

CIAC BASEBALL COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 29, 2016

Members present: Steve Baldwin, John Cross, Fran DiFiore, Ray Faustich, Rich Hadden, Scott Martin, Steve Patrina, Paul Steiner, John Wrenn, Anthony Azzara – Chair, Fred Balsamo – Tournament Director, Joe Tonelli and Steve Wysowski – CIAC staff.

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Chairman Anthony Azzara at 3:00 p.m.

Committee Membership Update – Butch distributed the committee roster and asked the committee to check their contact information and make updates, if necessary.

2016 Tournament Report – Fred reported that it was a successful tournament and all brackets were filled with teams that met the 40% qualifying standard. Despite the weather issues on Saturday, we were able to play two games, necessitating a Sunday doubleheader, which drew fairly good crowds. The \$2 increase in the price of adult tickets benefitted the income side while the expenses remained the same as the previous year. Butch thanked the committee members who attended the games and helped with the distribution of awards.

Minutes – On a motion by Steve Baldwin the minutes of May 27, 2016 were approved.

Pitch Count Update – Fred reported that the NFHS Baseball Rules Committee established a pitch count rule requirement for the 2017 season. The new rule mandates that “Each NFHS member state association will be required to develop its own pitching restriction policy based on the number of pitches thrown during a game to afford pitchers a required rest period between pitching appearances”. Fortunately, the CIAC anticipated that a pitch count was coming so we were prepared for a 2017 implementation date and previously solicited input from the coaches. Therefore, based upon the input from the coaches and others, researching proposals from other states and incorporating the previously agreed upon philosophy of the baseball committee “to keep things simple”, a draft of the CIAC Pitching Limitation Rule proposal was distributed and discussed at length by the committee. Joe reminded the group that we also had a telephone conversation with Elliot Hopkins, the NFHS baseball rules editor on the basic concepts of the Connecticut proposal and Fred also had a preliminary conversation with Dr. Carl Nissen, the head of the CT Sports Medicine Committee.

On a motion by committee member John Wrenn, the CIAC pitching limitation rule proposal was unanimously approved.

The plan is to distribute the proposal to all coaches to get additional feedback, finalize the draft and properly vet the proposal with the various organizations before seeking the approval of the CIAC Board of Control. The specifics of all aspects of the CT pitch count rule will be articulated in the 2017 baseball tournament packet.

Tournament Dedication – John Wrenn reported that John DeNunzio, the long-time Middletown baseball coach was most appreciative of the honor bestowed upon him by the baseball committee. Committee members were encouraged by John Wrenn to contact him with any nominees for the 2017 award. John would then solicit input electronically to make the selection.

Pitchers and Catchers Conditioning Week – A brief discussion took place about the need to develop more pitchers, especially in the smaller schools. The idea of increasing the numbers permitted at conditioning week and/or increase the number of days was mentioned but put on hold. The committee wants to focus our presentation to the CIAC Board on the “pitch count” rather than approaching the board with two major issues.

2017 Baseball Tournament Packet – The remainder of the meeting was spent revising and updating the packet for the 2017 baseball tournament.

Adjournment – With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m. If needed, the next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 3:00 p.m., but it will only be held if needed; the pairings meeting is Friday, May 26, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.