



MIAA Baseball Meeting Highlights - March 8, 2022

The MIAA Baseball Committee meeting was conducted virtually on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. The meeting was attended by seven voting committee members, tournament directors, media members, and MIAA staff.

2022 Baseball Tournament Format

The 2022 Baseball Tournament format was reviewed after approval from the Tournament Management Committee. A few helpful notes/changes to this year's MIAA Baseball format include:

- The regular season mercy rule will not be in effect for the MIAA Baseball tournament. Games should be played until completion unless it is mutually agreed upon by both teams to end the game once it becomes a regulation game (4 ½ or 5 innings).
- Assignment of officials – Two officials will be assigned through the Round of 16. Three officials will be used for the Round of 8, State Semi-finals, and State finals
- The Baseball Committee has established a 25 player, game day roster limit for tournament eligible teams. In addition, only (1) manager, four (4) coaches, and one (1) scorer are permitted on the bench.

2022 Baseball State Tournament Update

Mr. David Lezenski, Athletic Director at Lowell High School, has been named as the MIAA Baseball Statewide Tournament Director. Mr. Lezenski provided an update to the MIAA Baseball Committee, highlighting the team of regional liaisons who will assist with the tournament. This team includes:

- Mike Roy – Athletic Director, Minnechaug HS
- Jay Costa – Athletic Director, Shrewsbury HS
- Ron Drouin – Athletic Director, Tewksbury HS
- Mark Ottavianelli – Athletic Director, Taunton HS

Information on the 2022 MIAA Baseball Tournament was provided to the committee, including Seeding Committee requests, Tournament Dates (see [MIAA Baseball Format](#)), and potential Tournament locations.

Pitch Count Feedback

Feedback from the Massachusetts Baseball Coaches Association (MBCA) was provided. A sub-committee will be established before the next committee meeting to discuss the pitch count limits. The sub-committee will determine if a Rule Change proposal should be brought forth to the full committee before the June 1st deadline.

Rule Change Proposals

The Baseball Committee discussed potential rule change proposals to the Mercy Rule, Suspended Game Policy, and Game Suspension Policy (Rule 49). Conversations were tabled until the May 17th meeting.

Officials

The MBUA requested that the MBUA, MIAA, and Game Officials' Committee work together to educate officials and promote growth within the profession. In addition, the MBUA requested to highlight NFHS Rules regarding the NOCSAE certified equipment. *NFHS rules state specific information and safety guidelines for catcher's equipment and game balls. (NFHS Rule 1-3-1 and Rule 1-5-4).* Please carefully consider these rules as current equipment may need to be evaluated to see if it meets these NFHS standards for the upcoming season at all levels.

Coaches

Welcome to new committee member, Keith Verra, President of the MBCA and head coach of Northbridge High School. The MBCA, the WooSox, and Polar Park are continuing to work together to provide clinic offerings to all Massachusetts Baseball coaches.

Next Meeting: May 17, 2022 (in-person)

