

SWIMMING AND DIVING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
December 9, 2020

Meeting was called to order with the following members present: Mike Ahrens, Michelle Stout, Tony Kramer, Ashley Beaumont and Shawn Thomsen. Absent: Jayson Campbell. Attending from the State Office was Jason Eslinger, Jean Berger and Craig Ihnen.

Committee members were introduced and a review of advisory purpose was given.

Motion by Ahrens second by Stout to approve the December 4, 2019 Swimming and Diving Advisory Committee minutes as filed. Motion unanimously approved.

Eslinger asked Committee for feedback regarding the regular season. Stout stated some felt the COVID guidelines were released a little late, however Eslinger explained with the ever-changing protocols, information was released as soon as it was available.

Allowing streaming at regionals (and state) was met favorably as it allowed the opportunity for family members to watch. Committee is in support of streaming at both the regional and state level.

Having one extra regional was discussed. Eslinger stated more sites are getting 8-lane pools, which will help take the burden off schools that host often.

A few improvements were discussed, including allowing place winners on the podium for the awards, even with COVID. Briefly discussed the t-shirt sales. Eslinger informed Committee the merchandise area was moved into the competitors gymnasium. It was acknowledged lines were long, but Eslinger stated the merchandizer is new and each shirt could be customized, which slowed the process down. Information was put in the state letter for coaches about ordering ahead of time. Eslinger may stress this in next year's letter if the merchandizer will press on site.

Committee discussed the virtual parade and all was appreciative of the effort behind this. But all concur the parade of teams adds to the excitement of the meet as it allows girls to be recognized in front of their fans. Committee concur there is a lot of standing during the awards procedure and discussed if some awards should be given at another time. Ahrens feels it is important for the qualifiers to see and recognize the award winners. Committee agree parade of teams should continue as it has been.

Committee was asked for feedback regarding the parade to the blocks. Ahrens feels this adds to the excitement of the meet and is a lifelong memory for the girls. Beaumont concurs, stating this is a way to acknowledge the girls making the finals.

Committee felt the State Diving Meet went really well. Although there was not a parade, athletes were introduced. The IGHS AU will evaluate some of the commentators.

All concur athletes were responsible for reporting to their event.

Coaches preferred meeting in the natatorium as opposed to the competitors' gymnasium as in previous years. The natatorium provides more area to spread out and coaches could easily hear.

Kramer felt coaches loved having the freedom of being on either side of the pool deck, which allowed coaches to spread out. All concur, acknowledging blocking spectator views might be a factor. The IGHSAU will look into this possibility.

Allowing more room for athletes in the spectators seating was discussed. Stout stated she liked that the swimmers were able to cheer on their teammates and that it provided a great atmosphere despite not allowing any fans. Eslinger reminded committee the first two rows on the south side was reserved for kids at the 2019 meet. Ahrens expressed as the state site is located in the middle of the state, schools located in close proximity have more spectators and take up a more seating. The idea was discussed having a certain number of spectators for each qualifier to allow more seating for competitors at the State meet.

Committee reviewed numbers of automatic qualifiers from this past season. Committee recognizes this makes EVERY dual meet important throughout the season as dual meets have become vital. **Beaumont motion to approve the 2021 automatic qualifying standards. Ahrens second and passed unanimously.** Eslinger will post these standards on the IGHSAU website when the Board has approved the new standards. Committee concurs it is nice to have these times posted so swimmers can start work towards attaining these standards.

Thomsen asked if meet officials could receive information prior to the start of the meet regarding policies and procedures as it is helpful for timeliness in the pre-meetings. Eslinger stated this year he had no issues regarding assigning officials for the regional or state meets.

Committee stated competitors liked the 5-minute break for warm-up/breakdown as it helped keep an even tempo through the meet.

Kramer asked for consideration to be given in utilizing two panels for judging at the regional and state meets. Kramer stated judging diving can be quite lengthy, and having two panels would give officials "fresh eyes" and short breaks during judging. Committee discussed the parity in judging diving and incorporating a mixture of both coaches and officials. Committee acknowledged this has been done in a few meets. Coaches would have to apply to be a judge as not all swim coaches are knowledgeable. Eslinger suggested he could ask coaches for recommendations. Thomsen would be in favor of this idea, however is concerned with scores being inflated with coaches' judging. Kramer asked if a respectable diving coach who does not have a state competitor could be used. It was suggested to attend swim meets that utilize this idea in 2021, then management can gather data and consider this as a possibility. Eslinger will ask for feedback/data on qualified coaches. After lengthy discussion, **motion by Kramer, second by Thomsen to**

table the possibility of two panels for state judging and to table this motion for the 2021 advisory meeting. Passed unanimously.

Kramer asked for feedback regarding implementing regular-season qualifying standards similar to swimmers in individual events.

Stout would favor this idea as it would create a new opportunity for divers. Ahrens concurs, stating this would create excitement in diving. This would give divers the same benefit as swimmers and make it more equitable for divers. There were concerns as to how to establish a qualifying standard and if scores would be inflated to aid swimmers to qualify and more research was needed to come up with a method that would be fair for all competitors. After discussion, it was suggested Eslinger would send a survey asking coaches of their opinion on this idea.

Under miscellaneous topics Stout informed Committee she does not like the overlap between the girls and boys season. Committee concurs. Eslinger stated this topic will be reviewed by the IHSAA.

Ahrens expressed his congratulations to Eslinger for his appointment to the NFHS Swimming and Diving Rules Committee. Eslinger expressed his appreciation and informed Committee this would be a four-year term.

The date for the 2020 Swimming and Diving Advisory meeting will be December 8, 2021.

There being no further business, **motion to adjourn by Kramer, Ahrens second and unanimously approved.**

Heidi Reed
Recorder