

# MINUTES OF THE IHSA BASS FISHING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 5, 2018

The IHSA Bass Fishing Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, September 5, 2018, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Jim Bagnell, El Paso (E.P.-Gridley); Marc Eckmann, Belvidere (North); Erik Frederiksen, Braidwood (Reed-Custer); Ted Lowery, Chicago (Brother Rice); David Markwell, Fithian (Oakwood); Joe Sornberger, Oneida (ROWVA); and Scott Steward, Salem. Also in attendance were Kurt Gibson, IHSA Associate Executive Director; and guest Mike Garthaus, Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

### 1. VIII. Tournament Rules. P.

**Recommendation:** Teams of up to four participants per boat may be entered by each school. **A student may only be listed on one roster for the state series.** A school may enter up to two boats where only two of the four students entered for that boat may fish at any one time on that boat. This means only 2 students in the boat. The total weight for each of the five (5) fish limited to that boat will count for the team total of that tournament.

**Rationale:** This recommendation clarifies current practice. Schools cannot list a student on both of its sectional rosters.

Approved by Consent

### 2. VIII. Tournament Rules. A. (new)

**Recommendation:** **Fishing is defined as having a lure attached to a line and a rod and reel with the rod in hand. All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. All lures must adhere to state regulations. All bass must be caught on artificial bait by casting only. Only one fishing rod may be used at a time. All fishing must be conducted from the boat.**

**Rationale:** The Terms and Conditions have been surprisingly devoid of any clear explanation or definition of fishing. Last year, a question arose late in the season about the use of technology similar to a depth finder that was attached to a rod and placed in the water. This question raised the broader issue of use of a second rod by an angler in competition. Having a clear definition of what constitutes fishing will be a benefit for all participants.

Approved by Consent

### 3. VII. Advancements. A.

**Recommendation:** Sectional: A maximum of three (3) boats from each sectional will advance to the state finals. **The three advancing boats will be the boats with most amount of total weight of caught fish. If fewer than three (3) boats catch fish in a sectional tournament, only those boats that caught fish will be able to advance to the state finals.**

**Rationale:** This recommendation also clarifies current practice. The Terms and Conditions failed to clearly outline advancement criteria and address situations where fewer than three (3) schools catch fish at sectional tournaments.

Approved by Consent

#### 4. New G. Penalties

**Recommendation:** New **G. 3. A short fish brought to the scales will not be weighed and a half-pound penalty will be assessed to the boat.**

**Rationale:** The committee believes this addition will more closely align the state series with other fishing tournaments and keeps with the current practice in tournament fishing. This recommendation brings the Terms and Conditions in line with Illinois state law.

Died for Lack of Motion

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

None.

#### **ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

1. The committee reviewed the minutes of the 2017 meeting.
2. The committee discussed last year's state series and the participation numbers around the state.
3. The committee discussed whether a penalty should be considered for short fish. In discussing this topic, the committee discussed the possible need for additional language also be included in the Terms and Conditions concerning what coaches can do in the culling or measuring fish.
4. The committee reaffirmed the importance of schools giving first consideration for boat captains to those individuals who are able to work with a school for the entire state series. The committee expressed their concern that some captains are being used only for a specific body of water and don't intend to captain a boat for the sectional and state finals. The committee also expressed their suggestion that schools should consider making sure all boat captains undergo a background check.
5. The committee discussed whether any "off limits" areas should be created at Carlyle Lake during the state finals to allow for alternate anglers to fish while waiting to go on the water. The committee took no action, but they did note that the Spillway would be an area where alternates can fish. The committee also noted that additional clarity should be given in advance of the tournament to inform boat captains that boats need to pass the designated area/launch boat before coming back to the launch area at Dam West to begin fishing. In coming back, boats must be as safe and respectful as possible.
6. The committee discussed the circumstance of student anglers using the big motor to load and unload boats from their trailer. In some cases, schools have no other adults available to assist the coach/captain with this procedure at the sectional and state final tournaments. The committee recognized that while this is part of the bass fishing experience, new state law requires that individuals operating boats must have completed the state's boater safety course. The committee emphasized the importance of having on-site individuals who can assist schools with this procedure.
7. The committee discussed the current structure of the state series and examined a number of questions that would impact any future changes to the structure. The committee requested that the ideas shared and discussed be added to a questionnaire sent out to schools and/or bass fishing coaches. In general, the committee believes the current sectional-state finals structure is working, but it realizes that the activity's growth may ultimately require a restructuring of the state series format.

8. The committee expressed its pleasure at the growth of the IHSA-Special Olympics Illinois Unified Bass Fishing partnership since its inception four years ago. The committee was reminded that schools wishing to participate in the Unified program can do so by becoming a Unified School through Special Olympics. Schools wishing more information on that process can contact the IHSA Office.
9. IHSA staff reviewed the process followed in selecting sectional lakes and assigning schools to sectional tournaments. In the course of that discussion, committee members were reminded that any school can contact the IHSA Office if it knows of a possible location for a sectional tournament. Location, size of lake, motor restrictions, and proximity to participating schools are all factors considered by IHSA staff when selecting sectional tournament lakes for the state series.
10. The committee requested IHSA staff put together a questionnaire for participating schools/bass fishing coaches to gather more information of interest for the committee. It is expected that the questionnaire will be distributed no later than the beginning of October and will focus on the administration of the state series.
11. The committee discussed the growing use of technology in bass fishing, particularly cell phones. The committee agreed to continue monitoring the use of technology for future consideration and made no recommendations at this time, believing current guidelines offered prior to sectional tournaments and the state finals is the appropriate course of action for now.
12. The committee thanked out-going member Ted Lowery from Chicago (Brother Rice) for his service to the committee.