

**ILLINOIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
CROSS-COUNTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING RECOMMENDATIONS & MINUTES
November 10, 2011**

The following members were present for the meeting: Coaches Jan Marks, Germantown Hills; Steve Shaffer, Mt. Prospect Lincoln; Jeff Obert, Liberty; Kent Probst, Teutopolis; Peggy Luther, Frankfort Hickory Creek; Pat Hernandez, Mundelein Carl Sandburg; Kelly Fox, Mt. Zion; and Administrator, Mike Clark, Normal Parkside.

The IESA Cross-Country Advisory Committee, in its meeting of November 10, 2011, makes the following recommendations to the Board of Directors for its January 20, 2012, meeting:

1. To make an exception to NFHS rule 9-4-4 (a) which would read as follows: "Within the first 100 meters when a competitor falls due to contact with another competitor, a race may be recalled, by firing the starting device, if the official determines the contact was more than incidental". **Rationale: Current wording says the race shall be recalled when a runner falls in the first 100 meters. The truth is a race is rarely, if ever, recalled when a runner falls in the first 100 meters despite the rule that says it shall be recalled because of the mass confusion that follows. The new wording gives flexibility to the race starter if a runner falls.**
2. To make an exception to NFHS rule 9-6-3 (a) which would read as follows: Jewelry and unapproved adornment shall not be worn by competitors. **Rationale: Current wording does not include the words "unapproved adornment". Runners are starting to wear lapel type pins and promotional items that some don't consider to be jewelry when in fact that is exactly what those items are. Adding this wording helps race officials to enforce the intent of the rule.**
3. That each sectional host receive \$100 to help offset expenses. **Rationale: Currently, a sectional host receives no money from the Association for hosting the sectional meet. There are currently 20 sectional hosts. To our knowledge, only one host actually assesses the participating schools for the expenses of the sectional meet. Most sectional hosts simply absorb the costs of the sectional meet. Hosts have expenses of bib numbers, safety pins, chalk or paint to mark the course, generally a computer person for results. At the very minimum, the \$100 would help offset those expenses. With 20 hosts, this would cost the Association \$2000.**
4. To exclude cross country from By-Law 3.131. **Rationale: The By-Law currently says that state series hosts may not make their gymnasium or playing fields available to the visiting teams for practice sessions. In cross country, it is common practice for teams to travel to the sectional site to practice on the course before the sectional meet and for the state cross country meet, the course has teams practicing on it all week long leading up to the state meet especially on Friday when there are conservatively, 30 schools on the course Friday afternoon. Teams practice on a course so they know the layout prior to the running of the race. If a sectional meet is on school property, the school should be contacted by the visiting team to receive permission. For sectional meets held at public parks, it is basically impossible to prevent schools from practicing in a public park.**
5. To change the current exception that sectional hosts will determine the finish area for the sectional meet to read that sectional hosts that do not use a chip scoring and timing system must have their finish line at the mouth of the chute in accordance with 9-1-3 (d). **Rationale: Some hosts still have their finish line at the neck of the chute. While this was the standard practice of a chute set-up for many years (and is still done at some sites today), for safety reasons it is better to require the finish at the mouth of the chute.**
6. To add line item on the financial report for the expense of a trainer. **Rationale: With the number of people in attendance at a sectional meet, a host school should have a trainer on site. Adding a line item on the financial report will help draw attention to the need for a trainer on site.**

The biggest item that was discussed was the possibility of adding a third class due to the increased number of entries. The committee was given a listing of the schools entered in the state series with their enrollments. They were asked to review the numbers and get back to Mr. Endsley with ideas on how a 3 class system would be set-up. The committee will then reconvene and develop a recommendation for a 3 class system that would be implemented in the fall of 2012. However, as it stands now, no changes to the 2 class system are being recommended to the IESA Board.

The committee discussed several items without taking any official action or making any recommendations. Correspondence was presented concerning the sectional meet date that conflicted with Yom Kippur. The committee would like for the National Anthem to be sung sooner so run outs can be conducted without interruption. They asked that the photography company who takes team pictures be on site on Friday prior to the state meet to take pictures of the teams in attendance that day. They also would like to see an additional photographer on site on Saturday to help with the long lines that have been forming as teams wait to get their picture taken. Mr. Endsley will work on these items with the photography company. A mandatory number of practices that an individual would have to participate in before he/she could run in an actual meet was discussed. After discussion there was no recommendation forthcoming. The IESA Office will attempt to get all of the sectional results (not just those individuals and teams who advance to the state meet) from each sectional host and post those results on the IESA website. A link will also be posted on the IESA website asking for volunteers at the state meet. All committee members heard positive remarks concerning the distribution of the timing chips at packet pick up. The committee expressed appreciation to the CubbyHole for being on site to sell merchandise on both Friday and Saturday of the state meet. The committee expresses its thanks to Normal Parkside for their efforts in hosting the state meet.

Steve Schaefer and Jan Marks were recognized for their service on the committee.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the committee was set for Friday, November 9, 2012.