

MINUTES OF THE IHSA OFFICIALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
May 5, 2021

The IHSA Officials Advisory Committee met virtually on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. Committee members present: Scott Hagel, Wauconda; Mark Anderson, Arlington Heights; Mike Hurckes, Ringwood; Mike Skrabis, Orland Park; Don Hackler, Ridge Farm; Courtney Vanderheiden, Chicago; Doug Neufeldt, Roselle; Andy Lambert, Lake Zurich; Doug Elledge, New Canton; Emory Appleberry, Springfield; Christopher Kays, Benton; Rick Karhliker, Springfield; Nicole Schaeftbauer, IESA; Sam Knox, IHSA.

Absent members: Michael Mitchell, Palatine; Josh Olsen, Bloomington; Kent Simmons, Bloomington

The committee accepted the minutes of the September 10, 2020 meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Recommendation:** Volleyball officials are allowed to wear their choice of shirts in three different colors - gray, cyan (light blue), or white starting in the 2021-22 school year. During the regular season, IHSA officials can choose which color shirt they wear. Both officials must wear the same color. In the postseason, all officials will wear white shirts.

Rationale: This recommendation matches the NFHS's position on Volleyball officials' shirts. It gives officials options and encourages officials to communicate prior to arriving at a contest site yet maintains a standard uniform shirt color requirement for postseason contests.

Approved by Consent

2. **Recommendation:** Volleyball officials have the option to use personal headset communication devices during a contest to communicate with one another. Headset communication devices are not required. Officials who choose to use personal headset communication devices must purchase and maintain their own equipment.

Rationale: Headset communication devices will allow officials to communicate with one another more efficiently and therefore officiate the contest better. Currently, officials often communicate using informal hand signals. Allowing the use of headset communication devices allows for quicker dissemination of crucial information regarding back row faults, touch/no touch, four contacts, line calls, scoring information/issues, and conduct issues.

Approved by Consent

3. **Recommendation:** In addition to assigning postseason officials using the current power rating system, IHSA sport administrators will seek input from others (ADs, coaches, and assignors) who are familiar with officials in their area of the state and can recommend officials for postseason assignments. The IHSA sport administrator will continue to make final decisions regarding which officials are assigned to various levels of the state series tournament.

Rationale: It is important for IHSA sport administrators to gather feedback from those around the state who see officials in action on a regular basis. IHSA sport administrators can use a combination of this input along with power rating numbers to determine which officials have earned postseason assignments at various levels of the state series tournament.

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ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

1. The committee discussed the IHSA Officials Conference. This summer's conference will be a virtual conference scheduled for July 12-15. It will offer a variety of clinics, mini session topics, and live presentations. Officials will be able to pay one price and will be able to earn clinic credit in as many sports as they wish. Prerecorded clinics and other presentations will be available for officials to view until July 31.
2. The committee discussed ideas related to adding requirements for Certified officials to maintain their Certified status and for clinicians to maintain their clinician status.
3. The committee discussed the option of assignors who assign for multiple conferences to be able to submit multiple Top 15 lists.
4. The committee discussed details about offering a reciprocal license to officials from neighboring states.
5. The committee discussed the potential of changing from a percentile ranking score to an average score from coaches ratings.
6. The committee discussed the possibility of automating the coaches rating system to make it simpler for coaches to submit their ratings after a contest.
7. The committee discussed altering the length of a clinic that is required every three years.
8. The committee discussed encouraging coaches to help recruit officials by talking to their graduating seniors about the benefits of officiating.
9. The committee discussed the overlap with the Competitive Dance and Competitive Cheerleading state series and the requirement that an official must officiate a Sectional before he/she is assigned to a State Finals tournament in the same school year.
10. The committee discussed the importance of clinician recertification sessions and encouraged the IHSA office to host those again in the future when conditions allow.
11. The committee discussed the potential of the IHSA purchasing a Zoom account to allow clinicians to use it to conduct virtual clinics.
12. The committee discussed the concept of term limits for head clinicians.
13. The committee discussed officials' safety concerns along with sportsmanship and fan behavior at contests.
14. The committee discussed the idea of having the Student Advisory Committee create a sportsmanship video from the student perspective to share with all schools. Schools can share the video at parent meetings and with their coaching staffs to learn students' views about sportsmanship expectations.
15. The committee discussed the concept of developing IHSA sport-specific manuals for officials.
16. The committee recognized outgoing committee members.

The meeting concluded at 12:00 p.m.