

MINUTES OF THE IHSA OFFICIALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
September 11, 2024

The IHSA Officials Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Committee members present were Christina Butterbrodt, Dwight; Nicholas Cargola, Elk Grove Village; Hollice Clark III, Kankakee; Rick Karhliker, Springfield; Linnea Mason, Chicago; Scott Maupin, Wilmington; Alan McCormick, Belvidere; Jerry (Jay) Miller, Centralia; Donna Mobley, Maywood; Leah Morgan, Oswego; Benny Phillips, Decatur; Nitin Rao, Northbrook; Noreen Rodriguez, Arlington Heights; Cindy Rueter, Columbia; Connie Scott, Winnebago; Kenneth Watkins, Maywood; Chris Frasco, (IESA); and Kurt Gibson, Director of Officiating Services, (IHSA).

Committee Members Patricia Flesher, Waukegan, and Hanah Shehaiber, Chicago Ridge were unable to attend.

Recommendations

1. The committee recommended the following changes to the uniform worn by girls' lacrosse officials:
 - SHIRT: One inch vertically striped black and white shirt, long or short sleeve, with a black collar. Shirt must be worn tucked in. Both officials to wear the same length.
 - PANTS: Solid black long pants, kilt/skort, or shorts. No sweatpants or warm-up pants.
 - JACKET: One inch vertically striped black and white jacket or solid black jacket.
 - HEAD GEAR: Solid-black ball cap, visor or knit cap. May have IHSA logo on cap.
 - SHOES: All black with black laces.
 - SOCKS: All socks must be solid black.
 - UNDERGARMENTS: All visible undergarments must be solid black.
 - GLOVES: All gloves must be solid black, if worn.
 - EQUIPMENT: Black whistle, yellow penalty flag, penalty cards-green, yellow, and red, coin
 - Required IHSA patches must be properly worn
 - Girls lacrosse officials may wear a watch for time keeping purposes, no other jewelry should be worn.

RATIONALE: The committee believes these adjustments (see yellow highlights) are necessary to provide more clarity to girls' lacrosse officials in regard to their uniform. The committee believes that it is acceptable for the girls' lacrosse official's uniform to have some differences from the boys' lacrosse official's uniform since the games are different. The committee also believes that the culture of the two games allows for these subtle variations and will not impose any undue financial burdens on any official who is licensed in both sports. In fact, it is the general belief of the committee that those 'dual' officials are already in possession of the accepted uniform items.

Approved by Consent

2. The committee recommends approving the following grant requests from officials' associations:

Association	Grant Area*	Amount Requested
AOA	Education	\$ 500.00
Chicagoland Conf. Umpire's Assoc.	Education, Mentor Program	\$ 500.00
Comp. Cheer Off. Of Illinois	Education	\$ 100.00
Fox Valley Football Officials	Equipment	\$ 317.46
Fox Valley Officials Association	Equipment	\$ 500.00
IDOA	Education, Mentor Program	\$ 279.00
IHSGGJA	Recruiting, Education, Mentor Program	\$ 500.00
MIBTonline.com	Equipment	\$ 500.00
Midwest Officials Association	Recruiting	\$ 500.00
NOA	Recruiting, Education, Mentor Program	\$ 300.00
NW Illinois VB Officials Association	Education	\$ 500.00
Twin Rivers Officials Association	Education	\$ 400.00
UMPS Baseball Training	Education, Equipment	\$ 500.00
WBOA	Education	\$ 500.00
Total		\$ 5,896.46

RATIONALE: The IHSA and IESA have partnered for years to make funds available to local officials' associations around the state so that the efforts of associations used in recruiting, training/educating, or mentoring can be supported. Associations can request grants up to \$500. Those approved must turn in receipts for the agreed to purchase(s) prior to June 30, 2025, to receive payment from the IHSA.

Approved by Consent

Items of Discussion

1. The committee heard a report from IESA Associate Executive Director Chris Frasco on a variety of efforts/initiatives being undertaken by their association. Those include:
 - a. Efforts to promote positive sportsmanship
 - b. Efforts to recognize officials who work IESA state finals
 - c. New athletic/activity programs being considered
 - d. Process officials wishing to work IESA state series contests can follow to make themselves available
2. The committee reviewed the minutes from the committee's April 24, 2024, meeting and were provided an update on the following topics that were discussed at that meeting:

- a. Possible options for retired/inactive officials to license for no, or a reduced fee.
 - b. Allowing officials to purchase a Hudl or NFHS Network account at a reduced rate when licensing.
 - c. A final reporting of the number of girls' flag football officials. Over 800 licenses have been distributed this year.
 - d. The increase in state series pay for officials in all sports taking effect this year. All increases will be found in the Terms and Conditions for each sport at ihsa.org. Additionally, the mileage reimbursement has been increased for \$.30 to \$.45 since per mile this year.
3. The committee heard a report from IHSA Director of Officiating Services Kurt Gibson about new initiatives being implemented or worked on this school year:
 - a. The introduction of a new datapoint for officials (ratings average)
 - b. IHSA Policy 41, which requires coaches to make a minimum number of ratings each season
 - c. The implementation of a formal observer's program in football, girls' volleyball, basketball, baseball, and softball
 - d. The establishment of minimum requirements officials must meet in order to have 'in compliance' status and be eligible to officiate
4. The committee was updated on discussions IHSA staff is having with Arbiter, discussions focused on expanding the association's use of the platform.
5. The committee was asked to review a new presentation for first-time officials and provide feedback to IHSA staff. The presentation is tentatively planned for roll out in 2025.
6. The committee was updated on the recertification process for clinicians. This important training component has been reinstated this year. Over the coming years, each sport will recertify all clinicians. Thus far this school year, wrestling and basketball have conducted meetings.
7. The committee heard a report from IHSA staff that discussions concerning the addition of other promotion periods for sports is being considered. More information is expected to be available to the committee at their spring 2025 meeting.
8. The committee was provided an initial summary report of licensing efforts for the 2024-25 school year. A more complete report will be provided to the committee at their spring 2025 meeting.