

MINUTES OF THE IHSA OFFICIALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 28, 2022

The IHSA Officials Advisory Committee met virtually on Wednesday, April 28, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. Committee members present: Mark Anderson, Arlington Heights; Michael Mitchell, Palatine; Mike Hurckes, Ringwood; Mike Skrabis, Orland Park; Mark DiMarzio, Springfield; Kelley Lucas, Mt. Zion; Summer Riordan, Palatine; Doug Neufeldt, Roselle; Andy Lambert, Lake Zurich; Doug Elledge, New Canton; Emory Appleberry, Springfield; Christopher Kays, Benton; Pat Nolan, Elmwood Park; Rick Karhliker, Springfield; Sam Knox, IHSA.

Absent members: Scott Hagel, Wauconda; Adam Clapp, Monticello; Lance Emery, Mokena;

The committee accepted the minutes of the September 9, 2021 meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Recommendation:** Volleyball officials are allowed to wear their choice of shirts in three different colors - gray, cyan (light blue), or white starting in the 2021-22 school year. During the regular season, IHSA officials can choose which color shirt they wear. Officials must wear the same color. Officials who wear matching CVO shirts will attach the IHSA patch on the left chest area. In the postseason, all officials will wear the traditional white shirts.

Rationale: This recommendation matches the NFHS's position on Volleyball officials' shirts. It gives officials options and encourages officials to communicate prior to arriving at a contest site yet maintains a standard uniform shirt color requirement for postseason contests.

Died for Lack of Motion

2. **Recommendation:** Volleyball officials have the option to use personal headset communication devices during regular season and postseason contests. Headset communication devices are not required. Officials who choose to use personal headset communication devices must purchase and maintain their own equipment.

Rationale: Headset communication devices will allow officials to communicate with one another more efficiently and therefore officiate the contest better. Currently, officials often communicate using informal hand signals. Allowing the use of headset communication devices allows for quicker dissemination of crucial information regarding back row faults, touch/no touch, four contacts, line calls, scoring information/issues, and conduct issues.

Died for Lack of Motion

3. **Recommendation:** The IHSA will offer half-price reciprocal officiating licenses to officials who live in other states. Reciprocal officials are not eligible for postseason assignments. Officials who live in other states will have the option to purchase a full-price license which will allow them to officiate postseason contests.

Rationale: Schools on our borders could benefit from additional officials in their area who are willing to officiate in Illinois.

Died for Lack of Motion

4. **Recommendation:** Change the promotion process to replace letters of recommendation with a check box verification system from a principal, athletic director, head coach, or certified official. The submitter would check a box to verify that the official is a high-quality official who possesses the rule knowledge and game management skills to deserve promotion to the next level.

Rationale: This streamlines the promotion process without changing the fundamental principle that officials must receive recommendations from school administrators, head coaches, and Certified officials in order to promote to the next level.

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5. **Recommendation:** A head coach will earn two free tickets to his/her sport's State Finals in the current school year if he/she recommends someone who registers as an IHSA official in any sport.

Rationale: Head coaches may be more willing to recruit a new official if they know they can earn an incentive to attend their sport's State Finals for free.

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6. **Recommendation:** The IHSA will extend the licensing period for fall and winter sports for two weeks beyond the end of each season. Brand-new officials who register and pay their fees after the season will earn registration credit in that sport for the following school year.

Rationale: The main point of this recommendation is to encourage a new official to begin learning when their enthusiasm and interest is high as opposed to waiting until the spring or summer to register for the first time.

Some prospective officials become interested in officiating near the end of the season when it's too late to benefit from registering at that point of the school year. Allowing an extended registration period will allow a brand-new official to obtain his/her license and potentially earn regular season assignments for the following school year, all while the new official is highly interested in learning more about the sport.

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7. **Recommendation:** In addition to posting the number of ratings and a percentile rank, the IHSA will post each official's average rating at the conclusion of each season.

Rationale: An official who can see his/her average rating will be able to see more specifically how coaches viewed his/her abilities. Officials will be able to see how their average score increases or decreases over time which provides feedback on their overall performance.

Died for Lack of Motion

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

1. The committee discussed the potential for officials to choose which rule book option they prefer when they register - the traditional paper rule book or a digital rule book.
2. The committee discussed the option for coaches to rate officials more than once on a certain date.
3. The committee discussed options to adjust the power rating points officials earn for postseason assignments.

4. The committee discussed the concept of sending brand-new officials a copy of the previous year's rule book before their sport's rule book is ready for the current season. For example: Send the previous year's rule book to a new softball umpire who registers in the summer or fall. This would allow an official to begin reading and learning a significant majority of the rules of their sport(s) well in advance of the season.
5. The committee discussed "Officiating 101", an IHSA initiative to recruit new officials.
6. The committee discussed the possibility of automating the coaches rating system to make it simpler for coaches to submit their ratings after a contest.
7. The committee recognized outgoing committee members.

The meeting concluded at 12:05 p.m.