

Minutes of the 2014-15 IHSA Sportsmanship Advisory Committee Meeting

October 8, 2014

The IHSA Sportsmanship Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, October 8, 2014 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Drew Potthoff, Woodstock (Marian); Julie Traenkenschuh, Glasford (Illini Bluffs); Scott Hamilton, Tolono (Unity); Judy Fitzgerald, Moweaqua (Central A & M); Sean Berry, Tremont; Heather Miller, Knoxville; Terry Milt, Johnston City; Bethany Shaw, West Frankfort (Frankfort); Renee Simms, Country Club Hills (Hillcrest); Dan Jones, Hinsdale (Central); Gary Stephens, Decatur; Julie Cochran, IESA. Not in attendance: Steve Haines, Seneca; Eileen Hart, Rolling Meadows; Jennifer Uliks, Libertyville.

RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION:

None forwarded

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

1. The committee developed a guide for Athletic Directors to use to organize a Spirit Night Event with an opposing school, especially before a big rivalry game.

- Meet approximately 2 weeks before event to help promote the big game.
- The home team for the game will host the meeting
- Discuss expectations at each school (pep assembly, daily announcements etc.)
- Make this a positive experience for both schools
 - Discuss history of rivalry, show videos of great traditions
 - Talk about positive cheering
 - Plan friendly competitions or “Spirit Showdowns”: rock paper scissors contest, free throw shooting contest, tricycle race among student leaders.
- Have students discuss what to do if there are problems with adult behavior.
 - Administrators address parent issues by sending them information outlining continual problems or contact them prior to a big event.

2. Addressing Student body prior to a game:

Try scheduling a meeting with your student leaders prior to the game to discuss the upcoming event. Let the students plan the activities for the game and take ownership of the event. Make sure you discuss expectations so that these students can share these with their fellow students.

Do What’s Right! Expectations:

- Represent their school and community well through positive interaction with opposing fans and players.
- Use positive yells, chants, songs or gestures.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Respect and acknowledge the integrity/judgment of the officials.
- Exhibit positive behavior with opponents and fans before, during and after the contest.
 - Reminders:
 - Cheer for your team not against the other team
 - Respect the opponent and official.
 - Respect the Game.
 - Attire should be appropriate for all games. Any theme nights must be approved prior to games.
 - Remember interscholastic activities are an extension of the classroom
 - Be Positive and do not comment or attack anyone personally

- Don't call out numbers of players.
- Don't call out their girlfriend's name.
- Don't ask them for a date to homecoming.

3. Heart of Illinois PA before each event usually read by a student:

- Respect our game, yourself, and others
- Respect our officials at all times
- Show sportsmanship in victory or defeat
- Be positive in your actions and comments
- Never single out an athlete with criticism
- Set a good example for us and those around you
- Cheer for good play
- Practice self-control
- Remember: This is a game. We are here to have fun.

4. Communication school to school:

- Administrators communicate prior to contest date. Each school establishes a point person.
- Administrators or the point person meet briefly prior to the game to make contact and introductions.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. The committee discussed if social media should be addressed in sportsmanship handbook? Student handbooks typically address this topic only if it affects the climate of the building. Unless it's a threat, most schools are not dealing with social media issues.
2. The committee discussed the benefits of arranging a meeting between rival school administrations and students prior to the contest.
For example: Before a big rival game, each school brings 5 student leaders and 5 other students who typically attend games, together for a meeting. They have lunch; show video of great traditions, talk about positive cheering and each group of students makes plans to return back to their school to meet with their pep club and student body. This pro-active step paves the way for everyone to enjoy the game without any issues and lets the kids take some ownership of actions.
3. Create more visible links on the Sportsmanship Page and IHSA main page.
 - a. Tools: share links to documents, PSAs
 - b. SAC: link to their page
4. The committee discussed the Soccer Yellow Card Count:
 - a. Don't believe we should penalize one sport more than another, or monitor one sport if not willing to do so for all sports.
 - b. Should we track unsportsmanlike conduct for all sports for a year?
 - c. Opening Pandora's Box...
 - d. Can't make a recommendation to add other sports without data. It would be interesting to see data.
 - e. 25 or more yellow cards= suspend the coach, not eject the team from the state series.
 - f. Do we think there is a problem in other sports?
5. Create a PSA addressing racial/ethnic slurs
6. Contact Royal Publishing to discuss using the DWR! Expectations in programs.

7. Create the following links under "Add A Tude Tools"
 - a. All Videos
 - B. Documents
 - c. Game Management
 - d. Rubric
 - e. PPTs
 - f. Social Media
 - d. Benefits
8. Discussed gamesmanship vs. sportsmanship regarding the interaction between coaches and officials, especially during the pre-game meeting.
9. Reviewed the DWR! Sportsmanship Manual and made some modifications.

Future Meetings

April 15, 2015 IHSA Office
NFHS Student Leadership conference July 20-22, 2015 Indy?
Aug 2-3, 2015 SAC Retreat
Sunday, September 20, 2014
Student Leadership Conference – October 4-5, 2015 Peoria Civic Center