

MINUTES OF THE IHSA Esports ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 10, 2019

The IHSA esports Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on September 10, 2019, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Derek Austill, Roxana; Mark Bacys, Danville (H.S.); Greg Gardner, Orland Park (Sandburg); Zack Gilbert, Normal (University); Mike Jacobson, Oak Lawn (Richards); Chris Kuntzman, Taylorville; Zachary Lamczyk, Salem; Todd McFarlin, Chicago (Taft); Jeff Pitner, Rockford (Guilford); Eric Wenckowski, Hoffman Estates (H.S.); and Amy Whitlock, Oswego (East). Also in attendance were Craig Anderson, IHSA Executive Director; and Kurt Gibson, IHSA Associate Executive Director.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

None.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

1. The committee reviewed their earlier work and discussions from the 2018-19 school year.
2. The committee saw a presentation from IHSA staff concerning an esports page that will soon be available for display on the IHSA website. The page will include a variety of information, including: esports tournaments, listing of teams/clubs at IHSA member schools, esports-related articles, FAQ's, esports announcements, and esports-related resources to help schools begin and/or manage teams/clubs. It is expected this page will be available for viewing on the IHSA website by the end of September 2019.
3. The committee met and discussed the current status of esports in Illinois with IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. The committee and Mr. Anderson shared ideas regarding esports programs and what a possible state series could look like in Illinois. The group also spent some time discussing whether or not some schools/districts have limits on the levels and/or types of games schools can play. The general consensus from this discussion is that games with a rating no greater than 'T' is the limit, although some committee members indicated their school/district is prohibited from any kind of game involving a first-person shooter. The committee requested an opportunity to meet with the IHSA Board of Directors during the 2019-20 school year to provide an update on the committee's happenings, and Mr. Anderson indicated he would find an opportunity during an up-coming meeting for that exchange to occur.
4. The committee brainstormed various ways they and the IHSA staff could promote esports during the school year and encourage member schools to join the IHSA's Emerging Sports & Activities List. The committee also encouraged the IHSA to use the Town Meeting platform as an opportunity to provide the membership with a general update on esports.
5. The committee heard initial reports from each sub-group that was charged to explore what a tournament format could look like for various games. The committee remains committed to exploring a state series that would involve multiple games, including Smash Brothers, Rocket League, NBA2K, and League of Legends. It is the committee's hope that offering a variety of game types will enable more students to be involved at member schools. The sub-groups agreed to continue working on their designs to share with the committee as a whole later this semester.

6. The committee agreed to meet online in late October and then again in person as a committee of the whole on December 4, 2019.