

MINUTES OF THE IHSA BOYS & GIRLS LACROSSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 15, 2010

The IHSA Boys Lacrosse Advisory Committee and IHSA Girls Lacrosse Advisory Committee met jointly for their inaugural meeting at the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, September 15, 2010, at 10 a.m.

Committee members present from the Boys Lacrosse committee: Greg Simmons, Chicago (Harlan); Justin Georgacakis, Northbrook (Glenbrook North); Steve Rockrohr, Glenview (Glenbrook South); Richard Borsch, Oak Park (Fenwick); Dan Ganschow, Oak Park (O.P.-River Forest); Jim McIntyre, O'Fallon (H.S.); Tom Cummings, Official.

Committee members present from the Girls Lacrosse committee: Christine Melone, Chicago (Mother McAuley); Pete Collins, Winnetka (New Trier); John Dwyer, Wilmette (Loyola Academy); Laura Rippy, Naperville (Neuqua Valley); Paul Moretta, Hinsdale (Central); Doug Riddle, O'Fallon (H.S.) and IHSA Assistant Executive Director Matt Troha was also in attendance.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation: Accept the Terms & Conditions for Boys & Girls Lacrosse (attachment) as recommended by the IHSA Boys Lacrosse Advisory Committee and IHSA Girls Lacrosse Advisory Committee.

Rationale: The IHSA Boys & Girls Lacrosse Advisory Committees developed a joint Terms & Conditions document based on the Terms & Conditions of other IHSA sports, which clearly substantiates the areas where boys and girls rules will differentiate.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR REVIEW

The committee respectfully brought forth two recommendations that they would like presented to the IHSA Board of Directors at their October meeting, but which do not require any voting action by the Board.

1. The committees would like the IHSA to wait until the Spring Sport Deadline on February 1, 2011 before reaching a decision on whether a State Series will be conducted in IHSA Boys & Girls Lacrosse for the 2011 season. The committee will encourage lacrosse playing schools to schedule and prepare as if there will be no State Series, but the committee agreed that an IHSA State Series in lacrosse is the number one goal and all schools would be willing to adjust schedules, host State Series contests and do whatever else was needed in the event that the benchmarks for the State Series are met in late January or early February. This action would keep lacrosse in line with all other spring sports, which the committee believes is important in establishing high school lacrosse in Illinois.

2. The committee would like Boys Lacrosse and Girls Lacrosse to be eliminated from the IHSA Emerging Sports List, relative to the Board's action at the October 2009 Board Meeting, and be reinstated as an Emerging Sport on February 2 if the numbers are not met to begin a State Series in 2011.

In addition, the committee asks that a Boys Lacrosse homepage on the IHSA website and Girls Lacrosse homepage on the IHSA website be established as soon as time permits. Both sites should be uniform with other IHSA sport homepages. These pages would contain a checkmark link that would display the schools who are currently entered to participate in the State Series and thus, provide a public update on the number relative to the 65-team benchmark.

The committee believes that the establishment of the webpages and elimination of lacrosse from the Emerging Sports List will clear up confusion between entry into the Emerging Sports List and State Series. It will also be a clear indicator that the is IHSA sanctioning lacrosse amidst misinformation and misunderstanding by some in the lacrosse community about the IHSA's role in regard to lacrosse in the state.

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. Paul Moretta and Matt Troha discussed the history leading up to the IHSA Board approving a State Series in Boys & Girls Lacrosse and the required team number benchmarks in order to begin State Series play.
2. The committee was updated on the current entry numbers for boys lacrosse and girls lacrosse into the State Series.
3. The committee discussed potential state final venues and compiled a list of facilities that can be utilized for Sectional and Super-Sectional hosting.
4. On behalf of the committee, Matt Troha will develop an informational document on IHSA lacrosse, providing an update for school administrators on the status of IHSA lacrosse and clarifying common misperceptions on the requirements of becoming a program eligible to compete in the IHSA State Series. Matt will also distribute a survey to member school athletic directors and lacrosse coaches gauging various information on how programs are run, including school involvement and costs. The survey data will be included in the informational document.
5. The committee was updated on the number of boys and girls lacrosse officials currently registered by the IHSA.
6. The committee reaffirmed that all lacrosse playing schools should sign the Emerging Sports List after February 1 for boys and girls lacrosse, respectively, in the event that the benchmarks to begin a State Series in the spring of 2011 are not met.

7. The committee reviewed sample maps and pairings based on the lacrosse playing schools on the Emerging Sports List to demonstrate the potential differences in IHSA pairings compared to the current postseason.
8. Matt Troha discussed his role as the IHSA administrator for lacrosse as it pertains to the selection and release of State Series sites, pairings, seeding and official assignments.