

BOYS/GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 13, 2016

The IHSA Swimming/Diving Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois on Wednesday, April 13, 2016, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee Members present were: Joe Plack, Official, Deerfield; Nick Parry, Coach, West Chicago H.S.; Pat Shaughnessy, Coach, Frankfort (Lincoln-Way North); Dave Stephens, Coach, Chicago (St. Ignatius College Prep); Amy Hrycyk, Coach, Moline H.S.; Will Barker, Coach, Champaign (Central); Ray Vanhooetegem, Coach, Galesburg (H.S.); Others in attendance, Ron McGraw, IHSA Asst. Executive Director; Kraig Garber; Randy Oberembt, Athletic Director, Winnetka (New Trier); Chris Livatino, Athletic Director, Evanston Twp. H.S.; Mike Hutton, Coordinator of Officials, Lake In The Hills.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Item VII-B – State Swim Qualifying Standards**

Recommendation: To adopt the following qualifying standards. Sectional Qualifying Standards for the Boy's and Girls State Finals will be determined in the following manner. The Qualifying Standards for each individual swimming event will be calculated by determining the 30th place time from all sectionals. Then that time will be used to obtain an average of the last FIVE years average times in each event. In relay events the same process will be implemented but the 24th sectional place time will be used to make the calculations. Any time calculated to be slower than the existing qualifying time would not be used in that event. The existing time would remain. Using this process, the proposed qualifying standards for the 16-17 seasons are:

BOYS STANDARDS 2017		GIRLS STANDARDS 2016	
200 Medley Relay	1:37.33	200 Medley Relay	1:48.88
200 Free	1:44.48	200 Free	1:55.10
200 IM	1:57.99	200 IM	2:09.84
50 Free	:21.86	50 Free	:24.46
100 Butterfly	:52.44	100 Butterfly	:58.23
100 Free	:47.72	100 Free	:53.08
500 Free	4:45.38	500 Free	5:09.87 (Existing Time)
200 Free Relay	1:27.79	200 Free Relay	1:38.44
100 Back	:53.47	100 Back	:58.81
100 Breast	1:00.00	100 Breast	1:07.07
400 Free Relay	3:13.35	400 Free Relay	3:35.73

Rationale: The advisory committee feels that we are on the right track by using this system. We will use the five year average. Other associations and swim organizations use a method similar to the objective method proposed in this system. Using an objective system should be easier to use, easier to defend and provides fair standards for competitors. If necessary in the future, the system is adjustable by using a different average sectional time or a different average (i.e. 4 years). The Assistant Executive Director working with the swimming and diving advisory committee has reserved the right to make changes if it is obvious that this would be necessary in order to protect the integrity of the meet. Any time calculated to be slower than the existing qualifying time would not be used in that event. The existing time would remain.

Motion passed 7-0

Approved

2. **Seed meetings will be conducted electronically Terms and Conditions Item V- C**

Recommendation:

Eliminate the seed meeting - no need to meet, the entries can be sent back to the coaches for verification by the meet manager, all can be done electronically. This includes the selection of the coaches that will serve on the sectional dive judging panel (VIII-F).

First Draft of Timeline (including current proposed edits):

9 AM – Wednesday of IHSA Sectional Week

· Listed team entries sent to teams from meet hosts. Each team is permitted to only see the team that they entered into the meet, not any other team.

- A list of eligible dive coaches who have expressed an interest to serve on sectional dive panel will be sent to each individual team from the meet host.

While each team will only receive verification of their entries, the Meet Referee should be given a complete, preliminary heat sheet at this time with all entries as submitted on the LOP as well as the eligible diving coaches for the judging panel.

6 PM – Wednesday of IHSA Sectional Week

- Each individual team needs to submit any and all corrections back to meet host and meet referee.
- Each eligible team submits vote to the host for dive panel. This is the only time to vote for a dive panel. Failure to vote will be viewed as having forfeited the right to vote for this IHSA sectional.

8 PM – Wednesday of IHSA Sectional Week

- Full heat sheet with corrections sent to each team (*and Meet Referee*) by meet host.
- Bullet point reminders and site specific information from meet referee sent to each individual team from meet host

9 AM – Thursday of IHSA Sectional Week

- Any egregious errors on the meet host part need to be addressed with meet host, meet referee, and individual teams.

Rationale:

There is no need for coaches to travel to attend a seed meeting. Many times this travel is significant and costly. This process can be accomplished electronically. The details defining the actual process is being worked on by committee members and will be posted in the near future.

Motion passed 7-0

Approved

3. State finals diving competition will be judged only by IHSA officials. Terms and Conditions Item VIII - G

Recommendation:

Only IHSA licensed officials will be eligible for consideration to serve as judges for the state final diving competition.

REVISE this current section to read (changes shown in RED):

At the State Final meet, the IHSA Office shall assign all officials, including a Referee, Starter, Diving Referee, Head Timer, Head Finish Judge and Coordinator of Officials as well as two panels of seven (7) diving judges. The first diving panel shall judge rounds 1, 2 and 3 in the preliminaries and rounds 6, 7 and 8 in the semifinals and shall be comprised of *seven (7) IHSA officials*. The second diving panel shall judge round 4 and 5 in the preliminaries and rounds 9, 10 and 11 in the finals and shall be comprised of *seven (7) IHSA officials*.

Note 1: To be eligible for appointment to the diving panels at the State Final meet, IHSA officials must have attained the Certified (C) level within the IHSA promotional system.

Note 2: To be eligible for appointment to the diving panels at the State Final meet, IHSA officials must have attended a Level 2 clinic within the preceding one (1) year.

Notes 3 and 4 above are eliminated and REPLACED with the following notes:

REVISED Text (Continued):

Note 3: To be eligible for appointment to a diving panel at the State Final meet, the IHSA official must have viewed BOTH the annual rules presentation video AND the separate diving judging video (first available for the 2015-16 school year.)

Note 4: The six (6) assigned Head Officials for the State Final Meet (Coordinator of Officials, Meet Referee, Starter, Diving Referee, Head Timer and Head Finish Judge) shall NOT serve on a State Final judging panel.

Rationale:

1. In recent years, selection of coaches to the diving panels has become increasingly problematic. Often, there are only 7-8 coaches who make themselves available to judge in the first place for 7 available positions, forcing the IHSA to accept whoever has volunteered.

2. More and more, coaches who have volunteered to judge end up having qualifiers in the meet, which renders them ineligible to serve on a panel. This puts the IHSA in an even tighter predicament because they must then recruit coaches to judge. The timeframe in which to accomplish this is very narrow (24-36 hours) and interrupts other important State Final preparations occurring at that time.
3. At the 2015 Girl's State Final, several of the coaches assigned to both Panels 1 and 2 were observed not deducting the appropriate points for visible flaws during the execution of dives. This is despite a new requirement for 2015-16 that coaches view a separate diving rules video to be eligible to judge. Because the IHSA can now document that training was received, the only possible conclusion to draw is that coaches are choosing not to apply the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) rules and instead are judging to United States Diving (USD) guidelines.
4. At the 2015 Girl's State Final, a coach was delayed by the weather conditions and had not arrived when the final session was ready to begin. While the delay was certainly understandable, a substitution was needed at the last minute. The only coaches available were those that had divers in the final session or those who had had their divers eliminated the preceding day. Because the T&C does not allow coaches with divers in the meet to judge (even if their diver had already been eliminated,) an official was summoned to replace the coach on the panel.
5. Officials selected for the judging panels would be required to have attained the Certified status within the IHSA promotional system and have attended a Level 2 training clinic within the past year. This would ensure that those officials selected to judge have attained a promotional status that requires a minimum number of years of service, above-average exam scores and an above-average composite score of coaches' ratings over an extended period of time. It would also ensure that they have attended a training clinic with the most recent information on judging techniques, rule applications and criteria to apply when awarding a score.

Under no circumstances shall an IHSA diving official who also coaches (either at the club or high school level) serve on the panel if a diver from his/her affiliated club or his/her affiliated school(s) has advanced to the State Final.

6. Using only Certified officials on the State Final judging panels in the future and increasing the number of officials needed in this capacity from 7 to 14, if this recommendation is approved would provide an additional incentive for all officials at the Registered (X) and Recognized (R) levels to strive for promotion within the Official's Department. The time, clinic, education and training requirements necessary would, over time, enhance the collective abilities of more officials statewide.

In the event that there ever exists an inadequate number of Certified officials to complete two panels of seven judges as described above, the IHSA Assistant Executive Director for Swimming & Diving retains the ability to assign Recognized (R) level officials only after all eligible and available Certified level officials have been exhausted.

Motion Passed 7-0

Approved

4. Revise the rounds of diving judged by each panel. Terms and Conditions Item VIII- G

Recommendation: Adjust the rounds judged by dive panels as seen below:

Existing Rule: Judging panel 1 judges rounds 1, 2, 3 and 6, 7,8 while panel 2 judges rounds 4, 5 and 9, 10, 11.

Change Proposed: Panel 1 judges rounds 1, 2 and 6, 7, 8 and panel 2 judges rounds 3, 4, 5 and 9, 10, 11.

Rationale:

Currently panel 1 judges 192 dives at the state meet. Panel 2 judges 132 dives at the state meet. That is a 60 dive disparity. With the proposed change, panel 1 would judge 144 dives while panel 2 would judge 180 dives. This is only a difference of 36 dives. This evens out the weight one panel has over the other. This also would allow a panel that is heavy with coaches to judge the higher number of dives rather than a panel heavy with officials. After many talks with Mike Hutton, it is my belief that Mike tries to put the strongest coaches he has available to him on panel 2 for a good Saturday event. While this is sound logic, the stronger panel is currently judging less of the meet. This may also help in bringing coaches out to the state meet to judge knowing they can play a larger role in the outcome of the competition and give Mike Hutton more options when choosing a panel.

Motion Passed 7-0

Approved

5. Recommendation:

Top 18 IHSA Swimming and Diving Proposal: Propose a change to the format of the Saturday finals session of the Girls and Boys IHSA Swimming and Diving State Championships. The Friday preliminary format would remain the same. This proposal is broken into three parts. Part one is an explanation of what we are hoping to accomplish. Part two is the rationale of why we think this is important along with data to support this change. Part 3 focuses on the format and logistics of the meet.

Part I – Explanation

The Advisory Committee would like to see the expansion of the finals session to include the Top 18. This would increase the number of student athletes from 12 to 18 contestants for all individual and relay events. The Top 18 format would allow the IHSA to see an expansion of placing and team scoring. We will see an increase in the number of schools and student athletes that will have the opportunity to participate in the IHSA finals.

Part II – Rationale

Illinois is currently the sixth largest state in terms of number of participants. We are at the bottom of the nation when it comes to our student athletes competing in finals. Please refer to attachment 1 for a breakdown of each state's championship meet format, number of participants and their percentages for recognizing their student athletes.

Illinois has the second lowest percentage of state participants who score (behind only Hawaii). Illinois is the lowest nationally in terms of total number of participants who score with about 1 out of every 550 scoring per event scoring. We will see an increase in the number of schools and student athletes that will have the opportunity to participate in the IHSA finals.

NOTE: To read the complete text of the proposal and the supporting statistics, refer to item 14 at the end of these minutes.

Motion Passed 6-0-1

Died for Lack of Motion

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. On the IHSA swimming and diving List of Participants online page, include a summary of the regulations regarding allowable changes to entries during the seed meeting process.

Approved

2. Develop a power point/video presentation providing common instructions for sectional swimming/diving hosts and meet referees. This production will become available for review by referees, managers and coaches in the weeks prior to the state series. This presentation will become far more important if the electronic seed meeting proposal is adopted by the IHSA Board of Directors. This is because the opportunity for the meet referee to review protocols for conducting the sectional meet with coaches attending the seed meeting would no longer be possible.

Approved

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Qualifying standards – Review the proposed 16-17 qualifying standards.
2. (D)Select the sectional dive panel on Saturday morning.
3. (D)Limit judging participation on the sectional dive panels to IHSA officials only.
4. Allowing additional entries into the State Finals. Allow 48 entries in each swimming event just as in diving. Back fill by using the next fastest times in order from all sectional meets, much as how the diving field is filled, and how the NCAA's fill the meet using ranked B cuts. These students would not be allowed spectator tickets, to alleviate deck and spectator crowding. The same could be done with relays.
5. A.) Allow athletes to qualify at meets other than the sectional meets.

Discuss a potential change in how swimmers qualify to the state meet.

Current Rule: All swimmers and divers must qualify on the Saturday before the state meet to be eligible to compete at the state meet. This is the "state series."

It has been stated that the IHSA uses a blanket statement that all athletes will qualify for the state tournament through a "state series" and there is no other way to qualify. These blanket statements cover many of the sports in the IHSA but not all. Track and field and swimming are the only sports that qualify on a time standard. Through my research on the IHSA website, I have not read anything about passing changes for qualifying procedures where it needs to be applicable to all sports. It is posted on the web page in the IHSA beliefs: ##IHSA believes the process of striving to reach one's full potential is more important than winning. Swimmers and track athletes are given a qualifying standard each year months before their respective sports begin, yet are only given one opportunity to hit those standards. All other sports are win or go home to make the state meet. These two sports have athletes and teams that may not win anything yet still make the state meet. The essence of these sports are different from all other IHSA sports and should require different rules in which to govern. A win loss record means very little in these two sports until the state meet.

Change Proposed: Allow swimmers and track athletes to qualify at any IHSA sanctioned meet throughout the season. Any swimmer obtaining the qualifying time during the season will not be required to meet to qualifying time at the sectional meet, but will be able to swim at the state meet. The sectional meet will still be held the Saturday before the state meet, yet a swimmer that has qualified previously will not need to repeat that performance. They must, however, compete in that event at the sectional meet to fulfill their qualifying place. Example: Swimmer A competes at their first dual meet of the season and qualifies in the 100 yd. free. 10 weeks later is the sectional meet. If swimmer A opts to swim the 100 yd. free at state, they need to swim that event at the sectional meet, but do not need a qualifying time at sectionals, and can still compete at the state meet.

Example 2: Swimmer A has qualified in the 100 free in a dual meet but chooses to swim another event they have not gotten a qualifying time for at sectionals. Swimmer A is entered in the alternate event at sectionals and does not make the time for that event. Swimmer A cannot swim the 100 free at state since they did not swim the event at sectionals.

Example 3: Relays. Any relay team throughout the season that reaches the state qualifying time, that school has qualified for state, it does not matter which swimmers swam the relay. At sectionals, the lineup is still governed by the same rules and any swimmers wishing to swim that relay at state must either be the swimmers in the race itself, or listed as an alternate. Swimmers 1-4 swim in a dual meet and get the qualification time of the medley relay. Swimmers 5-8 swim the medley relay at the sectional meet. Swimmers 1-4 are not eligible to swim at the state meet in the medley relay unless they have qualified for the state meet elsewhere or are listed as the team alternate.

Reasoning: The sectional meet is a very stressful meet and swimmers have one shot to make their events. It's not always a great day for some, others shine. This new rule would take the pressure off of those that have made the qualifying time earlier in the season and allow them to hit their taper at the right time, state. Those that have not made the qualification times in their event, swim sectionals as the meet has always been run, make the time, go to state. Use sectionals more as a last chance meet rather than all or nothing. This would allow the top swimmers in the

state to be their best at the state meet and not hope that they can stretch their taper a little more and hang on at the state meet. This would make for a more competitive state meet and a faster one. This is more in line with the IHSA beliefs that allow one to strive to their full potential. This will also bring Illinois more in line with what the NCAA is doing and prepare swimmers for the next step.

Diving will remain unchanged with sectionals, and all divers must qualify at the sectional meet. Winners of individual events and relays will automatically qualify for the state meet as well.

(D) B. Change of Rounds judged at the State Meet.

Existing Rule: Judging panel 1 judges rounds 1, 2, 3 and 6, 7, 8 while panel 2 judges rounds 4, 5 and 9, 10, 11.

Change Proposed: Panel 1 judges rounds 1, 2 and 6, 7, 8 and panel 2 judges rounds 3, 4, 5 and 9, 10, 11.

Reasoning: Currently panel 1 judges 192 dives at the state meet. Panel 2 judges 132 dives at the state meet. That is a 60 dive disparity. With the proposed change, panel 1 would judge 144 dives while panel 2 would judge 180 dives. This is only a difference of 36 dives. This evens out the weight one panel has over the other. This also would allow a panel that is heavy with coaches to judge the higher number of dives rather than a panel heavy with officials. After many talks with Mike Hutton, it is my belief that Mike tries to put the strongest coaches he has available to him on panel 2 for a good Saturday event. While this is sound logic, the stronger panel is currently judging less of the meet. This may also help in bringing coaches out to the state meet to judge knowing they can play a larger role in the outcome of the competition and give Mike Hutton more options when choosing a panel.

(D) C. Sectional Diving Judge Vote

Existing Rule: The three coaches to judge diving shall be voted upon at the seed meeting the Wednesday before Sectionals. Those coaches that are eligible and represented at the seed meeting shall be considered.

Proposed Change: Move the vote to Saturday morning before the diving event begins with the diving coaches being the ones to vote. Those that are eligible will be considered for the vote.

Rationale: The seed meeting is not mandatory. Not all teams participate in the seed meeting so not all teams are given the opportunity to vote. While the meeting is open to all coaches on the staff, diving coaches who would be traveling to the host school are usually with their divers for practice and could not attend the meeting anyway.

Allow the ones that understand diving the best make the vote with everyone represented and all participating teams have a say in what happens at the state series.

D. Revisit the recommendations by David Likar in the 2015 meeting notes for the change in sectional diving.

6. Seed Meeting Proposals:

Proposal Number 1: Eliminate the seed meeting - no need to meet, the entries can be sent back to the coaches for verification, all can be done electronically.

Proposal Number 2:

Sectional Seed Meetings being completed electronically/online

- a. It is my understanding moving to electronic seed meetings would not cause the IHSA and additional work.
- b. The Sectional Referee would have to be copied on all correspondence to the Sectional Meet Manager from the IHSA.
- c. It will be mandatory that the Meet Referee be included in all correspondence from either the IHSA or the Meet Manager to the Sectional Coaches. This is essential to ensure that all meet managers understand the Seeding rules and when corrections or scratches may occur.
- d. We need to develop "operating procedures" for the Sectional Meet Manager on how to handle an online seeding meeting. We need some specific comments to go out to the Sectional coaches as reminders from Term and Conditions points such as substitutions, scratch meeting, etc.
- e. The Coordinator of Officials will need to change the presentation somewhat for the Meet Referee's pre-sectional conference call. In addition, I believe the Assistant Executive Director from the IHSA should be in attendance on the call.

**7. (D) Terms and Conditions Change Proposal
Section VIII, G.**

Selection of Diving Judges – State Final

This section currently reads:

At the State Final meet, the IHSA Office shall assign all officials, including a Referee, Starter, Diving Referee, Head Timer, Head Finish Judge and Coordinator of Officials as well as two panels of seven (7) diving judges. The first diving panel shall judge rounds 1, 2 and 3 in the preliminaries and rounds 6, 7 and 8 in the semifinals and shall be comprised of three (3) diving coaches and four (4) diving officials. The second diving panel shall judge round 4 and 5 in the preliminaries and rounds 9, 10 and 11 in the finals and shall be comprised of four (4) diving coaches and three (3) diving officials.

Note 1: To be eligible for appointment to the diving panels at the State Final meet, diving coaches must attend a current IHSA Swimming and Diving Rules Meeting.

Note 2: Diving coaches with State Final qualifiers (or other coaches from that school) may NOT judge on a diving panel at the State Final. It is not allowable to appoint a boys coach from a school that has qualifiers in the girls meet and to appoint a girls coach that has qualifiers in the boys meet.

Note 3: Retired Illinois swimming and diving coaches are eligible for appointment to an IHSA state series diving panel.

Note 4: The head swimming and diving coaches in Girls/Boys Swimming will be asked to assist the IHSA Office in ranking the officials for the Sectionals and State Final.

REVISE this section to read (changes shown in RED):

At the State Final meet, the IHSA Office shall assign all officials, including a Referee, Starter, Diving Referee, Head Timer, Head Finish Judge and Coordinator of Officials as well as two panels of seven (7) diving judges. The first diving panel shall judge rounds 1, 2 and 3 in the preliminaries and rounds 6, 7 and 8 in the semifinals and shall be comprised of *seven (7) IHSA officials*. The second diving panel shall judge round 4 and 5 in the preliminaries and rounds 9, 10 and 11 in the finals and shall be comprised of *seven (7) IHSA officials*.

Note 1: To be eligible for appointment to the diving panels at the State Final meet, IHSA officials must have attained the Certified (C) level within the IHSA promotional system.

Note 2: To be eligible for appointment to the diving panels at the State Final meet, IHSA officials must have attended a Level 2 clinic within the preceding one (1) year.

Notes 3 and 4 above are eliminated and REPLACED with the following notes:

Terms and Conditions Change Proposal

Section VIII, G.

Selection of Diving Judges – State Final – Page Two (2)

REVISED Text (Continued):

Note 3: To be eligible for appointment to a diving panel at the State Final meet, the IHSA official must have viewed BOTH the annual rules presentation video AND the separate diving judging video (first available for the 2015-16 school year.)

Note 4: The six (6) assigned Head Officials for the State Final Meet (Coordinator of Officials, Meet Referee, Starter, Diving Referee, Head Timer and Head Finish Judge) shall NOT serve on a State Final judging panel.

Rationale:

7. In recent years, selection of coaches to the diving panels has become increasingly problematic. Often, there are only 7-8 coaches who make themselves available to judge in the first place for 7 available positions, forcing the IHSA to accept whoever has volunteered.
8. More and more, coaches who have volunteered to judge end up having qualifiers in the meet, which renders them ineligible to serve on a panel. This puts the IHSA in an even tighter predicament because they must then recruit coaches to judge. The timeframe in which to accomplish this is very narrow (24-36 hours) and interrupts other important State Final preparations occurring at that time.

9. At the 2015 Girl's State Final, several of the coaches assigned to both Panels 1 and 2 were observed not deducting the appropriate points for visible flaws during the execution of dives. This is despite a new requirement for 2015-16 that coaches view a separate diving rules video to be eligible to judge. Because the IHSA can now document that training was received, the only possible conclusion to draw is that coaches are choosing not to apply the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) rules and instead are judging to United States Diving (USD) guidelines.
10. At the 2015 Girl's State Final, a coach was delayed by the weather conditions and had not arrived when the final session was ready to begin. While the delay was certainly understandable, a substitution was needed at the last minute. The only coaches available were those that had divers in the final session or those who had had their divers eliminated the preceding day. Because the T&C does not allow coaches with divers in the meet to judge (even if their diver had already been eliminated,) an official was summoned to replace the coach on the panel.

Terms and Conditions Change Proposal

Section VIII, G.

Selection of Diving Judges – State Final – Page Three (3)

11. Officials selected for the judging panels would be required to have attained the Certified status within the IHSA promotional system and have attended a Level 2 training clinic within the past year. This would ensure that those officials selected to judge have attained a promotional status that requires a minimum number of years of service, above-average exam scores and an above-average composite score of coaches' ratings over an extended period of time. It would also ensure that they have attended a training clinic with the most recent information on judging techniques, rule applications and criteria to apply when awarding a score.

Under no circumstances shall an IHSA diving official who also coaches (either at the club or high school level) serve on the panel if a diver from his/her affiliated club or his/her affiliated school(s) has advanced to the State Final.

12. Using only Certified officials on the State Final judging panels in the future and increasing the number of officials needed in this capacity from 7 to 14 if this recommendation is approved would provide an additional incentive for all officials at the Registered (X) and Recognized (R) levels to strive for promotion within the Official's Department. The time, clinic, education and training requirements necessary would, over time, enhance the collective abilities of more officials statewide.

In the event that there ever exists an inadequate number of Certified officials to complete two panels of seven judges as described above, the IHSA Assistant Executive Director for Swimming & Diving retains the ability to assign Recognized (R) level officials only after all eligible and available Certified level officials have been exhausted.

8. A Meet Referee and a Deck Referee.

Currently, Joe Plack actually acts as both the Deck and Meet Referee. In championship meets at the Collegiate and Club level, those jobs are split.

The Deck Referee will oversee the racing and the conduct in the pool. The Meet Referee is the final authority of the rules of the meet. He/she typically is at the podium overseeing the officials on the deck and those handling the results.

Advantage of two referees

A. Meet referee can handle timing issues without stopping the meet (A major problem in that we have athletes standing behind the blocks ready to go and they have to wait for up to 5 minutes while a timing issue is resolved. This should be handled while the next heat is being swum. If you have multiple issues and you must stop the meet, do so prior to the first heat of the following event. However, we would most likely not see that scenario very often.

B. If there is a question by a coach, then the Meet Referee can look into it and answer the question.

C. Oversee the pool for problems. There have been multiple instances where a loud noise or some odd incident caused a false start and because the referee is so focused on the start, they missed the mitigating circumstance. With a Meet Referee overseeing the entire pool, some of these may get picked up. This is not a complaint of criticism of Joe Plack. I think he does an awesome job. I just feel that the state meet is so different and so intense that an extra set of eyes could go a long way.

D. Creation of a deck referee position that works in conjunction with the meet ref, starter and computer table to resolve all disqualification and timing discrepancies that arise. During the state meet it is often very difficult to navigate behind the blocks and for every timing issue or dq the meet ref has to walk all the way across the pool and remain there until the issues is resolved and then traverse back. The meet ref and starter control the flow of the meet and by taking this off their plate they could keep the meet moving along so the swimmers are not stuck standing behind the block waiting. This could also help improve both the prelims and finals timelines. Radio headsets could also be used to help with communication. The officials team could probably come up with the best way to handle logistics and communications and obviously results would not be posted until verified by whatever manner the officials team deems adequate. In addition to helping move the meet along this would benefit the athletes who are expecting to get up and race upon the completion of the prior heat.

9. **Allow for swimmers to warm down in the competition pool after the meet regardless of a swim off.**

I agree that the swimmers/teams swimming off should each have their own lanes, but the remaining lanes should be opened for warmup/warm down until the swim off is to occur. Then reopen the pool if needed.

10. Speed up Awards

I thought NT did a great job moving the awards along, but it still takes too long. Have the consolation heat swimmers line up by the warmup pool at Evanston or in the locker room at NT. Give them their awards off the blocks. Then parade them to the blocks, announce their names and allow for pictures.

For the championship heat, again parade the swimmers to the blocks and give them the awards while they are on the blocks OR give 2-6 their awards in the staging area, parade them to the blocks, announce the names. When you get to the state champion, he/she can shake hands with the other swimmers, step up on the block and get his/her award.

The nuclear option would be to give the consolation heat their awards in the back and not bring them to the blocks.

The big thing is to reduce the number of handshakes. In a relay event, there are 168 unique handshakes/hugs. Using the system above, the awards breaks would be cut in half.

11. (D)Use e-dive to enter divers into the state series.

12. (D)Tape the diving competition from the side of the board and have the IHSA archive both the boys and girls meets.

13. (D)Review the state diving prelims to determine if officials were appropriately scoring balks, failed dives and hitting the board. Apparently the author of this proposal does not feel these rules were being followed.

14. Top 18 IHSA Swimming and Diving Proposal: Propose a change to the format of the Saturday finals session of the Girls and Boys IHSA Swimming and Diving State Championships. The Friday preliminary format would remain the same. This proposal is broken into three parts. Part one in an explanation of what we are hoping to accomplish. Part two is the rationale of why we think this is important along with data to support this change. Part 3 focuses on the format and logistics of the meet.

Part I – Explanation

The Advisory Committee would like to see the expansion of the finals session to include the Top 18. This would increase the number of student athletes from 12 to 18 contestants for all individual and relay events. The Top 18 format would allow the IHSA to see an expansion of placing and team scoring. We will see an increase in the number of schools and student athletes that will have the opportunity to participate in the IHSA finals.

Part II – Rationale

Illinois is currently the sixth largest state in terms of number of participants. We are at the bottom of the nation when it comes to our student athletes competing in finals. Please refer to attachment 1 for a breakdown of each state's championship meet format, number of participants and their percentages for recognizing their student athletes.

Illinois has the second lowest percentage of state participants who score (behind only Hawaii). Illinois is the lowest nationally in terms of total number of participants who score with about 1 out of every 550 scoring per event.

- The national percentage of state participants who score is 53.58% / Illinois is 30%
- The national percentage of boy's participants who score is 1.15% / Illinois is 0.018%
- The national percentage of girl's participants who score is 0.96% / Illinois is 0.018%

The majority of the nation scores Top 16 and often runs multiple classes. Below is the list of states whose total number of scorers is 12 or less and their combined male and female participation numbers.

- Illinois – total scorers = 12 / participants – **13,613**
- Iowa – total scorers = 12 / participants – 3,122
- Alaska – total scorers = 8 / participants – 1,352
- Hawaii – total scorers = 6 / participants – 1,168
- West Virginia – total scores = 12 / participants – 1,109
- Montana – total scorers = 12 / participants – 440

The proposal to increase Illinois number of scoring places to 18 would bring our state closer to the national average of percentage of state participants. This change would also bring us closer to states such as Texas and Indiana when looking at the total percentage of participants.

Part III

The biggest concern among coaches, officials and meet hosts is the additional time that adding more student-athletes to the Saturday finals creates. The goal of this proposal is to work with the IHSA, host sites and officials to make the meet move as quickly and efficiently.

Logistics

An additional heat of each event will add about 40-45 minutes to the meet and will add about 25 minutes to the awards. Each heat ceremony takes about 1:40 for the 9 individual events and 3:45 for the 3 relays. (Attachment 2)

- In 2014 this committee moved up the start time one hour on Saturday to help make this format possible.
- In 2015 this committee made adjustments to the warm up time to help make this format possible. Finals time schedule:
 - Pool doors open for pool entry at 10:15 am
 - Pool warm – up start 10:30 am
 - Warm up concludes at 11:50 am
 - Meet start 12:00 pm

Other suggestions on how to save time include:

- Ten minute break at the conclusion of the 50 free & 200 free relay instead of 15.
- Staging of awards: athletes will parade out together with their medals on and report to starting block for recognition and photos which could cut 10-15 minutes.
- Award breaks: run an awards break after every 2-3 events (see below)
- Working with the current meet hosts to come up with other time saving ideas
- Appoint a deck ref to handle dq's and timing issues to keep the meet flowing

Possible Awards Breaks

- a. After 200 Medley Relay
- b. After 50 Free (200 free / 200 IM / 50 free) – start preparing the pool for diving during the awards
- c. After 1M Diving – start preparing the pool for swimming during the awards
- d. After 500 (100 fly / 100 free / 500 free)
- e. After 200 Free Relay
- f. After 100 Breast (100 back / 100 breast)
- g. After 400 Free Relay and team awards

Format

Under the new format each event would consist of a 'C' bonus, 'B' consolation and 'A' championship heat in that order. The scoring / placement of each student athlete would follow the standard form that locks the swimmer into scoring based on the preliminary results for the final heat they have qualified for. For example if you are in the 'C' bonus heat you cannot

score into the 'B' consolation heat and vice versa. The new individual scoring system implemented is listed below. Relay points would double.

<u>'A' Championship</u>	<u>'B' Consolation</u>	<u>'C' Bonus</u>
1 st - 24 points	7 th - 15 points	13 th - 7 points
2 nd - 21 points	8 th - 13 points	14 th - 5 points
3 rd - 20 points	9 th - 12 points	15 th - 4 points
4 th - 19 points	10 th - 11 points	16 th - 3 points
5 th - 18 points	11 th - 10 points	17 th - 2 points
6 th - 17 points	12 th - 9 points	18 th - 1 point

The diving event would continue in the same format, but with 18 divers completing their final 3 rounds of diving. The current diving format does not lock the divers into an 'A' 'B' 'C' format. They would adhere to the same scoring system noted above.

Conclusion

The format and structure of the Illinois state championship meet has not changed since the 1970's, but the sport has grown significantly. The NFHS released their participation survey results, indicating that High School Swimming and Diving is continuing to grow. Since the 2007-08 season, high school swimming and diving participation has increased by nearly 18%. Boys swimming and diving has seen the biggest increase in participants, growing 23.66 percent since the 2007-08 season. This new format will not be a drastic change such as adding a second class, but would help us to recognize our student athletes similar to the rest of the nation in a rapidly growing sport.

A 2014 survey of coaches in Illinois revealed a 95% approval for 18 place scoring. The advisory committee is tasked with trying to improve and grow the sport and we feel that this is one of the strongest ways that we can do this. While we realize that this could have an impact on the length of the meet several adjustments to the schedule have been made to try and help. Working with our meet hosts we are confident we can make this happen, but we will never know unless we are able to try.

We hope that the Athletic Advisory Committee will review our proposal to promote the pursuit of excellence for Illinois High School Swimming and Diving. If the proposal is accepted we will be creating an equitable opportunity for participation that enriches the student-athletes experience for members of our association.

15. Add a second class to swimming
16. If the sectional winner becomes ineligible to compete at state the runner up should be called to go.
17. Why do we have so many officials at the state meet when at no other meet are their no where as many?
18. Why is the same group of officials in charge of the state meet?
19. Other