

**Minutes of the Athletes with Disabilities Advisory Committee
February 7, 2018**

The IHSA Athletes with Disabilities Advisory Committee met in the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, February 7, 2018. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. and concluded at approximately 1:00p.m. Voting Committee members present were: Jenette Fruit, Principal, Earlville; Bruce Weiman, Official, Arthur; Ed Hoyt, A.D., Jacksonville (I.S.D.). Other guests and non-voting members were: Lynn Poindexter, Sign Language Interpreter; Cali Habegger, Sign Language Interpreter; Leslie Alappattu, IESA Asst. Director; Kraig Garber, IHSA Asst. Executive Director.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

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/**intellectual** disabilities will compete in girls' or boys' swimming against other students with physical/**visual/intellectual** disabilities regardless of school classification. A disability is a physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity.

Students with physical/visual/**intellectual** disabilities wishing to participate in the girls' or boys' swimming events for students with physical/visual/**intellectual** 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/**intellectual** 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 ~~2017-2018~~ **2018-2019** IHSA swimming and diving championship series, by any of the following means at the time of registration for the ~~2017-2018~~ **2018-2019** 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 **physical or visual** 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. **If a student athlete with an intellectual disability (as defined by Paralympic standards) 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 C.**

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

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 September 2017 meeting.
2. IHSA administrator, Kraig Garber, provided a summary of the fall participation in the disabled division for Girls Swimming.
3. At the September meeting, the committee expressed a desire to improve communication and information about the IHSA programs offered to athletes with disabilities. IHSA administrator, Kraig Garber, unveiled a new addition to the IHSA website that will help accomplish this request. In addition, Schools Center will be utilized to convey reminders and information to coaches and administrators in regard to IHSA programs for athletes with disabilities.
4. IHSA coordinator of special programs, Raye McDonald, introduced herself to the committee, and informed them that she would be coordinating the IHSA Road Race. She provided an update as to the status of her planning of the June 2 race. Raye indicated that she would like to engage the Illinois Track and Cross Country Coaches Association in an effort to increase participation. In addition, it was mentioned that a link to the Road Race webpage be included on the Athletes with Disabilities webpage. Raye informed the committee that she would like to create a frequently asked questions document to include on the Road Race webpage.
5. IHSA administrator, Kraig Garber, provided updates on Unified Basketball. In addition, the potential for Unified Track and Field State Series was also discussed. IHSA administrator, Tracie Henry, shared information about a plan to incorporate Unified Dance into the IHSA State Series for Dance in the 2018-2019 school year. This plan would not require adjustments in any way to the IHSA Terms and Conditions for Dance.
6. At the September meeting, the committee expressed a desire to know more about the process for achieving a Paralympic Classification in swimming. They also expressed a desire to know more about the classification descriptors. Glen O'Sullivan of the Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association (GLASA) was phoned into the meeting. He provided some information regarding this process and answered committee member questions.

7. The committee discussed a proposal to establish coaches' education requirements for schools with high percentages of diverse learners. The committee did not take action on this proposal as it falls in the category of a By-law proposal that needs to go through the By-law adoption process. In addition, a committee member expressed that it would be difficult to create a program that addressed how to meet the needs of the wide-ranging types of diverse learners. It was suggested that IHSA staff could provide outside resources during the Annual New Administrators Workshop that could serve as educational tools for administrators and coaches in this regard.