

MINUTES OF THE IHSA BASS FISHING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, August 31, 2023

The IHSA Bass Fishing Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on August 31, 2023, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were Chris Bradley, Newton; Brett Dunn, Pecatonica; Scott Plencner, Chicago (Taft); Don Selusnik, South Elgin; Kim Webster, Ashland (A-C Central). Also in attendance were Kurt Gibson, IHSA Associate Executive Director. Absent from the meeting were Allen Crombar, Elkhart (Elverado); and John Young, Lemont (H.S.).

Terms and Conditions Recommendation

1. Section VIII. R.

Recommendation: Teams of up to four participants per boat may entered by each school in any state series event. ~~A student may only be listed on one roster for the state series.~~ No later than one (1) week prior to the first level state series tournament, each entered school will complete an online Team Roster form in the IHSA Schools Center. Only students, coaches, and boat captains who appear on this roster will be eligible to represent the school during the state series. A school will be required to present a boat roster to the appropriate tournament manager prior to any state series event. Schools may change boat rosters from one round of the state series to the next, again using only those students, coaches, and boat captains who are listed on the original Team Roster. At the first level tournament, a school may enter up to two (2) boats and only two of the four students entered for that boat may fish at any one time ~~on that boat.~~ At all levels of the state series, only two students may be in the boat at any one time. The total weight for each of the five (5) fish limited to that boat will count for the team total of that tournament.

RATIONALE: The committee believes coaches should have control of all eligible student anglers on their school's roster during the entirety of the state series. Like in other sports, the committee believes coaches should be able to utilize their rosters and make substitutions from tournament to tournament as desired. This recommendation still requires a boat roster to be limited to four (4) anglers and turned in prior to each state series event, and schools would also be required to list their boat captains for the entire state series on the form, and the committee believes this would cut down on concerns of schools changing captains from event to event, using individuals that haven't worked with teams during the season.

Approved by Consent

Administrative Recommendation

None brought forward

Discussion Items

1. The committee reviewed the minutes of its 2022 meeting. In particular, the committee thoughtfully and thoroughly discussed the implementation of the regional-sectional-state finals format. For a variety of reasons, the committee believes implementing the new state series format next school year (2024-25 school year), using the dates approved by the IHSA Board of Directors in 2022, would be better and allow schools appropriate time to familiarize themselves with the new format. To that end, the committee encouraged IHSA to share as much information this year about the format with member schools as possible, including bodies of water to be used, number of schools assigned to each level of the new format, and, if possible, a possible listing of assignments.
2. The committee reviewed the 2023 state series.

3. The committee discussed and review Terms and Conditions for the state series in a sectional-state finals format and a regional-sectional-state finals format.
4. The committee reviewed IHSA By-laws related to bass fishing, specifically the implication of by-law 2.010, 2.020, and 6.040. Schools who advance in the state series but fail to participate in subsequent rounds are liable for breach of contract with the association and subject to established penalties.
5. The committee discussed an initial conversation IHSA staff had with IDNR Safety Education Programs' Administrator Cody Gray concerning angler/boat captain safety certification. The two groups agreed to continue discussions over the coming year. The committee asked IHSA staff to ask if a condensed program could be created to enable coaches to go over safety education with anglers from his/her/their schools.
6. The committee discussed other items of interest to the group, including:
 - a. The placement of sponsor logos/images on team jerseys.
 - b. The use of individuals as boat captains who are perceived to be 'experts' on specific bodies of water.
 - c. The location of the state finals once the current contract with Carlyle Lake ends after the 2024 state finals.
7. The committee shared its desire to have IHSA staff create a pre-season presentation to go over new rules or initiatives. The committee believes that creating such a presentation would help schools better prepare for the up-coming season. IHSA staff agreed that having such a presentation made sense and agreed to create one beginning this school year. At this time, viewing the presentation will not be a mandatory requirement for coaches but could become one in the future.
8. The committee thanked out-going members Chris Bradley, Allen Crombar, and Scott Plencner for their service to the committee.
9. The next meeting of the committee will be on Thursday, September 5, 2024.