

**Minutes of the Athletes with Disabilities Advisory Committee
September 20, 2017**

The IHSA Athletes with Disabilities Advisory Committee met in the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, September 20, 2017. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. and concluded at approximately Noon. Voting Committee members present were: Brian Hofman, A.D. at Chicago (Lane); Dave Stephens, Principal, Plainfield (Central); Jenette Fruit, Principal, Earlville; Bruce Weiman, Official, Arthur; Ed Hoyt, A.D., Jacksonville (I.S.D.); Jill Jung, Principal, Freeburg. Other guests and non-voting members were: Melissa Donze, Sign Language Interpreter; Emily Hartzell, Sign Language Interpreter; Leslie Alappattu, IESA Assistant Director; Kraig Garber; IHSA Asst. Executive Director.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

No Recommendations were made at this time.

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

The committee had the opportunity to view all items submitted to Kraig Garber. Listed below are the topics that received discussion from members of the committee.

1. The committee reviewed the minutes of their February 2017 meeting.
2. There was a discussion about communication with schools and/or the availability of information regarding Athletes with Disabilities programs. The following suggestions were provided by members of the committee:
 - a. It was suggested that in the drop down on the website for sports and activities for athletes with disabilities, the disability programs in Swimming, Bowling, and Track and Field be listed separately and maintain their own page like the other sports and activities listed there. This could be a hub of information for those schools who have athletes who qualify to compete in the disabled division in these sports.
 - b. It was also suggested that principals, ADs, and coaches are familiar and accustomed to going to Schools Center for information. This could be an ideal location to include important information and announcements pertaining to AWD.
 - c. It was mentioned that general email outreach to principals, ADs, and/or coaches when each program with a disabled division is in season would serve as an effective way to get essential information out to schools.
3. IHSA staff provided an overview of the June 3, 2017 Road Race. It was mentioned that the race would occur on the corresponding date in 2018, and was being planned for the same location. Conversation on the topic largely revolved around how to achieve more participation in the race. Members of the committee made the following suggestions:
 - a. Reach out to ITCCCA (Illinois Track and Cross Country Coaches Association) and ask that they promote the race.
 - b. It was suggested that conducting a race in more than one location could draw more interest because travel impacts the race due to its current single location. The committee also discussed the challenges with planning for multiple sites. Ideas to offset some of the challenges included reaching out to conferences and schools to become a site for the race. These conferences/schools could provide human resources and help defray costs for the event.
 - c. It was also mentioned that this event could be promoted through conferences and incentives could be provided to the conference that had the most competitors participate in the race or who had the highest number of top placers, etc.
 - d. There was discussion about sending a flier out with the rules book mailings or other mass mailings.
 - e. Initiate a different kind of information or a different audience to target Athletes with Disabilities (i.e. get information to special ed. Director/Dept. Chair, etc.).
 - f. Send information to relevant organizations outside of the IHSA (i.e. USATF, Centers for Independent Living, etc.)
4. IHSA Staff provided updates on Unified Sports. There was discussion regarding Unified Sports that are currently offered (Unified Basketball and Unified Bass Fishing) through the partnership between the IHSA and Special Olympics. There was also discussion about other possibilities for Unified Sports. Among those mentioned were Unified Track and Field, Unified Swimming, and Unified Dance. Since Unified Dance is not a Special Olympics event, it would have to be initiated as such by Special Olympics before it could be among the Unified Sports offered. A committee member expressed that establishing events that involve competition for special needs students in conjunction with an able-bodied sporting event can really generate support for these programs especially when the able-bodied high school athletes/students help conduct the event. The example given was holding track events for disabled students prior to an able-bodied invitational meet.
5. There was discussion about opening a classification C in the Swimming State Series for students with intellectual disabilities formally classified by IPC Classification Standards as S14. The discussion resulted in a need to seek more information from the swimming community in their respective divisions. Members of the committee also expressed a desire to know more about the classifications and how they are determined. It was suggested that this would be good information to include on the respective sport's webpage on the IHSA

website. More discussion with the possibility of submitting a proposal regarding establishing a Classification C for the Swimming State Series will occur at the February meeting. This topic will also be taken to the Swimming and Diving Advisory Committee in April.

6. It was suggested that the rules in those sports that have a disability division be provided to officials of those sports through a training or clinic.
7. There was a question as to whether there were restrictions for disabled students in other sports that have separate divisions for Athletes with Disabilities other than swimming. IHSA staff explained that both track and field and bowling are limited to disabled wheelchair athletes.