

TRACK AND FIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

June 18, 2018

Members present: Terry Coleman, Brad Elliott, Bill Capaldo, Tim O'Neill, Brian Petersen, Nate Smith, Martha Bauder, Toby Lorenzen and Ray Wilden. Representing the State Offices: Gary Ross and Jared Chizek.

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

Motion by Capaldo to approve June 19, 2017 minutes, second by Elliott and unanimously approved by all members present.

Committee discussed the regular season ASPI login being compatible with the state-qualifying login. It is acknowledged not everybody uses ASPI. O'Neill prefers getting a new pass word and feels other organizations need to be compatible with our system. Coleman concurs, stating there could possibly be less incorrect entries. Capaldo feels using a new login would eliminate errors. It was stressed coaches must communicate with the State Offices if there are changes in personnel, etc.

Chizek and Ross have recently met with Mike Boone from Adaptive Sports Iowa regarding the possibility of adding another event in the state-qualifying and state meet wheelchair competition. It is agreed some participants might not wish to participate in all of the current events and this would add another event to be considered. Committee discussed placement of the added event, possibly on Friday. **Motion by Petersen to add the 800 Meter Wheelchair event to the list of high school girls and boys track and field events, O'Neill second and unanimously approved.**

Track markings for the shuttle hurdle relay were discussed. Currently Drake does not allow taped markings, so small, orange cones are used. Management will ask Drake to allow markings, but if they are not allowed, correspondence will be sent to schools regarding utilizing small, orange cones throughout the season so runners could be familiar with the cones prior to the state meet.

Lengthy discussion was held regarding the hurdle height in the boys shuttle hurdle relay. Currently the height is 33', but it is felt increasing the height to 36' would help develop high hurdles and require technique to be taught. It was stated the current 33' is not hurdling, but rather another sprint event. Bauder informed Committee of the opposition in her area, stating it would be difficult to get enough kids interested at that height. Some feel the shuttle hurdle relay is the event that has the least amount of competitors, and fears numbers would decrease with the increased hurdle height. O'Neill feels over time the increased height would progress into better hurdlers for the shuttle hurdle relay. Smith agrees 36' is a good transition number and hurdles can easily be progressed to that height. After lengthy discussion, **motion to increase boys shuttle hurdles to 36", second by Smith and passed unanimously.**

Bauder asked if an increase to 33' should be made in boys junior high shuttle hurdles. Committee discussed the distance between each hurdle and the increased height. Jumping hurdles successfully was discussed. Wilden feels junior high kids CAN three-step hurdles, but

can be a mindset. Suggestion was to have the Junior High Advisory Committee discuss this at the next meeting in the spring of 2019 for possible consideration during the Junior High Track and Field 2020 season.

Chizek informed Committee there has been some discussion from superintendents asking to regulate indoor track and field, specifically, meet limitation and eligibility. O'Neill feels there are a lot more opportunities for indoor meets, and are two totally different seasons. Bauder suggested if indoor and outdoor dates can be totaled, then the number of meets cancelled due to weather might not be as big of an issue.

Chizek suggested Committee members need to go out and promote the sport of track and field as many teams in the 2018 season had shortened or no season due to weather conditions.

Ross informed Committee an AdHoc committee was formed with constituents from the IGHSAU, IHSAA, IHSSA and IHSMA. The purpose of this committee was to discuss the overall placement, length of season, etc. of ALL high school activities. Also being discussed is a state-mandated break, number of contests and length of regular and post-season.

Committee discussed the difficulty in securing athletes for high school sports vs. club sports. Committee acknowledges it is important high school coaches reiterate to not only players, but parents the importance of participating in high school sports, and to promote other high school coaches by attending their games. Committee encouraged the IGHSAU/IHSAA to continue sharing important information regarding club sports, the actual amount of club vs high school scholarships, etc. Communication is important in pre-season parent meetings.

An educational video regarding exchange zones administration and enforcement and field event measurements was briefly discussed. Chizek stated a video with specific techniques and expectations to assist the track and field coaches and officials is strongly being considered to be developed by the management of the IHSAA and the IGHSAU. In addition, a video by the NFHS is being developed to also assist track and field coaches and officials in teaching and enforcing certain aspects of track and field.

Committee discussed a deadline to protest seed times. Committee discussed, stating a 1:00 pm deadline on the day of the state qualifying meet would be very appropriate to be given to the schools for protesting seed times. **Motion by Petersen to allow a 1:00 pm deadline time on the day of the state qualifying meet as the cutoff for protesting a seed time at the state qualifying meet. Motion second by Elliott and unanimously approved.**

Committee discussed the state track and field qualifying procedures. Some preferred to only have the 1st place finisher be an automatic state qualifier while several others preferred the current format for qualifying. Committee had different thoughts on state qualifying procedures but the current format for state qualifying was recommended to continue at the current time. Chizek discussed 2nd place ties at the state qualifying meets and whether it is necessary to break these 2nd place times. **O'Neil motion, second by Capaldo to reword the state qualifying policy to state that 2nd place ties for all automatic qualifying places shall be broken.**

Committee briefly discussed having a second starter at all Class 3A and Class 4A state-qualifying meets. Coleman and O'Neill stated they already hire an assistant starter. Wilden stated this is a good experience for the younger, inexperienced starters and can be a good learning situation. It's nice to have another pair of eyes and checking break lines, and makes participants aware there is another official seeing things. Nice benefit to have one. All concur this should be done by the IGHS AU/IHSAA, and not the host school.

Committee suggested a digital scale must be used in weighing all throwing implements during the state-qualifying meet. This should be made a point of emphasis to state-qualifying managers.

Committee discussed having backup timing at state-qualifying meets. Wilden stated officials typically do not carry a stopwatch. **Petersen motion state-qualifying sites must utilize backup timing (for at least first place), second Capaldo second, unanimously approved.**

Petersen suggests having a live scoring link for state-qualifying meets. It is acknowledged these would be unofficial results and should be stated as such. Petersen feels this would promote the sport of track. Administration would look into this.

McNeill stated an issue happened at a site where spike length was of concern, due to a course warranty. McNeill feels the host site should have an allowable "leeway". An official was on site to check high jumpers, but did not check runners. Host sites determine their spike length. Discussed.

Lorenzen asked about the second break being taken away because of the length of the meet. This break is nice for the distance runners specifically. Some interest was expressed in lowering the 45-minute break at the beginning of the meet (this time though is helpful in completing some of the field events and providing time for coaches and volunteers), but feel this break at the end of the meet benefits the athletes.

Discussion was held on automatic qualifiers and kids being penalized for being in a tougher district and rewarded for being in an easier district. Capaldo stated it sometimes comes down to a coaching strategy. Committee concurs it is about getting the best 24 to state.

Committee questioned if ties could be broken by a random draw and not alphabetical, as this would be fair for all. **Capaldo motion ties are made by a random draw, Elliott second. Motion approved 7-1 with Coleman casting the "no" vote.**

Wilden asked if the starting heights for the high jump at the state qualifying meet could be automatically listed on the documents schools use to run the high jump. Chizek stated this was not possible, but this can be written in manually for documentation.

Ross/Chizek informed Committee the wheelchair shot put will be moved to the inside of the track on Saturday. This is due to logistics of throwers and not having the high jump being one of the Saturday events.

Ross stated an interest in implementing a coaches box for the high jump and long jump. Throwing events can have coaches in close proximity, but jumpers cannot (due to safety in

crossing the track and not enough room). Chizek stated the difficulty is in policing the 24 coaches, judges and media. Logistics in providing a coaches box is doable for a north jumping area and the high jump, but placement for a south jumping area is difficult. O'Neill suggested written documentation be stated, if this is abused, this will be taken away. **Motion by O'Neill to implement a coaches box in the high jump and long jump area at the state meet, second by Capaldo and unanimously approved.**

Ross informed Committee of the high number of certified officials who are judging exchange zones, hurdles, etc. Ross encouraged Committee to inform track coaches that state officials are certified and knowledgeable. Also suggested when hosting a meet to put more emphasis in the areas where there are more disqualifications. O'Neill suggested those who judge the shuttle hurdle have several meets throughout the season. A video showing illegal starts would benefit officials.

Bauder expressed concern regarding interaction between officials and junior high volunteers. Ross stated four schools are utilized per year, and approximately 50 kids are used per school. Setting hurdles, cones, blocks, and running results can be very stressful and the State Meet could not be run as smooth as it does without the young volunteers. The IGHSAU/IHSAA is open to schools volunteering their junior high to help assist during the state meet.

O'Neil stated several coaches have asked if field events could be rotated each year. Management will look into this.

Petersen expressed concern with the warm-up area on the infield. Chizek stated space is very limited, but athletes' bags/camps take up a lot of space. O'Neill feels a "dynamic" area (for small moves) and a designated area for all-out warm-ups could be implemented. Committee agrees a place for team camps should be placed elsewhere. On Saturday the north grass area could be used, but Thursday and Friday could be more of a challenging. Management will take this concern to Drake administration.

O'Neill move to increase the recovery time in Classes 3A and 4A from 15 minutes to 20. Capaldo second and unanimously approved.

Wilden asked is a bell or lap gun was needed on any events. Chizek reminded Committee it's a National Federation ruling.

Appreciation was expressed to Elliott and Capaldo for their years of service to the Track and Field Advisory Committee.

The next meeting will be held on June 17, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the IHSSA Office.

There being no further business meeting **motion to adjourn by Elliott, Capaldo second and unanimously approved.**

Heidi Reed
Recorder