

MINUTES OF THE ATHLETES WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
April 21, 2015

The IHSA Athletes with Disabilities Advisory Committee met via conference call, on Tuesday, April 21, 2015, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Committee members present were: Monica Burkholder, Lanark (Eastland); William Hook, Chicago (Agricultural Science); Jim Raabe, Jacksonville (Illinois School for the Visually Impaired); Bob Wells, Fairfield; and Perry Wilhelm, Mundelein (H.S.). Also in attendance was Kurt Gibson, IHSA Associate Executive Director. Committee members not in attendance were: Nicole Ebsen, Berwyn-Cicero (Morton); and Greg Hall, Urbana (H.S.).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

Girls/Boys Swimming and Diving - I. SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION

Recommendation: The committee recommends the association change the process for schools to provide a swimmer's classification for students with physical/visual disabilities to the IHSA. See recommended changes below.

Student athletes with physical/visual disabilities (or any adult acting on their behalf, e.g., a coach, parent, or guardian) are required to provide their school with a written statement of their classification, for purposes of the 2015-2016 IHSA swimming and diving championship series, by any of the following means at the time of registration for the 2015-2016 swimming season:

- a. Provide an official WASUSA classification card or other evidence demonstrating the athlete's classification category; or
- b. ~~Provide a written statement, completed and signed by high school coach, physical therapist, family physician or other health care practitioner, or adaptive sports program employee, indicating classification category of the student athlete.~~
- c. If a student athlete with a physical/visual disability is not classified as detailed above by the time of the Sectional meet, ~~the athlete shall be able to complete a written statement of classification before participating at the meet with assistance from a coach, parent, or school administrator. If they are unable to provide this,~~ the athlete will still be allowed to swim in the athletes with physical/visual disabilities division but will automatically be classified to swim under Classification B.

Rationale: Given the growth of the swimming program for students with disabilities and the access to classifiers, the committee believes this is the appropriate time to alter the T/C's to require all competitors to be formally classified. In the unlikely event a student can't be classified, this recommendation will still allow the competitor to participate in the event(s) in Classification B.

Approved

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee reviewed a draft of a future IHSA webinar on programs offered by the association for students with disabilities, as well as the association's Accommodation Policy and Request Form. It is expected that the webinar will be held, at the latest, at the beginning of the 2015-16 school term.