

SOCCER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
June 26, 2018

Meeting was called to order by chair Aaron Stecker. Members present: Chris Allen, Mark Howard, Julie Girsch, Jeff Lefeber, Jennifer Dunn and Jim Albertson (via phone conference). Representing the State Office: Lisa Brinkmeyer and Jason Eslinger

Members were introduced and a review of advisory committee purpose was given.

Motion by Dunn to adopt minutes from the June 26, 2017 meeting, second by Allen, unanimously approved by all members present.

The Committee discussed the regular season. Brinkmeyer asked for feedback of the post-game reports that coaches and referees were asked to complete and submit following each match. This was the first season girls' soccer coaches and officials were asked to complete game reports. Reports were well-received from referees and coaches. Brinkmeyer said the reporting system helped rectify facility/game management issues in a timely fashion. The reports also helped the IGHSAU and the soccer officials' coordinator address rules and behavior issues with schools and referees. Eslinger stated an evaluation process has been applied to QuikStats for softball coaches and umpires and could possibly be utilized by soccer in 2019.

Discussion continued about the new soccer officials' coordinator, Jim Albertson, and his role. Committee supports the addition of a soccer officials' coordinator. Brinkmeyer stated Albertson's expertise and experience will help with education, communication and recruitment/retention of officials.

Girsch inquired of the possibility of adding matches. She stated conference sizes have increased, and schools have been required to play more conference matches with fewer non-conference contests as options. Regular season matches have been dropped because of the conference competition requirements. Allen stated many CIML teams have opted to play fewer than the allotted 17 matches. Some Committee members agreed with Allen that some schools are not playing full schedules because they believe that 17 matches may be too many. Brinkmeyer stated the IGHSAU has accommodated schools to allow an extra match for conference realignment or scheduling issues.

Regional Tournament series was discussed. Brinkmeyer distributed a calendar of the current soccer postseason dates. Brinkmeyer said, while the soccer postseason occurs during an extremely busy time of year, there is one date that poses the most problems. The date is the first Saturday of Regional play, which consists of eight 3A matches. Brinkmeyer told the Committee she would like to see the contests on that Saturday moved to another date. The Committee understood the conflict and was supportive of moving the date, however would like as much notice as possible in case already-scheduled matches need to be moved.

Brinkmeyer shared information about the ad hoc committee that was formed to look at all sport seasons (ex: reduce overlap of the spring season). Discussion was held about the possibility of starting the season earlier and having a state tournament the same week as the boys with boys and girls playing alternate days. Committee unanimously supports having a co-ed State Tournament, however they would like the tournament to be held during Week 49, which is traditionally the week of the IGHSAU State Tournament. The Committee feels the soccer season is hampered by weather and shortening the season a week would compound the problem even more. The Committee asked if there was data available of the overlap of soccer participants and softball participants. Eslinger said that data can be pulled from QuikStats (not complete data because only varsity players are listed on QuikStats rosters). Brinkmeyer stated the IGHSAU has discussed surveying the schools to get this information for all sports. Brinkmeyer said she will speak with management about the Committee's request and concerns.

The Committee looked at starting Regional matches on Tuesday of Week 47 (instead of Thursday). The Committee looked at playing the Regional finals on the Wednesday of Week 48 instead of Monday of Week 49. This would give teams a week in between their Regional Final match and their first match at the State Tournament and it would eliminate the girls' regional matches from being played during the boys' state tournament. Several of the top referees work the boys' state soccer tournament and are not available to work the IGHSAU Regional matches during that same time. Under the proposed schedule, there would be five Regional dates rather than six. It was also suggested using some double-headers to maximize the number of top-notch referees. Tournament days under the proposed schedule would be: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday of Week 47, Tuesday and Wednesday of Week 48. The state tournament could be Thursday, Friday, Saturday OR Wednesday, Thursday, Friday OR Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday of Week 49. Brinkmeyer said the proposed schedule would work well for utilizing more officials, avoiding "graduation Saturday" and would give teams more rest prior to the State Tournament.

State Soccer Tournament was discussed next. The Committee members present at the State Tournament had favorable comments to share. Brinkmeyer said there was positive feedback from coaches, fans and student-athletes during the State Tournament. She also said the time changes were well received from teams and fans. Brinkmeyer asked the Committee if they felt the start time should remain the same or if it should start earlier. The Committee felt starting earlier to beat the heat would be welcomed, however the 11:00 a.m. start time on Thursday and Friday is still better than a noon start time. Brinkmeyer said she would discuss the pros and cons of earlier start times with management.

Allen inquired about increasing the roster size of state tournament teams. He felt an increase would allow teams to include injured players not playing to be included on the

state tournament roster. Allen said he had multiple coaches suggest the roster be expanded. Brinkmeyer said the team passgate list allows for 28 people to enter and the team roster allows for 22 players to be listed. Brinkmeyer said she would discuss increasing the number of players on the roster with management.

Girsch inquired about the All-Tournament team selection process. Eslinger explained that the Iowa High School Soccer Coaches Association have been selecting the teams since the State Tournament began. The IGHSAU has been pleased with the job that IHSSCA has done in the selection of the teams. Eslinger said the IGHSAU will continue to work with the IHSSCA to have a consistent presence at all three days of the State Tournament.

The Committee discussed two-person vs. three person officiating crews. One Iowa conference is hiring three person crews for boys' games and two-person crews for girls' games. Brinkmeyer was unaware of this sort of practice and said the IGHSAU will look into the inequity of game officials for boys' and girls' games. This led to discussion of officials' pay. Schools are having trouble budget-wise deciding whether or not they should pay three officials. Brinkmeyer reminded the Committee, while the IGHSAU would prefer high schools use three-person crews, it is not mandatory to have three-person crews. Brinkmeyer said the IGHSAU Officials' Coordinator is compiling information from assigners across the state to review officials' pay and crew sizes.

Dunn talked about the use of Hudl by the Iowa Referee Committee. She asked for support from schools to submit their game footage to the IRC and/or add IRC to their school's Hudl group. This would allow the IRC to utilize actual game clips to educate officials.

Discussion ensued whether or not to allow ties. The IHSA currently allows ties while IGHSAU only allows ties when a complete half has been played and the game has been halted due to weather and cannot be made up. The Committee felt more information was needed before making a decision. Brinkmeyer suggested this be a discussion topic at the joint committee meeting.

Brinkmeyer thanked Stecker, Howard, Lefeber and Dunn for their service on the Advisory Committee.

The date of the 2019 meeting was set for Tuesday, June 25 at the State Office.

No further business, **motion to adjourn by Girsch, second by Howard. Motion unanimously approved.**

Jason Eslinger
Recorder