

**SOCCER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**June 25, 2019**

Meeting was called to order by chair Brent Buttjer. Members present: Dion Ayers, Julie Girsch, John Hansel, Stephanie Lajko, and Chris Allen (via phone conference). Absent: Kelly Dunbar. 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 Allen to adopt minutes from the June 26, 2018 meeting, second by Girsch unanimously approved by all members present.**

Brinkmeyer informed Committee the feedback from the post-game reports was well received. The State Office uses these as guidelines for any issues pertaining to rules questions, game management, field conditions, etc. that may need to be revisited.

Brinkmeyer informed Committee PK reporting on QuikStats will be updated next year. Allen stated there is a discrepancy on goals allowed with some schools. It is agreed this is often due to lack of knowledge rather than knowingly adding incorrect information. The IGHSAU will have additional tutorials available next year. Eslinger asked the Committee to contact the State Office if they encounter inaccurate statistics and it will be looked into by the IGHSAU.

Lajko is concerned with dual sport athletes and the shortage of practices due to shared sports. Lajko wondered if the season could start earlier. Girsch feels weather is already an issue, and this would cause more indoor practices. Allen agrees, stating his school administrators are proactive on early season scheduling conflicts.

Considerable discussion was held regarding the complete match decision maker. Specifically, who determines the match is complete if there is a weather delay? Currently the referees and on-site manager have a collective discussion on continuing a game. It is not uncommon for lightning delays to last over an hour (often times more). Committee concurs it would be advantageous to have a more structured guideline.

**Motion by Lajko to instill weather delay parameters that a game must restart within two hours of the first weather delay. If the game is unable to restart after two hours, then the game will be called complete (provided one team is leading at halftime). After a rain delay, teams should have a minimum of five minutes to warm-up, with nor more than ten minutes allowed. Motion second by Ayers and unanimously approved.**

Brinkmeyer informed Committee referee crew cards were implemented in soccer this year, as well as other sports. Girsch stated using the crew cards makes it easier for coaches to evaluate referees. Committee concurred. As these are not mandatory, the IGHSAU encourages referees to use these. Albertson stated it will be a firm point of emphasis with officials for the 2020 soccer season.

Girsch asked if ratings could be developed in a different manner, possibly a point system. Points would be “earned” by playing up a class, playing a ranked team, etc. Eslinger informed Committee how ratings are established. Rankings are used as a tool to promote IGHSAU sports and are used in the regional assignment process. Eslinger stated the IGHSAU’s methods for rankings include point system characteristics, such as strength of schedule, head to head competition, wins/losses, etc. Lajko feels a point system could be unfair at times, specifically when a team’s schedule is filled with required conference schools where potentially no points would be given. Allen believes it is difficult for movement within the rankings where there is a lot of parity between teams. Committee concurred to utilize the current ranking system and continue discussions for outside entities to assist the IGHSAU with rankings.

Buttjer stated his appreciation of IGHSAU staff attending various high school games to observe contests and get first-hand game experiences.

Lajko asked Committee how they handle issues regarding players participating on club teams. All concur the importance for schools to not only have information in their handbook, but to also share the information with athletes AND parents. Brinkmeyer emphasized that coaches and athletic directors need to be diligent in making sure athletes are in compliance with non-school contests/programs. The IGHSAU suggests these rules be reviewed at the beginning of each school year at a parent/athlete meeting and also throughout the season. Brinkmeyer shared that the executive director with Iowa Soccer contacted the IGHSAU and would like to share the Iowa code policies and guidelines with clubs and their coaches to ensure the message reaches as many people as possible.

Releasing pairings at a later date was discussed. Allen stated many teams are not yet in the tougher part of their schedule when the pairings are currently released. Brinkmeyer shared the timeline associated with the regional pairings release. Brinkmeyer and Albertson feel the regional assignments could be released a few days later than when they are being released now. Adjustments will be made for the 2020 season.

Committee discussed proposed post-season calendar dates. For the 2020 season, Committee favored playing class 1A regional soccer on Wednesday, May 27; Monday, June 1; Thursday, June 4. Classes 2A and 3A playing on Friday, May 29; Tuesday, June 2; Thursday, June 4. Brinkmeyer informed the Committee that double-headers are probable with the proposed regional soccer dates, as June 1<sup>st</sup> date falls on the IHSAA State Soccer Tournament. Committee understands with double-headers, the higher rated team may not be hosting their own game. The proposed dates allow for increased breaks during the last part of the regional series and eliminates the Regional Final date being played in the same week as the State Tournament. Afore mentioned Regional dates will be in effect during the 2020 season.

Next the Committee discussed State Soccer. Brinkmeyer shared with the Committee the State Tournament dates will be adjusted per Committee’s request as well. The 2020

State Tournament will be played Tuesday, June 9; Wednesday, June 10; Friday, June 12. The new State Tournament schedule allows for a day off in the middle of the tournament to give teams advancing to the championship games a break. The Committee was pleased with eliminating the Regional Final games in the same week as the State Tournament. Committee members felt the day break in the tournament will help with quality of play and assist with player well-being.

Brinkmeyer shared the Ad Hoc Committee survey results with the Committee and the support by athletic directors and school administrators to align the IGHSAU and IHSAA state soccer tournaments. This would require the girls' tournament to move to the week (Week 48) prior to their current week. Allen stated he is not in favor of moving the state tournament up one week. Several Committee members concurred and shared concerns about aligning with the IHSAA tournament (i.e. stressed field conditions, weather postponements, sharing the stage with boys' state qualifiers, parking, etc.). **Motion by Allen, Hansel second to remain on the current week (Week 49) for the Girls' State Soccer Tournament. The Committee emphasized that separate weeks allows the opportunity to showcase girls' athletics and protects the integrity of the Iowa Girl.**

Next the Committee discussed start times for the State Tournament. Currently State Tournament play begins at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday and Friday and at 10:00 a.m. on Friday. Committee recommends starting all three days of the State Tournament at 10:00 a.m. This will help maximize cooler temperatures in the morning and give an additional hour of rest between the semi-final and final games.

There were sixteen ejections given in high school soccer this year. Brinkmeyer asked Committee for feedback regarding the "DOGSO" red card ruling. Currently repercussions for all red cards are treated the same (ejected student must sit out the next date, student must watch the NFHS Sportsmanship video and submit a summary of the events that led up to their ejection, and school must submit the ejection report). Ayers believes uniform ejections for all violations all a part of the game and eliminates any uncertainty. Committee concurs to leave the current ejection policy as is.

Brinkmeyer asked for feedback regarding referees that officiate a game they have personal ties to (family, teacher within school district, etc.). Several Committee members stated they have had officials with ties to a team/player officiate their games in the past. While they do not necessarily agree with it, they know that it happens. Brinkmeyer shared the IGHSAU discourages this, however cannot ban it during the regular season as most referees are assigned by an assignor. Brinkmeyer stated referees are not allowed to officiate games in which they have personal ties to in the post-season. To avoid this, officials are expected to select the custom field on the Arbiter website in regards to their post-season availability and any conflict they have due to a connection to a team/school.

Correspondence was received regarding eliminating the coin toss at the start of the game. Committee supports maintaining the current NFHS coin toss rule. Lajko asked that guidelines be given to coaches and officials to establish some consistency with the

coinflip placement in warm-ups. The IGHSAU will address this in the pre-season rules memos.

Committee discussed coaches being allowed to work with only goalkeepers two weeks prior to the season. The Committee said goalkeeping is a specialized position that requires proper technique to be used for safety and navigation purposes. **Lajko motions to allow coaches to work with goalkeepers two weeks prior to the first legal soccer practice, second by Girsch and unanimously approved.**

The Committee provided feedback regarding a school having multiple ejections throughout the season and if there should be consequences given to that school. Committee discussed and does not feel there is a need to implement a policy for consequences at this time.

Congratulations was given to Chris Allen for his recognition at the national level and on receiving the IGHSAU's distinguished coach award. Brinkmeyer thanked Allen for his service on the Advisory Committee.

The date of the 2020 meeting was set for Tuesday, June 23 at the State Office.

No further business, **motion to adjourn by Allen second by Ayers. Motion unanimously approved.**

Heidi Reed  
Recorder