

**ILLINOIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
CROSS-COUNTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING RECOMMENDATIONS &
MINUTES
November 12, 2010**

The following members were present for the meeting: Coaches Dave Frintner, Arlington Hts. South; Jan Marks, Germantown Hills; Steve Shaffer, Mt. Prospect Lincoln; Jeff Obert, Liberty; Kent Probst, Teutopolis; Administrator, Mike Clark, Normal Parkside; and IHSA Official Dave Facker, East Peoria.

The IESA Cross-Country Advisory Committee, in its meeting of November 12, 2010, makes the following recommendations to the Board of Directors for its January 21, 2011, meeting:

1. That the timing chips will be distributed with the packets when coaches arrive rather than distributed at the start line. **Rationale: The timing chips have been distributed at the start line since we started using them mainly to insure that the chips were attached correctly and the thought that there would be less chance to lose one of the chips if they were distributed just before a given race. Some schools then have very little time between receiving the chips, attaching them to the shoes, and warming-up before the runners are called the starting line. Now that schools are more accustomed to wearing chips, distributing them in advance will help alleviate some of the problems that have been caused by receiving them at the starting line. More importantly, coaches will be able to distribute the chips to their runners at their discretion, utilize parental help, and if weather is a factor, could distribute them in a dry area.**
2. To add the following to the Terms and Conditions: No school may organize or participate in any type of organized race on the IESA state cross country course prior to all of the state races being completed. Any school that organizes or participates in an organized race on the IESA state cross country course prior to all of the state races being completed shall be ineligible to participate in the IESA state series the following year. **Rationale: There are a couple of schools that have been organizing and participating in a race on the IESA state course immediately preceding the beginning of the Girls Class A meet. The "race" has been held for runners who are a part of the school's team but did not qualify for the state meet to give them the experience of running the state course. This has caused confusion for meet officials that see this race going on before the start of the actual races, parents and spectators that have no idea what is going on, potential injury for the runners participating in this race, and increased liability for the Association. Further, the state meet should be for the runners who have qualified for the state meet. If schools want to conduct some type of competition for their runners who have not qualified, they should run the course on Thursday or Friday preceding the state meet or after the final race of the day.**
3. Due to the continued growth of the activity, to add one additional sectional to each class. **Rationale: This would increase the total number of runners in each race from 234 to 260. It will reduce the number of teams assigned to each sectional making sectional hosting responsibilities more manageable with fewer teams assigned to the sectional.**
4. To give medals to the top 3 finishers and continue to give ribbons to those who place 4-10 at each sectional. **Rationale: The committee feels that this is a fair compromise to the continual request for medals at the sectional level. Rather than making the same request as in past years---that the top 10 runners all receive a medal, their recommendation is that just the top 3 receive a medal. They are fully cognizant**

that medals are not given at the track sectionals but they want the Board to know that ribbons are usually given at track invitationals as awards and therefore when sectional track ribbons are given, that is accepted more readily. However, all committee members indicated that ribbons are never given as awards for regular season invitationals so when a ribbon is given at sectional, it is deemed to be a lesser award. The committee is not trying to be difficult with the request for cross country sectional medals...rather they want the Board to know that they have offered a compromise and hope it is received as their willingness to work with the Board to achieve something they believe is needed.

Items discussed that do not need Board approval included additional markings in front of and in back of the start line to help identifying starting boxes and a "Parent/Coaches" Line where they would have to stand during final instructions; using rope to help contain the crowd rather than the yellow caution tape which has a tendency to break in the wind, and using an IESA student to sing the National Anthem. There was concern expressed about the wait time for merchandise. Mr. Endsley will work in conjunction with The CubbyHole and Parkside to figure out a plan to help alleviate the wait that some experienced this year. The committee expresses its thanks to Normal Parkside for their efforts in hosting the state meet.

Diane Stateman and Dave Fritner were recognized for their service on the committee.

The next meeting of the committee was set for Thursday, November 10, 2011.