

Minutes of the 2018-19 IHSA Do What's Right Advisory Committee Meeting

April 2, 2019

The IHSA Sportsmanship Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present: Rebecca Moran, Summit (Argo); Alahrie Aziz-Sims, Chicago (Bogan); Will O'Neil, Chicago (Little Village); Julie Nowak, Hoffman Estates (Conant); Tom Huster (Official), Elmhurst; Tom Witting, Burbank (Reavis); Leslie Alappattu, IESA and Beth Sauser, IHSA.

The IHSA Sportsmanship Advisory Committee conference call, on Thursday, April 4, 2019 began at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present: Curtis Price, Woodstock (Marian); Heather Smith, Knoxville; John Moad, Granite City; Leslie Alappattu, IESA and Beth Sauser, IHSA.

Not in attendance: Jeri Miller, (Goreville); Robert Hernandez, Aurora (IMSA); Berin Jackson, Freeport (Aquin); Hattie Llewellyn, New Berlin.

1. **Recommendation:** Beginning with 2019-20 fall sports season, the IHSA will issue memos (to Administrators, Head Coaches, Officials and Assignors) providing resources emphasizing the expectations for Schools, Administrators, Coaches, Fans, Players and Officials. The memos serve to remind everyone involved of the NFHS Rules, IHSA Rules, the DWR! Expectations and Game Management Procedures in place for every contest at all levels.

None of the parties mentioned above should tolerate improper behavior or violation of rules at any time during a contest. Any situations must be addressed immediately per the rules by the officials and game management. Follow up from Administration needs to occur following an instance of misconduct by a Coach, Player or Fan.

Rational: The rise in severe incidents of unsportsmanlike behavior from coaches, fans, and players during the 2018-19 seasons interferes with the safety and enjoyment of the game. Beginning with the 2019-20 school year, the IHSA will commit to an education campaign focusing on positive sporting behavior, appropriate interaction with officials, and strengthen game management practices.

Approved by Consent

2. **Recommendation:** Provide progressive actions to Administrators when a coach, player, program or fan violates the following sport Terms and Conditions:

Managers and officials have the strictest instructions to disqualify any player, coach and/or other person guilty of profane or indecent language or of gross unsportsmanlike conduct. The IHSA By-laws 2.030, 3.151, 6.011 and 6.012 give the Board of Directors complete authority to penalize a school for any unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the principal, the coach, athletes, or any member of the faculty or Board of Education or any other official representative of any participating school. This authority will be exercised by the Board of Directors.

Coaches/Adult Fans (if known)

1. First Offense: 1 game suspension and education (watch the free NFHS Sportsmanship Video) of the offending person(s).
2. Second Offense: 3 game suspension, no contact (including practice) and re-education (watch the NFHS Sportsmanship Video) at cost to coach.
3. Third Offense: Season suspension

Players/High School Fans

1. First Offense: 1 game suspension and education (watch the free NFHS Sportsmanship Video) of the offending person(s).
2. Second Offense: 3 game suspension (team contact permitted) and re-education.
3. Third Offense: Season suspension

Rational: The current individual sport Terms and Conditions do not provide specific guidance regarding appropriate responses to unsportsmanlike conduct. This is especially apparent when negative behaviors are continuous, repeated during a season, or over the course of several seasons. Administrators must provide the IHSA with documentation of the actions taken as the result of the unsportsmanlike conduct before the individual(s) resume participation.

Tabled

3. **Recommendation:** The State Final Sportsmanship Committees will award the sportsmanship banner to one school per class in each respective sport or activity.

Rational: This creates more prestige to the school winning the award and challenges the schools to educate and communicate the DWR! Expectations throughout the school year to coaches, students and fans.

Approved by Consent

Discussion Items:

1. The committee is very concerned with how coaches, players and fans are interacting with officials. An increase in negative interaction and mistreatment has directly impacted the retention of officials which, in turn, impacts the safety of the sport. Everyone must remember that a game cannot occur without officials, players or coaches.
2. Reviewed the IESA sportsmanship video featuring different sport officials addressing concerns
3. Discussed the issues occurring after a soccer game that happen when the officials are still on the field. Officials should go to a neutral corner during the post-game handshake.
4. Create an online form for State Final Sportsmanship Committee members to complete while at the state final contests.
5. Send DWR! Program registration information to conference contacts and member schools in April and May.
6. Officials need to consistently enforce all NFHS rules regarding language and behavior in every sport. What is "permitted" is "promoted" from the first game of the season until the last game of the season. This consistent enforcement will assist in controlling the game, teaching high school athletes that rules are created to even the playing field and so are the consequences. Whether the improper language is used towards officials or within a team (coach/player and player/players), it needs to be addressed at the time. This is not acceptable in the classroom and cannot be acceptable during practices or contests.
7. The IHSA needs to communicate to all coaches, official associations, assignors and officials (especially newer officials) that enforcing the rules and not accepting or ignoring infractions will not affect their post season assignments. The IHSA will support officials who "Do What's Right!" When statements such as "you'll never work again," "I'm rating you a five," or "you won't get a foot in the door" are implied or communicated, the official can feel confident they are supported in upholding the rules.

8. What does “managing a game” mean for a host administrator? How can the IHSA assist a host manager with managing a state series game? How can the IHSA assist a host in trouble-shooting strategies or guidance if a difficult decision needs to be made?

9. Can IHSA Administrators develop ways to “re-educate” Administrators, Coaches, Players and Fans with the rules, information and policies already in place? Can the IHSA present the reminders, expectations etc., at Principal Rules meetings, New Administrator Meetings, IADA conference? Can we provide an outline of expectations for coaches, parents and athletes at their preseason meeting?
 - a. Example:
 - i. This is our expectations on _____;
 - ii. Accountability of _____;
 - iii. Our goal is to provide a safe positive educational environment that only happens when adults and students work together...etc.
 - iv. Want to make our expectation

10. When a consequence needs to be administered, adults (coaches, officials and fans) must be held to a higher standard since they are in a different mental, physical and emotional state than students. With that in mind, everyone must be accountable for their actions.

Future Meeting Dates:

Sunday, September 29, 2019 SLC Prep, Peoria	3:00pm
Monday, September 30, 2019 SLC, Peoria	8am – 3pm
Tuesday, December 10, 2019, Bloomington, Illinois	10am – 2pm
Tuesday, April 21, 2020, Bloomington, Illinois	10am – 2pm