

## **MINUTES OF THE IHSA DANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday, March 15, 2023- Virtual Meeting

The IHSA Dance Advisory Committee meeting was held virtually. Committee members present were: Tonay Tucker, Chicago (Whitney Young); Eugenia Scavone, Lombard (Montini); Emily Roberts, Elmwood; Nicole Meyer, Bloomington (H.S.); Mark McDowell, Quincy (Notre Dame); Todd Hannaford; Bethalton (Civic Memorial); Christina Erickson, (IHSA Official) and Lynn Gelatka (IHSA Head Clinician). Savannah Stanzsek was unable to attend the meeting. IHSA Assistant Executive Director Tracie Henry conducted the meeting.

### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **I. SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION B: Recommendation:** 1A, 2A, 3A and **4A** teams can have up to 28 rostered participants with no more than 28 allowed on the competition floor and no less than 5.

**Rationale:** Dance classifications will increase from 3 divisions to 4 Divisions. Per IHSA Policy 19. Criteria for increasing the Number of Classes in IHSA Sports and Activities. 2. The classification systems used in Boys Football, Music, Competitive Cheerleading and Competitive Dance are unique and are determined by the Terms and Conditions of the respective sport or activity. Fixed enrollment numbers for dance classifications will be created after dividing the classes with the fewest participating schools by placing the smallest 25% of entries in Class 1A, the next smallest of entries in Class 2A, the next smallest 25% of entries in Class 3A, and the remaining entries in Class 4A. Adding an additional classification will encourage more small schools to enter the state series and will create more balanced enrollment equity amongst the classifications. Adding an additional classification aligns with cheer which currently has four classifications.

**Died for Lack of Motion**

### **ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

1. Tracie Henry reviewed the proposal process. **IHSA Advisory Committees** communicate information about their area of interest to the [Board of Directors](#) and staff. She clarified which committees make recommendations for changes in policy, administration, and terms and conditions. The Terms and Conditions recommendations are reviewed by the [IHSA staff](#), [Athletic Administrators](#) and then either approved or rejected by the Board of Directors. The committee reviewed the minutes of the 2022 Dance Advisory Committee Meeting.
2. The committee provided general feedback on the IHSA Dance season including Sectionals and the State Final. The committee expressed frustrations with the Ticketmaster fees at Grossinger Motors. The committee found the Marley floor provided by Redlok Productions to be a quality surface and favorable improvement.
3. The committee reviewed a proposal to move up the start of the season by 2 weeks. Tracie communicated that the Advisory Committee cannot make changes to By-laws. The committee discussed the proposal which came with conflicting support and opposition. The committee understood the benefit for some programs but discussed the unintended consequences for teams with fall sport athletes such as volleyball and cross country who will still be finishing their fall sport seasons.

4. The committee discussed two proposals to increase the number of contests allowed. The Advisory Committee cannot make changes to the By-laws but Tracie will communicate the committee feedback to the authors. The first proposal recommended increasing the contest limitations to eight (8) contests and the second proposal recommended increasing the contest limitations to nine (9) contests. The committee supported the proposal of increasing the number of contests allowed to eight (8) contests and changing the By-law language from dates to contests. This type of change must be submitted by a schools Official Representative through the [Legislative Commission](#).
5. The committee considered a proposal to allow competitive dance teams to compete in genre-based categories (e.g., pom, kick, jazz, and hip hop) within each division (1A, 2A, and 3A). The new rule would state: All schools entered in the IHSA Competitive Dance Series will be assigned to compete in proportional divisions of Sectional competition on a geographic basis, in addition to being categorized for participation within genre-based categories (e.g., pom, kick, jazz, and hip hop). Teams will declare which genre-based category they will compete within prior to the state series, on a timeline pre-determined by IHSA. There was significant discussion and some support from the committee but the consensus was to continue with the current format.
6. The committee reviewed a proposal to have a live drawing for Saturday's performance order with the top twelve coaches advancing to finals at the conclusion of the prelim performances. The coaches submitting the proposal believed that the live drawing would add transparency to the process. The committee supports the current process with a random draw being generated through the Tourneywire software.
7. The committee reviewed a proposal to make IHSA Officials' ratings public information through the Schools & Officials Center on the IHSA Website. Tracie shared the language from the Officials Handbook V. OFFICIALS RATINGS A. Procedures. *Individual ratings from coaches and schools will remain confidential. These ratings will be used to help determine postseason assignments.*
8. The committee discussed a proposal to allow 30 teams in each division (1A, 2A, 3A) to compete in the State Final Prelims with two judging panels of 15 teams per panel. The top 6 teams on each panel advance to State Finals on Day 2. In addition, State Tournament officials will be limited to judging one panel (1A, 2A, or 3A) during the State competition and Head Tournament officials cannot be the Head Official for each respective division over consecutive years. Head officials from the Sectionals round of competition will be given preference to be a panel official at the State tournament. The committee supports the current process.
9. The committee considered a proposal to remove the minimum number of dancers on the floor. The committee was concerned that without the minimum teams could enter a solo or ensemble instead of a team. Teams can dance with less than five (5) dancers on the floor but receive a one point deduction.
10. The committee reviewed a proposal to reorganize and reassign teams to new sectionals, if schools drop prior to the Sectional tournament. The committee discussed the imbalance was due to teams not showing up at the sectional site to compete. All sectionals were balanced within two schools upon assignments being released on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
11. The committee discussed a proposal for an IHSA-certified coach being required to sign the Technical Judge's deductions and penalties sheet immediately following the performance. An IHSA-certified

coach is responsible for signing the Competitive Dance Deductions/Legalities sheet provided by the onsite Technical Judge following each performance to acknowledge any penalties or warnings received. The committee supports the current process.

12. Tracie Henry recognized out-going committee members Emily Roberts, Elmwood; Nicole Meyer, Bloomington (H.S.) and Todd Hannaford, Bethalto (Civic Memorial) for their service to the committee.