

**Minutes of the Boys / Girls Cross Country Advisory Committee
November 29, 2011**

The IHSA B/G Cross Country Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois on Tuesday, November 29, 2011, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee Members present were: Jon Gordon, Chicago (Northside Prep); John Overstreet, Paxton (P.-Buckley-Loda) H.S.; Dan Iverson, Naperville North H.S.; Owen Fuller, Coordinator of Officials, Marseilles; Mike Lynn, Tremont H.S.; Richard Skirball, Granite City H.S.; Others in attendance, Ron McGraw, IHSA Asst. Executive Director; Chris Perry, Meet Manager, Peoria.; Brien Dunphy, Peoria H.S. Athletic Director; Matt Grimm, Peoria H.S.; Andy Preuss, Glenbard South H.S. (ITCCCA North); Jamie Klotz, Buffalo Grove H.S. (ITCCCA North); Mike Garcia, Springfield Lanphier H.S. (ITCCCA South); Greg Walters Champaign Centennial H.S. (ITCCCA South); Jerry Parsons (ICA), Normal, ; John Polka, Oak Park (Fenwick); Geza Ehrentru, Rockford; Bob Geiger, Whitney Young H.S.

I. TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Item VII-A (Retain the current language)

Following the 2011-2012 IHSA Cross Country State Finals there was a great deal of discussion across the state regarding the advancement structure from regional to sectional cross country meets. The committee discussed the matter for nearly two hours. The options considered were to eliminate regional meets, or to advance 5 teams and 7 individuals, or to leave it as is and continue to advance 7 teams and 5 individuals. It became very clear, very quickly that depending upon which class a school is in, or in which part of the state they are located, or whether it is boys or girls, that the competitive make-up of regional meets can look very different. As a consideration of this diversity and wishing to maintain consistency between classes, the advisory committee made the following recommendation for the 2012-13 season. In addition, both ITCCCA groups plan to conduct a survey of cross coaches across the State to determine if coaches have a strong opinion on this question. It will be considered once again at next year's advisory meeting after the process has been in place for two years.

Recommendation:

Advancement from regional to sectional: In all classes shall be the first seven (7) teams and 5 individuals not members of the first 7 placing teams will advance to the sectional competition at the site to which they were assigned.

This is not a change from the 2010-2011 season. However, the committee wished to document their lengthy and thoughtful discussion on this topic by officially proposing that the same advancement process and Regional/Sectional State Series structure be implemented again for the 2012-2013 IHSA Cross Country Season.

Rationale:

There is an opinion by some that since the implementation of three classes in cross country that the regional level of competition has not been competitive. With some regional sites having only 8 or 9 schools assigned and in several instances only 5 actual teams competing, it takes very little to qualify on to the sectional level of the state series. However, this is not the situation across all classes nor is it true across the entire State. It is not logistically practical to eliminate the regional level of competition due to the lack of appropriate facilities required to conduct meets the size of IHSA sectional meets. One option could be to reduce the number of teams allowed to qualify from any regional meet from 7 teams to 5 teams. While this option was seriously considered, the committee preferred to wait and collect more data and consider the question again at next year's advisory meeting.

Committee Vote: 6 - YES 0 - NO

II. ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Continue to explore methods of making easier the task of reporting results from regional and sectional hosts to the IHSA. The committee was again advised that their help in securing help from anyone proficient in the technology required to make such changes was critical to this process. The IHSA staff is open to changes but such changes will only be possible in the near future with the help of those already proficient in the use of current technology

and hy-tek software. The IHSA is very interested in acquiring the necessary technology and expertise to allow the use of more common methods of team entry and reporting of results.

2. Clarified that in the event of team ties for the top 3 places at the state finals, such ties will be broken as per NFHS Rule 9-2-4 (Compare the 6th place runners from the tying teams). This will be reflected in the Terms and Conditions, Item X-C-3.
3. The committee reviewed the recommended procedures for evaluating the finish of state series events (special emphasis on sectional meets). IHSA Officials will be reminded that the final evaluation of all races is their responsibility. A camera at the finish line will continue to be mandatory. The Meet Referee has the option to use the images captured on the video to determine the order of finish as they deem necessary. The video is to be viewed only by the meet officials and meet management. Results are not to be posted by meet management until the meet referee has made them official by placing his/her signature on the written copy and giving permission to post.

III. ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

The committee reviewed and discussed all comments and suggestions sent to Ron McGraw. Many ideas were discussed and considered during the 4 hour meeting. All items that received a motion and a second from our group were voted on by the committee members.

Review topics for discussion submitted by sectional hosts and others

- A. Revise the State Series to increase and/or decrease the number of regionals/sectionals and teams advancing on to sectionals and/or state.
- B. Issue Chips/Tags to coaches on Friday.
- C. Give Regional and sectional hosts the opportunity to download entries to hy-tek, sydex and generate a winners report from their software.
- D. Reduce the congestion at the starting line (both in front and behind) to help schools with their run outs.
- E. Provide all results from each sectional, not just the top 12
- F. Medical aid to competitors on the course.
- G. 4:00 p.m. Coaches meetings on Friday.
- H. Emphasize the uniform rules consistently throughout the season.
- I. Providing private rest room facilities for athletes.

IV. Other

- A. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.