

# TRACK AND FIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

June 2, 2020

Meeting was called to order by chair Jeff Bissen. Members present: Jon Pedersen, Tim O'Neill, Brian Petersen, Nate Smith, Martha Bauder, Toby Lorenzen, Blaire Puls and Mark Tigges. Representing the State Offices: Gary Ross and Jared Chizek.

Members were introduced and a review of advisory committee purpose was given.

**Motion by Bissen to approve June 17, 2019 minutes, second by Petersen and unanimously approved by all members present.**

Committee was informed Chizek was selected to the National Federation Track & Field Rules Committee. Chizek stated there will be no rule changes for 2021 and this year's meeting will focus on the rules manual and what states are considering for the return of cross country in the fall.

Under regular season items, the following topics were discussed:

Ross asked if any Committee members hosted a non-traditional meet or a scrimmage (two new approved changes for this track season) this spring. Petersen started the process, but didn't get enough interest. Bauder stated there was little discussion in her area. Due to the shortened season, other schools didn't have the opportunity to try these options.

Ross explained the AdHoc's findings with ALL sports/activities regarding season overlaps, etc. O'Neil shared concern regarding the new track and field schedule, with Smith stating the frustration among coaches regarding the three week shortened season from competitions (2 weeks of practice at the beginning and one week later allowed for competitions). Committee all agreed more contact should be made with athletes and feel it is important to reduce the risk of injury and for the wellness of athletes. **Motion by O'Neil to allow coaches to have ten contact days starting, Week 31-Week 35 with local school determining when these 10 days occur during the time period. Petersen second and unanimously approved.** This would commence with the 2021 season.

Moving the competition start date was discussed by the Committee. Committee concurs this would allow for minimal interruption for established and scheduled indoor meets statewide, and would not overwhelm participants. **Motion by Petersen to move the first official date of competition to the Monday of Week 35 (this would be the 1<sup>st</sup> official day of practice). O'Neil second and unanimously approved.**

Committee discussed allowing additional time for a coach to coach athletes who have specialized events (throwing, jumping, hurdling). Committee does not feel this is a necessity at this point.

Chizek and Ross informed Committee they are awaiting on guidance from the Department of Education on June regulations for teams and coaches. The IGHSAU and IHSAA will be releasing a Q & A document for clarification on coaching contact, use of facilities, etc.

Ross and Chizek asked for input regarding implementing an awards schedule for place winners at the state track meet. Committee realizes this needs to be done efficiently with athletes at the awards stand and warming up for an upcoming race. Committee feels it would be best if throwing events would be awarded inside the track rather than at their competing location. Management from the IGHSAU and the IHSAA shared that they will consult with different individuals (including Mike Jay) on the feasibility of adding this to the state track and field awards ceremony. **Motion by Bissen to investigate an awards ceremony at the State Co-Ed Track & Field Meet (possibly top 3 place-winners). Petersen second and unanimously approved.**

O'Neil informed Committee he has created different options for a standardized indoor track schedule and asked for Committee's input. Some of the indoor meets are hosted and run by colleges or universities– this schedule would be recommended to these hosts knowing that the final decision would be the college/university's decision. This standardized schedule would be used at the indoor meets in which the high schools are hosts and responsible for the running of the meet (even if held at a college or university). Committee was reminded indoor meets count towards your 16-meet maximum. **O'Neil recommends to adopt the recommended schedule for indoor track, Petersen second and unanimously approved by all members present.**

Pedersen asked for options other than the Drake Fieldhouse for athletes to warm up and set up camps, due to the Fieldhouse being overcrowded. Chizek stated he and Ross will be meeting with the Drake University facilities representative soon and will discuss Committee's concern.

Appreciation was expressed to Petersen and O'Neil for their years of service to the Track and Field Advisory Committee.

The next meeting will be held on June 21, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the IHSAA Office.

Heidi Reed  
Recorder