

MINUTES OF THE IHSA NEWS MEDIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

August 5, 2019

The IHSA News Media Advisory Committee met at the IHSA office on Monday, August 5, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. Committee members present were: Mike Clark, Chicago Sun Times; Derek Parris, Channel1450.com in Springfield; Heather Warthen, 22nd Century Media in New Lenox; and Wes Huett, Peoria Journal Star. IHSA Assistant Executive Director Matt Troha was also in attendance.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Update Media Policy Language

Recommendation: Eliminate any language in the IHSA Media Policies that reference that a website paywall or registration fee are a limiting factor in being credentialed to cover IHSA events.

Rationale: The paywall/registration language was implemented in the early days of internet media and is overly limiting. Many media outlets that currently cover high school sports have paywalls or registration fees. The committee believes that the IHSA can properly vet credential applicants without this language.

Approved by Consent

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee welcomed one new member, Wes Huett of the Peoria Journal Star.
2. The committee reviewed and discussed the minutes from the 2018 meeting.
3. The committee heard an update on IHSA General Media Credentials, which will be mailed to statewide media during the week of August 5th and 12th.
4. The committee heard a recap on the 2018-19 IHSA Distinguished Media Service Award winners.
5. The committee discussed and voted on the 2019-20 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 heard a review of new changes that may impact media this coming school year.
8. The committee asked Matt to provide an overview on the media credentialing process.
9. The committee discussed geographic representation in IHSA tournaments.
10. The committee discussed tweaks to the nomination and voting process for the IHSA Distinguished Media Service Award.

11. The committee discussed the IHSA Individual Wrestling State Final time schedule, specially the semifinals on Friday night moving back to 7:00 PM.
12. The committee heard a report on efforts to improve wifi availability to media at host sites, and also discussed sites that turn media wifi off after games.
13. The committee discussed the future and necessity of IHSA State Final programs at various sports.
14. The committee discussed State Final sites running out of programs for media. Matt informed committee that media should never pay for a program, but rather alert an IHSA administrator if the media supply is exhausted. The committee also recommended a PDF of program online be linked online to help in this instance.
15. The committee discussed floor access for media at state wrestling in Champaign.
16. The committee reported that moving the IHSA Boys Basketball press conferences at the 2019 tournament was an improvement.
17. The committee heard a report on the Class 3A/4A Baseball State Finals and allocating more time for media to work following the final game of each night.
18. Committee members reported issues with wifi at state track & field this past year.
19. The committee recognized Heather Warthen for completing her term on the committee.