

# Minutes of the 2018-19 Journalism Advisory Committee

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

The IHSA Journalism Advisory Committee was held at the IHSA Office in Bloomington on Tuesday, April 30, 2019 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Advisory committee members in attendance: Division 1 Diana Burban, Chicago (Mother McAuley), Adviser; Division 2 Frank Mirandola, Mt. Prospect (Prospect), Activities Director; Division 3 Liz Levin, Downers Grove (North), Adviser; Division 4 Daniel Bingley, Rockford (Guilford), Adviser; Division 5 Sheila Moore, Macon (Meridian), Adviser; Division 6 Matthew Hutchison, Taylorville, Principal; Division 7 Samantha Goetting, Herrin, Adviser. IHSA Asst. Executive Director Matt Troha conducted the meeting and liaisons present were: Dan Kerns, IJEA.

## **TERMS & CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS**

### 1. II. Dates and Sites

**Recommendation:** Set the following dates for the IHSA Journalism Sectionals and State Finals:  
2020

Sectionals: Saturday, April 4

State Finals: Friday, April 24

2021

Sectionals: Saturday, April 10

State Finals: Friday, April 23

**Rationale:** The Journalism State Series is one of the IHSA's most unique events in that competition only happens two days per year. Holidays, journalism events, and school-related events have the opportunity each year to significantly impact participation. Advisors overwhelmingly support a two-week break between the Sectional and State Final tournament. However, in 2020, a national journalism event in the region would likely prevent many IHSA schools from attending, thus prompting the three-week recommendation. The committee believes the best course of action moving forward is to continue to schedule the State Series in two-year increments. Every effort will be made to keep the State Finals during Week 43 of the standardized IHSA calendar.

**Approved by Consent**

### 2. III. ON-LINE ENTRIES, WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES, ELIGIBILITY, AND ON-LINE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS E. On-Line List of Participants List of Participants Deadline

**Recommendation:** Change deadline date from March 18, 2019 to "The Wednesday prior to Sectionals."

**Rationale:** Most advisers do not know their actual category assignments until much closer to Sectionals.

**Approved by Consent**

### 3. VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES

**Recommendation:** Add new letter B. that reads:

B. Category Participation: A student competing in a category that covers two blocks may not be entered in another single block category.

**Rationale:** The two-block categories are designed for competitors to use the allotted time to thoroughly and thoughtfully complete their work.

**Approved by Consent**

4. VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES

C. Proctors

**Recommendation:** Add B. with the language below (if passed, current language becomes A.)

B. Sectional Proctors: Each school will be required to provide a proctor for the Sectional they are assigned to. An advisor or other individual who meets the age criterion (A.) can fill the role. The Sectional host will assign each school their event to proctor and the school will be responsible for making sure an individual fills that position.

**Rationale:** Proctors have become more difficult to find and we have also had issues with proctors disseminating incorrect information or making incorrect judgements. Advisors are better versed with IHSA rules and generally present. They have the option to bring a parent or other individual to fill the proctor role if they do not want to.

**Approved by Consent**

5. VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES

B. 6. Yearbook Theme Development

**Recommendation:** Change category description to read the following:

Students will be given a theme provided at the contest site from which they will develop the following six elements for a high school yearbook: 1) Cover 2) Front End Sheet 3) Title Page 4) Opening 5) Divider 6) Folio. Students competing in Yearbook Theme Development may use the following materials: magazines, markers, colored pencils, scissors, glue/glue sticks. Entries will be judged based on basic design principles, creativity and originality.

**Rationale:** The category was expanded to two blocks, making more time to add these essential design elements. Judges rubric will be updated accordingly if passed.

**Approved by Consent**

6. VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES

B. 7. Newspaper Design

9. Infographics

15. Yearbook Layout

**Recommendation:** Add language to each of the three event descriptions indicating that they will be completed in color. Prompts will need to be updated to reflect this if passed.

**Rationale:** Creates a more modern and realistic experience by completing these events in color.

**Approved by Consent**

7. VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES

D. Time Schedule

**Recommendation:** Add following to time schedule:

8:30-9:00 AM Proctor Meeting (Sectional only)

**Rationale:** This will provide a good opportunity to get proctors the info and materials they need, while also checking in to make sure all events are covered.

**Approved by Consent**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. **Recommendation:** The IHSA will begin hosting an in-person meeting for Sectional managers in February.

**Rationale:** Hosting an IHSA Journalism Sectional is a big undertaking and an in-person meeting would be more beneficial for managers to running a smooth event.

## **Died for Lack of Motion**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. The committee welcomed new committee members Diana Burban, Frank Mirandola and Daniel Bingley.
2. The committee reviewed the minutes from the 2018 meeting.
3. The committee shared their experiences at the respective Sectionals they competed at and reviewed the reports that advisers compiled from their meetings at each Sectional.
4. The committee shared their experiences from the 2019 State Finals, which were hosted by Illinois State University at Heartland Community College.
5. Matt Troha informed the committee that he anticipates that the State Finals will move to ISU's campus in 2020. He will begin meeting with tournament managers soon to discuss details.
6. The committee discussed issues with Adobe Creative Cloud registration and the likely need for competitors to pre-register ahead of Sectionals and the State Finals in 2020.
7. The committee discussed the likely need to move the Southern Illinois University Sectional further north. The Sectional only had eight competing teams this year. In order to maintain the equity of the Sectional sites, it will need additional schools, which will likely pull from the Springfield and Champaign areas. The groups discussed potential sites that might be more of a middle ground.
8. The committee discussed the use of online yearbook dummy docs in the State Series this year. Matt will ask the yearbook companies if they can remove the watermarks when printing.
9. The committee discussed encouraging Sectional hosts to provide photography and video news students with passes or credentials for the day.
10. The committee discussed the possibility of posting the work of the Top 3 finishers from the State Finals online.
11. The committee discussed dropping late withdrawal fees.
12. The committee discussed the relevancy of the advertising category.
13. The committee discussed different State Final formats.

14. The committee discussed moving Sectionals to a Friday.
15. The committee discussed shortening the Broadcast News category.
16. The committee discussed potential carry-in categories in events like total-online, hardcopy yearbook, and hardcopy publication.
17. The committee discussed allowable programs in Infographics.
18. The committee discussed the need for the IHSA to update the practice prompts online.
19. The committee asked Matt to remind Sectional hosts to provide large desk if possible for Yearbook Theme Development.
20. The committee discussed moving some events from B Block to A Block to help balance the judging. The committee asked Matt Troha to survey advisors for feedback on potentially moving Sports Writing and/or Yearbook Copy Writing from Block B to Block A.
21. Committee member Liz Levin shared updates on updates to the judging rubrics she has created and will continue to work on for future review.
22. With many advisors likely now serving as proctors, an online doc will be emailed to advisors to collect info for the advisory committee, while an advisors meeting will still be encouraged prior to awards at Sectionals (approximately 2:30 PM).
23. The committee recognized outgoing members Liz Levin and Samantha Goetting.