea of play-in dates was mentioned as well as a way to increase the number of games.
14. Mr. Harrison thanked outgoing members Mr. Gwynes, Mr. McCool, and Mr. Permuy for their service on the committee.
 15. The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m. by Mr. McQuaid.