

Minutes of the 2017-18 Journalism Advisory Committee

Thursday, May 3, 2018

The IHSA Journalism Advisory Committee was held at the IHSA Office in Bloomington on Thursday, May 3, 2018 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); Division 5 Sheila Moore, Macon (Meridian), Adviser; Division 6 Matthew Hutchison, Taylorville, Principal; Division 7 Samantha Goetting, Herrin, Adviser. IHSA Asst. Executive Director Matt Troha conducted the meeting and liaisons present were: Stan Zoller, IJEA.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Recommendation:** Inviting Illinois State University to serve as the new IHSA Journalism State Final host.

Rationale: After helping to create the tournament and hosting it during each of its first 13 installments, Eastern Illinois University has decided to pass the torch. Illinois State University has excelled as a Sectional host the past three years and is a good geographic fit to host the finals.

Died for Lack of Motion

2. **Recommendation:** All proctor/judging packets at the Sectional and State Final level will contain a list of all competing schools in that category (listed by school code). Proctors will mark off each entry as they put them in the packet and judges will mark off the packet as they judge them.

Rationale: This will help to assure that all entries are collected and judged.

Approved

3. **Recommendation:** Official four digit IHSA school code number will be used as the school codes at Sectionals and the State Finals moving forward.

Rationale: The codes will help eliminate confusion that sometimes occurs with close letters and poor penmanship (i.e. D and O). Given that the codes will not change, it will make them easier to remember for advisors and students, because they will be known in advance. There is also no identifying feature in the codes that might indicate what school they belong to.

Approved

4. **Recommendation:** Members of the advisory committee will work with the IHSA to create a Sectional/State Final proctor video.

Rationale: The video will better help proctors to know their roles and duties when working the IHSA State Series. It will help prevent proctors from issuing inaccurate answers.

Approved

5. **Recommendation:** The IHSA will pre-record press conferences for the Block A and Block B events for Sectionals. The State Finals will remain a live press conference for each block.

Rationale: This change will provide uniformity to the press conferences at all Sectional sites.

Approved

6. **Recommendation:** Increase the Sectional host budget by \$200.

Rationale: As more categories have required computer usage, host schools have needed more help from their IT departments, but the current budget doesn't provide enough funding to cover that.

Died for Lack of Motion

7. **Recommendation:** Sectional hosts should eliminate the advisor breakfast.

Rationale: Very few IHSA events offer food for competing coaches/advisors. Eliminating the breakfast food would allow the Sectional host to stretch their budget further.

Approved

8. **Recommendation:** Sectional hosts will conduct one press conference, which will be attended jointly by Broadcast News and Video News (if approved) competitors.

Rationale: With the original Block A and Block B press conferences potentially being moved to videos, this would clarify that Sectional hosts would provide one live press conference for these two events. Three press conferences would be provided at the state finals.

Approved

TERMS & CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. II. Dates & Sites

A. Sectional: Saturday of IHSA Week 41, Saturday

Recommendation: Move the Sectional date up one week to April 13 in 2019 to avoid the Easter holiday. The State Finals remain in Week 43, creating an extra week between Sectionals and the State Finals. This would be for 2019 only.

Rationale: Holiday weekend travel could drastically reduce participation and make finding judges and proctors more difficult. This would be changed for one year only, but could be considered long-term if advisors prefer the longer layoff between Sectionals and the State Finals.

Approved

2. VIII. Tournament Rules – 6. Yearbook Theme Development (also changes time schedule)

Recommendation: Change Yearbook Theme Development to a two block (A & B) event.

Rationale: There are more elements that competing students could achieve if they were provided more time to work.

Approved

3. VIII. Tournament Rules – add 11. Video News

Recommendation: Add Video News as a full category.

Rationale: After conducting a successful pilot of this event in 2018, the committee recommends it become a full event in 2019. The top three teams from each Sectional will advance to the state finals in this category.

Approved

4. VIII. Tournament Rules – 1. Photo Story Telling

Recommendation: Add language that reads "A Digital camera must be used in this category. For the purpose of this competition, cell phones, tablets and other similar devices will not be allowed."

Rationale: The committee believes that the photography in this event should be conducted via a traditional style camera, which remains the standard for professional photographers in the industry.

Approved

5. VIII. Tournament Rules – 2. Broadcast News

Recommendation: Add language that reads “Editing software must be downloaded prior to competition. No technical support will be provided on-site by the host or anyone else.”

Rationale: As phones and other devices have been allowed to be used for recording, it has created some complications with students seeking to use the internet for editing. Given that internet usage is not allowed in this category, the committee felt it was important to reiterate that students are responsible for knowing their software and appropriately planning for the event.

Approved

6. IV. Host Financial Arrangements

A. Sectional Event Fees & B. State Final Event Fees

Recommendation: Change event fee from \$10 dollars to \$15 dollars.

Rationale: The committee has recommendations below that call for more funding to Sectional hosts and proctors, and felt it was appropriate to provide a modest entry fee increase to help offset those costs.

Died for Lack of Motion

7. VIII. Tournament Rules – new C. Proctors

Recommendation: Add new C. Proctors

Rationale: Proctoring is vital to the tournament and should have its own set of guidelines (below).

Approved

8. VIII. Tournament Rules – new C. Proctors

Recommendation: Add language that reads “Proctors must be of age that they have already graduated from high school.”

Rationale: Current high school students should not be involved in the competition as proctors.

Approved

9. IV. Host Financial Arrangements

A. Sectional Event Fees & B. State Final Event Fees

Recommendation: Add language that reads “Proctors will be paid \$20 per category.”

Rationale: Proctoring is vital to the tournament and paying proctors a nominal fee will help us attract strong candidates.

Died for Lack of Motion

10. VIII. Tournament Rules – D. Special Rules & Limitations

Recommendation: Add new 11. that reads “If a contestant’s cell phone is not being used as a recording device in an allowable category, then the contestant’s cell phones must be powered down and out of sight during the competition or they will be disqualified.”

Rationale: Students having their cell phones in their possession as they compete can create issues with proctors being unable to decipher if they are using the internet.

Approved

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. The committee expressed its sincere gratitude and appreciation for Sally Renaud and Eastern Illinois University for its years of dedication and service to high school journalists in Illinois. That service remains unwavering even as the state final tournament shifts to a new venue. The group bestows the title of State Final Tournament Manager Emeritus on Sally.
2. The committee welcomed new committee members Sheila Moore and Matthew Hutchison.
3. The committee shared their experiences at the respective Sectionals they competed at.
4. The committee discussed items that could be included in an informational video directed at advisors that could be viewed before the State Series.
5. The committee shared multiple ideas about alleviating confusion and issues with school codes and prompts.
6. The committee discussed the idea of eliminating Sectionals and moving to a two-day prelim/final State Final format.
7. The committee discussed the idea of eliminating one Sectional and using six Sectionals with four state qualifiers per category.
8. The committee discussed hosting Sectionals on high school campuses vs. college campuses, finding pros and cons for each.
9. If Illinois State University hosts the State Finals, Dan Kern discussed taking over the Sectional previously hosted by ISU in conjunction with Bradley University.
10. Committee member Liz Levin shared updates on potential changes to judging rubrics she has created and shared at the state finals. Liz and other committee members hope to finish the rubrics for all categories by the summer and then share with other advisors for feedback early in the 2018-19 school year. The committee thanked Liz for her time spent on this project.
11. The committee recognized and thanked committee member John Gonczy and Sally Renaud for their efforts in creating unified proctor instructions prior to the 2018 State Series.
12. The committee discussed holding a meeting with all advisors prior to the Sectional to assist in getting proctors, judges, and other workers for the Sectional.
13. The committee emphasized that competing schools need to help host schools with proctors, judges, etc.

14. The committee discussed the need for competing schools to exercise greater patience in allowing the judges to be thorough in their assessments and not be as concerned about adhering to the time schedule.
15. The committee discussed if it would be better to list sample prompts alphabetically instead of by block schedule.
16. The committee discussed having Photo Storytelling participants present their work on a single computer via flash drives so all photos would be viewed on same monitor and avoid any change in monitor quality, color or pixilation.
17. The committee discussed the merits of whether getting judges completed work via dropbox or flash drives was more efficient.
18. The committee discussed the IHSA providing greater oversight on the editorial cartoon prompt subject matter.
19. The committee discussed the feedback and concerns presented from the advisor meetings held at each Sectional.
20. Matt Troha reported that the IHSA will continue to work with the yearbook companies to provide their dummy docs for the IHSA competition, per last year's recommendation.
21. The committee recognized outgoing members Chauncey Carrick, John Gonczy and Dan Kern