

Minutes of the Boys / Girls Cross Country Advisory Committee December 3, 2013

The IHSA B/G Cross Country Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois on Tuesday, December 3, 2013, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee Members present were: Jon Gordon, Chicago (Northside Prep); Dave Facker, Coordinator of Officials, East Peoria; Mike Garcia, Springfield (Lanphier) H.S.; Evan Thorpe, Dixon H.S.; Clint Turner, Mt. Vernon H.S.; Dr. Candice Swift, Principal, Clinton H.S.; Others in attendance, Ron McGraw, IHSA Asst. Executive Director; Kayode Adegoke, IHSA Special Projects Coordinator; Chris Perry, Meet Manager, Peoria.; Brien Dunphy, Peoria H.S. Athletic Director; Matt Grimm, Peoria H.S.; Jim Aikens and Mike Stokes (ITCCCA North); Jerry Parsons(ICA), Normal, ; John Polka, Oak Park (Fenwick)

I. TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. VII. A – State Starting Boxes

Recommendation:

Place the sectional winners in the starting boxes in the center of the start line and the other qualifying teams out on the edges.

Rationale:

The better teams deserve the right to start from the center.

No Motion/No Action Taken

2. III.-G. Regional and Sectional games committee

Recommendation:

Add the following to the “Cross Country Terms and Conditions” at the end of Section III.

The regional meet manager shall be authorized to organize a games committee that shall consist of the meet manger, the licensed IHSA official, and three coaches from schools that are assigned to the regional site. Sectional contest committees shall consist of the sectional meet manager, the licensed IHSA official, and the three regional managers that are assigned to the sectional.

Participating schools shall be notified of the names of the games committee at least five days prior to the regional contest(s).

Authority of meet managers and games committee: The meet manager shall be authorized to conduct the meet under the provisions of these terms and conditions. If a situation develops in which there is an apparent unfairness to a student/athlete, and which is determined to be the result of an error by a coach, administrators of the meet, or the IHSA, the meet manager shall consult with the contest committee to determine the manner in which the situation shall be resolved.

Rationale:

Clerical errors made especially by a coach should not penalize the student athlete.

At the Eureka Cross-Country IHSA Regional two coaches made the same clerical error. In entering athletes into the meet the coaches made a computer error. In both cases, both athletes were on their respective team rosters, but due to the computer error, an unfortunate mistake was made while

clicking on the drop down list, and therefore their names did not appear on the list of participants. In both cases, one athlete was entered twice and one athlete was not entered. This was an obvious error, both teams had the correct number of bibs and chips but the athlete left off was not allowed to run in the Regional race. The essence of the ruling at the meet resulted in two athletes being punished for a clerical error made by their coach. The IHSA should be partially to blame as their new technology allowed the coaches to enter a single athlete twice. Anyway, this was an error that had an easy fix. But there is no provision for this type of error. A games committee could have ruled on the matter, instead two athletes were disqualified. This is not in keeping with the IHSA's mission statement of "equitable participation".

PLEASE NOTE: AS PER NFHS RULE, THE GAMES COMMITTEE IS ALREADY AUTHORIZED UNDER THE IHSA TERMS AND CONDITIONS (Item VIII-N). IT MUST BE EMPHASIZED HERE THAT NO GAMES COMMITTEE/JURY OF APPEALS HAS THE AUTHORITY TO SET ASIDE ANY RULE OR TERM AND CONDITION (NFHS Rule 3-1-2). A DECISION CONCERNING THE ELIGIBILITY OF ANY ENTRY IS NOT THE DOMAIN OF A GAMES COMMITTEE/JURY OF APPEALS.SUCH QUESTIONS COULD ONLY BE ADDRESSED BY AN IHSA ADMINISTRATOR.

No Motion/No Action Taken

3. VI-E-1

Recommendation:

Eliminate the requirement for a coach to attend a coaches meeting on Friday or Saturday at the state final. Highly encourage attendance, but no longer require attendance.

Rationale: Such meetings are very informative and an excellent method of communicating race details to coaches but attendance should not be required. Clearly, all coaches would benefit from attending. However, philosophically, the IHSA would not disqualify an athlete whose coach did not attend the meeting, so the requirement is not enforced and should be eliminated.

No Motion/No Action

4. VI-E-2

Recommendation:

Adjust the coaches meeting schedule for Friday to be: 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m. (instead of 2:00, 3:00, 4:00).

Rationale: The change in daylight savings time created undesirable conditions in the park when the final meeting is conducted at 4:00 p.m. (dark and cold).

No Motion/No Action Taken

II. ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Move the starting time for the first coaches meeting on Saturday to 8:15 am (instead of 8:30 to avoid conflict with the National Anthem).
2. Continue to issue hip tags to competitors.

3. The committee recommended that in the event any coach fails to attend the required meeting, the AD and Principal from the offending school be contacted to report the violation of the IHSA Terms and Conditions.

III. ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

The committee reviewed and discussed all comments and suggestions sent to Ron McGraw. These ideas were discussed and considered during the meeting. All items that received a motion and a second from our group were voted on by the committee members. No motions were made during this session of the CC Advisory Committee.

1. Review of the timing/scoring process used this year and what to expect in the future.

IV. Other

1. Instruct Regional and Sectional hosts to inform all participating schools of their box assignment prior to race day.

2. Sell programs in the parking lots east of route 29 and at the north end of the park.

3. Announce the unofficial results at the conclusion of each race.

4. Continue to require the bibs be worn high on the jersey to provide the best opportunity to see the competitor number in video review.

5. Attempt to keep the area in front of the starting line clear of spectators.

Will we anticipate returning to the time schedule relative to awards presentations next year? Yes.

6. In the online entry process create a mechanism that prevents a coach from entering the same athlete twice into the List of Participants. This has already been done and is ready for next year's entry process.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:40 p.m.