

MINUTES OF THE IHSA FOOTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
January 8, 2020

The IHSA Football Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on January 8, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Committee members present: George Klupchak, Chicago (Payton); Joe Ryan, Sycamore; Tony Sheehan, Oak Lawn (Richards); Travis Heinz, Forreston; Derek Spates, Decatur (MacArthur); Rich Thompson, Concord (Triopia); Gary Carter, Murphysboro; Dennis Doyle, Official-Joliet; and Sam Knox, IHSA.

The committee accepted the minutes of the December 5, 2018 meeting.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. V. A. 4) Sites, Rankings, Pairings

Recommendation: Add this language about determining the semifinal game host. *In the semifinals, if both teams have hosted at least two games in the current playoffs, the game shall be hosted by the higher seed.*

Rationale: As long as both teams have hosted at least two games in the playoffs, the committee feels that the higher seed has earned the right to host the semifinal game.

Died for Lack of Motion

2. VIII. H. Qualifications for Playoffs

Recommendation: Delete the sentence that says, “*A minimum of eight (8) eleven (11)-man varsity games must be played by the conclusion of the ninth (9th) week of the season in order for a school to be considered for selection to a playoff berth.*”

Rationale: Schools are likely going to maximize their varsity schedules by playing nine games. However, in situations where schools want to play fewer games or are forced to play fewer games due to circumstances beyond their control, they can still qualify for the playoffs based on their record and playoff points. Playing fewer than eight (or nine) games puts added pressure on those teams to qualify for the playoffs since they must win a higher percentage of their games and won't receive the benefit of additional playoff points from the week(s) where they have an open date(s) on their schedules.

Approved by Consent

3. XI. C-E Officials

Recommendation: The IHSA will assign a sixth official to serve as an alternate official in each Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and State Final game. The alternate official will fill in for an official in case of an injury during the game. Alternate officials will not receive a game fee or mileage reimbursement unless they must replace an injured official during the game. If an alternate official must replace an injured official at any time during the game, the alternate official will receive a full game fee and mileage reimbursement at the IHSA rate.

Rationale: The committee understands the importance of playoff games and the fact that officials' injuries occasionally happen. Finishing a playoff game with four officials is not a good situation for the teams or the officiating crew. If an alternate official is able to replace an injured official, it helps the crew maintain consistency in field coverage and game administration.

Died for Lack of Motion

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

1. The committee discussed the new language in IHSA Policy 13 regarding weekly individual player limits. The committee recommended an idea for the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) to consider related to player participation in games on consecutive days.
2. The committee discussed the number of sideline passes each team receives at the State Finals and the IHSA's position regarding ball boys who are not yet in high school.
3. The committee discussed the Terms and Conditions language related to hosting playoff games, especially situations where host schools might not play at their normal home field.
4. The committee discussed playoff plaques schools receive when they lose a Quarterfinal or Semifinal game.
5. The committee discussed the playoff seeding process, especially the details related to tie-breaker situations when teams are tied with the same record, the same playoff points, and the same playoff points of the opponents they defeated.
6. The committee discussed this year's by-law proposals related to football.
7. The committee discussed the process for submitting by-law proposals to change football-related by-laws in the IHSA handbook.
8. The committee discussed the growth in 8-man football, a potential timeline for when the IHSA might conduct an 8-man state series, and the effects this might have on the future of football classification for all schools.

9. The committee recognized outgoing members Travis Heinz, Forreton; Dennis Doyle, Official
10. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.