

IESA WRESTLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES & RECOMMENDATIONS
March 19, 2008

The following members were present for the meeting: Coaches Steve DeNeut, Jeremy Mosier, Joe Kolb, Terry Kivisto, and Dan Newkirk; Administrator, Jeff Baughman; Official Bill Honeycutt, and Board Liaison, Scott Herrmann.

The IESA Wrestling Advisory Committee, in its meeting of March 19, 2008, make the following recommendations to the Board of Directors for their April 4, 2008, meeting:

1. To change the starting time on Friday of the state finals to 3:30 p.m. instead of 4:00 p.m. **Rationale: The weigh-in procedure goes so fast with six scales that there is too much down time between weigh-ins and when actual wrestling begins. Weigh-ins would still be conducted starting at 1:30. Matches would simply start at 3:30 instead of 4:00. this would also help to get kids back to the hotels and/or home 30 minutes earlier in the evening.**
2. To add information to the Terms & Conditions and By-Law 4.0535 that scratches reported after 4:00 p.m. on the Thursday preceding the state meet will not be replaced. **Rationale: Scratches reported on Friday at the state meet are very difficult to follow through and find the appropriate substitute. In addition, schools often bring their 4th place sectional finishers hoping that they will get to wrestle when in actuality very few ever get to wrestle. Schools will no longer feel they have to bring the 4th place sectional finishers with them to the state meet in case there is a scratch. Scratches reported after 4:00 p.m. on Thursday or if a wrestler fails to make weight at the state meet will simply create an open spot in the bracket.**
3. To require a representative from the school to attend an IHSA wrestling rules interpretation each year. Failure to attend one year would place the school on probation. Failure to attend the second year would result in the school being suspended from participating in the state series. **Rationale: Given the uniqueness of the sport, the committee believes it is important that a coach (representative) attend a rules clinic each year. This will help eliminate the problems with coaches not knowing the rules and the problems that presents when discussing rules with officials.. *Executive Director's Note: If this is approved, this has major implications for other activities.***
4. To change By-Laws 4.058 and 4.0593 to reflect the wrestling and awarding of medals to the 7th place wrestlers at state. **Rationale: This recommendation was submitted last year with both the 7th and 8th place wrestlers receiving medals. It was not approved by the IESA Board. The recommendation this year is that the 7th/8th place match would still be held but only the winner of the match (7th place) would receive a medal. Any wrestler who would win 7th place would have a winning record at the state meet i.e. his record at the state meet would be at least more wins than losses at the meet.**

Several items were discussed without any recommendations presented to the Board. One item that was discussed in great detail was the entire weight certification issue. It was discussed that perhaps there should not be any weight certification required. Wrestlers would simply wrestle at the weight class they qualify for each meet. Also discussed was second day weigh-ins at the state meet and weight certification without any growth allowance. A survey will be distributed to coaches at next year's meet to receive feedback on the issue. It was decided that there will be some random weight checks next year on Saturday. These random checks would only serve to see how much weight a wrestler gains from Friday to Saturday. It is important to note that these random checks will not affect any wrestler's ability to stay in the weight class. The random check would be totally unofficial and used for weight gathering information purposes only. The Parade of Champions was discussed. The committee would like for there to be more spotlights. Mr. Endsley will discuss this issue with the Convocation Center and the Arch Richoz. Other items discussed included more of the top teams being announced with their team places and award stands that allow for all placers. The committee was informed that all schools will have the ability to rate the officials used in the state series matches beginning in 2009. Joe Spiezio, IESA Board President asked the committee to discuss the possibility of allowing more matches than the current limitations. Mr. Endsley explained that schools can add more matches by adding "B" teams as this will allow more matches per school without having to alter the current limitations.

Terry Kivisto, Steve DeNeut and Bill Honeycutt were recognized for their service to the committee.

The next meeting of the committee was set for Thursday, April 2, 2009.