

## IHSA Esports Advisory Committee Meeting

September 1, 2022

3:30 p.m.

The IHSA Esports Advisory Committee met on September 1, 2022, in an online setting from various communities across Illinois, beginning at 3:30 p.m. Committee members present were: Patrick Davey, Chicago (Lane); James Keathley, Elgin (H.S.); Jeff Pitner, Rockford (Guilford); Jarrod Rackauskas, Normal (Community West); and Tom Hawkins, Galesburg (H.S.). Also in attendance was Dan Le, IHSA Assistant Executive Director. Absent from the meeting were: Amy Whitlock, Oswego (East); and Brock Frazier, Metropolis (Massac Co.).

### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. VIII. Tournament Rules, A. Events, 3. Small Group Games

**Recommendation:** b. Super Smash Bros: ~~one~~ **two** individual ~~entry~~ **entries** and one ~~one~~ **crew battle** entry

**Rationale:** The approval of the Super Smash Bros. Crew Battle event to replace the Super Smash Bros. Duo event warrants the change in the terms and conditions. With gameplay limited to 8 minutes per match, an additional individual entry per school into the sectional tournament is feasible. This would allow for more student participation per school, and it would provide schools more flexibility with their Super Smash Bros. rosters in terms of which students would compete as individuals and which students would compete in the crew battle.

2. VII. Advancement of Winners, A. Sectional to State Finals

**Recommendation:** 2. Individual/Small Group Game: an individual or small group game shall be any game played involving three or less students from one school playing against student(s) from another school. In individual/small group games, ~~the first and second place finishers~~ **the following finishers** from each sectional shall advance to the state finals:

- a. **Rocket League: first and second place finishers**
- b. **NBA2K: first and second place finishers**
- c. **Super Smash Bros. Singles: first through fourth place finishers**

**Rationale:** Increasing the number of state qualifiers per sectional from two to four in the Super Smash Bros. Singles event would increase participation in the state tournament and likely increase the number of schools represented at the state tournament. If recommendation VIII.A.3.b. is approved, then permitting four state qualifiers from each sectional would guarantee that more than one school from each sectional would have a Super Smash Bros. Singles state qualifier. This would increase the number of state qualifiers from 16 to 32 individuals, and with gameplay limited to 8 minutes per match, conducting a full double elimination tournament with 32 entries would still fall within a reasonable timeframe for the state finals. Although NBA2K is also an individual event, the gameplay and levels of participation do not justify additional state qualifiers at this time.

**Note:** The number of finishers advancing from the sectional to the state finals for Mario Kart Deluxe 8 and Super Smash Bros. Crew Battle is to be determined as the terms and conditions for those games are being developed.

3. X. Awards, B. State Finals Tournament

**Recommendation:** 1. Team Game: Medals will be awarded to the first, second, third, and fourth place teams. ~~A plaque will be awarded to the school winner in the State Finals Team Game.~~

2. Individual/Small Group Games: Medals will be awarded to the first, second, third, and fourth place finishers in each individual/small group game. ~~A plaque will be awarded to the school winner in each state finals individual/small group game.~~

**3. Overall Team: Trophies will be presented to the first, second, and third place teams based on points accumulated during the State Finals. Medallions will be presented to the members and head coach of the first three placing teams.**

**Rationale:** Awarding trophies and medallions to the top three teams at the State Finals would be consistent with other IHSA sports and activities that have a similar structure of multiple individual events, such as track & field, swimming & diving, and gymnastics. If team trophies are awarded, then plaques would not be awarded to the winners of each event, which is also consistent with the awards presented at other IHSA state finals.

### **GAME RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. EA Sports FIFA

**Recommendation:** Add EA Sports FIFA event using PlayStation 4 consoles to the 2023 IHSA State Series.

**Rationale:** Currently, NBA2K is the only PlayStation 4 game offered. FIFA is a popular sports game title that would fit in the afternoon session of the IHSA sectional and state tournament schedules after the NBA2K event has concluded. Similar to the addition of Mario Kart 8 Deluxe to the Nintendo Switch events, adding FIFA would provide another opportunity to increase student participation using the PlayStation 4.

**Note:** The decision on whether the game title for the 2023 IHSA State Series will be FIFA 22 or FIFA 23 is to be determined as FIFA 23 has not been released yet. Upon release of FIFA 23, the game will be reviewed for any technical glitches that would impact gameplay in the State Series.

Approved by Consent

### **ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

None.

### **ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:**

1. The committee reviewed the minutes of the August 9, 2022, meeting.
2. The committee heard a summary of the August IHSA Board of Directors meeting when the additions of Mario Kart Deluxe 8 and Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Crew Battle were approved.

3. The committee heard a report from Dan Le regarding the LTC STEAM Expo held in Springfield in August. The Expo included an esports exhibit.
4. The committee discussed third-party esports providers, including IHSEA, PlayVS, HSEL, and Generation Esports.
5. The committee will break into teams to develop game summaries for the new game titles added to the 2023 IHSA State Series and meet in October to review. The committee will also develop a proposal for a point system to determine team awards.