



ILLINOIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
CROSS-COUNTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING RECOMMENDATIONS
November 9, 2007

The following members were present for the meeting: Coaches Linda Brown, Petersburg PORTA; Nick D'Alfonso, East Peoria Central, Diane Stateman, Lemont Old Quarry; Steve Huber, Elmwood, and Steve Chapman, Edwardsville Liberty. Also in attendance was Steve Destri, meet manager for the IESA state meet.

The IESA Cross-Country Advisory Committee, in its meeting of November 9, 2007, makes the following recommendations to the Board of Directors for its January 18, 2008, meeting:

1. To change By-Law 4.035 so that the top 3 teams in each sectional receive a plaque. **Rationale: Currently, only the top 2 teams receive a plaque but the top three teams advance to state meaning that one team (3rd place) does not receive any awards. Four years ago, when the top three teams advanced to state and were all receiving awards, the committee recommended that only the first place team in each sectional receive a plaque and individual awards. When that recommendation was presented to the Board, the Board decided to modify the recommendation by giving awards to the top two teams in each sectional with the third place team still advancing but not receiving any awards. Given that the number of teams participating in the cross-country has grown by nearly 50 schools in four years and the negative P.R. and ill feelings that are created when the third place team advances but walks away with nothing from the sectional, the committee is recommending all three teams that advance to the state receive plaques. The committee believes more harm than good is done by giving two teams awards and letting one walk with nothing than giving one team an award and letting two walk with nothing. To that end, they want all three teams that advance to receive awards. As it stands now, the third place team is left with negative feelings. Approximate cost to the association for the additional plaques would be \$1377.**
2. To make another change to By-Law 4.035 so the top 10 individuals at the sectional meet receive a medal. **Rationale: Currently the top 10 individuals receive a ribbon. According to the committee, the IESA sectional meet is the only meet all year long where the top individuals in varsity invitational meets receive ribbons and not a medal. In the committee's eyes, it is hard to understand how an invitational meet is able to award medals but the sectional meet gives ribbons. From a P.R. perspective, this is viewed as less than desirable. Approximate cost for medals instead of ribbons would be \$750.**

The committee discussed establishing a mandated start time for sectional meets but did not make a recommendation to do so. At least one current sectional host does not start their sectional meet until the afternoon because that is when their course becomes available to them. Regular season invitational meet hosts will be contacted so a complete listing of those meets can be posted on the IESA website.

The state meet was discussed in great detail. The computer chips that were used by the contestants were extremely well received. The committee is appreciative of the IESA Board of Directors commitment to use the chips. It made for faster, more accurate scoring, allowed a smoother finish to the races, and gave all competitors a chance to finish the race at the finish line since there was no backup of runners. Most everyone is in agreement that they would like to receive the chips sooner than they received them this year. The possibility of adding additional clerks to the starting line to facilitate the distribution of the chips was discussed. That issue will be discussed with the meet officials and Mercury Sports Group.

Other items discussed were the parking issue in and around the Parkside area and a request to have two photographers available to take team photos to expedite that process. The committee extended its thanks to Normal Parkside and Steve Destri for their continued excellence as a host of the state meet.

The next meeting of the committee was set for November 14, 2008.