

MINUTES OF THE ATHLETES WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
September 24, 2014

The IHSA Athletes with Disabilities Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, September 24, 2014, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Monica Burkholder, Lanark (Eastland); Nicole Ebsen, Berwyn-Cicero (Morton); Greg Hall, Urbana (H.S.); Jim Raabe, Jacksonville (Illinois School for the Visually Impaired); and Bob Wells, Fairfield. Also in attendance were Kayode Adegoke, Coordinator of Special Programs; Kurt Gibson, IHSA Associate Executive Director; and Nicole Schaefbauer, IESA Associate Executive Director. Committee members not in attendance were: William Hook, Chicago (Agricultural Science); and Perry Wilhelm, Mundelein (H.S.).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Recommendation:** The committee recommended moving forward again with its recommendation from February 2014 to double the amount of games rolled in the association's wheelchair bowling competition at the sectional and state finals tournaments from one-2 game block to two-2 game blocks.

Rationale: The committee believes the pacing of the bowling event is such that participants have the time during the sectional and state final tournaments to bowl more games. The committee believes the addition of the two games will also create a more competitive event for the bowlers. Doing so will also allow for all of the awards ceremonies to be held at the same time.

Approved

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee reviewed the minutes from its February 2014 meeting.
2. The committee reviewed the IHSA's Accommodations Policy and Accommodations Form and offered no changes to either at this time. The committee agreed to review both again at their next meeting.
3. The committee suggested showing a short presentation at the up-coming Principals' Rules Meeting that highlights the association's programs for students with physical disabilities.
4. The committee wondered if there was a way to identify the number of disabled athletes participating on member school athletic teams and suggested that IHSA staff develop some kind of survey to gather such data.
5. The committee discussed the association's current program offerings for students with physical disabilities and the potential expansion of programs to include students with cognitive disabilities.

6. The committee inquired about the creation of regionally-dictated teams that would compete only in regular season events against other similarly-constructed teams and not in any kind of state series.
7. The committee discussed the viability of offering unified programs and asked for more information regarding that to be brought to their February meeting.
8. The committee discussed the possibility of partnering with some outside organization/agency to conduct a road race for interested students with physical disabilities.
9. The committee shared many success stories of schools that have incorporated students with various disabilities into school athletic programs and worked with other schools to ensure those students have meaningful participation.
10. The committee's next meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2015.