

Minutes of the IHSA Wrestling Advisory Committee Meeting

April 18, 2018

The IHSA Wrestling Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, April 18, 2018, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were; Jarett Kirshner, Des Plaines (Maine West); Michael Pila, Tinley Park (Andrew); Joel Stockwell, Rock Island (H.S.); Jason Clay, Vandalia; Brad Alewelt, Rochester; Dave Harris, Belleville (Althoff); Dan Fulscher, Official - Lincoln; Sam Knox, IHSA; Mike Manahan, Randy Conrad, Rich Montgomery, IWCOA rep.; and Amanda Baugher, Sports Medicine Advisory Committee. Ronald Wilson, Chicago (Bowen) was absent.

The committee discussed and approved the minutes from the April 19, 2017 meeting.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. V. Tournament Assignments and Seeding Meetings: B. 1) Note:

Recommendation: In eight-team Regionals, all weight classes will use 8-man brackets, regardless of how many wrestlers are in the weight class. In Regionals with nine or more teams, all weight classes will use 16-man brackets, regardless of how many wrestlers are in the weight class. (7-0)

Rationale: Using the same bracket for all weight classes within the same Regional will create consistency in team scoring.

Died for Lack of Motion

2. V. Tournament Assignments and Seeding Meetings: B. 3)

Recommendation: Eliminate the phrase "For 3A" that tells where a 4th place finisher from the Sectional will be placed in the State Finals bracket. (7 –0)

Rationale: This is old language from a time when all three classes didn't advance the same number of wrestlers to the State Finals.

Approved

3. VI. Tournament Structure and Time Schedules

Recommendation: Conduct the Individual State Finals tournament using a true wrestleback format. (7-0)

Thursday – Session 1

10:30 Weigh-Ins
12:00 1A Preliminary Round
2:15 2A Preliminary Round
4:30 3A Preliminary Round
6:45 1A & 2A Winner's Bracket Quarterfinals

Friday – Session 2

7:00 Weigh-Ins

8:30 3A Winner's Bracket Quarterfinals & First Round Wrestlebacks

11:00 1A & 2A First Round Wrestlebacks

1:30 1A, 2A, & 3A Second Round Wrestlebacks

Friday - Session 3

7:30 1A, 2A, & 3A Semifinals

Saturday – Session 4

7:30 Weigh-Ins

9:00 Third Round Wrestlebacks

11:00 Fourth Round Wrestlebacks

1:00 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th Place Matches

Saturday - Session 5

5:30 Grand March

6:00 Championship Matches

Rationale: In this format, all wrestlers would be guaranteed to wrestle two matches at the State Finals. Wrestlers would participate in at least one match on Thursday and at least one match on Friday.

This format would add approximately four hours to the entire tournament - two hours on Thursday and two hours on Friday. Saturday's schedule would remain the same as it has been for many years.

The Regional and Sectional tournaments use a true wrestleback format. It makes sense to use this format at the State Finals, if it can be done in a reasonable time frame.

Approved

4. VII. Advancement of Winners: A. 3)

Recommendation: Change the word "winners" to "qualifiers".

Delete the words "three (3) or" regarding wrestlers who advance from the Sectional to the State Finals. (7-0)

Rationale: All wrestlers who advance from the Regional to the Sectional or the Sectional to the State Finals didn't win their tournaments, yet they all qualified for the next round of the state series tournament.

In all classes, four wrestlers qualify for the State Finals from each Sectional tournament.

Approved

5. VII. Advancement of Winners: B. 4)

Recommendation: Change the word “forfeiture of” to “being disqualified from”.
(7-0)

Rationale: This language would match current language in rule 6-2-2 in the NFHS rule book.

Approved

6. VIII. Tournament Rules: D.

Recommendation: Delete the word “Regional” in the paragraph that says, “Each contestant must weigh in on the second day of the Individual Regional, Sectional, . . .” (7-0)

Rationale: Regional tournaments are conducted on one day.

Approved

7. VIII. Tournament Rules: J. 5)

Recommendation: Delete the entire section that says, “In Regional and Sectional competition, a wrestler defeated in the quarterfinal round will advance to the consolation bracket if his quarterfinal opponent fails to make second-day weight requirements.” (7-0)

Rationale: This language is outdated since Regional and Sectional tournaments use a true wrestleback format.

Approved

8. VIII. Tournament Rules: K. 3) a.

Recommendation: Change the language that says “as verified verbally or in writing to the tournament manager by a doctor” to “as in rule 10-2-4”. (7-0)

Rationale: This language would match current language in rule 10-2-4 in the NFHS rule book.

Approved

9. VIII. Tournament Rules: N.

Recommendation: Delete the language that says, “Any taping for the purpose of reviewing during the tournament is prohibited by National Federation Rule 10-1-2. (7-0)

Rationale: This language is unnecessary since rule 10-1-2 now allows video recording unless prohibited by the state association.

Approved

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee recommends that schools be allowed to organize girls-only brackets within current tournaments. (7-0)

The committee recommends that schools be allowed to participate in up to four girls-only tournaments during the regular season. All other language in the boys wrestling season, team, and individual limitations (IHSA by-law 5.170) will remain the same. (7-0)

The committee recommends that when schools offer girls-only brackets or girls-only tournaments that they use the following 13 weight classes. (7-0)

101, 106, 111, 117, 122, 127, 132, 138, 145, 152, 164, 180, 225

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee discussed the notes from the Regional Reps Meeting and the annual survey completed by coaches.
2. The committee discussed classification of wrestling teams. The committee is aware that the IHSA Ad Hoc Committee is discussing many items related to classification, including the option of classifying wrestling as an Individual Sport, which would place 40% of teams in 1A, 30% of teams in 2A, and 30% of teams in 3A. Currently, wrestling is considered a Team Sport where teams are divided into three groups with 33% of teams in each class. The rationale for the change is to place more schools and more wrestlers in 1A to attempt to reduce the number of Regional brackets where wrestlers automatically advance to the Sectional due to the low number of wrestlers in their bracket. The Wrestling Advisory Committee supports this change.
3. The committee heard from Amanda Baugher, a member of the IHSA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee regarding the time period for medical professionals to diagnose head injuries and potential concussions during a match. The committee discussed the options of proposing a rule change to the NFHS that would allow a health care professional up to 90 seconds to evaluate a wrestler's head injury to determine if the wrestler is allowed to continue wrestling.
4. The committee recognized outgoing committee members Joel Stockwell, Rock Island (H.S.); Jarett Kirshner, Des Plaines (Maine West); and Dan Fulscher – Official, Lincoln
5. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.