

SWIMMING AND DIVING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 4, 2019

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Jayson Campbell with the following members present: Mike Ahrens, Chris Mann, Michelle Stout, Tony Kramer, Shawn Thomsen. Absent: Zane Hugo. 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 Thomsen, second by Ahrens to approve the December 5, 2018 Swimming and Diving Advisory Committee minutes as filed. Motion unanimously approved.

Committee reviewed numbers of automatic qualifiers from this past season. A graph showing new standards was presented. The Committee was happy with the number of automatic qualifiers and felt the new standards was adequate. **Thomsen motion to approve the 2020 automatic qualifying standards. Ahrens second and passed unanimously.** Eslinger will post these standards on the IGHS AU website pending Board approval

Kramer expressed an idea for a new state diving qualifying procedure. Currently swimmers can have up to 13 opportunities to post a qualifying time, but with divers it is a one-time subjectivity at the regional meets. Kramer feels it is important to generate additional opportunity for divers to get their "ticket punched" earlier and would benefit the athletes in case of injury, sickness, etc. Kramer suggested to have two meets and from those meets have the standard DD from optional dives on the list. Committee discussed this idea but felt more data/research should be gathered and tabled this topic for next year's agenda.

Eslinger informed Committee there were a few instances of inappropriate warm-up suits during state meet warm-ups. The 2019-20 Swimming and Diving rules book made suit coverage a point of emphasis. Thomsen stated if this occurs the official is to tell a coach, and not the athlete.

Kramer asked for feedback regarding out-of-season coaching for divers. Kramer feels this is a safety concern as there is a limited number of qualified coaches and few diving clubs, which can be costly and long travel. Kramer suggested a dead period during the boys' season, then offer a certain time period. Eslinger stated the current contact rules are part of the Iowa Code and the IGHS AU does not have the authority to change those rules.

Eslinger asked Committee for feedback regarding allowing one scrimmage during the season. Committee discussed if they would actually use the scrimmage. Stout feels there is no harm in adding a scrimmage and a scrimmage could also allow younger swimmers additional experience. Committee will research this idea and discuss at next year's meeting.

Eslinger showed Committee postseason date changes for 2020-25. Committee was reminded the front end of the season does not change, but the end of the season is adjusted.

Due to the season adjustment, Committee discussed adding another competition date because of the gap in competition dates. Committee discussed, stating conferences will adjust their schedule so there will not be a dead week before regionals.

Eslinger gave a brief review of regional sites and informed Committee Dubuque has a new natatorium and Ames is in the process of building one.

The shortage of officials was briefly discussed. Eslinger informed Committee this is prevalent in ALL sports, especially swimming and diving. The National Federation (NFHS) is putting more educational materials on their website, but Eslinger stated it is important for officials to recruit new/young officials and have them shadow experienced officials. Ihnen suggested athletic directors hire new officials for their home meets.

Eslinger asked for feedback regarding the State Meet. Eslinger the time changes made to the schedule were positive and the number of spectators increased for the diving portion. Thomsen felt there were issues with glare from the outside because of the time change and asked for raised chairs (bar stools) for diving judges. Also, it was a long day with no breaks for officials. Kramer felt the air temperature was cold for divers. Stout felt we do not need relay exchange lanes the night of prelims. Ahrens felt the meet flow was excellent, including the streaming of the meet. Ahrens asked for chairs in the gym for athletes. Eslinger noted suggestions for the 2020 State Meet.

Committee was informed spectators lining up on the outside (with no campers) worked well – no incidents were reported.

Eslinger informed Committee there are three years remaining on the Marshalltown contract. Mann feels Marshalltown does a good job of hosting the meet. Eslinger stressed Marshalltown does an exceptional job with regards to the small details that go unnoticed.

Briefly discussed adding more time for circle swimming during state meet warm-ups. Thomsen suggested an official be asked to monitor lanes to set a precedent.

Kramer asked about the possibility of having two separate panels of judges for diving. He felt this would give officials “fresh eyes” as judging diving can be quite lengthy. This would also allow judges time for small breaks. Eslinger liked the idea, however finding enough qualified judges would be the biggest task. Could non-participating diving judges serve as diving judges? Thomsen was in favor of the possibility, but voiced concern with once finals are set, would there be a substitution when down to 16 divers? Committee was asked to discuss this idea with peers and this will be discussed in the 2020 meeting.

The committee extended its appreciation to Chris Mann for his years of service to the Swimming and Diving Advisory Committee.

The date for the 2020 Swimming and Diving Advisory meeting will be December 9, 2020.

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

Heidi Reed
Recorder