

Minutes of the IHSA Wrestling Advisory Committee Meeting

April 20, 2016

The IHSA Wrestling Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, April 20, 2016, beginning at 10:00a.m. Committee members present were Ronald Wilson, Chicago (Bowen); Jarett Kirshner, Des Plaines (Maine West); John St. Clair, Lemont (H.S.); Jayson Querciagrossa, Peoria (H.S.); Josh Carter, Gibson City (G.C.-Melvin-Sibley); Bryan Medlin, Washington; Pat Cheesman, Mt. Carmel; Dan Fulscher, Official Lincoln; Craig Anderson, IHSA; Mike Manahan, and Rich Montgomery, IWCOA rep.

The minutes from April 22, 2015 meeting were approved and discussed.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. V. Tournament Assignments and Seeding Meetings

Recommendation: Prior to the assignments of teams to regionals, coaches will conduct an on-line seeding of the teams assigned to the sectional to separate the top 4 teams into different regionals with the remaining teams being assigned by geography. (8 – 0)

Rationale: The committee recommends this change to separate the top teams within the sectional in preparation for the team sectional as well as dividing up the top individual wrestlers within the sectional. Since wrestling has a team and individual component, this would be an addition to the state tournament series that would be similar to the seeding of other team state series. This would not significantly impact travel as only 4 teams within a sectional would be designated to specific regional sites and those four would be designated by geography within the four predetermined regional sites.

Failed

2. V. Tournament Assignments and Seeding Meetings: 3) Individual State Final Pairings

Recommendation: Adjust the criteria language in calculating seed points to allow points to be awarded for returning place winners as a Champion, 2nd or 3rd, 4th, 5th or 6th, from ANY weight class the previous year as opposed to THAT weight class. This will eliminate the current point criteria of "Returning place winner at any weight class" and "Returning state champion at any weight class." (8 – 0)

Rationale: The committee believes the present criteria would provide incentive for wrestlers to remain at their previous year's weight class to maximize seed points which in many cases is not in the best interest of wrestlers. Allowing maximum points for a wrestler's previous state final advancement no matter what weight class the wrestler wrestled is in the best interest of wrestlers.

Approved

3. V. Tournament Assignments and Seeding Meetings: 3) Individual State Final Pairings

Recommendation: Add criteria language in calculating seed points for wrestlers that would allow for a 3 time defending state champion to earn - 55 points, and a 2 time defending state champ to earn - 45 points. (8 – 0)

Rationale: The committee recommends this addition to the seeding criteria to help separate the wrestler who has proven his/her abilities with multiple championships.

Died for Lack of Motion

4. V. Tournament Assignments and Seeding Meetings: 3) Individual State Final Pairings

Recommendation: All wrestlers coming out of the previous year's Sectional tournament as a top 4 placer will be awarded state qualifier points the following year should that wrestler be a sectional champion the following year. (8-0)

Rationale: The committee recommends this provision to prevent a state qualifying wrestler that has become injured or unable to participate in the state final from being discouraged to notify his/her alternate of the opportunity to wrestle.

Died for Lack of Motion

5. VI. Tournament Structure and Time Schedules

Recommendation: Run the State Final tournament with True Wrestlebacks with additional mat(s) as allowed per State Farm Center floor space. (8 – 0)

Rationale: The committee recommends this change to allow the State Final Tournament format to match the Regional and Sectional tournaments.

Died for Lack of Motion

6. VI. Tournament Structure and Time Schedules

Recommendation: Rotate the class order of wrestling on Thursday and Friday at the state finals from one year to the next. (8 – 0)

Rationale: After 4 years in the current format of wrestling by class during the first two sessions, the committee recognizes unique benefits of wrestling in a particular order. As a result the committee believes that these benefits should be shared by each class over a three year rotation. If approved the wrestling order would be as follows over the next three year period: 2017: (2A-3A-1A); 2018: (3A-1A-2A); 2019: (1A-2A-3A).

Failed

7. XI. Officials B. Dual Team

Recommendation: Allow dual team sectional hosts to determine on their hosting request form an option to add two additional officials to their dual team sectional at the expense of the host school. (8 – 0)

Rationale: The committee recommends this opportunity to allow for dual team sectionals to be wrestled with two officials per mat similarly to how the state dual team and individual tournaments are officiated.

Approved

Administrative Recommendation

1. Girls Wrestling

Recommendation: Allow schools to identify their participation numbers in girls wrestling under the emerging sports listing. Allow schools to indicate the number of girls wrestling at their school when completing the sports participation survey on-line.

Rationale: The committee recognizes an increase in the number of girls wrestling in Illinois. The committee believes knowledge of the participation level state wide will help determine the potential of a future state series for girls wrestling.

Approved

2. Coaches Meeting at the Individual State Tournament

Recommendation: Conduct an individual state final tournament coaches meeting during weigh-ins on Thursday from 11:30am – 11:45am.

Rationale: The committee believes there is time available during the weigh-ins for the coordinator of officials and/or IHSA wrestling administrator to inform coaches of expectations for the tournament.

Approved

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. Reviewed the number of wrestlers who took advantage of the Final Appeal process allowed for the first time this past season.
2. Reviewed the number of schools reporting to the IHSA their use of the Tanita Body Fat Analyzer to determine body fat percentage of wrestlers.
3. Discussed regional questionnaire items and discussion from the regional reps meeting. The committee discussed a possible change in the format of the regional reps meeting at the state final tournament for 2017. The committee suggested the opportunity for regional reps to meet at a time during the individual sectional tournament to establish recommendations to be presented along with a spokesperson from the sectional to present.
4. Discussed classification percentages and the number of wrestlers competing in the state series in each class under the current percentage breakdown. The committee received information identifying this as a board policy and recommendations would need to be made to the IHSA Board of Directors to implement a change from the current percentages.
5. Discussed a change in format of the dual team state series to being its own separate tournament.
6. Discussed the brackets in the regional tournament determined by the number of participants in each class in relation to the power of 2. The committee recognized this is by NFHS Wrestling rules and didn't recommend going away from NFHS rules.
7. Discussed the increase in participation in girls wrestling and a proposal for girls to be recognized with an opportunity to wrestle at the current IHSA State Wrestling finals.
8. Discussed the difficulty for school administrators to follow the Affirmative Action Policy of the IHSA Handbook. Much of the difficulty involved getting the ISBE paperwork completed to allow for girls to participate in the state series.
9. Recognized outgoing committee members Josh Carter, Gibson City (G.C.-Melvin-Sibley); John St. Clair, Lemont (H.S.)
10. Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.