

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION
May 19, 2020**

Due to COVID-19 and associated restrictions, this administrative session of the Board of Directors was called to order via Zoom at 9:00 a.m. by President Francis. Directors present: Francis, Ebeling, Fleshner, Dufoe, Kroemer, Boehmer, Seivert and Fadness. Participating from the state office: Berger, Brown, Ihnen Ross, Eslinger and Brinkmeyer.

Motion by Kroemer, Fadness second and unanimously approved by all Directors to accept consent items 1) April 20, 2020 Board of Directors' minutes 2) April 2020 financials and 3) Basketball Advisory minutes, April 22, 2020.

Executive Director Berger informed Directors that the Payroll Protection Act grant documentation and forms have been received by management and are in the process of being completed.

The Basketball Advisory Committee expressed interest in having the membership utilize HUDL for film exchange during the post-season. Ross indicated that before a recommendation comes to the Directors for approval, he is going to survey the schools to determine how many currently have access to HUDL. If a school does have HUDL, the additional cost to add a sport is around \$400. This could be a cost-saving measure because it would eliminate the need to travel to various other sites to scout opponents. The state office is aware that some schools may not have HUDL because they are involved in cooperative sharing agreements in sports other than basketball. The initial investment to purchase HUDL is approximately \$800. Once additional information is gathered, it will be shared with Directors.

The 2020 Softball Hall of Fame nominees were reviewed by Eslinger. Following review and discussion, **motion by Ebeling, second by Boehmer and unanimously approved by all Directors to approve the 2020 Softball Hall of Fame nominees as presented. The 2020 Softball Hall of Fame inductees are as follows:**

**2020 SOFTBALL HALL OF FAME
Erin Doud, Cedar Rapids Jefferson – 1997
Jodi Christensen, North Polk – 1999
Jordan Gronewold, Carlisle – 2010
Caitlin Wnek, Clear Creek-Amana – 2012**

Iowa High School Speech Association Executive Director Craig Ihnen provided an update on virtual contests being utilized by member schools. Due to COVID-19 and its restrictions, the Individual Events State Contests were cancelled. However, Ihnen worked at length with literary companies seeking permission to allow students to perform virtually. Schools organized State IE contests, which in some instances involved several schools, and hired judges. Students were able to perform virtually and receive a rating from the judges. The one stipulation was that the performance had to be live – it could not be

taped. Ratings were forwarded to the state office, and performers who were recommended for All State recognition received a medal. One example of this structure benefitting a student occurred at Shenandoah High School. They had an exchange student from Finland who was involved in IHSSA Individual Events. Because of COVID-19 she had to return to Finland. But because of the virtual contests, she was able to perform for judges and receive a rating all from her home in Finland. Numerous states have contacted Ihnen seeking information on how Iowa was able to do virtual contents. Copyright companies have been very good about allowing Iowa schools to use their material. Over 100 schools have been involved in virtual contests and that number continues to increase.

Eslinger shared with Directors the Bowling Advisory Committee minutes, April 27, 2020, which must go before the Joint Committee before any action may be taken by either the IGHSAU or IHSAA. Once the minutes have been approved by the Joint Committee, management will provide the committee's recommendations. Prior to that occurring, Eslinger provided a few points of interest contained in the minutes. Because the two athletic organizations are finding it increasingly difficult to secure state qualifying sites, the committee discussed charging lineage fees to participating schools. The fee would include \$50 per girls' team and \$50 per boys' team payable to the host school. The host school would then determine how those funds are distributed to the host bowling facility. The committee supported the idea of having the 12 highest non-qualifying individual scores from each class qualify for the state tournament. These individuals would bowl together and would bowl their individual games and be able to compete for the individual championship. Both IGHSAU and IHSAA have concerns with potential issues that could arise if the number of individual qualifiers was increased. Those concerns include an increase in attendance at the state meet, which could create overcrowding and 2) potentially increasing the range of scores between the highest score and lowest score of individual qualifiers. The IGHSAU and IHSAA have limited data on scores from the joint qualifying meets and would like to obtain more before addressing the issue. The committee would also like to add a substitute position on the joint qualifying meet/state meet roster and for the substitute to be permitted competition in individual games due to injury only and permitted competition in baker games at the coach's prerogative. Discussion ensued regarding the lineage fees. It was noted that in golf, schools pay a green fee and paying lineage would be similar. Executive Director Berger stated management would look into paying a stipend to host facilities as is done in cross country. Kroemer stated her biggest challenge is paying \$5.00 per bowler anytime the kids want to practice. Also mentioned was the need for schools to retain some money whether it is admission or entry fees. Following Joint Committee's review of the Bowling Advisory Committee minutes and additional research done by IGHSAU and IHSAA recommendations will be brought to the respective boards.

Brinkmeyer informed Directors that the 2020 Robert B. Smiley Scholarship recipient has been selected. The state office received over 100 applications. This year's recipient is Brennah Ricketts from Midland High School. Brennah participated in volleyball, softball, golf, track and band. She was a member of the Spanish Club and the FFA. Her volunteerism includes Highway clean-up and counselor at Camp Wyoming. A \$1,000

scholarship will be directed to the Iowa college or university of her choice. Discussion ensued regarding the Bernie Saggau award. The IHSAA provides a plaque to every school which in turn is presented to a student. The recipient is chosen by the school, selected by the school. Francis raised the question about the possibility of establishing a similar award from the IGHSAU. Not every member school has a female student-athlete every year that meets the criteria for the E. Wayne Cooley Scholarship. However, every school that has a nominee is provided a large plaque recognizing the student's accomplishment. Boehmer suggested that an Iowa Girl award be created. Every member school could nominate a female student that meets specific criteria. In turn the state office could provide an Iowa Girl plaque recognizing the student's achievements. Discussion ensued.

Executive Director Berger informed Directors that the contract with Drake University allowing the IGHSAU and IHSAA to utilize its facilities for the state track and field championships expires at the end of May 2020. Representatives from the IGHSAU, IHSAA and Drake University met to discuss the contract via Zoom. It was determined that the contract would be extended for one year and that representatives from the three organizations would meet when circumstances allow to discuss specific adjustments that need to be made.

The staff continues to work from home due to COVID-19. Executive Director Berger established a Return to Work procedure when the appropriate time arises and staff may return to the office. The document was reviewed by Directors and brief discussion ensued.

Lengthy discussion ensued regarding proposed post-season softball and return to play information due to COVID-19. Executive Director Berger informed Directors that if Governor Reynolds relaxes restrictions and allows junior high and high school softball to begin on June 1, the post-season would need to be moved back one week. Practice would begin on June 1 with the first competition on June 15. Francis asked for input from Directors regarding moving forward with softball. If the governor relaxes restrictions and indicates softball may be played, Executive Director Berger needs to know the Board's position regarding moving forward. It will be a quick turnaround from when the governor makes her announcement to when the IGHSAU will need to react. Boehmer and Kroemer have spoken with several athletic directors and they received mixed messages. Some athletic directors are more apprehensive about moving forward because they don't know how it will work logistically. Then there are other athletic directors that say let's do what we can and play. We could see a domino effect within conferences if one school decides not to play, others will follow suit. The local school district will make the determination to play or not to play. A survey was sent to all umpires asking if they intend to officiate this summer if softball is played. Seventy-five percent of the respondents indicated they would work. Various officials' organizations have been in discussion regarding the development of specific criteria for umpires to use during games. Ebeling was of the opinion that we don't know how long it will be until a COVID-19 virus vaccine will be available and we are going to have to learn to live with it until then. If the governor relaxes restrictions and we can move forward with softball, it was his opinion that we find a way

to do so. Most schools will take their lead from the IGHSAU and IHSAA regarding their guidelines. Executive Director Berger and Executive Director Keating have agreed decisions and logistics of moving forward and playing softball and baseball need to be done together. Several questions were raised if play is allowed to resume, such as how many students may ride the bus at one time or what if someone on the team tests positive? Will the team need to be quarantined for two weeks and what about the opposing team? Who is responsible for tracking, etc.? Executive Director Berger stated she expects the guidelines would come from the Department of Education and Department of Health. Fadness commented that the question is not should we play but rather how we make it safe. Consensus of the Board was if allowed, we move forward with softball and guidelines to make it as safe as possible. Ebeling – yes, Dufoe – yes, Fleshner – yes, Boehmer – yes, Fleshner – yes, , Kroemer – yes, Fadness – yes and Francis – yes. Executive Director Berger will begin to gather information to create a document that includes guidelines and questions and answers and have it ready to provide to the membership if we are able to move forward with softball.

Management has been researching the recommendation from the educational-based activities AdHoc Committee to move state soccer to the same week as the boys' state tournament. Calendars were shared with Directors reflecting how it would appear if the two soccer tournaments were played during the same week. By moving the soccer tournament, it impacted all spring sports dates. A thorough review of the impact was presented by Berger and Ross. In the past there were some schools preferring not to host because of various reasons, but with the proposed date change, it will eliminate that problem. Consensus of Directors was to move forward with the possible change. Executive Director Berger indicated she will meet with the staff on the next step to share the information with the advisory committees.

The Classification Committee has discussed various ways to reclassify. One idea was to classify based on gender only. Ross researched the idea and how it would affect the current classification structure. It did have some impact although not a great deal. Reminder was given that joint sports would continue using the total BEDs count. Discussion ensued on how such a change would affect cooperative sharing agreements. Ross indicated that cooperative sharing policy appears in IGHSAU By-Laws 36.20(5). The new language that would address a classification change within the ByLaws is as follows: All students participating under the agreement are enrolled in one of the schools, are in good standing and meet all other eligibility requirements of these rules. *For IGHSAU Cooperative Sharing Agreements that are not joint IGHSAU/IHSAA sports (swimming and diving, volleyball, basketball, golf, soccer, tennis and softball): The total BEDs for the cooperative sharing agreement (used for classification) is the total BEDs enrollment of all female students enrolled at all of the schools within the cooperative sharing agreement for that sport. For IGHSAU cooperative sharing agreements that are joint IGHSAU/IHSAA sports (cross country, bowling, track and field): The total BEDs for the cooperative sharing agreement (used for classification) is the total BEDs enrollment of all students enrolled at all of the schools within the cooperative sharing agreement for that sport.* After discussion, Directors indicated they would like input from the Representative Council.

Directors were informed the NFHS annual conference will be conducted virtually. Executive Director Berger shared the conference schedule with Directors. Staff and Directors will be able to participate in any workshop that is of interest to them. Once the conference schedule has been finalized, same will be provide to Directors.

Because the facilities used for the annual June meeting are closed and/or operations altered, the meeting has been cancelled. There was discussion on meeting with the Council sometime later this summer. Ihnen informed Directors that because district meetings could not be conducted earlier this spring, the IHSAA Executive Committee decided to cancel its June meeting.

Seivert presented a Department of Education update. The Department continues to work on scenarios for school districts to open. A revised document reflecting guidelines for facility use will be released soon.

Eslinger shared with Directors that he is currently working with Varsity Bound to have all online forms in one location on our website. Athletic Directors will have one password to login and complete the various forms. This will be much more convenient for the membership.

This meeting of the Board of Directors was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. through a motion by Fadness, second by Fleshner and unanimously approved.

Karon Brown
Associate Director