

MINUTES OF THE IHSA NEWS MEDIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

August 7, 2013

The IHSA News Media Advisory Committee met in the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, August 7, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Jim Mattson, Sports Director at WHOI-TV in Peoria; Ron Ramos, Publisher at BooneCountySports.com; Scott Richey, Sports Writer at Decatur Herald & Review; Paul Skrbina, Chicago Tribune Prep Sports Editor; Steve Soucie, Sports Editor at The Kankakee Daily Journal. Also in attendance was IHSA Assistant Executive Director Matt Troha. Not present were members Jack Hull, WBBA Radio Pittsfield and Les Winkeler, Carbondale Southern Illinoisan.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. IHSA Basketball State Final Schedule Change

Recommendation: The Media Advisory Committee recommends that the IHSA Girls & Boys Basketball State Final dates be amended based on the future NCAA Tournament schedule to prevent future conflicts between the two tournaments. The Media Advisory Committee asks that the Basketball Advisory Committee consider this proposal at their next meeting.

Rationale: The NCAA Tournament has grown into a cultural phenomenon, with the unfortunate result being that it takes away from attendance and coverage of the IHSA Boys Basketball State Tournaments when the two events coincide with one another, even more so when collegiate teams from the state qualify for the NCAA tournament. The committee understands that, if approved, based on existing contracts, these changes may not be implemented until hosting contracts are renegotiated. Per the table below, the IHSA basketball state finals would be moved forward by one week during the next five years and adjusted accordingly in the future based on the NCAA schedule. Based on differing scheduling elements, the IHSA and NCAA tournaments sometimes miss each other naturally (as they did in 2012-13). The committee also believes that a by-law change shortening the season is not necessary, at least not as it relates to initially enacting this proposal, as there are other IHSA sport seasons that run beyond the IHSA state final event. The committee does not believe this sets a negative scheduling precedent, as only the NCAA Tournament and Super Bowl hold this type of cache in the sporting world. It may also have a health benefit for student-athletes, creating more recovery time for individuals preparing for spring sports, while potentially shortening basketball season, which is one of the IHSA's longest sport seasons.

Year	NCAA 2 nd /3 rd Round	IHSA Conflict (Class & Dates)	IHSA Result
2013-14	March 20-21/22-23	Yes-3A/4A Boys (March 21-22)	4 Basketball tournaments moved up 1 week
2014-15	March 19-20/21-22	Yes-3A/4A Boys (March 20-21)	4 Basketball tournaments moved up 1 week
2015-16	March 17-18/19-20	Yes-3A/4A Boys (March 18-19)	4 Basketball tournaments moved up 1 week
2016-17	March 16-17/18-19	Yes-3A/4A Boys (March 17-18)	4 Basketball tournaments moved up 1 week
2017-18	March 15-16/17-18	Yes-3A/4A Boys (March 16-17)	4 Basketball tournaments moved up 1 week

Died for lack of motion

2. ScoreZone Addition

Recommendation: The committee recommends that text or a link containing information on weather-shortened protocol be added to the ScoreZone for applicable outdoor sports.

Rationale: There are different protocols for each sport on when a weather-shortened game becomes final. Often times, games that are shortened are marked incorrectly on the website. Having this information posted on the site would make it easier for media, parents and fans to determine whether a shortened game is final or will be continued at a later date.

Died for lack of motion

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. The committee welcomed its two new members, Ron Ramos and Steve Soucie.
2. The committee reviewed the minutes of last year's meeting.
3. The committee reviewed and discussed the nominees for the IHSA Media Distinguished Service Award and then voted independently.
4. The committee heard an update on the IHSA General Media Credentials for the 2013-14 school year, which are scheduled to be mailed the week of August 12.
5. The committee discussed the media arrangements for state football at Northern Illinois University in 2013. The committee was informed that, like state boys basketball, the IHSA General Media Credentials will not be good for entry at state football this year given the smaller press box space. All media looking to cover state football must register for credentials.
6. The committee discussed class rotation in several IHSA sports, including the rotation of the IHSA cross country state final races.
7. The committee discussed the start times at the IHSA Boys Basketball State Finals.
8. The committee discussed the audio mic box at the boys' basketball state final press conferences.
9. The committee discussed the awards at the cross country state finals.
10. The committee discussed guidelines for weather-shortened contests during the State Series.
11. The committee discussed start times as they relate to sports that can have State Series conflicts (i.e., softball and track).
12. The committee discussed holding an annual IHSA Media Day at the IHSA offices in early August that would be a chance for media to meet with the IHSA staff, while also combining some professional development sessions and the Media Advisory Committee meeting.