

## **SWIMMING AND DIVING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

### **December 9, 2021**

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

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

**Motion by Beaumont, second by Stout to approve the December 9, 2020 Swimming and Diving Advisory Committee minutes as filed. Motion unanimously approved.**

The possibility of adding more contact days for divers prior to the start of the season was discussed. Committee agreed that diving is a specialized event, like pitchers and catchers in softball. Diving requires being taught proper technique. Kramer stated working with divers early would keep them engaged and their skills would remain sharp. Stout echoed the safety factor, and the lack of quality instruction close by. All concur there are very few diving coaches, so divers often must drive great distances to get specialized coaching. Campbell expressed concern that coaches in other sports would think every position in all sports would be considered unique and all sports would ask for special days of instruction for certain positions. All concur the importance of having a diving coach who is under school contract. **Kramer motion to allow for 10 instructional diving sessions (contact days) coordinated by a diving coach from January 1 to June 1. Second by Robertson and unanimously approved by all members present.**

Committee discussed 2022 season qualifying standards, specifically moving the automatic qualifying time to the average 24<sup>th</sup> time, rather than the 16<sup>th</sup>. All concur the state-qualifying meet is exciting and competitive and that 16 is the right number. **Thomsen moves to keep the qualifying number at 16 and approved the 2022 qualifying standards, Robertson second and passed unanimously.**

Briefly discussed going to two classes. Committee was informed the IGHSAU and IHSAA has a committee in place that studies classification numbers. Eslinger stated BEDS enrollments are used when schools enter into a cooperative agreement, and often schools do not want a shared program as they would then be placed into the larger class. Beaumont asked if two classes would show more of a discrepancy of times. Eslinger stated parameters would have to be put into place and will compile information for next year's meeting that will show what two classes would look like.

The overlap between the girls' and boys' season was discussed. Primarily of concern was coaches who coach both girls' and boys' teams, and the shared week at the end of the girls' season and beginning of the boys season. Robertson stated the hardship on a coach and felt a coach cannot engage himself completely for both teams. Also, a coach needs to recharge themselves, instead of overlapping teams one week. Pool availability and access times are of concern also. Beaumont refuses to coach both the boys and girls in the same week, so her boys start a week later, which she stated is a disservice to them.

During the overlap week, Stout's girls no longer have morning swims, so boys swim at that time. However, her focus is on the girls' final week of their season, which is a disservice to the boys' team. Thomsen stated with his coaching a boys' team and officiating the girls meet, it is a very physical and demanding week. All concur this could result in a loss of coaches.

Lengthy discussed was held on a situation during a state-qualifying meet and coaching ethics. Eslinger asked Committee for feedback so this cannot be repeated. Kramer feels this was a one-time incident and mistakes were made. As there are not a lot of diving judges, often coaches are used. Eslinger asked Committee for thoughts on implementing a super-regional, where half of the schools dive one day, the other half the next day. That would help solve the issue with not enough judges. Also suggested was to have two different time schedules in one day. Robertson wondered if officials could give recommendations on coaches for judging diving. After discussion Eslinger asked Committee to discuss this with their peers to help with a solution.

Committee discussed having a non-scoring "B" relay at the state-qualifying meet. It is the belief this would give more opportunities for those not on state relays and is advantageous to athletes that don't have many events. Eslinger reminded committee having a B relay at a championship meet would not be consistent with other sanctioned sports as it is a championship meet. Committee stated some kids sit too long, and it is a challenge with swimmers who are one-event specialists. This would assist coaches when two athletes are battling for a spot. This would get them more excited and give them positive reinforcement and give athletes an opportunity to swim at state. Committee was reminded it would be optional to enter the relay. **Motion by Stout to add an exhibition, non-scoring "B" relay at the state-qualifying meet. Kramer second. All concur they must compete in an individual event or compete in another A relay. Motion carried 5-1 with Campbell casting the "no" vote.**

Discussed the issues with pins breaking on the blocks at Marshalltown. Eslinger is looking into this.

Stout asked Eslinger to check the temperature of the gym as it was too cold for athletes. Eslinger felt the gym was not ready for divers on Friday morning and will speak with Marshalltown regarding these concerns.

Kramer asked about an issue regarding the lane line extended onto the deck, creating a potential hazard. This will be addressed.

Stout complimented the merchandise location at Marshalltown. Committee concurred, stating it was nice to have multiple choices to choose from.

Kramer asked if diving prelims could be held on Friday afternoon, with finals on Friday evening. Currently, the celebration is short for the top six, making it unfair for those finalists. Some believe it would put diving back into the spotlight. Eslinger stated this could be done with minor changes. **Motion by Kramer to move diving to Friday after**

**prelims and move prelims to the afternoon. Beaumont second and unanimously approved.**

All concur the parade of teams adds to the state experience and the girls get excited for it.

Briefly discussed allowing meet mobile again at the state-qualifying meets. Eslinger stated with streaming capabilities, having meet mobile on is no longer an issue.

Committee discussed an issue that happened with the lane line extended on the deck where a swimmer was injured prior to the start of the meet. This will be addressed with Marshalltown.

Robertson asked if state meet information could be sent out earlier.

Robertson stated there was an issue with scanning parking tickets. Eslinger stated as this was the first year Marshalltown charged for parking, and issues should be minimal next year.

The date for the 2021 Swimming and Diving Advisory meeting will be December 7, 2022.

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

Heidi Reed  
Recorder