

Minutes of the 2021 IHSA Boys/Girls Water Polo Advisory Committee Meeting
June 8, 2021

The IHSA Boys/Girls Water Polo Advisory Committee met virtually on Thursday, June 8, 2021, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee Members present were Beth Walker, Hinsdale (South); Alan Whitmore, Chicago (Von Steuben); Rob Wagner, Elmhurst (York); Amy Martello, Chicago (Lane Tech); Fred Gafrick, Bartlett (Official) and Assistant Executive Director Beth Sauser. Not in attendance: Tracy Balla, Libertyville H.S.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Item VI. A. 1) Playing Schedules (boys and girls)

Recommendation: Adjust the weeknight Sectional contest start times at 1:15 intervals.

4 game schedule	3 game schedule
5:00 pm	5:00 pm
6:15 pm	6:15 pm
7:30 pm	7:30 pm
8:45 pm	

Rationale: Scheduling contests 1:15 hours apart create a more realistic timeline for teams to plan and prepare. With the current schedule, often the only game to begin close to the posted start time was the first game of a night. The subsequent games were delayed due to the length of earlier contests.

Items of General Discussion and Administrative Recommendations:

1. The committee recommended the IHSA staff continue to update the Water Polo manuals, State Qualifiers packet, and Official's information for the 2022 Boys and Girls seasons.
2. Reviewed the 2021-22 IHSA New By-laws.
3. Reviewed the NFHS 2020-22 Water Polo Rules Changes. The committee thought the rules were well received and able to be consistently applied.
4. The committee discussed the possibility of adding a round table forum about female coaches/officials in the sport of Water Polo to discuss how to improve communication and treatment directed towards female coaches and officials. There should be a partnership between officials and coaches to enhance the sport, and discontinue the levels of disrespect. A "Women in Water Polo" meeting is currently conducted at Nationals.
5. The committee discussed the potential for coaches to participate in an optional virtual seed meeting prior to submitting a Season Summary form and the seeding vote. In theory, this optional meeting will occur on Sunday or Monday evening before the Season Summary deadline. Some committee members felt that it is a good idea as long as it was not mandatory. However, others thought it may cause controversy, and some comments may be unnecessary and unproductive.

6. Discussed if playing Sectional games at additional sites is beneficial to teams and schedules. Members expressed concern that all-deep vs shallow/deep pools will create too many advantages and disadvantages for teams, and lack consistency for Sectional level contests.
7. The Committee thanked Alan Whitmore, Tracy Balla and Rob Wagner for their three years of service.
8. Next Virtual Committee Meeting: Tuesday, June 7, 2022