

## Baseball Coaches Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

August 30, 2010

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, Ken Roland, Fernandina Beach High School, Rick Turner, Naples High School, Richie Warren, Jesuit High School, Jerry Albert, Coral Springs Charter High School, Pat McQuaid, Nova High School, and Ernie Padron, Florida Christian School. Dr. Peggy Jones, Associate Executive Director, Gary Pigott, Senior Director of Athletics, Justin Harrison, Associate Director of Athletics, Alex Ozuna, Assistant, Jeremy Vincent, Intern, and Alison Stenger, Intern, were also in attendance.

1. Mr. Harrison welcomed the committee members to the FHSAA office. He explained the procedure of the meeting, the process that a recommendation goes through prior to being implemented and allowed time for the members to complete their expense vouchers.
2. Each committee member introduced themselves.
3. Ernie Padron was selected chairman by a unanimous vote.
4. The 2009 meeting minutes were reviewed, the following topics were discussed, and the minutes were then approved: Motion: Charlie Warner- Second: Ernie Padron
  - a. The committee brought up the 2 out of 3 regional final. The committee felt the issue of travel still exists with the regional final with the one game playoff.
  - b. Policy 6 was discussed from the previous minutes
    - i. Scheduling and playing dates: The limit of the number of games was readdressed. Most coaches would like to see an increase.
5. The committee reviewed the existing Baseball manual and Mr. Harrison informed the coaches that there will be an online PDF version available this year.
6. 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.
  - a. Mr. John Messina, State Tournament Director (Centennial High School) spoke about new ideas for hotel accommodations and tournament details.
    - i. The Hilton Garden Inn and Homewood Suites will hold a set amount of rooms for advancing teams. That list will be finalized and coaches or athletic directors can call on that specific Saturday between 8-12pm to get room reservations and practice site assignments for the series.
    - ii. The hotel will also be opening their meeting space for student athletes who need to study for final exams and AP exams while they are away.
    - iii. Meal upgrades were brought up and agreed upon saying teams need to be aware of the menu so that they can plan accordingly.
    - iv. Promotional tactics for presale of State Tournament tickets were discussed and coaches agreed to bring it up at their individual district scheduling meeting.

Encouraging teams to go ahead and buy tickets for their team to go and experience the tournament even if they don't make it will be stressed.

7. Mr. Harrison went over the NFHS rule changes for the 2010-11 school year. These include:
  - a. Composite bats: outlawed until they can produce consistent results through the life of the bat, be made tamper-evident, and be labeled as a composite product. The teams will be provided with a list of approved composite bats.
  - b. List all known substitutes on line-up cards (can still add without a penalty): should speed up substitutions and player changes throughout the game.
  - c. Foul Tip Clarification: "a foul tip is a batted ball that goes directly to the catcher's hands and is legally caught by the catcher. It is a strike and the ball is in play"
  - d. "Last time by" rule: if a runner correctly touches a base that was missed the last time he was by the base, that last touch corrects any previous base running infraction.
  - e. Unyielding braces with padding: all hard and unyielding items such as braces, casts, etc., must be padded with a closed-cell, slow recovery foam padding no less than one-half-inch thick.
  - f. Concussions: strict constraints of players who may have suffered a concussion. The term "appropriate health-care professional" from the rule was discussed.
8. The committee did not have any Old Business to discuss.
9. The committee discussed five recommendations in New Business.
  - a. Coaches Helmets: Require Coaches to wear skull cap style helmets while occupying the 1<sup>st</sup> base and 3<sup>rd</sup> base coaching boxes.  
Motion: Pat McQuaid 2<sup>nd</sup>: Richie Warren, 7-0 to approve.  
Motion to Fast Track: Richie Warren- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Pat McQuaid
  - b. Ejection of Assistant Coach, Restriction of Head Coach: Remove the Modification to 3-3-1 of the NFHS baseball rule book concerning the restriction of coaches.
    - i. Make sure on pitching changes or injury there is an exception
    - ii. Board gave example of all other sports having a middle warning factor before ejection such as a technical, yellow cards and yardage penalties.Motion: Richie Warren- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Charlie Warner, 7-0 to approve
  - c. DH Rule: The Designated hitter may hit for the pitcher. If the pitcher opts to bat for himself, he is treated as two positions- a pitcher and a designated hitter (abbreviated P/DH on the lineup card) – and may be substituted for as such (i.e. if he is removed as the pitcher, he may remain as the designated hitter and vice versa). However, if a player who starts a game as a P/DH is relieved as the starting pitcher, he may not return to the mound even if he remains in the game as the DH., and he may not play any other defensive position after being relieved as the pitcher.
    - i. To limit injuries/extra wear and tear on arms and complete physical being of the pitcher.
    - ii. To be used at coaches discretion
    - iii. Provides the best chance of being competitive and protecting pitchers who are top hittersMotion: Charlie Warner- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rick Turner, 7-0 to approve

Motion to Fast Track: Ernie Padron- 2nd: Jerry Albert, 7-0 to approve

- d. DH Rule: Recommended by Mr. Warner and withdrew by Mr. Warner due to his agreement with the above proposal.
- e. Roster size: The Entry List may contain the names of up to "22" student- athletes, all of whom may participate.
  - i. Teams could use more courtesy runners, pitching etc.
  - ii. Bringing younger new guys up who have talent which in turn causes coaches to have to drop an upperclassman in the program because they need the skill is difficult to. Attending and participating in playoffs could be the highlight of some students' athletic careers.
  - iii. Help create flexibility

Motion: Richie Warren- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Ken Roland, 7-0 to approve

- 10. Pat McQuaid discussed the upcoming FACA Spring Clinics
  - a. Will be held in Daytona Beach December 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>
- 11. Sportsmanship was discussed by Mr. Harrison and Dr. Jones. They both think we are heading in the right direction and the number of ejections is decreasing. She stated the fact that there has been a 12% reduction since last year but she needs all coaches and athletic directors assistance in educating students and encouraging good sportsmanship. Dr. Jones says she will hit really hard of foul and abusive language because that is still one of the number one reasons for ejections.
- 12. The main topic discussed during the Round Table was Wooden bats
  - a. Guest Speaker Mike May, Director of Communication, Sporting Good Manufacturing Association and Guest Speaker Jim Darby, Vice President, Easton Sports
    - i. Both provided research projects to the committee
    - ii. No push yet for this to be implemented because there is no immediate safety concern
    - iii. Main concern is safety and expenses
    - iv. Not sure the average high school baseball player would benefit
    - v. Waiting to see how the BBCOR technology works in the upcoming seasons
    - vi. Committees questions to the presenters included:
      - 1. How many wood bats would a student athlete go through in one season?
      - 2. What do they see the cost of the new BBCOR bats being?
- 13. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 a.m. by Mr. McQuaid.