

# **MINUTES OF THE 2016-17 BOYS/GIRLS BASKETBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**April 25, 2017**

The IHSA Boys' and Girls' Basketball Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on Tuesday, April 25, 2017, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Gary DeCesare, Chicago (St. Rita); Michael Sitter, Elgin (H.S.); Joe Kilbride, Lisle (Benet Academy); Dave Phelps, Mt. Sterling (Brown Co.); Megan McCracken, Rock Island (Alleman), Andy Palmer, Carlyle; and Richard Fisher, Sugar Grove. Also in attendance were IHSA Associate Executive Director Kurt Gibson and Assistant Executive Director Beth Sauser. Members absent were Matthew Shoaff, Bethany (Okaw Valley).

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:**

### **1. Boys and Girls Section VI. C. 1) Tournament Structure and Time Schedule**

**Recommendation:** The committee recommends that all regional schedules include one day off between the semifinal games and the final game.

**Rationale:** This schedule ensures each team has an opportunity to prepare and rest prior to the regional final.

**Died for Lack of Motion**

### **2. Boys and Girls Section V. H. 2.) Pairings**

**Recommendation:** In grouping and seeding a Sub-Sectional complex, the top four seeds shall be separated. True seeds shall then be used to populate the bracket except in cases where a conflict arises with pre-determined Regional hosts.

**Rationale:** This change will allow true seeds to be used and travel will not significantly increase travel for majority of teams.

**Died for Lack of Motion**

### **3. Boys and Girls Section VI. H. 4.) State Final Tournaments Final Sessions**

**Recommendation:** The committee recommends that all 3<sup>rd</sup> place games are played during the first session on Saturday and both Championship games are played during the evening session on Saturday.

**Rationale:** To increase attendance for the championship games and increase TV viewership.

**Died for Lack of Motion**

## **THREE POINT SHOWDOWN TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**None forwarded**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

### **1. State Adoptions**

**Recommendations:** The committee recommends the adoption of the following rules for the 2017-18 season:

- a. Mercy Rule: used only in regular season tournaments with no changes to the provisions of its use.
- b. 14' Coaches Box

**Rationale:** These state adoptions are allowed for in accordance with the NFHS Basketball Rules Book.

**Approved**

### **2. Officials Handbook**

**Recommendations:** The committee recommends to add a #8 on page \_\_\_ of the Officials Handbook:

8. Officials do not have a limit to the total number of appearances at a state final in any sport.

**Rationale:** Coaches want the best officials working their State Final game. More officials may continue working high school games if they know there are more opportunities for them to work at the Finals. The committee wishes to generate discussion across all sports by moving this recommendation forward.

**Died for Lack of Motion**

### **3. Awards Ceremony**

**Recommendations:** The committee recommends to conduct the 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place awards ceremonies after the Championship game in each Saturday session.

**Rationale:** All halftimes at the State Finals are 12 minutes long vs 10 minutes for every other game during the season. Currently, the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> place award ceremony is held at half time of the Championship game. This causes the half time of the most important game of the season to last at least 23 minutes before the championship teams may begin the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Hosting all four award ceremonies after the championship game: 1) allows teams to have a regular half time, 2) allows fans to watch all the games in the session to completion, 3) allows the media to interview the first and second place games immediately, and 4) allows the players and coaches more than a few minutes to compose themselves. (Girls Volleyball has implemented this practice with success)

**Approved**

### **4. Post Tournament Coach and Official Survey**

**Recommendations:** Create a host site feedback form for coaches and officials to complete after the tournament.

**Rationale:** This form will help make sure that host sites meet the NFHS rules and IHSA expectations of a state series host.

**Approved**

## ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. The committee reviewed the minutes of 2016 advisory committee meeting.
2. The committee reviewed the new IHSA By-laws that will go into effect next year. The committee discussed the benefits of changing the by-law to a flat game season limitation vs. the current tournament/regular season game limitation. Another suggested by-law change is to move the start of the girls and boys season to Saturday from Monday so tryouts can be held all day when there is flexibility in scheduling. The extra time will give kids an opportunity to a fair tryout especially when gym time is in high demand during the day.
3. The committee discussed to modify the seed meeting criteria:
  - A. To remove the strength of schedule wording from the seeding criteria.
  - B. Keep "you should not consider conference affiliation"
  - C. The Season Summary Form comment section should be used for coaches to comment on their team. Example: point out head-to-head wins; comment on where you think your team should be seeded, injury considerations, etc. This area is **not** for coaches to seed or rank other teams in their Sectional or Sub-Sectional.
4. The committee discussed the need to remind state series host schools that they are neutral sites during the state series. Assignment of locker rooms and bench introduction protocol should be consistent for all teams through the series. The host site team has an opportunity to play on their home court but should treat all teams as if it is a neutral site.
5. The committee discussed the use of Sub-Sectionals, particularly in 3A/4A. The committee reviewed various pieces of correspondence that were received by IHSA staff during the season. Committee members were encouraged to reach out to IHSA staff or Board of Directors if they have concerns or questions about the assigning policy and the use of Sectionals and Sub-Sectionals.
6. The committee discussed the Sectionals and Sub-Sectionals and the assignment of teams as follows:
  - A. Discussed how teams are placed in Sub-Sectional after seeds #1-4 have been separated.
  - B. Are Sub-Sectional teams able to be assigned to sites based on true seeds?
  - C. In Sub-Sectionals, is there a way to identify excessive travel? If yes, then adjust the assignments from true seeds if excessive travel occurs.
  - D. Discussed how Class 3/4A Sub-Sectionals are created.
7. The committee reviewed a correspondence that requested having the higher seed host Regional quarterfinals instead of the pre-assigned host school. Members expressed concerns regarding the short preparation time of five days to obtain volunteers, rescheduling any previous planned community activities or school practices especially from buildings with only one gym. After a lengthy discussion, the committee thought it best to keep the conduct the games at the pre-determined sites.
8. The committee reviewed the NFHS rule proposals. If the proposal allowing each state to adopt the use of a shot clock passes, the committee asked to reconvene to discuss the next step is surveying the IHSA membership regarding its use.
9. The committee discussed their concerns about not seeing officials at their regular season contests because an official did not attend their assigners preferred clinic.
10. The committee reviewed the News Media Advisory recommendation to schedule the Boys Super-Sectional games to Monday evenings, as opposed to the current Tuesday scheduling. The members were not in favor of moving the game day to Monday since teams will lack adequate prep time after the Sectional ends.
11. The committee discussed different ideas of reformatting the tournament to increase fan attendance. The committee acknowledge there are other activities and commitments that deter fans from attending games.

Coaches have observed during the regular season that home games will draw more fans than away games. Even if the away games are short distance from school fans do not travel and follow teams as seen in the past. Some ideas expressed to increase attendance are:

- A. Host four championship games in one day.
  - B. Reorganize the tournament so each class of the Boys and Girls tournaments play on the same weekend over the four weeks.
  - C. Eliminate the Super-Sectional level and bring eight teams in each class to state with the games beginning with quarterfinals on Thursday, semifinals on Friday, and third place and championship games on Saturday.
  - D. Combine boys state final weekends with the current girls state final weekends so the boys tournament does not compete with college tournament games.
  - E. Regionalize the Super-Sectional level to make the atmosphere a "mini state" and only bring four teams to state creating a Saturday State Final Championship game lineup. i.e. Boys 1A, Girls 1A, Boys 2A and Girls 2A.
12. The committee discussed the positive and negatives of having schools serve as permanent Sectional hosts.
  13. Advisory Committee term expiration: David Phelps
  14. Next Meeting Date - Tuesday, April 24, 2018