

IHSA Esports Advisory Committee Meeting

October 3, 2022

10:00 a.m.

The IHSA Esports Advisory Committee met on October 3, 2022, at the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: James Keathley, Elgin (H.S.); Jeff Pitner, Rockford (Guilford); Jarrod Rackauskas, Normal (Community West); Amy Whitlock, Oswego (East); Brock Frazier, Metropolis (Massac Co.); and Tom Hawkins, Galesburg (H.S.). Also in attendance was Dan Le, IHSA Assistant Executive Director. Absent from the meeting was: Patrick Davey, Chicago (Lane).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Recommendation: 1. Team Game: A team game shall be any game played involving more than three students from one school playing against another school. ~~Only the winner of the sectional tournament shall advance to the state finals.~~ **In team games, the first and second place finishers from each sectional shall advance to the state finals.**

Rationale: The format of the team games that are being proposed to be added to the 2023 state series, Mario Kart 8 Deluxe and Super Smash Bros. Crew Battle, take approximately the same amount of time as NBA2K. Because the time is comparable to NBA2K, the tournaments for each team game can be conducted in a similar timeframe as the NBA2K state finals tournament, which would permit for 16 state qualifiers instead of only 8.

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. **FIFA: first and second place finishers**
- c. **NBA2K: first and second place finishers**
- d. **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. Lastly, with the addition of FIFA, the number of state qualifiers for that game has been added.

NOTE: Section VII-A-2 has been updated from the previous advisory committee recommendation after the proposed number of participants for FIFA was determined.

3. VIII. Tournament Rules, A. Events

Recommendation: Schools may enter participants in the following contests:

1. Team Game (~~no game offered in 2021-2022~~): one team comprising of ~~a minimum of 5 students~~ **more than three students**:

a. **Mario Kart 8 Deluxe: one four-person team (roster maximum: 7)**

b. **Super Smash Bros. Crew Battle: one five-person team (roster maximum: 9)**

2. Individual Game (NBA 2K **and FIFA**): two individual entries

3. Small Group Games: a minimum of one entry for each competition offered; additional entries may be allowed based on specific game guidelines developed by the advisory committee

a. Rocket League: one three-person team

b. Super Smash Bros: ~~one~~ **two** individual entry ~~entries~~ ~~and one duo entry~~

Rationale: The approval of the new events, Mario Kart 8 Deluxe, FIFA, and Super Smash Bros. Crew Battle events warrants these changes in the terms and conditions after the proposed gameplay summaries have been developed by the advisory committee. The current language noting a minimum of 5 students for a team game is inconsistent with the language in Section VII-A-1 of the terms and conditions that defines a team game. The language in this section is recommended to be modified to maintain consistency in the definition of a team game. The proposed addition of FIFA as an individual game is also reflected in this section. For Super Smash Bros. Singles, gameplay is limited to 8 minutes per match, which from a perspective of time, would allow for an additional entry per school into the sectional tournament. These changes would allow for more student participation per school, and they would provide schools with more flexibility with their Super Smash Bros. rosters in terms of which students would compete as individuals and which would compete in the crew battle.

NOTE: Sectional VIII-A-3-b has been updated from the previous advisory committee recommendation after the proposed number of participants for a Super Smash Bros. Crew Battle team was determined.

4. X. Awards, A. Sectional 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 Sectional Team Game.~~

3. Overall Team: A sectional championship plaque will be presented to the overall first place team in each Sectional based on points accumulated in the Sectional. The point system for each event is as follows:

Place	Points Earned
1 st	10
2 nd	8
3 rd	6
4 th	4
5 th (2 places)	2
7 th (2 places)	1

Rationale: Awarding a sectional championship plaque to the top-performing team at each sectional 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 a sectional team championship plaque is awarded, then plaques would not be awarded to the winner in a sectional team game, which is also consistent with the awards presented at other IHSA state finals.

5. 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 in the State Finals. Medallions will be presented to the members and head coach of the first three placing teams. The point system for each event is as follows:

Place	Points Earned
1 st	10
2 nd	8
3 rd	6
4 th	4
5 th (2 places)	2
7 th (2 places)	1

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.

NOTE: Section X-B-3 has been updated from the previous advisory committee recommendation after a proposed point system was determined.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation: Sectional hosts will communicate hardware needs to all schools participating in the sectional. If necessary, participating schools may contribute hardware at the sectional tournament based on their entries.

Rationale: With the addition of new games for the 2022-2023 state series, there is a potential need for more hardware to conduct each event. By having participating schools provide hardware for specific events in which they are participating, it will ensure that all sectional sites have enough consoles to conduct each event.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

1. The committee reviewed the minutes of the September 1, 2022, meeting.
2. The committee discussed and developed the rules for each of the new games added to the IHSA Esports State Series, which includes Mario Kart 8 Deluxe, Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Crew Battle, and FIFA.
3. The committee discussed the daily schedule for the Sectionals and State Finals with the addition of the games for the 2022-2023 competition. The committee discussed a rolling schedule as consoles become available after entries are eliminated to maintain efficiency in completing the tournaments. The committee also discussed an awards ceremony after the initial morning competitions have concluded and a closing awards ceremony after all competitions have concluded.
4. The committee discussed creating an informational sheet for schools just getting started with esports to assist with the establishment and operations of their teams.