



804 N. Euclid / PO Box 1217 - Pierre SD 57501  
Telephone: 605-224-9261 – Fax: 224-9262

Kristina Sage  
Assistant Executive Director

## 2024-2025 Softball Advisory Minutes September 18, 2024 Zoom Meeting

“AA” Coach:	Cassidy Neer, Aberdeen Central	2025 (1)
“A” Coach:	TC Weinandt, Dakota Valley	2025 (1)
“B” Coach:	Amber Sayler, 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 (2)

1. Welcome- Sage opened the meeting with a welcome and thanked the committee for their commitment to the sport.
2. Motion by Freking, second by Wilson to approve the agenda as submitted. Passed unanimously.
3. Sage went over the procedure for the meeting.
4. Cassidy Neer volunteered to help record notes from the meeting.
5. Sage reviewed the Advisory Committee membership, terms, duties and responsibilities. As everyone is in their second year of a three-year term, members were reminded that they can serve two consecutive terms.
6. State Tournament Review- Everyone enjoyed the State Tourney in Aberdeen and wanted to thank Aberdeen and Dawn Seiler for being such great hosts for all three classes. Good reviews from the schools as well as the umpire group. This year Class A and B will be in Aberdeen again; Class AA in Sioux Falls at Augustana University.
7. Committee Reports
  - a. AA Coach- Cassidy Neer- Cassidy reported on the following:
    - i. Proposal #1 – JV 5-Run Rule. This would allow young teams to develop while keeping a positive environment, comparable to a running clock in other sports. Teams would agree to this prior to the game; the group liked the choice option. **Motion by Neer, second by Distel to move Proposal #1 forward. Passed unanimously.**
    - ii. Proposal #2 – AA Varsity Run Rule. This is the USA rule – 12, 10, 8 – 3, 4, 5. Proposal #2 died for lack of a motion.

- iii. Proposal #3 – State Tournament Format. The group liked the idea of coming back after one loss in a tournament – they felt that is true softball. Discussion on the format of the other sports’ state tournament and that it is single elimination. Sage will research to see what other states are doing for a state tournament format. The committee felt it was a little early to be making such a huge change in the format for qualifying for state as well as the tournament format. Proposal #3 died for lack of a motion.
- b. A Coach – TC Weinandt – TC reported on the following:
  - i. Proposal #4 – Intentional Walk – make the pitcher throw the four pitches. There was no interest in moving this proposal forward as it would deviate from the NFHS Rule.
  - ii. Discussion on tracking stats for historical purposes. The group agreed we need a consistent tool but would be better if it can be imported and that we wait until the end of the season. The SDHSAA collects team stats for the state tournament, but other than that, no requirements.
  - iii. Discussion on the NFHS Rule Changes for 2025. The specs for the softball are outlined in the rule book. Sage will send out information on those specs in the spring. The group discussed the Baden ball and were there other options; the Baden ball will be used for the state tournament.
- c. B Coach – Amber Sayler- all items have previously been discussed.
  - i. Discussion on the possibility of limiting the number of innings for pitchers – like the quarter rule in basketball and set rule in volleyball. Stressing the importance of the JV game for development and not abusing the talents of one pitcher. This could be something to look at down the road; the group felt that the 5-run JV rule could help with this. Also discuss different ideas that allow coaches to agree to alternative arrangements prior to the game.
  - ii. Teams are allowed to dress 16 athletes for games. The question was raised if that could be increased to 18-20 considering the number of players on the field, as well as number of pitchers and catchers.
  - iii. What is the possibility of moving softball to the summer season? Iowa is the only state doing so currently.
- d. AD – Bill Freking
  - i. The AD group would like to see the SoDak16 games played over a couple days and not just one. Use three-person officiating crew for SoDak16 games. Would like to see three-person crews for regular season games. Discussion on the difficulty of this as far as costs, availability, and game times. Stressed flexibility at the JV level, but also keeping the integrity of the game at the same time. Coaches’ association selects All-State Teams – question raised as to where can that information be located.
  - ii. Possibility of coaches being allowed to practice with pitchers and catchers prior to the official start date for practice; maybe an early window similar to pole vault – but allowing year-round would be unhealthy.
- e. Principal- Pete Wilson
  - i. Is the SoDak16 too large with the number of teams in each class? In his area they are battling with travel ball vs. high school ball.
  - ii. Finding another date for SoDak contests as semester tests are involved at that time as well as graduation. It is difficult to find another place to put the SoDak so it is not on top of State Track in which many girls participate in both track and softball.
- f. Official – Brett Distel-
  - i. Officials group happy about the three-man crews for state tourney.
  - ii. Game times need to be addressed to schools – difficult for crews to get there for a start time earlier than 4:00 pm.
  - iii. Asked about the possibility of being allowed to wear the NCAA jacket. This would need to be presented to the Officials Advisory Group.
- g. SDHSAA
  - i. Review Softball handbook
    - 1. Page 9 – Bats: there is a third label that needs to be added under bat certification.

2. On- deck circle – NFHS: closest to batter’s dugout.
  
8. State Tournament Planning
  - a. Aberdeen (Players Complex) - Class A and Class B
  - b. Augustana University – Class AA
  
9. Adjournment – motion by Neer, second by Distel. Meeting was adjourned at 12:12 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Sage  
Assistant Executive Director  
South Dakota High School Activities Association



#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