

## Baseball Committee Meeting-Department of Illinois October 29,2020

The Baseball Committee met on a teleconference on Thursday evening at 715PM.

All members of the committee participated in the conference ( Paul Knudston-1<sup>st</sup> Division Chairman ,James Huisel-2<sup>nd</sup> Division Chairman, John Gosney-3<sup>rd</sup> Division Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the committee, Harry Rakers-4<sup>th</sup> Division Chairman, Don Wallis-5<sup>th</sup> Division and Chairman of the Committee and William”Butch” Ogle who is the 25<sup>th</sup> District Baseball Chairman and has served as the Director at the Junior Legion State Tournament.

There was a brief discussion of the non-season of 2020 and that some teams played games outside the state of Illinois. We had some teams who played when restrictions were lifted/modified in the state. These teams played as independents.

The next topic was concerning the Americanism Baseball Conference(September 26<sup>th</sup>) that was held on Zoom this year. Normally this is a meeting at American Legion Headquarters in Indianapolis.

Highlights were discussed from the Zoom meeting.

- Challenges of those states who conducted an independent summer season.

- This included new waiver forms concerning Covid-19.

- Changes in local health department regulations/guidelines

- Limiting overnight hotel stays

The importance of having insurance in this challenging time was discussed.

We were asked to work on expanding the Junior Legion and especially the Prep Team programs.

There will not be any printed National Rulebooks for 2021. There are no rule changes anticipated at this time. The Rulebook will be available online.

We were asked to certify a Senior Legion State Champion by August 1,2021

Our season will be different than any that we had had before due to the IHSA being forced to change when sports are being played.

Our Insurance coverage begins March 1.

We can practice and plays games until April 18. The IHSA starts baseball practice on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April.

The IHSA has allowed a onetime exemption (2021) for baseball players to play on a non high school team starting June 4. This will require new challenges for any legion team.

The IHSA baseball season ends on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

Our post season should begin for Seniors the week of July 19<sup>th</sup>

The Senior State Tournament should begin July 28 and end on July 31<sup>st</sup>.

There will be no banquet this year because of health concerns.

The Senior Legion State Champion will advance to the Great Lakes Regional scheduled to be held at Elmhurst , Illinois August 3- 8

The Junior post season should begin the week of July 26<sup>th</sup>

The Junior State Tournament should begin on August 5<sup>th</sup> and end August 8<sup>th</sup>

There will be no banquet this year because of health concerns.

Tournament hosts for both Senior and Junior programs are TBD.

Each member of the committee was allowed to make comments and ask questions during the conference.

We agreed to meet again either the week before Thanksgiving or the week after.

Thanks for allowing me to serve,

Respectfully submitted,

Don Wallis

Baseball Chairman- Department of Illinois