

MINUTES OF THE 2024-25 BOYS/GIRLS BASKETBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 24, 2025

The IHSA Boys and Girls Basketball Advisory Committee met at the IHSA office on Thursday, April 24, 2025, beginning at 10 a.m. Committee members present were; Laurie Thompson, Teutopolis; Phil Ralston, Glenview (Glenbrook South); Julie Schultz, Burbank (Reavis); and Chris White, Paxton. Also in attendance were IHSA Assistant Executive Directors Chris Schwarz and Beth Sauser. Committee members Marvin Williams, Chicago (Von Steuben); Jill Pepin, Stockton; Deserea Howard, Alton, (Sr.) and Kyle Weber, Pleasant Plains were unable to attend.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Boys and Girls Section VI. B.: State Final Time Schedule

Recommendation: Adopt a revised State Finals schedule beginning with the 2025-26 season to reflect the 2022-2024 state final structure. Six games on the first day of the tournament, six games on the second day of the tournament, and four games on the final day of the tournament. (see appendix A)

Rationale: The committee favors the original 2022-2024 State Finals Structure schedule. Playing semifinal games late on Thursday and only two semifinals on Friday were not well received by school communities. Fewer fans and fan buses attended the Thursday night 3A semifinals due to the late starts and the fact that school was in session on Friday. There were fewer fans at the 3rd place games in 2025 than in 2022-24. During some Friday 3rd place games, there were no student fans in attendance since school was in session, and on Saturday morning, there were fewer fans for the 4A–3rd place games. The 2025 schedule also negatively affected the facility staffing, tv production, pep band and National Anthem singer scheduling.

2. Boys and Girls Section VI. B. 1), 2), and 3): Tournament Structure and Time Schedule

Recommendation: Each competing team has 15:00 minutes on the competition floor for pre-game warmup.

Rationale: The extra time resulted in pre-game routines becoming out of rhythm and not fully utilized since regular-season warmup times are 15 minutes.

3. Girls Section VI. B. 1) Tournament Structure and Time Schedule Sessions: Class 1A, 2A, 3A and 4A Regional Tournaments:

Recommendation: The committee recommends that the higher seed host school determine the Start time of the Saturday Regional Quarterfinal game to begin between 10:00am and 7:00pm.

Rationale: Increasing the start time window allows more flexibility in scheduling for the Regional Quarterfinal game.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Recommendation: The committee recommends the use of the following State Association Adoptions:

- a. Mercy Rule: continue using with previously established parameters
- b. Coaches Box (28' in length)
- c. Shot Clock
 - i. May be used in 2025-26 regular season, regular season tournaments, and shoot-out games at any level. The decision to use the technology at any level is left to conferences and individual schools.

- ii. For non-conference games, both schools must agree in advance to use the technology.
- iii. The model rule previously adopted by the IHSA Board of Directors must be used.

Rationale: The NFHS Basketball Rules allow states the flexibility to adopt specific adjustments to a select number of rules. Over the years, the IHSA has adopted modifications to the rules above. The committee believes the current adoptions remain relevant and should continue to be accepted.

2. **Recommendation:** Member schools may use the 35-second shot clock in the 2025-26 regular season.

NOTE: Implementation of the 35-second shot clock will begin with the 2026-27 season for all varsity regular season and state series contests. The decision to use the shot clock for sub-varsity contests will continue to be determined by conference and individual schools.

Rationale: The approved recommendation from last year did not specify the regular season, only the postseason. The intent of the 2024 recommendation was for the shot clock to be in effect for all regular-season games beginning in 2026 - 2027.

3. **Recommendation:** During a contest where the shot clock is used, the five-second closely guarded count is not used.

Rationale: Teams utilizing the shot clock have a time limit to attempt a try for goal, so the five-second dribble limit or holding the ball while closely guarded is not in effect.

4. **Recommendation:** During a contest where the shot clock is used, the clock shall be reset to 20 seconds if the offense resumes possession of the ball after a missed shot or if the defense kicks the ball during the offensive team's possession.

Rationale: This action maintains game flow and pace of play.

5. **Recommendation:** Shot Clock Placement: The primary gym must meet NFHS guidelines in the NFHS Rules Book. Shot clock placement in an auxiliary gym, where a basketball mount is not feasible; the shot clocks must be placed on the wall behind the basket, at or above the backboard, clearly visible and unobstructed.

Rationale: Allows the use of shot clocks in auxiliary gyms per schools' requests for guidance.

Items of Discussion

1. The committee reviewed the minutes from the 2024 meeting.
2. The committee reviewed the 9 new Bylaws approved by the IHSA membership earlier this school year.
3. The committee expressed its dissatisfaction with the Wilson EVO NXT basketball. Some of their comments were: the color is too bright or looks fake, it feels like an outside ball, it becomes slick and filthy easily, the texture and grip are not natural, it's challenging to catch hard passes. Coaches preferred the Evolution or the Jet and its longevity.
4. Sub-Sectional Seeding and Team Placement. Sub-Sectionals are already geographically divided so why aren't all the seeds used? If we are seeding everyone in the Sub-Sectional, then use ALL the seeds. Sub-sectional teams are penalized twice with team placement and pairings.

5. The committee discussed whether 31 games are too many for a season maximum. Many teams do not currently play the maximum number of games. If a team does not play 31 games, there is pressure on the coach and AD to get to 31 games.
6. The committee discussed having the higher-seeded team host the quarterfinal games. The committee understands that the Regional host cannot always accommodate the quarterfinal game(s) with two schools traveling to the site. This game also affects the host site practice times, gym availability and securing workers. Also discussed is when a Regional host team loses the quarterfinal game, and then their team does not play a postseason home game.
7. The committee reviewed a coach's concerns about Super Sectional games held at SIU-C.
8. The committee reviewed a coach's comments on travel distances to Super Sectional sites. The group recognized that there is more travel for teams and fans playing at that level.
9. The committee discussed the possibility of rotating the state final game order between classes.
10. The committee discussed the suggestion of having a running clock in 2nd half (rather than just 4th quarter). No action was taken.
11. The committee discussed officials not using a visible 10-second count for backcourt when the shot clock is being used. Concerns about removing the count are: that timers may start the clock early or late; coaches may rely on the visible count; officials who also work college games may forget to use the visible count with the shot clock use; and ultimately, the floor officials are responsible for the count accuracy.
12. The committee questioned the possibility of playing the 3rd place games at an alternative site during the Semifinal and Final games, for scheduling purposes.
13. The committee reviewed an AD's request to know how officials are assigned to the postseason contests, the use of ratings, and why basketball crews are not used in the post-season like football crews? In the IHSA Officials Handbook, section IV. F) Contest Assignments, Contracts & Fees, outlines the process by which officials are assigned to post-season contests. Outside of Football crews, the IHSA staff does not track the members of regular-season crews. Other sports have different state series games that are conducted simultaneously over multiple nights throughout the state.
14. The committee thanked outgoing members Marvin Williams and Laurie Thompson for their service to the Association.
15. Next Meeting Date - Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

2026 Girls and Boys Basketball State Final Schedule (Proposed)

SESSION / DAY	GAME TIME	CONTEST
SESSION 1		
Thursday Game 1	10:00 am	1A Semifinal
Thursday Game 2	Approx. 20 mins after game 1 ends	1A Semifinal
SESSION 2		
Thursday Game 3	2:30 pm	2A Semifinal
Thursday Game 4	Approx. 20 mins after game 3 ends	2A Semifinal
SESSION 3		
Thursday Game 5	7:00 pm	1A 3 rd Place Game
Thursday Game 6	Approx. 20 mins after game 5 ends	2A 3 rd Place Game
		Awards Ceremony
SESSION 4		
Friday Game 7	10:00 am	3A Semifinal
Friday Game 8	Approx. 20 mins after game 7 ends	3A Semifinal
SESSION 5		
Friday Game 9	2:30 pm	4A Semifinal
Friday Game 10	Approx. 20 mins after game 9 ends	4A Semifinal
SESSION 6		
Friday Game 11	7:00 pm	3A 3 rd Place Game
Friday Game 12	Approx. 20 mins after game 11 ends	4A 3 rd Place Game
		Awards Ceremony
SESSION 7		
Saturday Game 13	10:00 am	1A Championship
		Awards Ceremony
Saturday Game 14	25 mins after game 13 awards ceremony	2A Championship
		Awards Ceremony
SESSION 8		
Saturday Game 15	4:00 pm	3A Championship
		Awards Ceremony
Saturday Game 16	25 mins after game 15 awards ceremony	4A Championship
		Awards Ceremony