

BOWLING COMMITTEE ADVISORY MINUTES
April 26, 2021

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lyle Fedders, Members present: Xan Taylor, Matt Schneider, Randy Thompson and Dale Helgevold. Absent: Mike Mellecker. Attending from the State Offices were Jason Eslinger (IGHSAU), Todd Tharp (IHSAA) and Chad Elsberry (IHSAA).

Motion by Helgevold, Schneider second to approve April 27, 2020 Bowling Advisory Committee minutes as filed. Motion carried unanimously.

Members were introduced and an explanation of the Advisory Committee's purpose was given. Committee was informed Elsberry will be the bowling administrator for the IHSAA. Committee expressed their appreciation to Tharp for his years of service to the sport of bowling.

Committee asked if middle school students could practice with high school students. Elsberry reminded Committee middle school students can practice with high school students at the discretion of the local school. Taylor stated a lot would depend on a school's logistics. Question was asked about the steps needed to get middle school bowling sanctioned. Committee was informed of the necessary steps to get a sport sanctioned. Thompson stated middle school bowler participation numbers are increasing.

The IGHSAU/IHSAA was asked to clarify the current uniform rules in the bowling manual. Committee stated participants should have their name on the back of their shirt.

Schneider stated there are times when classifications are split (boys in 2A, girls in 1A, etc.) and asked if they could be consistent. Tharp stated at times schools may be in a shared program in one and not the other. Committee is satisfied with the current classification system.

Under review of the regular season, Taylor stated her team lost a lot of practice time due to Covid, but it was a great year. Committee concurred, stating their seniors were happy they had a season.

As there has been some confusion in the past with the district/substate competition name, herein it will be called state-qualifying.

The new ruling regarding proprietors now being paid a lineage for state-qualifying play was discussed. Schneider stated there were no complaints heard this year and proprietors were happy. Thompson stated he will inform/remind proprietors they will receive \$50 for each boys and/or girls team during the proprietors summer meetings.

Committee discussed the advantages of bowling at a home facility. Tharp and Eslinger both concur more sites will have to be involved to allow for neutral facilities. Tharp stated 40/50 sites would have to apply to host, and of those sites, they must be 16 lane facilities. Eslinger stated only 28 schools put in to host this year.

Discussed the new Covid protocols put in place this year and the change with the state schedule. Helgevold stated some coaches had to take more time off because of this and would often double up the time off needed. Committee understood the separation this year, but prefers playing one class (girls, followed by boys) per day.

Due to Covid, state participants bowled on every other lane. It is felt, even though teams and coaches appreciated being spread out, having competition near them is important. Taylor expressed bowling side by side brings camaraderie.

Committee discussed the way in which pairings are established. The IGHSAU/IHSAA's philosophy is to separate the strengths and acknowledge it can be difficult to find the power. Helgevold asked how the strength of a team is determined as there is no handicap system for bowling facilities. Eslinger stated QuikStats and the number of returning varsity members is used to determine higher ranked teams in districts. Taylor feels using averages is a good indication of where the strengths are, because of the different facilities that are used.

Postseason qualifying was discussed. A proposal was presented by Tharp that would change the format of the State Bowling Tournament to two separate tournaments.

State Qualifying Meets: an individual tournament and a team tournament. Under the proposal, the state qualifying meets would remain a one day meet.

Team Qualifying Meets: Teams would bowl 15 baker games and the top total pins would advance to the State Meet. Class 3A and 2A state qualifying meets would have four sites with eight teams at each site, with the top two teams at each site qualifying for the State Team Tournament. Class 1A would have eight sites with 4-5 teams at each site. The champion at each site would qualify for the state team meet.

Individual State Qualifying: Individuals at the state qualifying meet would bowl three games. The top eight scores from each Class 3A/2A site would qualify for the state individual tournament for a total of 32 individual qualifiers. The top four bowlers from the eight 1A state qualifying meets would qualify for the State Tournament.

The state meets would break down as follows:

Individual Tournament: All 32 qualifiers would bowl three individual games. The top eight finishers would then be bracketed (1 vs. 8, 2 vs. 7, 3 vs. 6, 4 vs. 5) and bowl one game. The winners would advance to the semifinals and finals, where the champion would be crowned.

State Team Tournament: The eight teams would bowl 15 baker games. The total pins after 15 games would determine bracketing (1 vs. 8, 2 vs. 7, 3 vs. 6, 4 vs. 5). Teams would then play a best three of five baker games to advance to the semifinals and finals.

The proposal will allow more bowlers to reach the state tournament, but it also makes the tournament more challenging. Tharp believes that the time frame for both the state qualifying meets and state meets will work. In order to make the number of teams competing in the 2A & 3A even, the classifications in 2A and 3A would need to be adjusted so that the largest 32 teams would make up Class 3A and the next largest 32 would make up Class 2A with the remaining schools competing in Class 1A

With Waterloo's Maple Lanes reopening this summer, Tharp and Eslinger will contact the proprietors of Maple and Cadillac Lanes about having the individual tournament at Maple Lanes and the team tournament at Cadillac Lanes. If both site can be utilized, the State Meet will be able to be completed in three days.

Knowing that the state qualifying meets would take more time, it was proposed that the lineage fees for state qualifying meets would increase.

Committee were all in agreement that this would improve the state tournament and make it more competitive while adding more participants.

Schneider motioned and Taylor second to change the classification to largest 32 to compete in Class 3A; the next largest 32 to compete in 2A with the remaining competing in 1A and to change the state-qualifying format and changing the state meet format to a state individual meet and a state team meet. Motion passed unanimously.

Schneider asked for feedback regarding coaches working towards their coaching certification and that Iowa has changed their mandatory reporter rules. It was suggested Schneider write a letter on behalf of the IBCA, which will be brought up to the DOEE.

The new family week was briefly discussed

Committee wishes to express their appreciation to Helgevold for his years of service on the advisory committee as his term has expired.

The date of the 2022 Bowling Advisory Committee Meeting is Monday, April 25, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the IHSAA.

With no further business, the committee was adjourned.

Heidi Reed
Recorder

