

MINUTES OF THE IHSA BASS FISHING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 8, 2021

The IHSA Bass Fishing Advisory Committee met electronically, on Wednesday, September 8, 2021, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members participating were: Chris Bradley, Newton; Allen Crombar, Elkhartville (Elverado); Mae Fitch, Cuba; and John Young, Lemont (H.S.). Also participating was Kurt Gibson, IHSA Associate Executive Director. Committee members unable to attend were: James Cherveney, LaSalle (L.-Peru); Tim Hayunga, Hebron (Alden-H.); and Scott Plencner, Chicago (Taft).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

None.

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee reviewed the minutes of the 2020 meeting.
2. The committee discussed the 2021 state series. IHSA staff reported that last year's state series was successful. Schools were excited and thankful for the opportunity to participate in a full state series last spring, and by all accounts, coaches and players handled the various mitigations put in place due to COVID-19 appropriately.
3. IHSA staff discussed the 2022 state series. Sectional competitions are slated for May 5, 2022, with the state finals scheduled for May 20-21. The committee heard a report concerning the selection of Carlyle Lake in Carlyle, Illinois, as the site of the state finals for the next three years (2021-22 through 2023-24). Committee members expressed their appreciation for the state series, and the opportunities it creates for students. In the eyes of the committee, being able to "go downstate", wherever that may be located for a given sport or activity, is special for young people. Coaches, captains, and anglers working together to become better people through fishing and working towards common goals are the critical components to any interscholastic program. The committee also discussed the possibility of creating some kind of fishing workshop around the state finals. IHSA staff indicated they would share this with tournament staff in Carlyle to further explore this idea.
4. The committee reviewed and discussed the growing number of entries in bass fishing and whether it was the time for the membership to consider adding an additional, regional, round to the state series. The committee generally believes that it is prudent to consider adding another competition opportunity for students. The committee discussed two possible scenarios and will develop a feedback opportunity for schools that will be sent out later this fall, likely no later than early October.
5. The committee discussed the process used to select state series locations, specifically for sectional tournaments. IHSA staff shared with committee the collaborative approach IHSA, IDNR, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County have used over the years to identify sectional locations. IDNR and the Forest Preserves of Cook County have been tremendously supportive partners of the IHSA Bass Fishing program over the years, and their help has been instrumental in identifying sectional locations. If schools have suggestions for new locations, they are encouraged to contact the IHSA Office with those suggestions.