

## Minutes of the IHSA Wrestling Advisory Committee Meeting

April 17, 2019

The IHSA Wrestling Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, April 17, 2019, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were; Brady Stromquist, Woodstock (North); Michael Pila, Tinley Park (Andrew); Kevin Milder, Lena (L.-Winslow); Jason Clay, Vandalia; Brad Alewelt, Rochester; Dave Harris, Belleville (Althoff); Ron Coit, Official – Farmer City; Sam Knox, IHSA; Mike Manahan, Tony Clarke, Rich Montgomery, IWCOA rep. Ronald Wilson, Chicago (Bowen) was absent.

The committee discussed and approved the minutes from the April 18, 2018 meeting.

### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:**

#### **1. IV. Host Financial Arrangements: D. Admission Fees:**

**Recommendation:** Regional tickets for one-day Regionals shall be priced at \$8. One-day Regionals shall be conducted in one session.

**Rationale:** Currently, Regional tickets are priced at \$5 per session (2 sessions) or \$8 for the entire Regional. Host schools clear the gym after the first session and then re-admit fans, many of whom have already purchased an \$8 ticket for the entire day. Charging \$8 for the entire day would make it simpler for the host school to conduct the Regional in one session and not have to clear the gym after the first session.

**Approved by Consent**

#### **2. V. Tournament Assignments and Seeding Meetings: B. Seeding and Schedules in the Individual State Tournament series**

**Recommendation:** Regional tournaments with 10 or more teams will be conducted over two days (Friday and Saturday). Friday's session will begin at 5:00 p.m. Saturday's session will begin at 10:00 a.m.

*At its June, 2019 meeting, the IHSA board of directors approved to add the following language to the Wrestling Terms and Conditions.*

*In Regional weight classes that have nine (9) or more wrestlers, coaches will seed the top eight (8) wrestlers at the seed meeting.*

**Rationale:** Placing 40% of teams in 1A will result in 11 or 12 teams assigned to most 1A Regionals. Most 2A and 3A Regionals will have 7 or 8 teams. When there are 9 or more wrestlers in a Regional bracket that is conducted in one day, the possibility exists for a wrestler to participate in more than 5 matches. NFHS rules limit a wrestler to a maximum of 5 matches in a day. With the potential for many 1A Regionals to have several brackets with 9 or more wrestlers, the committee believes it's better to allow the wrestlers to wrestle through the consolation bracket to determine 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place rather than rely on

criteria/language to determine 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place when a wrestler has already wrestled 5 matches in one day.

Conducting a Regional over two days will eliminate this issue.

**Approved by Board of Directors**

### **3. VI. Tournament Structure and Time Schedules: A. Individual Tournaments**

**Recommendation:** Start the Semifinals at the Individual State Finals at 7:00 p.m.

**Rationale:** The Semifinals traditionally started at 7:00 for many years. They started at 7:30 during the 2019 tournament. We used a true wrestleback format for the first time, and we guessed that we might need more time between Session Two and Session Three on Friday. It turns out that we had plenty of time between sessions and easily could have started the Semifinals at 7:00.

**Approved by Consent**

### **4. VI. Tournament Structure and Time Schedules: B. Dual Team Tournaments**

**Recommendation:** At the Dual Team State Finals, start the Semifinals at 1:30 p.m. Start the Finals (Championship and Third Place matches) at 5:30 p.m.

**Rationale:** The Semifinals and Finals traditionally have started at 2:00 and 6:00, respectively. Tournament management has noticed in recent years that there is sufficient time between the Quarterfinals and Semifinals to allow the Semifinals to begin at 1:30. This change would then allow the Finals to start at 5:30.

**Approved by Consent**

## **ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

1. The committee discussed the growth of Girls Wrestling, including a format for a potential state series in the future. As the sport continues to grow, the IHSA will engage schools in further conversation to determine the direction of a Girls Wrestling state series.
2. The committee discussed the possibility of rotating the start times for 1A, 2A, and 3A schools at the Individual State Finals. The committee made no formal recommendation to rotate the start times since many schools are comfortable with the routines they have followed for several years when they bring wrestlers to the State Finals.
3. The committee discussed the possibility of seeding teams in the Sectional in order to separate the better teams prior to the Regional. Since Wrestling is classified as an Individual Sport, teams are assigned geographically, and coaches don't seed the teams like they do in bracketed team sports.
4. The committee discussed the possibility of seeding the Individual Sectional after all of the Regionals are complete. The IHSA currently uses a Sectional schematic to separate the Regional champion wrestlers in the Sectional bracket, however, the

committee acknowledges that the schematic doesn't necessarily place the top two wrestlers on opposite sides of the bracket. The committee believes using seeding criteria similar to what we use to seed the State Finals brackets might work at the Sectional level.

5. The committee discussed classification of wrestling teams. The committee is aware that the IHSA Board of Directors approved the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation to classify Wrestling as an Individual Sport, placing 40% of teams in 1A, 30% of teams in 2A, and 30% of teams in 3A. The rationale for the change is to place more schools and more wrestlers in 1A to attempt to reduce the number of Regional brackets where wrestlers automatically advance to the Sectional due to the low number of wrestlers in their bracket.
6. The committee discussed the situation when it's necessary to include an alternate in the Sectional, but there weren't enough wrestlers in the Regional brackets at that weight class to be able to include an alternate in the Sectional. In these rare situations, a Sectional bracket will have fewer than 12 wrestlers.
7. The committee heard from Tony Clarke, a member of the NFHS rules committee, regarding potential new rules for the 2019-20 season.
8. The committee recognized outgoing members Ronald Wilson, Chicago (Bowen); Michael Pila, Tinley Park (Andrew); Jason Clay, Vandalia.
9. The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.