

**Advisory Committee Recommendations
February 10, 2020, Board Meeting
Consent Items**

Boys/Girls Cross Country

1. V. B & C Tournament Assignments; VII. B Advancement of Winners

Recommend Adjustments to Language:

V. Tournament Assignments

B. Class 2A Series

A total of ~~fifteen (15)~~ twelve (12) regional meets will be created with three (3) regional meets assigned to a correlated sectional.

There will be ~~five (5)~~ four (4) 2A sectionals.

C. Class 3A Series

A total of ~~fifteen (15)~~ twelve (12) regional meets will be created with three (3) regional meets assigned to a correlated sectional.

There will be ~~five (5)~~ four (4) 3A sectionals.

VII. Advancement of Winners

B. Sectional to State Final:

In Class 1A the first ~~five (5)~~ six (6) placing teams and the first ~~seven (7)~~ ten (10) runners who are not members of the first ~~five (5)~~ six (6) placing teams in each Sectional will advance to the State Final meet. ~~In addition, in the event the 8th, 9th, or 10th place overall individual finisher in the sectional is not on a qualifying team, such 8th, 9th, or 10th place overall finisher in the individual race shall advance from the sectional to the state final meet.~~

In Class 2A and 3A the first seven (7) placing teams and the first ten (10) runners who are not members of the first seven (7) placing teams in each Sectional will advance to the State Final meet.

Rationale: For the last few years, some concerns from the membership have been brought to the attention of the Cross Country Advisory Committee as it pertains to the regional level of competition (especially in classes 2A and 3A). First, the concerns raised were that the regional level was not competitive in various parts of the state. Many coaches and administrators considered the regional level a “pass through” as most (and in some cases, all) of the teams and individuals advanced from the regional to the sectional. The second concern was that in parts of the state, more and more schools were becoming unwilling to host due to a variety of challenges. As a result, for the last couple of years the Cross Country Advisory committee has sought information from the membership to determine the extent of the concerns in order to establish what, if any, recommendations needed to move forward in an attempt to address these issues. The committee determined that changes in the structure of the state series (specifically regionals and sectionals) are warranted, but they felt that the complete elimination of the regionals was too drastic with too many unknowns. They felt that since the issues existed mainly at the 2A and 3A levels, it seemed appropriate to leave the number of 1A regionals and sectionals as it is and reduce the 2A and 3A sectionals from five (5) to four (4). With three (3) regionals feeding into each sectional, this would mean that there would be twelve (12) regionals for each gender in both 2A and 3A. This would increase the average number of teams in each 2A and 3A regional by approximately 3 to 5 teams which would improve the competitive concerns that have been heard by the committee for the past few years. In addition, it would equate to six (6) less regional sites and two (2) less sectional sites which could help ease some of the concerns with securing able and willing hosts. Additionally, with this proposal, the committee thought that an increase in the number of teams and individuals that qualify out of sectionals to the state final meet is justified, and it is also more proportionate to the percentage of schools that make up each class.

Boys/Girls Golf

13. Boys' and Girls' Section VIII. Tournament Rules, L

Recommendation: (current) L. Artificial Devices

L. Artificial Devices: Players are prohibited from playing music with/without headphones, cell phones, artificial devices, or any unusual equipment that might assist a player in making a stroke. Players found using any of the afore-mentioned devices or equipment will be penalized in accordance with USGA rules.

Recommendation: (proposed) L. Artificial Devices

L. Artificial Devices: Players are prohibited from playing music with/without headphones, ~~cell phones~~, artificial devices, or any unusual equipment that might assist a player in making a stroke. Players found using any of the afore-mentioned devices or equipment will be penalized in accordance with USGA rules. The use of cell phones is allowed only in the case of an emergency, or if an event or tournament is using some kind of electronic scoring system that requires the use of a cell phone to enter scoring data.

Rationale: The committee recognizes that new scoring programs are being developed that can assist schools and managers running events or tournaments and allowing for the limited use of cell phones in this capacity would provide an opportunity to use these developing technologies. The committee does not believe allowing the use of cell phones in this manner would not unduly slow play.

Administrative Recommendation

1. **Recommendation:** Adjust the Player Code of Conduct to indicate that the players are responsible for their conduct from the time they step on a golf course property until the time they leave the property. As a result, players could be penalized for behavioral issues before or after their round.

Rationale: The committee believes that players need to be responsible for their conduct and actions throughout the day at a golf event and not just during the actual playing of their round.

Boys Football

2. VIII. H. Qualifications for Playoffs

Recommendation: Delete the sentence that says, “A minimum of eight (8) eleven (11)-man varsity games must be played by the conclusion of the ninth (9th) week of the season in order for a school to be considered for selection to a playoff berth.”

Rationale: Schools are likely going to maximize their varsity schedules by playing nine games. However, in situations where schools want to play fewer games or are forced to play fewer games due to circumstances beyond their control, they can still qualify for the playoffs based on their record and playoff points. Playing fewer than eight (or nine) games puts added pressure on those teams to qualify for the playoffs since they must win a higher percentage of their games and won't receive the benefit of additional playoff points from the week(s) where they have an open date(s) on their schedules.

Boys/Girls Volleyball

2. Revise: II. Dates and Sites A & B

Recommendation: -- Adjust the boys volleyball state final schedule:
REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS: MONDAY WEEK 47
REGIONAL SEMIS: TUESDAY WEEK 47
REGIONAL FINALS: THURSDAY WEEK 47
SECTIONAL SEMIS: SATURDAY WEEK 47
SECTIONAL FINALS: TUESDAY WEEK 48
STATE FINALS: FRIDAY AND SATURDAY OF WEEK 48

Moving the Sectional Semifinal games to the Saturday of Week 47 between with a start time between 12:00-7:00 pm would provide schools the flexibility to schedule matches to avoid conflicts with graduation.

Rationale: -- With the increasing number of boys' volleyball teams in the state of Illinois, there are 3 or 4 play-in games on the regional quarterfinal night. The likelihood of a team having to play for three straight nights in the IHSA tournament has increased. Changing the Regional Final from the Wednesday of Week 47 to the Thursday of Week 47 would eliminate that situation.

The boys' volleyball regionals typically fall during high schools' final exams. The student- athletes are limited in exam preparation time and sleep. It is also beneficial for coaches and student-athletes to have a day between matches to prepare for the next competition.

3. Revise: Girls: VIII. Tournament Rules F. Warm-up Time:

Boys: VIII. Tournament Rules D. Warm-up Time:

Recommendation: All warm-up apparel (jackets, pants, shorts, etc.) must be removed by both teams by the conclusion of the 2-minute warmup period. Warm-up apparel is not required to be worn by a team. If a warm-up top is to be worn for the duration of the warm-up period it must have a number on it, the number must be the corresponding number to the uniform top. Any warm-up top without a number must be removed at the conclusion of the Coaches/ Captains Meeting.

Rationale: Due to the NFHS rule change about roster submission, this will ensure that officials are able to check the roster during the warm-up as directed by the NFHS Rule Book.

Boys/Girls Tennis

2. Item VIII. B. 1. Tournament Rules - State Final Scoring

Recommendation: ~~Regular scoring shall be used in all rounds of state final play (two out of three tie break sets). In round one and round two of the main (championship) draw, regular scoring shall be used with a 3rd set super tie break. This scoring format shall also be used for the 5th/6th medal match.~~

Rationale: By incorporating the 3rd set super tie break method of scoring for the first two rounds of competition, matches can be completed to maintain the tournament schedule. This scoring method is consistent with scoring used through the regular season.

3. Item VIII F. 4. Tournament Rules - Coaching

Recommendation: Coaches may not use electronic communication/coaching devices (i.e., smart phones, smart watches etc.) ~~during a match, on or immediately near, the vicinity of the player's court.~~ while on the court coaching. Electronic devices are prohibited for use by a player or a coach while on the court during a match.

Rationale: Smart watches can provide communication during a match, thus violating the no coaching rule. By adding this language, smart watches worn by a player is covered by the electronic device policy and therefore will not be allowed to be accessed during matches.

ESports

No Recommendations Forwarded

Sports Medicine

1. **Recommendation:** The Committee recommends that a post-season medical checklist go in every sports manual.
Post-season Event Host Medical Checklist
- Is there an EAP for this venue?
 - Is an AED on-site and within proximity guidelines?
 - Identify site contact/coordinator
 - Responsible to ensure EAP is followed.
 - Responsible to monitor heat/weather and make appropriate decisions for the wellbeing of the participants.
 - Meet with team delegate and officials to review prior to contests.
 - On-site medical coverage
 - Will medical personal be on-site for the entire event (recommended to be provided by host school)?
 - Participating teams need to be informed of this coverage, to include personnel credentials (AT, MD, DO, DC, etc.) prior to arrival to assist with decision making of bringing their own medical personnel.
 - Is ice/water/fluids being provided?
 - If not, is their access to ice/water for teams to bring their own coolers?
 - This information needs shared in advance of the event.
 - For teams bringing medical personnel is there a place/table for treatments/taping/evaluations/etc.?

Rationale: The Committee feels that by putting this list in each sports manual it will help the host managers know what they should be prepping for post season events in terms of medical needs.

3. **Recommendation:** The committee recommends that the IHSA use the 2019 PPE form starting with the 2020-21 school year

Rationale: It is routine for the SMAC to review and update the PPE. The 2019 monograph is more detailed in the mental health history section and the cardiac health history section. It is also the new standard for physicians.

Sportsmanship – Do What’s Right

No Recommendations Forwarded

Student Advisory Committee

1. **Recommendation:** The committee recommends the annual Student Advisory Committee retreat be held on August 2 and 3, 2020.

Rationale: During the retreat, members will have time to meet with each other outside of the IHSA office, prepare for the Student Leadership Conference, record PSA’s, attend workshops for growth in leadership skills and public speaking skills, and create a bond to strengthen our committee before the school year begins. The retreat will also serve as the first scheduled meeting for the 2020-21 committee members.

Athletic Administrators

No Recommendations Forwarded.