

IHSAA Executive Committee

Thursday, March 19, 2020

Indianapolis, Indiana



Note: Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus), this month's meeting was moved up from its regularly scheduled date of March 27, 2020 with Executive Staff members meeting at the IHSAA Office and Executive Committee members participating remotely via video conference.

PRESENT

Executive Committee Members: Chairman Matt Martin, Vice-Chairman Nathan Dean, Stacy Adams, David Amor, Jim Brown, Martin Brown, Victor Bush, Chris Conley, Jeff Doyle, Brent Duncan, Chad Gilbert, Ed Gilliland, Tim Grove, Patti McCormack, John Steinhilber, Brian Strong, Mike Whitten, Rae Woolpy, Dave Worland.

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

FOR ACTION

1) MINUTES

The minutes of the February 21, 2020 meeting were recommended for approval.

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

2) PHASE 2 BUILDING RENOVATION PROJECT

Amid the pandemic of COVID-19, that has swept the state, country and world, Commissioner Bobby Cox recommended the building renovation project that was discussed at last month's meeting be put on hold.

A motion to table this project was made by Jim Brown; seconded by Martin Brown; motion approved 19-0.

REPORTS

3) C. EUGENE CATO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Commissioner Bobby Cox shared the list of 13 recipients of the IHSAA/C. Eugene Cato Memorial Scholarships. The recipients with biographies include:

Merrillville's **Shamiya Beasley** ranks first in her class of 525 students with a 4.0 GPA (not weighted), earning her the title of Valedictorian, all while attaining 7 varsity letters throughout her high school career. She is a 4-year letter winner in cross country, where she was named the team captain this past fall, and a 3-year letter winner in track and field, participating in the state meet her Junior year and receiving the team's Sportsmanship Award following her sophomore and junior seasons. Off the track, Beasley is a member of the National Honor Society, National Society of High School Scholars, Merrillville's Spanish Club, and the Merrillville Pirates Athletic Counsel. Shamiya has also volunteered with her church, lending a hand with numerous food pantries and clothing drives. She is invested in her community's youth as well, helping train elementary students in track and field. Beasley plans to attend the University of Kentucky after graduation.

Alaina Clady of Plymouth has earned 10 varsity letters while showcasing a 4.07 GPA and a class ranking of 9 out of 234. She is a 4-year letter winner in volleyball and basketball, and a 2-year letter winner in tennis. Alaina was also the team captain for both her Basketball and Volleyball teams. Outside of Athletics, Clady holds numerous leadership positions including being named a class officer and the treasurer of the Interact Club and Business Professionals of America. She is an active member in and out of her community, taking a mission's trip to the Dominican Republic and volunteering with the Special Olympics, Autism Awareness Carnival, and Dance Marathon. Alaina is undecided on where she will attend college but is choosing between Indiana University, Purdue University, and Indiana State University.

Senior **Mykayla Couchenour** of South Knox sits atop her class of 98 while participating in 4 varsity sports, earning a varsity letter in all of them each year. She participates in cross country, basketball, tennis, and track and field, and will total 16 varsity letters following the spring athletic season. When she's not playing a sport, Mykayla participates in South Knox's Fellowship of Christian Athletes as the group's president, leading worship every meeting. She has also held offices with the Future Farmers of America and Student Council. Couchenour also competes academically, being a member of her school's English Academic Bowl team and Spell Bowl team. Mykayla is highly involved in her community, participating and leading many volunteer activities to help others around her. She plans on attending the University of Notre Dame in the fall.

Shenandoah's **Rylee Johnson** leads her class of 91 with a 4.0 GPA and a wide range of sports competed in. During her high school tenure, Rylee has participated in basketball, soccer, softball, tennis, track and field, and volleyball. She has earned 7 total varsity letters in basketball, track and field, tennis, and volleyball. One of her greatest highlights so far was being the leader in starting a soccer team at her school. Johnson is a member of the National Honor Society and volunteers throughout her community. One of those volunteer experiences helped raise money for Pennies for Patients by putting on a dodgeball tournament. Adding to this, Rylee is active within her church, watching children and cleaning bathrooms. She has also been on five missions' trips with her youth group. Johnson will attend Purdue University next year.

Logan Owens of Henryville has 14 varsity letters while maintaining a 4.0 GPA and a top rank in his class. He was awarded 4 varsity letters in cross country, soccer, and track and field while adding 2 more in basketball. Logan is a member of his school's Student Council, National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Campus Life, and Superintendent's Council. He has been a volunteer through many basketball camps, teaching the younger generation vital basketball skills, as well as tutoring fellow students in different subjects. His favorite volunteer event is G.R.A.C.E. Week, allowing special needs individuals the opportunity to experience summer camp. Owens has been accepted into the IUPUI Honors College, where he will attend school in the fall.

Prairie Heights **Mike Perkins** is a 3-sport athlete and 3.9 GPA student, ranking 10th in his class. A 4-year varsity letter winner in basketball and track and field, Perkins also competes in tennis, where he has earned 2 varsity letters. He is also a member of the Future Farmers of America where he has been involved in numerous competitions. Mike is also a member of the National Honor Society and holds the role of vice president of his class. Through his youth group, Perkins has volunteered by raking leaves for elderly couples, assisting with canned food drives, and organizing games for young kids to participate in. Mike has also been a 10-year 4-H member, winning grand-champion twice. He plans on attending Purdue University in the fall.

Senior **Turner Royal** of Bloomfield is a great example of a student-athlete competing in basketball, golf, and tennis during his high school career, while holding a 4.1 GPA and a class rank of 2. He has earned a varsity letter all 4 years in each of his sports, bringing his total to 12. Royal is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Student Council, Future Farmers of America, and 4-H. He has also been a member of numerous clubs in his school, including the Spanish, Culture, Chess, Booster, and Ping Pong clubs. Turner has volunteered with his community through the Christian Service Club, assisting with backpack donations and Christmas shopping for needy families. He also served as a student mentor his junior and senior year helping younger students move into junior high school. Turner will attend Wabash College next year.

Cooper Rusch of New Castle is a 4.3 GPA student-athlete who competes in basketball, football, and unified track and field, earning 10 varsity letters. He is a member of the school's student government and Renaissance club, serving as the president of the Renaissance club his junior and senior years. He is also a member of the National Honor Society and has competed for the Math, Social Studies, Fine Arts, and Interdisciplinary academic teams. Rusch has volunteered with the Wheeler Men's Mission, serving meals, and has also packed backpacks for less fortunate children the last two years. He has also helped Christmas shop for children and spent time assisting with football and basketball camps. Cooper will attend the University of Minnesota in the fall.

Decatur Central's **Kenzee Smith** is a 4.4 GPA student-athlete, who has competed in basketball, softball, and volleyball, earning 12 varsity letters total. She is a member of the National Honor Society and Decatur Central's Student Council. Kenzee has also been involved with two mentoring programs, Champions of Character and Quest and Inquiry Senior Mentoring. She has had the opportunity to volunteer throughout her community, assisting families in need during the holiday season, providing meals to those in need and shopping for families during Christmas. Smith has been a team captain in basketball, softball, and volleyball, and has earned All-State and Academic All-State honors. She was also named the 2019-20 Decatur Central Female Athlete of the Year. Following graduation, Kenzee will attend the University of Indianapolis.

Senior **Savannah Strieter** of Evansville North holds a 3.9 GPA while competing in track and field, volleyball, unified track and field, and unified flag football. She has earned 4 varsity letters in volleyball, 2 varsity letters in track and field, 2 varsity letters in unified track and field, and 1 varsity letter in unified flag football. Outside of athletics, Savannah is a member of the IHSAA Student Advisory Committee, where she assists with IHSAA State Championships and the Student Leadership Conference. Strieter has served as the president of the Evansville North Student Leadership Advisory Council and assisted with raising \$3,000 for Champions Together. She is a member of the National Honor Society and has assisted with fundraising events through the Susan G. Komen Foundation for Breast Cancer. Savannah will attend Taylor University next year.

Abigail Teipen of South Putnam garners a 4.5 GPA and 7 varsity letters. She has competed in Swimming, earning 4 varsity letters, Tennis, earning 2 varsity letters, and Volleyball, earning 1 varsity letter. She has also been involved with her school's Spanish Club, Student Council, National Honor Society, Marigold Ambassadors, and Student Ambassadors. Abigail has helped with South Putnam's trunk-or-treat event, Winter Wonderland celebrations, Farm-to-fork charity dinner, and putting together Easter baskets for a local nursing home. Teipen serves as the senior class president and National Honor Society vice president. She will attend Indiana University in the fall.

Brownsburg's **Hannah Tippets** holds a 4.5 GPA and ranks 9th in her class of 592 students. She has competed in cross country and track and field earning a varsity letter in each of those sports. Hannah is a member of the school's student government and National Honor Society. She has also tutored other students and participated in DECA, where she finished second in the state, qualifying for Internationals. Tippets volunteers with Days for Girls, who provides girls in third world countries with the opportunity to receive higher levels of education. She has also helped Special Olympics Indiana. Hannah plans to attend Northwestern University post-graduation.

Senior **Kinsey Price** of Rising Sun participates in basketball, soccer, and track and field, while having a 4.3 GPA. She has a total of 12 varsity letters, earning 4 in each sport that she competes in. Outside of sports, Kinsey is involved with several clubs, including Student Council, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Spanish Club, and Science Club. She has assisted within her church, teach children's church and Vacation Bible School. She is also a 1st degree black belt in Tae Kwan Do and has used her experiences to assist with the Indiana Academy of Martial Arts as a judge and referee. Price has also been named team captain for the Rising Sun Soccer team and Basketball team. Following her senior year, Kinsey will attend Franklin College.

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

Assistant Commissioner Chris Kaufman reported that Barbara Wynne of Indianapolis 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.

Past Award Recipients include: Richard G. Lugar (2017); Bob Gardner (2018); and Lee Lonzo (2019).

A legend in the Indianapolis tennis community, Barbara Wynne began teaching neighborhood children's tennis in 1955. Within a few years she established the Washington Township Schools Community Tennis Program at North Central High School, growing the organization from 6 courts to 27. In 2003, the community tennis center located on the grounds of North Central High School was finished and named in her honor.

Barbara is considered the "first lady" of Indiana tennis. We are honored to hold both the boys and girls tennis team championships at North Central High School in a tennis complex that bears her name.

Along with Arthur Ashe, Wynne founded the Indianapolis chapter of the National Junior Tennis League program. The International Tennis Federation awarded her the Educational Merit award, and in 2001 Wynne received the International Tennis Federation's Service Award.

Today, you can visit a bronze statue of Wynne wearing a top hat and holding a tennis racket at the Riley Children's Health Sports Legends Experience at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis.

One of Wynne's greatest achievements was starting the Riverside Upswing program in 1969 at the encouragement of the late Richard Lugar, who at the time was the 44th mayor of Indianapolis and Wynne's friend. She asked what she could do to help, and he suggested creating an integrated tennis program that would help ease race tensions in the city.

She said she doesn't want her legacy to be about whatever she accomplished as a player. She wants it instead to be about all the players she's taught over the years, especially the ones who've gone on to live honorable lives, whether they continued playing tennis or not.

"I think of myself always as a teacher because a teacher gives away what they love," she said.

NOTE: The official presentation of this award is still yet to be determined given the current circumstances.

5) WINTER SPORT 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.

6) TRANSFERS

Assistant Commissioner Paul Neidig reported on transfers that have been ruled on for the period of June 1, 2019-March 16, 2020 and, for comparison, the numbers from the same period a year ago.

	2019-20	Percent	2018-19	Percent
Full Eligibility	2,896	90.19%	2,734	92.5%
Limited Eligibility	293	9.12%	210	7.1%
Ineligible	22	0.69%	13	0.4%
Total	3,211		2,957	

J1 Visa Foreign Exchange Transfers

	2019-20	Percent	2018-19	Percent
Full Eligibility	580	96.67%	536	92.4%
Limited Eligibility	12	2.00%	40	6.9%
Ineligible	8	1.33%	4	0.7%
Total	600		580	

7) SPORTSMANSHIP

Assistant Commissioner Sandra Walter reported on the area of unsporting behavior for the period between August 1-March 16, 2020 and the numbers from the same period a year ago.

	2019-20	2018-19	% Change
Exemplary Reports Filed	1,103	872	26%
Unsporting Reports Filed	3,271	2,860	14%
Total Ejections	417	360	16%
Ejections (Administration)	1	1	0%
Ejections (Coaches)	40	33	21%
Ejections (Players)	312	293	6%
Ejections (Fans)	64	33	94%

8) TECHNOLOGY

Technology Director Luke Morehead reported that the infrastructure projects completed in the last year have enabled the entire IHSAA staff and Executive Committee to respond more effectively to remote accessibility. We will be postponing project work on the myIHSAA website where possible to alleviate financial constraints. The staff will plan on using this same video conference platform during the spring area principals meetings and requested any feedback to ensure the best possible experience for those who use it during those meetings.

9) IHSAA FOUNDATION

Foundation President Matt Wolfert did not have a Foundation report this month so he yielded his time back to the chairman.

10) LITIGATION

Attorney Robert Baker did not have a litigation report this month so he yielded his time back to the chairman.

11) PENALTIES ASSESSED

Crothersville HS – Rule 15-2.5 (*Girls' basketball team participated in a limited contact session outside the prescribed time period for such activity*)

1. The Crothersville High School girls basketball program is issued a warning. This warning is official notice that an illegal act has occurred, is a matter of record, and shall not be repeated.
2. Head Coach Kevin Hensley is reprimanded for allowing this violation to occur. Ignorance of the rules is not an acceptable excuse for a rules violation.
3. The Crothersville High School girls basketball program shall reduce their limited contact opportunities by two hours during the 2019-20 spring limited contact period.

Eastern (Pekin) HS – Rule 52-3a(1) (*Junior varsity boys basketball player participated in too many season quarters*)

1. The Eastern High School boys' basketball program is issued a warning. This warning is official notice that an illegal act has occurred, is a matter of record, and shall not be repeated.
2. The student has exhausted his allotment of season quarters and subsequently may not participate in any remaining regular season contests.
3. In accordance with Rule 3-9, Eastern High School shall forfeit the contest where the violation occurred and the opposing school shall be notified of this violation

Fairfield HS – Rule 9-13 (*Boys golf coach played a round with a student athlete on Sunday*)

1. The Fairfield High School boys' golf program is issued a warning. This warning is official notice that an illegal act has occurred, is a matter of record, and shall not be repeated.
2. Head Coach John Kauffman is reprimanded for allowing this violation to occur. Ignorance of the rules is not an acceptable rationale for violating IHSAA by-laws.

Lake Central HS – Rule 15-2.2a (*Eight boys basketball players were rostered together on a non-school sponsored team*)

1. The Lake Central High School boys' basketball program is issued a warning. This warning is official notice that an illegal act has occurred, is a matter of record, and shall not be repeated.
2. The students involved in this violation shall all be suspended one (1) game on the 2020-21 Lake Central High School boys' basketball schedule. These suspensions may be spread out over the first four contests on the schedule.

Lakeland HS – Rule 18-1 (*Boys track and field athlete participated in multiple meets while academically ineligible*)

1. The Lakeland High School boys track and field program is issued a warning. This warning is official notice that a rule violation has occurred, is a matter of record, and shall not be repeated.
2. The student athlete involved in this violation shall be declared ineligible immediately. The student may gain academic eligibility at the next certification date of the school.
3. Any points earned by the ineligible athlete shall be removed and the team scores refigured. The opposing schools shall be notified of this violation.

Lakeland HS – Rule 101-1 (*Girls soccer player participated in two matches without the requisite number of practices completed*)

1. The Lakeland High School girls soccer program is issued a warning. This warning is official notice that an illegal act has occurred, is a matter of record, and shall not be repeated.
2. Head Coach Hazbic Samir is reprimanded for allowing this violation to occur. Miscounting the requisite days of practice is not an acceptable rationale for a rules violation.
3. The interscholastic contests the ineligible athlete participated in shall be forfeited if Lakeland was victorious. The opposing schools shall be made aware of this violation.

Lewis Cass HS – Rule 3-10 (*Two softball players practiced without completed pre-participation physical and consent forms on file*)

1. The Lewis Cass softball program is issued a warning. This warning is official notice that an illegal act has occurred, is a matter of record, and shall not be repeated.
2. Head Coach Jon Silcox is reprimanded for allowing this violation to occur. This is a health and safety issue and it is absolutely imperative that the "IHSAA Pre-Participation Evaluation Form" complete in every detail be on file for all student athletes prior to their participation in a practice.
3. The students involved in this violation are declared ineligible until such time the students provide a fully completed pre-participation physical and consent form to the school.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

12) IHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA

Commissioner Bobby Cox and Attorney Robert Baker reviewed the list of items on this year's agenda for the BOD meeting scheduled for Monday, May 4, 2020.

13) FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Current Plans for Completion of Boys Basketball Tournament.
Commissioner Bobby Cox discussed potential plans to resume the boys basketball tournament.
- Current Plans for Spring Sports Tournaments.
Commissioner Bobby Cox discussed potential plans to resume the regular seasons and state tournaments for those respective sports.
- Future Financial Considerations of the Association.
Commissioner Bobby Cox spoke to the potential financial losses and remedies should the boys basketball tournament and spring sports not resume due to the pandemic.
- NFHS Summer Meeting, Denver, CO.
If this year's summer meeting is held, our organization will likely have an absolute minimal presence at it. We believe the NFHS is in a holding pattern like everyone else to see what transpires in the coming days and weeks before making a decision.

14) COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter received from Jacob Maldonado, 2020 Ward E. Brown Mental Attitude Award Recipient, Merrillville High School wrestler

15) CONGRATULATIONS

A motion was made for the Executive Committee to go into Executive Session by Jim Brown; seconded by Chris Conley; motion approved 19-0.

A motion was made for the Executive Committee to exit its Executive Session by Jim Brown; seconded by Nathan Dean; motion approved 19-0.

The interview committee recommended Paul Neidig to become the next IHSAA commissioner and his appointment was approved by the Executive Committee.

A motion to adjourn the Executive Committee meeting was made by Tim Grove; seconded by Patti McCormack; motion approved 19-0.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be Monday, May 4, 2020, following the annual meeting of the IHSA Board of Directors.

Matt Martin, Chairman

Bobby Cox, Commissioner