

Minutes of the Athletes with Disabilities Advisory Committee
September 19, 2018

The IHSA Athletes with Disabilities Advisory Committee met in the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, September 19, 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; Ken Mansell, A.D., Jacksonville (I.S.V.I); Brian Hofman, A.D., Chicago (Lane); Robert Ruiz, A.D., Deerfield; Jill Jung, Principal, Freeburg. Other guests and non-voting members were: Leslie Alappattu, IESA Asst. Director; Kraig Garber; IHSA Asst. Executive Director.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

No Recommendations were made at this time.

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 February 2018 meeting.
2. IHSA administrator, Kraig Garber, provided a summary of the participation in the disabled division for all sports in which one exists.
3. IHSA Coordinator of Special Programs, Raye McDonald, provided a written summary of the Road Race that occurred last June. Based on her report, the committee discussed ways to increase participation in this event. Promoting the event through the IADA was discussed as well as other possible times of the year that might make this event more enticing to competitors.
4. Coordinator of Special Programs, Raye McDonald, provided a written summary on Unified Basketball. Her summary explained that the State Unified Basketball Tournament was very successful, and she explained that the format would not change for next year. She also identified ideas for further promoting and recognizing these unified participants at next year's state basketball finals.
5. IHSA Associate Executive Director, Kurt Gibson, provided a written summary on Unified Bass Fishing. His summary explained that the tournament was a success, and he provided an overview of the tournament results. He explained that this past tournament was the 4th year of the IHSA and Special Olympics Illinois partnership, and that all students involved seem to enjoy the experience.
6. IHSA Assistant Executive Director, Tracie Henry, provided the committee a video and summary of the Wheelchair Basketball State Finals last year. She provided an overview of the results and explained new ways in which the IHSA is providing these wheelchair athletes exposure and recognition at the IHSA Basketball State Finals.
7. IHSA Assistant Executive Director, Tracie Henry, explained that the IHSA is beginning to explore partnering with Special Olympics Illinois in conducting a Unified Dance State Final. She explained that the first step will take place this year in which hand picked Unified Dance Teams from Illinois will perform in exhibition at the IHSA State Dance Finals.

8. IHSA Assistant Executive Director, Susie Knoblauch, provided a written summary of some opportunities for disabled student athletes that are beginning to gain some attention across the country. Susie manages both tennis and cheer for the IHSA, and she explained that she has been made aware of the growing popularity of wheelchair tennis. Her summary also included some links to videos showing the USA Para Cheer Team along with a new initiative for high school sideline cheer called the Sparkle Effect. The Sparkle Effect is an effort to help students create inclusive cheerleading and dance teams in middle school and high school by bringing students with and without disabilities together to form these teams.
9. The committee discussed the limits and requirements for provisional classifications for swimming in the IHSA State Series for swimmers with visual or physical disabilities. The committee expressed a desire to discuss this further at the February meeting.
10. A member of the committee also expressed a desire to continue exploring opportunities for the intellectually disabled swimmers at the February meeting.
11. IHSA Assistant Executive Director, Kraig Garber, updated the committee on new recommended language made by the Track & Field Advisory Committee regarding the wheelchair events in track & field.