

SCHOLASTIC BOWL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 4, 2016

The IHSA Scholastic Bowl Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois on Wednesday, May 4, 2016, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee Members present were: David Berendt, Asst. Principal Park Ridge (Maine South); Fred Knap, Coach, Peotone; Chad Sloan, Coach, Warrensburg (W. Latham); David Edwards, Coach, Mt. Vernon; Jonathan Legendre, Coach, Chicago (Latin); Brad Fischer, Coach, Rockford (Keith Country Day). Others in attendance: Ron McGraw, IHSA Assistant Executive Director; Kraig Garber, Principal Mt. Zion; Rob Grierson, Coordinator of Officials, Skokie, IL; Sharon Lorinskas, IHSSBCA.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND RULE CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS:

I. Season Limitation Proposals: Discuss the proposals that passed from the last annual referendum. By-Laws 5.361 (Season Limitation) and 5.362 (Scholastic Bowl Contest limitation). As the final piece of this major change in the by-laws, the IHSA Board of Directors has confirmed that they will change the current definition of a scholastic bowl match. The suggested definition will be:

Q. What is considered to be a contest?

A. An event in which teams of **four (4) or five (5)** students representing two (2) high schools compete with or against each other in academic quizzing, utilizing a format and rules comparable to the IHSA series, **and utilizing questions that cover an extensive range and variety of academic areas**, is considered a scholastic bowl contest. (By-law 5.362)

2015-16 – Proposal No. 15

IHSA By-law 5.361 Currently Reads:

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Scholastic Bowl teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of Week 8 or later than Sunday of Week 38.
- b. Each school belonging to this Association shall be limited to practicing and participating in no more than one (1) scholastic bowl tournament beginning the Sunday of Week 38 and ending the Monday of Week 8.

Revise IHSA By-law 5.361 to Read:

Schools belonging to this Association may organize their Scholastic Bowl teams at any time during the year to practice or to participate in interscholastic contests.

2015-16 – Proposal No. 16

IHSA By-law 5.362 Currently Reads:

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall participate on more than eighteen (18) dates of interscholastic contests, exclusive of the IHSA series.
- b. No individual shall compete on more than eighteen (18) dates of interscholastic contests, exclusive of the IHSA series.

Revise IHSA By-law 5.362 to Read:

a. No school belonging to this Association shall participate on more than eighteen (18) dates **twenty seven (27)** dates of interscholastic contests, exclusive of the IHSA series, **between Monday of Week 1 through Sunday of Week 52.**

b. No individual shall compete on more than eighteen (18) dates **twenty seven (27)** dates of interscholastic contests, exclusive of the IHSA series, **between Monday of Week 1 through Sunday of Week 52.**

NOTE: See proposals below discussing the definition of a contest.

Not an Advisory Committee Recommendation

II. Recommendation: Allow an IHSA Scholastic Bowl match to begin with 4 or 5 players. Currently the rules require 5 players must be present in order begin a legal match.

Rationale: The committee believes that since the new definition of a match states that 4 or 5 player contests must be counted as a match, we should adjust this rule to be consistent. This policy poses a significant challenge for a number of schools, primarily (but by no means solely) Class A schools. On numerous occasions, a new school unaware of the forfeit policy drives to their IHSA Regional site and finds out there; more commonly, a school finds that they don't have a full starting 5 due to illness or absence and has to forfeit on the day of Regionals. Most commonly, though, a school's team simply doesn't have 5 interested players. They are allowed to play regular season events with a non-full roster, especially in 4 vs. 4 formats.

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

Died for Lack of Motion

III. Recommendation: Allow a match to begin with 4 or 5 players but allow a match to continue with any number of players if circumstances cause a school to lose players after the match begins. The rules currently allow for this to occur if necessary. .

Rationale: The committee feels a team should not be forced to forfeit if they appear for competition with a legal team but unforeseen circumstances (i.e., not feeling well), would cause a team to lose a player(s) during the day's competition.

MOTION APPROVED 7-0

Approved

IV. Recommendation: Allow a match to begin with as few as 1 player if the school has a letter from the school's principal supporting the reasons for this unusual circumstance.

Rationale: Playing shorthanded in athletic team contests poses risk of injury, and playing shorthanded in team activities like chess breaks the team format (i.e. Board 8 vs. Board 8 can't happen, so team results can't be compiled correctly). In Scholastic Bowl, playing shorthanded puts the team at a disadvantage, but not a dangerous one or one that breaks the structure of the game, so allowing shorthanded teams to officially compete provides a significant benefit with no drawback. The author feels a team should not be forced to forfeit, if they choose to use only 1 player.

MOTION FAILED 2-5 by Advisory Committee

V. Recommendation: Regional Date: Move Regional tournaments off of Monday to Saturday.

Rationale: Regional Monday is a Holiday and that fact is used as a reason for schools choosing not to attend their assigned regional competition. Students would not be traveling on a school night in order to compete in the IHSA state series if we move it back two days to the weekend.

ITEM VIII DIED FOR LACK OF MOTION by Advisory Committee

VI. Rule 4-I-1f (Appeals to the Moderator)

Currently Reads:

“Only the Moderator or his/her designee may leave the room to do research or to consult with anyone outside the room.”

Recommendation:

4-I-1f. Only the Moderator or his/her designee may leave the room to do research or to consult with anyone outside the room. Coaches may consult with non-officials, including subject-area experts, who are in the room, and may use a smart phone, tablet, or computer to access a website and share findings with officials, but may not consult with non-officials not in the room.

Rationale:

As Internet access has become ubiquitous websites have become an excellent source for information to aid in an appeal. While smart phones/tablets/computers have been used for this purpose in recent years, this rule change makes such action explicitly permitted. While consulting with a non-official subject-area expert in the room (parent, spectator) is also explicitly permitted, this rule limits such consultation to those who are in the room. Involving non-official experts not present could be awkward for officials and the opposing head coach.

Approved 7-0

Approved

VII. Recommendation: Computational Math: In last year's discussion, we modified the math distribution to include "no more than 2 computational tossups, which can only be in the math category." This year's IHSA State Series, in a *very* popular move (complete agreement from every team at IHSA State), in addition to dozens more teams who competed at the Regional and Sectional levels), wrote 0 computational math tossups for the entire tournament. (Some bonus parts required the use of computation.) In light of the popularity, I propose codifying that change-- specifically, deleting VIII-P-7 and re-writing VIII-P-8 (now 7) to read "There will be no computational math toss-ups in the IHSA State Series." (Nothing need be done re: computational math in bonuses.)

Rationale:

No written rationale provided.

Approved 5-2

Died for Lack of Motion

VIII. Recommendation: Breaking Ties:

In the event of a record tie for first (at 2-1, after 3 rounds) at Sectionals, the tie should be played off rather than broken statistically. In detail: a 2-way tie should be played off with an additional full round (24/24) between the 2 tied teams, and a 3-way tie should be played off by: seeding the teams 1-3 by total points, then having team 3 play team 2 on half a round (12/12) and the winner then play team 1 on half a round (12/12.) [This supersedes the Manual for Managers VI.B.1-5 & Manual for Schools VI.B.1-5.]

Rationale: Game results should determine who wins. Statistical tiebreakers are fundamentally unsatisfying, anti-climactic and a poor way to determine a champion; that's why no other important tournament determines a champion with anything other than play. In particular, available data indicate that the head-to-head tiebreaker has a correlation of only 0.48 with the outcome of a repeat match; that is, the team that holds the tiebreaker is likely to be the worse team! We should stop using this method. We're robbing ourselves and our spectators of exciting final games, to boot.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS: Writers and editors would need to produce 1 additional round. Hosts would need to schedule one additional round and the Association earmark pay for officials for up to one additional round per Sectional.

Approved 5-2

Died for Lack of Motion

Administrative Recommendations:

1. **Question Source:** State Series Question Sets for the 16-17 season will be written using the same process as in recent years. Sister John has agreed to serve as the head editor for one more season.

Approved

2. **Definition of a “date” in IHSA Scholastic Bowl:** In the case of multi date tournaments where teams are eliminated at each round, such tournaments will count as a maximum of 2 dates. Such tournaments include but not limited to the Masonic Tournament, National Tournaments and the T.V. Tournaments. It is understood that in the T.V. Tournaments two teams will compete up to six times.

Died for Lack of Motion

Other items of discussion:

1. **Selection of sectional tournament sites:** The committee heard from Ron McGraw that sectional hosts are selected from those few schools willing to host. Any school that would like to be considered as a sectional host must contact the IHSA Scholastic Bowl Administrator in the fall of each year to express their interest. It is the AD that should make this contact on behalf of the school.
2. **Selection of regional sites:** The IHSA administrator should communicate to member schools and specifically sectional hosts, that any participating school is eligible to host a regional tournament. It is not guaranteed that the top 4 seeds be awarded the host responsibility. Geography of those entered must be considered in the rare event when there are more than 4 schools willing to host a regional tournament. The AD must have given approval prior to any coach offering to host a state series event.
3. **Improve IHSA online state series stats:** The official IHSA scholastic bowl state series score sheet should be edited to include the name of each player for the purpose of recording/charting player stats of each match. Score sheets should be scanned and sent to the IHSA administrator to be recorded and tabulated. Brad Fischer has volunteered to record and tabulate the data to be posted on the Records page of the IHSA website.