

**ILLINOIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
CROSS-COUNTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING RECOMMENDATIONS &
MINUTES
November 13, 2015**

The following members were present for the meeting: Coaches Jeff Kyle, Tolono Unity; Tom Koonce, Metamora, GS; Derek Miller, Yorkville; John Mulholland, LaGrange St. Francis; Lisa Martin, Mahomet-Seymour; Administrator, Mike Clark, Normal Parkside; and IHSA Official, David Mitchell, Peoria

The IESA Cross-Country Advisory Committee, in its meeting of November 13, 2015, makes the following recommendations to the Board of Directors for their January 22, 2016, meeting:

1. To move the final entry deadline from August 26 to August 1. **Rationale: Several of the 38 new schools that entered the state series this year submitted their entry after the sectional assignments had already been distributed. When schools enter the state series after the assignments have been posted, they have to be assigned to a sectional. These schools mistakenly believe they will be assigned to the sectional closest to their location. That is not always the case as sectionals need to have as close to an equal number of schools assigned as possible since the advancement formula is the same for each sectional---the top 3 teams and the next 5 individuals. If one sectional has 18 teams assigned to it and one only has 12, it is obviously more difficult to advance to the state meet as a team if a sectional has 18 schools to it. Additionally, waiting until all entries have been received to split the schools into three classes will result in a more accurate classification split. (Board Action--PASSED)**

Other items discussed:

The majority of the discussion centered on the growth of the activity. As mentioned previously, 38 new schools entered the activity this year. In the past four years, we have added 88 schools to the state series. Various suggestions were received from participating schools concerning ways to handle the growth. However, the biggest variable in making any changes is we have no idea if the growth will continue. Should the number of schools hold steady, then the current set-up can be maintained. There was very little support for a four class system. Some schools had written to the Association asking that their sectional assignment be placed into an easier sectional and/or closer to where a given sectional is held. It was explained that zero consideration is ever given to the perceived strength of one sectional over another when making sectional assignments. Further, because the number of schools assigned to a given sectional has to be as close to the same as possible, there may be occasions where a given school may have to travel a bit more even though there is a sectional that is closer to where they are assigned. The possibility of putting the smallest 40% enrollment wise of the schools in Class 1A; the next 30% of the schools in Class 2A and

the largest 30% of the schools in 3A was discussed but did not receive much support. That type of split would put approximately 23 more schools in Class 1A which would end up with about 18 schools assigned to each sectional. The possibility of having three classes with 9 sectionals was discussed; three classes with 10 sectionals; Class 1A with 12 sectionals with just two teams from each sectional advancing but classes 2A and 3A remaining with 8 sectionals was reviewed. The possibility of adding a regional before the sectional was looked at. If a regional was added, it would have to be held before the sectional which would eliminate one week from the season. The state date cannot be moved back a week because of the conflict with IHSA regionals. There were a couple of state course layout suggestions that were shared with Mr. Clark. He will look into those suggestions and perhaps a change might be made to the course that would safely allow additional runners in the state meet. The possibility of adding a multiplier to private schools was discussed but Mr. Endsley explained that a change like this would have to be applied to all sports and there is no Board of Director support to add a multiplier to private schools. With some IESA member school enrollments of less than 30, a multiplier of 6.0 or even 7.0 would still keep some schools in Class 1A. The IHSA multiplier for private school is 1.65.

After all the discussion, the committee is not making any recommendations to change the set-up for 2016 given that the by-laws of the Association allow for extra sectionals to be added if needed. Mr. Endsley explained that if the number of schools entering the state series would reach 360, each class would have nine sectionals instead of eight.

Because of the nature of the discussions regarding the growth of the activity, Jeff Kyle and Tom Koonce will remain on the committee to discuss the issue again at next year's meeting.

The next meeting of the committee was set for November 14, 2016.