

# IHSGCA Association Meeting Minutes

May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011



## Agenda Items:

Thank you to Mike Costa for hosting the year!

Current Balance: \$16,968.89

[www.ihsgca.org](http://www.ihsgca.org)

HOF Banquet/Golf Outing: The HOF Golf Outing will be held Tuesday, May 17th. 3:30pm tee times at Old Orchard, 7pm start time for banquet at Gary Morava Center. Registration for the golf outing can be done on the IHSGCA Website. This year's inductees are Seymour Rifkind and Wayne Selvig.

Casino Night: Frank Novakowski is continuing to work to get the Casino nights a regular fundraiser for the Association. More information to follow in the future. Frank will let us know of any updates

State Meet: To repeat the plea from last year: While at the State Meet, we must encourage our coaches to comply with IHSA officials and ensure that we have a smoothly run meet with no problems. We want to continue making a good impression in both our dress and deportment.

\*State Meet Awards Ceremony: 9:30 a.m. Saturday May 14 (Assistant coaches please help to move competitors/coaches into the meeting)

\*Announcement of Senior Gymnast & State Meet Special Recognition: before individual finals

\*Please have coaches dress appropriately for the state meet.

Rules Proposals: None were submitted

All-Star Meet Update: All-Star Meet:

Updates: **Meet to be held at Niles North High School May 21<sup>st</sup> at 11am. (A thank you to Rick Meyer!)** Random Draw was given. (1- WSC Gold, 2- MSL- West, 3- MSL East, 4- WSC- Silver, 5-DVC, 6- IND, 7- CSL, 8- SWSC) This meet is essentially a 8 team event. Each conference needs to list their seniors who will compete in the Conference Championships. Senior All-Star Competitors will be named at the conclusion of the Conference Championships. **In order for a gymnast to compete he must have a coach from his school present at the meet.** Conference Reps, please make sure that you email the names of the top five seniors on each event to Tim Hamman ([thamman@d211.org](mailto:thamman@d211.org)) Please make sure at your conference meet that the top five seniors on each event are able to compete in the All-Star meet.

Doors open for gymnasts at 9:15. Warm-ups will conclude at 10:45. This is an open warm-up.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please email Tim Hamman ([thamman@d211.org](mailto:thamman@d211.org))

The Brinkworth Meet information sheet is attached to this email.

Job Postings: All positions are currently listed on the [www.ihsgca.org](http://www.ihsgca.org) website. Please email Frank Novakowski if you have any to add or remove. ([fnovakow@cusd200.org](mailto:fnovakow@cusd200.org))

Judges: The newest rules interpretations are available online. Please make sure you check these before the conference meets

New Business:

Trampoline Safety: Issues about trampoline safety were addressed concerning “non-gymnastics” organizations / businesses.

Rob Miller: The following statement was given by Chad Downie concerning Rob Miller:

5/11/11

To the members of the IHSGCA:

I became aware that the Hall of Fame Committee rejected nomination Rob Miller into our Hall of Fame. Although this disappoints me because of the personal relationship I had with Rob and have with his family, it concerns me that the committee is not acting in the true commission of their task nor in the best interest of our association. I do not blame the committee for seeing the nomination of Rob Miller in the light of the rules set out by our IHSGCA constitution; that is, I am sure the committee applied the rules guiding nomination fairly, and thoughtfully. Though a four year high school gymnast, a two time captain or our team, a state qualifying team member in 2002, and an individual event finalist, after high school Rob Miller did not contribute directly to the IHSGCA in the way other elected member of the Hall of Fame have. No, Rob gave much more in fact!

While at the White House to witness President Obama awarding Rob the Medal of Honor, I had the opportunity to meet and talk at length with Rob’s team captain in Afghanistan Major Cusick, the man Rob directly saved

As Major Cusick and I walked out of the White House, together he recalled the battle in the Kandahar Mountains on that cold January day. As his team was drawn into a fire-fight with the Taliban forces, Major Cusick was hit and Rob jumped into his vehicle and embroiled the enemy with its mounted “MK19 40 millimeter automatic grenade launcher” to protect Major Cusick. Rob pursued the enemy using up weapon after weapon at his disposal. He advanced on the enemy drawing their fire away from his team. While still calling out the coordinates of the enemy in both Pashtu and English Rob was shot. He, however, did not cease to pursue the enemy and draw their fire.

That is when in the shadowed outline of the White House, Captain Cusick stopped, grabbed my arm looked me in the eyes and said, “I don’t know what you taught Rob in high school but if it weren’t for him, I wouldn’t be alive today. I wouldn’t be here. I know you had a profound impact on him because he talked about you and his experiences at your school. And, if it weren’t for him, I wouldn’t be here.” He went on to tell me that he hoped to be a high school P.E. teacher one day because he believed that it was in high school leaders were made.

I realized that Rob had achieved something great within himself. As I thought about my conversation with Major Cusick, when he thanked us for teaching Rob something, I awoke to the epiphany that we as coaches, and educators had a powerful effect on Rob’s character which led to his actions that night on the battlefield. We had a profound effect on the development of Rob’s ideals of virtue, his ideals of service, and his actions which embodied those ideals. We teachers, coaches and mentors had a great impact on Rob’s leadership abilities. Our coaches association contributed to Rob’s development as a leader by upholding the virtues, the rigor of our sport and the opportunity to compete in high school gymnastics in Illinois. Rob may be considered our greatest success story!

Surely, the committee applied the rules which they were elected to uphold, and to legislate; however, in the case of Rob Miller the rules were applied to someone who served above and beyond those standards.

The elected Hall of Fame committee did their duty in regards to the law; however, I believe that as elected

people they also need to balance the law with their own humanity. They are elected not just to uphold and protect the standard of the rules but to also bring the human element of wisdom and flexibility to the committee. They are elected to look at nominations with a human eye.

Even in our courts of law, the law is to be tempered with humanity, hence a jury of peers. So also, the Hall of Fame committee is elected from a body of members to do the human action of balancing the law, the rules, with that which serves a higher good, a higher right, a higher justice—not just the law.

In Rob Miller's case his sacrifice, his actions, and his being awarded the Medal of Honor—the highest military decoration awarded in our country—rises above and the content of the rules guiding the Hall of Fame committee. I would ask the committee to reconsider Rob Miller to be nominated to the Hall of Fame in a special session this year.

If you do not know about Rob Miller please take the time to view the following website:  
<http://www.army.mil/medalofhonor/miller/>

Respectfully,

Chad Downie

Frank Novakowski added that Rob Miller is deserving of the highest honor that the association can bestow. An alternative suggestion of naming one of the association's scholarships after him as an alternative is not such.

#### Constitutional Amendments:

The following proposed amendments are introduced at this meeting. Questions for clarification were answered. Discussion will take place at the November association meeting with voting taking place at the December Meeting.

Proposed: Blaise Blasko      Seconded: Jeff Roberston

#### CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTION

##### Article X (5 Years)

C. Illinois High School Gymnastics Coaches Association

Professional Attire for All IHSA Gymnastics Meets

Blaise Blasko 5-11-11

1. Shoes: Closed toed shoes, no flip flops, sandals, clogs or open toe shoes.
2. Slacks or Warm Up Pants: no shorts, jeans, denim pants.
3. Shirt: Preferred dress or casual collared shirt, no "T" shirts.
4. No hats or headwear.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMMENDMENT

Article III – B – 1

1. All volunteer coaches or...

CONSTITUTIONAL AMMENDMENT

Article V – A-1f

f. Shall report to the membership monthly minutes including a published list of persons in attendance.

Proposed: Blaise Blasko  
(Highlighted is Changed wording)

Seconded: Frank Novakowski

CONSTITUTIONAL AMMENDMENT

Article III

Membership

The Association has **four** classes of membership:

**D. Hall of Fame Membership**

**1. All persons inducted into the IHSGCA Hall of Fame are eligible for Hall of Fame Membership.**

**a. They will have a voice in all Association matters.**

**b. They will have no vote in Association matters.**

**c. They will have a vote in Hall of Fame matters.**

**d. Hall of Fame members do not need to attend Association meetings to be eligible to vote on Hall of Fame matters.**

**d. They will be considered lifetime members in the Association.**

**e. Hall of Fame members may serve on Association committees.**

**f. Annual dues are waived for Hall of Fame members.**

**2. Hall of Fame members and a guest will receive free admission to all Association sponsored functions.**

**3. A Hall of Fame member can nominate himself either verbally or in writing for any committee or activity in which the member wants to participate.**

a. Application is made only to the Secretary-Treasurer.

b. A second is not necessary for self-nomination.

4. As a Hall of Fame member of the Illinois High School Gymnastics Coaches

Association they will be eligible to submit nominees in January for the Hall of Fame

Article III D to **E**

Article III E to **F**

Article III F to **G**

Proposed: Blaise Blasko  
(Highlighted is changed wording)

Seconded: Scott Phillips

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AMMENDMENT

Article XIII

Hall of Fame

Guidelines for the Illinois High School Gymnastics Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

A. Location – Gary Morava Center, Mount Prospect, Illinois.

B. Purpose – To recognize the achievement of those people who have contributed to the promotion of Illinois High School Gymnastics.

C. Categories – Competitors, coaches, judges, and contributors.

D. Criteria:

1. Any member of the Illinois High School Gymnastics Coaches Association will be eligible to submit nominees.

2. Any member making a nomination will be responsible for writing a resume of the nominee's accomplishments and contributions to Illinois high school gymnastics.

3. All nominees in the coach, judge, or contributor category must have a minimum of five years active participation in the Illinois high school gymnastics system.

4. All nominees in the competitor category must have completed at least one year in the Illinois high school gymnastics system.

5. All resumes will be submitted to the Hall of Fame Selection Committee in January for screening, with a majority vote by the Selection Committee needed to approve the nominees of the membership.

6. An individual nomination is active in the HOF committee for three years.

7. All resumes should be kept on file indefinitely.

**E. Hall of Fame Committee:**

1. The selection committee will be composed of six members to serve a term of three years.
2. A chairman will be selected by the committee with a simple majority vote.
3. The Hall of Fame selection committee will review all **current** nominees.
4. A majority vote by the selection committee is needed to approve **current** nominees of the membership.
5. A 2/3 vote by the selection committee is needed to reject any nominee of the membership.
6. In February the Hall of Fame committee will meet to review names for the current years ballot.
7. The selection committee will present the nominees to the entire Association at the **March** meeting.
8. A  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority is necessary to be introduced to the selection committee once again for final approval.
9. The number of inductees shall be of a number not to exceed three in any year.
10. Announcements of inductees will be made in conjunction with our annual banquet at the May meeting.

**F. Hall of Fame Chairman:**

1. The chairman will annually update the Hall of Fame members and their personal contact information.
2. At the December meeting the Hall of Fame chairman will review all resumes on file that can be re-nominated by the general membership.
3. The second week of April, the Hall of Fame chairman will send out ballots and resumes to all Hall of Fame members that are not actively coaching at a member school.
4. The ballots must be on colored paper.
5. A stamped, return envelope addressed to the Hall of Fame committee chairman will be sent with the ballots.
6. Current Hall of Fame members will vote by mail only.
7. Current Hall of Fame voting ballots must be returned before the end of IHSA Sectional competition.
8. The chairman will write a formal letter to the individual(s) notifying them of their acceptance into the IHSGCA Hall of Fame.
9. The chairman will arrange for the HOF member to provide an 11"X14" black and white portrait. He will frame and place the photograph on the HOF wall at the Morava Center.
10. The chairman will coordinate with the HOF member in ordering a ring.
11. The nominee will pay 50% of the cost toward purchasing the ring.

12. The chairman will send a letter of recognition to the Principal and Athletic Director of the high school in which the inductee coached.

#### G.Hall of Fame Voting:

1. The Hall of Fame steering committee prepares the Hall of Fame ballots.
2. At the end of the April IHSGCA meeting the Secretary-Treasurer will prepare for the Hall of Fame steering committee a full membership list with school names. The list will include current Hall of Fame members that are actively coaching.
3. The Hall of Fame steering committee or their appointee will conduct voting for the Hall of Fame at all sectional host sites.
4. There is no limit on the number of nominees that can get a "yes" vote.
5. All ballots are forwarded to the Hall of Fame chairman and kept separate from the current Hall of Fame member ballots.
6. Using the total number of Full members, tally 75% of this number to determine the votes necessary for induction into the Hall of Fame.
7. The final vote count is made using the "yes" votes from the current Full membership plus all "yes" votes from current Hall of Fame members.
8. Per XIII-E-8 from above the Hall of Fame committee will tally votes and notify in writing the IHSGCA President of the individuals inducted into the IHSGCA Hall of Fame.
9. The Hall of Fame chairman will keep all ballots for one year.

Proposed: Ryan Dengel

Seconded: Keith Mukai

#### Article XIII Section D

A candidate will only be approved if he receives a 3/4 majority (75.0% or greater) of all votes cast. Hall of Fame members' votes will be counted the same as general Association members' votes.

The Hall of Fame committee shall count the votes as follows:

- A "Yes" vote for a candidate will be added to the vote count's numerator and denominator.
- A "No" vote for a candidate will be added to the vote count's denominator.
- An "Abstain" or non-vote (neither "Yes" nor "No" were selected) for a candidate will not affect the outcome.

Example:

Candidate X receives 35 "Yes" votes, 10 "No" votes, with 7 abstaining. The votes are calculated as  $35/45 = 77.8\%$  and the candidate is approved for Hall of Fame induction.

Candidate Y receives 20 "Yes" votes, 8 "No" votes, with 8 abstaining. The votes are calculated as  $20/28 = 71.4\%$  and the candidate is not approved for Hall of Fame induction.

The Hall of Fame committee shall notify the Association president the result of the votes by \_\_\_\_\_(some time frame).

#### Changes to State Meet Format:

The following were voted on and pass unanimously to suggest to the IHSA for changes in the State Meet format.

## **Proposal for team finals**

1. All-around groups will be assigned to each of the BYE rotations in the 8 team rotation currently used with the BYES starting first on two of the 4 rotations instead of the present none.

Rational, it is chosen at random for the team, the AA should also have a feel of randomness to better show the openness of the judging.

2. All-around groups will be assigned in descending ranked order and be assigned each of the 4 slots. The exception being all-arounders from the same team should be in the same rotation for the purpose of safety and saving time so a coach does not have to be on two events at the same time.

1 2 3 4  
8 7 6 5  
9 10 11 12 etc.

Every effort should be made to keep the groups as close to the same number as possible

3. Team warm-ups will be 12 minutes per rotations as per sectionals

(Discussion occurred about moving the All-Around award to Saturday from Friday, but was tabled. )

## Voting Results

### Secretary/Treasurer

Keith Mukai

### Sportswriter of the Year:

Bill Stone

### Steering Committee:

Frank Novakowski

Greg Gebhardt

Scott Hagel

Chris Stevens

Blaise Blasko

### Hall of Fame Committee:

Brad Foerch

Bill Watts

### Rules Committee:

Blaise Blasko

Scott Hagel

Chris Stevens

Chad Downie

Chris Cassidy

Skip Adamson



Present:

Tim Hamman (Fremd)  
Eric Liva (Associate)  
Keith Mukai (Elk Grove)  
Eric Harima (Schaumburg)  
Steve Foerch (Niles West)  
Ryan Dengel (Willowbrook)  
Erik Bostrom (Schaumburg)  
Blaise Blasko (Glenbard West)  
Mike Costa (Rolling Meadows)  
Addrian Batista (Niles West)  
Doug Foerch (HP/Deerfield)  
Ben Anderson (Fremd)  
Frank Novakowski (Glenbard West)  
Peter Kelland (Homewood-Flossmoor)  
Scott Hagel (Palatine)  
Scott Phillips (Hoffman Estates)  
Jeff Robertson (Rolling Meadows)  
Howard Rubin (Schaumburg)  
Brad Foerch (Naperville North)  
Skip Adamson (Lincoln-way)  
Vic Avigliano (HOF)  
Howie Sokol (HOF)