

**Minutes of the Boys / Girls Cross Country Advisory Committee
December 2, 2008**

The IHSA B/G Cross Country Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois on Tuesday, December 2, 2008, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee Members present were: Eric Wiegmann Chicago, (Young); Chris Perry, Peoria H.S.; Mike Garcia, Springfield (Lanphier); Richard Skirball, Granite City H.S.; Gary Steiger (Palatine); John Kurtz Bensenville, (Fenton); Owen Fuller, Coordinator of Officials. Others in attendance, Ron McGraw, IHSA Asst. Executive Director; Paula Webb, Peoria H.S.; Jerry Reibling, Official Scorer; Don Helburg (ITCCCA); Andy Preuss, (ITCCCA); Greg Walters (ITCCCA); Roland Brent (ITCCCA); Jerry Parsons (ICA), and John Polka, Oak Park (Fenwick).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **There were no Proposed Changes to the Current Terms and Conditions.**

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **State Final Starting Line Area**

It was recommended that precautions be taken to reduce the unauthorized traffic in the area in front of the starting line during the time prior to the start of each race. This traffic interferes with the warm ups of competitors. The area is currently roped off and meet management has staff in place to attempt to keep unauthorized personnel out of this area. However, additional steps will be taken in the future to attempt to eliminate the unauthorized traffic in this area. It was further suggested that coaches assume responsibility for their spectators and explain to them prior to coming to the park that it is inappropriate and detrimental to the athletes to be in this area.

2. **Online List of Participant Data**

It was suggested that IHSA supply the Regional and Sectional managers with a .csv file instead of the plain text file currently issued from the IHSA Office to managers to input into their computer operating systems to run their meets. IHSA Computer Operations manager has indicated that he is willing to work with anyone that can develop the changes necessary to implement this change. If you have the ability to make such changes and are willing to share those with the IHSA, contact Scott Johnson in the IHSA office.

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 3 hour meeting. All items that received a motion and a second from our group were voted on by the committee members. This year there were no such recommendations formally proposed by the committee.

1. Uniform review - Where bibs must be worn. In order to provide the most accurate video review used to score each race, it will remain a requirement to wear the bibs high on the jersey. It was suggested that coaches consider options to help their fans identify their athletes (like the bright orange jerseys worn by this year's 3A boy's state champions).
2. Tag distribution - Considered the option of distributing the tags on Friday. Meet management respectfully reserves the right to distribute the tags on the start line. Proceeding in this manner ensures the competitors are wearing the correct tags and makes the scoring process more accurate and more time efficient. An additional group of clerks was added this year to help with this process. It is very likely that the tag will be attached to the bib in the near future which may provide additional options.
3. Regional Modification- Eliminate or modify regional competition due to the small number of schools that field a team in that level of competition. The committee feels that there is value in providing this opportunity for schools to compete in spite of the fact that most schools advance. For many programs this is the high light of their season and should therefore not be modified at this time. This was simply a topic of discussion, no proposal was made, and consequently no vote was taken.

4. Host Allowance - Increase the host allowance to encourage schools to host regional and sectional meets. There are expenses associated with conducting these meets that can not be covered using the current host allowances. This is true for host schools that must use a facility that they do not own, such as a park or a forest preserve. The rental of portable restroom facilities alone can cost be very expensive. This concern will be shared with the IHSA Administrators and the Board of Directors.
5. Watches-The committee had a very brief discussion on the suggestion that athletes be allowed to wear watches during competition.
6. Individuals at Sectional Events- The committee agreed that sectional hosts should be reminded in the Managers Manual that they are to place individual runners from the same school in the same box at sectional races. This is currently the rule but not every host is doing so.
7. Discussed the suggestion that state series hosts be allowed the option of using a variety of shoots at the finish line during the state series. The committee agreed that the finish line area should be the same at all state series events. This provides athletes the opportunity to know what they will encounter at the state finals. It is understood that the wide mouth shoot currently required necessitates more volunteers at the finish line.
8. The committee rejected the suggestion that assignments be made in the spring the year prior to the season. It is not possible for many reasons.
9. The committee heard from the official's representative an explanation on the uniform and jewelry rules.
10. The drug testing procedures used at the state finals were reviewed.
11. The committee discussed the possibility and appropriateness of sectional host schools charging a parking fee as done at the state finals. Ron McGraw will review the question with Dr. Hickman and determine if this subject should be covered in the terms and conditions in the future.
12. Mr. Jerry Riebling the official scorer of the state finals reviewed the current and future technology with the committee. We anticipate the tags being located in the bibs in the near future. These tags would be disposable and therefore it will not be necessary for coaches to return them.
13. The committee was informed that beginning in 09-10 (next fall), coaches and officials will be required to view an online rules meeting specific to cross country. Many IHSA sports, including track and field, will be using the online rules meetings this current year.
14. All in attendance were reminded that it is required that a licensed IHSA Official be present, start and referee all IHSA cross country meets. It is not legal for any non IHSA licensed individual (coach or AD), to start IHSA cross country meets.
15. Severe Weather at State Finals- The concept of severe weather at the state finals was discussed. Meet management has discussed many times the options available in the event of severe weather at the state finals, and has a plan. It must be first understood that if severe weather forced the event to conclude before all races are conducted, the event would be officially over at that point. There is no option to return in the following days to complete any unfinished competition. Meet management would be forced to consider options based on the situation at the time. If we were so delayed that we did not have adequate day light to run all races as scheduled, we would likely run two races at once in order to allow the athletes to compete prior to darkness. While this is an undesirable option, it would be used only in the event that it was the only way to allow all races to be competed that day. Given the many variables and the few available options, meet management prefers not to attempt to place a plan in writing.
16. Thank you - The committee thanked Chris Perry, Paula Webb, Randy Simmons and the entire staff from Peoria High School for their outstanding work in hosting the Cross Country State Finals once again in 2008. In addition, the IHSA licensed officials and volunteers from the Illinois Valley Striders were also recognized and thanked for their major contribution to this spectacular event.