

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION
September 3, 2020**

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

An item was added to the agenda: A request from Ottumwa Christian School to join the IGHSAU as a member school.

Motion by Kroemer, second Dufoe and unanimously approved to accept consent items: 1) July 30, 2020 Board of Directors' minutes 2) July 30, 2020 executive session minutes 3) August 20, 2020 executive session minutes (Crawford appeal), 4) August 20, 2020 executive session minutes (Aljets appeal) and 5) August 2020 financials.

Tennis Advisory Committee minutes, August 11, 2020 was presented by Ihnen. Directors reviewed and discussed the minutes in total. Committee recommended that if it isn't possible to fill all six positions with six players during the postseason, play can commence with a minimum of four players with permission granted from the IGHSAU prior to the start of play. The committee felt a change was necessary to avoid a weaker team purposely not including the fifth and sixth positions on their roster. Within discussion, Executive Director Berger stated that this is very similar to the current substitution rule. **Motion by Dufoe, second by Ebeling and unanimously approved that if it is not possible to fill all six positions with six players during the post season, play may commence with a minimum of four players with permission from the IGHSAU prior to the start of play.**

Committee discussed and subsequently recommended to the Board of Directors to provide a reimbursement to regional host sites if play is forced indoors. If it rains, Directors discussed the fact that some host sites, rather than paying for indoor courts so the tournament may be completed in one day, the tournament will be postponed to another day. This causes teams to potentially lose another day of school. Directors voiced concern regarding allowing the home team meet director to determine if the tournament should be moved indoors. In other sports, a host site may not postpone a contest until after talking with the IGHSAU. **In order to be consistent with other sports, motion by Ebeling, Kroemer second and unanimously approved that the IGHSAU will reimburse regional hosts if play is forced indoors; however, the home team meet director must coordinate with IGHSAU management prior to the decision being made to move indoors.**

Motion by Kroemer, Ebeling second and unanimously approved to accept the August 11, 2020 Tennis Advisory Committee minutes as presented.

Eslinger informed Directors that an appointment is needed to fill a vacancy on the Swimming and Diving Advisory Committee. Further stated that the committee needs representation from northwest Iowa. Management subsequently recommended Ashley Beaumont, Fort Dodge High School for consideration by Directors. **After brief discussion, motion by Boehmer, Kroemer second and unanimously approved to accept management's recommendation to appoint Ashley Beaumont, Fort Dodge High School to the Swimming and Diving Advisory Committee.**

Ottumwa Christian School in Ottumwa is seeking membership into the IGHSAU. Executive Director Berger shared with Directors a letter received from the Iowa Department of Education verifying that Ottumwa Christian School is a nonpublic school specially accredited by Christian School International. The accreditation meets the requirements set forth in Iowa Code 256.11 and 281-IAC Chapter 12. **Motion by Kroemer, second by Dufoe and unanimously approved to grant Ottumwa Christian School membership into the IGHSAU.**

Brown brought Directors up to date on the forthcoming Board of Directors and Representative Council election process. Ballots will be blasted to superintendents on Tuesday, September 8 and will be tallied on Monday, September 14. Four Representative Council seats and one Board of Directors seat need to be filled.

Executive Director Berger shared with Directors that she and Florian are very close to reaching an agreement for title sponsorship with Iowa Farm Bureau. Discussion ensued.

Due to COVID-19 and the need to possibly limit the number of spectators at IGHSAU state championships, management is working to provide a live stream of the various championships for a fee. Example: during the state swimming championship, it would be extremely difficult to social distance and therefore there would be a need to limit the number of spectators. The IGHSAU in turn could provide a live stream of the meet and charge a minimal fee. Florian has been researching partnering with BlueFrame Technology. BlueFrame Technology would be able to provide a live stream, content management, and distribution to the IGHSAU so that it can provide a platform for showcasing the student athletes and providing greater exposure for the IGHSAU. Directors discussed items related to this concept such as: 1) if there are no admissions into state championships, a charge for a stream would be reasonable 2) providing the stream free of charge considering the current pandemic and 3) charge for streaming for one year because of the current circumstances. Executive Director Berger thanked the Directors for their input and will provide an update later this fall.

Directors were informed that Image Sports filed for bankruptcy. The IGHSAU has a contract with Image Sports that they provide merchandise, a percentage of sales and an annual amount to be the official merchandiser of IGHSAU championships. At the time Image Sports filed for bankruptcy, it still owed the IGHSAU a substantial amount of money. Florian is in search for a new merchandise provider and accepting bids. The IHSSA will also be included in the bid opportunity. The official merchandiser will be

required to pay the IGHSAU immediately following each tournament. A new merchandiser will be in place prior to state swimming and volleyball. Discussion ensued.

Directors reviewed the Department of Education's guidance on 100% virtual learning. If a school is providing 100% virtual learning, they are not allowed to participate in activities. The IGHSAU and IHSAA have followed that guidance. Discussion ensued and included what penalty could be issued by the IGHSAU if a school participated against a school that was restricted from participating in activities due to their utilizing 100% virtual learning. There was some agreement that if the scenario occurred, that both schools could be banned from participating in the post season. Fleshner agreed with Ebeling that if it is too unsafe for kids to attend school, then it is unsafe for them to participate in activities. Executive Director Berger was of the opinion that a school's membership would be in jeopardy if a member school participated against a school that is restricted from participating. The school could be placed on probation and banned from postseason. It was consensus of Directors that a letter be prepared that addresses playing against schools that are utilizing 100% virtual learning. The letter should be agreed upon by all four activity organizations. If a school intentionally disregards the DPE guidance, then that school's membership will be addressed by the respective organization. Schools that are restricted from playing because of their decision to go with 100% virtual learning, must notify the opponents on their schedule so they have an opportunity to reschedule. Executive Director Berger will prepare a draft of a letter and have it reviewed by Directors.

Executive Director Berger informed Directors that during the summer, schools were willing to report a COVID-19 incident and indicate whether it was a player, coach or administrator. Now, schools will contact the state office and indicate they don't want to play because of a health situation and are unwilling to share if it involves a player, coach or administrator. Schools are gathering that type of information but are choosing not to share it with the state office. Discussion ensued.

Due to COVID-19 and the possible impact, contingency plans for fall and winter sports were shared with Directors. Cross Country plans were reviewed with the remaining sports' tabled until the October meeting.

Motion by Kroemer, second by Boehmer and unanimously approved to adjourn this administrative session at 11:40 to move to executive session.

Directors returned to administrative session at 12:55 p.m. Motion by Dufoe, Kroemer second to uphold Executive Director Berger's decision of ineligibility for student Peyton Naeve for a period of 90 consecutive school days. During the period of ineligibility, the student may practice and compete at the sub varsity level. Roll call vote: Ebeling – yes; Dufoe – yes; Francis – yes; Fleshner – yes; Kroemer – yes; Boehmer – yes and Fadness – yes. Motion unanimously approved.

There being no further business, this meeting of the Board of Directors adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Karon Brown
Senior Associate Director