

MINUTES OF THE IHSA OFFICIALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 25, 2019

The IHSA Officials Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on Thursday, April 25, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Greg Nelson, Chicago; Nancy Myer, Geneva; Nick Cargola, Elk Grove Village; Rob Zielinski, McHenry; Don Hackler, Ridge Farm; Brad Gooding, Rushville-Industry; Jeff Flater, Galesburg; Somxay Nachampassack, South Beloit; Josh Olsen, Bloomington; Mike Outten, Chicago; Kent Simmons, Bloomington; Rick Karhliker, Springfield; Nicole Schaeftbauer, IESA; Sam Knox, IHSA.

Absent members: Joon Yun, Chicago; Christina Thomas, Abingdon; Courtney Vanderheiden, Chicago; Larry Mueller, Belleville; Nitin Rao, Chicago

The committee accepted the minutes of the September 6, 2018 meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Recommendation:** Update the Officials Handbook language regarding soccer officials' uniforms.
 1. Yellow or black IHSA-approved shirt
 2. Black shorts – Officials may wear black pants in inclement weather.
 3. Black shoes
 4. Black socks with two or three white horizontal stripes
 5. Whistles, yellow card, red card, watch, coin, writing instrument, scorecard
 6. If officials choose to wear a cap, it shall be a solid black cap or a black cap with an IHSA logo.
 7. Soccer officials are allowed to wear a watch as a timekeeping device.
 8. Soccer officials should not wear other jewelry.

Rationale: With a recent change in the IHSA soccer official's jersey, this new language details what soccer officials currently wear.

Approved by Consent

2. **Recommendation:** When an official attempts to earn promotion yet doesn't pass the promotion exam, the IHSA will retain the official's letters of recommendation for one more school year in the event the official wants to attempt to earn promotion the following school year.

Rationale: Currently, when officials don't pass the promotion exam, they must submit new letters of recommendation to attempt to earn promotion in a following school year. Letters of recommendation reflect the opinions of principals, athletic directors, coaches, and fellow officials regarding an official's skills and knowledge of the sport. Those opinions aren't likely to change from one school year to the following school year.

Approved by Consent

3. **Recommendation:** Add language to the Officials Handbook regarding social media guidelines for officials.
1. Consider social media communications as public at all times – even if created with private intentions. If you are going to use social media in any form, consider your communication may be read by anyone at any time.
 2. You represent the officiating industry, your state association, your local association, your assignors, and your partners. Act accordingly.
 3. Promote officiating in a positive light and with a general feeling of pride and professionalism. You are an ambassador for officiating.
 4. You have a unique access to information. The same ethical restrictions that apply to any form of public speech also apply to social media. It is inappropriate to communicate specifics about your assignments, other officials, conferences/schools, coaches, players, or any related personnel.
 5. Do not engage in specific play and/or ruling evaluation/commentary, whether it be of a game you worked, one that you witnessed, or in general about the impact of officials in any sporting event.
 6. Communications among officials for learning purposes should be done privately and not through the use of social media. Be mindful that email and other forms of direct communication can be made public.
 7. Be very sparing in the sharing of your personal information, including photos. Adjust security settings accordingly. Report fake profiles or posts to the appropriate authorities/governing bodies in a timely fashion.
 8. Follow specific conference, school and/or governing body social media policies.

(Adopted from the National Association of Sports Officials.)

Officials who violate these guidelines could face disciplinary consequences detailed in Section I of the IHSA Officials Handbook.

Rationale: Officials frequently use social media to promote the fact that they officiate IHSA contests. This language from the NASO provides guidance regarding appropriate ways officials should use social media.

Approved by Consent

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

1. The committee discussed the IHSA Officials Conference schedule on July 19 & 20.
2. The committee discussed the registration fee increase to register as an IHSA official. The committee learned the rationale for the increase and the benefits that schools, officials, and assignors will receive with the ArbiterSports partnership.
3. The committee discussed a potential apparel agreement with Smitty officials' apparel.
4. The committee discussed reciprocal registrations with neighboring states and the rationale for Illinois not to offer a reciprocal license.

5. The committee discussed proposed language from the Volleyball Advisory Committee that details an increase in contest fees for postseason line judges.
6. The committee discussed the details related to assignors being able to list themselves on their own Top 15/Top 5 lists.
7. The committee discussed situations when officials accept a postseason assignment, and then the site is moved to accommodate a geography-related request from the schools involved in the contest. The committee discussed whether or not an official should be paid when he/she declines the contest because of the site change.
8. The committee discussed an increase in officials' fees for postseason contests that will take effect in the 2019-20 school year.
9. The committee discussed officials recruiting, retention, and mentoring ideas.
10. The committee recognized outgoing committee members.
11. The meeting concluded at 12:50 pm.