

**Minutes of the 2008-09 IHSA Chess Advisory Committee Meeting
March 25, 2009**

The IHSA Chess Advisory meeting was held at the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were Chairman Mike Zacate, Don Porzio of Aurora (Illinois Math and Science Academy), Bryan Devine of Peoria (Woodruff), Ted Cipicchio of Highland (H.S.), Steve Parsons of Chicago (Lane), Mark Grishaber of Chicago (Young), and Fred Beilfuss of Wheaton (W. Warrenville South). Mike Lootens of Stanford (Olympia) was absent. Scott Johnson, IHSA Assistant Executive Director, was also in attendance.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee recommended the following changes to the Terms and Conditions:

1. Section V-B-1 and V-B-6.

Recommendation: Change the pairings procedures to eliminate acceleration in the second round. Change the alternate pairing procedures to provide for acceleration in the second round only in the event of more than 128 entries.

Rationale: The current method increases the likelihood of having no undefeated teams at the end of the competition, thus requiring tie-breakers to determine a champion. Acceleration is not necessary to ensure finishing with at most one undefeated team. Removing acceleration will, however, increase the number of 6-1 teams to seven or eight (from five or six).

approved

2. Section V-B-2a.

Recommendation: Change the pairings procedures to rank-order the second pairing group (ranked 8 to 14).

Rationale: The first pairing group (rank 1 to 7) has been ordered for several years. This change will provide symmetry to the pairings of the top teams.

approved

3. Section V-B-3.

Recommendation: Change the pairings procedures to allow teams within the same conference to be paired in the following cases: (a) after two rounds, if they have earned

two points; (b) after three rounds, if they have earned three points; or (c) anytime thereafter, if they have earned four points.

Rationale: The current restriction is too limited, and causes unnatural pairings in the early rounds. The teams who are undefeated in the early rounds don't mind being paired with teams from their own conference if it leads to more natural pairings throughout the tournament.

approved

4. **Section VIII-C-7.**

Recommendation: Specify penalties for improper substitution or failure to follow correct substitution procedures.

Rationale: Substitutions that are not recorded or recorded incorrectly cause problems for the tournament staff and have been increasing in recent years. Coaches need to be aware of the procedures and follow them.

approved

5. **Section VIII-I.**

Recommendation: Change the equipment rule to require that four time-delay/increment-capable clocks be supplied by each team.

Rationale: Time-delay clocks are now the standard in chess competition. The rules allow the use of an analog clock only if none other is available and both players agree to its use.

approved

6. **Section X-B-2.**

Recommendation: Change the number of individual awards to exactly 10 on all boards (1 to 8).

Rationale: The change allows for consistent recognition across the board(s). The change would result in a small increase in the number of medallions (66 were given in 2008; the change would require exactly 80).

approved

RULE CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee recommended the following changes to the Chess Rule Book

1. Rule 1-4-2.

Recommendation: Change the equipment rule to require that four time-delay/increment-capable clocks be supplied by each team.

Rationale: Time-delay clocks are now the standard in chess competition. The rules allow the use of an analog clock only if none other is available and both players agree to its use.

approved

2. Rule 9-1.

Recommendation: Change the illegal position rule to allow recovery from an illegal position only if it occurred in the last five moves.

Rationale: The current rule allows the position to be recovered if it occurred in the last 10 moves, which the committee feels is far too many to retrace.

approved

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee reviewed the drinking water policy. Players are allowed to have water in bottles but the bottles may not be placed on the table. Water that is provided in cups at the sides of the ballroom must be consumed at the water station and may not be brought back to the table.

The committee reviewed the seating situation in the skittles area. It was recommended that each school be provided two 4- by 8-foot tables and a placard that would allow the team members to "claim" two tables at the start of the tournament. It is hoped this procedure will reduce the "claim-jumping" that sometimes occurs.

The committee authorized Scott Johnson and Mike Zacate to make clerical adjustments to the Terms & Conditions. Several provisions are repeated and some sections need to be moved to adhere to the standard format.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The committee reviewed the 2009 state tournament. There were three minor appeals but no major incidents at this year's tournament.

The committee heard an update on the efforts of World Chess Live to assist in conducting online competition. Mike Zacate reported that the first sanctioned online competition between two Illinois high schools occurred on Tuesday, March 24, between New Lenox (Lincoln-Way Central) and Chicago Heights (Bloom).

The meeting adjourned after setting the next meeting date for March 24, 2010.