

MINUTES OF THE IHSA BASS FISHING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 7, 2011

The IHSA Bass Fishing Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, September 7, 2011, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Mike Chornak, Marian; Mark Gervais, Chicago (Marist); Chris Kuchyt, Oak Lawn; Joe Large, Aurora (Marmion Academy); Ron McCord, Rock Falls; Jeff Niebrugge, Teutopolis, and Harold Northup, Jr., Carthage (Illini West). Also in attendance were IHSA Associate Executive Director Kurt Gibson; State Finals Manager Darrin Smith, Carlyle; and Dan Stephenson, Department of Natural Resources.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Item VIII. M. - Tournament Rules**

Recommendation: Revise to read: **Coaching:** The captain/coach of the boat may make suggestions but may not fish in any respect, including tying lures, netting fish, and handling fish or gear. The captain/coach or team participants can operate the electric motor. If a team has only one participant on the boat, the captain/coach may net the fish if asked by the participant.”

Rationale: The committee believes it's necessary to clarify what a coach or captain can do during a state series competition. Previous language had been interpreted differently, causing confusion.

Approved

2. **Item VIII. N. - Tournament Rules**

Recommendation: Revise to read: All fish will be released immediately after weigh-in. All fish that are put in the live well must be kept alive. Dead fish will have a ½ pound deduction and cannot count as the large fish for that boat. Dead fish may not be culled.

Rationale: This combination of two previous items simply better organizes the tournament rules section.

Approved

3. **Item VIII. O. - Tournament Rules**

Recommendation: Delete this item. (Currently reads: All fish will be released immediately after weigh-in.)

Rationale: The previous section was combined with portions of VIII. N.

Approved

4. **Item VIII. Tournament Rules, U. Coaching**

Recommendation: Delete this item. (Currently reads: The captain of the boat is allowed to talk to the participants but can not fish in any respect.)

Rationale: This item is essentially a repetition of language in an earlier item and is, therefore, no longer need.

Approved

5. **Item VIII. W. - Tournament Rules**

Recommendation: Revise to read: On the day of competition at either the sectional or state finals tournaments, schools will be limited to putting into the water the number of boats entered, or, in the case of the state finals, the number of boats the school qualified. No additional boats contacting coaches or other competitors from a school can be put into the water. Contestants may not obtain fishing patterns or locations from non-competitors, follow a non-competitor's boat or participate in the practice of "hole sitting", a practice wherein a non-competitor sits on a fishing spot, holding it for a contestant. In addition, non-competitors may not place markers for contestants. All of these acts are prohibited and will result in the immediate disqualification of the boat.

Rationale: In order to assist with the prevention of "hole sitting", this rule is necessary to restrict a school from putting a boat, other than one that is entered into or qualified for a state series tournament, into a state series lake to follow the fishing patterns of other competitors and then relay that information in some fashion to one of its school's boats. Additional coaches or competitors can remain on shore until needed.

Approved

6. **Item VIII. Q. - Tournament Rules**

Recommendation: Revise to read: Teams of up to four participants per boat may be entered by each school. A school may enter up to four (4) boats where only two of the four students entered for that boat may fish at any one time on that boat. Each boat is limited to two student participants and one adult coach/captain. In the event the school requires school personnel to accompany a captain/driver who is not a coach, a boat may have two student participants, one captain, and one school representative for a maximum of four people in a given boat.

Rationale: Increasing the number of boats that a school may enter into the sectional tournament will allow for more student participation therefore allowing additional students an opportunity to qualify for the state tournament. Three boats advancing from each sectional would not change. The committee believes that if we want to continue to grow bass fishing on the high school level,

we need to provide the opportunity for more students to participate and provide more opportunities for students to qualify for the state tournament.

Not Approved

7. **Item VIII. R. - Tournament Rules**

Recommendation: Revise to read: The total weight for each of the five (5) fish limited to that boat will count for the team total of that tournament. Individual weight will also be recorded for the top fish designated by each boat. The largest fish award will be given at each tournament to all participants of the boat that weighs in the largest fish of that tournament.

Rationale: This revision just combines portions of two previous items and provides more clarity to the Terms and Conditions.

Approved

8. **Item II. Dates and Sites - A. Individual Tournament Series Dates and Sites: 1)**

Recommendation: Revise to read: The sectional tournament shall be on Friday, April 20th, 2012 (Friday of Week 42 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar). Tournament sites and team assignments will be posted online.

Rationale: Clarification to get sectional date back in line with previous years. The 2011 season added an additional date to accommodate for excessive lake usage around the state on Easter weekend.

Approved

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee reviewed the minutes of the 2010 meeting.
2. The committee discussed the 2011 state finals. The committee shared thoughts regarding the challenges faced by schools during the state series this past year due to the weather problems in Illinois.
3. The committee brainstormed ideas on how to better communicate to schools the potential costs associated with starting a bass program. Associate Executive Director Gibson suggested developing some FAQ's that can be posted on the Future Fishes Here page.
4. The committee extended thanks to all those who made the 2011 state series another success, with special attention given to the following groups: Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the State Fishery Department, Conservation Police Officers, and the Corp of Engineers.
5. The committee thanked the city of Carlyle and Carlyle High School for all their efforts in putting on tremendous state finals, particularly in light of the weather challenges faced across the state this spring.

6. The committee discussed the possibility of developing a back-up plan for holding the state finals in the event weather issues arise. No action was taken, and the committee was encouraged to share any thoughts on this topic with members of the IHSA Board of Directors.
7. The committee discussed whether or not any other safe boat ramps at Carlyle Lake could be identified, with special consideration given to various sites for various wind patterns.
8. The committee discussed the possible use of water patrols in some of the no wake areas on Carlyle Lake to ensure compliance with the no wake restrictions. Of particular concern were Peppenhorst and Boulder.
9. The committee discussed whether or not some kind of temporary or floating boat ramp for the pick-up point at Carlyle Lake can be created.
10. The committee discussed allowing sectional managers to determine the locations where schools can switch (substitute) anglers.
11. The committee discussed the use of sectional bodies of water and requested that some new sites be found, particularly in the south suburban area. Committee member Kuchyt provided IHSA staff with a list of waters to explore.
12. The committee discussed sponsorships and the possibility of finding those organizations who may be able to add some special flavor to the state finals.
13. The committee discussed the need for IHSA staff to better communicate to state finals participants that an emergency boat is available in the event of weather or other boat breakdowns or malfunctions.
14. The committee thanked out-going members Chornak, Gervais, Kuchyt, and Niebrugge for their service to the committee and the development of the bass fishing program.