

**Minutes of the 2022 IHSA Boys/Girls Water Polo Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**June 7, 2022**

The IHSA Boys/Girls Water Polo Advisory Committee met virtually on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, beginning at 10:00 am. Committee Members present were Beth Walker, Hinsdale (South); Angelo Espinoza, Chicago (Whitney Young); Megan Brownley, Arlington Heights (Hersey); Everado Leon, Des Plaines (Maine West); Fred Gafrick, Bartlett (Official); Tim Dalton representing Abir Othman, Tinley Park (Andrew); and Asst. Executive Director Beth Sauser. Not in attendance: Jonathan Wong, Chicago (Latin).

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**1. Item VI. A. 1) Playing Schedules (Boys and Girls)**

**Recommendation:** Move the Preliminary contests to Thursday or Friday of Week 44, starting between 5:00 and 7:30 pm. Schedule two Quarterfinal contest dates, per gender, during week 45 beginning on Monday. The upper bracket in every Sectional plays two games on Monday, and the lower bracket plays two games on Tuesday for one gender. Then the upper bracket in every Sectional plays two games on Wednesday, and the lower bracket plays two games on Thursday for the other gender. All Semifinal contests will continue to follow the schedule of four contests on Friday with the two Finals on Saturday. Sectional Quarterfinal contests will be at 5:00 and 6:15 pm each night.

**Rationale:** Conducting four weeknight contests during AP testing, Finals, and other academic demands, do not benefit the student athletes. Multiple times during the 2022 state series, Quarterfinal game start times were delayed due to teams arriving late to the site because of transportation issues. As well, contests going to overtime caused subsequent teams to play late. Some games ended after 10:00 p.m. thus players did not arrive home until 11:00 p.m. Moving the seed meeting a week earlier and conducting the Preliminary games the week prior allows the opportunity to schedule two Quarterfinal contests each night.

Approved by Consent

**2. Item VI. A. 1) Playing Schedules (Boys and Girls) Item VI. A. Season Summary Form and B. Seeding**

**Recommendation:** Modify the Sectional Season Summary deadline and seeding date to week 42 to accommodate the Quarterfinal game schedule above.

**Rationale:** Moving up the Season Summary due date and conducting the seed meeting will allow for a change in the Preliminary and Quarterfinal game schedules.

Approved by Consent

**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 2023 Boys and Girls seasons.
2. Reviewed the new IHSA bylaws for 2022-23.

3. Reviewed the NFHS 2022-23 Water Polo Rules Changes.
4. The committee discussed focusing on improving the treatment of female coaches and officials in the sport of Water Polo. Communication and education are integral to enhancing the sport, creating partnerships, and eliminating the disrespect that female coaches and officials experience throughout the season. Beth Walker and Fred Gafrick will work with Beth Sauser to organize this endeavor.
5. The committee discussed the need to have the best officials working the Sectionals and State Finals contests. The process of assigning officials to post-season assignments was Explained: Certified officials are given first consideration, then Recognized and then Registered officials. Officials need to make themselves available and list the number of varsity regular season contests worked. Coaches need to submit ratings for every official working varsity contests.
6. The Committee thanked Beth Walker for her three years of service.
7. Next Virtual Committee Meeting: Tuesday, June 6, 2022