

NMAA Baseball Sports Specific Committee Meeting
Friday, December 12th, 2008
2 P.M. – NMAA Office



Agenda

- A. Welcome/Introductory Comments
- B. Current Issues at Hand
 - 1. 2008 Summer Survey (Class A/2A Baseball)
 - 2. Current State Tournament Format
 - a.) Class A/2A
 - b.) Classes 3A-5A
 - c.) Seeding/Selection
 - 3. Fields Used during State Playoffs (especially first round)
 - 4. 2009 State Tournament Schedule (tentative)
 - 5. Isotopes Park (future use)
 - 6. Current Pitching Restrictions
 - 7. Out of Season Coaching
 - 8. District Tiebreakers (by district or universally decided by the NMAA)
- C. Other Issues/Addendum Agenda (*if needed*)
- D. Final Comments
- E. Adjournment

Baseball Sports Specific Committee Meeting
Notes for December 12, 2008
2:00 PM – NMAA Office

The baseball sports specific committee met on Friday, December 12th at the NMAA office. Those present were as follows: Dusty Young, NMAA; Kenny Barreras, APS A.D.; Joe Moulton, Capital HS A.D.; Jim Briggs, Manzano HS, Class 5A (filling in for Jim Johns of Eldorado HS), Richard Laughlin, Piedra Vista HS, Class 4A; Alan Edmonson, Socorro HS, Class 3A; David Naylor, East Mountain HS, Class 2A (filling in for Eric Gutierrez of Tularosa HS); Jimmy Ward, Elida HS, Class 1A; Ron Shields, NMOA Umpire (filling in for Jim Sayre). One guest was in attendance as well, PVHS Assistant Coach David Null.

Dusty Young opened the meeting with welcoming/introductory comments.

The meeting began with a variety of subjects discussed, summarized as follows:

1. 2008 Summer Survey Regarding Class A/2A Baseball
 - Mr. Young went over the survey that asked A/2A schools three questions. One dealt with combining the two classes, one dealt with the format of the first round (single game or two of three), and the last dealt with qualifiers for state (District Champs only or Champs & Runner Ups)
 - Class A schools mostly voted the same and wanted two separate classes, champs and runner ups, and a single game, respectively.
 - Class 2A schools mostly voted the same and wanted one class, champs only, and the two of three series.
 - This brought the committee to discuss the possibility of again separating the two classes, making 5 in baseball again.
 - Pros and Cons were discussed for this. The committee suggested we possibly mirror what some other states do with their small schools and have a combined class for the regular season, with two separate classes for postseason. This will have to be looked at to see if it will work logistically.

2. Current State Tournament Format
 - Mr. Young went over the tournament format for the 2009 State Baseball Tournament. A/2A will follow the same format used by basketball with champs and runner ups being matched up and then those winners will be seeded into the final 8.
 - Class 3A-5A will stay with the same 2 of 3 series format, however District Champs only will advance with all others being at large bids. The 2 of 3 format was discussed and it was a huge hit. No negative comments, all positive as it is good for the sport.

- The committee likes the idea of moving more state rounds to this 2 of 3 format in the future, but understands at this point it can not be done financially.
- Seeding and Selection was discussed. There are still some concerns as to the members on these committees. Are they “baseball guys” or just reps chosen to read win loss records and go along with the group. Mr. Barreras suggested maybe using a committee of Regionally Assigned Members that would watch numerous baseball games across all classifications. They would be “baseball guys” and could sit on more than one Class Committee.

3. Fields Used during the State Playoffs

- Mr. Young spoke on some concerns brought to the NMAA by several coaches regarding the fields used for State Playoff games. Some fields are believed to be not in good enough shape for a game like this, or not dimensionally good for the game.
- It was discussed that as it has been done in the past, if a host school does not have the best field for a state game, it should be moved to a nearby community. This has been done across the state in the past and should continue.
- Also, safety issues were discussed with some fields. This needs to be addressed by umpires on site. They are to inspect fields to make sure a game can be played without putting the kids in harms way. Mr. Shields stated this is always done but will be emphasized throughout the state to all umpires.

4. 2009 State Tournament Schedule

- Mr. Young showed the committee the schedule for this years tournament. The event will be held May 13-16 with all championships being played at Isotopes Park
- The only questions that came up were the quality of UNM and the use of fields with turf. Mr. Young explained that UNM had to be used due to possible seating issues, and RRHS is always paired with UNM as a site so all schools in the class play on turf in the quarterfinals.
- Times and dates looked good to the committee.

5. Isotopes Park (future use)

- Mr. Young explained that we still could have issues obtaining Isotopes Park in the future as the NMAA Board has been very adamant to keep the baseball tournament on Week #46.
- If the date is set for this week each year, and the Isotopes are in town, we would not be able to use their facility.
- The importance of playing in that venue was strongly discussed, and the NMAA and member schools need to push to keep Isotopes in any way possible. Even if this means going to the State Legislature to mandate those days be held open for high school baseball on a yearly basis. This can be requested by the Isotopes to the Pacific Coast League.

- If Isotopes is unavailable, the only option was felt to be UNM. NMSU was mentioned as well, but logistically UNM is the only other option. Mr. Young explained UNM will be renovating their stadium in the future which will make it a much better facility and very usable for the State Championships.

6. Current Pitching Restrictions

- The current pitching rules were discussed briefly. All committee members were for the current rules and believe nothing needs to be changed.

7. Out of Season Coaching

- Mr. Young explained the out of season coaching rule to the committee and brought up some possible violations to this rule.
- The committee discussed that certain exceptions should be made due to the length of summer legion ball and this possibly running into the school year.
- Mr. Young explained that communication with these issues can resolve any possible situations/violations. The committee did urge that an official petition be made to the NMAA by a coach wishing to participate in an end of year tournament once school starts. Guidelines need to be met in order to get permission (ie 80% of the season must be played during the summer if a team/coach wishes to play a tournament once school starts)

8. District Tiebreakers

- Mr. Young stated that the NMAA Administrative Staff was instructed to take District Tiebreaking procedures to each sports specific committee to possibly enforce a universal tiebreaker to be used by all districts within the sport.
- Each committee member gave feedback on their current procedures and then gave input on to how the “universal” rule should be read if it is implemented.
- After much discussion, the following tiebreaker system was agreed upon by all committee members:
 - i. Head to Head
 - ii. Least Runs Allowed between the Teams Tied (least would hold tiebreaker, a run differential with a 10 run cap was discussed, but it was felt as if least runs allowed was more positive for the kids when it comes to sportsmanship initiatives as we don’t want teams running up the score in case they need to break a tie of this nature)
 - iii. Record vs. next district finisher
 - iv. Least runs allowed vs. next district finisher
 - v. Playoff Game

-Although a universal tiebreaking procedure was supported, the biggest issue to the committee was to have ties be broken by what is done on the field, not by a coin flip.

9. Other Issues

- Mr. Shields brought up one issue from the officials world. He stated that it is of great importance to all umpires that attendance of a 3-man mechanics clinic be mandated by the NMOA in order to call state tournament baseball games.
- It was discussed that there are many good officials across the state, but they could be clueless when arriving to State as they do not work many 3-Man games.
- The committee was a huge supporter of this and hopes the NMOA can pass this into their constitution at some point in the near future.
- Mr. Edmonson brought up another point concerning officials stressing that we need to stay on our coaches, kids, and especially spectators when it comes to battering officials. PVWH is growing across the state but sportsmanship starts with the coach and needs to run down from there to all others involved with the game.

In summary there were no actual votes taken, simply discussion. The attendees agreed to survey their areas to get appropriate feedback in preparation for the next sports specific meeting to be held this spring. The agenda for this meeting will be sent at least two weeks before this meeting is to commence.

Mr. Young thanked all that were in attendance and the meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm