

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION  
April 10, 2019**

In the absence of President Zittergruen, Treasurer Francis called this administrative session of the Board of Directors to order at 10:00 a.m. Directors present: Francis, Dufoe, Boehmer, Seivert and Fadness. Absent: Zittergruen, Kroemer and Ebeling. Attending from the State Office: Berger, Brown, Ihnen, Ross, Eslinger and Brinkmeyer.

**Motion by Fadness, second by DuFoe and unanimously approved by all Directors present to accept consent items: 1) March 1, 2019 Board of Directors minutes and 2) March 2019 financials.**

IGHSAU Junior High Manual states that ninth grade students (and older) are ineligible to compete with seventh and eighth graders in softball. This applies to all competition teams in the Athletic Union's administered events. All students shall be eligible upon entering the seventh grade. The Department of Education has no eligibility rules governing seventh and eighth grade students. Local school districts shall establish their own rules and guidelines regarding academic and good conduct rules for eligibility. Students in grades below seventh grade are not eligible to practice with or compete on junior high teams. Exception: After completion of their sixth grade school year, a girl may participate on the junior high school softball team. Because numerous schools had to add days or hours to their calendar due to the excessive snow and weather this year, schools have requested relief from this policy. Without a change, sixth grade softball players will miss practice and competition dates. Executive Berger recommended that schools request a waiver in writing to grant eligibility to sixth graders, on a case by case basis, the ability to begin practice and compete with junior high school softball after the last scheduled day that was published as part of the approved school calendar. Following discussion, **motion by Fadness, Boehmer second and unanimously approved by all Directors present to grant Executive Director Berger authority, on a case by case basis, and if the request is in writing, to approve sixth graders the ability to begin practice and compete with junior high school softball after the last scheduled day that was published as part of the approve school calendar. This is a one-year waiver.** A notice of this option will be provided to all member schools.

There was discussion that because of numbers in smaller schools, eighth graders are being elevated to participate with the high school teams. In doing so, schools no longer have the numbers for junior high teams. Question was raised should sixth graders be eligible to participate on junior high teams. There are numerous schools around the state that now consider "junior high or middle school" to be sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Executive Director Berger would like additional discussion on this subject and would like input from the Representative Council.

Brinkmeyer reviewed the golf season thus far. There are a few more schools participating in golf this season than last year. Regional golf pairings will be released the week of April

22. The four state golf tournament sites are: Class 1A – American Legion in Marshalltown, 2A – Ames Golf and Country Club in Ames, 3A – Otter Creek Golf Course in Ankeny and Class 4A – Coldwater Links in Ames. For 2019, the USGA revamped rules to help simplify the rules. To help understand the revamped rules, the IGA held rules seminars. To help high school golfers, the IGHSAU created a rules pamphlet and sent enough to schools for all participants to have one in her bag. Brinkmeyer reminded Directors that this will be the first year admission will be charged at state golf tournament sites.

Brinkmeyer presented the soccer update. There are 66 schools participating in soccer this year, which is an increase of five from last year. This is the second year the IGHSAU has presented officials rules clinics across the state. Regional soccer assignments will be released the week of May 6. The state soccer tournament will be held at Cownie Soccer Complex on June 6, 7 and 8.

The track and field update was presented by Ross. State qualifying assignments will be on April 12. State qualifying meets are Thursday, May 9. This year at the state meet, Classes 2A and 3A will compete in the morning session and Classes 1A and 4A in the afternoon. Ross shared with Directors that the new event for high school athletes at the Drake Relays is the 400 Meter Dash (girls and boys) and they increased the number of 4 x 100 Meter Relay qualifiers from 80 to 95 (girls and boys). Due to the excessive amount of rain we had this spring there are certain areas of the state that are experiencing flooding. We have received a number of requests from schools asking if they can utilize another school's facility for practice. Schools may do this, but teams are not allowed to practice together.

After researching the possibility of streaming only the girls' portion of the state track meet, it was decided that because of the cost involved and the amount of airtime that would need to be filled when the girls weren't competing, it would be better to stream the championship jointly with the IHSAA. The IGHSAU was required to purchase the rights of the boys' races, which costs about the same as it would have if we just streamed the girls' races. The general public will be able to access the stream at no cost by going to either the IGHSAU or IHSAA websites.

State basketball review/evaluations were discussed by Directors. The evaluations were provided Directors in advance of this administrative session. Feedback on the Players' Lounge was excellent. Overall, the evaluation results were extremely positive. Numerous favorable compliments have been received by management regarding this year's tournament. The six-on-six exhibition game and the recognition of the oldest Iowa Girls were just two of the favorites.

Directors were brought up to date on the soccer eligibility issue involving 15 soccer players and seven schools. The girls all played on the same club team that competed against a community college team. During the investigation, the IGHSAU learned that there were some eighth grade girls going into ninth grade that participated in the contest. No administrator from any of the schools involved ever talked to the girls or parents about

the scholarship rule nor was the information contained in the student handbook. To be consistent with procedure utilized in November 2016, Executive Director shared with Directors action taken against involved students and schools. Penalty for the violation imposed by management was that each player involved be suspended two soccer matches for each one match they participated in, each school's soccer program placed on probation for one year and each school is required to formulate and carry out a plan to ensure this situation never occurs again. That plan must be shared with the IGHSAU.

Seivert provided an update on Senate File 437 – the Scholarship Bill. In February, the four activity organizations proposed to the Republican Caucus to allow schools to have local control when it comes to students involved in speech and music. The proposal was rejected. Following the rejection, the four executive directors were asked to develop some additional options addressing scholarship. They have since proposed the following sentence be added to Senate File 437: “Such rules shall not impose multiple periods of ineligibility on a student for all school-approved activities for a single violation of the rules.” This language addresses double jeopardy. Shan believes it will be approved and the bill signed. Executive Berger is of the opinion the Representative Council needs to have discussion and input on the subject. Within discussion it was suggested that the four executive directors attend all AEA meetings and talk about the reason for four activity organizations and why it is the best for students. Berger indicated she has begun working on this. Fadness suggested that the executive directors also conduct a session at the Iowa Association of School Boards convention in November. He is of the opinion that this would be an opportunity for superintendents and school board members to become educated on the issue.

Berger shared AdHoc survey results. Although not all superintendents have responded, there is a clear indication that our schools are in favor of:

- 1) A “dead week” in July with no interscholastic activities for speech, music or athletics
- 2) Reduce post-season regional for volleyball and move state volleyball up a week
- 3) Schedule the girls’ state swimming championship a week later (after state volleyball)
- 4) Girls’ and boys’ soccer seasons aligning for start and end dates
- 5) State soccer tournament for girls and boys during the same week with M/W/F or T/Th/Sat format
- 6) Aligning baseball and softball season for start and end dates
- 7) Allowing more coach-player contact, with some limitations
- 8) One track season for both indoor and outdoor competition with practice and competition start dates that also allow the scholarship rule to be applied uniformly
- 9) A total number of competition dates for track and field with each district determining the number of indoor and outdoor dates it utilizes

The results did not show clear support of moving competitions from one season to another season. This information was shared by Berger at the Iowa High School Athletic Directors Association convention in March. Directors agreed that input was needed from the

Representative Council at the June meeting, AdHoc meeting at the beginning of July and the Joint Committee in July. Berger stated that management will be ready to make recommendations to Directors at the July board meeting.

Berger shared with Directors an incident that occurred at the North Mahaska vs. Seymour regional basketball final at Pleasantville. Three Seymour spectators were ejected during the game at the request of game officials. Following the game two adults had to be restrained from entering the officials' locker room. The police were called to disperse the Seymour crowd in the hall outside the officials' locker room and to escort the officials to their vehicles. Management was alerted to the situation by Pleasantville school administration. Berger contacted Seymour school administration and directed them to provide a written response that reflects what they are planning to do differently in the future so this situation doesn't reoccur. The requested document must be approved by the Seymour Board of Education. Berger was seeking guidance from Directors because of Seymour's lack of response. It is unclear what action if any has been taken by the school administration. Following discussion, Directors instructed Berger to contact the Seymour Superintendent and inform him that the Board of Directors discussed the situation at a recent administrative session. Berger is to share with the superintendent she is contacting him per direction of the Board of Directors. If Seymour administration fails to act, Directors will take action against the school.

Berger and Ross presented extensive research documentation on the subject of classification. Ross reviewed a chart that showed state champions in every class for volleyball, softball, basketball and soccer for the past five years. It was easy to see the number of public and private school champions. There has been some discussion regarding classification utilizing a free and reduced meal modifier. A chart listing every state champion in every class and the percentage of free and reduced meals per school was shared. Gary reviewed the number of classes and the number of schools in each class. There are currently five classes in volleyball, softball and basketball. In basketball and volleyball the classification is exactly the same: Class 5A – largest 40 schools, 4A next 48 largest schools, 3A – next 64 schools, 2A – 96 schools and 1A the remaining schools. Softball classification is the same except for Class 2A and that class has 80 schools rather than 96. Discussion ensued about softball classification and should it be identical to volleyball and basketball. As the number of schools continues to decrease, there may be a need to reduce the number of classes to four. Also discussed was the use of a modifier for free and reduced meals or a multiplier for private schools. Directors reviewed and discussed a resolution presented by the Superintendent from Cardinal of Eldon at the last Great Prairie AEA meeting. The resolution "Calls for a commitment from the IGHS AU & IHSAA Board of Directors, Board of Control and Executive Directors to convene a committee to seriously evaluate the competitive needs of students and schools in order to experience success and the inequities inherent in a system based solely on enrollment size without consideration of family and community capacity for support and make a recommendation to a joint board of both organizations to resolve this issue in the 2019-2020 school year". He asked that every school board take action and sign the resolution. Ross indicated the Basketball Advisory Committee will discuss the subject of

classification at its next meeting. The subject will also be discussed by the Representative Council at the annual June meeting.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Karon Brown  
Associate Director