

MINUTES OF THE IHSA BASS FISHING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 9, 2015

The IHSA Bass Fishing Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, September 9, 2015, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Jason Doty, Niantic (Sangamon Valley); Caleb Houchins, Highland; Erik Lachel, Huntley; Mike Mulligan, Chicago (Taft), Robert Pritchett, (Ashland (A-C Central); Stan Tischer, Minooka; and Lisa Watson, Galena. Also in attendance were Kurt Gibson, IHSA Associate Executive Director; Dan Stephenson, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and Tracy Hilliard and Tom Gillhouse from the Special Olympics Illinois.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. VI. Tournament Structure and Time Schedules. B. State Final Tournament.

Recommendation: Change boat returns from one group to three flights. See below.

B. State Final Schedule

Thursday, May 19, 2016

8:00-11:00 a.m. Safety checks for boats with pre-fishing starting immediately after the boat has been safety checked. Safety checks will be done on a first come, first serve basis.

7:30 p.m. Coaches meeting

Based on the pre-tournament draw for release, competing boats will be placed in one of three flights for the purposes of the boat's return on each day of the tournament. Each flight will consist of approximately one-third of the total number of boats participating in the state finals. Boats will be released in order of the pre-tournament draw on day 1 of the tournament and in reverse order of the draw on day 2.

Friday, May 20, 2016

6:00 to 6:30 a.m. Check in

~~7:00 a.m. Start of tournament~~

~~3:00 p.m. Participants must be back~~

~~3:00 p.m. First day weigh-in begins~~

7:00 a.m. Release of boats

3:00 p.m. Flight 1 boats return

3:15 p.m. Flight 2 boats return

3:30 p.m. Flight 3 boats return

Saturday, May 21, 2016

6:00 to 6:30 a.m. Check in

~~7:00 a.m. Start of tournament~~

~~3:00 p.m. Participants must be back~~

~~3:00 p.m. Final day weigh-in begins~~

7:00 a.m. Release of boats

3:00 p.m. Flight 1 boats return

3:15 p.m. Flight 2 boats return

3:30 p.m. Flight 3 boats return

4:30 p.m. Awards

Rationale: Many larger fishing tournaments use this kind of approach with boats returning in flights at the end of the day/competition. Using this type of approach will allow for competitors to have a full day (8 hours) of fishing and hopefully ease the congestion of boats loading at the end of the day. With the reverse order of release on day two of the tournament, it is expected no advantage or disadvantage to competitors will be created by this recommendation.

Approved by Consent

2. **VIII. Tournament Rules. F.**

Recommendation: Change weigh-in times to reflect first recommendation. ~~All participants must be back in for weigh-in by 3:00 p.m. at the sectional and the state final. This would vary only if a weather alert has been issued which might shorten that day's tournament. It is the participant(s) responsibility to make sure the boat is back to the dock by 3:00 p.m.~~ **All participants must be back for weigh-ins by their designated time at both the sectional and state finals tournaments. This would vary only if a weather alert has been issued which might shorten that day's tournament. It is the participant's responsibility to make sure their boat is back to the weigh-in site by the designated time.**

Rationale: This change is necessary to bring the terms and conditions in line with the first recommendation regarding flights in recommendation one.

Approved by Consent

3. **VIII. Tournament Rules G.**

Recommendation: Change to designate closing time. There will be a one pound deduction for every minute a participant is late getting back for weigh-ins up to 15 minutes. After 15 minutes, no weight will be allowed for that day. ~~It is the participant's responsibility to notify the tournament manager in advance of the 3:00 p.m. closing time of any problems that may have occurred.~~ **It is the participant's responsibility to notify the tournament manager in advance of the designated return/closing time of any problems that may have occurred.**

Rationale: This change is necessary to bring the terms and conditions in line with the first recommendation regarding flights in recommendation one.

Approved by Consent

4. **V. Tournament Assignments.**

Recommendation: Change to designate closing time.

Schools will be assigned geographically to one of 22 IHSA sectional tournaments. The state final will have up to three (3) qualifying boats from each of the sectional tournaments. **The**

fourth place boat from each sectional will serve as the alternate qualifier from the sectional. If one of the three advancing boats cannot participate at the state finals, the alternate boat will replace the originally-qualified boat. Boats that cannot participate at the state finals have until the Wednesday following the sectional tournament to notify the IHSA of its decision to not participate.

Rationale: : The committee would like to ensure full participation at the state finals and believes that having the fourth place boat from each sectional serve as an alternate qualifier will help keep the state finals at a full field. The committee believes that having the Wednesday deadline will allow the alternate qualifier an appropriate amount of time to make the necessary arrangements for the state finals.

Approved by Board

5. VIII. Tournament Rules. U.

Recommendation:

On the day of competition at either the sectional or state finals tournaments, schools will be limited to putting into the water the number of boats entered, or, in the case of the state finals, the number of boats the school qualified. No additional boats containing coaches or other competitors from a school can be put into the water. Contestants may not obtain fishing patterns or locations from non-competitors, follow a non-competitor's boat or participate in the practice of "hole sitting", a practice wherein a non-competitor sits on a fishing spot, holding it for a contestant. In addition, non-competitors may not place markers for contestants. All of these acts are prohibited and will result in the immediate disqualification of the boat. **Three days prior to the official practice date for the state finals tournament, no coaches, boat captains, or team members of any qualifying school may be on the water at the state finals site.**

Rationale: The committee believes from a fairness standpoint, it is important to restrict schools from getting on the state finals lake during the week of the state finals prior to the tournament's pre-fish day. The committee believes this will not only help level the competition among the qualifiers, but it will also help the lake properly settle and ready itself prior to the tournament.

Approved by Board

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

None.

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee reviewed the minutes of its 2014 meeting.
2. The committee continued its discussion from previous years regarding the location of the bass fishing state finals. The committee continues to favor the idea of having the state finals location

put out to bid prior to expiration of the current agreement with Carlyle Lake and the city of Carlyle.

3. The committee asked what, if any, data from previous sectional tournaments exists that shows the amount and weight of fish caught at each sectional. The committee believes this could help in the determination of future sectional locations. IHSA staff indicated they would investigate what data exists for the committee's review and encourage the committee to share any possible new venues.
4. The committee recognized the efforts of tournament staff and local emergency weather staff at Carlyle Lake for their efforts in monitoring weather conditions this past year and assisting tournament staff in getting boats and anglers off the water in a safe and timely manner.
5. The committee heard a report from Tracy Hilliard and Tom Gillhouse from Special Olympics regarding the unified bass fishing program implemented last year at the state finals. The committee discussed ways IHSA and Special Olympics could partner to raise more awareness and participation about the unified program. It is hoped that the program will grow from three teams in 2015 to eight teams in 2016.
6. The committee discussed how to better publicize state series tournaments so that the general public is aware of IHSA events and can possibly steer clear of those sites. The IHSA will work with its media partners to increase its promotion of the qualifying tournaments.
7. The committee discussed the importance of schools and coaches upholding the Terms and Conditions during the state series. The committee discussed the possibility of adding "observers" to boats during the sectional and state finals to monitor the actions and ensure safety for all competitors. While no formal recommendation was made, IHSA staff agreed to encourage sectional managers to do this during their sectional tournaments.