

MINUTES OF THE ATHLETES WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
September 23, 2015

The IHSA Athletes with Disabilities Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, September 23, 2015, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Monica Burkholder, Lanark (Eastland); William Hook, Chicago (Agricultural Science); Ed Hoyt, Jacksonville (Illinois School for the Deaf); Jason Ward, South Elgin; Bob Wells, Fairfield; and Jim Wood, Charleston. Also in attendance were Kurt Gibson, IHSA Associate Executive Director; Leslie Alappattu, Illinois Elementary School Association Assistant Executive Director; and guest Laura Bracht. Committee member not in attendance was: Nicole Ebsen, Berwyn-Cicero (Morton).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None brought forward at this time.

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee reviewed the minutes of their February 2015 and April 2015 meetings.
2. The committee reviewed a report that showed participation levels and results from 2015 winter and spring programs for students with disabilities, including boys' swimming, boys' and girls' track and field, and bass fishing.
3. The committee heard a report from IHSA staff on the fall girls' swimming and diving championship for students with disabilities. As of the meeting, five students have entered this year's event.
4. The committee reviewed the new 'Accommodations for Students with Disabilities' section of ihsa.org.
5. The committee heard a report from IHSA staff concerning the association's plans for a new Road Race that will be held in the summer of 2016. The race will be held in Normal, Illinois, and will be open to runners who will be attending IHSA member schools in the 2016-17 school year. There will be three divisions in the event, including one for wheelchair athletes. More information will be available concerning the race and registration later this school year.
6. The committee heard a report from IHSA staff concerning the Combined Championships that may be offered this year in Boys' and Girls' Swimming and Diving and Boys' and Girls' Track and Field.
7. The committee continued its discussion from last year concerning the addition of some questions to the participation survey completed by member schools concerning participation by students with disabilities in the school's interscholastic program. The committee expressed an interest in working further on those prior to its next meeting with the hope that questions could be added to the survey perhaps during this school year.