

MINUTES OF THE ATHLETES WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 6, 2013

The IHSA Athletes with Disabilities Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, February 6, 2013, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Andy Berlinski, Princeton; Greg Hall, Urbana (H.S.); William Hook, Chicago (Agricultural Science); Jim Raabe, Jacksonville (Illinois School for the Visually Impaired); and Ron Towner, Oak Forest. Also in attendance were Kurt Gibson, IHSA Associate Executive Director; Nicole Schaeftbauer, IESA Associate Executive Director; and guests: Katie Hogan, Heart of Illinois Special Recreation Association; Mike Frogley, University of Illinois; Sandy Gbur, Western DuPage Special Recreation Association; and Becky Prince, Western DuPage Special Recreation Association. Committee members not in attendance were: Wes Olson, Mt. Vernon (H.S.) and Perry Wilhelm, Mundelein (H.S.).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Recommendation:** The committee recommends continuation of the state series events for students with disabilities in 2013-14 in the following sports: boys' and girls' cross-country, boys' and girls' bowling, boys' and girls' swimming and diving, and boys' and girls' track and field.

Rationale: The committee believes the programs offered this year have been successful and warrant continuation, even in cross country, which this year had no entrants.

Approved

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee reviewed the minutes of their earlier meetings this school year.
2. The committee reviewed the status of the state series events offered to students with disabilities thus far this year. The committee viewed a short presentation of still photos and video of the girls' swimming and diving state finals and the boys' bowling state finals.
3. The committee discussed with its invited guests disability programs in general and approaches the IHSA and its member schools might utilize to develop the programs offered by the association. Among the key ideas shared include:
 - a. How to make the connection with students through recruiting
 - i. find students with disabilities and then educating the students and their support network why sport is important to their development
 - ii. At the HS, the 'key' people with direct contact to students with disabilities and their support need to develop and execute a plan
 - b. How to raise disability awareness, particularly at lower grade levels, when students are more impressionable
 - c. Consider developing a short video or hosting a webinar with member schools to make them aware of resources available to them
4. The committee set September 25, 2013 for its next scheduled meeting.