

MINUTES OF THE ATHLETES WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 10, 2016

The IHSA Athletes with Disabilities Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, February 10, 2016, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Monica Burkholder, Lanark (Eastland); Nicole Ebsen, Berwyn-Cicero (Morton); Ed Hoyt, Jacksonville (Illinois School for the Deaf); Jason Ward, South Elgin; Bob Wells, Fairfield; and Jim Wood, Charleston. Also in attendance were Kurt Gibson, IHSA Associate Executive Director; Leslie Alappattu, Illinois Elementary School Association Assistant Executive Director; and guests Laura Bracht, Melissa Donze, Jane Hodgkinson, and Jason Stubbeman. Committee member not in attendance was: William Hook, Chicago (Agricultural Science).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Recommendation:** The committee recommends the association offer state series competitions for students with physical disabilities in boys' and girls' bowling, boys' and girls' swimming and diving, boys' and girls' track and field, and the summer Road Race.

Rationale: The committee believes that these offerings continue to be appropriate events for the association to conduct for students with physical disabilities. Through the previous years of offering programs to member schools, the participation levels of each warrants their continued existence, in the eyes of the committee.

Approved

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee reviewed the minutes of their September 2015 meeting.
2. The committee discussed the accommodation requests submitted to IHSA so far for the current school year and heard a report from IHSA staff regarding the new formalized process for requests.
3. IHSA staff updated the committee on participation in programs for students with disabilities during the current school year, noting the hope that a combined championship will be offered in either boys' Track and Field or girls' Track and Field this spring. The committee also heard plans that the IHSA will again offer a unified bass fishing program this spring. Through the work of Special Olympics, it is expected that eight boats will participate in this year's state finals at Carlyle Lake on May 20-21, 2016.
4. IHSA staff discussed plans and procedures for the up-coming summer Road Race. It is expected that registration for the Road Race will be open to member schools on February 15, 2016. The Road Race will be held in Normal, Illinois, on Saturday, July 30, 2016. There will be an Open Girls' race, an Open Boys' race, and a wheelchair race, and the top five finishers in each race will be awarded medals. Any student who will be attending an IHSA member school in the 2016-17 school year will be eligible for the race.
5. The committee heard a report from Jane Hodgkinson, former director of the Western DuPage Special Recreation Association (WDSRA) and Jason Stubbeman (Adaptive Sports Program

Director at WDSRA) on ambulatory athletics and programs. The committee discussed having Jane and Jason return to their September 2016 meeting to further discuss ambulatory athletes.

6. The committee heard a report from IHSA Staff regarding a Special Olympics Unified Sports Conference recently held in Phoenix, Arizona and attended by IHSA staff.. The committee requested that Special Olympics representatives also be invited to the committee's September 2016 meeting to explain in greater detail unified sports/unified sports programming.
7. The committee discussed developing a resource document that could be provided to member schools regarding disability programs offered by IHSA, and the types of available services for schools to contact when trying to incorporate students with disabilities into their interscholastic programs. The committee discussed including some type of data collection piece to gain greater awareness of the potential number of students interested in athletic participation at member schools. The document would allow athletic directors to provide an over-view to the proper outlet at a school who works with disabled students (counselors, special populations director, etc.) The committee agreed to work on such a document over the remainder of the current school year.