

**Minutes of the 2009-10 IHSA Chess Advisory Committee Meeting
April 26, 2010**

The IHSA Chess Advisory meeting was held at the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Monday, April 26, 2010, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were Chairman Mike Zacate, incoming chairman Chris Merli of Urbana (University), Fred Beilfuss of Wheaton (W. Warrenville South), Mike Lootens of Stanford (Olympia), Sean Fisher-Rohde of Palatine (H.S.), Patrick Coulton of Charleston, and Mike McHale of Byron. Steve Parsons of Chicago (Lane) and Mark Grishaber of Chicago (Young) 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. Add Section III-I.

Recommendation: Require the viewing of an online presentation covering the rules and procedures of the state final tournament. The presentation would have be viewed by a coach or other representative from each school in the two weeks prior to the pairing meeting, which occurs five days before the state tournament.

Rationale: Currently coaches are required to attend a meeting that covers these procedures during the first round of the tournament. Covering most of the issues ahead of time will prepare coaches for the tournament and will shorten the on-site meeting.

Approved by consent

2. Section VIII-I-3 (a) and (b).

Recommendation: Specify that forfeiture of the game is the required penalty when a player uses a cell phone, and that the penalty for a player's cell phone vibrating is a "minor violation" plus the loss of ten minutes on his/her clock, or half the time on the clock, whichever is less.

Rationale: The current penalty for a cell phone in use is "possible forfeiture"; the change spells out the actual practice. Adding the loss of time for a vibrating cell phone is intended as an additional deterrent.

Approved by consent

RULE CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee recommended the following changes to the Chess Rule Book

1. Add Rule 14-4-3.

Recommendation: Indicate that once stopped, a clock may only be restarted by a steward or at the instruction of a steward.

Rationale: Players were confused about the procedure for restarting the clock.

Approved by consent

2. Rule 17-7-1.

Recommendation: Clarify that electronic aids approved for notation are not prohibited.

Rationale: The current rule as written does not allow electronic aids, even if they are approved for notation.

Approved by consent

3. Rule 17-9.

Recommendation: Modify to specify that a coach is a spectator.

Rationale: Coaches are spectators, except for certain situations that are spelled out in other rules. The current rule states that coaches are not spectators, which is not the case.

Approved by consent

4. Delete Rule 18-2 and renumber subsequent sections.

Rationale: Changes to other rules have made this section obsolete. Annulled games are no longer possible.

Approved by consent

5. Rule 17-11-2.

Recommendation: Clarify that abandoning a game, as determined by a steward, will result in an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

Rationale: The current rule did not specify the penalty.

Approved by consent

X. Various rules.

The language of various rules were edited to change references to "flags dropping" to "expiration of time" and similar constructions.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee discussed the production of video rules presentations for the 2010-11 season. Such presentations were used in place of rules meetings in various sports during this school term. For chess, the committee recommended two videos of approximately 30 minutes in length. The first will deal with IHSA Chess Rules (the second section of the IHSA Chess Manual) that are in effect throughout the season. The committee appointed Sean Fisher-Rohde and Mike Neenan to work on the content of this video. The second video will deal with policies and procedures of the IHSA State Tournament (as discussed in the Terms & Conditions change above). The committee appointed Mike Zacate and Chris Merli to develop the content of this video.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The committee discussed the continuing problems with Bronstein delay clocks. Several of the rules modifications are intended to clarify that Bronstein delay clocks are not prohibited, but that any other type of clock is preferred for use and should be substituted if possible.

The committee discussed the issue of some high schools wishing to use students in the 7th and 8th grade to participate with the high school team in USCF tournaments. Typically these students are enrolled in the same building as the high school students. In March Dr. Hickman ruled definitively that such students are not eligible to participate in any event representing a high school team, regardless of participation by such students from out-of-state schools in the same tournament.

The committee thanked Mike Zacate for his service as chairman of the IHSA Chess Advisory Committee nearly every years since its inception. Next year Chris Merli of Urbana (University) will be the committee chairman and the tournament manager, as Mike leaves the committee and transitions into an advisory role in the IHSA tournament. Mike will remain busy, however, as the tournament manager of the inaugural IESA state tournament to be held the week after the IHSA tournament next year.

The meeting adjourned after setting the next meeting date for March 23, 2011.