

2024-25 IESA SOCCER ADVISORY MEETING

Minutes and Recommendations

October 29, 2024 – IESA Office, Bloomington

The following members were present for the meeting: Nicole Schaeftbauer (IESA Executive Director), Reid Savoie, Bradley Central; Scott Hammond, Morton; Patrick Allen, Ottawa Wallace; Dan Sheehan, Monticello; Adam Eucker, Williamsville; Vince Zomboracz, Morris Saratoga; Heather Friedlein, Mendota Northbrook; Adam DeGroot, Shorewood Troy; Sarah Mister, O'Fallon Carriel; Spencer Ferguson, Champaign. Not present was Rodney Monbrum, Coal City.

The IESA Soccer Advisory Committee had the following discussion in its meeting on January 11, 2024.

Discussion Topics

1. The Committee had the following thoughts on adding activities to the IESA's offerings: There were concerns about the financial impact of adding soccer for the IESA and the member schools. Coaching stipends, transportation, uniforms, field, and equipment were among the costs that would directly impact the budgets of member schools. Finding facilities and officials was also a concern of the committee. In general, the Committee was encouraging of the addition of activities.
2. **CALENDAR:** Discussed calendar placement. The Committee has concerns about where the best placement of the season would be so as not to severely impact existing school programs- i.e., baseball, cross country, and track. The Committee has initially recommended the season to be placed in the Spring with the format:
 - a. Practice may begin- Monday Week 37
 - b. Games may begin- Saturday Week 38
 - c. Regionals- Mon./Tues./Wed./Thurs. Week 44
 - d. Sectionals- Wed. Week 45
 - e. State Finals- Tues./Wed. Week 46
3. **FORMAT:** The number of participating boys and girls would make it difficult for the majority of schools to put together two separate teams- a boys team and a girls team. Most members of the Committee were in favor of offering soccer as a coed activity. It was mentioned that some schools have indicated that they would not participate if the activity were offered as coed. The Committee decided to survey to see the interest and ability of schools to participate in two separate seasons- a boy's season and a girl's season.
4. **OFFICIALS:** The availability of officials was a concern discussed. Those on the Committee who currently participate in soccer indicated that they generally only use one official. That did create some concern regarding possible sportsmanship issues.
5. **FACILITIES:** The majority of those on the Committee did not have access to their own field for competitions and practices. Those conducting seasons primarily played on grass.
6. **SURVEY:** The Committee proposed to send out a survey to the membership to better assist in their discussion. Survey attached.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2025 at the IESA Office.

IESA SOCCER SURVEY- 2024-25

The Soccer Emerging Activities Committee would like your feedback as it analyzes the feasibility of incorporating Soccer into the activities offered by the IESA.

Please review the preliminary format and calendar information as you consider whether your school can participate in a Soccer State Series.

Format:

- a. Separate Girls State Series and Boys State Series
- b. One class (dependent on participation numbers)
- c. One grade level (all students on entered team)
- d. Regional, Sectional, State Finals

Calendar: Spring Season

- a. Practice May begin: Monday of Week 37
- b. Games May begin: Saturday of Week 38
- c. Regional: Mon./Tues./Wed./Thurs. Week 44
- d. Sectional: Wed. Week 45
- e. State Finals: Tues./Wed. Week 46

After reviewing the above information, please complete the included survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/6hREW8VZj3>

Survey Results- 103 schools responding

1. Does your school offer interscholastic soccer? Y/N
 - a. Yes- 56
 - b. No- 47
2. If yes, what teams do you offer? Boys/girls/coed
 - a. Boys- 17
 - b. Girls- 7
 - c. Coed- 39
3. If yes, what season do you offer your interscholastic soccer? Fall/Spring
 - a. Fall- 41
 - b. Spring- 22
4. Would your school participate in soccer if offered by the IESA?
 - a. Yes- 40
 - b. No- 26
 - c. Maybe- 37
5. If yes, at what levels would you participate? Boys only/girls only/Boys and Girls
 - a. Boys only- 11
 - b. Girls only- 2
 - c. Boys and Girls- 59
6. Would you like to provide the Committee with any additional feedback?