

Volleyball Advisory Committee Minutes February 6, 2019

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Shelly TerHark with the following members present: Claude Howard, Teresa Bair, Jessica Rhinehart and Kent Kocour. Tammi Veerbeek and Mike Bond were present via phone conference. Lisa Brinkmeyer and Jean Berger represented the State Office.

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

Motion by Bair to approve the January 24, 2018 Advisory Committee minutes, second by Howard and unanimously approved.

Kocour stated inconsistencies with regular season matches and weekend tournaments regarding pre-game handshakes between teams and teams fist bumping officials. Brinkmeyer stated the IGHSAU has discouraged players of fist bumping officials per officials' request. Kocour said officials would rather not shake hands with players prior to the match, however it does occur but is manageable.

Kocour suggested requiring uniformity with teams shaking hands prior to the match as club and college teams do. Teams would be introduced and line up on their respective serving line or start out at their respective serving line for introductions. Once both teams and officials have been introduced, both teams approach the net and shake hands with each opponent (same procedure that occurs at completion of match). All members were in support of having a pre-match handshake. Brinkmeyer said the IGHSAU will encourage this practice through memos and preseason information. Brinkmeyer stated coaches must be made aware of introduction protocol at the pre-match meeting.

Kocour said officials have inquired about the use of pink flags by line judges. Brinkmeyer stated the IGHSAU has considered using pink flags at the State Tournament. In accordance to NFHS rules, line judge flags should be red in color, however the IGHSAU will communicate with officials prior to the season of their legality.

Correspondence was received from Maureen Heath regarding discrepancy in ball-handling calls by officials. Committee members agreed there is some inconsistency with ball-handling calls, particularly with lift calls. Brinkmeyer stated IGHSAU officials' coordinator, Tim Keating, is utilizing video training to help educate officials. Brinkmeyer said another way this is being addressed is through officials' evaluations. Appointed observers attended matches last season to evaluate officials. Ball-handling was one area of evaluation. Bond favored the concept of having officials evaluated throughout the season. Bair recalled having an observer at her match and felt it was positive for all involved. Brinkmeyer said the IGHSAU will continue to communicate with officials and use educational videos to help with consistency of calls. The IGHSAU will work towards increasing the number of official evaluations for next season.

Bond asked if the IGHSAU could create a proper pre-game protocol for officials to follow. Brinkmeyer said the IGHSAU follows NFHS protocol but also has pre-game information it sends to officials for Regional matches that can be shared during the regular season. Brinkmeyer will discuss this topic with Keating.

Adding a player's number to the game stats entry page on QuikStats was discussed. Rhinehart feels this would be beneficial for coaches to have the number and name of the player when entering game stats. Committee members agreed and felt it would be beneficial to coaches to have that added. Brinkmeyer stated she would present their suggestion to Jason Eslinger.

Veerbeek inquired about changing the rule regarding multi-day, regular season tournaments counting as one playing date. Veerbeek's team plays in an out-of-state tournament where three matches are played each day of the two-day tournament, thus not exceeding the six-match limit for one date. She suggested the possibility of a multi-day tournament where no more than six matches played total can count as one playing date. Brinkmeyer said she found three teams that played in a similar tournament set-up. Committee discussed this, but wondered if this would encourage schools to play more out-of-state tournaments. Discussion continued with no action taken.

Regional volleyball was reviewed by the Committee. The Committee felt the Regional tournament went smoothly. Brinkmeyer briefly shared the Regional assignment process with the goal of getting the top eight ranked teams to state if possible. The Committee commended the IGHSAU on its methods to get the highest ranked teams to state on a consist basis.

Berger informed the Committee the U.S. Cellular Center contract will be up for renewal in two years and the IGHSAU will be accepting other bids. Committee expressed appreciation for the U.S. Cellular Center and Cedar Rapids for its support for State Volleyball.

Practice nets were added in the warm-up area this year at the State Tournament. The nets were well-received, however, on day two the courts buckled from the weight of the stands and the inability to put poles in the floor. Thus, the nets were taken down. Brinkmeyer said she only received a few negative comments about the removal of the nets. Most of the coaches Brinkmeyer spoke with were pleased with the area to warm-up and felt the nets were an added bonus but not necessary. Committee concurred having a net is not necessary, but having a warm-up area is extremely important.

The Committee liked the new addition of Cooley's Corner for volleyball coaches. Brinkmeyer stated the IGHSAU's newly formed Student-Athletic Advisory Committee assisted by escorting teams to their locker rooms and working in other areas as needed. Berger informed Committee the IGHSAU is looking at ways to create a "Winners Circle" for fans to celebrate with their championship team in a separate area away from the general public.

Brinkmeyer asked Committee for feedback on Regional Final double-headers and hosting on neutral courts versus home facilities. Berger feels conflicted as she feels a team deserves to play on their home court rather at a neutral facility, but also understands there are facility size constraints.

There were two coaches ejected during the 2018 season. Question was asked on protocol of an ejection. Brinkmeyer stated the officials and ejected coach must submit an ejection report and contact is made with both schools involved.

Brinkmeyer spoke at length about AdHoc Committee findings regarding their study of all high school activities. Brinkmeyer shared suggestions made by the committee and a calendar with volleyball date changes. The Committee liked the condensed Regional schedule and asked to eliminate the first date (week 16) and incorporate those matches into weeks 17 and 18. The Committee also suggested keeping the first competition date two weeks after the first practice date, rather than moving it up a week as shown on the proposed calendar. VeerBeek expressed concern with shortening the volleyball

season with it being such a well-participated sport in the state. Several Committee members concurred. Brinkmeyer encouraged them to express their concerns with their athletic directors as they will be part of discussions with the four organizations in the coming months.

Brinkmeyer asked the Committee about playing all Regional Final matches on one date rather than two. Some members said their teams watch neighboring schools in other classes when they are not playing on the same night. However, the Committee understands the time constraints with the condensed schedule.

Brinkmeyer also discussed the State Tournament being played Monday – Thursday or Monday – Friday. Committee preferred to not play championship volleyball on top of playoff football, which would be Friday of that week. The Committee felt it would not be a problem to start the tournament on Monday. They also stated they saw no problems with the Monday – Thursday tournament format or to split the championship matches between Thursday night and Friday morning.

Brinkmeyer informed Committee the 2019 National Federation rule changes were included in committee members' packets. There were no significant rule changes, however there were extensive uniform changes for the upcoming season.

Rhinehart asked about the ruling for bench players standing. Kocour stated it is a National Federation rule and players need to be seated unless they are reacting to a play of their teammates. Brinkmeyer said the IGHSAU has made an exception to the rule to allow players to stand at the end (or behind) the bench if they are active in the rotation. It was suggested Keating have this be a point of emphasis in the volleyball rules meeting and/or memo communication.

Rhinehart asked questions regarding players working youth camps. Brinkmeyer informed Committee that player contact is part of the Iowa Code. She said it is permissible for high school team members to have a one-time opportunity to work a youth camp at their school. Brinkmeyer said it is legal to spread all the players over several dates provided no player works more than one date. This would allow a coach to cover multiple dates while only using each player once for their youth camp.

Bond asked if the IGHSAU could make boundary lines a point of emphasis with coaches, athletic directors and officials. Committee concurs it would be a good reminder for schools. The IGHSAU has emphasized this, but will continue to remind schools of the boundary regulations. Brinkmeyer instructed committee members to inform the IGHSAU if a school does not have proper markings.

The committee wishes to express appreciation to TerHark and Bair for their years of service on the Volleyball Advisory Committee as their terms are expiring.

The next meeting will be held on January 22, 2020. With no further business, **motion to adjourn by Rhinehart, second by Bair and unanimously approved.**

Heidi Reed
Recorder