

Advisory Committee Recommendations
February, 2016, Board Meeting
Consent Items

Boys/Girls Cross Country

1) **VI.-E-1, VII-D and IX-E. State Final Practice**

Recommendation: Add to the cross country terms and conditions the explicit prohibition of unauthorized timed (or untimed) races on the state final course in the days preceding the state final races. Additionally, when meet management declares the course open for practice, only the state qualifiers and coaches whose names appear in the IHSA official List of Participants will be eligible to be on the course. This would include the week leading up to the state finals including Friday and Saturday. The consequence for violating this term and condition will range from placing the offending school, coaches and program on probation, up to the immediate suspension and disqualification of the offending school, coaches and all qualifiers from participation in the current state finals. Final decisions related to the severity of the consequences will be at the discretion of the IHSA Cross Country Administrator. This rule will be in effect for all state series events.

Rationale: IHSA administration, ITCCCA, ITCCOA and many coaches were deeply disturbed by the unauthorized race that occurred at the 2015 state finals. The Open Race that occurred on Friday afternoon was not authorized by IHSA administration and coaches were told at an earlier coaches meeting that no such races were to be conducted. In spite of this directive it is estimated that over 200 athletes participated in the unauthorized race thus placing all legitimate state qualifiers on the course at the time at risk of injury.

There are ample opportunities during the year for coaches to bring their athletes to Detweiller Park to compete in a race and receive a time on this course. The park district has worked with the IHSA to preserve the course through the year which is why there are no longer any sectional races allowed at Detweiller. Following sectionals, the course is intended to be saved for only those that have qualified and earned the right to compete on this historic and revered course at the state finals. It is inappropriate and disrespectful for coaches to place unneeded wear on the course the day before the state finals by bringing their non-qualifiers to race here. As stated earlier, an announcement was made at the 2:00 pm coaches meeting where coaches were formally and respectfully asked to respect the course and the actual qualifiers here at Detweiller that were attempting to get in a safe and unencumbered work out. Coaches were told that no open races had been approved by the IHSA and no such races were to take place. In spite of the formal announcement from IHSA meet officials, the open race occurred anyway. IHSA officials attempted to stop the race and their efforts were disrespectfully ignored by the participants. The safety of legitimate athletes working out on the course during this unauthorized race was jeopardized.

The IHSA must be able to maintain control of the course to guarantee the safety and welfare of those legitimate and authorized athletes that have qualified to participate in this special event. The consequence for coaches allowing their athletes to participate in such an event in the future must be severe. This situation must never again occur in the future. Further, if implementation of this rule fails to solve the problem, and the IHSA fails to receive the complete cooperation from all schools and coaches on this matter, the IHSA will have no option but to close the course until Saturday morning. Clearly, if the IHSA cannot control the course environment then the IHSA cannot afford to open the facility for use by anyone.

2) **VI.-E-2. 2016 State Final Meet**

Recommendation: Allow any certified IHSA Cross Country coach or school official who is on the list of participants to attend the coaches meeting.

Rationale: This language clarifies the existing language in the terms and conditions. The advisory committee determined that any certified coach or school administrator from a member school would be qualified to attend the required coaches meeting. This would allow Principals, Athletic Directors, or Assistant coaches to attend the meeting and meet the requirement of school representation. The committee generally recognizes the importance of having the head coach attend, but believes the option should be made available to each qualifying school.

4) VIII-P: Certified Medical Personnel

Recommendation: It is highly recommended that an Athletic Trainer or other EMS be present at Cross Country meets during the state series.

Rationale: The advisory committee concluded having a trainer or other certified medical personnel on site during the duration of all CC state series events is always a wise decision on meet managements part. Therefore the committee highly recommends the presence of certified medical staff be on-site for all state series meets.

<i>Boys/Girls Golf</i>

1. VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES -- B. COACHING:

Recommendation: For the entire state series, the head coach and one assistant coach will be allowed to coach anywhere on the course until his/her player's golf ball lies on the putting green. Coaches must, however, wait until the last player on the green putts out before communication takes place on the next hole. Coaches must not delay teeing off on the next hole. Both the head coach and the assistant coach must meet the IHSA coaching by-laws and be listed on the school's List of Participants.

Rationale: The committee believes this modest change keeps in line with the intent of the original coaching recommendation of a few years ago. The committee believes coaches have not slowed down play by being able to coach on the course, and making this change will not impact that. This change will also allow coaches of the last player to reach a green on given hole the same opportunity to coach his/her player as the coach of the first player to reach a green.

2. NEW. VI. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND TIME SCHEDULES -- L. ON-COURSE SCORE REPORTER

Recommendation: At all regional and sectional tournaments, a score reporter will be stationed every third hole to facilitate the on-course scoring process. Tournament hosts will be required to find individuals to serve in this capacity.

Rationale: The committee is concerned about the integrity of state series, specifically as it relates to score reporting. In particular, the committee shared stories of players who are believed to have shot considerably improved scores in regional or sectional tournaments as compared to their listed pre-tournament averages. After thoughtful discussion about how to best address this concern, the committee made a recommendation to employ on-course scorer recorders similar to the approach used at the state finals. The committee believes having this kind of system in place throughout the entire state series will develop familiarity for the players and increase their accountability/honesty in reporting scores.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION:

1. **Recommendation:** IHSA staff will create a template for a badge/pass that regional/sectional managers can use to distribute to coaches to wear during tournaments to properly identify themselves.

Rationale: The committee believes that by having coaches wear some kind of identifying mark or badge will eliminate any confusion that currently exists in regards to people speaking with competitors during regional and sectional tournaments. Since current Terms and Conditions language allows coaches to coach players during state series rounds, having a consistent item that coaches can wear will ease the administration of a tournament.

Boys/Girls Volleyball

- 1. Add. Girls: VIII. Tournament Rules -- F. Warm-up Time:
Revise: Boys: VIII. Tournament Rules -- D. Warm-up Time:**

Recommendation: All warm-up apparel (jackets, pants, shirts, shorts, etc.) must be removed by both teams by the conclusion of the 2 minute warm-up period. Warm-up apparel is not required to be worn by a team or to have a number on it.

Rationale: There is a constant battle between officials checking the roster and the teammates wanting to keep their warm-up tops/bottoms on. This recommendation attempts to find a middle ground between the officials checking the roster as part of their pre-match duties and players wanting to wear their warm-up apparel. This recommendation also does not require number to be worn on the warm-up top or bottoms in an attempt to save schools money in printing and purchasing warm up apparel.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION:

1. Provide a team autograph volleyball for the Boys Volleyball Final Four teams as is provided for the Girls Volleyball Final Four teams.

Boys/Girls Tennis

- 1. Recommendation: Article VI. B.1.b. State Final Time Schedule**

All singles and doubles entries shall participate in the first round of competition beginning Thursday, October 22, at 9:00a.m. Discretion is given to tournament the director to begin early if necessary.

Rationale: This will allow for safe drop off and supervision of athletes at sites. This will decrease issues with tardiness due to traffic.

- 2. Recommendation: Article V1.C. State Final Packets**

At the State final tournament, school packets, which include important State Final information, updates, State Final passes and programs may be picked up Wednesday, October 19, between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Rationale: Allowing for an early pick up time allows schools to pick up packets during times that are more convenient for teams.

- 3. Recommendation: VIII.D.5. Time Allotments**

VIII.D.5 will become VIII.D.5.a and add this item as VIII.D.5b "In all 10 point match tie breakers, an on court break not to exceed (3) three minutes shall be permitted.

Rationale: Clarifies the time allowed for breaks during the 10 point match tie breakers. Aligns with USTA rules.

- 4. Recommendation: VIII.D.6. Time Allotment**

Players receive a one-time injury time out not to exceed 15 minutes per injury; the time begins when the trainer or the coach, acting as a trainer (if no trainer is available), arrives on the court to begin assessing or treating the player.

Rationale: Clarifies the time that a player may take for an injury time-out.

Boys Football

1. V. A. 4) Pairings

Recommendation: Eliminate a – e in this section.

Rationale: The change in IHSA Policy 18 allows existing language to determine the host for semi-final games without this section.

Sports Medicine/Play Smart.Play Hard Safety Advisory Council

No Consent Items

Sportsmanship

1. Recommendation: Prior to each sport season, the IHSA office will email all member school Administrators the following information:

Reminder to sign up for Do What's Right! (Before Fall season only)

1. Sample Code of Conduct
2. Outline for pre-season meetings
3. DWR! Expectations
4. DWR! Rubric and explanation of how to use as a benefit to the school
5. SAWA (Sport A Winning Attitude)report form and explanation about how to report positive sportsmanship
6. PSA's to read before contests
7. Promotional video compiled by SAC or Sportsmanship Advisory

Rationale: Ensures that the DWR! Program and Expectations are understood by school personnel, parents and students in an organized manner prior to the start of each season.

2. Recommendation: Send the following information to Officials Associations:

1. DWR! Expectations information
2. DWR! Program information
3. SAWA (Sport A Winning Attitude) report form and explanation about how to report positive sportsmanship
4. A reminder that Special Reports must be submitted within 24 hours of the contest in order to communicate with school administrators.

Rationale: Providing this information will make officials aware of what is expected from member schools and encourage officials to submit SAWA reports more often. This also serves as a reminder that Special Reports need to be submitted online in a timely manner.

3. Recommendation: Post SAWA report on Facebook and Twitter for public recognition

Rationale: To create another opportunity for positive public recognition.

4. Recommendation: Create a DWR! Resource Center that is easily accessible from the homepage. Allows Administrators to download and upload information that other schools can use to enhance programs. i.e Superfan Club; Captains Club; Parent Meeting Information; Code of Conduct Forms; Conference Meeting Organization etc.

Rationale: At the request of Administrators throughout the state, a resource center is created and populated by member school personnel. The Sportsmanship Advisory Committee will review content and Beth Sauser will organize the format prior to posting the submitted documents.

Student Advisory

There Were No Recommendations

Athletes With Disabilities

There Were No Recommendations

Athletic Administrators

There Were No Recommendations

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