

2024-2025 ATHLETIC DIRECTORS' ADVISORY MEETING

Minutes and Recommendations

March 19, 2025 - Virtual

The following members were present for the virtual meeting: *Virtually* - Jackie Litwiller (IESA Assistant Executive Director); Doug Hageman (LeRoy); DA Nichols (Winfield Wheaton); Josh Stone (Raymond Lincolnwood); Matt Herndon (Highland); Brent Grisham (Pleasant Plains); Steve Bosch (Princeville); Kevin Palmer (Effingham St. Anthony); Kurt Younghouse (Decatur Unity); Brian Howell (Erie Middle School); Reid Savoie (Bradley Central); *Not present*: Phil Willis (Abingdon Avon)

Committee Discussion Topics

1. Support the Cheer Advisory in the recommendation of the cheer season.
2. Coaches will have input for their own team in the selection of the Sportsmanship Pin winner in the Regional, Sectional and State Finals.
3. Discussion of the PA Scripts for post season – advisory would like a revision of all the scripts.
4. Would like the IESA to investigate what the splits in the 4-class system would look like if it were split 27.5, 27.5, 22.5 and 22.5.
5. Discussed streaming post season – supports letting the host site stream, if possible, if not possible allowing the schools to do what works best for them.
6. Supportive of the “Hoodie Project” – suggested a voucher for each bracket team making it to the IESA State Finals.
7. Eliminating the 7th grade level tournaments – no motion.
8. Discussed lower-level 8th grader and the options available – always able to add 8th grade “b” games to the regular season schedule.
9. Suggested adding a hosting guarantee for those hosting post-season tournaments.
10. Discussed rating officials and how that is used in the post season selection process.
11. AD Workshop suggestions – Supporting mental health of coaches and ADs, fighting the burnout battle and coaches leading coaches that are sometimes also their peers.

Next Advisory Committee Meeting Date

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 @ 10:00 am – in person.