

**ILLINOIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
CROSS-COUNTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING RECOMMENDATIONS & MINUTES
November 14, 2014**

The following members were present for the meeting: Coaches Kelly Fox, Mt. Zion; Todd Ehlert, Geneseo; Jeff Kyle, Tolono Unity; Tom Koonce, Metamora, GS; Derek Miller, Yorkville; John Mulholland, LaGrange St. Francis; Administrator, Mike Clark, Normal Parkside; and IHSA Official, David Mitchell, Peoria

The IESA Cross-Country Advisory Committee, in its meeting of November 14, 2014, makes the following recommendations to the Board of Directors for their January 23, 2015, meeting:

1. To add to the Terms and Conditions that sectional host schools shall hold a meeting of all coaches prior to the awards ceremony at which time the final results for both the individuals and the teams will be shared. Coaches will then be able to ask questions if they believe there is an error in either the team scores or for an individual who is not accounted. **Rationale: There were several instances this year where there were errors in the scoring which resulted in the wrong teams being announced that would advance to the state meet. By requiring the host schools to get all of the coaches together and review the sectional results before conducting the awards ceremony, hopefully any errors will be caught and can be corrected before the individuals and teams that will be advancing to the state are announced. The goal obviously is to have accurate results and announce correctly the teams and individuals who will be advancing. APPROVED**
2. To change the exception listed in By-Law 4.034 regarding the finish line for cross country meets to read as follows: "The finish line for the state meet shall be at the mouth of the chute. At the state final meet, computer scoring shall be used. The computer tag will be attached to the bib number. Essentially the chip is used as a timing device. The NFHS Track and Field and Cross-Country Rules Book allows for this scoring method. The finish line area shall be set-up in accordance with National Federation rules. The finish line for all races, both regular season and state series, shall be at the mouth of the chute which is at least 15 ft. wide." [9-1-3] **Rationale: Technically, this is not an exception to the NFHS rules as the rules already state that the finish line is at the mouth of the funnel and 15 feet wide. However, our rules currently say that the local managers of regular season meets shall determine the finish area for their meets which in essence allows schools to have the finish line of a meet at the neck of the chute. Approving this change insures that all meets, regular season and state series meets, change their finish line to the mouth of the chute which is in accordance with NFHS rules and is much safer for the runners. APPROVED**

Other items discussed:

**The possible addition of a 7th grade state series. There was no support by any committee member to add a separate 7th grade state series. The coaches felt that if there was a 7th grade state series and if they had a strong 7th grade runner, they would put that runner in the 8th grade state series thus making the 7th grade state series have the feel of a B team. In addition, having a 7th grade state series would add 6 races to the state meet making 12 races in one day. Few, if any, of the class 1A schools would be able to field both a 7th grade and an 8th grade team. There was no recommendation to add a 7th grade state series.

**The possibility of allowing coaches to stand in front of the fence at the start line was discussed. There was no support to allow coaches to do so. Coaches will be required to stand behind the fence at the starting line once they are asked to move by the meet referee.

**Normal Parkside was commended for hosting the state meet. There were a couple of layout suggestions that will be shared with the Parkside administration.

**Team photos and sales were discussed. Mr. Endsley will work with the photography company to facilitate the taking of team pictures for squads who practice on the course on Friday preceding the state meet.

Todd Ehlert and Kelly Fox were recognized for their service on the committee.

The next meeting of the committee was set for November 13, 2015.