

CIAC BASEBALL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Pairings Meeting – May 26, 2017

Members present: Steve Baldwin, John Cross, Ray Faustich, Ralph Franco, Rich Hadden, Joe Madaffari, Scott Martin, Steve Patrino, Paul Steiner, Dan Sullivan, John Wrenn, Anthony Azzara (Chair), Fred Balsamo (Tournament Director), Joe Tonelli.

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Chairman Anthony Azzara at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes – On a motion by Ralph Franco the minutes of September 29, 2016 were approved.

Tournament Pairings – Fred reported that only three games did not get played as a result of the rain during the last week of the season. The committee reviewed the rankings and pairings for all classes of the tournament. Fred stated that there will be three play-in games (1 in class LL and two in class M). Finding everything in order, and on a motion by Joe Madaffari, the pairings of the 2017 baseball tournament in all classes were approved.

Tournament Sites – Tournament director Fred Balsamo reported that he had secured all quality semi-final sites (newly renovated Dunkin Donuts Park, Municipal Stadium, Muzzy Field and Palmer Stadium). The finals will be played at Palmer Stadium. Fred looks forward to using the stadium next year.

Umpires – Joe reported that the umpires were set for the tournament and the boards involved in the play-in games will be giving a heads-up that the home school will be contacting them.

Committee Members – Butch distributed the tournament passes to the members present at the meeting and asked for their help by attending some games to represent the baseball committee. He emphasized that committee members were needed to distribute the awards at the finals. He shared his personal email with the committee so they can notify him if they planned to attend any games. (Email – bpazzara@yahoo.com)

Tournament Dedication – John Wrenn reported that the 2017 CIAC Baseball Tournament will be dedicated to “Moe” Morhardt, one of the true legends of Connecticut baseball. He was both a soccer and baseball “All American” at UConn, before playing five years on the professional, including a two-year stint with the Chicago Cubs. He won three state titles while coaching at the Gilbert School. “Moe” coached more than two decades at the high school level before moving to the collegiate ranks where he was the head coach at the University of Hartford and Western Connecticut State University. He will be in attendance to receive the award at the game of his choice.

Pitch Count Update – A general discussion took place regarding the pitch count rule. As was decided by the committee, the initial year of the rule was used for gathering data to determine if changes were needed to improve upon the rule and to address some of the concerns identified by the committee. The committee was apprized that the 2018 pitch count rule will include a maximum, a verification method and the online pitch count system will be continued, but schools will have access to all submissions. The specifics of all aspects of the CT pitch count rule will be discussed at the fall meeting and articulated in the 2018 baseball tournament packet, after the revised rule receives CIAC Board approval.

Pitchers and Catchers Conditioning Week – This will also be on the fall meeting agenda, a brief discussion took place and it was mentioned that by starting the conditioning week on a Saturday, instead of a Monday, pitchers can be given two days of rest. Since the pitch count rule makes it essential to develop more pitchers on all levels of the program, we will discuss tweaking the regulation to possibly allow for a session for freshman and sophomores and a second session for juniors and seniors, including practically the entire team in smaller schools. If the committee decides to tweak anything with conditioning week, it would have to be approved by the CIAC Board of Control.

Mercy Rule – As a result of the pitch count rule, the coaches on the committee brought up the need to discuss a Mercy Rule and the topic will be on the fall meeting agenda. It was mentioned that the FCIAC baseball coaches favor the rule and the entire committee will discuss the concept. It was pointed out that if CT adopts a Mercy Rule, it must follow the

NFHS rules for a state adoption, which is 10 runs after 4.5 innings, if the home team is ahead and 5 full innings, if the visitors are ahead by 10 or more runs.

Adjournment – With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Tuesday, October 3, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. The pairings meeting is Friday, May 25, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.