



Baseball Committee Highlights – January 14, 2026

Minutes of October 22, 2025 – approved 15-0-0

2026 Baseball Tournament Update

- Jay Costa (Shrewsbury AD) once again will serve as Tournament Director, assisted by Pete Jones (Marlborough AD). Walter Bentsen will continue as umpires' assigner
- State semifinals will be held June 9-10 at neutral sites; State Championships scheduled for June 12-13 at Polar Park
- MIAA and tournament staff will be looking into securing additional potential semifinal sites for future years

State Association adoption – Courtesy Runners

- Committee members were updated on the NFHS rule, which was passed by committee vote in October and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors

Pitch Count Clarification

- Committee members were provided the FAQ document linked in the MIAA Handbook, which contains some language in conflict with the Pitch Count rules in the Handbook and Tournament Format
- Discussion was to incorporate two bullet points from the FAQ document into the main Pitch Count rules, eliminate remaining two bullet points:
 - A pitcher can exceed the maximum pitch limit if he is in the middle of an at bat but once the at bat is completed, the pitcher must be removed from the mound
 - The calendar day in which a game is started shall be used to determine how many days of rest is required
- Vote to approve 16-0-0

Statewide Division

- Subcommittee chaired by Justin Richards (Oxford HS) presented a proposal for an 8-team "Open" tournament to begin with the 2027 postseason
 - Top 8 teams based on Power Rankings

- No opt-out (unless opting out of the entire tournament)
- First round best-of-3, each team assured of one home game
- Single elimination state semifinals and championship at neutral sites
- Similar path to a championship as other divisions (maximum 5 games)
- Majority of discussion centered around the opt-in/opt-in component, before agreeing to proceed with the proposal as presented
- Proposal approved by a 14-1-1 vote ... will be presented to Tournament Management Committee at January 20 meeting

Extra Innings/Power Rankings

- Coaches representative Keith Verra (Northbridge HS) brought forth a proposal from the Mass. Baseball Coaches Association to adopt the Margin of Victory in baseball for an extra inning game
 - A visiting team in extra innings has the opportunity to score multiple runs toward Margin of Victory, whereas a tied game would end as soon as home team scores a run, with no opportunity to score additional runs.
- Proposal approved 13-0-3 ... will be presented to TMC

Next meeting: April 8, 2026