

MINUTES OF THE ATHLETES WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 8, 2017

The IHSA Athletes with Disabilities Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, February 8, 2017, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Monica Burkholder, Lanark (Eastland); Nicole Ebsen, Berwyn-Cicero (Morton); Brian Hofman, Chicago (Lane); Ed Hoyt, Jacksonville (Illinois School for the Deaf); Jason Ward, South Elgin; Bob Wells, Fairfield; and Jim Wood, Charleston. Also in attendance were Kurt Gibson, IHSA Associate Executive Director; Leslie Alappattu, Illinois Elementary School Association Assistant Executive Director; and guests Emily Hartzell, Interpreter; and Lynne Poindexter, Interpreter.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Girls/Boys Swimming and Diving - I. SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION

Recommendation: The committee recommends a third division (Classification C) for students with intellectual impairments to be added to the boys' and girls' swimming state series for students with disabilities.

Competition in the IHSA Girls & Boys Swimming and Diving Tournament Series will be held for all member schools without classification. Students with physical/visual disabilities will compete in girls' or boys' swimming against other students with physical disabilities regardless of school classification. A disability is a physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity.

Students with physical/visual disabilities wishing to participate in the girls' or boys' swimming events for students with physical/visual disabilities must have a statement of disability on file with appropriate personnel responsible for student health issues at the student's school. The IHSA reserves the right to request this documentation as part of the entry process.

Competitors with physical/visual disabilities will be categorized into one of ~~two~~ **three** classifications based on U16/18 standards developed by Wheelchair and Ambulatory Sports USA (WASUSA).

Competitors who are classified as S1-S7 shall participate in Classification A.

Competitors who are classified as S8-S13 shall participate in Classification B.

Competitors who are classified as S14 shall participate in Classification C.

Student athletes with 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 ~~2016-2017~~ **2017-2018** IHSA swimming and diving championship series, by any of the following means at the time of registration for the ~~2016-2017~~ **2017-2018** swimming season:

a. Provide an official WASUSA classification card or other evidence demonstrating the athlete's classification category; or,

b. If a student athlete with a disability is not classified as detailed above by the time of the Sectional meet, the athlete will still be allowed to swim in the athletes with disabilities division but will automatically be classified to swim under Classification B.

Rationale: S14 swimmers have an intellectual impairment, which typically leads to the athletes having difficulties with regards to pattern recognition, sequencing, and memory, or having a

slower reaction time, which impact on sport performance in general. Moreover, S14 swimmers show a higher number of strokes relative to their speed than able-bodied elite swimmers. The committee believes all athletes with disabilities, not just the athletes with physical disabilities, should be allowed to participate in the swimming state series.

Died for Lack of Motion

2. Girls/Boys Bowling - V. TOURNAMENT ASSIGNMENTS, E. Regional/Sectional Tournament Structure:

Recommendation: The committee recommends having participants in both the boys' and girls' Wheelchair Bowling Division qualify for the state finals by bowling at the regional, not sectional, level.

- 1) Assignment of schools to the regional tournaments will be made based on IHSA Policy.
- 2) Each school entering individuals in the Bowling Chair competition shall be assigned to one of the ~~sectional~~ **regional** tournaments.
- 3) The regional/sectional manager shall start no earlier than 9:00 am. Coaches' meeting shall start no earlier than 8:30 am and no later than 1:00 pm.
- 4) Regional/Sectional tournaments will consist of two (2) rounds of competition. All teams entered in the regionals or sectionals will bowl both rounds. A round shall consist of a three (3) game series. In the Bowling Chair Class, competition will consist of a two (2) game series.
- 5) All bowling balls used in the series must adhere to Interscholastic High School Bowling Rules.

Rationale: Since all competitors begin at the regional level, it seems appropriate to have the participants in the bowling chair class also compete at this level. At the point and time entry numbers warrant having the participants compete at the regional and sectional levels in order to advance to the state finals, these Terms and Conditions can be modified to reflect such. This recommendation just requests the one qualifying round for the bowling chair class occur at the regional level.

Approved

3. Girls/Boys Bowling - V. TOURNAMENT ASSIGNMENTS, F. State Final Tournament Structure:

Recommendation: The committee recommends modifying the qualification language to the state finals for participants in both the boys' and girls' Wheelchair Bowling Division to reflect the qualifying round of competition will be held and the regional, not sectional, level.

- 1) Boys: At each sectional competition, the top seven (7) individuals who are not a part of a qualifying team shall advance to the state meet.

2) Girls: At each sectional competition, the top five (5) individuals who are not a part of a qualifying team shall advance to the state meet.

3) Bowling Chair Class: At each ~~sectional~~ **regional** competition in the Bowling Chair Class, the top two (2) individuals shall advance to the state meet.

Rationale: Since all competitors begin at the regional level, it seems appropriate to have the participants in the bowling chair class also compete at this level. At the point and time entry numbers warrant having the participants compete at the regional and sectional levels in order to advance to the state finals, these Terms and Conditions can be modified to reflect such. This recommendation just requests the one qualifying round for the bowling chair class occur at the regional level.

Approved

4. **Girls/Boys Bowling - V. TOURNAMENT ASSIGNMENTS, E. Regional/Sectional Tournament Structure:**

Recommendation: The committee recommends having participants in both the boys' and girls' Wheelchair Bowling Division qualify for the state finals by bowling a three, not two, game series.

1) Assignment of schools to the regional tournaments will be made based on IHSA Policy.

2) Each school entering individuals in the Bowling Chair competition shall be assigned to one of the sectional tournaments.

3) The regional/sectional manager shall start no earlier than 9:00 am. Coaches' meeting shall start no earlier than 8:30 am and no later than 1:00 pm.

4) Regional/Sectional tournaments will consist of two (2) rounds of competition. All teams entered in the regionals or sectionals will bowl both rounds. A round shall consist of a three (3) game series. In the Bowling Chair Class, competition will consist of a ~~two (2)~~ **three (3)** game series.

5) All bowling balls used in the series must adhere to Interscholastic High School Bowling Rules.

Rationale: Since a round of competition in the state series consists of a three (3) game series, it seems to make sense to have the participants in the bowling chair class bowl a complete round as a part of their competition. It has not proven to be too time-consuming to have those competitors set up and complete their games in a timely manner so adding an additional game will not be burdensome for participants or tournament managers.

Approved

5. **Girls/Boys Bowling - VII. ADVANCEMENT OF WINNERS, E. Sectional Individual Advancement:**

Recommendation: The committee recommends having participants in both the boys' and girls' Wheelchair Bowling Division bowl a three, not two, game series at the state finals.

1) The state final tournament will consist of four (4) rounds of competition. A round shall be a three game series. In the Bowling Chair Class, competition will consist of a ~~two (2)~~ **three (3)** game series.

2) The state series tournaments will recognize team honors and individual honors. In the Bowling Chair Class, the state series tournaments will recognize individual honors.

3) Teams and individuals will qualify to advance from Friday's rounds to Saturday's rounds.

Rationale: Since a round of competition in the state series consists of a three (3) game series, it seems to make sense to have the participants in the bowling chair class bowl a complete round as a part of their competition. It has not proven to be too time-consuming to have those competitors set up and complete their games in a timely manner so adding an additional game will not be burdensome for participants or tournament managers.

Approved

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee reviewed the minutes of their September 2016 meeting.
2. The committee reviewed the process member schools follow to request an accommodation for a student. As a part of that discussion, the committee also heard a report from IESA staff regarding the IESA and the process their organization follows in granting accommodations. In addition to the efforts already taken by the IHSA to publicize or 'promote' the process for requesting an accommodation, the committee suggested that the IHSA consider other ways to 'promote' this process. Those suggestions included:
 - a) Adding some kind of link in the Schools Center for coaches to access pertinent information in the sports currently offered (swimming, track and field, and bowling).
 - b) Reaching out to the various conferences reminding them of programs and process. In a conference document, the committee suggested making sure a conference knew IHSA staff would be willing to come and present to a conference about programming options.
3. The committee heard a report from IHSA staff on the number of students who have participated in IHSA state series programs for students with disabilities through the winter season.
4. The committee heard a report from IHSA staff on plans for the Road Race that is expected to be conducted in the spring of 2017. In discussing the potential Road Race, the committee suggested a series of ideas for consideration in the future that included:
 - a) Creating a connection with Special Olympics
 - b) Offering some type of reimbursement for schools who bring athletes
 - c) Allowing conferences to sign up in lieu of schools
 - d) Finding sponsors to offset costs associated with conducting such an event
 - e) Creating regional based races in lieu of one single race

f) Holding a race in the fall and modifying current IHSA by-laws to allow cross country runners the chance to participate in the event

5. The committee heard a report from IHSA staff on plans for the Unified Basketball Tournament that will be held through a partnership between IHSA and Special Olympics Illinois in Peoria in conjunction with the IHSA Boys' Basketball Class 3A/4A state finals.
6. The committee had considerable and thoughtful discussion on opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities. A recommendation to expand boys' and girls' swimming was approved (see Recommendation #1 above). The committee discussed recommending all participants entered in the swimming state series for students with disabilities be required to have a formal classification as a part of the entry process but made no recommendation at this time on that matter. The committee will make this a part of their agenda for their September meeting and asked IHSA staff to research what the process entails for classification of S14 students.
7. The committee thanked outgoing committee members Burkholder, Ebsen, and Wells for their service.