

# CROSS COUNTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

## December 4, 2019

A meeting of the Cross Country Advisory Committee was held at the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union office in West Des Moines on Wednesday, December 4, 2019. Committee members present were Nate Boock, Ballard – CHAIRMAN (2021); Kevin Kearney, South Winneshiek (2020); Travis Nuss, Southeast Valley (2021); Abby Schmitz, Waukee (2021); Dan Sauser, Monticello (2019); Erik Belby, Pleasant Valley (2019); Katie Tesch, Ridge View (2022) and Bill Neal, Iowa City – OFFICIAL (2021). Also present were Jared Chizek, IHSAA, and Gary Ross, IGHS AU.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Boock at 10:00 AM. The committee was introduced and informed of the role of advisory committee by the state office staff members.

**(MM-S) Neal-Sauser to approve the November 28, 2018 advisory committee minutes.**  
Motion carried unanimously.

1. The regular season was discussed. Items discussed included:

**Officiating observations** – Bill Neal stated that host sites during the regular season had improved related to the box width at the start of the race, uniforms were better related to following the rules and regulations, and there were even less dogs on the courses.

**Scrimmage** – Due to weather-related concerns (primarily rain), **(MM-S) Belby-Nuss to approve the addition of a scrimmage for each cross country team during the 2020 cross country season meeting scrimmage guidelines on number of teams, distance, etc.** The implementation of the scrimmage is to allow schools to practice against and with another school (s) due to a variety of reasons – last minute arrangements due to weather, possibly JV scrimmaging against another school, or change of pace with practices.

**Pre-meet officiating guidelines** – Bill Neal shared a number of items that he recommends to be included and shared with officials regarding a pre-meeting with the participating coaches 30 minutes prior to the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> race. These items include: box assignments, schedule, uniforms, weather situations, pets, lead and trail vehicles, trainer location, location of the posting of results, where awards presentations will occur, process for expressing concerns to the starter, collect any medical notices, if guide runners are used, and any unique individual participant situations. Bill shared that he was presenting this information to the IATC Clinic to the officials. In addition, Bill will prepare a document that will be posted on both the IHSAA and IGHS AU websites.

2. The state qualifying meets were discussed. Items discussed included:

**2-class meet** – Kearney stated that he was very pleased with the 2-class SQM at Cedar Falls. The order of races were: Class 1A girls followed by Class 4A girls, followed by Class 1A boys followed by Class 4A boys. This structure allowed coaches who coaches both the girls and boys teams to be able to spend necessary time with each team prior to and following the races.

**SQM assignments** – Coaches indicated that schools had received adequate notice of the sites and assignments for the post-season. In addition, coaches felt that the teams within each site were well distributed. Neal shared the number of ranked teams that qualified for the state meet.

**IATC Rankings** – Ross shared that the IATC rankings committee will be meeting to access the criteria used in the rankings to make changes as needed to the criteria. Ross shared that the committee has invited both the IHSAA and the IGHSAU to meet with them once the group has finalized the criteria. Ross and Chizek indicated that they are pleased with the ratings committee – making adjustments as needed will help the process be even more effective – as these rankings are very critical to the assignment process by the IGHSAU and the IHSAA.

- 3. State meet** – coaches felt the state meet was a great event – coaches particularly like the shuttle system for spectators and the less stress put upon schools entering and exiting the park. Coaches felt that the admission was successful – in addition, they felt that the complimentary admissions of 12 per team and 4 per individual were accurate.

**Classifications** – Multiple emails were shared with the committee regarding the current classification structure used for cross country. Proposals for re-structuring the classes of cross country were presented to the committee members. Discussion followed regarding these proposals. A key concern centered upon the following: if schools from Class 4A are shifted to Class 3A, there is a domino effect upon the smaller schools in Class 3A. If teams are then moved down from Class 3A, that same domino effect occurs with Class 2A schools, etc. The committee feels that the current structure is successful and doesn't recommend any changes. One topic that will be discussed at the Classification Committee meeting that the IGHSAU and the IHSAA have on Friday, December 6 is a proposal to consider a change in classification in cross country.

**Future upgrades** – the committee discussed upgrades that could possibly be added for the future. Chizek shared that the #1 item is the wifi at Kennedy Park. Increasing the hosting allowance was mentioned as something that may help in recruiting SQM hosts. In addition, the use of split readings was another item that was viewed as upgrading the meet. Ross suggested that the committee email Chizek or Ross with any feedback regarding possible upgrades to the state cross country meet.

The date for the 2020 Cross Country Advisory Meeting will be December 2, 2020, at the IHSAA office in Boone.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Ross  
Associate Director