

**Minutes of the Boys/Girls Cross Country Advisory Committee**  
**January 8, 2020**

The IHSA B/G Cross Country Advisory Committee met at the IHSA office in Bloomington, Illinois, on January 8, 2020, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were Dan Daly, Coach, Chicago (Latin); Shari Hayes, A.D., St. Charles North (H.S.); Chris Baldwin, Coach, Oak Park (O.P. – River Forest H.S.); Dan Gray, Coach, Peoria (Notre Dame H.S.); Harold Landon, Coach, Jersey Community (H.S.); Conrad Widdersheim, A.D., New Athens (H.S.); Geza Ehrentreu, Coordinator of Officials, Rockford; Others in attendance, Mike Stokes, (ITCCCA); John Polka, Oak Park; Brien Dunphy, Meet Manager, Peoria H.S.; Kraig Garber, IHSA, Assistant Executive Director.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**1. V.B & C Tournament Assignments; VII.B Advancement of Winners**

**Recommend Adjustments to Language:**

**V. Tournament Assignments**

**B. Class 2A Series**

A total of ~~fifteen (15)~~ twelve (12) regional meets will be created with three (3) regional meets assigned to a correlated sectional.

There will be ~~five (5)~~ four (4) 2A sectionals.

**C. Class 3A Series**

A total of ~~fifteen (15)~~ twelve (12) regional meets will be created with three (3) regional meets assigned to a correlated sectional.

There will be ~~five (5)~~ four (4) 3A sectionals.

**VII. Advancement of Winners**

**B. Sectional to State Final:**

**In Class 1A** the first ~~five (5)~~ six (6) placing teams and the first ~~seven (7)~~ ten (10) runners who are not members of the first ~~five (5)~~ six (6) placing teams in each Sectional will advance to the State Final meet. ~~In addition, in the event the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, or 10<sup>th</sup> place overall individual finisher in the sectional is not on a qualifying team, such 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, or 10<sup>th</sup> place overall finisher in the individual race shall advance from the sectional to the state final meet.~~

**In Class 2A and 3A** the first seven (7) placing teams and the first ten (10) runners who are not members of the first seven (7) placing teams in each Sectional will advance to the State Final meet.

**Rationale:** For the last few years, some concerns from the membership have been brought to the attention of the Cross Country Advisory Committee as it pertains to the regional level of competition (especially in classes 2A and 3A). First, the concerns raised were that the regional level was not competitive in various parts of the state. Many coaches and administrators considered the regional level a “pass through” as most (and in some cases, all) of the teams and individuals advanced from the regional to the sectional. The second concern was that in parts of the state, more and more schools were becoming unwilling to host due to a variety of challenges. As a result, for the last couple of years

the Cross Country Advisory committee has sought information from the membership to determine the extent of the concerns in order to establish what, if any, recommendations needed to move forward in an attempt to address these issues. The committee determined that changes in the structure of the state series (specifically regionals and sectionals) are warranted, but they felt that the complete elimination of the regionals was too drastic with too many unknowns. They felt that since the issues existed mainly at the 2A and 3A levels, it seemed appropriate to leave the number of 1A regionals and sectionals as it is and reduce the 2A and 3A sectionals from five (5) to four (4). With three (3) regionals feeding into each sectional, this would mean that there would be twelve (12) regionals for each gender in both 2A and 3A. This would increase the average number of teams in each 2A and 3A regional by approximately 3 to 5 teams which would improve the competitive concerns that have been heard by the committee for the past few years. In addition, it would equate to six (6) less regional sites and two (2) less sectional sites which could help ease some of the concerns with securing able and willing hosts. Additionally, with this proposal, the committee thought that an increase in the number of teams and individuals that qualify out of sectionals to the state final meet is justified, and it is also more proportionate to the percentage of schools that make up each class.

### **Approved by Consent**

**The Cross Country Advisory committee reviewed and discussed the following topics which were submitted by state series hosts and others. None of these items advanced beyond this committee.**

1. The committee was informed of the new procedure for schools submitting advisory committee proposals to the IHSA.
2. The committee was informed that the IHSA would be entering into an agreement with Athletic.net beginning with the 2020-21 school year for the purposes of organizing entries and results for the state series meets for both cross country and track and field. More information is to come on this.
3. The committee discussed some circumstances regarding parking at Detweiller Park during the State Final meet.
4. The committee discussed the possibility of seeding the State Final meet to determine box assignments instead of the random draw for box assignments.
5. The committee discussed the challenges that they face in the post season when they have cross country athletes who have other fall sports post season events on the same date as the cross country state series.
6. The committee discussed protocols for responding to an emergency with a downed runner.
7. The committee inquired about the vetting process used for determining regional and sectional host sites.
8. The committee inquired about a regional or sectional host's ability to charge a fee to participate in a regional or sectional meet.
9. The committee inquired about alumni at the state final meet.