

Minutes of the 2024 IHSA Boys/Girls Water Polo Advisory Committee Meeting
June 4, 2024

The IHSA Boys/Girls Water Polo Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, June 4, 2024 in Oak Brook beginning at 10:00 am. Committee Members present were Angelo Espinoza, Chicago (Whitney Young); Megan Brownley, Arlington Heights (Hersey); Jim Richter, St. Charles (East); Joe Kamper, Joliet (Official); Lindsey Nissen, Palos Heights (Shepard); Amy Frey, Riverside (Riverside-Brookfield) and IHSA Asst. Executive Director Beth Sauser.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Item VI. A. 1) Playing Schedules (Boys and Girls)

Recommendation: Return to the 2019 Sectional Schedule format, where all Sectional contests are played Monday to Saturday of Week 45. Preliminary games are played on Monday or Tuesday. Four Semifinal contests are played on Wednesday, and four Semifinal contests are played on Thursday. Both Boys' and Girls' Semifinals are played on Friday, and the respective Sectional Final games are played on Saturday. A sample of the 2025 schedule is attached below.

Rationale: Returns to "original" format after attempting to address previously raised concerns. Allows for another week and weekend for practice or games and eases the prom conflict.

2. Item VI. A. Note 1 Tournament Structure and Time Schedule (Boys and Girls)

Recommendation: Modify the Sectional Quarterfinal and Semifinal start times to 5:00, 6:00, 7:00 and 8:00 pm on school days. Sites with three (3) games scheduled in a night must play at 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

Rationale: With the implementation of the Mercy Rule, many games end early. This time schedule allows the competing teams and their fans to be prepared to play. It may also shorten the night for competing teams and host schools on a weeknight.

3. Item VI. A. Note 7 Tournament Structure and Time Schedule (Boys and Girls)

Recommendation: Allow Sectional Managers to adjust the bracket order for schools when a conflict arises. All schools must agree to the switch and the IHSA must be notified prior to the game date.

Rationale: Update the Ts and Cs to reflect what is already in practice.

4. Item VIII. I. Goal Judges (Boys and Girls)

Recommendation: Schools can use IHSA licensed officials, adults at least 21 years of age, or school staff members to work as Goal Judges.

Rationale: Gives Sectional Managers more flexibility in securing Goal Judges.

Items of General Discussion and Administrative Recommendations:

1. The committee was informed the 2024 State Finals was the last for Stevenson High School to host. An RFP to host the 2025 - 2030 State Finals will be available on August 1, 2024. The IHSA Staff and Water Polo Advisory Committee thank Stevenson High School Administrators, staff,

and volunteers for 22 years of hosting this event. The many years of work and coordination are appreciated by the Water Polo Community!

2. The committee recommended the IHSA staff continue to update the Water Polo manuals, State Qualifiers packet and Officials information for the 2025 Boys and Girls seasons.
3. Reviewed the 2024-25 IHSA New Bylaws.
4. Reviewed the NFHS 2024-26 Water Polo Rules Changes. All entered schools and licensed officials will receive the new rules book for the 2025 season.
5. The committee discussed the need to increase the number of Certified, Recognized and Registered Water Polo Officials for regular season and post-season assignments.
6. The committee discussed the decrease in the number of Boys' and Girls' Water Polo teams competing in the state series. Factors contributing to the drop in participation are a lack of available coaches, a lack of facilities, multiple schools co-oping instead of hosting their own teams, a lack of consistent transportation to contests, and conflicts with swim club demands. A bright note: there seems to be an uptick in areas of multiple age-division teams giving hope that when those players enter high school, which will translate to an increase in high school teams.
7. The Committee discussed all approved Terms and Conditions Change request submissions.
8. The Committee discussed the idea of moving the Boys Water Polo season to the Fall. A bylaw proposal may be submitted by a member school.
9. Next Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Proposed IHSA WP State Series Structure

Season Summary Due: Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Seeding Begins: Wednesday, April 30, and ends Thursday, May 1, 2025.

Sectional Schedule Released: Friday, May 2, 2025

VI. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND TIME SCHEDULES:

A. Playing Schedules:

Sectionals

Girls:

Sectional Preliminary Round (if needed): Monday, May 12, 2025 (Week 45)

Sectional Quarterfinals: Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Sectional Semi-Finals: Friday, May 16, 2025

Sectional Finals: Saturday, May 17, 2025

Boys:

Sectional Preliminary Round (if needed): Tuesday, May 13, 2025 (Week 45)

Sectional Quarterfinals: Thursday, May 15, 2025

Sectional Semi-Finals: Friday, May 16, 2025

Sectional Finals: Saturday, May 17, 2025

- 1) Starting Times: 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 7:00 pm and 8:00 pm on school days. The Saturday Sectional Final games are to begin before 10:00 a.m. and no later than 4:00 p.m. Sites with three (3) games scheduled in a night must be played at 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, and 7:00 pm
- 2) Warm-up time is 15 minutes before each game in the competition pool if an auxiliary pool or swim lanes are not available for teams to use. If an auxiliary pool or lanes are available

at a Sectional site, the warm-up time is 10 minutes before each game in the competition pool.

- 3) In the event of a tie at the end of regulation play in tournament games, the overtime procedures in the National Federation Rules Book will be followed.
- 4) Preliminary Round games shall be held at the highest-seeded school if facilities meet NFHS specifications. If not, a mutually agreed site shall be chosen.
- 5) In Even numbered years, Boys will play M-W-F-S and Girls will play T-TH-F-S
- 6) In Odd numbered years, Girls will play M-W-F-S and Boys will play T-TH-F-S
- 7) No local manager is authorized to change the order of games that are to be played as determined by the system adopted and announced by the IHSA Office.