

MINUTES OF THE IHSA BASS FISHING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 5, 2012

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: Darren Gates, Macon (Meridian); Joe Large, Aurora (Marmion Academy); Ron McCord, Rock Falls; Mike Mulligan, Chicago (Taft), Harold Northup, Jr., Carthage (Illini West); and Gary Payne, Farina (South Central). Also in attendance were Kurt Gibson, IHSA Associate Executive Director; Terry Brown, Wired To Fish; and Dan Stephenson, Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Committee members absent were: Andy Lutzenkirchen, Naperville (Central).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. V. Tournament Assignments

Recommendation: Schools will be assigned geographically to **one of 22** IHSA sectional tournaments. The state final will have up to three (3) qualifying boats from each of the sectional tournaments.

Rationale: When the IHSA Bass Fishing state series was implemented, sectional tournaments were designed to hold approximately 10 schools (20 boats). Since the program's inception, the program has grown, using that original math, by the equivalent of three (3) sectionals. The current 19 sectional bodies of water are, in many cases, reaching their capacity in terms number of boats those waters can realistically handle, and when maxed out like this, the over-all experience for participants is diminished. Adding three (3) sectionals will then not only reduce the number of boats per sectional but also improve the experience for the participants. Carlyle Lake is large enough to handle the potential addition of nine (9) boats so this addition will not unduly impact the state finals.

Approved

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Off-limits Fishing Area for Sectional Competitions

Recommendation: When possible, each sectional manager shall determine an off-limits fishing area for the sectional competition. This area shall be reserved for shore fishing for those competitors who are part of a competing school's team but not fishing in one of the school's entered boats. Any fish caught during the day in this off-limits area will not count towards the school's limit and must be immediately released.

Rationale: The committee believes this recommendation will assist the administration of the sectional by providing an opportunity and outlet for students who aren't fishing to stay engaged at the event.

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee discussed the development of high school bass fishing programs in other states. The next state that is apparently looking to implement a program is Iowa. Dan Stephenson indicated he had been contacted by DNR representatives in that state regarding the IHSA program.
2. The committee discussed whether or not there would be any changes to Carlyle Lake prior to next year's state finals. Associate Executive Director Gibson indicated he has not been made aware of any improvements or changes.
3. The committee discussed concerns with the use of radios at the state finals to announce weather delays or other important messages. Since the radios sometimes don't reach certain areas of the lake, the committee discussed what, if any, other technologies existed that might work better for such notifications. Associate Executive Director Gibson said he would investigate and see what other technologies might be available for use.
4. The committee discussed the 2012 state finals. Among the topics discussed relative to the state finals included:
 - a. Developing a better process to identify which, if any, qualified boats may be staying in the marina in lieu of being trailered out daily.
 - b. Lengthening the amount of time boats can be safety checked on pre-fish day.
 - c. Creating a list of lodging locations in and around Carlyle and making said document a part of the state final qualifying information.
5. The committee discussed the process schools must follow to make a 'coaching' change between the sectional tournament and the state finals. Of particular concern of the committee is the use of 'local' experts as assistant coaches at the state finals. The committee agreed to monitor this situation in 2013 before making any formal recommendations.
6. Committee member Mulligan asked what IHSA might be able to do to reach out to CPS to increase the participation by CPS schools in the state series.
7. The committee discussed the possibility of expanding the current state series from its current 19 sectional tournaments. In the course of that discussion, the committee examined a number of issues, including:
 - a. The possibility of using new bodies of water
 - b. The possibility of reducing the number of teams assigned to each sectional
 - c. The possibility of some teams having increased travel to get to sectional sites
 - d. The possibility of using some sectional sites more than once on separate days
 - e. The possibility of surveying participating schools to see what their participation numbers are to gauge whether or not there may be a need to recommend allowing schools to have more than 2 boats entered in the state series

8. The committee discussed the possibility of finding a different identifying mark for participating boats in lieu of a flag. Associate Executive Director Gibson said he would investigate whether some type of 'sticker' could be used in lieu of the flag, which, when attached to a light pole, can be lost if the pole snaps off the boat.

9. The committee discussed the importance of making sure schools have properly prepared themselves for their boat safety check at both the sectional and state finals. Associate Executive Director Gibson indicated he would look for ways to continue to promote and highlight the importance of this.