

TRACK AND FIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING JUNE 17, 2019

A meeting of the Track and Field Advisory Committee was held at the Iowa High School Athletic Association office in Boone on Monday, June 17, 2019. Committee members present were Terry Coleman, Iowa City, City – CHAIRMAN (2019); Tim O’Neill, Assumption, Davenport (2020); Jon Pedersen, Central Decatur (2022); Brian Petersen, Roland-Story (2020); Blaire Puls, Hudson (2022); Toby Lorenzen, Central Lyon (2021); Martha Bauder, Central (2021); and Ray Wilden, Official, Non-Voting, Clinton (2019). Also present were Jared Chizek, IHSAA, and Gary Ross, IGHS AU.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Coleman at 10:00 AM. The committee was introduced.

The committee was informed of the role of advisory committee by the state office staff members. Recommendations will first be shared with the IHSAA/IGHS AU Joint Board at their next scheduled meeting, so representatives from both boards have a grasp on what the feelings are of the other board before any action is taken.

(MM-S) O’Neill-Petersen to approve the June 18, 2018 advisory committee minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

The regular season was discussed. Items discussed included:

Scrimmages/Non-Traditional Meets – The committee discussed the idea of having scrimmages and non-traditional meets during the season. Scrimmages are allowed in nearly every other sport and coaches see these practices as a way to prepare kids for competition, for meet managers to work out the kinks for their regular season invites and for opportunities to provide experience for newer officials. As scrimmages are considered practices, performances from these events cannot be used for state qualifying seed times or Drake entry times. One school cannot call the event a scrimmage, while another call the event a meet. **(MM-S) Petersen-Pedersen to allow one track scrimmage with up to four teams participating in the event.** Motion carried unanimously. Another thought shared with Chizek during the year was the idea of relay only or field event only meets, where all 19 events would not be offered. The committee discussed at great length what was possible if something like these examples were allowed for the regular season. **(MM-S) O’Neill-Pedersen to allow one meet where all 19 events are not scheduled to be contested (throws only, relays only).** Motion carried unanimously. If something like a relay only meet were to be approved, the meet would count as one of the school’s 12 meets. Given the time frame for the 2020 with current contracted meets, Chizek and Ross agreed to ask the joint board of the possibility of allowing an additional date in 2020 for this type of meet only.

Ross and Chizek shared that the headband rule for 2020 will be the same for both genders and will be the same wording/interpretation used in the NFHS rule books for volleyball and basketball. The committee also briefly discussed the change in the shuttle hurdle height. While most of the feedback received was positive, there are still some coaches and administrators

unhappy with the change. Ross and Chizek shared the shuttle hurdle event rules are not posted in any official rulebook or document, so those rules will be published in the 2020 track and field manuals. Chizek shared approximately 24 schools did not run a shuttle this year compared to 2018. Pedersen asked about the 2018 recommendation of raising the junior high shuttle height. The IHSAA Junior High Advisory Committee opposed that recommendation. Pedersen then asked of the possibility of running 110-meter hurdles at the junior high level so only one variable (hurdle height) changes when the student enters high school. Chizek shared he will take that to the next junior high committee meet. Wilden led a discussion on the weightman 4x100 meter relay and the need for schools to use a baton and to treat the event as a race and not as a mockery to the sport of track and field.

The state qualifying meets were discussed. Items discussed included:

Postponing all 32 State Qualifying Meets – The committee discussed the weather conditions the day of the originally scheduled state qualifying meet and the IHSAA and IGHSAAU's role in postponing in all 32 meets. Chizek and Ross both expressed they did not want to intervene with the local meet managers in postponing the meets; however, weather conditions, but more importantly, conversations with host athletic directors led to both organizations stepping in and making a decision. The group discussed the possibility of moving the qualifying meets to Wednesday to help secure meet workers in case of postponements, and there was no interest amongst the committee to make that recommendation at this point in time.

District Venue Practice Policy – Currently, IHSAA and IGHSAAU policies allow schools to practice other member school facilities for both regular season and postseason events. An athletic director reached out to Chizek to create a policy that would prohibit a school with an all-weather track and adequate field event facilities from practicing at another school's track venue. The committee did not see why the need for a policy when a local administrator can grant or deny the ability to use another school's facility.

Incorrect Seed Times but Correct Lane Placement – The committee discussed the glitch with VBMeets that rounded imported seed times to tenths rather than hundredths, which created a false seed time but the athlete was still seeded correctly. The committee was in agreement that coaches are responsible for reviewing their entries and should have caught the errors given a message was sent to coaches alerting them of a possible glitch.

Miscellaneous Qualifying Meet Items – Allowing coaches into the infield during field events, a second break in the 1A/2A meets, distribution of meet results to participating schools and posting live/final results to the web for the general public were also discussed by the committee.

The state meet was discussed. Items discussed included:

Placement of 3000/3200 – The committee reviewed an email proposal asking to move the 3000 and 3200 to either the first event or last event of the day due to the warm weather conditions experienced the last two Thursdays at the state meet. Chizek and Ross shared the same thoughts they did with the IATC at its spring meeting, in particular health and safety of the athlete versus the desire to double back the athlete in the 4x800 meter relay and where should the organizations

draw the line on distance races being competed in the afternoon as the 1500 and 1600 are all run in the heat of the day on Saturday. During this discussion, Chizek looked up what a couple of neighboring states do in regards to the events, and both Nebraska and Illinois run the event in the heat of the afternoon. While the committee understands the need for proper acclimation and hydration, the group does not believe the events need to be moved at the current time.

1A Boys 3200 Meter Run – Chizek shared the situation that occurred in the 1A boys 3200 meter run, the process the meet referee went through in coming up with his decision, and the plan going forward to make sure that nothing like this happens again.

The date for the 2020 Track and Field Advisory Meeting will be June 22, 2020 at the IGHS AU office in West Des Moines.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jared Chizek
Assistant Director