

Minutes of the Athletes with Disabilities Advisory Committee
September 21, 2022

The IHSA Athletes with Disabilities Advisory Committee met virtually on Wednesday, September 21, 2022. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. Voting Committee members present were: Kris Roof, Coach, Chicago (Lane); Gail Smith, Activities Director, Flossmoor (Homewood-F.); Kirk Edwards, Principal, Eureka; Heather Greer, Principal, Pleasant Plains; Alex Fox, Athletic Director, Edwardsville (H.S.). Other guests and non-voting members were: Jen Kelso, Special Olympics; 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. IHSA administrator, Kraig Garber, provided a summary of the participation in the disabled division for all sports in which one exists.
2. Special Olympics Administrator, Jen Kelso, provided an overview of Unified Sports offered in partnership with the IHSA as well as other Unified Sports offered by Special Olympics. Last spring, Special Olympics conducted its inaugural Unified Track and Field State Championship in conjunction with the IHSA State Finals at Eastern Illinois University. It was a great success, and we are looking forward to seeing it grow.
3. Special Olympics Administrator, Jen Kelso, provided an update on the joint effort of the Special Olympics of IL Youth Activation Committee and the IHSA Student Advisory Committees. Last year, the consolidated groups took part in establishing a 10-lesson leadership course. This year, that has evolved into an additional advanced leadership course consisting of 7 lessons.
4. The committee discussed a plan for making Unified and IHSA AWD information accessible on the IHSA webpage. The AWD page is already established, but the committee discussed ways to make it easier to find. There was also discussion about creating a Special Olympics Unified Sports page on the IHSA webpage that will provide links and resources for those schools that have Unified sports programs. Special Olympics is looking to pilot a Unified all relay swimming event in 2023 in hopes to see what kind of interest is there for establishing a Unified Swimming State Championship.
5. IHSA Administrator, Kraig Garber, gave an overview of the IHSA Accommodation Request Policy and Request Form.
6. Kraig Garber informed the committee that the IHSA has established a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee and a DEI resource page on the IHSA website (<https://www.ihsa.org/Resources/Diversity-Equity-and-Inclusion-DEI>). The IHSA DEI committee just led an internal book study on the book "From Athletics to Engineering: 8 Ways to Support Diversity Equity & Inclusion for All" by Johnnie Johnson and Michael Webber. The NFHS has launched a national book study on this book where registering and participating in the book study (including the book) are free of charge.