

MINUTES OF THE IHSA Esports ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
March 26, 2020

The IHSA esports Advisory Committee met on March 26, 2020, in an online setting from various communities across Illinois, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Mark Bacys, Danville (H.S.); Greg Gardner, Orland Park (Sandburg); Zack Gilbert, Normal (University); Zachary Lamczyk, Salem; Todd McFarlin, Chicago (Steinmetz); and Eric Wenckowski, Hoffman Estates (H.S.). Also in attendance was Kurt Gibson, IHSA Associate Executive Director. Committee members unable to attend were: Derek Austill, Roxana; Mike Jacobson, Oak Lawn (Richards); Chris Kuntzman, Taylorville; Jeff Pitner, Rockford (Guilford); and Amy Whitlock, Oswego (East).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

None.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

1. The committee spent some time talking about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their school communities and individual lives.
2. The committee heard a series of updates from IHSA staff on the following topics:
 - a. The number of IHSA-member schools who have placed their school on the association's "Emerging Sports and Activities List". (as of March 26, 2020, 96 schools have been added)
 - b. Current IHSA staff thinking/planning for a possible recommendation from the esports Advisory Committee to the IHSA Board of Directors to add esports as the newest IHSA activity program, beginning with the 2020-21 school year. At this time, the status of that meeting and how it will be conducted are undetermined, so esports will be discussed with the Board at a time when it's determined to be appropriate, whether in April as originally planned, or at a later date.
 - c. The outcomes of recent conversations held by IHSA staff and video game developers Riot and Pysonix.
3. The committee reviewed a draft of its work on a set of Terms and Conditions for esports and agreed to continue reviewing the document for any final edits.
4. The committee reviewed draft of its work on game summaries for each of the possible games to be recommended by the committee for play in IHSA state series competitions. Each game sub-group will continue to edit its draft, and the committee as a whole will review those over time.
5. Given the many challenges all schools and communities are facing, the committee declined to set its next meeting date but will continue to update materials online and review those accordingly. IHSA staff indicated that the committee will reconvene at an appropriate time in the future when more information is known about the status of the current school year.