

MINUTES OF THE IHSA OFFICIALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 30, 2020

The IHSA Officials Advisory Committee met virtually on Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. Committee members present: Mark Anderson, Arlington Heights; Nick Cargola, Elk Grove Village; Mike Outten, Chicago; Rob Zielinski, McHenry; Mike Skrabis, Orland Park; Josh Olsen, Bloomington; Don Hackler, Edwards; Brad Gooding, Rushville-Industry; Courtney Vanderheiden, Chicago; Somxay Nachampassack, South Beloit; Jeff Flater, Farmington; Christopher Kays, Benton; Kent Simmons, Bloomington; Emory Appleberry, Springfield; Nitin Rao, Chicago; Rick Karhliker, Springfield; Nicole Schaeftbauer, IESA; Sam Knox, IHSA. Absent member: Joon Yun, Chicago

The committee accepted the minutes of the September 12, 2019 meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Recommendation:** Reconstruct the officials rating system. Coaches are required to rate all IHSA varsity officials in the regular season. Coaches will rate officials in these five categories.

Positioning/Effort/Physical Ability: Was the official in position to observe the action and make necessary calls? Was the official able to physically keep up with the pace of the contest? Did the official hustle to get in position when the tempo of the contest increased?

Game Management/Consistency: Did the official maintain control and manage the game consistently from start to finish? Was the official firm, fair, and consistent when making decisions?

Rule Knowledge/Signals: Did the official understand the rules of the game and the proper application of the rules in all situations? Did the official use proper signals to communicate calls throughout the contest?

Judgment/Reaction to Pressure: Did the official use solid judgment when making decisions based on the rules? Did the official make difficult calls in challenging, high-pressure situations?

Attitude/Professionalism/Confidence: Did the official have a positive attitude related to his/her role in the contest? Did the official communicate with coaches, participants, and contest personnel in a professional and respectful manner? Was the official confident when making decisions throughout the contest?

The IHSA will develop rating categories that apply more specifically to competitive cheerleading and competitive dance.

Coaches will assign one of these ratings in each category above.

1. **Excellent** = This official is among the best I have seen all season. He/she is capable of officiating deep into the postseason, including the State Finals.
2. **Above Average** = This official is very good. He/she is capable of officiating varsity contests in the first round of the postseason.
3. **Average** = This official is capable of officiating regular season varsity contests, but he/she is not yet ready to officiate postseason contests.
4. **Below Average** = This official is not a varsity official yet. He/she needs more experience in non-varsity contests (JV, Sophomore, Freshman) prior to officiating varsity contests.
5. **Unsatisfactory** = This official is not a high school official yet. He/she needs more experience in non-high school contests (Jr. High, Middle School) prior to officiating high school contests.

Head coaches are required to rate all varsity officials from all varsity contests in the regular season. The IHSA also highly encourages head coaches to rate all officials from all contests in the postseason.

	Deadline to submit ratings from all regular season contests
Fall Sports	November 15
Winter Sports	March 15
Spring Sports	May 30

The IHSA office will notify a school if any of its coaches has not submitted the required number of ratings by the deadline. The IHSA office will also assess a \$25 late fee per sport if a coach has not rated all varsity officials that season.

A coach in this situation will then have two additional weeks in which to submit all required ratings. If all ratings are not submitted at the end of that time frame, the school will receive a \$100 fine per sport for each sport that is out of compliance. Additionally, that sport will be on IHSA probation the following school year.

Rationale: Officials deserve to receive feedback and constructive criticism after contests to help them focus on improvement. With this rating system, officials will receive feedback in a variety of categories.

Coaches should take just a few minutes after each contest to provide this feedback by rating the officials on their performance.

A restructured rating system that provides more in-depth feedback about officials' specific performance areas will assist IHSA administrators during the postseason assignment process.

Died for Lack of Motion

2. **Recommendation:** The IHSA will develop a specific training curriculum and licensing option for volleyball line judges. The program would include the following details, implemented over the next two school years.

- Starting with the fall 2020 IHSA Girls Volleyball State Finals, line judges who are assigned to the State Finals will attend a line judge refresher course and training session held two hours prior to the officials meeting on Thursday night.
- Allow an official to declare if he/she would like to be assigned as a line judge in the state series.
- Develop and implement a stand-alone line judge training program.
- Develop and implement licensure for individuals who would like to license solely as a line judge.

Rationale: A more formal line judge licensing and training program will benefit officials, schools, and will ultimately lead to better-officiated contests.

Approved by Consent

3. **Recommendation:** Starting in the 2020-21 school year, an officials' clinic must be approved/endorsed by an officials' association in order for officials to receive IHSA credit from the clinic. This recommendation is only applicable to sports that have at least one association.

Rationale: An association's direct support will assist in promoting a clinic and will maintain the educational benefits as the primary focus of the clinic.

Approved by Consent

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

1. The committee discussed the IHSA Officials Conference scheduled for July 10 & 11. As of this meeting, the conference is still planned as-scheduled. However, the IHSA staff and conference committee are considering alternative plans for providing officials education if the conference is ultimately cancelled.
2. The committee discussed spring sports officials and the IHSA's decision to provide credit to brand-new, first-time officials for the 2020-21 school year since they had no opportunity to officiate this spring.
3. The committee discussed the concept of allowing volleyball and water polo officials to wear headsets to assist with communication during a contest. Committee members will gather more information before potentially submitting a formal recommendation in the future.
4. The committee discussed the idea of allowing associations that are recognized by the IHSA to submit a Top 15 lists of officials.
5. The committee discussed the concept of awarding power rating points to officials who are in good standing with an official's association.
6. The committee discussed a variety of topics related to an official's game-day experience and the responsibilities of host schools. The IHSA already has a list of recommendations in each sport's postseason Manager's Manual. The IHSA will share this with schools as a reminder of expectations for all contests during the regular season and postseason.
7. The committee discussed officials' pay rates and what methods exist to increase contest fees for regular season events.
8. The committee discussed the Pregame Medical Huddle and the responsibilities of officials in that required discussion prior to every contest.
9. The committee recognized outgoing committee members.
10. The meeting concluded at 12:40 p.m.