

SOCCER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
May 22, 2020

Meeting was called to order by chair Brent Buttjer. Members present: Dion Ayers, Julie Girsch, Mike Krawczyk, Dave Rosenthal and Kelly Dunbar. Absent: John Hansel. Also attending: Jim Albertson. Representing the State Office: Lisa Brinkmeyer and Jason Eslinger.

Members were introduced and a review of advisory committee purpose was given.

Motion by Girsch to adopt minutes from the June 25, 2019 meeting, second by Ayers unanimously approved by all members present.

The following discussion items were held regarding regular season:

Due to the lack of a 2020 season, Brinkmeyer informed Committee the new state tournament format will now commence with the 2021 season.

Girsch asked about the possibility of adding an additional week of practice prior to the start of the season for goalkeepers only. Committee agreed it is important for goalies as it is a specialized position, the same as pitchers/catchers in softball. Goalie training requires proper technique, and their physical movements are significantly different than others on the field, along with their hand-eye coordination. Rosenthal is concerned with dual sport athletes and the shortage of practices due to shared sports, and feels it is important to expand the season making it better for the athlete. The limited number of coaches per school also adds to the safety/training concerns with goalkeepers. Schools with fewer coaches may struggle more finding adequate time to properly train goalkeepers. **Motion by Ayers the IGHS AU allow for a one-week earlier start date for goalies. Motion second by Girsch and unanimously approved by all members present. This added week would commence with the 2020-21 season.**

Due to not having a 2020 season, Girsch has had coaches from all classes ask about allowing out-of-season contact during the school year. With the 2020 season cancelled, coaches will not have had contact with their players for nearly two years. Committee agreed this would be a one-year exception and only valid for 2020. Brinkmeyer informed the Committee an out-of-season contact period for this year has briefly been discussed, however coach contact is under the Department of Ed jurisdiction so changing the policy would need to be implemented by the DOE.

Girsch asked about the possibility of mandating trainers at home games. While many conferences require trainers, the IGHS AU cannot mandate requiring trainers at home facilities.

Eslinger informed Committee the new features in the Varsity Bound stats program. Eslinger stated this will be more user-friendly and the Varsity Bound administrators are

making it easier with more tools available. Krawczyk likes the weekly deadlines implemented by the IGSHAU.

With the slight increase in the number of soccer schools, Girsch wondered if classification numbers should be re-aligned where each class would have the same number of schools. Currently 3A has 40 schools, 2A has 48 schools and the remainder (currently 70+) are in Class 1A. The Committee was informed the break down of soccer classification aligns with other sports (40, 48, 64, 80, rest). Brinkmeyer stated the goal of the IGHSAU has been to focus on the disparity between the enrollment numbers within each class, rather than the number of schools within each class. Brinkmeyer stated currently there are not enough soccer schools to add an additional class, however if the sport continues to grow it will be considered in the future. The IGHSAU study of utilizing girls-only enrollment for classification was shared with the Committee. The Committee is excited with the continued growth in soccer.

The 2022 State Soccer Tournament dates were shared with the Committee and questions were answered. Some concerns were expressed regarding the alternate state dates with IHSAA for the 2022 State Soccer Tournament. Ayers asked about housing accommodations, wherein Brinkmeyer stated the IGHSAU and IHSAA will work with Catch Des Moines for housing accommodations. Albertson shared his thoughts of utilizing one officials' coordinator for both the IGHSAU and IHSAA for the 2022 postseason assignments. Brinkmeyer said that discussion will occur between both organizations.

Brinkmeyer informed Committee of the new 2021 state dates and times. The Committee favored the new State Tournament schedule.

The date of the 2021 meeting was set for Tuesday, June 22 at the State Office.

Committee wishes to express their appreciation to Girsch for her years of service on the Advisory Committee as her term has expired.

No further business, **motion to adjourn by Girsch second by Krawczyk. Motion unanimously approved.**

Heidi Reed
Recorder