

**ILLINOIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
CROSS-COUNTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING RECOMMENDATIONS
November 14, 2008**

The following members were present for the meeting: Coaches Linda Brown, Petersburg PORTA; Nick D'Alfonso, East Peoria Central, Diane Stateman, Lemont Old Quarry; Steve Huber, Elmwood, Mike Brehm, Paxton-Buckley-Loda; and Dave Frintner, Arlington Hts. South; Paula Sereleas, Ass't Principal, Frankfort Summit Hill; and IHSA Official, Owen Fuller, Marseilles. Also in attendance was Joe Buresh, Board of Director Liaison and Steve Destri, meet manager for the IESA state meet.

The IESA Cross-Country Advisory Committee, in its meeting of November 14, 2008, makes the following recommendations to the Board of Directors for its January 23, 2009, meeting:

1. To change By-Law 4.033 so that there are 9 Class A sectionals and 9 Class AA sectionals. **Rationale: Presently, there are 8 Class A sectionals and 9 Class AA sectionals. Due to the growth of the activity, having only 8 Class A sectionals means that there are 15 schools assigned to a sectional. Most Class AA sectionals have 12-13 schools assigned.**
2. To change By-Law 4.033 so that in the event the 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, or 10th place overall individual finisher is not on a qualifying team, such 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, or 10th place individual finisher shall advance from the sectional to the state final meet. **Rationale: Currently the top three teams and the top 5 individuals not one of those three teams advances to the state meet. Approving this recommendation will insure that any individual who places in the top 10 at the sectional will advance to the state meet.**
3. To change By-Law 4.033 so that no changes can be made to the sectional entry form after 12 noon on Wednesday preceding the sectional. **Rationale: Currently coaches can change the sectional entry form up until the race itself. This becomes a difficult situation for the host school when changes are made the day of the meet. If approved, coaches may list up to 10 runners and then seven of those 10 may run in the sectional. Without the change, a runner who is not even listed on the form could be substituted the day of the meet.**
4. To change By-Law 4.035 so that the top 10 individuals receive medals instead of ribbons. **Rationale: This recommendation continues to be a priority for the committee. While they understand this has not been approved by the Board when it has been recommended before, they ask that you consider this once again. They acknowledge it would be an additional cost for 40 medals and an even greater cost if sectional track placers were to receive medals. However, the committee continues to reason that perception is reality. Almost every cross country invitational awards medals to the placers. Few, if any, track invitationals award medals for the placers. Almost all give ribbons to the placers. To that end, it is perceived that IESA is giving away a lesser award when a ribbon is given to the top 10 sectional cross country individuals. Since track invites almost exclusively award ribbons, when ribbons are awarded for IESA sectional track, it does not surprise people. Ribbons for cross country does surprise people.**

The committee was very appreciative of the job Normal Parkside did organizing the state meet. The chip scoring system has been extremely well received. They would like to see one mile splits for the runners at state. The committee inquired about the possibility of the sectional results being posted on Saturday rather than the Monday after the sectional meets. Mr. Endsley will work with Craig Johnson on trying to accomplish this. The main goal when posting the sectional results online is that the results are as accurate as possible and not to post names/schools that are inaccurate. They also asked if the coaches meeting prior to the start of the races could be moved away from the start line and perhaps held near the softball bleachers. There was discussion about switching the starting times for the Class A and Class AA schools but no recommendation to make the switch. The committee reviewed an email about making a slight change to the finish area and that will be incorporated into next year's meet.

Linda Brown and Nick D'Alfonso were recognized for their service to the committee.

The date of the next meeting was set for November 13, 2009.