

Minutes of the Athletes with Disabilities Advisory Committee
September 22, 2021

The IHSA Athletes with Disabilities Advisory Committee met virtually on Wednesday, September 22, 2021. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. Voting Committee members present were: Kris Roof, Coach, Chicago (Lane); Gail Smith, Activities Director, Flossmoor (Homewood-F.); Kirk Edwards, Principal, Eureka; Beth Probst, Principal, Newton; Heather Greer, Principal, Pleasant Plains. Other guests and non-voting members were: Jen Kelso, Special Olympics; Kraig Garber; IHSA Asst. Executive Director.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

No Recommendations were made at this time.

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

The committee had the opportunity to view all items submitted to Kraig Garber. Listed below are the topics that received discussion from members of the committee.

1. The committee reviewed the minutes of last year's meeting.
2. IHSA administrator, Kraig Garber, provided a summary of the participation in the disabled division for all sports in which one exists. The committee discussed the impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on participation numbers.
3. Special Olympics Administrator, Jen Kelso, provided an overview of Unified Sports offered in partnership with the IHSA as well as other Unified Sports offered by Special Olympics.
4. IHSA Administrator, Kraig Garber, gave an overview of the IHSA Accommodation Request Policy and Request Form. Kraig Garber is going to look into making the accommodation request process digital.
5. Special Olympics Administrator, Jen Kelso, provided an update on a program that was being organized in a joint effort from the Special Olympics of IL and the IHSA Student Advisory Committees. The consolidated groups had great success with their initiatives last year, and they are making plans to build on that success this year.
6. The committee was informed that the IHSA and Special Olympics are in the planning phases of establishing a Unified Track and Field State Championship this year in conjunction with the IHSA State Finals at Eastern Illinois University. The plan is to Conduct the Unified State Championship on Thursday of one of the two IHSA State Final weekends after the IHSA Class 1A Preliminaries.
7. Information was provided regarding a new IHSA staff committee that was formed for the purpose of the IHSA maintaining a focus and being a resource to the membership in regard to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). Since athletes with disabilities constitute a part of DEI, the AWD Advisory Committee may be consulted or make recommendations for the DEI committee to consider.

8. A committee member asked for IHSA staff to consider making the information regarding the Special Olympics Unified Sports that are done in conjunction with IHSA State Finals more accessible on the IHSA webpage.