

ILLINOIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
CROSS-COUNTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING RECOMMENDATIONS & MINUTES
May 30, 2012

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

The IESA Cross-Country Advisory Committee, in its meeting of May 30, 2012, makes the following recommendations to the Board of Directors for its June 15, 2012, meeting:

Due to the increase in the number of schools that have entered the state cross country series, to make the following changes to By-Laws 4.031, 4.033, and 4.035:

- 3 classes
- Approximately 260 schools
- 87 schools in Class 1A--enrollment 13-187
- 87 schools in Class 2A--enrollment 188-441
- 86 schools in Class 3A--enrollment 443-963
- 7 sectionals in each class/approximately 12 schools in each sectional
- Top 3 teams plus the top 5 individuals advance to state
- 21 teams/35 individuals in each state race
- 6 state races/182 total runners per race/1092 total runners at state
- Class 1A Girls race time 9:30 a.m.
- Class 1A Boys race time 10:15 a.m.
- Class 2A Girls Race time 11:15 a.m.
- Class 2A Boys Race time 12 noon
- Class 3A Girls Race time 1:00 p.m.
- Class 3A Boys Race time 1:45 p.m.
- 3 awards ceremonies 11:45 a.m., 1:30 p.m., & 3:15 p.m.--to be held at Normal West H.S.

Our current set-up is a follows:

- 2 classes
- Approximately 260 schools
- 130 schools in Class A--enrollment 13-287
- 130 schools in Class AA--enrollment 288-963
- 10 sectionals in each class/approximately 13-14 schools in each sectional
- Top 3 teams plus top 5 individuals advance to state
- 30 teams/50 individuals in each race
- 4 state races/ 260 total runners per race/1040 total runners at state
- Class A Girls race time 10:00 a.m.
- Class A Boys race time 10:45 a.m.
- Class AA Girls Race time 11:45 a.m.
- Class AA Boys Race time 12:30 p.m.
- 2 awards ceremonies 1:00 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.

If the above changes are approved, there would be a few changes to the number of awards with the biggest change being recommended is that only the top 3 teams at state would receive a trophy instead of the current top four teams in each class. There would be 18 total team trophies at state compared to the 16 that are now awarded. At the sectional level, the change would result in 126 total sectional plaques being awarded instead of the 120 sectional plaques that are now awarded. The top 10 individuals at each sectional would still receive ribbons and the top 25 individuals at each state race would still receive medals as they do now. However due to the restructuring, the total number of individual sectional ribbons would increase 20 from 400 to 420 and the total number of team sectional ribbons would increase 270 from 1200 to 1470. The total number of state individual medals would increase by 50 from 100 to 150 and the total number of team state medal would increase by 30 from 240 to 270. The approximate cost for all additional awards is \$775.

Rationale for change: The advantages for adding a 3rd class far outweigh the cost of adding the additional class. The single biggest reason the possible addition of a 3rd class was discussed is that the growth of the sport has led to more runners participating at the state meet and the state course has become unsafe. Four years ago, we had 224 schools enter the state series. This past year, we had 257 schools. The way we have handled the growth was to simply add sectionals so the sectionals did not become too large. This was fine to do as long as the state course could handle the extra runners. We have now reached the point where 260 runners per race is simply not safe and the course is too crowded for the runners. This recommendation addresses several items. First and foremost, it reduces the number of runners per race by almost 80 runners--from 260 per race to 182 runners per race. Yet, the total number of runners will actually increase by 52. That will allow us to go to our merchandise supplier and ask for additional t-shirt revenue since we are sending more runners to the meet which will negate the additional award cost detailed above. Further, it is our intent to move the awards ceremony from Normal Parkside to Normal West High School. This accomplishes several things. The selling of merchandise can now take place in the gymnasium of Parkside JHS. This gives the CubbyHole much more room and will alleviate the congestion that now takes place between them and the sale of concessions. It also gives the opportunity to use the entire Parkside gymnasium for the taking of the team pictures which should speed up that process which has been a problem for some teams in the past. Moving the awards ceremony to the high school will mean that more people will park at the high school which alleviates some of the parking congestion in and around Parkside. There will be less congestion overall which will provide a more safe environment for athletes and fans both inside and outside, less lines for restrooms, a better spectator event, etc.