

IHSA BOYS & GIRLS LACROSSE

The IHSA Boys Lacrosse Advisory Committee and IHSA Girls Lacrosse Advisory Committee met jointly for their annual meeting on Tuesday, September 4, 2018. Committee members present from the Boys Lacrosse committee: Justin Georgacakis, Coach at Northbrook (Glenbrook North); Kevin Benages, Coach at Naperville (North); Dan Jones, Athletic Director at Hinsdale (Central). Committee members present from the Girls Lacrosse committee: Pete Collins, Coach at Winnetka (New Trier); Brian McDonald, Athletic Director at Vernon Hills; Kristen Rymarczuk, Official. Matt Troha and Raye McDonald from the IHSA staff were also present for the meeting.

TERMS & CONDITION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. II. Dates & Sites
 - A. Game Sites: Sectional Play-In and Sectional Quarterfinal games will be played at the site of the higher seed. The winners of the eight Sectional sites will advance to the Super-Sectional series, which will consist of four sites selected by the IHSA Office. The Super-Sectional winners shall advance to the state semifinals to be hosted at the State Final site.

Recommendation: Change II. Dates & Sites, A. Game Sites to read:

Sectional Play-In games will be played at the site of the higher seed. Sectional Quarterfinals will be played as doubleheaders at two pre-selected sites within each Sectional (1-8 and 4-5 games at one site, 2-7 and 3-6 at other). Games locations will be changed to give host school a home game. If the two quarterfinal hosts are scheduled to play each other per the seeds, the matchups will be changed.

Rationale: In 2018, Sectional Quarterfinals were played at site of the higher seed. This produced multiple schedule conflicts that the IADA asked to be addressed and also made scheduling officials difficult. This proposal would pre-determine two sites to host Quarterfinal doubleheaders (the Sectional semifinal & final host will be considered). This setup would allow the current Monday-Wednesday-Friday Sectional schedule to remain intact, while limiting the number of officials required to cover the quarterfinals. If passed, it would potentially allow for the second recommendation below (to move the seeding date back one week). The only potential drawback is that if the pre-determined hosts were scheduled to play in the quarterfinals (i.e. #1 and #8 seeds are both hosting, the games would be changed to accommodate both hosting, #1 would host #7 and #8 would host #2 seed), which currently occurs in other team-bracketed sports.

Approved by Consent

2. V. Tournament Assignments and Seeding
 - C. Seeding

Recommendation: Change seeding from Wednesday of Week 44 to Wednesday of Week 45.

Rationale: With unpredictable spring weather impacting scheduling, another week would allow the opportunity for more games to factor into seeding.

Approved by Consent

Discussion

1. The committee heard a report on the inaugural year of lacrosse as an IHSA report from Matt Troha.
2. The committee heard a report on the inaugural IHSA Lacrosse State Finals from Matt Troha, Dan Jones, as well as Kristen Rymarcsuk, Pete Collins and Kevin Benages, who officiated or coached in the event.
3. The committee heard a report from Dan Jones and Matt Troha on changes to the state final schedule on the time lockerrooms will open up and teams will be allowed to access the practice field.
4. The committee discussed the bench arrangements at the State Finals. Some committee members prefer having crowd behind team benches, others prefer being on opposite side. The IHSA will move the team benches to the opposite sideline at the 2019 State Finals (and encourage State Series hosts to do so as well when venues allow). However, the seating behind the team benches may be filled in an overflow situation.
5. The committee heard a report from Dan Jones and Matt Troha on changes to the state final awards ceremony, which will move to the track by the home sidelines.
6. The committee discussed the Sectional setup and if assignments are likely to change this year. Matt informed the committee that they will likely see some changes based on new teams being added.
7. The committee discussed officials, their continued education efforts, recruitment and the pros/cons of two-person and three-person crews.
8. The committee discussed roster limitation of 30 players and whether it was a reasonable cutoff for the majority of programs in the state.
9. The committee discussed the use of unified field. They asked Matt Troha to conduct a survey of current schools on usage, impact and future planning.
10. The committee reviewed the IHSA Lacrosse terms & conditions.
11. The committee reviewed the minutes of the 2017 IHSA Lacrosse meeting minutes.
12. The committee discussed multiple classes in IHSA Lacrosse, which requires 300 teams per IHSA by-laws.
13. The committee discussed online seeding and score reporting.
14. The committee discussed scheduling with the current seeding deadline and if they are adjusting their schedules to get more important games in the seeding window.
15. The committee discussed IHSA representation at Sectional games.
16. The committee discussed the future of the IHSLA and IHSWLA, as well as forming coaches associations for lacrosse.
17. The committee discussed ATC best practices and general best practices of schools hosting State Series contests.
18. The committee discussed the current and former postseason formats.
19. The committee discussed state final t-shirts.
20. The committee discussed US Lacrosse girls' officials ratings and how they might be able to factor into IHSA assigning, especially for three-person games.
21. The committee discussed the timing of stick checks in the boys and girls games.
22. The committee discussed future all-star type games that could be discussed by coaches associations.
23. The committee discussed coops in lacrosse, and at what juncture programs may have to separate.
24. The committee discussed the monetary misconceptions of starting a lacrosse program. Matt Troha will post an FAQ doc on the IHSA website to help address.
25. The committee discussed how to verify out-of-state opponents are ok to play.
26. The committee discussed the general rule changes by NFHS/US Lacrosse over recent years and the mirroring of the college game at the high school level.