

Minutes of the 2016-17 Journalism Advisory Committee
Thursday May 4, 2017

The IHSA Journalism Advisory Committee was held at the IHSA Office in Bloomington on Thursday, May 4, 2017 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Advisory committee members in attendance: Division 1 John Gonczy, Chicago (Marist), Adviser; Division 2 Chauncey Carrick, Sycamore, Activities Director; Division 3 Liz Levin, Downers Grove (North), Adviser; Division 4 Dan Kerns, Peoria (Richwoods), Adviser; Division 5 Tim Lee, Fithian (Oakwood), Principal; Division 6 Jennifer Reiser, Washington, Adviser; Division 7 Samantha Goetting, Herrin, Adviser. IHSA Asst. Executive Director Matt Troha conducted the meeting and liaisons present were: Stan Zoller, IJEA.

TERMS & CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. VIII. Tournament Rules
add C. Video News Broadcasting (Exhibition)
Recommendation: Conduct a Video News Broadcasting category as an exhibition at the 2018 IHSA Journalism State Finals. The category would have 1 to 3 participants per school. A special press conference would be developed for the category. Students would shoot and edit into a news story during Block A and part of Block B. EIU-TV would assist in developing the exact parameters of the contest (length, required elements, etc.) and judge based on content, not quality of video. The top submissions would be played prior to the awards ceremony.
Rationale: Video is a real world component of journalism and has been discussed by the committee for several years, including an IHSA survey sent out last year that saw many schools support introducing a video category in some capacity. By conducting an Exhibition at the state final level, it allows us to pilot its future viability as a state final category while getting more students involved.

Approved

2. VIII. Tournament Rules
B. 14 Yearbook Layout: Double Page Spread
Recommendation: Allow schools to use a dummy doc from their school's Yearbook company to create their Double Page Spread layout.
Rationale: Very few schools use InDesign for yearbook anymore. Allowing students to use the software they are trained on will make for a more competitive category and doesn't provide a competitive advantage as long as all companies are available. In addition, the current Yearbook company software is all web-based, so aside from internet access, it doesn't place further technological strains on hosts.

Approved

3. VIII. Tournament Rules
Postscript (after 17. Sports Writing)
Recommendation: Change to read: “AP Stylebook and dictionary/ thesaurus (non-electronic format) may be used in all categories. No other texts or documents may be used.”
Rationale: The use of AP Stylebook and dictionary/ thesaurus were previously limited to writing categories only, but could be useful in other categories as well.

Approved

4. VIII. Tournament Rules
B. 9 Info Graphics
Recommendation: Change category name to Infographics (one word)
Rationale: This has become the common vernacular.

Approved

5. X. Awards
B. State Final
Recommendation: Add following language: “Certificates will be presented to the teams who place in fourth, fifth and sixth-place.”
Rationale: Finishing in the Top 6 in the state in a single-class activity is a major accomplishment and these awards would better recognize that achievement.

Died for Lack of Motion

6. X. Awards
A. Sectional
Recommendation: Adding case situation to read: “In the event there is a tie for the team with the most points, all tying schools shall receive a plaque.”
Rationale: This case situation clarifies the current IHSA policy in place.

Approved

7. X. Awards
B. State Final
Recommendation: Develop and add parenthesized case situation language approved by IHSA Board that explains policy for team trophies in the event of ties.
Rationale: This case situation will clarify the current IHSA policy in place.

Approved

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

1. The committee welcomed new committee members Liz Levin and Samantha Goetting.
2. The committee heard a report from Liz Levin on the Sectional she hosted at Downers Grove North High School.
3. The committee shared their experiences at the respective Sectionals they competed at and heard feedback from the managers when applicable.
4. The committee was made aware that a case situation will be added to the Awards Section of the Terms & Conditions that explains the IHSA's policy in the event of ties.
5. The committee discussed the changes made to the time schedule this year. The time schedule appears to have gone over well in the northern part of the state. Sectional managers continue to be able to set their own start times. It was recommended that the Illinois State University Sectional return to the later start.
6. The committee discussed the values of hosting Sectionals at collegiate sites vs. hosting at high school sites.
7. The committee discussed the possibility of having the participating schools provide judges or proctors at the Sectional level.
8. The committee discussed developing a three-year Sectional site rotation.
9. The committee recommended that the IHSA administrator confirm the subject of all press conferences prior to Sectionals and the State Finals, as well as to provide Sectional hosts with a list of potential subjects.
10. The committee discussed whether the State Final site should rotate between a north and south site.
11. The committee discussed ways to achieve greater uniformity at all Sectional sites and continuity in the press conference prompts.
12. The committee discussed whether it would be beneficial to have a pre-recorded press conference sent to all Sectional sites or to hold a single live press conference for all Sectionals via a medium like Facebook Live.
13. The committee recommended that the IHSA develop a roster of individuals, including committee members past and present, who can mentor Sectional hosts and specifically aid them in facilitating press conference speakers for Sectionals.

14. The committee discussed technology, tournament software, and allowing internet usage in the tournament.
15. The committee recommended that the IHSA inform Sectional Managers to provide students competing in Photo Story Telling a map of the campus, list of events on campus that day and any areas or events that are restricted.
16. The committee recommended that the Sports Writing Sectional prompt be setup in the same manner as the State Final prompt, with competitors writing a game story.
17. The committee recommended that the IHSA reveal the sport that will be covered in the Sports Writing prompt prior to the Sectional and State Final, as they do with Review Writing genres.
18. The committee recommended that event-specific proctor scripts be developed for proctors. Committee member John Gonczy volunteered to take the lead on the initiative, which the committee will work on in the coming months, in conjunction with the IHSA, to it have finalized for 2018 Sectionals.
19. The committee discussed the need for better enforcement of State Series withdrawals.
20. The committee discussed the possibility of having Photo Story Telling competitors provide their own technology for editing.
21. The committee reviewed the IHSA's survey results regarding potentially conducting a video category.
22. The committee recommended that in Review Writing, the same genre not be used at the Sectional and at the State Final in the same year.
23. The committee recommended that competitors in Broadcast News be allowed to find their own work space at the State Finals if enough recording booths are not available.
24. The committee recommended that when a press conference is held in the Block A Press Conference computer lab, students not be allowed to begin typing notes, as it may negatively impact the audio of the Broadcast News students.
25. The committee reviewed the results of a Judging Pilot Program that was conducted after the 2017 IHSA State Finals. The Pilot Program saw two non-state final judges independently judge and rank each entry in two categories, before working together to determine a final rank. Based on the feedback the pilot judges provided, and subjectivity of judging, the committee did not believe that the process had enough impact on the contest to warrant the additional time that would be required to judge in this fashion.

26. The committee discussed having judging occur off-site electronically.
27. The committee discussed the current Judging Sheets and potential rubric style changes that could be applied to improve the contest. Committee member Liz Levin volunteered to offer specific changes to each categories' event judging sheet based on the feedback of the committee. The committee expects to review and potentially vote on changes in the fall of 2017.
28. The committee discussed the potential of having two photo categories, one for newspaper and one for yearbook.
29. The committee discussed access to the online entry process for IHSA Sectionals. Matt Troha confirmed that both the Newspaper and Yearbook advisor should have the ability to enter/edit students in the IHSA database. Advisors need to work on the local level with their Principal, Athletic or Activity Director to be assigned as a newspaper or yearbook advisor in the IHSA Schools Center. Anyone with issues should contact Matt at the IHSA.
30. The committee questioned if using an EIU gymnasium facility may better accommodate the crowd size for opening and closing ceremonies.
31. The committee discussed the pros/cons of using InDesign or Microsoft Word in the Yearbook Caption Writing event.
32. The committee discussed potentially returning Yearbook Layout: Double Page Spread to a two-person event.
33. The committee discussed additional individuals and journalism groups who may want to get involved with writing prompts.
34. The committee discussed whether IJEA should or would be interested in providing additional awards based on IHSA results.
35. The committee offered suggestions on ways that Speechwire could help advisers and hosts prepare for the event. Matt Troha will present those ideas to Speechwire personnel to gauge their feasibility.
36. The committee recognized outgoing members Jennifer Reiser and Timothy Lee.