

Minutes of the 2019-2020

IHSA Chess Advisory Committee Meeting

April 24, 2020

The IHSA Chess Advisory Committee meeting was held virtually via AnyMeeting on Friday, April 24, 2020, beginning at 10:00 am. Committee members present were Tournament Director Chris Merli; Joel Penne, Sterling (H.S.); Jim Fox, Naperville (Neuqua Valley); Mike Campbell, Northbrook (Glenbrook North); and James Hasty, Bismarck (B.- Henning). Raye McDonald, IHSA Coordinator of Special Programs, chaired the meeting.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommended the following changes to the Terms and Conditions:

1. Changes to Submitted LOP's (VI-A-4)

Recommendation: Clarifies that the LOPs for Sectionals cannot be changed after the date listed in VI-A-3. Clarifies that the LOP for State can be changed after Sectionals in Chesscalate until date listed in VI-A-3.

Rationale: There was a lot of confusion in 2020 regarding when and how a coach can change the List of Participants before both Sectionals and State.

Approved by Consent

2. LOP Deadline (III-H-I)

Recommendation: Move up the deadline of the Sectional LOP from (W29Wed) to (W27Fri)

Rationale: The current LOP deadline is the day before Sectionals are posted. There are numerous schools that don't have the correct information inputted by the deadline, and therefore we have to follow-up to see if they are participating in Sectionals. Moving up this date will give us more time to confirm which schools will be participating before posting Sectional assignments.

Approved by Consent

3. Sectional Pairing Procedures (V-C-I)

Recommendation: Use the accelerated pairing system instead of the standard non-accelerated Swiss pairing system to pair Sectionals.

Rationale: This system is better suited to shift through teams at the bottom of each Sectional and provide better matchups in later rounds.

Approved by Consent

RULES RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommended the following changes to the Chess Rule Book:

1. Delete all Situations

Recommendation: Delete all Situation examples throughout the Chess Rule Book.

Rationale: Most of the examples are outdated as the rules have evolved over the years. Instead, the ICCA would like to create a casebook that more thoroughly describes rules situations and can act as an additional resource for coaches.

Approved by Consent

2. Repetitive Positions (Rule 12 Section 11)

Recommendation: Strike out the word “consecutive”

Rationale: The Committee determined that the moves did not need to be played consecutively in order to be classified as “repetitive positions” resulting in a game drawn

Approved by Consent

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Additional Chess Advisory Committee Member

Add the current ICCA President to the IHSA Chess Advisory Committee as a non-voting member. The Illinois Chess Coaches Association represents coaches from all across the state. The Committee would like for the new member to act as a consultant and be a liaison to the Illinois chess community.

Died for Lack of Motion

2. In order to streamline the LOP/Chesscalate process, the following timeline has been revised. The major change is that Chesscalate will not be used until after Sectionals:

- Final Roster (ANY eligible player) due in Schools Center LOP (W27Fri)
- Final 12 Players and Strength Order for Sectionals due in Schools Center by midnight (W30Mon)
- Chesscalate passwords sent out to State Qualifiers Monday after Sectional (W31Mon)
- Final 12 players for state and their strength order can be edited (in Chesscalate) until midnight the Thursday before the Seed Meeting (W31Thu)
 - (W31Fri) lineups are locked and sent to Seeding Committee
- After this date, neither the 12 eligible players nor the Strength Order can be changed
 - However, coaches can continue editing the lineups for each round at state

It was determined that there was no need to introduce Chesscalate before Sectionals to do one simple function (setting Strength Order) when it cannot be used for everything else (scoring, lineups, etc.). It just made things unnecessarily complicated.

Approved

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- The Committee discussed the possibility of modifying how scoresheets are displayed and turned in at State but ultimately decided no changes would be made at this time. We will see if we can add a note in Chesscalate reminding coaches that the paper scoresheet needs to be signed and turned in after every match.
- The Committee discussed adding a rule outlining what happens if a player falls ill or gets injured. It was decided to get more feedback and revisit the topic at next year's meeting.
- The Committee discussed the possibility of moving from 8 sectionals to 7 due to low numbers down south, but determined that would greatly increase travel time and therefore rejected the idea.
- The Committee reviewed incidents occurring at Sectionals and State including possible kibitzing, rule clarifications, and lost scoresheets.
- The Committee clarified that at Sectionals, Tournament Director Chris Merli should only be contacted as a last resort if an agreement can't be reached between the stewards and head steward.
- The Committee clarified that stewards are NOT expected to know how to reset ALL various types of clocks. Language will be added in the Manager's Manual stating that a steward may seek assistance from coaches or other players.
- The Committee discussed and rejected a proposal implementing a "Final Four" format for the last two rounds of the IHSA State Tournament to determine 1st-4th place.
- The Committee discussed the Tournament in Peoria. While venues were suggested up north (Tinley Park) that would be closer to a majority of competing schools, they ultimately enjoy the atmosphere and experience at the Peoria Civic Center, and wish to continue holding State there.
- The Committee discussed the possibility of conducting virtual matches and tournaments in the fall due to COVID-19.
- The Committee discussed removing the front ropes at State for the first 15 minutes of each round to give teams the opportunity to scout. Committee members will take note of this at the 2021 State Tournament and will discuss at the 2021 Advisory meeting.
- The Committee discussed multiclass possibilities. Joel Penne, a committee member from Sterling submitted a proposal outlining multiclass play. The concern is that "small schools" with chess programs (there are about two dozen that fit into that category) have little chance to advance to the state meet, and that even medium-sized schools are unlikely to crack the traditional group at the top that is dominated by large suburban high schools.

Additionally, Joel and the ICCA conducted a small survey of about 80 participants. It was decided that the survey needed more responses, so the Committee suggested adding a survey question to coaches' Schools Center, or handing out short questionnaires at Sectional tournaments in order to get more responses. It was reinforced that getting the backing of a large number of coaches, from a variety of school enrollments, provided the best path toward the adoption of any multiclass proposal. As with similar drives in the past, the Committee is aware that the IHSA has a policy regarding the expansion of classes. The committee is also aware that exceptions have been made to the policy (cheer and dance being the most notable).

- The Committee thanked Jim Fox and Joel Penne for three years of service.