

2024-2025 Softball Advisory Agenda  
September 18, 2024 @ 10:30 a.m. CT  
Zoom meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81820587142?pwd=yIv5ca6syHliDSPSvoTylrAYI50QKX.1>

“AA” Coach:	Cassidy Neer, Aberdeen Central	2025 (1)
“A” Coach:	TC Weinandt, Dakota Valley	2025 (1)
“B” Coach:	Amber Saylor, Freeman	2025 (1)
Athletic Director:	Bill Freking, Brandon Valley	2025 (1)
Principal:	Pete Wilson, Sturgis	2025 (1)
Official:	Brett Distel, Box Elder	2025 (1)
Native Am. Rep:	Nick Prado, Lakota Tech	2026 (1)

1. Welcome
2. Approve agenda
3. Procedure for the meeting
4. Select a Recording Secretary
5. Review Advisory Committee membership, terms, duties and responsibilities.
6. State Tournament Review
7. Committee Reports
  - a. AA Coach
    - i. JV 5-Run Rule Proposal
    - ii. Class AA Run Rule Proposal
    - iii. State Tournament Format Proposal
  - b. A Coach
    - i. Tracking HS Softball Stats
    - ii. 2025 NFHS Rule Changes
    - iii. Baden Softballs
    - iv. 2025 Softball Specs
    - v. Intentional walks
  - c. B Coach
  - d. AD
    - i. Intentional Walk Proposal
  - e. Supt./Principal
  - f. Official
  - g. SDHSAA
8. State Tournament Planning- Aberdeen and Sioux Falls
9. Review Softball Handbook
10. Other items to be discussed
11. Adjournment

#1

# ADVISORY RULE PROPOSAL CHANGE



Schools wishing to make a rules proposal change for the advisory committee to consider shall complete this form and submit to the SDHSAA office preferably two weeks PRIOR to the meeting date so the proposal may be added to the agenda.

**Please select the sport in which the rules proposal is being submitted.**

- Basketball
- Football
- Soccer
- Volleyball
- Comp. Cheer
- Golf
- Softball
- Wrestling
- Comp Dance
- Gymnastics
- Tennis
- In/Out-of-Season
- Cross Country/Track

**Title of Proposal:** JV 5-Run Rule

**Proposal will affect the following classes (please check all that apply):**


- Class B
- Class A
- Class AA

**Proposed Rule Change:**

Allowing teams to agree prior to the game that there will be a 5-Run Limit per inning for JV contests. The play would be completed prior to the inning ending. I.e. If 4 runs have been scored, and a 3-run RBI is hit, they would record 7 runs for that inning.

**Rationale for Rule Change:**

By implementing a 5-run limit per inning, it allows for teams to still win by the current run rule while also providing sub varsity levels with an environment to grow and learn. This will prevent teams from having to intentionally leave first base early and keep the scores of games beneficial for both sides while maintaining the dignity of developing teams. This will also encourage a safer environment for developing pitchers who may not have the strength or pitch control to throw complete games yet. This rule would allow us to see a better pace of game that fosters growth in the sport.

<u>Cassidy Neer</u>	<u>Aberdeen Central</u>	<u></u>
Print Coach Name	Member School	Coach Signature
<u>Dawn Seiler</u>	<u>Aberdeen Central</u>	<u>Dawn Seiler</u>
Print Athletic Director Name	Member School	Athletic Director Signature

# ADVISORY RULE PROPOSAL CHANGE

#2



Schools wishing to make a rules proposal change for the advisory committee to consider shall complete this form and submit to the SDHSAA office preferably two weeks PRIOR to the meeting date so the proposal may be added to the agenda.

Please select the sport in which the rules proposal is being submitted.

- |   |                                  |   |  |
|---|----------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Basketball          | <input type="radio"/> Football   | <input type="radio"/> Soccer              | <input type="radio"/> Volleyball       |
| <input type="radio"/> Comp. Cheer         | <input type="radio"/> Golf       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Softball | <input type="radio"/> Wrestling        |
| <input type="radio"/> Comp Dance          | <input type="radio"/> Gymnastics | <input type="radio"/> Tennis              | <input type="radio"/> In/Out-of-Season |
| <input type="radio"/> Cross Country/Track |                                  |   |  |

Title of Proposal: Run Rule

Proposal will affect the following classes (please check all that apply):

- Class B
- Class A
- Class AA


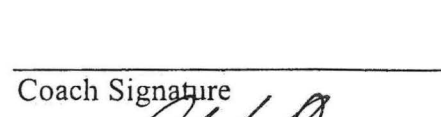

Proposed Rule Change:

12 runs after 3 innings or home team is up after 2.5 innings  
10 runs after 4 innings or home team is up after 3.5 innings  
8 runs after 5 innings or home team is up after 4.5 innings

Rationale for Rule Change:

The current run rule format promotes teams scoring 20 plus runs against an opponent. 20 plus runs creates sportsmanship tension between member schools.

12 runs after 3 allows teams to score 15 runs and provides a comfortable cushion for teams to reach a run rule without scoring 20 plus runs. In addition, we often run into weather issues during the spring. Current NFHS rules would require 5 completed innings for a game to count if it were called due to inclement weather. Adopting the run rule change would allow more games to complete as it would allow for lopsided games to conclude after 3rd or 4th innings by lowering the threshold for conclusion. It is atypical for a game that has a run differential of 12 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, or 8 runs after 5 innings to report a comeback victory for the team that is down.

 Print Coach Name	Sioux Falls Jefferson Member School	 Coach Signature
<u>Chad Stadem</u> Print Athletic Director Name	Sioux Falls Jefferson Member School	 Athletic Director Signature

#3

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**Title of Proposal:** State Tournament Format

**Proposal will affect the following classes (please check all that apply):**

- Class B
- Class A
- Class AA

**Proposed Rule Change:**

State Tournament Format change:

Option 1:

- SoDak 16 played at home site 1 game
- Elite 8 played at higher seed home site 3 game series 2:30, 5:00, & If game at 7:30
- Final 4 at neutral site 3 game series
- Championship 3 game series (Final 4 and Championship held Thursday, Friday, Saturday at State Championship Location)

Option 2: 8 team Double elimination format

Both options eliminate the consolation bracket at the state tournament.

**Rationale for Rule Change:**

Both options help to ensure the best team is crowned champion. They both also increase the chances that the State Champs are not necessarily the team with a dominant pitcher but a staff of pitchers and offensive support.

Softball players are used to playing multiple games in one day. The current format is not consistent with standard practice in the softball community.

ED WHITING  
Print Coach Name

Sioux Falls Jefferson  
Member School

[Signature]  
Coach Signature

Chad Stadem  
Print Athletic Director Name

Sioux Falls Jefferson  
Member School

[Signature]  
Athletic Director Signature

#4

# ADVISORY RULE PROPOSAL CHANGE



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Title of Proposal: Intentional Walks for Softball

Proposal will affect the following classes (please check all that apply):

- Class B
- Class A
- Class AA

### Proposed Rule Change:

We propose that if a team wishes to intentionally walk a batter, they are still required to pitch the four balls required to walk the batter instead of just being able to tell the umpire that they want to intentionally walk the batter and the batter goes to first base.

### Rationale for Rule Change:

Intentionally walking a batter is typically done to take the bat out of the hands of one of the opponents better players. While we think having the option to intentionally walk a batter is fine, we think the pitcher should have to actually throw the four "balls" required for a walk - here's why:

- As the rule is currently enforced, the intentional walk only benefits the defense. If the pitcher actually had to pitch the ball, the the offense could possibly steal a base. It takes away any chance for a passed ball that could advance the runners and possibly even score a run.

- The current rule saves on a pitcher's pitch count. We had a player intentionally walked 5 times in one game - that is 20 less pitches that pitcher threw during the game. We realize there is no pitch count in softball & softball pitchers throw a lot more pitches than they do in baseball, but they still tire as the game goes on, and NOT having to throw those pitches is a benefit.

<u>Katie Weeldreyer</u>	<u>Madison High School</u>	<u>Katie Weeldreyer</u>
Print Coach Name	Member School	Coach Signature
<u>Michael Rieke</u>	<u>Madison High School</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
Print Athletic Director Name	Member School	Athletic Director Signature