

IHSA BOYS & GIRLS LACROSSE

The IHSA Boys Lacrosse Advisory Committee and IHSA Girls Lacrosse Advisory Committee met jointly for their annual meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 2019. Attending on behalf of the IHSA Girls Lacrosse Committee were Pete Collins, Coach from Winnetka (New Trier); Brian McDonald, Athletic Director from Vernon Hills; Sarah McKenna, Coach from Evanston (Twp.); Kristen Rymarcsuk, Official from Lake Zurich; Sarah Walker, Coach from Lincolnshire (Stevenson). Attending on behalf of the IHSA Boys Lacrosse Committee were Kevin Benages, coach from Naperville (North); Justin Georgacakis, coach from Northbrook (Glenbrook North); Dan Jones, Athletic Director from Hinsdale Central; Tom Ellis, Official from Naperville. Matt Troha and Raye McDonald from the IHSA staff were also present at the meeting.

TERMS & CONDITION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. II. Dates and Sites
B. Sectional Game Dates:

Recommendation: Update the Boys & Girls Sectional Finals to include the parenthesis: (scheduled as doubleheaders when possible)

Rationale: Playing the Boys & Girls Sectional Championships together at one site would better fit the current structure of the tournament, mirroring what is done with the Super-Sectionals and State Finals. It also creates a great atmosphere for the event, while allowing fanbases whose teams qualify in both genders to see both contests. It will also create one less host site and date needed.

Approved by Consent

2. VI. Tournament Structure And Time Schedules
C: State Final Playing Schedule/Start Times

Recommendation: Change the Saturday state final time schedule to the following:

EVEN YEARS

Girls Third-Place	11:00 AM
Boys Third-Place	1:00 PM
Girls State Championship	3:30 PM
Boys State Championship	6:00 PM

ODD YEARS

Boys Third-Place	11:00 AM
Girls Third-Place	1:30 PM
Boys State Championship	3:30 PM
Girls State Championship	6:00 PM

Rationale: After the weather issues this year, the committee believes it makes sense to eliminate the session break and allow for more time to adjust the schedule in case of weather on Saturday.

Approved by Consent

3. VIII. Tournament Rules
D. End of Game Procedures

Recommendation: Add the following language:

If a Super-Sectional game is suspended due to conditions that make it impossible to play, the game will be rescheduled for the next day from point of suspension, or if mutually agreed upon by both head coaches, that the game may be considered final. If the game cannot be played or completed by the Wednesday night prior to the State Semifinals, the team with the lead will be declared the winner. If the teams are tied and the game cannot be completed, then a coin toss shall determine which team will qualify for the State Finals.

Rationale: The committee believes that Super-Sectional contests should be played to completion whenever possible. This is the current setup in IHSA Girls Soccer. Lacrosse scoring can occur very quickly, so even with 80% of a game completed, a result can still easily be changed in the final minutes of a contest. The committee understands the logistics of the State Series requires End of Game Procedures in the event a contest cannot be completed, but believes that lacrosse, like soccer, should utilize the rest day on Wednesday as a chance to complete these games which determine State Final qualifiers.

Died for Lack of Motion

4. VIII. Tournament Rules
L. Assignment of Officials

Recommendation: Change L-3 to read:
Three officials to all Sectional Semifinal contests.

Rationale: The level of play in high school lacrosse continues to improve, and the game speed continues to increase, positive aspects that also carry additional safety issues. It is becoming more difficult for two officials to cover a varsity lacrosse contest. While the number of regular-season games using three officials continues to increase, there are not enough officials to cover all regular-season or Sectional Play-In or Quarterfinal games with three officials. There are enough to cover the Sectional Semifinals with three officials, so the committee believes it is in the best interest of student-athlete safety, and the sport as a whole, to use three officials on these important contests.

Approved by Consent

5. V. Tournament Assignments and Seeding
B. Sectional Playing Schedules/Start Times

Recommendation:

Replace current language to read:

Non-Lighted field – weekday games: Begin the first contest no earlier than 4:00 p.m. and no later than 4:30 p.m.

Lighted field – weekday games: Begin the first contest no earlier than 4:00 p.m. and the second contest scheduled no later than 7:00 p.m.

Saturday games: Begin the first contest no earlier than 10:00 a.m., and the last contest no later than 7:00 p.m.

Sectional Final and Super-Sectional games: Begin no earlier than 4:00 p.m. and no later than 7:00 p.m.

Note: If two (2) games are to be played back-to-back (doubleheader) on the same field, the second game must be scheduled to begin by 7:00 p.m.

Rationale: This timing language comes directly from the IHSA Soccer Terms & Conditions and better addresses potential timing issues with the majority of IHSA Lacrosse State Series games being played as doubleheaders.

Approved by Consent

STATE ADOPTION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The committee discussed the usage of unified fields. Many schools are moving to unified field lines as they install or repurpose their turf fields. The IHSA has and will continue to use unified fields in the State Series. The committee asked that the IHSA develop a state adoption that recommends that any school who is considering adding unified field lines maintain a width of 60 yards on their lacrosse field layout.

Approved by Consent

BY-LAW RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The committee had a lengthy discussion regarding the IHSA By-Laws that govern varsity scheduling limitations in boys lacrosse (By-law 5.102) and girls lacrosse (By-law 5.242). The committee believes that it would be a cleaner and more simple process to have a maximum number of games per season, regardless of whether games are played in a tournament format or not. The committee then discussed what the ideal number of games would be under that governance. The committee agreed that 20 games would be the ideal number, when taking into account student safety and health, the length of the season, past number of games played by most programs and comparing games played to other levels of lacrosse. Brian McDonald, a committee member, Athletic Director, and official representative at Vernon Hills High School will submit said proposal to the IHSA Legislative Commission for review this October.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The committee heard a report from committee member and Hinsdale Central Athletic Director Dan Jones on the 2019 IHSA State Finals. Jones updated the group on changes from the 2018 to 2019 state finals, as well as the weather issues on Saturday of the 2019 tournament. Committee member Pete Collins, whose team participated, also commented on their experience.

- 1.. The committee discussed postseason lacrosse balls and the quantities sent to each site. They believe that the IHSA should remind school that Champro balls must be used for all IHSA State Series matches, and any other approved ball may be used in regular-season game.
2. The committee discussed various State Series host sites and made recommendations on what sites are better suited for postseason games based on playing surfaces, seating and field layout. The committee agreed that turf is preferential, but that grass can be used.
3. The committee recommends that officials provide coaches with a card containing their name and IHSA official number prior to each contest to help increase the number of ratings received.
4. The committee discussed pre-game warm-up times.

5. The committee recommends that the IHSA alter the layout of the Terms & Conditions to better clarify the postseason tournament rules for the boys and girls tournaments.
6. The committee discussed headgear in the girls game.
7. The committee discussed IHSA Special Reports. Matt Troha reiterated that Special Reports can be used for more than ejections, including to draw focus on positive or negative issues with fans, field conditions, facilities, etc. Dan Jones reiterated that this information is very useful for athletic directors since they are unable to attend every contest.
8. The committee heard a report and updates on the respective boys (IHSLA) and girls lacrosse (IHSWLA) associations.
9. The committee discussed postseason assigning and Arbiters.
10. The committee discussed how coops work in lacrosse and within the IHSA.
11. The committee discussed the recruitment and retention of officials.