

MINUTES OF THE IHSA BASS FISHING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 7, 2016

The IHSA Bass Fishing Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, September 7, 2016, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Jason Doty, Niantic (Sangamon Valley); Caleb Houchins, Highland; Erik Lachel, Huntley; Ted Lowery, Chicago (Brother Rice); Stan Tischer, Minooka; and Lisa Watson, Galena. Also in attendance were Kurt Gibson, IHSA Associate Executive Director; and Mike Garthaus, Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Not present was member Robert Pritchett, (Ashland (A-C Central)).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Recommendation: Change the start time for the safety check and pre-fishing at the state finals. Change the description and meeting time of the safety meeting. See below.

B. State Final Schedule

Thursday, May 18, 2017

7:00 ~~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.

5:30 ~~7:30~~ p.m. **Safety** ~~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 19, 2017

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

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 20, 2017

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

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: This modest change to the time schedule more accurately reflects what has been happening over the past few years. This change will not impact the administration of the event.

Approved by Consent

2. 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 **on days of competition. On the pre-fish day for the state finals, schools can only put into the water boats that are captained by a district employee or board-approved coach/captain.** 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 is concerned about the growing number of additional boats that are being put into Carlyle Lake for the pre-fish day. These boats are rarely, if ever, captained by someone who has been approved by a school district. The committee believes that it is important to only have boats in the water that are captained by an individual previously-approved by a member school.

Approved by Consent

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

None.

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee reviewed the minutes of their September 2015 and May 2016 meetings.
2. The committee shared their thoughts on the approved recommendations from the 2015 meeting. In particular, the committee shared many positive comments on the creation of return flights at the state finals, alternate qualifiers, and restricted fishing in the week leading up to the state finals.
3. The committee shared some feedback concerning the selection of Carlyle Lake as state finals host. IHSA staff reminded committee members how they can share their views on any topic within the association to make change, or, in this case, at least consider putting a state finals location out to bid. In their discussion, the committee acknowledged that, to effectively make a change like this, at least a year of planning with a new community would need to occur so the committee would favor this issue (putting the state finals location out to bid) being addressed earlier than this past renewal cycle, perhaps as early as the winter of 2019 or spring of 2020.
4. The committee asked if the Marina at Dam West could be opened for fishing at the state finals. IHSA staff indicated they would inquire if that could be opened for fishing in the future.

5. The committee expressed its appreciation for and excitement in the Unified Bass Program. IHSA staff indicated the program would be continuing, and that registration information for schools will be going out shortly.
6. The committee asked if the Dam West area could be opened earlier for staging on pre-fish day. IHSA staff indicated they would investigate the possibility of doing so to help ease the congestion leading into Dam West for boat checks on pre-fish day.
7. The committee discussed the possibility of posting the list of sectional sites and assignments on the IHSA website on or about March 1st. IHSA staff indicated they would work towards getting that information out earlier in 2017.
8. The committee discussed the possibility of moving sectional dates to Thursdays instead of Fridays to avoid additional conflicts with other anglers who may be pre-fishing for a weekend tournament on a sectional site. No action was taken on the matter, and the committee asked that this discussion be continued next year.
9. The committee discussed the process that schools should follow when making a switch with boat captains during the state series. IHSA staff reminded the committee that such switches can occur, and that schools simply need to notify the IHSA as far in advance as possible.
10. The committee discussed putting together a list of fishing/boat service suppliers in the Carlyle area that schools could contact if they encounter any trouble at the state finals.