

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION
October 18, 2017**

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

Consent items

- 1) September 7, 2017 Board of Directors' Minutes**
- 2) September 7, 2017 Board of Directors' Executive Session Minutes**
- 3) 2017 Year-End Financials**
- 4) September Financials**
- 5) 2017-18 Softball Advisory Committee Minutes, September 5, 2017**

The above items were unanimously approved through a motion by Kroemer and second by Francis.

Berger reviewed four recommendations from the Softball Advisory Committee and presented management's position on each. Committee recommended:

- 1) To follow NFHS rules and allow a batter to be walked without first pitching to her. Rationale: This change to allow intentional walks was enacted to align fast pitch and slow pitch rules, to keep up with current trends of the sport, and also to maximize the flow of the game.

Management supported the committee's recommendation to adopt NFHS rule

- 2) To retain the Iowa Adaptation regarding pre-game equipment inspections by the umpires. Committee believes umpires need to be diligent in their inspections as there is still illegal equipment being used, and must be thorough in identifying illegal/damaged equipment. Players and coaches might not be aware of damaged equipment as cracked bats/helmets can happen from game to game.

Management recommended following the NFHS rule with respect to pre-game inspection of equipment. Umpires and officials are not provided training or education on illegal equipment and an unfair burden of liability is a fear of some officials. Management believes high school coaches and administrators are better equipped to deal with this rule through the purchase of legal bats and safety helmets as well as monitoring the condition of the equipment on a daily basis.

- 3) The umpire should use his/her judgment on the number of warm-up pitches given to a new pitcher. Rationale: Currently there are no guidelines for warming up the incoming pitcher under these circumstances. The default number of pitches used by the umpires is five unless there is inclement weather. The note will give guidance to all parties involved.

Management recommended following the NFHS rule and allow umpires to utilize his/her judgment on the number of warm-up pitches given to a new pitcher.

- 4) To retain the Iowa Adaptation Pitching Rule: All levels of play (7-12) will pitch from 43-feet. Follow Rule 6 with one exception: Prior to starting the delivery of the pitch, the non-pivot foot must be in contact with the pitching plate.

The committee questioned the NFHS proposed change that the pitcher may now step back with the non-pivot foot at any time prior to the start of the pitch. Rationale: This is a change to assist the developing pitcher. The committee questioned if this really helps a developing pitcher, or hampers her. Also discussed safety and control issues of developing pitchers.

Management recommended keeping the Iowa Adaptation.

Motion by Boehmer, Dufoe second to approve management's recommendations as stated above. The motion was unanimously approved.

Following review and discussion of management's proposed advisory committee appointments, motion filed by Kroemer, Zittergreuen second to approve appointments as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

**Swimming and Diving -- Rollie Ackerman, Marshalltown
(Athletic Director and Chair)
Dennis Peters (Official)
Mike Ahrens, Bettendorf**

Cross Country -- Kevin Kearney, South Winneshiek

**Basketball -- Kristin Meyer, Dowling
Nicole Goodwin, Kingsley-Pierson
Thad Streit, Mt. Ayr**

Tennis -- Dr. Shawn Peterson, Atlantic

Eslinger presented 2017 Volleyball Hall of Fame nominees. Following review and discussion, **motion by Francis, second by Boehmer and unanimously approved by all Directors approving 2017 Volleyball Hall of Fame nominees as presented.**

Jessica Gehrke, Iowa City West 2010
Ali Stark, Mount Vernon 2011
Megan Gilbert, Tripolli 2012

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Ross reviewed state cross country qualifying assignments that were released the week of October 9. The top three teams and top 15 individuals from each meet qualify for state meet competition. Ross reviewed the state meet schedule: 4A girls – 11:00 a.m.; 4A boys – 11:30 a.m.; 3A girls – 12:00 p.m.; 3A boys – 12:30 p.m.; 2A girls – 1:00 p.m.; 2A boys – 1:30 p.m.; 1A girls – 2:00 p.m.; 1A boys – 2:30 p.m.

Eslinger presented a swimming and diving update. Regional assignments were released on October 6. Regional swimming sites utilized this year are Ankeny, Davenport Central, Indianola, Johnston, Southeast Polk and Linn-Mar. Regional swimming will be contested on Saturday, October 28. Regional diving is scheduled for Thursday, November 26 at Johnston, Davenport Central, Grinnell College and Linn-Mar. Grinnell College and Johnston each host two regional diving meets.

Brinkmeyer presented the volleyball update. Thus far this season, there have been no issues reported to the state office. Regional competition begins Monday, October 17 with class 1A and 2A. Regional competition for 3A, 4A and 5A commence Tuesday, October 18. State tournament will be contested at the US Cellular Center in Cedar Rapids on Tuesday – Friday, November 7 – 10.

Berger presented an update on ticketing changes. Athletic directors at the various district meetings were informed that effective with the 2017 regional volleyball tournament series, the IGHS AU will only send roll tickets to schools serving as hosts who request them. Athletic directors were reminded that if their school uses its own tickets, they are still responsible for following the IGHS AU Board approved ticketing procedures. The official ticket report form must be completed and returned along with the check following the last event for a tournament series. Berger reminded Directors that all gate receipts must be received by the state office no later than 30 days from the regional final date. If the gate receipts are not received within the 30-day period, management will notify the athletic director at the respective school and indicate their school may be in jeopardy of not receiving 20% of the gate.

Directors were informed that like in softball last summer, we are going to pre-sale state swimming and diving tickets using GoFan.com. Tickets will be available for purchase on October 23. Everyone who purchases tickets in advance will verify their ticket purchase when the gym opens at 9 a.m. Saturday. Fans can still walk up and purchase tickets at the YMCA/YWCA for Friday and Saturday's meet. Only 1,200 tickets will be sold through GoFan. An additional 500 tickets will be available for purchase after qualifiers are announced.

Tickets to the state volleyball tournament at the US Cellular Center will be available in advance through Ticketmaster. Hard paper tickets will no longer be mailed to schools who qualify for the state tournament. Through Ticketmaster, volleyball fans will have the ability to purchase their tickets in advance and have them securely delivered via email to print at home, or through mobile delivery to their cell phones. Mail and UPS delivery options will not be available. General admission tickets will still be available for purchase at the US Cellular Center box office.

A new "Ticket Punched" promotion will be launched this fall. Every individual qualifying for the state cross country meet and state swimming meet will be presented with a "Ticket Punched" placard. Teams that qualify for state cross country and state volleyball will receive a larger placard. Our intent is to make it a social media event by asking recipients to post a picture with the placard using the hashtag "ticket punched".

As state qualifying volleyball teams enter the lobby of the Cedar Rapids Convention Complex, they will be met with a pink brick road that leads to the US Cellular Center Arena. A banner welcoming the teams to the state tournament will be hung directly above the pink brick road. We are working closely with LRI in fulfilling our sponsorship obligations. LRI will be responsible for printing and hanging several banners and placing decals on the convention complex lobby floor as well as the actual playing floor.

Directors were informed that Tim Keating was hired as Coordinator of Volleyball Officials. In this role, Keating will assign officials for regional and state volleyball matches. He is also responsible for recruiting, educating and retaining volleyball officials. Chuck Brittain has been hired to serve as Coordinator of Basketball Officials. He has the same responsibilities for basketball as Keating does for volleyball.

On October 4, 2017, Berger and Ross attended an Officials Assignor Meeting. Assignors from across the state as well as some athletic directors attended the meeting. Attendees came together to brainstorm and share ideas on ways to recruit, train and retain officials. A follow-up meeting will be held in the future.

Berger informed Directors the IGHS AU audit is in its final stages of preparation. Auditors will present the final audit to the Representative Council and Board of Directors at the November combined session.

A brief update on sponsorships was given by Berger. At this point, there are several outstanding contracts, but progress is being made. Management approached Farm Bureau about a possible change to the autograph ball program. Because this particular program is extremely expensive, they were receptive to a possible change.

The power point that was presented at district athletic director meetings was shared with Directors. The power point contained information about the new IGHS AU website expected to be launched later this year, change in state office staff responsibilities, findings of the Ad Hoc Committee and reminders such as deadlines, forms, etc. Ebeling believes this information is invaluable and should be provided to superintendents and

principals because every few years there are new administrators that are unaware of this information. Inhen suggested that it might be time for the executive directors of the four activity organizations to speak at AEA meetings. This was done several years ago with favorable response. Concern was expressed that if information was sent directly to superintendents, they may forward it to their athletic director without reading the contents. AEA's and the IASB send monthly publications to school administrators. It may be advantageous to include IGHSAU information within those communications. Another idea was to ask the Representative Council to share the information with their respective AEA's.

Due to George Tracy not being re-elected to the Ankeny School Board, he is no longer eligible to serve on the IGHSAU Board of Directors as the IASB representative. At this time, a replacement has not been appointed.

For preliminary discussion, Berger shared possible changes in the state softball format. One option was to play games either Monday – Thursday or Tuesday – Friday. The third-place and championship games would be contested on the last day. This is similar to the current structure. Option two has games being played Monday – Friday with two classes playing third-place games and championships on Thursday. The remaining three classes would play their third-place and championship games on Friday beginning at 4:00 in the afternoon. Neither option includes consolation play. Berger asked Directors to talk with their constituents and gather input. Berger will talk to IPTV and inquire how such changes could impact the broadcast.

Due to professional sports players protesting during the National Anthem by taking a knee, Brinkmeyer shared with Directors the protocol the IGHSAU expects during its sporting contests. Within the Volleyball Tournament Manual, it states, "A United States flag shall be displayed within the gym. The National Anthem shall be played prior to the match (before the initial match if you have multiple matches). Players are expected to conduct themselves in a quiet and attentive manner until the Anthem is fully completed." The script to be read at the state volleyball tournament is as follows: "Ladies and Gentlemen, the _____ under the direction of _____ will now sing our National Anthem. Please direct your attention to the flag as we honor our great country".

Our contract with the Marshalltown YMCA to host the state swimming and diving meet is up for renewal. Berger shared with Directors that she has received a few requests to move the meet to Iowa City. Such a move is problematic because it would be extremely difficult to drive around the University of Iowa campus pool facility and teams would be unable to secure hotel rooms on weekends when there is home football game. Management is exploring the opportunity to remain in Marshalltown.

The newest IGHSAU publication is entitled "The IGHSAU's year in Review". This will be an online publication and replaces the Bulletin, which was mailed annually to member schools. The publication is much different in that it includes pictures of staff, Board of Directors, Representative Council, pictures of the various state champions, action pictures from each championship, various award recipients including hall of fame

inductees, facts and figures, advisory committees, names of officials assigned to state tournament contests, and a profit and loss report for each state tournament. Favorable comments were received from Directors.

Jason will be presented with the Jerry Wetzel Award presented by the Iowa Girls' Coaches Association. The IGCA will recognize Jason for his assistance to the IGCA and its all-star games. The award will be presented in April at the annual IGCA banquet.

Directors shared congratulations with Greg Ebeling for his being selected as Iowa Superintendent of the Year.

Motion by Boehmer, Francis second and unanimously approved to adjourn this administrative session at 12:15 p.m.

Karon Brown
Associate Director