SOFTBALL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
June 14, 2018

Members in Attendance:
Voting: Donna Martello; Allison Munch, Rules Interpreter; Vic Dudka, Assignor; Darren White; Jean Ruppert; Jeff Steele; Debbie Schwartz, Joanne Dzama, Maureen Bilda, Nelson Epley

Not in attendance: Mandy Schram, West Deptford

Non-voting: NJSIAA Assistant Director, Kim DeGraw Cole, Derryk Sellers, Sean Riley

Approval of the 2017 Minutes: Motion by Vic Dudka, second by Allison Munch. Unanimous.

Committee Structure & Rotation: Darren White, 4 years of service to NJSIAA softball committee, Kim thanked Darren for his contribution. North coach replacement for 2019.

Correspondence & Discussion:
The 2018 Softball season went fairly smooth, a few minor issues, however no items were sent for the agenda today, other than the communication from Wildwood Catholic.

Derryk Sellers was in attendance to the meeting to propose the following rule. Derryk proposed the committee adapt 10 runs and over would end the inning to keep the game moving. A discussion ensued as to this change. The NJSIAA Softball Rules Modifications permits conferences to adopt a sub varsity alternatives to enhance the development of softball. Kim explained to the committee that the State of New Jersey is 100% vested in the NFHS and is not able to deviate from the NFHS playing rules. The NJSIAA has adopted the NFHS 10 run rule and 15 run rule after 4 innings.

Classifications:
The NJSIAA has put together a committee to look at the classification structure of each sport. A possible change for softball would be to make 5 groups, however, this is still in discussion with the committee. Please note that the classifications will be on a 2 year cycle for the 2019 season.

Tournament Sites:
Special Thanks to the staffs at Essex County/Ivy Hill Park, Kean University, Caldwell University, Montclair University, Stockton University, Rowan University and Rowan at Gloucester County for serving as host sites.
Everyone agreed that the tournament sites for the 2018 season were good. Vic Dudka felt that starting ahead of baseball this year was a positive change. Wildwood Catholic was concerned about the coin toss for the non-public sectional final. As the home team, the higher seed they believe they have earned the right to be the “home team”.

A motion was made to hold the Non-Public Sectional Finals at a college venue, the higher seed would be the “home” team and have choice of dug-outs. Motion made by Jeff Steele, second by Joanne Dzama, Unanimous.

Vic Dudka mentioned possibly increasing the fees by five dollars for the umpires in the first 3 rounds. A lengthy discussion ensued as to what the umpires currently get paid and how their travel expenses are not covered. Officials are traveling all over the state and are not being compensated.

A motion was made to recommend a five dollar ($5.00) increase as to umpire fees. If passed this would not go into effect until the 2020 season to allow time to budget this increase. This recommendation would need to be approved at Program Review and then voted on by the Executive Committee. Motion made by Darren White, second by Debbie Schwartz, 8 yes, 2 no, motion passes.

**Tournament of Champions:**
No issues with the Tournament of Champions, the only complaint was that the officials do not have a spot to get dressed and sit while waiting for games to start. A suggestion was made to reach out to Seton Hall to see if they can open up the Rec building at Seton Hall University for the officials.

**2019 Tournament Dates: Tentative**
There is no change in the tournament structure. Date confirmation must be secured from the assignor. Please note that June 1, 2019 is a S.A.T. Date. The committee discussed moving the time slots to a 12pm start, everyone agreed that the schedule as-is is good. Not having pre-determined college sites will remain the same, the girls enjoy the anticipation of finding out which college venue they will be playing at. As to changing dates and times, graduation is the only event that changes can be made, for other instances such as the prom, S.A.T., etc. this change can be made if both teams agree.

Kim DeGraw-Cole thanked Allison Munch, Vic Dudka and Donna Martello for all their hard work and dedication. Thanks to the Softball committee and all of the schools that hosted events this year and the student athletes for their outstanding performances. The weather did not stop us from having a great season.

**2019 Tournament Dates: Tentative**
Practice: March 1 and Game Date: April 1, 2019

CUT-OFF DATE: Thursday, May 9, 2019 (the cutoff for records Friday 11:59 pm)
Records will be pulled on Saturday 5/11/19.

Seeding Meeting: **Monday, May 13, 2019**

*Date Confirmation must be secured from the Assignor: On or before provides flexibility in scheduling, however it is contingent upon umpire availability.*

**NON-PUBLIC:** (Note Memorial Day is May 27, 2019)

Preliminaries:  
1st round on or before **Monday May 20** (Rain 5/21)-**Not on 5/16**
2nd round on or before **Thursday, May 23** (Rain 5/24)
3rd round on Tuesday **May 28** (Rain 5/29)

**Sectional Finals:** Thursday, May 30, 2019 (Rain 5/31) College Venues

**PUBLIC:** (Note Memorial Day is May 27, 2019)

Preliminaries:  
1st round on or before **Thursday, May 16** (Rain 5/17)
2nd round on or before **Monday, May 20** (Rain 5/21)
3rd round on or before **Thursday, May 23** (Rain 5/24)

**Sectional Finals:** Tuesday, May 28, 2019 (Rain 5/29)

**State Semifinal:** Thursday, May 30, 2019 (Rain 5/31) College Venues

Public and Non-Public Finals: Saturday, June 1, 2019 (2:30/5:00/7:30) and Sunday (12/2:30/5), June 2, 2019 at Kean University.

**TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS:**

At Seton Hall, Ivy Hill Park

Tuesday, June 4, 2019 Play in-games at 5:00 & **7:00** (4 vs. 5; 3 vs. 6)

Wednesday, June 5, 2019 Semi-Finals at 5:00 & **7:00** (2 vs 3/6 winner; 1 vs 4/5 winner)

Friday, June 7, 2019 Finals at **7:30 pm**

Meeting Adjourned at 11:15