

Minutes of the 2021-2022

IHSA Chess Advisory Committee Meeting

April 1, 2022

The IHSA Chess Advisory Committee meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams on Friday, April 1, 2022, beginning at 10:00am. Committee members present were Tournament Director Chris Merli; Scott Liechty, Glen Ellyn (Glenbard West); Joseph Guth, Rockford (Auburn); Pablo Alvarez, Highland Park; Brad Schmidt, Belleville (East); and Denise Dubravec, Winnetka (New Trier). Also in attendance: Scott Johnson, responsible for the State Final computer program and Erik Czerwin, ICCA representative. Craig Anderson, IHSA Executive Director helped run the meeting. Advisory committee members Salvador Velasco, Jr., Chicago (Acer/Garcia) and Ted Goergen, Lincolnshire (Stevenson) were absent.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommended the following changes to the Terms and Conditions:

1. V. Tournament Assignments And Seeding Meetings C. Pairing Procedures – Sectional

Recommendation: 1. In sectional tournaments, teams will be paired ~~using an accelerated pairing system~~ based on their seeds.

Rationale: Because of the number of schools assigned to each sectional, determining the qualifying schools for the state final (the primary purpose of the sectional tournament) does not require the use of the accelerated pairing system.

Approved by Consent

2. IX. Tournament Policies H. Apparel

Recommendation: 2. Failure to wear proper apparel ~~shall~~ may be penalized ~~by up to a minor major violation at the discretion of the floor chief.~~ A player team may be penalized once per day of competition. ~~A team may be penalized for up to five minor violations per day.~~ Willful refusal to comply with the uniform rule shall constitute unsportsmanlike conduct and may be penalized by team disqualification.

Rationale: Uniform expectations shall be established by the head coach. A violation shall be immediate to the team and at the discretion of the floor chief depending on the severity of the violation.

Approved by Consent

3. X. Awards C. Individual Awards – State Tournament (new)

Recommendation: Medallions will be presented to the individuals who finish the tournament with 6.5 or 7 points.

Rationale: Individual recognition had been eliminated a few years ago. The committee believes some individual recognition for an undefeated state final is warranted. Implementing this additional recognition would increase the number of medallions by approximately 30 each year. There is not a set number to be handed out annually with this recommendation.

Died for Lack of Motion

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Virtual Matches

Recommendation: The IHSA will permit virtual matches to count towards the six-contest requirement. The virtual match consists of all players from each team in a single location with play being monitored by the coach. The tournament requirement would still need to be completed in-person and cannot be virtual.

Rationale: As virtual matches have become acceptable post-COVID, this will allow schools to be flexible in how they choose to fulfill their six-match requirement. However, in order to give players and coaches live tournament experience similar to the IHSA State Series, the in-person tournament requirement shall remain.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- The committee discussed this year's chess season and return to in-person state series competition.
- The committee heard and discussed the Pairings at the State Tournament and movement away from the use of the WinTD program. This change will make the pairings quicker following each round and the pairings detail readily available to coaches.
- The committee discussed reassignment of sectionals after being posted by the IHSA. This is an IHSA administrative decision. There are many challenges for schools when making reassignments, but in extreme situations of misbalanced sectionals, this can be considered.
- The committee discussed teams sitting on the proper side of the table according to the score sheet. The score sheet will have an additional note to guide teams for their seating.
- The committee discussed substitutions on Chesscalate. A reminder of when this is appropriate will be added to the Rules Video.
- The committee discussed roster size and a potential increase. No action taken by the committee as changes to the roster are permitted between the sectional and state final tournaments.

- The committee discussed avoiding conference match-ups in rounds 1 – 3 at state. The committee took no action as they wanted to see the new pairings program in operation without adding an additional complication.
- The committee discussed player spectators for teams in the Ropes at the State Final. The committee determined this should continue to be at the discretion of the steward.
- The committee discussed the effectiveness of tie-breaks as penalties.
- The committee discussed using the sectional tournament director as an additional floor steward. This is permitted within in the rules and will be encouraged in guidance through the rules video.