

MINUTES OF THE IHSA BASS FISHING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 8, 2010

The IHSA Bass Fishing Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, September 8, 2010, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Mike Chornak (Marian). Mark Gervais (Chicago Marist), Dwain Nance (Marengo); Chris Kuchyt (Oak Lawn); Jeff Niebrugge, (Teutopois); Joe Stoner (Glasford); Kerry Trueblood (Athens);. Also in attendance were IHSA Associate Executive Director Kurt Gibson; State Finals Manager Darrin Smith (Carlyle); and Dan Stephenson, DNR.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Item II. A. 1) Dates and Sites – Individual Tournament Series Dates and Sites**

Recommendation: Sectional: April 21 or 22, 2011, Thursday or Friday of Week 42. Tournament sites and team assignments will be posted online.

Rationale: Due to the number of already-scheduled fishing tournaments on sectional lakes on Good Friday, allowing managers the option of hosting the sectional on Thursday or Friday will enable sectionals to be completed prior to the PSAE testing, scheduled for the following week. The committee is recommending this as a one year option only to adjust for these tournaments.

2. **Item II. A. 2) Dates and Sites – Individual Tournament Series Dates and Sites**

Recommendation: The Board contract with state final lakes for a 3 year period with the emphasis of moving the event to different geographic locations.

Rationale: While the committee recognizes the exemplary work of the Carlyle community in putting on a tremendous state finals event, the committee has concerns about the safety of the current venue, the travel taken by member schools to reach the state finals, and the possible advantage gained by local schools who have greater access to Carlyle Lake during the years than other member schools. As a result, the committee favors a review of the state finals venue every three years to create a more competitive situation for all participants.

3. **Item VII. A. 1) Advancement of Winners – Advancements**

Recommendation: A maximum of three (3) boats from each sectional will advance to the state finals.

Rationale: This minor editorial change just updates the section to reflect current practice.

4. **Item VI. A. - Tournament Structure and Time Schedules – Sectional Tournaments**

Recommendation: (add after current first sentence) Early weigh-ins at the sectional are at the discretion of the local manager. If allowed, participants are then finished from further participation at the sectional.

Rationale: No language exists to address this. Establishing such language will not only reflect what managers are currently doing, but it will also help keep fish alive. This will also accommodate emergency situations that could arise.

5. **New Item VIII. V. – Tournament Rules (Item VII. V to be renumber to Item VII. Z.)**

Recommendation: Any transfer of fish from one live well to a different live well in another boat due to malfunction must be made in the presence of the local manager or his/her designee.

Rationale: The committee believes this language will establish a procedure to address this situation and help keep fish alive.

6. **Item VIII. T. - Tournament Rules**

Recommendation: Participants must stay completely in the boat unless they are using an authorized rest room facility, are back at the dock switching participants, or due to some other emergency or malfunction. If an emergency or malfunction occurs, the boat must contact the local manager or his/her designee prior to leaving the boat.

Rationale: This recommendation will address unique situations that could occur during the course of fishing.

7. **New Item VIII. W. - Tournament Rules**

1. **Recommendation:** Once competition is under way, contestants may not obtain fishing patterns or locations from non-competitors, follow a non-competitor's boat or participate in the practice of "hole sitting", a practice wherein a non-competitor sits on a fishing spot, holding it for a contestant. In addition, non-competitors may not place markers for contestants. All of these acts are prohibited and will result in the immediate disqualification of the boat.

Rationale: In fishing tournaments, these tactics are illegal, and the committee believes these situations should be addressed prior to surfacing during any competition.

8. **New Item VIII. X. - Tournament Rules**

Recommendation: School uniforms must be worn during competition. School uniforms can only have the school name and/or logo and the student's name on them. Any sponsorship the school has secured cannot be displayed on the uniforms or on the coach/driver of the boat. Sponsorship logos may be displayed on the boats that are in the tournament.

Rationale: This language simply clarifies current practice.

9. **New Item VIII-Y - Tournament Rules**

Recommendation: Each tournament manager shall appoint (in addition to him/herself) a tournament committee of at least three (3) participating coaches or school administrators. The

decision(s) of the tournament committee shall be final in matters pertaining to the IHSA Bass Fishing Terms and Conditions. Neither the IHSA Office nor the Board of Directors will review tournament committee decisions, whether alleged errors are due to faulty judgment or misinterpretation of the rules.

Rationale: The committee believes the formation of a rules committee will help tournament managers deal with any special situation that arises during the course of an event. A number of IHSA athletic programs have a rules committee established within its Terms and Conditions, and the committee believes it is time Bass Fishing establishes one as well.

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee discussed the 2010 state finals. Over-all the committee was very pleased with the way the tournament ran. The committee thanked the city of Carlyle and Carlyle High School for all their efforts in putting on a tremendous state finals.
2. The committee also extended thanks to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the State Fishery Department, Conservation Police Officers, and the Corp of Engineers for all the support those groups provided at the sectionals and state finals.
3. The committee discussed increasing sponsorship of the event to help with its over-all promotion.
4. The committee discussed adding a digital 'score' board at the state finals to display leading teams and individuals during weigh-ins.
5. The committee discussed the sectional host fee, wondering what the process is for reviewing that amount. Associate Director Gibson pointed out hosting fees are reviewed on a periodic basis by the association.
6. The committee discussed concerns about some of the lakes used for sectional tournaments. The committee expressed its desire for IHSA staff to look for additional sites, particularly in the south suburbs.
7. The committee requested sectional assignments be posted by March 1 to allow for schools to pre-fish at sectional locations in the spring.
8. Definition of hole sitting.
9. The committee discussed late arrivals at sectional tournaments. Some discussion centered on what, if any, action should be taken against schools who show up late to sectional tournaments. Ultimately, no action was taken on this item.
10. The committee discussed developing some kind of on-line form for schools to complete and send to sectional managers that list the school's coaches, participants, and contact information. This form would be similar in nature to the *List of Participants Form* used by other IHSA sports.
11. Dan Stephenson informed the committee that there is a form from DNR that member schools can complete for HS/youth events. Schools with questions should contact the DNR.
12. The committee thanked outgoing members Joe Stoner, Dwain Nance, and Kerry Trueblood for their service to the committee.