

IHSA Esports Advisory Committee Meeting

August 9, 2022

1:00 p.m.

The IHSA Esports Advisory Committee met on August 9, 2022, in an online setting from various communities across Illinois, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Committee members present were: Patrick Davey, Chicago (Lane); Amy Whitlock, Oswego (East); Jeff Pitner, Rockford (Guilford); Jarrod Rackauskas, Normal (Community West); Tom Hawkins, Galesburg (H.S.); and Brock Frazier, Metropolis (Massac Co.). Also in attendance was Dan Le, IHSA Assistant Executive Director, and Kurt Gibson, IHSA Associate Executive Director. Absent from the meeting was James Keathley, Elgin (H.S.).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

GAME RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Crew Battle

Recommendation: Add Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Crew Battle event using the Nintendo Switch to the 2023 IHSA State Series. Remove Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Duos event from the IHSA State Series.

Rationale: The Crew Battle format requires more team strategy and is more aligned with competitions conducted at the college and professional levels. The Crew Battle format will also allow for more students (potentially up to five students per team) to participate in comparison to the current duos format.

2. League of Legends

Recommendation: Add League of Legends event using PCs to the 2023 IHSA State Series.

Rationale: League of Legends is a team game played at the college and professional levels. League of Legends would allow for more student participation per school in the IHSA State Series.

3. Mario Kart 8 Deluxe

Recommendation: Add Mario Kart 8 Deluxe event using the Nintendo Switch to the 2023 IHSA State Series.

Rationale: At the 2022 IHSA Esports State Series, the Super Smash Bros. Ultimate events, which were played on Nintendo Switches, concluded in the early afternoon, which would permit an afternoon session of competition for Mario Kart 8 Deluxe utilizing the same Nintendo Switches.

Mario Kart 8 Deluxe could potentially permit up to four students per team to participate. Mario Kart 8 Deluxe is also a game that is popular among female students and could encourage more participation from female students.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

1. The committee reviewed the minutes of the August 2, 2022, meeting.
2. The committee discussed adding League of Legends to the IHSA State Series and the logistical challenges. The committee acknowledged that obtaining sites with enough PCs to conduct a tournament for League of Legends and Rocket League on the same day is a challenge. The committee heard updates regarding colleges and other organizations setting up sites that could provide enough PCs to conduct both tournaments the same day. The committee also discussed virtual formats in the early rounds of the IHSA State Series that would limit the number of teams competing in-person at the sectional and state tournament, which could then permit a League of Legends tournament to be completed within the state series timeline.
3. The committee suggested reviewing the IHSA calendar to determine alternative weekends to be able to conduct an IHSA State Series for specific events, such as League of Legends.
4. The committee heard proposed ideas of expanding the IHSA State Finals to a two-day event and discussed concerns with funding associated with teams staying overnight.
5. The committee acknowledged other topics for continued discussion at future meetings include additional game titles, recognizing an overall team champion of the state series, and expansion of the state series by increasing participation.
6. The committee will meet at their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, September 1st.