

**MINUTES OF THE IHSA OFFICIALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
September 6, 2023**

The IHSA Officials Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Nicholas Cargola, Elk Grove Village; Mark DiMarzio, Springfield; Patricia Flesher, Waukegan; Rick Karhliker, Springfield; Kelly Lucas, Mt. Zion; Alan McCormick, Belvidere; Jerry (Jay) Miller, Centralia; Connie Scott, Winnebago; Donna Mobley, Maywood; Leah Morgan, South Elgin; Noreen P. Rodriguez, Arlington Heights; Hanah Shehaiber, Chicago Ridge; Kenneth Watkins, Maywood; Chris Frasco, (IESA); and Kurt Gibson, Associate Executive Director, (IHSA). Committee Members Lance Emery, Mokena; Scott Maupin, Wilmington; Benny Phillips, Decatur; Summer Riordan, Palatine were unable to attend.

**Recommendations**

1. The committee recommends approving the following grant requests from officials' associations:

Association	Requested Amount	Purpose	Approved Amount
Alliance of Illinois Dance Adjudicators	\$420	Recruiting, Mentoring, Education, and Equipment	\$420
Central Illinois Football Officials Association	\$500	Recruiting, Education, and Equipment	\$425
Charleston/Mattoon Basketball Officials Association	\$500	Equipment	\$250
Decatur Soccer Officials Association	\$500	Equipment	\$500
Game Time Officials	\$500	Education and Equipment	\$500
Illinois Dance Officials Association	\$200	Mentor Program and Education	\$200
IL Soccer Clinics Inc.	\$500	Equipment	\$500
Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association	\$500	Recruiting, Education, and Equipment	\$500
Joliet Football Officials Association	\$285	Mentor Program, Education, and Equipment	\$285
Northern Officials Association	\$150	Equipment	\$150
Northwest Illinois Volleyball Association	\$85	Equipment	\$85
Officials Institute	\$500	Education	\$500
Twin Rivers Officials Association	\$400	Education	\$400
United Suburban Soccer Officials Association	\$500	Equipment	\$500

**RATIONALE:** The IHSA and IESA have partnered for years to make funds available to local officials' associations around the state so that the efforts of associations used in recruiting, training/educating, or mentoring can be supported. Associations can request grants up to \$500. Those approved must turn in receipts for the agreed to purchase(s) prior to June 30, 2024, to receive payment from the IHSA.

## Items of Discussion

1. The committee reviewed the minutes of the committee's April 2023 meeting and the action taken by the IHSA Board of Directors following that meeting.
2. IHSA staff reviewed the function of the committee and the process followed by the IHSA Board of Directors to make change and approve recommendations.
3. The committee heard a report from IHSA staff concerning this summer's Officials Conference.
4. The committee heard a report from IHSA staff regarding officiating licenses already distributed this year. At this point, registration numbers appear to be up year over year from 2022-23, and IHSA will continue to monitor trends as the year continues.
5. The committee heard a report from IHSA staff concerning new initiatives begun this year, including:
  - a. The change in licensing fees for the current year
  - b. The partnerships IHSA has formed with Officially Human and RefReps
  - c. The change in registration for out-of-state officials from bordering states
  - d. The formation of a sub-committee to examine the post-season assigning process; the committee heard that to allow officials an opportunity to offer their insight into this important topic, a portal will be created to allow officials and schools to share ideas.
  - e. The plans for IHSA staff to examine the post-season pay structure to determine what, if any, adjustments shall be made for the 2024-25 school year
6. The committee reviewed grant requests from a number of officials associations, giving thoughtful consideration to each. A list of those grants recommended for approval by the IHSA Board of Directors are listed previously in the recommendation earlier in these minutes.
7. The committee discussed whether there would be any possibility for IHSA to develop a formal relationship/partnership with Hudl that may provide associations with opportunities for greater exposure and use of the platform.
8. The committee discussed at length the importance of association membership for individual officials. The committee discussed multiple benefits that could be provided associations, all done with the intent of improving attendance and participation at the association level. The committee believes this topic needs further consideration, and this topic will be on the agenda when the committee meets again in the spring. Among the ideas discussed by the committee were:
  - a. Allowing associations who meet a specific attendance benchmark have the ability to submit a List of Top Officials.
  - b. Allowing associations who meet a specific attendance benchmark be allowed to identify a person from the association who can make officials' ratings.
  - c. Require officials to be a member of an association and meet attendance benchmarks in order to be eligible for post-season assignments.

9. The committee heard an update from the IESA Associate Executive Director Chris Frasco on sportsmanship efforts being undertaken by the IESA. Among those included increased reporting on social media of positive examples of sportsmanship, the distribution of special 'sportsmanship medals' to students following IESA state series events, and a new penalty structure for ejections that includes, in some cases, fines assessed.