

MINUTES OF THE IHSA NEWS MEDIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

August 6, 2014

The IHSA News Media Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, August 6, 2014, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Aaron Bennett, WCIA-TV in Champaign; Jack Hull, WBBA in Pittsfield; Chris Hugo, Withers Broadcasting in Mt. Vernon; Jim Mattson, WHOI in Peoria; and Steve Soucie, The Daily Journal in Kankakee. Also in attendance was IHSA Asst. Executive Director, Matt Troha. Not present were Ron Ramos, Boonecountysports.com in Belvidere and Paul Skrbina, Tribune in Chicago.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

None.

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee welcomed two new members, Aaron Bennett and Chris Hugo.
2. The committee reviewed and discussed the meetings from the 2013 meeting.
3. The committee heard an update on IHSA General Media Credentials, which are scheduled to be mailed on August 14.
4. The committee discussed ways of improving ScoreZone participation, including outside vendors like MaxPreps.
5. The group heard a report from Matt Troha on the Football State Finals at Huskie Stadium in DeKalb. The venue hosted the football state championships for the first time in 2013.
6. The committee discussed the NFHS Network, which the IHSA joined in 2013.
7. The committee discussed the IHSA's original content website page IHSA State (www.IHSA.org/IHSAState).
8. The committee heard a recap on and saw video from the inaugural class of IHSA Distinguished Media Service Award winners.
9. The committee discussed and voted on the 2014 IHSA Distinguished Media Service Award nominees.
10. The committee discussed the impact that renovations at the Assembly Hall in Champaign will have on the 2015 IHSA Individual Wrestling State Finals.
11. The committee discussed time changes that have been adopted for the 2014-15 Girls and Boys Basketball State Finals that will move the second session start time up from 6:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. as well as timeout allotments being added for both teams.
12. The group discussed a Basketball Advisory Committee proposal that would have reinstated the Slam Dunk Contest.
13. The committee discussed the Basketball State Finals hosting bid process and timeline.

14. The committee discussed holding introductory press conferences at State Finals that have Thursday activities, such as basketball. The committee said it preferred the open availability format that is currently in place in lieu of formal press conference.
15. The committee discussed media interviews at the wrestling state finals in general, as well as specifically following state championship matches. The committee shared ideas on how to improve this process and Matt Troha will work with staff and meet personnel to implement them.
16. The committee discussed media accommodations at various State Series sites. Okawville High School was praised by two committee members who attended their Boys Basketball Sectional.
17. The committee discussed movement of State Series sites in instances where two qualifying teams are significantly closer to one another than the host site.
18. The committee discussed baseball and softball state final game times and protocol for moving games.
19. The committee discussed Girls Volleyball Super-Sectionals being played on Saturdays. The group reiterated that from a media perspective, they are difficult to cover due to the other state finals and football playoff games that occur that day and would prefer they be played on Monday like other sports.
20. The committee discussed the declining number of Friday football playoff games.
21. The committee discussed the recent football playoff proposals and districting postseason football concepts.