

MINUTES OF THE ATHLETES WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 11, 2015

The IHSA Athletes with Disabilities Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, February 11, 2015, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Monica Burkholder, Lanark (Eastland); William Hook, Chicago (Agricultural Science); Jim Raabe, Jacksonville (Illinois School for the Visually Impaired); Bob Wells, Fairfield; and Perry Wilhelm, Mundelein (H.S.). Also in attendance was Kurt Gibson, IHSA Associate Executive Director. Committee members not in attendance were: Nicole Ebsen, Berwyn-Cicero (Morton); and Greg Hall, Urbana (H.S.).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Recommendation:** The committee recommends the association offer state series competitions for students with physical disabilities in boys' and girls' bowling, boys' and girls' swimming and diving, and boys' track and field during the 2015-16 school year.

Rationale: The committee believes that these offerings continue to be appropriate events for the association to conduct for students with physical disabilities. Through the three years of their offering to member schools, each of these sports has had competitors, which, in the committee's view, warrants their continued existence.

Approved

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee reviewed the minutes of their September 2014 meeting.
2. The committee suggested incorporating information about the programs for students with disabilities in sport rules meetings and the IHSA's annual Town Meetings to the extent possible/necessary.
3. The committee generated a series of questions that will be used as a survey of the membership regarding participation by students with disabilities at member schools. The committee suggested this could become a part of the participation survey schools complete annually.
4. The committee reviewed the participation numbers thus far this school year in the programs offered by the IHSA for students with physical disabilities. The committee heard a report from IHSA Associate Executive Director Kurt Gibson that the up-coming boys' swimming championships will likely have an all-time high of 10 competitors.
5. The committee reviewed Special Olympics and NFHS documents on unified sports and suggested those be made available to member schools as resources for possible programming.
6. The committee reviewed the association's Accommodations Policy and Accommodations Form.

7. The committee expressed their desire that the IHSA continue to be responsive to requests or inquiries from the membership and not be as reactive to outside influences when it comes to offering new programs.

8. The committee discussed the possibility of expanding the classification for track and field to include those in the T/F 35 designation. The committee asked for a presentation to be made at their September 2015 meeting that would include an outside specialist and possibly members of the IHSA Track and Field Advisory Committee.

9. The committee discussed possible other state series events that could be offered by the IHSA in lieu of cross country, which has had no entries during the three years it has been offered.

10. The committee recognized out-going committee member Perry Wilhelm for his service to the committee.