

MINUTES OF THE IHSA GIRLS BADMINTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
May 16, 2024

The IHSA Girls Badminton Advisory Committee met virtually, on Thursday, May 16, 2024, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Kendall Griffin, Athletic Director at Park Ridge (Maine East); Erin Harris, Coach at McHenry; Radhika, Joshi, coach at Vernon Hills; Katie Maley, Coach at Hinsdale (Central); Scott Llorens, coach at Lombard (Glenbard East); and Hannah Walus, coach at Lockport (Twp.). IHSA Assistant Executive Director Stacey Lambert was also in attendance.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Recommendation: IHSA Badminton Code of Conduct: Unsportsmanlike Acts

- Engagement in outside coaching (verbal or non-verbal) during a match..... 1 point team deduction for first offense 2 point team deduction for second offense Disqualification for third offense

Rationale: The committee feels there has been an increase in outside coaching taking place during play. If the high school coaches can't coach during the match, then the club coaches/parents shouldn't be allowed to either. Since there is no way to punish that group, unfortunately the punishment has to fall on the player who engages and takes the coaching.

2. Recommendation: The committee recommends that players be limited to 2 injury timeouts with a total injury time of 15 minutes. The current language is ambiguous and would allow a player to take unlimited timeouts for an unlimited amount of time.

Rationale: The committee feels that this will ensure a match is not delayed unnecessarily or that games aren't being played to allow player rest or additional coaching time.

3. Recommendation: The committee recommends that all sectionals will be played on Thursday, with no hosting options for Friday or Saturday.

Rationale: The committee feels this one solid date will allow coaches to know for sure which players are able to participate prior to the seeding meeting. This should cut down on the need for substitutions and allow hosts to know in advance what day to reserve for their opportunity to host.

4. Recommendation: The committee recommends that all teams must fully complete the LOP and each player's match history. Any coach who does not complete the LOP by the seed meeting will be withdrawn from the state series. A coach or a designated school rep must also attend the sectional seed meeting, if not one attends a school could face removal from the state series.

Rationale: The Committee feels that coaches are now playing games by not filling out their LOP because they don't want to be placed in the draw as a seeded player. This completely eliminates the point of the seeding meeting. In team bracketed sports, when a coach does not complete the season summary they are removed from the state series, badminton would like to follow suit so that coaches fully participate.

5. Recommendation: Casebook The Game 8Q: Can an official step in to officiate without being called? 8A. Yes. The state final tournament has roving officials who are instructed to make calls on serves, lines (if the official is 100% certain), sportsmanship, etc.

9Q: In the event of a line call dispute, what do players do? 9A: The player(s) on the side of the court that the bird landed make the call. Line judges can be called to work the remainder of the match.

Rationale: There was a line call at the state tournament that would have benefited from this clarifying wording. It also would have been helpful to have 9Q & A added no matter how the ruling went. 9Q & A is the USAB wording but putting it in the IHSA casebook makes it easier to reference.

Administrative Recommendations:

1. **Recommendation:** The Committee recommends that on Saturday morning the first 8 matches of singles should be placed on every other court with the outside courts being avoided, followed by the first 8 matches of doubles.

Rationale: The committee recommends using every other court to avoid interference with matches on neighboring courts. They also feel there is a definite advantage on the outside courts which could be avoided by using the middle courts.

2. **Recommendation:** The Committee recommends that officials should fill out forms after every call to a court for a ruling or when they make a ruling on their own.

Rationale: The committee feels this will help produce a paper trail for all officials knowing which players they've already warned, which coaches they've talked to and followed up with after a ruling has been made.

3. **Recommendation:** The committee recommends cleaning up the sectional brackets and a scoring system with points earned per round as well as drop downs for the next match. There is also need for an additional bracket to be drawn for when a sectional has one individual singles player. The 5th/6th place alternate match also needs to be added to the brackets.

Rationale: This will ensure that all sectionals are being scored correctly and that a bracket is available for each host. Stacey is going to send the old brackets to the committee for review.

4. **Recommendation:** The committee recommends that the IHSA clarify which Yonex shuttle is going to be used for the state series. There are multiple speeds that the Yonex ACL30 comes in. The committee recommends using the speed 2 bird.

Rationale: This update will ensure that all coaches know what bird is being used for the post season. Stacey will get this information from Yonex and post it for the coaches. The Committee also recommended contacting distributors to ensure that a good supply of the selected birds are available for schools to purchase.

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The Committee reviewed the 2024 State Finals.
 - a. During the opening ceremony, the girls should be told what the role of the official is, this will help them to mentally prepare and relax if they see an official roving around the field house.

The official's role should also be defined to the coaching during the coaches meeting so that everyone is aware who is responsible for what.

- i. The official's role will also be put in the rules video so that coaches can prepare player for the role officials will take during the state tournament.
 - b. The Committee discussed sending out hosting "rules" information for sectional seed meeting hosts. This will ensure all seed meetings are run the same.
 - c. The Committee discussed how the 5th/6th place matches need to be umpired like the 1st/2nd and 3rd/4th place matches.
 - d. The Committee talked about the food options at DeKalb. Friday was great with the food trucks, they would love it if some of them would also come Saturday.
 - e. The Committee talked about the hotel situation. They wondered if there could be IHSA room blocks or room rate codes. Stacey and Peter will look into that further.
2. The Committee discussed how sectional subs must be on the LOP and there will be no allowance for a sub to come from a doubles team that was broken up to a singles player. A singles player could also not join a doubles team after an injury to a teammate. Once the LOP has been submitted and the sectional seeding meeting has taken place positions are locked.
3. The Committee discussed adjusting the badminton season to a week or two earlier in the school year. They talked about how this would help get badminton post season play away from AP testing, band concerts, proms, and other end of the school year events. They also discussed how facility availability could be an issue with an earlier start. Scott is going to send a survey out to the Coaches through the coaches' association to determine the feel for the badminton community at large. With this being a by-law change, the current earliest time the season adjustment could take place would be the 2025-26 school year.
4. The Committee discussed cross bracketing players in the back draw, but it was determined that the current system is working and any adjustments could cause players to play teammates sooner. The committee did vote on this recommendation but it was a 2-2 split and no further action was taken.
5. The Committee discussed how coaches aren't bringing their Willingness to Host Form or their State Final Games Committee Form to the Sectional Seed Meeting, a reminder will be put in the coaches rules meeting as well as in the information sent out prior to the seed meeting to hosts and coaches.
6. The Committee discussed putting the service rules back in the rules video. Stacey is going to work on that for the 2025 season.
7. The Committee discussed extending the state final draw to 24 seeds to ensure that sectional winners get a seeded position. There was uncertainty what this would look like and how it would impact the draw. No further action was taken without further research.
8. The Committee discussed the sectional groupings and heard how it is done through Policy 18 of the IHSA Handbook.
9. The Committee discussed how coaches join committee, the advisory committee, the state final seeding committee, the state final games committee, etc. Interested parties should email Stacey at the IHSA.
10. The Committee thanks Kendall Griffin and Katie Maley for their years of service.