

MINUTES OF THE IHSA FOOTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
December 7, 2016

The IHSA Football Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on December 7, 2016 beginning at 10:00a.m. Committee members present were Troy McAllister, Chicago (Phillips); Bob Pieper, Northbrook (Glenbrook North); Andy Lutzenkirchen, Naperville (Central); Josh Jostes, Maroa (M.-Forsyth); Jeremy Adolphson, Monmouth (M.-Roseville); Bill Lapp, Minonk (Fieldcrest); Brian Short, Breese (Central); Robert Ybarra, Official-Montgomery; and Sam Knox, IHSA. John Lalor, Hebron (Alden-H.); Patrick McHugh, Winnetka (North Shore Country Day); Tom Quigley, Hebron (Alden-H.) also attended the meeting.

The Minutes of the December 9, 2015 meeting were accepted.

The committee heard a presentation from John Lalor and Tom Quigley from Hebron (Alden-H.) and Patrick McHugh from Winnetka (North Shore Country Day) regarding 8 Man Football. The presenters surveyed Illinois high schools with fewer than 500 students to gauge their thoughts and concerns related to lower football participation numbers and to learn their level of interest in playing 8 Man Football. The presenters shared the results of their survey with the committee along with thoughts about schools playing 8 Man Football as an IHSA Emerging Sport. The committee supports the concept of 8 Man Football at schools where reduced participation numbers have reached a point where fielding an 11 Man Football team is no longer practical.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. V. A. 4) Pairings

Recommendation: The team with the higher seed will host the Semifinal game.

Rationale: The committee feels that the higher seeded team has earned the opportunity to host the Semifinal game based on its regular season and playoff performance.

Died for Lack of Motion

2. VIII. H. 6)

Recommendation: Add additional language: Failure of schools to meet this scheduling requirement will necessitate: a.) A change in the date and or time to meet the requirement or b.) A change in the game location to a neutral/opponent's site to meet the requirement or c.) The home team will forfeit the contest.

Rationale: The committee recommends this additional language to set some guidelines when schools choose not to follow the Terms and Conditions regarding starting their Week 9 Saturday game no later than 1:00 p.m.

Died for Lack of Motion

3. XI. B-E

Recommendation: The IHSA will assign a sixth alternate official to each playoff game. The alternate official will fill in for an official in case of an injury during the game and will also carry a rule book for reference if the officials need assistance with a rule clarification. Alternate officials' fees are \$40 per game for all playoff games. If an alternate official has to fill in for an injured official at any time during the game, the alternate official will be paid a full game fee.

Rationale: The committee understands the importance of playoff games and the responsibility of officials to correctly apply the rules. The committee also understands that officials' injuries occasionally happen and finishing the game with four officials is not a good situation for the teams or the officiating crew. An alternate official can assist in both areas by carrying a rule book and being prepared to fill in for an injured official.

Died for Lack of Motion

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

1. The committee discussed the by-law amendment proposal submitted to the Legislative Commission regarding regular season football scheduling. In the proposal, teams could schedule any opponents they want to play in Weeks 1-3. In Weeks 4-6, teams would be grouped into geographic quads and play a round-robin schedule. In Weeks 7-9, teams would be grouped into different quads based upon the results of the games in Weeks 4-6. The results of the games in Weeks 7-9 would determine which teams qualify for the playoffs. The committee does not support the proposal.
2. The committee discussed weekly quarter limitations for players and provided feedback to the share with the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee.
3. The committee discussed the challenges schools have encountered with reporting scores and team information to MaxPreps.
4. The committee discussed the officiating mechanics of the Line Judge and the Head Linesman. The committee discussed the option of having these officials trade places for the second half of a game.

5. The committee discussed the scheduling challenges schools face due to conference realignments and the goal to earn at least five victories in order to qualify for the playoffs. The committee discussed the general concern with conference realignment and the many by-law amendment proposals that have been made in recent years. The committee discussed the possibility of future Football Town Meetings that might be held in various locations throughout the state to see if member schools can create ideas to remedy the scheduling and conference realignment issues.
6. The committee discussed the differences in Chicago Public Schools' game scheduling procedures compared to other Illinois schools' scheduling procedures.
7. The committee discussed the differences between the Chicago Prep Bowl playoff series and the IHSA playoff series.
8. The committee discussed the potential of having an IHSA consolation playoff series to allow more teams to continue playing games after the end of the regular season.
9. The committee discussed the current practice of exchanging game films with opponents in the playoffs.
10. The committee recognized outgoing members Bill Lapp, Minonk (Fieldcrest); and Robert Ybarra, Official-Montgomery.
11. The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.