

MINUTES
OF THE
MAINE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION
SOFTBALL COMMITTEE
MAY 31, 2018

A meeting of the MPA Softball Committee was held on Thursday, May 31, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the MPA office.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chad Bell (GoToMeeting), Bill McCarthy, Courtney Sirois, Tim Stebbins, and Mark White (Chair).

LIAISONS PRESENT: Dennis Crowe (officials) and David Billings (coaches).

STAFF PRESENT: Michael Bisson.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Mark White.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On a MOTION by Stebbins/Sirois, the minutes of October 13, 2017 were UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

CORRESPONDENCE: Mr. Bisson shared a series of emails from November 2017 through May 2018:

- An email from Don Stanhope at Bangor High School regarding requiring facemasks on infielders.
- An email from Geoff Godo at Mt. Ararat High School about players attending a Jennie Finch camp out-of-season.
- An email from Jon Christopher at Skowhegan Area High School with a question about the number of JV games that can be played in the preseason with his varsity playing in Florida.
- An email from the Deer Isle-Stonington High School coach, Darian Gove, about wearing black pants.
- A series of emails from the committee supporting an electronic vote to approve Cheverus/NYA and Vinalhaven/North Haven as cooperative softball teams.
- An email from Rick Sinclair at Hermon High School with a question regarding a coach resigning and then coaching an out of season travel team.
- An email from Jason Mills at Penquis Valley High School with a question about legal softball uniforms.
- An email exchange with Joe Kilmartin at Maine Girls' Academy regarding the cooperative team with Falmouth. Emails from the committee followed approving the cooperative team.
- An email from the Noble coach, David Billings, with a concern that many softball fields in Southern Maine do not have fencing in front of the dugout.
- An email exchange between the committee agreeing to allow 5-inning double-headers due to the poor spring weather for the 2018 season only. The committee approved a number of 5-inning games and they are included throughout the correspondence.
- An email from Marc Keller at Spruce Mountain High School with a question about a coach being restricted to the dugout. It is not considered an ejection.
- An email from Mark White at Presque Isle High School forwarded from Dennis Crowe about a pitcher being hit in the face with a batted ball and was not hurt, as she was wearing a mask.

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- An email from Dennis Crowe regarding the Northern Maine Board of Officials using one umpire in a couple of varsity games.
- An email from Paul Vachon at Cony Middle/High School explaining that the Cony field has been vandalized and is not available for championship play. This led to a number of emails between the committee regarding a location of the Northern A Championship. After exploring Colby, Bates, Brunswick, Lewiston, Auburn-Suburban, Brewer, the committee chose Winslow to host this game. We will approach Cony to host in 2019.
- An email from Chris Bossie at East Grand School asking about adding a regular season game.
- An email from Cortney Sirois at Buckfield Jr./Sr. High School, as she had a game not showing up as countable in the MPA system. It was corrected by MPA staff.
- An email from Chris LeBlanc at Madison Area Memorial High School asking if it is a violation to hold a summer league tryout that involves high school and eighth grade students during the season, which is not a violation.
- An email from Joe Gallant at Piscataquis Community Secondary School asking to start a game with eight players. It is a violation of NFHS rules.
- An email from Chad Brackett at Mt. Blue High School asking to move a postponed game into the last week of the season. They were told to play during Memorial weekend and they did so.
- An email from Eric Werntgen asking to move a game into the last week. We extended the season by a day and he was approved to make the change.

COACHES' REPORT:

- Screens on the front of the dugout are a safety feature that many fields do not currently have. Mike Bisson will take this issue to the Sports Medicine Committee.
- A request to extend the season to Thursday or Friday.

OFFICIALS' REPORT:

- PowerPoint of rule changes
- No equipment inspection
- Intentional walk
- Quality of Northern Maine Board has improved in professionalism

FIVE INNING DOUBLEHEADERS: The committee is concerned about this leading to a pitching rule in softball and will table this issue until the November meeting.

HEAL POINTS: The Heal points were discussed and finalized.

TOURNAMENT ASSIGNMENTS:

- Dennis Crowe shared the nominations for umpires. The committee accepted Dennis' recommendations for regional and state championship games.
- Maine ASA will have evaluators at each site regional and state games.
- A North Championship will be played at Winslow High School.
- Updated the site packet.

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OTHER: Thanked Chad Bell for his service to the softball committee.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 5 at 1:30 p.m. at the MPA office.

ADJOURNMENT: On a MOTION by McCarthy/Stebbins the meeting was UNANIMOUSLY adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Bisson
Assistant Executive Director

/tjm
7/27/18

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