

MINUTES OF THE IHSA NEWS MEDIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

August 3, 2017

The IHSA News Media Advisory Committee met in the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, August 3, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Aaron Bennett, WCIA-TV in Champaign; Chris Hugo, Withers Broadcasting in Mt. Vernon; Zach Kerker, Channel1450.com in Springfield; Michael O'Brien, Sun-Times in Chicago; Joe Stevenson, Northwest Herald in Crystal Lake; Heather Warthen, 22nd Century Media in New Lenox; and Don Werntz, Big Radio in Freeport. Also in attendance was IHSA Assistant Executive Director Matt Troha.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Move Boys Basketball Super-Sectionals to Monday Evenings

Recommendation: The committee proposes that the Basketball Advisory Committee consider a recommendation to schedule Boys Basketball Super-Sectional on Monday evenings, as opposed to the current Tuesday scheduling.

Rationale: The committee believes that this move, which would mirror the girls' basketball Super-Sectional schedule, would benefit media, fans, coaches and the IHSA. The Class 1A and Class 2A Super-Sectionals currently fall on the same evening as the Class 3A and Class 4A Sectional semifinals. With shrinking staffs, this move would allow media to cover more contests, while also allowing basketball fans to follow programs in their area that may be advancing in both the 1A/2A and 3A/4A tournaments. From a coaching perspective, generally, Super-Sectional opponents are geographically closer than State Final semifinal opponents. Additionally, Sectional teams are generally scouting the Sectional on the opposite side of their bracket. Thus, having an extra day to prepare for the state finals may be more advantageous to the coaches. Finally, the change would provide all involved an extra day to work with should weather force a postponement.

Referred to Basketball Advisory Committee

2. Offer Hard Copy Results Option to for Media Members at the Cross Country State Finals

Recommendation: The committee proposes that a hard copy result option be offered for media members at the IHSA Cross Country State Finals.

Rationale: Until 2014, local high school students sold hard copies of results for each race at the IHSA Cross Country State Finals after the results were certified. When the high schools stopped selling them, the IHSA discontinued the service for media members. While most media members are able to use the results from the website to write their stories, some are at the park all day and hard copies would be incredibly helpful to their efforts.

Referred to Cross Country Advisory Committee

3. Rotate Playing Order at Super-Sectional Sites Hosting Double Headers on the Same Day

Recommendation: In any sport where Super-Sectionals are held as double-headers on the same day with different classes competing, and the site is used annually for hosting these contests, the class playing order would rotate each year (i.e. 1A-2A in year one, 2A-1A in year two, 3A-4A in year one, 4A-3A in year two, etc.)

Rationale: The smaller class schools (1A, 3A) sometimes feel like a lower level game by playing first. The players, coaches, parents, students and fans of the second game also have the benefit of being able to stick around and celebrate afterward, while the first game participants have to leave quickly to prepare for the second game.

Died for Lack of Motion

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee welcomed two new members, Darren Kinnard of WSIL-TV and Greg Sapp of WXF Radio.
2. The committee reviewed and discussed the minutes from the 2016 meeting.
3. The committee heard an update on IHSA General Media Credentials, which are scheduled to be mailed during the week of August 7th.
4. The committee heard a recap on the 2016-17 IHSA Distinguished Media Service Award winners.
5. The committee discussed and voted on the 2017-18 IHSA Distinguished Media Service Award nominees.
6. The committee heard a timeline on IHSA Distinguished Media Service Award procedures for the year.
7. The committee discussed the changes to boys and girls basketball state final time schedules. Each session began one hour earlier in 2016-17.
8. The committee discussed photographer shooting locations at the Boys and Girls Gymnastics and Softball State Finals.
9. The committee discussed the IHSA policies related to radio advertising.
10. The committee discussed moving Regional games to the site of the higher seed in all sports.
11. The committee discussed basketball postseason setup and state finals.
12. The committee discussed IHSA classifications and the enrollment class breaks.
13. The committee discussed baseball and softball Super-Sectionals on Memorial Day.

14. The committee discussed Boys Soccer Regionals on Friday's conflicting with Week 9 football games.
15. The committee discussed if conference, and general average school size within each conference, should factor into postseason classifications.
16. The committee heard a report on the inaugural IHSA Road Race.
17. The committee heard a report on IHSA Board turnover.
18. The committee heard a report on the upcoming IHSA Student Leadership Conference.
19. The committee discussed the inaugural IHSA Boys & Girls Lacrosse State Finals, which will be held in May and June.
20. The committee heard a report on the Boys Gymnastics State Finals, which will have a new venue this year that is anticipated to be announced in August.
21. The committee heard a report on IHSA TV and streaming broadcast plans for 2017-18.
22. The committee heard a report on the increase in IHSA schools reporting scores on MaxPreps.
23. The committee heard updates on the new IHSA staff members and their responsibilities.
24. The committee heard a report on the first year of two-class tennis.
25. The committee heard a report on the Class 1A Boys Soccer State Finals, which were held at the Eastside Centre in East Peoria for the first time last fall.
26. The committee discussed including radio broadcast information in any IHSA contacts about state final broadcasts, as well as including on ScoreZone.
27. The committee recognized Zach Kerker, Michael O'Brien, and Don Werntz for their service to the committee, as each attended their final meeting.