

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION  
September 6, 2018**

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

**Motion by Francis, second by Kroemer and unanimously approved by all Directors present to accept consent items 1) July 20, 2018 Board of Directors minutes 2) Financials – 2018 Year End and July and August 2018 financial report 3) July 31, 2018 Tennis Advisory Committee minutes 4) April 23, 2018 Bowling Advisory Committee minutes 5) June 20, 2018 Golf Advisory Committee minutes 6) June 26, 2018 Soccer Advisory Committee minutes and 7) Basketball, Volleyball, Soccer and Golf Advisory Committee appointments.**

When Superintendent Jeff Dicks, Washington Community Schools moved from the southeast district to Newell-Fonda Community Schools in the northwest district, he left a one-year unexpired term on the Representative Council. Per IGHS AU Constitutional writing, in case of a vacancy, the Board member from that district shall meet with the two remaining Representative Council members from that district to provide a recommendation to the Board of Directors to fill the vacancy. Ebeling met with the two Representative Council members in the southeast district, Davis Eidahl, Solon and Shane Ehresman, Lynnville-Sully and together selected Jennifer Donels, Principal at Davis County High School. Ebeling shared with Directors Donels' background and achievements. **After discussion, motion by Zittergruen, Boehmer second and unanimously approved by all Directors present to appoint Jennifer Donels to fill the one-year unexpired term of office on the Representative Council serving the southeast district.**

Ihnen presented the one recommendation from the Tennis Advisory Committee. Committee recommended if singles and "intact" doubles were champions or runners-up in the previous year and finish as a runner-up in regional play, they could possibly be up for a seed. Ihnen indicated management supports the recommendation. It allows, but does not require, seeding consideration for the previous year's state champion or runner-up who is not a regional champion. Current policy allows only regional champions to be considered for a seed. Regionals with quality depth of individuals may disadvantage those individuals and "skew" the entire bracket if seeding is limited. **Motion by Kroemer, Ebeling second and unanimously approved by all Directors present to approve Tennis Advisory Committee's recommendation as presented.**

Eslinger reviewed the Bowling Advisory Committee's four recommendations.

1) The committee recommended to allow the option of skirts to be worn during competition. Management supports the recommendation.

2) Class 1A coaches are concerned regarding the smaller number of schools assigned to Class 2A and Class 3A qualifying meets and the larger number in Class 1A. Four schools are assigned to a Class 2A and Class 3A qualifying meet under the current format, while six or seven may be assigned to a Class 1A meet. In addition, with the inconsistency of oil patterns, concerns are raised regarding the equity of only providing for one at large qualifier per class. There continues

to be growth in the sport. Over 100 schools sponsor bowling, with many schools participating in cooperative sharing agreements. For these reasons, the committee recommended adjusting classifications as follows: Class 3A – the largest 30 schools, Class 2A – the next largest 30 schools and Class 1A – remaining schools.

Management supports this recommendation. The small changes in each class will “even out” competition with very little impact on the tournament format or structure.

3) The committee recommended the following number of joint bowling qualifying sites and at-large qualifying teams: Class 3A – Five joint qualifying sites with six teams at each site. Eight teams will qualify for the state meet. The five teams with the highest pin count at each qualifying meet will be an automatic qualifier for the state meet. The three at-large qualifiers will be based on the highest pin count of the remaining teams from all five joint qualifying meets. Class 2A – Five joint qualifying sites with six teams at each site. Eight teams will qualify for the state meet. The five teams with the highest pin count at each qualifying meet will be an automatic qualifier for the state meet. The three at-large qualifiers will be based on the highest pin count of the remaining teams from all five joint qualifying meets. Class 1A – Seven joint sites with six – eight teams at each site depending on the number of schools. Eight teams will qualify for the state meet. The seven teams with the highest pin count at each qualifying meet will be an automatic qualifier for the state meet. The one at-large qualifier will be based on the highest pin count of the remaining teams from all seven joint qualifying meets.

Management supports this recommendation. The changes reflect coaches’ thoughtful research and discussion on the tournament and they believe this will improve the championship.

4) The committee had discussion regarding the number of individuals from non-qualifying teams qualifying for the state tournament. Currently, the top 12 individuals qualify for the post season, whether or not they are on a qualifying team. With this format, a small number of individual qualifiers from non-qualifying teams may make it to the state tournament, with those individual qualifiers being placed on the same lanes together, and finishing much sooner than those teams that qualified. The committee recommended to have the 12 highest non-qualifying individual scores from each class qualify for the state tournament. These individuals would bowl together (six on a lane) and would bowl their individual games and be able to compete for the individual championship.

Management does not support this recommendation. While it does increase the number of individual qualifiers, the main concern is the instability of our championship facility. The bowling championship remains in Waterloo until the new Plaza Lanes in Des Moines is finished. A more thorough discussion of the venue for 2019 and beyond needs to occur. We would prefer to re-visit this request next year once a venue has been secured and we are able to adequately plan for the number of lanes this increase of participation would entail.

**Following discussion, motion by Ebeling, second by Francis and unanimously approved by all Directors present to adopt the first three recommendations of the Bowling Advisory Committee as presented. Motion by Fadness, Ebeling second to also adopt the fourth recommendation. Motion failed 6 to 1.**

Brinkmeyer reviewed the two recommendations from the Golf Advisory Committee.

1) The committee decided to continue to study the advancement of teams from the first round of regionals to the regional finals for another season. The committee recommended to decrease the number of individual qualifiers advancing from each round of regionals from the top eight individuals and ties to the top six individuals and ties.

Management supports this recommendation. After review of qualifying scores, the number of “higher scores” which qualified raised concerns about the quality of a state tournament experience. Previous discussion during the move to four classes had raised this as a concern. The recommendation addresses those concerns.

**Following discussion, motion by Fadness, second by Kroemer and unanimously approved by all Directors present to decrease the number of individual qualifiers advancing from each round of regionals from the top eight individuals and ties to the top six individuals and ties.**

2) The committee expressed concern about the current policy, which is if 18 holes are not completed on Day 1 of the state tournament, then no scores will be carried over to Day 2. The tournament would turn into an 18-hole tournament rather than a 36-hole tournament. The committee discussed carrying over the scores from Day 1 to Day 2 to ensure 18 holes would be played if the tournament faced inclement weather on Day 2 as well. The Golf Advisory Committee subsequently recommended that scores carry over from Day 1 to Day 2 of the state tournament to ensure teams play a complete 18-hole tournament. In order to carry scores over from Day 1 to Day 2, the entire field must have completed at least 12 holes, with every effort made to complete 18 holes on Day 1 of the tournament. Day 2 will commence with teams completing Day 1’s round by re-starting on tee box of the hole that play was suspended on Day 1.

Management supports this recommendation. The previous policy had not been reviewed or discussed and this change better reflects updated tournament formats. If 12 holes are not completed on Day 1, the scores will be wiped out completely. **Motion by Kroemer, Boehmer second and unanimously approved by all Directors present to approve that scores carry over from Day 1 to Day 2 of the state tournament to ensure teams play a complete 18-hole tournament. In order to carry scores over from Day 1 to Day 2, the entire field must have completed at least 12 holes, with every effort made to complete 18 holes on Day 1 of the tournament. Day 2 will commence with teams completing Day 1’s round by re-starting on the tee box of the holes where play was suspended on Day 1.**

Ross reviewed state cross country qualifying meet sites. All meets begin at 4:00 p.m. unless the site hosts two meets in which case the first race will begin at 3:00 p.m.

Each year the National Federation of State High School Associations selects coaches from across the country as National Coaches of the Year. National Coaches of the Year are selected for the top 10 girls’ sports and 10 top boys’ sports (by participation numbers.) Each state nominates deserving coach award recipients to be recognized as a State Coach of the Year. The next award level after state coach of the year is sectional coach of the year. One coach for each of the respective sports is selected and recognized as a Sectional Coach of the Year. There are eight sections. From the sectional level, the NFHS Coaches Association Advisory Committee considers the sectional candidates in each sport and determines a national winner for each of the 20 sport categories. This year the IGHSAU’s nominees are as follows:

Swimming and Diving – Bruce Schomberg, Lewis Central  
Softball – Andrea Adams, Fort Dodge  
Volleyball -- Melissa Freesmeier, Holy Trinity  
Soccer – Randy Davis, Nevada  
Golf – Megan Youngkent, Cedar Falls  
Cross Country – Cristy Nimrod, Decorah  
Basketball – BJ Mayer, Iowa City West  
Track and Field – Tim Frake, Cascade  
Tennis – Scott Giraud, Waverly Shell Rock

The first Student Athlete Advisory Committee meeting will be held on September 12 with additional meetings planned for this winter and spring. Brinkmeyer reviewed plans for the meeting, which included an ice breaker activity, brief history of the IGHSAU, having the committee brain storm about what their goals will be, team building and in the afternoon, learn what is involved in creating pairings. The committee will be separated into groups and pin maps while the entire process is explained. The committee will be asked to attend a portion of one day and assist with the administration of the state volleyball and basketball tournaments. They will also be offered attendance at any of the tournaments throughout the year. Additional ideas on how to utilize committee members was discussed. Some of the ideas expressed included assist with award presentations and serve as ambassadors, etc. A picture of the group as well as a story on each committee member will appear on the IGHSAU website.

Berger shared with Directors that this year in addition to the catastrophic insurance, which has been in place for numerous years, the IGHSAU is also providing concussion insurance to participants in grades 9-12. The insurance is intended to pay accidental medical expense benefits resulting from suspected concussions. The injury must be sustained while the athlete is participating in an IGHSAU covered activity (practice or play). The policy limit is \$25,000 for each accident. Accident medical deductible and co-pays left unpaid by other policies are reimbursed under the program to the limits of the policy. The coverage began on September 1, 2018. The premium cost is about \$30,000 per year. Berger informed Directors that she believes a sponsor for the program has been secured.

Eslinger brought Directors up to date on a new mobile app, Varsity Bound, which was developed by QuikStats. The app has features such as rosters, conference standings, state leaders and directions to school facilities. The current version is only available for for iPhone and iPad. A new updated version will be released in the near future, which will be compatible with Android devices or any smartphone. A desktop version of the app is also being developed. Eventually, Varsity Bound will replace QuikStats.

District Athletic Director meeting dates and sites were shared with Directors. Northwest district: September 26 in Orange City; southeast district: October 1 in Coralville; southwest district: October 3 in Atlantic; central district: October 4 in Boone and northeast district: October 10 in Waverly.

State softball tournament review was presented by Berger. Documentation reflecting regional sites and attendance was reviewed by Directors. It was noted that regional attendance met budget. Attendance at this year's state tournament increased approximately 2,000. A survey was sent to state tournament coaches and athletic directors. Coaches were asked to share the

survey with their players. The survey included questions regarding pre-state tournament experience, state tournament facilities, services, information, awards/participation gifts, and officiating. Some concern was expressed by coaches/athletic directors because this year's format did not allow playing 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> place. Overall, response was positive. IPTV liked the new format with two championship games played Thursday night and three on Friday afternoon/evening. Francis watched the consolation games and it appeared to him the kids were taking the game seriously and they were in it to win it. Because the "winner's circle" in basketball has been so successful, it was agreed that something similar is needed for softball.

Joint Committee minutes, July 27, 2018 were presented by Ross. Department of Education's Ryan Wise and Eric Heitz discussed with the committee SF 475 related to Division 4 (Open Enrollment to an Online Academy). The DOE is currently in the process of developing a Q and A to assist schools in understanding and applying SF 475. The committee approved several recommendations from the Joint Track and Field Advisory Committee, which will come before Directors for action in a forthcoming meeting.

Due to previous discussions and the fact that the IGHSAU does not have a well defined process, conversation began on developing a policy for sanctioning a new sport. Reminder was given, the IGHSAU does not just sanction a state tournament, rather it sanctions a sport and then a post-season tournament. The possible addition of any new sport will be membership driven. Berger reviewed a draft document containing criteria for superintendents or administrative leaders to include in any proposal they submit to the IGHSAU requesting an additional sport be added. Once submitted, management will also need to consider health and safety of the sport, growth potential, economic viability of the proposal and other sports being evaluated. Within discussion Berger stated that it would take two years before a sport could be implemented once the process began. Francis shared that his constituents are not opposed to adding a sport, but want to know the specifics such as cost, facilities, season, etc. From a school board member's perspective, Fadness indicated it is all about the financial aspect. Kroemer was of the opinion that consideration needs to be given to where we are going to have the greatest impact—the greatest opportunity for girls in the competitive arena to grow and sustain. Another question raised—is it better for girls to compete with boys in a sanctioned IHSAA sport not currently sanctioned by the IGHSAU, or possibly limit competitive opportunities by sanctioning the sport? Discussion ensued regarding if a specific number of schools or a percentage of schools must sponsor or intend to sponsor a sport at the varsity level before the process of adding a sport could begin. Consensus was to use a percentage of schools due to the fluctuation in total number of schools due to consolidations. Zittergruen suggested inquiry be made to conferences asking what sports they are most interested in if a sport were added. Ebeling asked about how to prioritize what sports are added. Berger indicated prioritization could occur when schools are asked what sports they are interested in adding. Feedback regarding the process will be gathered from athletic directors at their district meetings and Representative Council members during the November combined session. It was also noted that any proposal from a school to add a sport must be signed by the superintendent and school board president.

The next order of business was an eligibility appeal hearing involving Maya Kerschen who currently attends Iowa City Regina High School. President Dufoe reviewed procedure for the hearing. Appellant will present its appeal to management's opinion which will be followed by management's 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 conclusions in written form within five days.

Mr. and Mrs. Josh Kerschen and Maya were in attendance for the hearing. Mr. Kerschen presented the basis for their appeal asking the Board of Directors overturn management's opinion of 90 consecutive school days of ineligibility and declare Maya eligible for interscholastic athletics. Mr. Kerschen explained Maya (a sophomore at the time) enjoyed the start of the 2017-2018 school year at Iowa City Liberty. She began to experience increasing anxiety due to the numerous fights and disturbances as well as national events regarding school shootings. This was not bullying and the encounters were not directed at Maya. Due to these circumstances in February, to lessen her anxiety, Maya asked to visit Iowa City Regina High School. After participating in a shadow day at Regina, Maya felt it would be a good fit for what she needed. Following the decision to transfer to Regina High School, the Kerschen family shared Maya's concerns for safety to Scott Kibby, Principal at Iowa City Liberty. Maya transferred to Regina on February 28, 2018. The Kerschen family asked the Board of Directors to overrule management's opinion of 90 consecutive school days of ineligibility based on what they consider to be extenuating circumstances.

Berger indicated that Maya Kerschen attended Iowa City Liberty High School August 2017 – February 2018. She transferred from Iowa City Liberty High School to Iowa City Regina on February 28, 2018. Regina High School ruled Maya ineligible stating she did not meet any of the exceptions under the transfer regulations. The Kerschen's appealed Regina's ruling to IGHSAU management. Berger indicated that the Iowa Administrative Code 281-36.15(3) calls for a 90 consecutive school day ineligibility period in cases of a student who transfers. There are exceptions to the rule as specified in the Iowa Administrative Code. None of the listed exceptions was applicable to Maya's transfer. In addition, no founded case of bullying or harassment was noted. A second exception (known as "extenuating circumstances") exists and addresses transfer situations not otherwise covered in Chapter 36. This exception outlines the consideration of the motivating factors for the student transfer. In the appeal, Maya's reason for transferring was health-related (anxiety due to fights, drug incidents and disturbances at Liberty High School as well as national events regarding school shootings.) Maya did consider sharing her concerns to Mr. Kibby, the school principal, but felt he was too occupied. She did not speak to school counselors or teachers at Liberty regarding her concerns. Maya participated in a shadowing program at Regina and felt it would be a better place for her. She subsequently transferred from Iowa City Liberty High School to Iowa City Regina on February 28, 2018. Liberty school officials were never notified of her safety concerns or health issues until the decision was made to transfer. If the safety concerns and her health were the extenuating circumstances for the transfer, it seems reasonable that they would have been discussed with Liberty officials at some point in the six months prior to Maya's departure. Based on this information, management concurred with the original decision declaring Maya ineligible to compete in varsity athletics at Regina High School for 90 consecutive school days commencing with her first day of attendance at Regina. Reminder was given that Maya is allowed to practice and compete at the junior varsity level.

Within discussion, Kroemer asked Maya if any school official at either Liberty or Regina had shared with her about eligibility. Mr. Kerschen indicated that Regina did tell them that there would be an ineligibility period of 90 consecutive school days due to the transfer. Maya will be eligible to participate on the varsity level on October 5, 2018. Berger stated that one of the key points in this situation is this: Does what is going on with Maya constitute an exception? She

didn't believe that the circumstances rose to the level of exception. Kroemer asked if the family had considered transferring to West or City. Mr. Kerschen stated that the family thought a smaller school would be better for Maya.

President Dufoe thanked Mr. and Mrs. Kerschen and Maya for attending the hearing and presenting their appeal. Dufoe indicated Directors would go into Executive Session to review and discuss facts presented and make a decision regarding Maya's eligibility. The family was also informed that management would relay Directors' decision in written form within five days of the hearing.

**Motion by Boehmer, second by Zittergruen and unanimously approved by all Directors present that this administrative session be temporarily adjourned as Directors move into executive session. Session adjourned at 12:45 a.m.**

**Motion by Zittergruen, second by Boehmer and unanimously approved to readjourn this administrative session at 1:00 p.m. Directors present: Dufoe, Ebeling, Francis, Zittergruen, Kroemer, Boehmer and Fadness. Absent: Seivert. Attending from the State Office: Berger, Ihnen 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 Maya Kerschen's transfer from Iowa City Liberty to Iowa City Regina. Directors also considered IAC 281-36.15(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. Motion by Francis second by Kroemer and unanimously approved by all Directors present to affirm management's decision that student Maya Kerschen be ineligible to participate in varsity athletics at Iowa City Regina High School for a period of 90 consecutive school days, commencing with February 28, 2018 enrollment.**

There being no further business, this administrative session of the Board of Directors was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Karon Brown  
Senior Associate Director