

MINUTES OF THE IHSA BASS FISHING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 6, 2017

The IHSA Bass Fishing Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, September 6, 2017, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Jim Bagnell, El Paso (E.P.-Gridley); Jason Doty, Niantic (Sangamon Valley); Marc Eckmann, Belvidere (North); Caleb Houchins, Highland; Ted Lowery, Chicago (Brother Rice); and Joe Sornberger, Oneida (ROWVA). Also in attendance were Kurt Gibson, IHSA Associate Executive Director; and Mike Garthaus, Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Not present was member Stan Tischer, Minooka.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. II. Dates and Sites A. Individual Tournament Series Dates and Sites

Recommendation: Change the sectional date from Friday, May 4, 2018 (Friday of Week 44 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar) to Thursday, May 3, 2018 (Thursday of Week 44 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar).

1) The sectional tournament shall be on ~~Friday, May 4, 2018~~ **Thursday, May 3, 2018** (~~Friday~~ **Thursday** of Week 44 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar). Tournament sites and team assignments will be posted online.

NOTE: All Sectional Tournaments shall be a one-day tournament. In the event of cancellation due to weather, the next Monday, May 7, 2018 (Monday of Week 45 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar).

2) State Final: May 18 and 19, 2018, Friday and Saturday, Week 46 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

Rationale: The committee believes that moving the date for sectionals up one day will put less pressure on the sectional lakes, thus allowing anglers a better opportunity to fish. Currently, additional traffic is occurring on sectional lakes, particularly at those sites where local tournaments are held on the weekend following the sectional. The committee does not believe this modest one-day adjustment will cause undue hardships for participating schools.

Approved by Consent

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

None.

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee reviewed the minutes of their September 2016 meeting.
2. The committee discussed the 2016 state finals and the challenges encountered this past spring. While the altered schedule that utilized a mid-week state finals tournament worked, the committee thinks the 'traditional' set-up over the pre-determined weekend is better.
3. The committee discussed the growing numbers of schools participating in bass fishing and asked IHSA staff to develop various models for a tournament structure that involves regional and

sectional tournaments leading into a state finals tournament consisting of a reasonable amount of qualifiers.

4. The committee discussed moving the sectional fishing date to Thursday of Week 44. Ultimately, the committee did make such a recommendation (see above).
5. The committee discussed some of the challenges faced over the years by holding the state finals at Carlyle Lake. The committee discussed the distance of the lake to many of the qualifiers and the general weather patterns faced by anglers. The committee discussed other locations where the event could be held, should a time come when Carlyle Lake is no longer the host. IHSA staff reminded the committee that the tournament is contracted with Carlyle Lake through 2021. The committee expressed their desire to see the IHSA Board of Directors put out a RFP for the state finals during the 2019-2020 school year.
6. The committee discussed whether or not there should be a requirement that boat captains be of a certain age. After thoughtful discussion, the committee believes that the current requirement that boat captains must be approved by the local school board is an appropriate safeguard to monitor this situation.
7. The committee thanked out-going members Jason Doty, Caleb Houchins, and Stan Tischer for their service.