

Minutes of the Boys/Girls Cross Country Advisory Committee December 5, 2014

The IHSA B/G Cross Country Advisory Committee met at the IHSA office in Bloomington, Illinois, on December 5, 2014, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were Andrew Adelman, Chicago (Jones); Dan Vosnos, Flossmoor (Homewood-F.); Evan Thorpe, Dixon (H.S.); Ryan Bustle, Principal, Champaign (St. Thomas More); Mike Garcia, Springfield (Lanphier); Clint Turner, Mt. Vernon (Twp.); Dave Facker, Coordinator of Officials, East Peoria; Chris Perry, Meet Manager, Peoria; Others in attendance, Matt Grimm, Peoria (H.S.) ; Mark Tacchi and Mike Stokes, (ITCCCA); Jerry Riebling, State Final Scorer; John Polka, Oak Park (Fenwick); Geza Ehrentreu, Rockford; Brien Dunphy, Peoria (H.S.); Kayode Adegoke, IHSA, Coordinator of Special Programs; Ron McGraw, IHSA, Assistant Executive Director.

I. Review topics for discussion submitted by state series hosts and others.

A. Increase the host stipend to help cover timing system costs as well as other costs such as porta-potties. Raise Regionals stipends from \$350.00 to \$700.00 and sectional stipends from \$400.00 to \$800.00. In addition, raise official's stipends from \$35.00 to \$70.00.

Rationale: It is very difficult to even break even with the current host guarantee.

- The committee discussed this item and recommended to increase the host stipend to \$450 per race (\$900.00 total). Mike Garcia made the motion, Andrew Adelman second. Committee approved the proposal 8-0. Host schools at the regional level currently receive a stipend of \$305, sectional stipend is \$365, and official's stipend is currently \$25.

Died For Lack of Motion

B. This is a recommendation to change the current video review process at regional meets. Do not require the referee to review the entire race. Only spot checks at close finishes should be necessary.

Rationale: It takes too long and complete review delays releasing meet results.

- The committee discussed this item and concluded that the accurate placement of all participants during the state series races is a critically important component of the competition. The current video review process requirement, regardless of the time it takes, serves to meet this responsibility of meet officials and meet managers. No action taken.

No Board Action Required

C. Eliminate the 4:00 p.m. coaches meeting on Friday requirement for a coach to attend a coaches meeting on Friday or Saturday at the state final. Highly encourage attendance but no longer require attendance.

Rationale: Such meetings are very informative and an excellent method of communicating race details to coaches but attendance should not be required. Clearly, all coaches would benefit from attending. However, philosophically, the IHSA would not disqualify an athlete whose coach did not attend the meeting, so the requirement is not enforced and should be eliminated. There are very few coaches in attendance at this meeting. It is near dark at this time in the park. Coaches can still attend a meeting Saturday morning.

- The committee discussed this item. Dave Faker motioned to eliminate the 4:00 p.m. meeting on Friday. Chris Perry second. Motion passed 6-2. The 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. meeting will continue to be scheduled.

Approved

D. Require hosts to rent 1 porta potty for each 50 athletes and also consider the demands from spectators.

Rationale: People have to stand in line to use a restroom.

- The committee discussed this recommendation and concluded that the number of porta potties per site was best decided by the local host managers. No action taken.

No Board Action Required

E. Require hosts hire two officials for each regional and sectional.

Rationale: There is enough work that two officials are justified. This is especially true with the required video review process.

- The committee discussed this item. Dave Faker made a motion for a minimum of two officials per site during the state series. Chris Perry second. This recommendation would require each site to have a meet referee and a clerk/starter. The meet referee will earn a \$35 stipend and the clerk/starter would earn a \$25 stipend.

Approved

F. Allow coaches a place in the IHSA School Center to rate timing and scoring companies hired by host schools to time and score state series events.

Rationale: Coaches would desire the opportunity to voice their opinion on this subject.

- The committee discussed this item. No action taken.

No Board Action Required

- G. Change the method of breaking ties in cross-country Rule 9-2 -4 Ties in team scoring shall be resolved by comparing the sixth-place finishers from the tying teams. The team with the best sixth-place finisher shall prevail. If one team does not have a sixth-place finisher, the team with the sixth-place finisher shall prevail.

Change: Ties in team scoring shall be broken by comparing IN ORDER the place finish of each of the five scoring members of the tied teams. The team with the majority of winning comparisons shall be awarded the higher finish.

This is the method that the NCAA adopted in 2013 to break ties. (Section 6 Article 3, d)

Examples - from this year's season

CCL Conference Championships

Teams Loyola	1	5	6	8	9	10
St. Ignatius	2	3	4	7	13	17

The scores are tied. By the present method, Loyola having a lower place finisher for their sixth man, finished first. St. Ignatius is second.

By the proposed method, St. Ignatius would have finished first with score of 3-2. Loyola has a faster 1st and 5th finisher, St. Ignatius, a faster 2-3 & 4 finisher.

Niles West 3A Boys Sectional

Teams York	2	22	36	38	46	60
St. Ignatius	10	13	29	30	63	79

The scores are tied. By the present system, York having a faster 6-place finisher, finished 5th, St. Ignatius with the slower 6th place finisher was 6th.

By the proposed method, St. Ignatius would have finished 5th with a score of 3-2, having faster, 2-3 & 4, finishers.

Rational: The definition of a cross-country is seven runners, with five scoring and two pushing. The present rule favors teams with a large number of runners and penalizes small teams, especially those with only five runners. It allows the sixth man to become a scorer, which is contrary to the team definition. The proposal would also eliminate rule 9-2-5. "If only five competitors of tying teams finish, the tie shall be resolved by totaling the scores of the first four finishers." This rule favors the team with the slowest fifth runner.

➤ The committee discussed this item. No action taken.

No Board Action Required

H. Scoring

In meets using a chip scoring system, an officially designed video or photograph must be used to verify the order of finish in all cases in which the timing system indicates a one-tenth second or less differential.

Rational: The technology of the chip scoring system is not developed to the extent where it can accurately determine the correct place finish of two runners that are within one-tenth of a second.

In the 2013 State Championships in Cross Country there were over 25 reversals using the Lynx system to verify the place finishers.

This rule was adapted by the NCAA. (Section 6, Article 2-b)

➤ The committee discussed this item. No action taken.

No Board Action Required

I. The process/procedures for determining post season meet sites/hosts.

➤ The committee discussed this item. No action taken.

No Board Action Required

J. I would like to throw out an idea regarding individual state qualifiers for this sport. While I understand the need for a high level of achievement to be included in this level of racing, I would like to ask if there could possibly be a time standard that could be met for state qualification rather than just advancing top places.

The reason I ask is due to the very difficult sectional in my area. I have a runner who would have qualified in every other sectional had she ran in another area of the state. But since we compete against the very best runners in the state in our sectional, she consistently comes up short in the "top 7 rule". Her time is better than the top individual advancer in the Edwardsville sectional and she would have been the second and third runner in two of the other races around the state. As you can imagine, this is very frustrating and doesn't seem "equal".

Rationale: If there were "Top 5" individual runners AND a qualifying time standard for sectional runners to seek, I believe you would have a better representation at the state meet in regards to the fastest runners from all over without inflating the number of runners allowed in the race.

This is in line with the state qualifying "times" in place for IHSA track athletes.

- The committee discussed this item. No action taken.

No Board Action Required

K. Coaches' Meeting Schedule at the State Final Meet

- The committee discussed this item. No action taken.

No Board Action Required

II. Review the video review process used for the state series events.

- A. Review the procedures implemented to review video results for state series events including the state finals.

III. Other

- Dave Facker gave a report on the cooperation and conduct of officials, coaches, and athletes at the Cross Country State Finals.