

Minutes of the IHSA Wrestling Advisory Committee Meeting

April 19, 2017

The IHSA Wrestling Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, April 19, 2017, beginning at 10:00a.m. Committee members present were Ronald Wilson, Chicago (Bowen); Jarett Kirshner, Des Plaines (Maine West); Eric Siebert, Orland Park (Sandburg); Joel Stockwell, Rock Island (H.S.); Jason Clay, Vandalia; Bryan Medlin, Washington; Pat Cheesman, Mt. Carmel; Dan Fulscher, Official - Lincoln; Sam Knox, IHSA; Mike Manahan, Kelley Altom, and Rich Montgomery, IWCOA rep.

The committee discussed and approved the minutes from the April 20, 2016 meeting.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. V. Tournament Assignments and Seeding Meetings: B. 2) Individual Sectional Pairings

Recommendation: In the Individual Sectional Tournament, seed the top four wrestlers using the same criteria used to seed the top four wrestlers at the Individual State Finals Tournament. Then build the brackets so wrestlers from the same Regional are not on the same side of the Sectional bracket, similar to the way we build our State Finals brackets. The number of victories will be adjusted to reflect the fact that wrestlers have generally wrestled three fewer matches by the time they reach the Sectional than they have at the State Finals.

34 or more wins = 20 points; 29 to 33 wins = 15 points; 24-28 wins = 10 points; 19-23 wins = 5 points (8 – 0)

Rationale: The committee feels that all three levels of the Individual State Series Tournament should be seeded. Currently, coaches seed the Regional, and the IHSA seeds the State Finals, while the Sectional brackets are built using a predetermined schematic. Seeding the top wrestlers in a Sectional bracket would build consistency throughout the entire tournament.

Failed

2. V. Tournament Assignments and Seeding Meetings: B. 3) Individual State Final Pairings

Recommendation: Eliminate the language that awards an undefeated wrestler (minimum of 20 matches) 20 seed points. (7 –1)

Rationale: The committee recognizes that with the current seeding criteria, in some cases, an undefeated wrestler is able to earn more State Finals seed points than a returning state qualifier or even a returning state place winner. The committee feels that a returning state qualifier or state place winner should be seeded higher than an undefeated wrestler who did not qualify for the State Finals the previous year. If we remove the undefeated wrestler seed points, it will be very rare that an undefeated wrestler is seeded higher than a returning state qualifier.

Approved

3. VI. Tournament Structure and Time Schedules

Recommendation: Add two mats to the State Farm Center floor, if possible, to allow the IHSA to conduct the Individual State Final Tournament as a double elimination tournament with true wrestlebacks. (8 – 0)

Rationale: The committee recommends this change to allow the Individual State Final Tournament format to match the Regional and Sectional tournaments, which would allow all state qualifiers to wrestle a minimum of two matches in the tournament.

Died for Lack of Motion

4. VI. Tournament Structure and Time Schedules

Recommendation: Rotate the class order of wrestling on Thursday and Friday at the Individual State Finals from one year to the next. (8 – 0)

Rationale: The committee recognizes the unique benefits, including warmup time on the mats and time between weigh-ins and wrestling, of wrestling at a certain time of the day. As a result, the committee believes that these benefits should be shared by each class over a three-year rotation. If approved, the wrestling order would be as follows over the next three-year period: 2018: (2A-3A-1A); 2019: (3A-1A-2A); 2020: (1A-2A-3A).

Died for Lack of Motion

5. X. Awards

Recommendation: Award an Elite 8 plaque to each of the teams that wins its Sectional dual. (8-0)

Rationale: The committee recognizes the unique aspect of team wrestling with the fact that we don't determine a Sectional championship team. However, the committee feels it is important to recognize the teams that qualify for the Dual Team State Finals with a plaque.

Died for Lack of Motion

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee heard a proposal from Kelley Altom, who provides leadership in the weight management plan. Kelley proposes adding a third option for appealing a body fat measurement that involves an ISAK Certified Sports Anthropometrist performing a body fat test on a wrestler. The Committee recommends that the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee reviews this proposal at its next meeting. (8-0)

The Committee spent time with the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee to review the current skin condition form. Both committees agreed that the form needs to be updated to provide more clarity regarding the specific medical professionals who are allowed to complete the form and the language that explains whether or not a wrestler is allowed to participate in a wrestling meet.

Died for Lack of Motion

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. Discussed the uniqueness of wrestling in that it contains some aspects of an IHSA individual sport and some aspects of an IHSA team sport.
2. The committee discussed classification percentages and the number of wrestlers competing in the state series in each class under the current percentage breakdown. Some sports are broken down into a 33%/33%/33%/ split, while others are broken down into a 40%/30%/30% split. The committee received information that the percentage determinations are board policies, and recommendations to change these policies need to be made directly to the IHSA Board of Directors.
3. The committee discussed concerns about the small number of wrestlers in some Regional brackets, mainly at the 1A and 2A levels.
4. The committee discussed the increase in participation among girls in wrestling and whether or not Girls Wrestling is an emerging sport. The IWCOA incorporated girls divisions into its Frosh/Soph tournaments this year.
5. The committee discussed Track Wrestling. The committee feels that coaches are comfortable with Track Wrestling now that the IHSA has used the software for a few years. The committee thinks Track Wrestling provides solid customer service when unique situations arise during state series tournaments.

6. The committee discussed potential changes to the time allowed during a match for medical professionals to diagnose head injuries and potential concussions. The Sports Medicine Advisory Committee was involved in this discussion and intends to propose a rule change to the NFHS regarding injury time.
7. The committee heard from Kelley Altom, who provides leadership in the weight management plan and body fat testing. The committee discussed potential changes to the testing program currently used by all schools for the IHSA to consider for the future. Potential changes include adjusting the dates for which wrestlers must make weight and adjusting the dates when a wrestler must first certify at his/her weight.
8. The committee discussed the weight control appeal process.
9. The committee recognized outgoing committee members Pat Cheesman, Mt. Carmel; Bryan Medlin, Washington (H.S.)
10. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.