

Illinois American Baseball Committee Meeting

November 7, 2024

The Baseball Committee met at 800PM on the PHOOND APP. It Is similar to Zoom. Present was 2nd Division Chairman James Huisel, 3rd Division Chairman John Gosney , 25th District Chairman Butch Ogle and Chairman Don Wallis. Excused was Harry Rakers.

The minutes taken by Missouri State Baseball Chairman Tom Rhoads were sent to each Committee member before the meeting. We reviewed those minutes.

Highlights were from:

Coach Jim Chester, Gardner Webb College, Boiling Springs, North Carolina

- 1) Become familiar with the **College Transfer Portal**
- 2) He suggests we do a Showcase before the American Legion World Series
- 3) Recommends **Portable Trackman** and **Rhapsodo** to improve bat speed hand speed, **True-Velocity** for pitchers, learn how to break in a bat and **Axis Sports-Axceleator** to improve hitters performance.

Coach Steve Woodward, Bevill State Community College, Fayette, Alabama

- 1) Use social media to reach the players.
- 2) 1%/ 2% of high school players will play Division 1 Baseball.
- 3) Develop relationships with college coaches

Gary Stone, National Baseball Conference Chairman

- 1) K & K will announce Insurance Premiums for 2025 in December.
- 2) Recommends watching recruiting video by “ Walter Beede”.

Recommendations for celebrating the 100th Anniversary of
American Legion Baseball

- A) Use the Baseball with the Centennial Logo on it
- B) Socks/watches/challenge coins.
- C) Memories from past legion players(videos or written)
- D) Recognizing past alumni at games/tournaments
- E) Have a special Tournament to celebrate the 100 years.

Jim Huisel suggested that we might try and play Wisconsin at the Milwaukee Brewers Stadium in an All-Star Game. He also suggested we find a State Sponsor for our program to help offset expenses. (Suggested the Illinois National Guard). Jim also recommended that We look at the Chicago Dogs Field in Rosemont for a Show-Case/ Tournament site.

Jim also plans to have a booth at the IHSBCA State Convention January 10th and 11th at the Westin Hotel in Lombard to give out information concerning our program. Cost of booth is \$265.

John Gosney asked if we could place some rules in the State Rulebook concerning the consequences for inappropriate behaviors for coaches, players and fans.

Butch Ogle wants to add this in the State Rulebook

To be a legal player for a team the player has to be in the teams recruiting area or have been released by Form 76/Form 77 before they can be placed on a lineup card or roster. The District Chairman and Division Chairman must be notified.

Don Wallis talked about the 2025 All-Star Game with Missouri at Busch Stadium. Ticket sales in 2024 were poor. Some effort to seek pledges and donation commitments will be made before any contract will be signed.

The 2025 Senior Legion State Tournament will be held in Rantoul July 30th- August 2nd. Rantoul Family Sports Complex.

The 2025 Junior Legion State Tournament will be held in Alton at

the Gordon Moore Park Baseball Field July 24th- 27th .

There is an effort to have some of our Forms be filed out and stored in the Google Cloud. More information concerning to follow soon.

Thanks for allowing me to serve,

Don Wallis

Department of Illinois Baseball Chairman