

**NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
1161 Route 130 North, P.O. Box 487 Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691**

**2011 BASEBALL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MINUTES**

June 15, 2011

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:10 AM and the members were welcomed to Robbinsville. Members present: Joseph Hartmann, Tournament Director; Joe Galliera, Executive Committee representative (and Joe brought a guest, Christa Grey – Intern from York College), Stuart Leon, State Baseball Rules interpreter; Jim Ambrosius, Williamstown HS. Not present: Dave Minsavage, Hanover Park; Mike Raymond, North Hunterdon, Mike Sheppard, Seton Hall Prep.
2. Members of the committee introduced themselves and where they are from.
3. Tournament regulations for 2011 and the changes in dates and years for 2012 were passed out to the committee. The committee was asked to review on their time and if they saw any mistakes with the changes to contact the NJSIAA baseball liaison with the corrections. The committee did discuss the concern of security or lack thereof for the games at the Toms River schools for the state finals. The liaison will look into the situation and make sure that at least one uniformed security person is at each site, and preferably two.
4. The committee addressed the topic of umpires and the assignment of umpires and for the most part they felt that the umpiring was really good. Again, the topic of assigning umpires for the early round games was addressed and how that can be changed and improved. Joe Galleria brought the fact that often in the first rounds you will get umpires from different associations because of the “bring one from each school” way of assigning. His feeling is that this presents a problem because these umpires have never worked together. He is correct but it was pointed out that all umpires should be enforcing the same rules and using the same mechanics because we use the NFHS rule book and umpires manuals for all sports. The liaison assured the committee that he and/or the state rules interpreter will send a note to all baseball/softball umpires’ chapters about making sure all umpires are working the same mechanics especially the first three rounds. After this discussion was completed, the liaison handed out a complete revision to Page 4 of the 2012 Baseball Tournament Regulations. That document will be included in the Spring 2012 Regulations section of our website.
5. The liaison shared with the committee the advances made in getting college/university sites for our Non-Public Sectional and Public State Semi-final sites. We need three more college/university sites for all of the above mentioned games. The liaison will begin in the summer to procure hopefully Fairleigh

Dickinson, Seton Hall U and Richard Stockton U (at no costs or very limited costs).

6. Under correspondences, the committee discussed the two topics that were sent in via email by Joe Galleria, namely the state tournament seeding and dates, and hitting practices of any sort before a playoff game. First topic was addressed as it relates to pitching and how a team with only one pitcher can with some luck go through the entire tournament thusly. Joe would like to see the early round games have less time in between, which would make teams have to pitch their #2 or possibly their #3 pitcher (due to pitching limitation rules). This would “spice up” the early rounds accordingly because teams could not rely totally on their number 1 pitcher. The committee also felt that when a team uses only pitcher the whole tournament the very last games are watered down because the pitcher is spent and the games tend to get “run ugly.” After quite a lot of discussion, the committee decided that the liaison would survey the schools as to how they feel about “shrinking” the length of the tournament but without change the dates of the overall tournament.

The second topic from Joe’s email had to do with batting practice as it pertains to the early rounds not at predetermined sites. It was acknowledged that schools will often meet and hit prior to getting to game site for the predetermined venue games. Joe’s topic deals with early round games at home sites. It is standard practice that the home team will take batting practice before the visiting team and the umpires reach the site. Sometimes the batting practice is still going on when the visiting team arrives. Joe’s concerns are this: 1) as an administrator he has to deal with his coaches asking for early dismissal so that they as the visiting team can hit at their field before getting on the bus to go to the away game, and 2) if the courtesy of allowing the visiting team batting practice at the game site can be mandated. The committee understood his plight as a school administrator but felt that we could not help him in this regard. Neither did the committee feel that it could mandate “courtesy batting practice.” This is just a benefit of being a higher seeded team.

7. A concern that was brought up by Jim Ambrosius was the sometimes lack of games played on a conference level due to whatever reasons. The liaison mentioned that all conferences are suppose to be on the same two-year cycles and those changes in conferences or within a conference is a local matter (for the most part) but NJSIAA does allow the debate and discussion of changing conferences to come up every 2 or 3 years. The liaison shared with the committee the winners of the six state group championships, the runner-ups and the 2 third place teams as it applies to ShopRite cup points. Also, the committee received a copy of a Sports Authority flyer that talks about the BBCOR standard beginning in January 2012. All agreed that they were glad this year was over as it pertains to bats.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry L. White