

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION
May 18, 2019**

In the absence of President Zittergruen, Treasurer Francis called this administrative session of the Board of Directors to order at 7:00 a.m. Directors present: Francis, Dufoe, Kroemer, Boehmer, Seivert and Fadness. Absent: Zittergruen and Ebeling. Attending from the state office: Berger, Brown, Eslinger and Brinkmeyer.

Motion by Kroemer, second by Fadness and unanimously approved by all Directors present to accept consent items: 1) April 10, 2019 Board of Directors minutes 2) April 2019 financials 3) Basketball Advisory Committee minutes, April 10, 2019 and 4) Student Athlete Advisory Committee minutes, May 1, 2019.

Eslinger reviewed in detail the four nominees for the 2019 Softball Hall of Fame. Following brief discussion, **motion by Dufoe, second by Kroemer and unanimously approved by all Directors present approving Softball Hall of Fame nominations as presented.**

**2019 SOFTBALL HALL OF FAME
Kelsey Rethmeier, Winterset 2005
Alex Jacobson, Cedar Rapids Jefferson 2010
Susan Kies, Newell-Fonda 2010
Miranda Kramer, Burlington 2011**

The 2019 proposed state softball schedule, which is the same as last year, was presented by Berger. After brief discussion, **motion by Boehmer, second by Dufoe and unanimously approved by all Directors present to adopt the 2019 state softball tournament schedule as presented.**

Brinkmeyer presented the Student Athlete Advisory Committee membership list, which consisted of members from 2018-2019 school year as well as those that are recommended for the 2019-2020 school year. Three members needed to be replaced because they were graduating seniors. Brinkmeyer reviewed the process of selecting members for this committee. Each of the four districts have two representatives and three at-large representatives will be appointed. Application process was open to any female student-athlete in grades 9-12 during the 2019-2020 school year. Eligible candidates must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, be available for scheduled teleconferences and in-person meetings, have a history of leadership on athletic teams and other extracurricular activities, community service and show an understanding of the role of school sports and the value of participation for females. In selecting committee members, consideration was given to school size, grade level, and activities in which the applicant participated. Committee members will serve a two-year term. **Upon review and discussion, motion by Dufoe, second by Fadness and unanimously approved by**

all Directors present to approve the three newest members of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee as presented.

In the absence of Ross, Berger presented the track and field update. The 32 state qualifying meets were postponed from Thursday, May 9 to Friday, May 10. The forecast for Thursday was for cold and windy conditions, so some schools postponed their meet to Friday. Once a few schools postponed, others postponed. Some were due to conditions at the host site, but others were due to “wanting to have similar conditions” for the qualifying meets. At 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, there were only seven schools planning on hosting meets. The other 25 had postponed. Following an IGHS AU and IHSAA meeting, the decision was made to postpone all state qualifying meets until Friday, which was forecast to have great conditions for the state qualifying meets. Davenport Central was unable to host its meet on Friday due to their facility and timing system not being available. The meet was moved to North Scott. State qualifying meets ran as scheduled on Friday with little state-wide issues. Qualifiers were posted prior to noon on Saturday and heat and lane assignments finalized by 6:00 p.m. Sunday. The state qualifying method will be discussed by the Track and Field Advisory Committee at their next meeting.

Brinkmeyer reviewed the golf season thus far. Teams were able to play several rounds before the regional assignments were released. She reviewed post-season tournament dates and reminded Directors of the four sites hosting the state tournament. Class 1A at the American Legion Golf Course in Marshalltown, Class 2A at Ames Golf and Country Club, Class 3A at Otter Creek Golf Course in Ankeny and Class 4A Coldwater Links in Ames. State tournament is scheduled Tuesday and Wednesday, May 28 and 29. State qualifying procedures were reviewed. There are 20 regional final sites. The top six individuals advance to state plus sixth place ties. The top two teams only advance to the state tournament (third-place teams do not advance if the host school finishes first or second on their home course). Some discussion was conducted on providing medals for first round-winners. Boehmer indicated he hosted a final and it didn't have a tournament feel. Brinkmeyer stated that if medals were given to first-round winners, golf would be the only sport in which that is done. Brinkmeyer said she hasn't heard much about it but that the subject would be discussed by the Golf Advisory Committee at its next meeting.

Within the soccer update, Brinkmeyer indicated there have been 14 ejections. All were students. Discussion ensued regarding the number of ejections. The state soccer schedule was reviewed. The tournament will be contested at Cownie Soccer Complex on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 6, 7 and 8. The Soccer Advisory Committee has recommended that the state tournament be played on Tuesday, Wednesday, no play Thursday and finish up on Friday. Before any adjustment in schedule will be determined, the IGHS AU and IHSAA will work together to solidify their schedules for future years. The AdHoc survey reflects a strong indication that the schools want to have both the girls and boys state soccer tournaments the same week.

In the absence of Ihnen, Executive Director Berger presented the tennis season update. She reviewed the dates for regional team tennis play as well as for singles and doubles. Regional singles and doubles played on May 15 (second year for the date change off of

state track). First round of state team tennis will be held on May 20/21 at sites across the state, TBD based on weather. State singles and doubles will be held on May 29 and 30 (second year for date change). Friday is a day of rest with state team tennis on Saturday, June 1. Two sites for state team tennis: Johnston and Ankeny. Co-ed tennis tournament will be held at Waveland Park in Des Moines and Ankeny on June 4.

At the last administrative session, Directors approved 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 approved school calendar. This is a one-year waiver. Since member schools were notified of the option, 41 have written requesting this waiver, which involves 431 sixth grade students.

At the April 10, 2019 Directors' administrative session, they discussed classification and various ways in which classification could be determined. Directors were informed that the superintendent from Cardinal of Eldon, at the last Great Prairie meeting, presented a resolution which calls for a commitment from the IGHSAU and 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. Since the last Board meeting, there have been nine schools whose superintendent signed the resolution. Discussion ensued.

Executive Director Berger shared with Directors that due to the IGHSAU no longer sponsoring the summer coaching authorization program, it is now partnering with the Iowa Girls Coaches Association and 3D Institute to provide professional development to IGCA member coaches through 3Dimensional Coaching Certification and college credit courses. The IGHSAU and IGCA have committed to granting \$75 scholarships to the first 150 member coaches of girls sports who register for the 3Dimensional Coaching Course for Certification or Course for College Credit. Through the 3D Coaching on-line course for certification and/or college credit coaches will learn how to motivate athletes from within, understand how to build confidence, develop strategies to harness emotions, understand the formula for team cohesion, realize how to effectively set goals and establish a plan to cultivate character. Berger also informed Directors that the IGHSAU has also committed to support the She Coaches Iowa event, which will be held at the Iowa Hall of Pride in August. The mission of this organization is to foster a supportive community of female coaching professionals.

Eslinger briefly reviewed the April 29, 2019 Bowling Advisory Committee minutes. He reminded Directors that due to bowling being a co-ed sport, the minutes must go before the Joint Committee before action is taken by the respective boards. The number of schools providing bowling opportunities continues to grow. Because of the growth, the committee discussed possible changes in the state tournament format.

The current IGHSAU junior high school sport date policy states that the junior high fall sport season may begin on Monday of week 8. Other junior high seasons may be any time during the school year, but it may not be longer in length than that of the high school season (exception-softball and soccer may be during the summer). In 2019-2020 the first day of school can begin on Friday, August 23. Management recommended a change to the policy which would prohibit junior high school sports to start before the first day of school or the Monday of week 8 of the NFHS Standardized Calendar, whichever is earlier. Berger stated that the intent of the policy change is to allow junior high schools to begin practice on Monday of the same week school started, if they wanted to, not to delay the start of practice. Discussion was conducted on the intent of the proposed policy change. Because of when school starts and the calendar as we look ahead, we want to change the wording and anticipate future calendars. **Motion by Kroemer, second by Fadness and unanimously approved by all Directors present, adopting policy as presented: "Junior high school sports shall NOT start before the first day of school or the Monday of the week 8 of the NFHS Standardized Calendar, whichever is earlier.**

Brown reviewed the schedule for the annual June meeting. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 12 with Directors meeting at 8:30 a.m. and the Board of Directors and Representative Council combined session at 10:00 a.m.

The NFHS summer conference itinerary was presented by Brown.

The next order of business was an eligibility appeal hearing involving Shelby Hatcher who currently attends St. Albert High School in Council Bluffs. Seivert recused herself from the hearing. Treasurer Francis indicated that Executive Director Berger would provide management's opinion followed by the appellant's appeal to that opinion. Board members will have the opportunity to ask questions of either party. Following questions, the Board of Directors will move into Executive Session to discuss the information presented. As per IAC 281-36.16, the Board will issue its conclusion in written form within five days.

Executive Director Berger indicated that the letter from Mcginn Law Firm and the Hatcher family had been provided Directors prior to this administrative session. Shelby Hatcher transferred from Lewis Central High School to St. Albert High School on January 3, 2019. St. Albert High School declared Shelby ineligible to play varsity softball because she did not meet any of the exceptions under the transfer rule. Due to St. Albert's ruling, the family appealed to Executive Director Berger. After reviewing the appeal, Berger upheld St. Albert's decision of ineligibility for 90 consecutive school days. In her ruling she stated that Iowa Administrative Code 28-36.15(3) calls for a 90-day consecutive school day ineligibility period in cases of a student who transfers. This period of ineligibility applies to varsity level competition only. There are exceptions to this rule as specified in the Iowa Administrative Code. Berger found that none of the listed exceptions is applicable to Shelby's transfer. There is a second exception which allows for situations to be reviewed by the IGHSAU. IAC 281-36.15(3) (9) addresses transfer situations not otherwise covered in Chapter 36, often referred to as the "extenuating circumstance" exception and outlines the consideration of the motivating factors for the student transfer. Shelby cannot meet the 90-day ineligibility period due to the number of school days cancelled due to

inclement weather. The school district opted to add hours of instruction to the 2018-19 calendar as opposed to additional school days. The revised St. Albert calendar reflects that school was cancelled a total of five days during the second semester. St. Albert had 90 school days scheduled before any classes were cancelled due to weather or other circumstances. Executive Director Berger stated she had reviewed other appeal decisions regarding the 90-day period and found no exceptions were applied by the Iowa Department of Education. In addition, the IGHSAU had previously sought Department of Education guidance on the 90 school day requirement when instructional hours are now utilized by many districts. The decision to transfer was the choice of Shelby and her family and no extenuating circumstances were noted with regard to the motivating factors in the decision to transfer. Her family's claim that the 90-day period is "unfair" is refuted by the Department of Education distinction in its guidance on the issue.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Hatcher along with daughter Shelby were in attendance for the hearing. Mrs. Hatcher presented the basis for their appeal asking the Board of Directors to overturn management's opinion of 90 consecutive school days of ineligibility and declare Shelby eligible to participate on the varsity softball team. Mrs. Hatcher explained that Shelby (a junior) has wanted to transfer from Lewis Central High School to St. Albert High School for a few years, but financially the family could not make it work. In mid-December the family learned that Shelby would be offered tuition assistance. Because it was the end of the semester, Mr. Schweitzer, St. Albert superintendent of schools recommended that Shelby wait until after winter break to begin attending classes. Shelby began classes at St. Albert on January 3, 2019. Mrs. Hatcher stated the family was aware of the 90-day ineligibility rule. Due to weather related school cancellations, St. Albert decided to add hours of instruction to the 2018-19 calendar as opposed to additional school days. The Hatchers weren't informed of the calendar change. The family feels that adding hours rather than days is unfair to Shelby because she will not have the opportunity fulfill her 90-school days of ineligibility prior to the end of school. She will be short five days. They feel Shelby should not be penalized the entire summer and the beginning of the next season. They also feel the rule is unfair if a student has been enrolled the full semester, regardless of days or hours. Even though school was not in session Shelby was still enrolled at St. Albert. They further stated that if the Iowa Department of Education allows schools to make up academic hours, then it should satisfy the requirements for participating in activities. Shelby will be missing an opportunity to play softball this summer because even though she would be eligible to participate on the JV team, St. Albert High School doesn't have enough girls to field one.

The family thanked the Board of Directors for their time and consideration of the appeal. They hope that this situation will bring attention to the need for a rule change.

Following discussion between the Board of Directors and the Hatcher family, **motion by Fadness, second by Kroemer and unanimously approved by all Directors present that this administrative session temporarily adjourn as Directors move into executive session. Session adjourned at 8:15 a.m.**

Motion by Boehmer, second by Dufoe and unanimously approved by all Directors present to re-adjourn this administrative session at 9:15 a.m. Directors present: Francis, Dufoe, Kroemer, Boehmer, and Fadness. Absent: Zittergruen, Ebeling and Seivert. Attending from the state office: Berger and Brown.

The Board of Directors agreed with management that none of the exceptions included in Iowa Administrative Code 281-36.15(3) applied to Shelby Hatcher's transfer from Lewis Central High School to St. Albert High School. Directors also considered IAC 28136.15(3) (9) which addresses transfer situations not otherwise covered in Chapter 36. The subsection "extenuating circumstances" allows the executive board to exercise its administrative authority to make any eligibility ruling which it deems to be fair and reasonable. Roll call vote was called for. A yes vote reaffirms management's decision that Shelby Hatcher be ineligible to participate in varsity athletics at St. Albert High School for a period of 90 consecutive school days, commencing January 3, 2019. Boehmer – yes, Dufoe – yes, Fadness – no, Kroemer – yes and Francis – yes. Motion carried 4 to 1.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned through a motion by Boehmer, second by Fadness and unanimously approved by all Directors present. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Karon Brown
Associate Director