

IHSAA Executive Committee

Thursday, January 14, 2021

Indianapolis, Indiana



PRESENT

Executive Committee Members: Chairman Chris Conley, Vice-Chairman John Steinhilber, Stacy Adams (virtually), Jim Brown, Martin Brown, Victor Bush, Nathan Dean, Jeff Doyle, Brent Duncan, Tom Finicle (virtually), Chad Gilbert (virtually), Ed Gilliland, Tim Grove, Matt Martin, Patti McCormack (virtually), Brian Strong, Mike Whitten, Rae Ferriell-Woolpy (virtually), Dave Worland (virtually).

Executive Staff Members: Commissioner Paul Neidig, Assistant Commissioners Robert Faulkens, Chris Kaufman, Kerrie Schludecker, Sandra Walter; Attorney Bob Baker, Technology Director Luke Morehead, Director of Broadcast Operations Heath Shanahan, Sports Information Director Jason Wille, Foundation President Matt Wolfert.

AGENDA

FOR ACTION

1) DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the December 17, 2020 IHSAA Executive Committee meeting were recommended for approval.

A motion for approval was made by Stacy Adams; seconded by Tim Grove; motion approved 19-0.

REPORTS

2) WINTER TOURNAMENT SERIES UPDATES & TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL APPLICANTS

Each of the commissioners updated the Executive Committee on state tournament host site changes in their respective winter sports and reported on what changes may have to be made to safely conduct events at indoor facilities amid the pandemic.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Commissioner Paul Neidig shared a list of the 557 officials who have applied to work this year's state tournament.

He reported that the IHSAA was notified in December that the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament would be played in Indiana at different venues including Lucas Oil Stadium, Bankers Life Fieldhouse, Hinkle Fieldhouse, Indiana Farmers Coliseum, Purdue University's Mackey Arena, and Indiana University's Simon Skjodt Assembly Hall.

At the request of our presenting partners, the Indiana Pacers & Indiana Fever, the IHSAA will vacate the facility on Saturday, March 27, the contracted date for the boys basketball state finals. They had indicated that the Fieldhouse would be available to host our event the following Saturday (April 3).

As a result, the Committee and staff looked at different options and what impact an adjustment would have.

After lengthy discussion, the Committee determined that moving the date of the state finals back one week to Saturday, April 3, was the most viable option.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Assistant Commissioner Sandra Walter presented a list of 543 basketball officials who have applied to work this year's Girls Basketball State Tournament Series. The basketball tournament series will require six officials per sectional for a total of 384 individuals.

She believes that number to be a record for girls tournament applicants and is nearly 100 more than last year which is astonishing given the pandemic.

The state finals at Bankers Life Fieldhouse will have limited capacity as will all host sites throughout the state tournament.

She discussed plans she will share with member schools regarding practice sessions, game times, clearing and cleaning facilities between games, crowd ingress and egress and that only single game tickets will be sold at each level of the tournament.

She reminded everyone of the scenario that between the time when the pairings are announced and the start of a sectional, if a team must withdraw from the sectional due to quarantine and their opponent would advance directly into the championship game without playing a game, that sectional would be redrawn. If the sectional has already begun and a withdrawal occurs, the pairings would continue as is. This is the case for both girls and boys basketball. This scenario played out on two occasions during the volleyball state tournament last fall.

GYMNASTICS

Assistant Commissioner Sandra Walter shared the current plans for administering the Gymnastics State Tournament Series. She will communicate with member schools regarding practice sessions, cleaning equipment between usage, usage of locker room space and other details. Access for spectators will be determined by host schools in concert with what their local health officials will allow.

Ball State University is still expecting to host this year's state finals at Worthen Arena.

GIRLS & BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING

Assistant Commissioner Kerrie Schludecker provided a list of 63 applicants, a decrease of 10 from last year, to officiate the 2020-21 swimming and diving state tournaments.

She will share updated plans for the sectionals, diving regionals and state finals with member schools soon.

Schludecker has been diligently working with Indiana University and IU Natatorium officials on what will be allowed in the facility during the state finals and what format changes need to be made to accommodate the same number of athletes as in years past. Prelims will be broken up into two separate sessions on Friday at 12 pm ET with the next session at 5 pm ET. All diving will occur Saturday morning beginning at 9 am ET with swimming championship finals and consolations beginning at 3:30 pm that day.

WRESTLING

Assistant Commissioner Robert Faulkens presented a list of 150 wrestling officials who have applied to work the Wrestling State Tournament Series. Mr. Faulkens indicated that 128 officials are needed at the sectional level.

He reported some host site changes that have occurred at the sectional, regional and semi-state rounds.

Spectator capacity will be determined by local jurisdiction as it has throughout the pandemic. Uniform, skin and mat cleaning/sanitization will be stressed throughout the tournament, as will wearing face masks/coverings by everyone including wrestlers, coaches, scorers, timers and officials.

The state finals at Bankers Life Fieldhouse will look significantly different from previous years as Friday's prelims will likely be run in two separate sessions divided by weight class beginning at 12 pm ET and again at 7 pm ET. The facility will be cleared and cleaned between those sessions.

3) NATIONAL FEDERATION VIRTUAL WINTER MEETING

Commissioner Paul Neidig reported on the National Federation's Virtual Winter Meeting he tuned into in early January along with executive directors from every other state association.

He reported on the numerous topics covered mostly related to the COVID-19 and how other states are dealing with the pandemic related to high school sports and activities.

4) TRANSFERS

Commissioner Paul Neidig reported on transfers that have been ruled on for the period of June 1-Jan. 11, 2021 and, for comparison, the numbers from the same period a year ago.

	2020-21	Percent	2019-20	Percent
Full Eligibility	1,905	91.2%	2,537	90.2%
Limited Eligibility	157	7.5%	254	9.0%
Ineligible	28	1.3%	21	0.8%
Total	2,090		2,812	

Foreign Exchange Transfers

	2020-21	Percent	2019-20	Percent
Full Eligibility	120	97.6%	539	96.8%
Limited Eligibility	3	2.4%	11	2.0%
Ineligible	0	0.0%	7	1.2%
Total	123		557	

5) PARTERSHIPS & SPONSORSHIPS

Assistant Commissioner Chris Kaufman shared the latest information on the IHSAA's various corporate partnerships and potential partners.

6) SPORTSMANSHIP

Assistant Commissioner Sandra Walter reported on the area of unsporting behavior for the period between August 1-Jan. 11, 2021 and the numbers from the same period a year ago.

	2020-21	2019-20	% Change
Exemplary Reports Filed	845	797	6%
Unsporting Reports Filed	2,681	2,845	-6%
Total Ejections	331	348	-5%
Ejections (Administration)	1	1	0%
Ejections (Coaches)	29	31	-6%
Ejections (Players)	268	275	-3%
Ejections (Fans)	33	41	-20%

7) CONTEST OFFICIALS

Assistant Commissioner Sandra Walter reported on recruitment and retention efforts for officials to this point in the school year. Numbers overall are down a bit even though the deadline and late fee for renewing a license has been pushed back to September. Late fees for the spring sports of track, softball and baseball will be lifted this year, particularly because those sports weren't played last year due to the pandemic.

She discussed an official recruitment zoom meeting she was involved in with the Indiana Sports Corporation last month as well as an upcoming symposium in March.

8) TECHNOLOGY

Director of Technology Luke Morehead confirmed that, to provide flexibility to the membership during the pandemic, the myIHSAA website will not enforce limits on the number of athletes entered into winter post-season tournaments. The exception is the wrestling tournament which will continue to be limited to three wrestlers per weight class.

In other technology news, the association was awarded a \$2,000 grant from Amazon, several myIHSAA website bugs were fixed over the break, and Luke is working with EventLink to implement an export of their athlete rosters in a format which can be imported as tournament entries on the myIHSAA website.

9) IHSAA FOUNDATION QUARTERLY REPORT

Foundation President Matt Wolfert provided a report on various items related to the IHSAA Foundation including a list of donors, strategic planning, and a list of donors to the Bobby & Kathy Cox Endowment Fund.

He also provided an update on the InSideOut Coaching Initiative, a potential state-wide license plate program, and a Virtual 5K Run planned for this spring. He also said the Sixth Annual IHSAA Foundation Golf Outing is scheduled for Friday, July 30 at Prairie View Golf Club in Carmel.

10) STATE LEGISLATURE

Commissioner Paul Neidig briefed the Committee on bills authored by legislators in the Indiana Statehouse.

11) LITIGATION / IDOE CASE REVIEW PANEL

Attorney Robert Baker updated the Executive Committee on the current status of pending litigation against the Association as well as results from the Case Review Panel at the Indiana Department of Education.

12) SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SMAC)

Assistant Commissioner Robert Faulkens reported on this group's first meeting. The physicians, athletic directors, and athletic trainers involved from each region of the state offered updated recommendations to the Return to Play guidelines for the Executive Committee to consider.

13) IHSAA CHAMPIONS NETWORK

Heath Shanahan, Director of Broadcast Operations, provided the following report on fall sports:

The Educational Broadcast Program had 47 member schools that used the pay-per-view model. The IHSAA Champions Network did 38 total broadcasts (cross country state finals, boys and girls soccer semi-state and state finals, volleyball semi-state, and football semi-state).

For winter sports broadcasting, Shanahan announced the following changes:

As more counties are designated as COVID-19 red, the opportunity for the public to attend IHSAA tournament events could be severely limited by local and state health authorities. Additionally, the IHSAA has historically returned 98% of the sectional profit from Football, Girls Basketball and Boys Basketball to member schools. Per the request from many member schools, the IHSAA is creating a pay-per-view program that is designed to allow maximum exposure while adding a revenue stream for the member schools at the Girls and Boys Basketball Sectional Tournament level. Sectional sites will receive 40% of revenue from PPV streaming. Rights fees will be waived for all online broadcasters, and they will receive 20% of PPV proceeds, as well.

Any broadcaster, commercial or educational, wishing to become a Champions Affiliate must contact the IHSAA Director of Broadcasting. Membership is free.

For girls and boys basketball, all online video webcasts will be pay-per-view on IHSAAtv through an approved Champions affiliate. Television stations will still be permitted to air on an over-the-air channel or cable system.

In wrestling, TrackWrestling will broadcast as many sectional sites as possible. A Champions Affiliate will also be permitted to broadcast behind a PPV paywall on IHSAAtv.org. If a site is uncovered by TrackWrestling or a Champions Affiliate, an independent broadcaster may request rights for the sectional site and air the contests free-to-view. TrackWrestling will have exclusivity from the regional round through the State semi-finals.

Gymnastics and boys and girls swimming and diving will be available to broadcast with no rights fee and free-to-view.

14) FALL SPORTS FINANCIAL REPORTS

Commissioner Paul Neidig gave an overview of the fall sport financial reports he shared with Executive Committee members.

Girls golf lost less money than in previous years and boys tennis actually made money for the first time ever. Boys and girls cross country and boys and girls soccer attendance, both outdoor sports, was very good. Volleyball and football tournament attendance both were down.

As expected, this year's fall sports revenue was down significantly from 2019.

Overall, the Commissioner stated the Association is certainly feeling the financial impact, just like our member schools, with no sports last spring and limited spectators during the fall sports season.

At this point, he doesn't expect deficit spending to likely change until next year's football tournament. There are no short-term answers, unfortunately.

15) PENALTIES ASSESSED

Calumet New Tech HS – Boys Basketball - Rule 18-1 (*A student athlete participated in an interscholastic contest while academically ineligible*)

1. The Calumet New Tech High School Boys Basketball program is issued a warning. This warning is notice of a rule violation occurring and shall not be repeated.
2. Head Coach Dominique Nelson is reprimanded for allowing these violations to be committed. The head coach holds the responsibility that each athlete meets all academic requirements.
3. The student athlete involved in this violation was declared ineligible. The student may gain academic eligibility at the next certification date of the school.
4. If Calumet New Tech High School was victorious, the interscholastic contest in which this ineligible student athlete participated in shall be forfeited. The opposing school shall be made aware of this violation.
5. Part of an IHSAA member school's obligation is to uphold the By-Laws of its association and furthermore to self-report any violation to the Commissioner (Rule 3).

Culver Academies – Wrestling – Rule 12-2 (*A student athlete in his fifth year of high school participated in an "exhibition" match vs. a wrestler from another member school*)

1. The Culver Academy wrestling program is issued a warning. This warning is notice that an IHSAA member school rule violation has occurred and shall not be repeated.
2. Head Coach Ramsey Bradkeis reprimanded for allowing this violation to be committed. Unfamiliarity of the rules is not an acceptable rationale for violating IHSAA by-laws.
3. The student athlete involved in this violation is declared ineligible immediately.
4. The wrestling match the student athlete participated in shall be rescored to remove any individual and team points earned by the student athlete and the team score shall be recalculated. The opposing school shall be notified of this violation.
5. Part of an IHSAA member school's obligation is to uphold the By-Laws of its association and furthermore to self-report any violation to the Commissioner (Rule 3).

Danville Community HS – Wrestling – Rule 60-6 (*Multiple wrestlers in the program did not meet all provisions of the IHSAA Weight Management program*)

1. The Danville High School wrestling program is issued a warning. This warning is notice that an IHSAA member school rule violation has occurred and shall not be repeated.
2. Head Coach Mason Meling is reprimanded for allowing these violations to be committed. The head coach holds the responsibility that each athlete meets all requirements of the Association's wrestling weight management plan.
3. The wrestling matches the student athlete participated in shall be rescored to remove any individual and team points earned by the student athlete and the team score shall be recalculated. The opposing school shall be notified of this violation.
4. Part of an IHSAA member school's obligation is to uphold the By-Laws of its association and furthermore to self-report any violation to the Commissioner (Rule 3).

Delta HS – Wrestling – Rule 60-6 (*Multiple wrestlers in the program did not meet all provisions of the IHSAA Weight Management program*)

1. The Delta High School wrestling program is issued a warning. This warning is notice that an IHSAA member school rule violation has occurred and shall not be repeated.
2. Head Coach Joe Mosier is reprimanded for allowing these violations to be committed. The head coach holds the responsibility that each athlete meets all requirements of the Association’s wrestling weight management plan.
3. The wrestling matches the student athletes participated in shall be rescored to remove any individual and team points earned by the student athletes and the team score shall be recalculated. The opposing school shall be notified of this violation.
4. Part of an IHSAA member school’s obligation is to uphold the By-Laws of its association and furthermore to self-report any violation to the Commissioner (Rule 3).

Faith Christian HS –Boys Basketball - Rule 19-3 (*A student athlete participated in multiple contests without an approved transfer report on file*)

1. The Faith Christian School Basketball programs are issued a warning. This warning is notice that an IHSAA member school rule violation has occurred and shall not be repeated.
2. The student athlete was declared ineligible until a completed transfer report was submitted and ruled upon.
3. The interscholastic contest in which this student athlete participated in shall be forfeited if Faith Christian School was victorious. The opposing schools shall be made aware of this violation.
4. Part of an IHSAA member school’s obligation is to uphold the By-Laws of its association and furthermore to self-report any violation to the Commissioner (Rule 3).

Fort Wayne Concordia Lutheran HS – Wrestling - Rule 3-10 (*Wrestler participated in four (4) contests without an approved pre-participation physical and consent form on file*)

1. The Concordia Lutheran High School wrestling program is issued a warning. This warning is official notice that a member school By-Law violation act has occurred, is a matter of record, and shall not be repeated.
2. Head Coach, Jamie Jones is reprimanded for allowing this violation to occur. This is a health and safety issue, and it is imperative that the “IHSAA Pre-Participation Evaluation Form” complete in every detail be on file for all student athletes prior to their participation.
3. The student involved in this violation was declared ineligible until such time the student provides a fully completed pre-participation physical and consent form to the school.
4. The wrestling matches the student athlete participated in shall be rescored to remove any individual and team points earned by the student athlete and the team score shall be recalculated. The opposing school shall be notified of this violation.
5. Part of an IHSAA member school’s obligation is to uphold the By-Laws of its association and furthermore to self-report any violation to the Commissioner (Rule 3).

Lawrence North HS – Wrestling – Rule 60-6 (*Multiple wrestlers in the program did not meet all provisions of the IHSAA Weight Management program*)

1. The Lawrence North High School wrestling program is issued a warning. This warning is notice that an IHSAA member school rule violation has occurred and shall not be repeated.
2. Head Coach Jacob Aven is reprimanded for allowing these violations to be committed. The head coach holds the responsibility that each athlete meets all requirements of the Association’s wrestling weight management plan.
3. The wrestling matches the student athletes participated in shall be rescored to remove any individual and team points earned by the student athletes and the team score shall be recalculated. The opposing school shall be notified of this violation.
4. Part of an IHSAA member school’s obligation is to uphold the By-Laws of its association and furthermore to self-report any violation to the Commissioner (Rule 3).

Madison-Grant – Wrestling – Rule 60-6 (*Multiple wrestlers in the program did not meet all provisions of the IHSAA Weight Management program*)

1. The Madison-Grant High School wrestling program is issued a warning. This warning is notice that an IHSAA member school rule violation has occurred and shall not be repeated.
2. Head Coach Jamie Landis is reprimanded for allowing these violations to be committed. The head coach holds the responsibility that each athlete meets all requirements of the Association's wrestling weight management plan.
3. The wrestling matches the student athlete participated in shall be rescored to remove any individual and team points earned by the student athlete and the team score shall be recalculated. The opposing school shall be notified of this violation.
4. Part of an IHSAA member school's obligation is to uphold the By-Laws of its association and furthermore to self-report any violation to the Commissioner (Rule 3).

New Haven HS – Girls Basketball – Rule 9-13 (*Girls Basketball Team gathered on a Sunday and reviewed game film*)

1. The New Haven High School Girls Basketball program is issued a warning. This warning is notice that an IHSAA member school rule violation has occurred and shall not be repeated.
2. Head Coach MyQueisha Bratton is reprimanded for allowing this violation to occur. Unfamiliarity of the rules is not an acceptable rationale for violating IHSAA by-laws.
3. Part of an IHSAA member school's obligation is to uphold the By-Laws of its association and furthermore to self-report any violation to the Commissioner (Rule 3).

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

16) COMMUNICATIONS

- None.

17) CONGRATULATIONS

- Congratulations to Lawrence Central boys basketball coach Al Gooden who won his 500th career game on Tuesday night. He is the first African-American coach to reach that milestone in state history and ranks 10th overall among active coaches. Prior to taking over at Lawrence Central, he led Harding's boys basketball team to five state championship game appearances including the 2001 (2A) state title.

18) FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Commissioner Paul Neidig made a point to praise the efforts of the IHSAA support staff throughout the pandemic.
- The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be Friday, February 19, 2021 at the IHSAA Office.

A motion to adjourn the January 13, 2021 meeting of the IHSAA Executive Committee was made by Brian Strong; seconded by Mike Whitten; motion approved 19-0.

Chris Conley, Chairman

Paul Neidig, Commissioner