

Volleyball Advisory Committee Minutes

January 23, 2020

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Todd Troutman with the following members present: Mollie Keitges, Katrina TerHark, Jessica Rhinehart, Matt Johnson, Mike Bond and Kent Kocour. Claude Howard was present via phone conference. Absent: Tammy Veerbeek. Lisa Brinkmeyer represented the State Office.

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

Motion by Rhinehart to approve the February 6, 2019 Advisory Committee minutes, second by Keitges and unanimously approved.

The Committee reviewed the inaugural year of the pre-game handshake option. A few Committee members said initially there was some confusion between officials and teams about it being optional. Committee suggested the IGHSAU create a pre-game protocol for officials and teams to follow to ensure consistency if a pre-game handshake is used. Brinkmeyer stated this can be done via memorandum.

Bond said a common point of discussion among coaches is the need for an additional playing date. With conferences getting larger, more dates are required for conference matches, thus decreasing the options for non-conference matches/rivalries. Committee members shared that some schools are decreasing the number of their weekend tournaments. It was also shared that some schools are scheduling more quads or triangulars to lessen the number of weekend tournaments. The Committee agrees it is beneficial to play in Saturday tournaments for competition purposes, however having some Saturdays off will help with fatigue, injuries and burnout by giving players a physical and mental break.

Committee concurs home matches provide a positive community involvement for fans and students and a financial boost for schools. Several Committee members stated they only have 2-4 home matches per season. Due to the limited number of home matches, many schools are not able to maximize on the community involvement and financial benefits, including keeping their school's longstanding rivalry matches alive. Committee would like to add another date and are open to adding parameters if need be. After discussion, **Motion by Bond, to increase the number of allowable volleyball dates from fourteen to fifteen, with the option of implementing contest parameters per IGHSAU recommendation. Troutman seconds the motion, unanimously approved.** If limiting weekend tournaments is the direction taken, the Committee recommends a limit of six weekend tournaments be allowed. Committee also recommends to continue allowing triangulars and quads to be played during the week, provided a round robin format be used with no bracket play.

The release date of regional pairings was discussed. Brinkmeyer informed the Committee the release date is set to accommodate the timing needs for the officials' contract process. Brinkmeyer believes the release date could be moved back a few days without impacting the officials' process and will adjust this for the 2020 season.

Bond shared concerns he heard from coaches and officials regarding the number of officials working regional finals and semi-final matches that have little experience. Concerns were also shared to Bond of officials that did not work a regional final match but worked at the state tournament. Brinkmeyer stated the Volleyball Officials' Coordinator uses officials' evaluations and recommendations from coaches and

officials' observers to schedule post-season assignments. Brinkmeyer will share their concerns and review the selection process with the Volleyball Officials' Coordinator.

Keitges stated the online officials' rating form on QuikStats did not work properly on a consistent basis. Brinkmeyer stated the IGHS AU had not been contacted about any issues, however she will look into the situation to ensure any glitches are corrected for the 2020 season. The Committee would welcome additional questions added to the postgame ratings.

Next the Committee discussed the officials' crew cards. Kocour said officials liked using the cards and that coaches were receptive to them as well. Rhinehart stated using crew cards makes it easier for coaches to evaluate officials. Committee members agreed that the crew cards are a positive addition to the game and would like more officials to use them. The IGHS AU will remind officials to use the crew cards in the pre-season memorandum.

Brinkmeyer reminded the Committee of the date changes for the 2020 volleyball post-season (see below).

2020 Volleyball Postseason Schedule:

Oct 19: Class 1A, 2A, 3A Regional first round (Week 16)

Oct. 20: Class 4A, 5A Regional first round (Week 16)

Oct. 21: Class 1A, 2A, 3A Regional second round (Week 16)

Oct. 22: Class 4A, 5A Regional semifinals (Week 16)

Oct. 26: Class 1A, 2A Regional semifinals (Week 17)

Oct. 27: Class 3A, 4A, 5A Regional Finals (Week 17)

Oct. 28: Class 1A, 2A Regional Finals (Week 17)

November 2-5: 2020 State Volleyball Tournament (Week 18)

Kocour stated he was contacted about adding consolation matches to the state tournament. Brinkmeyer presented the current State Tournament schedule. She stated there is no time to add consolation matches to the current schedule without adding days to the tourney or taking consolation matches off-site. The Committee is not in favor of adding consolation matches to the State Tournament format.

Brinkmeyer shared results from a survey sent to state-qualifying coaches and players about their state experience. Committee members appreciate the IGHS AU's willingness to seek feedback from participating players and coaches. Brinkmeyer said the IGHS AU will try to build on the positive comments and will look into the critiques. Johnson said the tournament should be viewed as a success based on the low number of negative comments received. The Committee concurred the State Tournament is a good experience for teams and fans alike.

The contract with the US Cellular Center expires after the 2020 tournament. Brinkmeyer informed the Committee that another volleyball venue has contacted the IGHS AU with interest in hosting the State Tournament. The venue is under construction and will be available for the 2021 tournament. The US Cellular Center is also very interested in signing a new contract to host the tournament. Rinehart stated the US Cellular Center is a good location and a great place to play. Committee concurs.

Brinkmeyer shared information about the Classification Committee that has been formed by the IGHS AU and IHSAA to study the classification for high school athletics in Iowa. Committee members appreciated the efforts of the two organization to study the classification system.

There were no ejections during the 2019 season.

The National Federation rule changes for 2020 have not yet been released. Brinkmeyer will send the rule changes as soon as they are available.

The next meeting will be held on January 21, 2021. With no further business, **motion to adjourn by Keitges, second by TerHark and unanimously approved.**

Heidi Reed
Recorder