

MINUTES OF THE IHSA NEWS MEDIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

August 15, 2018

The IHSA News Media Advisory Committee met via conference call on Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Mike Clark, Chicago Tribune; Darren Kinnard, WSIL TV in Carbondale; Derek Parris, Channel1450.com in Springfield; Joe Stevenson, Northwest Herald in Crystal Lake; Heather Warthen, 22nd Century Media in New Lenox; and Kirk Wessler, Peoria Journal Star. Also participating in the call was IHSA Assistant Executive Director Matt Troha.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

No policy recommendations

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee welcomed three new members: Mike Clark of the Chicago Tribune, Derek Parris of Channel1450.com in Springfield, and Kirk Wessler of the Peoria Journal Star.
2. The committee reviewed and discussed the minutes from the 2017 meeting.
3. The committee heard an update on IHSA General Media Credentials, which were mailed to statewide media during the week of August 5th.
4. The committee heard a recap on the 2017-18 IHSA Distinguished Media Service Award winners.
5. The committee discussed and voted on the 2018-19 IHSA Distinguished Media Service Award nominees.
6. The committee heard a timeline on IHSA Distinguished Media Service Award procedures for the year.
7. The committee heard a review on new items from 2017-18, including the inaugural IHSA Boys & Girls Lacrosse State Finals and the first Boys Gymnastics State Finals held at Hoffman Estates High School.
8. The committee heard a review of new changes that may impact media this coming school year.
9. The committee discussed the location of press conferences at IHSA State Football in Champaign. The committee agreed that the current location in the press box remains the best option.
10. The committee discussed the time schedule for the Individual Wrestling State Finals as the tournament shifts to a true wrestleback format this year.
11. The committee discussed allowing greater access to media at the Individual Wrestling State Finals. Prior to the State Farm Center renovations, all wrestlers had to exit the floor via the tunnel, which allowed for media to secure interviews from the designated media area.

12. Committee discussed postgame basketball interviews and the moving of 3rd and 4th place awards to after the state championship game in that class.

13. The committee discussed moving the IHSA Boys Basketball post-game press conferences to an adjacent room.

14. The committee discussed allotting more time to talk one-on-one with coaches and players following the press conference at the IHSA Boys Basketball state finals.

15. The committee discussed live stats at the boys basketball state finals.

16. The committee discussed floor access at the conclusion of the Team Wrestling State Finals.

17. The committee discussed postseason sites that do not allow or unable to provide access to wifi internet for media.

18. The committee asked about the availability of hard copy stats at the conclusion of the state swimming & diving, and track & field state finals.

19. The committee discussed wifi at offsite football fields and rural schools and brainstormed ways the IHSA may be able to help address via sponsorship or funding.

20. The committee heard a report on the Class 3A/4A Baseball State Finals and allocating more time for media to work following the final game of each night.

21. Committee members reported issues with wifi at state track & field and class 3A/4A baseball this past year.

22. The committee discussed the awards format at state softball and its impact on photographers. Given that the current format has been in place for nearly three decades with few issues, the committee felt that no recommendations for changes were necessary.

23. Committee members commended IHSA Softball administrator Tracie Henry on her communication of schedule changes at the 2018 IHSA Class 1A/2A Softball State Finals.