

## MINUTES OF THE IHSA NEWS MEDIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

August 3, 2016

The IHSA News Media Advisory Committee met in the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, August 3, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Aaron Bennett, WCIA-TV in Champaign; Chris Hugo, Withers Broadcasting in Mt. Vernon; Zach Kerker, Channel1450.com in Springfield; Michael O'Brien, Sun-Times in Chicago; Joe Stevenson, Northwest Herald in Crystal Lake; Heather Warthen, 22<sup>nd</sup> Century Media in New Lenox; and Don Werntz, Big Radio in Freeport. Also in attendance was IHSA Assistant Executive Director Matt Troha.

### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:**

#### **1. Boys Basketball – II. Dates and Sites**

**Recommendation:** The committee proposes that the Basketball Advisory Committee consider a recommendation to schedule Boys Basketball Super-Sectional on Monday evenings, as opposed to the current Tuesday scheduling.

**Rationale:** The committee believes that this move, which would mirror the girls' basketball Super-Sectional schedule, would benefit media, fans, coaches and the IHSA. The Class 1A and Class 2A Super-Sectionals currently fall on the same evening as the Class 3A and Class 4A Sectional semifinals. With shrinking staffs, this move would allow media to cover more contests, while also allowing basketball fans to follow programs in their area that may be advancing in both the 1A/2A and 3A/4A tournaments. From a coaching perspective, generally, Super-Sectional opponents are geographically closer than State Final semifinal opponents. Additionally, Sectional teams are generally scouting the Sectional on the opposite side of their bracket. Thus, having an extra day to prepare for the state finals may be more advantageous to the coaches. Finally, the change would provide all involved an extra day to work with should weather force a postponement.

Tabled

#### **2. Girls Volleyball – II. Dates and Sites, C. Class 1A – 4A Super-Sectionals**

**Recommendation:** The committee proposes that IHSA Girls Volleyball coaches be electronically surveyed to see if they support Super-Sectionals remaining on Saturday or being moved to Monday. The results would then be shared with the Volleyball Advisory Committee, who could act based on the results if applicable.

**Rationale:** The Media Advisory Committee submitted a recommendation to the IHSA Volleyball Advisory Committee (below) last year to consider moving the Super-Sectionals from Saturday to Monday. The recommendation received support from Athletic Administrators Committee, but not from the Volleyball Advisory Committee. The Media Committee respects the Volleyball Advisory Committee's vote, but also realizes that the committee only represents a microcosm of the state coaches. Given that not all of the coaches on the committee may have this media situation in their areas, they believe it would be prudent to get a statewide consensus.

*2015 Proposal rationale: The Saturday of Girls Volleyball Super-Sectionals is also the day of the Cross Country State Finals, Boys Soccer State Finals and second round of the IHSA Football Playoffs. Most*

*media sacrifice covering volleyball as a result of the busy schedule. Girls Volleyball is the only IHSA sport that plays Super-Sectionals on Saturdays and, historically, plays shorter contests than sports like basketball who play weeknight Super-Sectionals. Moving these Super-Sectionals to Monday would put volleyball in line with other sports and put the games, student-athletes and sports in the spotlight.*

Tabled

**ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

1. The committee welcomed two new members, Heather Warthen of 22nd Century Media and Joe Stevenson of the Northwest Herald.
2. The committee reviewed and discussed the minutes from the 2015 meeting.
3. The committee heard an update on IHSA General Media Credentials, which are scheduled to be mailed during the week of August 8th.
4. The group heard a report from Matt Troha on the Football State Finals at Huskie Stadium in DeKalb. The venue hosted the football state championships for the second time in 2015.
5. The committee heard a recap on the 2015 IHSA Distinguished Media Service Award winners.
6. The committee discussed and voted on the 2016 IHSA Distinguished Media Service Award nominees.
7. The committee heard a timeline on IHSA Distinguished Media Service Award procedures for the year.
8. The committee discussed the 2016 IHSA Individual Wrestling State Finals, which were the first at the State Farm Center in Champaign since the venue was renovated.
9. The committee discussed the changes to boys and girls basketball state final time schedules. Each session will begin one hour earlier in 2016-17.
10. The committee reviewed the IHSA football and basketball coaching media teleconferences that were held for the first time in 2015-16.
11. The committee discussed the IHSA and its relationship with MaxPreps.
12. The committee reviewed running paperless meets for the state cross country and track & field state finals.
13. The committee heard updates on the new IHSA staff members and their responsibilities.
14. The committee heard updates on two-class tennis.

15. The committee heard updates on the Class 1A Boys Soccer State Finals, which will be held at the Eastside Centre in East Peoria for the first time this fall.
16. The committee discussed including radio broadcast information in any IHSA contacts about state final broadcasts, as well as including on ScoreZone.
17. The committee discussed State Series hosting amenities and responsibilities.
18. The committee asked if schools could include telephone line availability and wifi availability in the IHSA's venue survey and if that information could be shared with media to help plan coverage at unfamiliar venues.
19. The committee discussed baseball and softball State Series start times, and how staggered start times help and hinder media coverage.
20. The committee recognized Aaron Bennett of WCIA-TV (Champaign) and Chris Hugo of Withers Broadcasting (Mt. Vernon) for their service to the committee, as each attended their final meeting.