

IHSAA Executive Committee

Friday, April 2, 2021
Indianapolis, Indiana



PRESENT

Executive Committee Members: Chairman Chris Conley, Vice-Chairman John Steinhilber (virtually), Stacy Adams (virtually), Tom Black (Member-Elect), Jim Brown (virtually), Martin Brown, Victor Bush, Nathan Dean (virtually), Jeff Doyle, Brent Duncan, Tom Finicle, Chad Gilbert (virtually), Ed Gilliland, Tim Grove, Matt Martin, Patti McCormack (virtually), Brian Strong, Mike Whitten (virtually), Rae Ferriell-Woolpy, Dave Worland.

Executive Staff Members: Commissioner Paul Neidig, Assistant Commissioners Robert Faulkens, Chris Kaufman, Kerrie Schludecker, Sandra Walter; Attorney Bob Baker, Technology Director Luke Morehead, Director of Broadcast Operations Heath Shanahan, Sports Information Director Jason Wille.

AGENDA

FOR ACTION

1) MINUTES

The minutes of the February 19, 2021 meeting were recommended for approval.

A motion for approval was made by Tim Grove; seconded by Matt Martin; motion approved 19-0.

2) NFHS ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING, ORLANDO, FL – JUNE 28-JULY 2, 2021

Commissioner Paul Neidig recommended that the IHSAA not send a contingent to this summer's NFHS Summer Meeting scheduled for June 28-July 2, 2021 in Orlando, FL.

A motion for approval was made by Brian Strong; seconded by Jim Brown; motion approved 19-0.

REPORTS

3) CHRISTEL HOUSE ACADEMY PRESENTATION

Sarah Weimer, Executive Director of Christel House Academy, Nolan Dowling, Athletic Director at Christel House Academy, and Robert Orkman, Athletic Director of Indianapolis Emmerich Manual High School appeared before the Executive Committee requesting special permission to combine athletic teams under the Christel House name over the next two years. Both schools are conducting classes in the Manual High School (Christel House grades 9 and 10) (Manual in grades 11 and 12) facility until Manual officially closes as a school after that period of time.

Executive Committee members asked several questions of the guests and how they fit with the IHSAA By-Laws.

No decision was made today as this would require a by-law change. The commissioner will communicate with the schools on a final decision.

4) BASEBALL STATE FINALS UPDATE

Assistant Commissioner Robert Faulkens reminded the Executive Committee of the schedule change for this year's state finals at Victory Field in Indianapolis due to Major League Baseball's new scheduling. This year's state championship games will be played on Monday and Tuesday (June 21-22) using a doubleheader format with games potentially at 4:30 pm ET and 8 pm ET on both days.

He also reported that the regional previously scheduled for Park Tudor will move to Cascade for one year due to construction.

He continues to have weekly conversations with the Indianapolis Indians staff on ticketing, likely attendance, and other matters related to the state finals and will continue to report to the group on any changes.

5) SOFTBALL STATE FINALS UPDATE

Assistant Commissioner Kerrie Schludecker advised the group that the softball state finals will be played at Center Grove High School in Greenwood on Friday, June 11 and Saturday, June 12, 2021.

She also reported that the Class 3A semi-state scheduled for Jasper will be moved to Brown County.

6) TRACK & FIELD STATE FINAL UPDATE

Commissioner Paul Neidig reported on the latest developments regarding the search for a host for this year's track and field state finals. Several schools have contacted the IHSAA expressing interest in hosting the events. He will keep the Executive Committee advised of further developments.

He also reported that Valparaiso will be unable to host the track and field regional this year due to graduation ceremonies scheduled at the school. He is looking for an alternative host.

7) 2020-21 ENROLLMENT NUMBERS

Commissioner Paul Neidig led a discussion on this year's reclassification process and issued the following public statement after the meeting:

The IHSAA Executive Committee today approved retaining the member school enrollment figures from the current classification cycle thus delaying realignment and reclassification for one year.

This year's enrollment numbers showed significant fluctuation in the case of many schools likely affected by the pandemic and raising questions about their true representation.

Following prolonged discussion during today's monthly meeting of the Executive Committee, members voted 18-1 to extend the classification cycle by a year. However, points earned through the Tournament Success Factor last year (2019-20) and this year (2020-21) will still be applied toward sectional groupings for the 2021-22 school year.

To reiterate, all schools will remain in their respective current classifications in each sport for one more year except for those who meet the Tournament Success Factor criteria.

Next year, the IHSAA will resume reclassification of team sports using certified enrollment figures from the 2021-22 school year for the next two-year cycle (2022-23, 2023-24). Tournament Success Factor points from the 2020-21 and 2021-22 tournament results will be applied toward that next two-year cycle.

Given that last year's state tournaments in boys basketball, softball and baseball were cancelled, no schools in those sports will move up in 2021-22 since those schools will not be able to achieve the point totals necessary (6 points). Schools already playing up a class in those sports could remain in their same classification (2 points) or revert to their enrollment class once point totals are applied.

A motion for approval was made by Ed Gilliland; seconded by Matt Martin; motion approved 18-1 with Chad Gilbert opposed.

8) RICHARD G. LUGAR AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Assistant Commissioner Chris Kaufman reported that Indiana State Representative Tony Cook has been selected to receive the Richard G. Lugar Award in recognition of a lifetime of exemplary and distinguished service to interscholastic athletics in the state of Indiana.

At halftime of the 2A state championship game on Saturday, IHSAA Commissioner Paul Neidig, Jim Morris and Rick Fuson of Pacers Sports and Entertainment, and Governor Eric Holcomb will present the award to Rep. Cook.

Tony joined the Indiana House of Representatives in December 2014. Since joining the state legislature, Rep. Cook has served as a strong advocate for education reform. Last session, he carried the largest education deregulation bill in the House. The law substantially reduced regulatory burden, allowing schools to focus more time and resources in the classroom. Throughout the legislative process, Rep. Cook facilitated nearly two dozen accommodations, concessions, or compromises on various aspects of the bill in order to achieve broad, bipartisan support from all education stakeholders. The bill passed unanimously.

His leadership in the General Assembly stems from a career in education that has spanned more than 40 years, including 36 years in various leadership capacities at Hamilton Heights, Clinton Prairie and Noblesville School Corporations.

His many years of experience, accrued knowledge and compassion have strengthened K-12 education in Indiana and put Hoosier students on the path to success.

In 1987, Rep. Cook gained national attention as he welcomed HIV-positive teenager Ryan White when he was Principal at Hamilton Heights High School at the height of an HIV/AIDS crisis riddled with public misperception. Along with other educators and students, Cook spent the summer teaching the community about the myths and realities of AIDS. When Ryan showed up for class in August, he was welcomed to the school without hesitation. Cook and others had overcome fear with facts. Rep. Cook continues to speak across the country on the power and importance of acceptance and AIDS education.

Outside of his role in the legislature, Rep. Cook is involved in several community activities. He resides in Cicero with his wife Kathryn, a practicing attorney in Frankfort. Together, they have two sons: Tyler and Travis.

Former recipients of this award include Senator Richard Lugar, Bob Gardner, Lee Lonzo, and Barbara Wynne. On behalf of all 410 member schools across the state of Indiana, we thank Mr. Cook for your years of dedicated service to high school education!

9) FINANCIAL REPORTS

- Assistant Commissioner Kerrie Schludecker presented a financial report for both girls and boys swimming & diving tournament series.
- Assistant Commissioner Robert Faulkens presented a financial report on the wrestling tournament series.

10) TRANSFERS

Commissioner Paul Neidig reported on transfers that have been ruled on for the period of June 1-March 30, 2021 and, for comparison, the numbers from the same period a year ago.

	2020-21	Percent	2019-20	Percent
Full Eligibility	2,366	91.9%	2,896	90.2%
Limited Eligibility	177	6.9%	293	9.1%
Ineligible	33	1.3%	22	0.7%
Total	2,576		3,211	

Foreign Exchange Transfers

	2020-21	Percent	2019-20	Percent
Full Eligibility	147	96.7%	580	96.7%
Limited Eligibility	4	2.6%	12	2.0%
Ineligible	1	0.7%	8	1.3%
Total	152		600	

11) SPORTSMANSHIP

Assistant Commissioner Sandra Walter reported on the area of unsporting behavior for the period between August 1-March 26, 2021 and the numbers from the same period a year ago.

	2020-21	2019-20	% Change
Exemplary Reports Filed	1,357	1,103	23%
Unsporting Reports Filed	2,953	3,271	-10%
Total Ejections	369	417	-12%
Ejections (Administration)	2	1	100%
Ejections (Coaches)	39	40	-3%
Ejections (Players)	279	312	-11%
Ejections (Fans)	49	64	-23%

12) CONTEST OFFICIALS

Assistant Commissioner Sandra Walter reported on the virtual officials symposium that was hosted earlier this month to help with recruiting officials. It was a partnership between the IHSAA and the National Federation, the Indiana Sports Corporation, the Big Ten Conference, and Officially Human.

Walter also reviewed the numbers of officials for the spring sports of baseball, softball and track and field.

13) TECHNOLOGY

Director of Technology Luke Morehead reported that registration is now open on the myIHSAA website for the April 19-20 spring area principal meetings which will again be conducted online this year. Director Morehead also reported myIHSAA now provides officials with an opportunity to donate to the IHSAA Foundation as part of their license renewal process which began yesterday for the upcoming 2021-22 school year, and several have already seized the opportunity to donate.

14) LITIGATION / IDOE CASE REVIEW PANEL

Attorney Robert Baker updated the Executive Committee on the current status of litigation as well as results from the Case Review Panel at the Indiana Department of Education.

15) IHSAA MEDIA RIGHTS VIOLATION

Assistant Commissioner Chris Kaufman and Director of Broadcast Operations Heath Shanahan reported on violations of the IHSAA Audiovisual Works by Region Sports Network.

It has been learned that Region Sports Network has violated the copyrights and property rights of the IHSAA by capturing and/or by duplicating, for sale, marketing or display IHSAA tournament broadcasts going back many years in numerous sports.

A representative of Region Sports Network has acknowledged the violations and has agreed to remove and destroy all files that are in violation and pay a financial penalty. Region Sports Network is placed on probation through the end of the 2021-22 school year and has been suspended, effective immediately, from the video Champions Network affiliate program through the end of the 2020-21 school year. The company may reapply as an affiliate for the 2021-22 school year.

16) PENALTIES ASSESSED

Avon HS – Baseball - Rule 15-2.3f (Assistant Baseball Coach served as a clinician for a baseball clinic in which members of the Avon baseball team participated)

1. The Avon Baseball program is issued a warning. This warning is notice that an IHSAA member school rule violation has occurred and shall not be repeated.
2. Part of an IHSAA member school's obligation is to uphold the By-Laws of its association and furthermore to self-report any violation to the Commissioner (Rule 3).

Bloomington North HS – Girls Swimming - Rule 19-3 (a student athlete participated in multiple meets without an approved transfer report on file)

1. The Bloomington North High School boys swimming and diving program was issued a warning. This warning is official notice that a serious rule violation has occurred and shall not be repeated.
2. The student athlete was declared ineligible until a completed transfer report is submitted and ruled upon.
3. The swim meets the ineligible student athlete participated in shall be rescored to remove any points earned by the student athlete if a team score was calculated. The opposing schools shall be notified of this violation.
4. Part of an IHSAA member school's obligation is to uphold the By-Laws of its association and furthermore to self-report any violation to the Commissioner (Rule 3).

Hammond Morton HS – Boys Basketball – Rule 9-13 (Head Coach held a shoot around on a Sunday)

1. The Hammond Morton High School Boys Basketball program is issued a warning. This warning is notice that an IHSAA member school rule violation has occurred and shall not be repeated.
2. Part of an IHSAA member school's obligation is to uphold the By-Laws of its association and furthermore to self-report any violation to the Commissioner (Rule 3).

LaPorte HS – Girls Track & Field - Rule 9-13 (A voluntary practice was conducted on a Sunday)

1. The La Porte High School Girls Track & Field program is issued a warning. This warning is notice that an IHSAA member school rule violation has occurred and shall not be repeated.
2. Part of an IHSAA member school's obligation is to uphold the By-Laws of its association and furthermore to self-report any violation to the Commissioner (Rule 3).

New Castle HS – Softball - Rule 15-1.2f (A softball athlete participated in a try-out as a prospective student-athlete)

1. The New Castle High School Softball program is issued a warning. This warning is notice that an IHSAA member school rule violation has occurred and shall not be repeated.
2. Part of an IHSAA member school's obligation is to uphold the By-Laws of its association and furthermore to self-report any violation to the Commissioner (Rule 3).

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

17) BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA

The agenda for the annual Board of Directors meeting on Monday, May 3, is being finalized and will be sent to the Board of Directors for their review next week.

18) JUNE BOARD AND STAFF RETREAT

Commissioner Paul Neidig updated the group on the plans for this year's in-person retreat which is scheduled for June 23-24. A location has not been determined yet.

19) FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Brent Duncan wished good luck to Barr-Reeve and Lawrence North high schools in tomorrow's boys basketball state finals. Both schools are represented by fellow committee members Jeff Doyle and Victor Bush, respectively.
- Commissioner Paul Neidig mentioned that House Bill 1040 has been returned to the Indiana House of Representatives. He also met with several representatives at the Indiana Statehouse yesterday.
- Rae Ferriell-Woolpy brought up the mass wave of emails she and other Committee members received recently regarding private school vouchers and the creation of an Education Savings Account (ESA) program in Indiana.
- Ed Gilliland started discussion about the future of the vacant assistant commissioner position and other staff personnel.

20) COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter from Mark Brochin, WWBL, Washington and 2011-12 IHSAA Distinguished Media Service Award recipient.

21) CONGRATULATIONS

- None.

A motion to adjourn the April 2, 2021 meeting of the IHSAA Executive Committee was made by Jeff Doyle; seconded by Dave Worland; motion approved 18-0.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be Monday, May 3, 2021 following the annual meeting of the IHSAA Board of Directors.

Chris Conley, Chairman

Paul Neidig, Commissioner