

Volleyball Advisory Committee Minutes January 20, 2022

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Todd Troutman with the following members present: Jessica Rinehart, Matt Johnson, Julie Oldenkamp, Sarah Thein, Mollie Keitges, Mike Bond and Amy McClintock. Lisa Brinkmeyer and Deb Richarz represented the State Office.

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

Motion by Bond to approve January 2021 minutes, second by Johnson. Unanimously approved.

Committee discussed allowing volleyball players to stand during play. Brinkmeyer noted the NFHS recently declined a motion to allow players to stand, citing possible interference of play and encroachment of line judge area by bench players. Brinkmeyer shared through Iowa adaptation, players in the active rotation have been allowed to stand. Thein stated some gyms cannot accommodate all players to stand. Johnson suggested defining “playable area”, which would define where players would be allowed to stand. Richarz expressed concern of the responsibility of policing players standing in the playable area and enforcement of a penalty.

Motion by Rinehart to allow uniformed players to stand in an unplayable area, defined as the end of the bench area (out of bounds) provided both sidelines have the same accommodation. Johnson seconded. Rinehart, Johnson, Keitges, Bond, McClintock (5) in favor, Oldenkamp opposed. Motion passed 5-1.

Committee discussed Iowa scoring adaptations. Brinkmeyer shared that there are differences in scoring formats for tournaments in neighboring states (SD, NE, MO). Committee agrees that schools participating in Iowa high school tournaments should play by Iowa rules, despite what is done in their states. Committee members support keeping the current Iowa scoring format.

Oldenkamp shared concerns brought to her for teams not switching sides/benches: 1. R1 has a different view of ball handling by the setter; 2. Line judges may vary in calls, giving one side an advantage throughout the match. Thein and Richarz felt R1s should be able to make accurate calls for both sides from their vantage point on the R1 stand. Brinkmeyer said if there are noticeable discrepancies between calls from line judges, it could be addressed by the R1/R2 during the match and/or it should be shared with the school administration and IGHS AU after the match. Brinkmeyer said she did not receive any complaints about unfair calls by line judges during the season. Johnson felt the vast majority of schools support staying on the same side, regardless of any discrepancies. Committee concurred.

Jason Eslinger joined the meeting to give insight on the volleyball rankings process (preseason prospectus, tracking daily scores, stats, discussions with media/coaches around state, upsets/losses, etc.).

McClintock shared concern with the Spalding volleyball, primarily the cover being too slick. Johnson voiced concern of the ball’s durability. Oldenkamp concurred with Johnson’s durability

concerns and stated her team uses the Spalding ball during the season only because it is required for the postseason. Bond expressed his dissatisfaction with the Spalding ball due to the cover being too hard and slick. Brinkmeyer shared the IGHS AU is in the initial years of a 5-year contract with Spalding and that switching ball is most likely not an option. The IGHS AU currently receives the best ball that Spalding manufactures. Brinkmeyer said Spalding has been good about replacing defective volleyballs provided the school contacts their Spalding rep to get them replaced. Brinkmeyer will share info in season memos about communication with reps for replacing defective volleyballs.

McClintock inquired about the current Regional schedule and the time between Regional matches. Brinkmeyer shared that the schedule changes are a result of previous Advisory Committee and AdHoc Committee recommendations to compress the Regional Volleyball schedule. Brinkmeyer also shared the date constraints the IGHS AU faces with other activities happening during Volleyball Regional series (football playoffs, cross country state qualifying, band/music).

Brinkmeyer and Richarz spoke of the difficulty with securing officials for the Regional Tournament for classes 1A/2A/3A playing on the same night (104 matches). Brinkmeyer proposed aligning class 3A Regional competition nights with classes 4A/5A (as it was in the past). Committee supported the switch.

Currently classes 1A/2A/3A use neutral sites for Regional final matches. Brinkmeyer spoke of the challenges the IGHS AU had securing neutral sites for Regional final matches. It was especially difficult for 3A Regional finals, as they play the same night as the class 4A/5A finals. Brinkmeyer shared information about regional final attendances and a document of all 3A gym capacities. Committee discussed 900-capacity baseline for hosting 3A finals. Currently 57 (of 64) 3A schools have a 900+ seating capacity. The Committee discussed placing parameters for 3A hosting: 1. If a 3A school earns the right to host, but does not meet the capacity guidelines, the match would be played at a neutral site; 2. Have a maximum travel limit of two hours; 3. Allowance for the IGHS AU to use their discretion if the event needs be relocated to a larger facility due to capacity restrictions. **Motion by Keitges for class 3A schools to play Regional finals at the highest ranked team's home site. The gym must have at least a 900-seat capacity to host a Regional final. IGHS AU shall use their discretion if a site does not meet the capacity needs of the event or if travel is deemed excessive. Seconded by Oldenkamp. Motion passes unanimously.**

Rinehart brought a request of moving the State Tournament back to the Tuesday-Friday schedule. Brinkmeyer gave a recap of the AdHoc Committee findings and efforts to reduce overlapping of sports seasons. The result was moving the State Volleyball Tournament a week earlier to accommodate student-athletes that compete in both volleyball and basketball. Brinkmeyer stated the move resulted in a schedule conflict for the Friday of the new State Tournament week, which is football playoff games for several classes.

Richarz explained the selection process for Regional and State Tournament officials. She also discussed the IGHS AU's goal in educating officials and providing them resources to improve throughout the season to grow the depleting pool of postseason officials. Brinkmeyer stated a

system will be in place for the 2022 season for coaches to evaluate officials when entering their match scores on Varsity Bound.

Brinkmeyer shared that the 2022 State Volleyball Tournament will be held at the Xtreme Arena in Coralville on a 5-year contract.

2021 Ejection Report: there were no ejections during the season.

Brinkmeyer asked for feedback of moving the Volleyball Advisory meeting earlier. Committee members supported moving the meeting closer to the end of the season. Next meeting will be December 8, 2022, at 10:00 AM.

Committee extends its appreciation to Jessica Rinehart and Mike Bond for their years of service on the Volleyball Advisory Committee.

Motion to adjourn by Rinehart, seconded by Bond. Motion unanimously passes.

Ben Van Wyk
Recorder