

MINUTES OF THE IHSA BOYS/GIRLS GYMNASTICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 15, 2010

The IHSA Boys and Girls Gymnastics Advisory Committee met via conference call on Thursday, April 15, 2010, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members participating were: Skip Adamson, Frankfort (Lincoln-Way East); Scott Helton, Addison (A. Trail); Mike Kosta, Rolling Meadows; Kathy Krebs, Crete; Lynn Widerstrom, Lisle; and Perry Wilhelm, Mundelein. IHSA Assistant Executive Director Kurt Gibson; Jerry Dobbs, Girls' Gymnastics State Finals Meet Director; and David Brost, Boys' Gymnastics State Finals Meet Director were also in participants.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. (GIRLS) VI. F. 3) Tournament Structure and Time Schedules – Time Schedules – State Final Meet

Recommendation: Run the preliminary competition at the girls' gymnastics state finals in one session, conducting all four (4) events concurrently, beginning with the 2011 state finals.

Rationale: The committee believes that conducting the preliminary competition at the state finals would create a better competitive atmosphere for participants. Doing so would mirror the typical format of meets during the year and reduce the amount of time some of the competitors face between their warm-up period and their performance. This recommendation was additionally the most favored by responding schools when surveyed in December 2009-January 2010.

Tabled

2. (GIRLS) IV. C. Host Financial Arrangements – Admission Prices

Recommendation: Increase the session ticket price for the girls' gymnastics state finals to \$10 per session.

Rationale: With a reduction in the over-all number of sessions (in the event of passage of recommendation #1), the committee believes a modest increase in ticket price to \$10/session is warranted. In particular, the preliminary competition will now feature all state final qualifiers and run a bit longer than a current preliminary round session does, further justifying the modest price hike.

Tabled

3. **(GIRLS) VI. E. 2b) Tournament Structure and Time Schedules – Order of Performance – State Final: Event Finals**

Recommendation: Determine the order of performance for the individual event finals at the girls' gymnastics state finals according to a random draw of all competitors who qualify for the finals.

Rationale: The committee believes setting up the finals in this format will provide all event final qualifiers a better competitive situation than the current practice of separating the qualifiers into two groups and having a blind draw within each to determine order of performance. This proposal would return the order of performance to its previous format.

Tabled

4. **(GIRLS) VI. F. 3b) Tournament Structure and Time Schedules – Time Schedules-State Final Meet – Preliminaries**

Recommendation: Begin the preliminary session on Friday at 5:00 p.m. and the Finals session on Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Rationale: The committee believes these start times will be the best for the new state finals structure. In particular, the committee believes the Saturday start time will enable the meet to end and awards ceremony to conclude at an appropriate time so athletes, coaches, and fans won't get home unduly late.

Tabled

5. **(GIRLS) XI. A. 2a) Officials – Judges Appointments and Fees - Sectional**

Recommendation: Nine (9) judges shall be assigned to each sectional meet.

Rationale: The committee believes this editorial change will more clearly define how many judges shall be used at the sectional meet.

Approved

6. **(GIRLS) XI. A. 3a) Officials – Judges Appointments and Fees – State Final**

Recommendation: 17 judges shall be assigned to the preliminary session at the state final.

Rationale: The committee believes that 17 judges are needed at the preliminary session to ensure that four (4) judges can work each event as is the current practice. As a result, more judges will be needed since the preliminary session may be run concurrently.

Approved

7. **(GIRLS) XI. A. 3b) Officials – Judges Appointments and Fees – State Final**

Recommendation: Nine (9) judges shall be assigned to the final session at the state finals.

Rationale: The committee believes that given the format of the event finals, the best approach to judge that session is to maintain the current practice for assigning judges. The committee favors the nine (9) judges being the same ones who work the sectional meets. The committee also believes this approach will be a more effective cost savings measure for the association.

Approved

8. **(GIRLS) V. B. Tournament Assignments and Seeding Meetings – Sectional Complex Meeting**

Recommendation: All seeding meetings shall be conducted on-line through the IHSA Schools Center. Schools will have until 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday of Week 28 to submit their *Seeding Form* to the IHSA Office. The IHSA Office will review all seeding forms and assign schools to their respective regional meets based on the format outlined in section VI. A in these Terms and Conditions. Schools interested in hosting a regional meet shall submit to the IHSA Office a signed *Regional Host Consent Form* prior to the above-mentioned deadline. *(If approved, V. D. would be eliminated)*

Rationale: The committee believes that given the success of on-line seeding in other IHSA sports/activities, including boys' gymnastics, that on-line seeding can be used for girls' gymnastics as well. If approved, a process similar to that used in other sports/activities can be developed for schools to use. If approved, the regional coaches meeting could be eliminated.

Approved

9. **(BOYS) IX. A. 2b) Tournament Policies – State Final Passes - Individual Qualifiers**

Recommendation: Allow 3 coaches on the floor at the state meet for the individual competition.

Rationale: Three coaches would make the meet warm-ups and competition safer for schools with multiple qualifiers, there is plenty of room, and no down side.

No Action Taken

**10. (BOYS) VIII. K. 3. Tournament Rules – Substitutions - Individual Substitutions
(GIRLS) VII. A. 3. Advancement of Winners – Individual Advancement - Individual Alternate Advancement (NEW)**

Recommendation: At the State Meet, there should be one (1) alternate (replacement athlete), per event, including all-around determined from the next highest at-large qualifying score from all the sectionals.

Rationale: The committee believes that in both boys' and girls' gymnastics an additional athlete should be able to go to the meet in case a gymnast who has qualified drops out for any reason.

No Action Taken

11. (BOYS) VII. A. 2. Advancement of Winners - Individual Advancement –All-Around Qualifiers

Recommendation: At the State Meet, the all-around competition to be conducted on the same night as the team competition (Friday).

Rationale: The committee believes the following reasons warrant passage of this recommendation.

- The Friday night meet / Saturday morning meet is very hard on the team all-arounders physically and mentally.
- There is a built-in advantage for the non-team all-arounders by not competing back to back. It is inherently unfair to make an athlete be perfect for two meets within 18 hours. It is unlike any other sporting event when you can overcome slight flaws.
- You would get more gate since you would have more schools represented. The 8 teams and then multiple other schools (one year had 12 other schools). It might increase other teams bringing the whole team to the meet since there might be only one all-arounder from the school in the meet.
- The consecutive meets would affect only team and all-arounders; it might help get more individuals/schools into the event finals. The all-arounders might concentrate on only a few events; the intensity to hit all events would not be as high.
- The all-around is the second most prestigious event in the series (behind team champion) and it would be great to have them run at the same time to bring the excitement into one event. The mental drain on the athletes over the 24 hour period is excessive

Approved

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. (BOYS ONLY) Use 12 Minute Warm-ups

Recommendation: For each sectional meet, use 12 minute warm-ups instead of 15 minutes eliminate the last Open Warm-up, which is also 15 minutes.

Rationale: Gymnasts do not need this time and tend to over-warm-up or sit around getting cold. There is also plenty of time for specialist to go back to events several times during the second half of timed warm-ups.

(If approved, this change would be reflected in the Schools/Managers Manuals in sample rotation section.)

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. The committee reviewed the minutes of the 2009 advisory committee meeting.
2. The committee heard a report from boys' gym SF manager Dave Brost regarding last year's state finals. Last year's meet was very-well received by coaches, athletes, and fans. The staff at Lincoln-Way (East) is to be commended for putting on a first class event. To further assist media in covering this year's event, the LW-East staff will utilize 'runners' to bring athletes and coaches to the media in those cases where media want to conduct interviews with competitors. This year, LW-East will be broadcasting the team and individual scores to strategic locations throughout the school while the meet is running. Fans will be able to follow the action when they need to step out of the competition gym.
3. The committee discussed the recently-completed girls' gymnastics state finals and complimented Palatine HS and Athletic Director Jerry Dobbs for putting on another outstanding event.
4. The committee reviewed and discussed the work of the Gymnastics Ad-Hoc Committee, a group that was authorized by the IHSA Board of Directors to review the IHSA Girls' Gymnastics State Series.