

## IHSA Volleyball Advisory Committee Minutes

IHSA Volleyball Advisory Committee met virtually on Thursday, December 5, 2024. Members of the Committee who were present were: Dr. Matt Cascio, Principal at Genoa (G.-Kingston); Tara Ballard, Girls Coach at Metamora; Stan Bergman, Girls Coach at Mahomet, M.-Seymour); Courtney Young, Girls Coach at Monmouth (United); Dr. Justin Warren, Boys Coach at Granite City; and Jeff Toenjes, Official at Freeburg. Absent was Ellen Yopchick, Girls Coach at Burbank (St. Laurence). Stacey Lambert, IHSA Assistant Executive Director was also present.

### Terms and Conditions Recommendations:

**1) Recommendation:** Officials A) Appointment and Fees:

2) Sectional Fee: In the sectional tournaments, each R1 and R2 appointed by the IHSA shall receive a fee of \$95.00 per match. Line judges shall receive a fee of \$50.00 per match worked. IHSA will pay officials via ArbiterPay

3) Super-Sectional Fee: In the super-sectional matches, each R1 and R2 shall receive a fee of \$129.00 per match. Line judges shall receive a fee of \$60.00 for the match. IHSA will pay officials via ArbiterPay.

**Rationale:** The current set up where the school pays for the line judges has become quite confusing. The IHSA assigns the line judges it only makes sense that the IHSA would pay the line judges. This will also ensure that line judges get paid in a timely manner.

**2) Recommendation:** Tournament Rules F) Warm-Up Time:

If a team arrives early, ball handling is permitted on the court prior to the timed warmups. Teams can take the court no sooner than 45 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the match. If both teams are present, each team shall be restricted to their side of the playing court. The warm-up time for each match will be 2-6-6 with both teams sharing the first 2 minutes, the first 6 minutes will be the home team on the entire court, and the second 6 minutes will be the visiting team on the entire court. When teams are off the court, they should either shag volleyballs for the team using their 6 minutes or have their lower-level players available on the court to shag volleyballs. If enough students are present to help shag volleyballs for the team on the court, then ball handling is allowed if space allows. If space is limited teams shall be restricted to ball handling behind the end line

**Rationale:** This adjustment to help the team warming up shag volleyballs not only promotes sportsmanship between the two teams, but also helps ensure the safety of the athletes during warm-ups. This additional help will also speed up warm-ups in the sense that the team on the court will get more opportunities to contact the ball during their 6 minutes.

**3) Recommendation:** Officials are allowed to use headsets during the post season.

**Rationale:** Officials have been experimenting with the use of headsets during the regular season with generally positive feedback. This recommendation will not be a requirement of officials to use headsets.

**4) Recommendation:** Tournament Rules (Boys and Girls)

B) Rally Scoring: By state association adoption, a match will consist of the best 2 (two) out of 3 (three) games. Each game, including the deciding game, will be played to 25 points (no cap).

i) If any 3<sup>rd</sup> place match on Saturday of the state tournament goes to a 3<sup>rd</sup> set, the 3<sup>rd</sup> set will only be played to 15 points (no cap).

**Rationale:** This adjustment will allow the athletes in the 3<sup>rd</sup> place match to participate and complete while also placing emphasis on the Championship match by making sure that the championship matches start at a reasonable time.

#### **5) Recommendation:** Tournament Structure and Time Schedules

4) State Final Time Schedule. Please note ALL State Final match times are estimates. Matches will begin immediately at the conclusion

##### Session 1 Semi-finals

Match 1 Class 2A 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Match 2 Class 2A 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Match 3 Class 3A 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Match 4 Class 3A 1:30-2:30 p.m.

##### Session 2 Semi-finals

Match 5 Class 4A 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Match 6 Class 4A 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Match 7 Class 1A 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Match 8 Class 1A 8:30-9:30 p.m.

##### Session 3 Consolation and Championships

Match 9 Class 2A Consolation 9:00–10:00 a.m.

Match 10 Class 2A Championship 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Award Ceremony Immediately after Match 10

Match 11 Class 3A Consolation 12:25–1:25 pm

Match 12 Class 3A Championship 1:55–2:55 pm

Award Ceremony Immediately after Match 12

##### Session 4 Consolation and Championships

Match 13 Class 4A Consolation 4:00–5:00 p.m.

Match 14 Class 4A Championship 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Award Ceremony Immediately after Match 14

Match 15 Class 1A Consolation 7:25–8:25 pm

Match 16 Class 1A Championship 8:55–9:55 pm

Award Ceremony Immediately after Match 16

**Rationale:** This is a standalone recommendation for volleyball only, as it's currently the only state final running all 4 classes on 2 days. This adjustment will cycle each year for example:

2025: 2A/3A/4A/1A

2026: 3A/4A/1A/2A

2027: 4A/1A/2A/3A

2028: 1A/2A/3A/4A

This will be an interesting recommendation if approved that would provide different opportunities for all teams involved. This would give 1A and 4A schools the chance to participate at more optimal times during the day. It will also be an interesting social experiment to see how this could positively impact attendance.

### **Administrative Recommendations:**

**1) Recommendation:** The Committee asks that the Board of Directors review Policy 18.

All schools in all classes start assigned to a sectional complex. All teams will be seeded in the complex. The top 4 seeds become the regional host sites. Teams are then assigned via the serpentine model by seed.

**Rationale:** After much data review, there is some evidence that would show that the sub-sectional model increases travel in many cases. This would potentially allow for decreased travel. There are also many cases where the best 2 teams of the sectional are paired in the same regional, this model should prevent that by distributing the top 4 seeds. This is seen as inequitable between 1A/2A and 3A/4A since many times the travel is the same amount of time.

### **State Association Adoption:**

**1) Recommendation:** The Committee recommends that starting in the 2026-27 school year all varsity contests will be required to use the Official IHSA Volleyball that will be used during the post season.

**Rationale:** It only makes sense for the athletes to prepare for the post season throughout the regular season, this includes using the post season ball for the regular season.

### **General Items of Discussion:**

1) The Committee discussed the 2024 Boys and Girls State Tournament

They talked about how there is more travel in sub-sectional complexes than in true sectionals

They talked about the new schedule for girls with sectionals on Tuesday/Thursday and supers on Monday and how well that went for schools.

2) The Committee reviewed advisory committee process. The advisory committee has the ability to adjust the Terms and Conditions and the Manuals, but not the power to adjust board policy, by-laws, or NFHS rules. Board policy can be adjusted through board recommendations, by-laws must be adjusted through the legislative process, and NFHS rules must be adjusted through the NFHS.

3) The Committee discussed only allowing 1 captain and the coach to attend the coin toss. This recommendation died for lack of motion

4) The Committee discussed adding wording for girls class 1A-4A and boys volleyball.... All regional matches shall be played at the host site. This recommendation died for lack of motion.

5) The Committee discussed the higher seed hosting all regional matches until there are 4 teams left in the sectional, then the sectional matches will take place at a predetermined host site. This recommendation died for lack of motion.

6) The Committee discussed home team using video board to introduce the team... is there a restricted amount of time? This recommendation died for lack of motion.

7) The Committee discussed several NFHS rule recommendations that Stacey will discuss at the upcoming NFHS Rules Committee:

- \*Why is it legal for a libero to set a ball over the net in front of the ten-foot line resulting in a kill but can't set the ball to a teammate for a kill?

- \*Could be more clearly stated, oftentimes the rule book is subject to interpretation and that can cause some issues as one official might read it differently than another.

- \*Is it time to use the double libero? USAV and NCAA both use the rule, would the NFHS also consider it? This could increase competition, action, and improve play and give players more opportunity to compete and coaches have more flexibility with the roster

- \*Extension of the ten foot line

8) The Committee discussed having regional championships on Halloween and how it makes it hard to find officials, bench personnel, concession workers, etc. as many have children. Can the IHSA look into post season dates on Halloween and schedule on another night? The next time this could occur would be with a sectional semifinal in 2028-29. Stacey is going to keep an eye on dates moving forward and formulate a plan as needed.

9) The Committee discussed rating officials and put them in a top 15 order or else we're penalized, but when it comes to postseason, there's no penalty if your team doesn't get on and seed. The Committee feels it is necessary to make it mandatory that officials sign up so coaches get the email reminder to rate them the next morning.

- \*The committee feels the email reminders are a great help an

\*Coaches need clear communication on the rating deadline and penalties

\*Officials felt putting in their schedule was a little cumbersome and wonder if there is a simpler way. Some officials also don't seem to know this is even available to them as its hard to find in the Official's Center.

10) The Committee discussed seeding and how there is no penalty for coaches who don't seed. They feel there should be some consequences for those coaches. The Committee asked that at a minimum the IHSA email the school AD and let them know their coach did not complete the seeding as required.

11) The Committee discussed if there is there anything the IHSA can do to protect coaches from parents.

12) The Committee discussed items of recommendation for the official's clinics:

\*Officials need to make sure and measure the net before each match.

\*Libero rules need to be looked at and made a huge discussion point on the rules video with both officials and coaches. Even some demonstration videos on the rules video that shows exactly what is legal vs what is not legal.

\*Serving rules: Officials are unsure about a player tossing a serve and catching it or letting it drop before a reserve is called.

\*Line judges signals should be discussed by the officiating crew before all matches

\*The R2 should know how to signal a net call properly.

\*How to set up affiliated schools so officials aren't working where there would be a personal conflict.

13) The Committee discussed how the rules video should be available to the coaches before our first opening practice date. Stacey reported that the IHSA is internally looking at adjusting the release of the rules video for the 2025 season.

14) The Committee thanked Stan Bergman and Ellen Yopchick for their years of service on the Volleyball Advisory Committee.