

## September 19, 2011 IHSLA Meeting Minutes

Meeting presided over by Rich Martin, president of the IHSLA.

Coaches and administrators from all teams met before the meeting started to start their scheduling process. To help facilitate scheduling, Rich asked new head coaches to stand and introduce themselves.

Jason Farrell, head coach for Benedictine University Men's Lacrosse, introduced himself and spoke about the new lacrosse program at his university which will begin in the 2012-2013 school year. BU will be having a coach's day and high school senior day at Benedictine Stadium on October 23, 2011 for all those interested. BU will be recruiting heavily from Illinois, so Coach Farrell voiced his interest in getting to know the coaches and players in the IHSLA and to support the sport of lacrosse at the high school level. ([jfarrell@ben.edu](mailto:jfarrell@ben.edu))

Andrew Geison, head coach for Elmhurst College Men's Lacrosse, introduced himself and spoke about the new lacrosse program which will also begin in the 2012-2013 school year. Geison talked about the academic and geographical advantages of attending Elmhurst College and the new renovated sports facilities. He announced an open house for seniors on October 1, 2011 which will include a campus tour, a talk by the admissions staff, and will end with the Elmhurst College vs North Park football game. ([geisona@elmhurst.edu](mailto:geisona@elmhurst.edu))

Pete Ducato from Rock Valley Officials Association and John Vettor from Illinois Lacrosse Officials introduced themselves and spoke about their respective officiating organizations. All IHSLA high schools will use officials from one of these two organizations. Both groups stressed the importance of thorough training and the practice of pairing new officials with experienced officials to strengthen the lacrosse officiating in Illinois.

Conference Realignment: The Catholic Conference will split into two separate conferences to better match participation in other sports. The Catholic Conference will combine the IHSA East Suburban Catholic Conference member schools (Saint Viator, Nazareth Academy, Notre Dame, Benet Academy, Marian Catholic, Marist, and Carmel) with some western suburban Catholic/Christian schools (Montini Catholic, Marmion Academy, Wheaton Academy, and Immaculate Conception). A new conference, called the Chicago Catholic League, will include Saint Ignatius, Saint Rita, Loyola Academy, Fenwick, Saint Laurence, Mount Carmel, and Brother Rice. The new conference alignments will start in the spring 2012 season. The Upstate DuPage Conference requested permission to split into two conferences. Rich will work with them to propose a plan for consideration.

New Teams: While there is much interest from many schools wishing to start lacrosse programs, two new teams will definitely join the IHSLA in 2012. Please welcome the JV programs from Carmel Catholic High School in Mundelein and Marist High School in Chicago.

O'Fallon's Participation: Based on concerns during the 2011 playoff series, Rich reiterated his position on the decision to make O'Fallon travel to playoff games. When O'Fallon approached the IHSLA about membership in 2008, their membership was contingent upon O'Fallon travelling to all playoff series

games because the member IHSLA schools did not necessarily have the authorization nor financial support to travel to the St. Louis area. O'Fallon agreed to the terms of membership at the time. The IHSLA member schools are not obligated to travel to O'Fallon, but Rich encouraged all member schools to consider O'Fallon for future road trips if the schools' budgets and scheduling allow it.

**IHSA Sanctioning:** Prior to the 2011 season, the IHSA announced they would sponsor the 2011 Lacrosse State Championship Series provided there were series commitments from 65 boys' teams and 40 girls' team. In December 2010, only 54 boys' teams and 35 girls' teams had registered for the state series even though there were many more which had signed the Emerging Sport Agreement. Several programs opted to not participate in the State Series since they did not have a varsity team. Several others with varsity teams opted not to participate due to financial reasons. Based on that information, the IHSA decided to postpone the sponsorship of the State Series until the required levels of 65 boys' teams and 40 girls' teams were met. The probability of meeting the IHSA's registration requirements in 2012 is low since many of the same schools fielding varsity teams will again choose not to participate in the IHSA Series this year. Therefore, a vote was taken among varsity coaches to decide whether to shorten the season to accommodate a possible IHSA schedule or to keep the season length the same assuming the IHSLA will again conduct the State Championship and Lacrosse Cup playoff series.

**Playoff Schedule Voting:** The IHSLA varsity coaches voted 34-26 to keep the longer IHSLA season instead of shortening the season to accommodate a possible playoff series run by the IHSA. The playoff series (both State Championship and Lacrosse Cup) will be seeded on May 20, 2012. The playoffs will start on May 21, 2012 and will continue through the Championship Day on June 2, 2012.

**Regular Season Scheduling:** February 27, 2011 is the first day of practice. March 12, 2012 is the first day for competition. Schools are encouraged to schedule varsity games on Tuesdays and Thursdays to guarantee the availability of experienced officials. Friday nights are also quite underutilized as game nights, so teams are encouraged to schedule varsity contests on Fridays. October 15, 2011 is the deadline to schedule varsity contests, November 15, 2011 is the deadline to complete all scheduling.

**Championship Day:** OPRF will not be hosting the Championship Day this year. Rich asked schools interested in hosting the Championships to submit a proposal to him. Wheaton-Warrenville South offered to host at the meeting, but the final decision will be made after all proposals are submitted.

**All-Star Game:** The All-Star game will be held on Thursday, June 7, 2012. Rich is looking for a facility at which to host the event. All schools interested in hosting are requested to submit a proposal to Rich. Coaching changes will occur this year. In the 2012 season, volunteer head coaches will be the all-star coaches instead of drafting the championship coaches into service.

The next meeting of the IHSLA will be on January 30, 2012 at 7:00PM at the Best Western in Hillside.