

MINUTES OF THE 2022-23 BOYS/GIRLS BASKETBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 25, 2023

The IHSA Boys' and Girls' Basketball Advisory Committee met at the IHSA office on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, beginning at 10 a.m. Committee members present were: Kristi Faulkner, Glen Ellyn (Glenbard West); Laurie Thompson, Teutopolis; Matt Long, Camp Point (Central); Lee Bennett, Centralia (H.S.); and Cabrina Williams-Leneau, Gurnee. Also in attendance were IHSA Associate Executive Director Kurt Gibson and IHSA Assistant Executive Director Beth Sauser. Committee members Jim Parker, Rockford (East); Marvin Williams, Chicago (Von Steuben); Beth Doetch, Poplar Grove, (North Boone) were unable to attend.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Boys and Girls Section VI. Tournament Structure and Time Schedules, 5) State Final Tournaments

RECOMMENDATION:

The committee discussed at length the playing of games at the state finals. The committee reviewed the results of the post-season coaches survey and shared comments each had received from coaches and other stakeholders around the state. More than anything else, the committee's desire to create an order for playing the semi-finals and trophy rounds at the state finals that allow qualifying schools to have a two-day experience at the state finals was the paramount concern. After discussion, the committee offered two possible solutions to accomplish this two-day experience. In providing these two options, the committee recognizes that IHSA staff would need to develop the timing for each session/game(s), considering all the logistics that need to be accounted for. However, the committee believes playing 3rd/4th place games on Saturday will not detract from the 'Championship Day' atmosphere and that games on any day could start as early as 9:00 a.m. and not unduly affect participants at this point in the season.

Option 1

Thursday

Class 1A semi-final
Class 1A semi-final
Class 2A semi-final
Class 2A semi-final

Friday

Class 1A 3rd/4th place game
Class 2A 3rd/4th place game
Class 3A semi-final
Class 3A semi-final
Class 4A semi-final
Class 4A semi-final

Saturday

Class 3A 3rd/4th place game
Class 4A 3rd/4th place game
Class 1A Championship
Class 2A Championship
Class 3A Championship
Class 4A Championship

Option 2

Thursday

Class 1A semi-final
Class 1A semi-final
Class 2A semi-final
Class 2A semi-final
Class 3A semi-final
Class 3A semi-final

Friday

Class 1A 3rd/4th place game
Class 2A 3rd/4th place game
Class 3A 3rd/4th place game
Class 4A semi-final
Class 4A semi-final

Saturday

Class 4A 3rd/4th place game
Class 1A Championship
Class 2A Championship
Class 3A Championship
Class 4A Championship

RATIONALE: Both options provide a 2-day experience at the State Finals for all qualifying teams. The committee identified this as the single most important adjustment to make from the current structure. Due to the existing venue agreements, any changes to the State Final schedule are effective beginning with the 2025 tournaments.

2. Boys Section VI. Tournament Structure and Time Schedules, B. Time Schedules 1) Regional Quarterfinal game Schedule

RECOMMENDATION: The committee recommends Boys' Quarterfinal round games be played at the site of the higher seed on Monday of Week 34 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

RATIONALE: Due to various scheduling issues, the committee suggests that playing the Quarterfinal round of the Boys tournament on Monday, not Saturday, makes more sense. In the current schedule, there are no Girls games on Monday, and in the present format, playing this round of the tournament on Saturday is impacting the last week of the regular season. This recommendation does not impact the Girls' season, so the committee doesn't believe adjusting the Girls schedule is necessary.

3. Boys and Girls Section VI. Tournament Structure and Time Schedules, B. Time Schedules 2) Single-Game Session Schedule for Regional and Sectional Final contests

RECOMMENDATION: The committee recommends that host managers be allowed to schedule single-game sessions starting times between 6 and 7 p.m.

RATIONALE: To accommodate travel on school nights, the committee believes allowing hosts managers the flexibility in setting an earlier start time for single-game sessions in the state series is a good idea. The committee feels, and hopes, that managers will be judicious in modifying a single-game start time when it can impact the travel of teams or fans, particularly on weeknights.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. RECOMMENDATION: The committee recommends that the IHSA Board of Directors re-examine Policy 18 (Grouping and Seeding).

RATIONALE: The competitive nature of the post-season tournament in bracketed team sports warrant a consistent approach in all classes of similar sports. The committee believes it is no longer necessary to assign Sub-Sectional teams to Regionals, based on the current seeding process algorithm, that only partially factors in travel/geography. In all sports, schools travel for games at unique venues or during breaks, therefore, the argument that travel is a prime consideration is outdated. In the IHSA football playoffs, schools travel excessively, which further substantiates the committee's perspective that the policy should be re-examined. Allowing all groupings in the bracketed team sports to be organized as Sectional Complexes is the most fair approach to use per the committee. It would allow each Sectional to be created utilizing a more accurate seeding format than currently employed. The committee suggests there is support among the other bracketed team-sport communities for this recommendation and would strongly encourage the IHSA Board of Directors to review the current policy.

2. RECOMMENDATION: The committee wishes to implement a financial penalty on coaches who fail to seed by the established deadline. The first missed deadline would result in a \$100 fine levied on the coach/school, and the second missed deadline in the same seeding cycle would result in an additional \$250 fine imposed on the coach/school. A list of schools causing the delay in posting the seed results will also be posted.

RATIONALE: The committee is frustrated by the number of coaches who fail to seed during the state series run-up. Based on several comments, the committee believes that coaches are not seeding to improve their school's Regional assignment. The committee believes that fining coaches who fail to seed will create the necessary urgency to ensure coaches complete this critical task. In basketball, this would require seeding to begin one day earlier. A coach who then failed to seed by the prescribed 24 hours after the onset of seeding would be fined \$100. A coach would then have an additional 24 hours to complete seeding or be fined an additional \$250. IHSA staff would be able to waive the collective penalty if credible evidence is presented as to why a coach was unable to seed. Moving the seeding up one day will still allow for schools to review the seeding matrix and allow assignments to still be posted by the end of seeding week. The committee believes this system will address the problem in the most effective manner and not punish student-athletes.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. RECOMMENDATION:** The committee recommends the continued use of the following state association rule adoptions:
- 28' Coaches Box: placed in the same location as called for in the NFHS Rules Book
 - Mercy Rule: 30-point differential in the 4th quarter with limited stoppages as in previous years
 - 35-second shot clock in regular season shootouts and tournaments

RATIONALE: The NFHS Rules Book allows states the ability to adopt a small number of rules within certain prescribed parameters. The committee believes the continued use of the Coaches Box and Mercy Rule is warranted given the acceptance and success of both from previous years. In addition, the committee reviewed survey data from events that used the shot clock on an experimental basis this past season and believe those results warrant continued experimental use in 2023-24. The committee hopes that between summer events (which could utilize the shot clock without any IHSA approval) and regular season events, more schools will be able to play under these conditions so that more schools can develop an accurate assessment of whether this is something for greater consideration and implementation in a few years.

Items of Discussion:

- The committee reviewed the minutes from the committee's 2022 meeting.
- The committee heard a presentation from IHSA staff on new by-laws that are scheduled to go into effect at the start of the 2023-24 school year.
- The committee reviewed the state series structure at great length by looking at survey results, proposals submitted, and anecdotal insights from one another. Two suggested changes were made as formal recommendations by the committee as an outcome of this discussion (see above).
- The committee discussed the use of GoFan ticketing in the state series. The committee offered little opinion on its use.
- The committee discussed the challenges schools face due to the officials' shortage. While the number of licensed officials is up slightly this year compared to last, lower-level programs continue to be at some risk because of the shortage of officials.
- In reviewing survey data from coaches who participated in events that used the shot clock this past season, the committee asked IHSA staff to break answers out by boy and girl coaches next year as well as by class.
- The committee discussed the NCAA approved summer evaluation period and the events approved in Illinois. This year the NCAA has opened up a new girls' evaluation period. This year in Illinois, girls' events will be held June 15-17 at Batavia and Mt. Zion. Boys' events will be held at Riverside (R.-Brookfield) and Rockford June 16-18 and Edwardsville and Romeoville June 23-25.
- The committee reviewed, but took no action on the following submitted proposals:
 - Addressing extreme travel situations in the state series
 - Allowing all regional round games to be played at the site of the higher seed
 - Conducting the girls' and boys' state finals on the same weekend in the same location(s).
 - Stopping the current practice of allowing the host school in a quarterfinal round game to hire the contest officials for those games.
 - Standardize regular season warmups and half-time lengths to follow the established post season protocol
 - Breaking seeding ties
- The committee recognized and thanked outgoing members Faulkner, Long, and Parker for their service to the sport, student-athletes, and the committee.
- Next meeting: Tuesday, April 23, 2024