

IHSGCA November 14th, 2012 Meeting Agenda



Call to Order: 7:08pm

Attendance: Vic Avigliano (retired/HOF), Blaise Blasko (retired/HOF), Erik Bostrom (Schaumburg), Ryan Brown (Hoffman Estates), Mike Costa (Rolling Meadows), Greg Didech (judge), Ryan Dul (Glenbrook North), MNIke Galfi (Addison Trail), Al Galatte (retired/HOF), Scott Hagel (Palatine), Tim Hamman (Fremd), Eric Harima (Schaumburg), Jeff Levin (Glenbard West), Keith Mukai (Niles West), Frank Novakowski (Glenbard West), Mike Opsal (Conant), Scott Phillips (Hoffman Estates). Total = 17

Agenda Items:

Current Balance: 11, 712.79

Thank You: Thank you to Mike Costa for providing the IHSGCA with a host school to host our meetings and providing food for the association.

Casino Night Fundraisers: This is a long “work in progress” as we navigate this tricky situation. Thank you for your patience. *Part of this process has been to develop an itemized budget, which will be used in future years to provide financial transparency within the association. Thank you to Keith Mukai for taking this task on and getting it organized. The previous four years can be accessed here:*

[2008-2009](#)

[2009-2010](#)

[2010-2011](#)

[2011-2012](#)

Membership: \$15.00 for Associate, \$20 for Assistant Coach, \$25 for Head Coach

Website: A big thanks to Frank Novakowski for keeping the website updated. Please check the website for important dates, forms, contacts, minutes and anything else you may need. <http://www.ihsgca.org/>

Winter Clinic: Friday, December 7th, 2012

8:30 am - 9:20 am

Registration

9:20 am – 11:40 am

IHSGCA Meeting

-Included in this: a discussion / explanation of the workings of USAG/FIG rules conducted by a panel of guest speakers.

Guest speakers to include: Greg Didech, Jeff Levin, Rich Cromwell, CJ Johnson

11:50 am – 12:50 pm

Lunch

12:55 pm – 2:30 pm

Rules Interpretation—Doug Foerch & Blaise Blasko

IHSA Important Dates:

Season Starts: Feb 11th

1st Competition: Feb 25th

Sectional Seeds Due: March 26th

List of Participants Due: April 15th

Sectional Dates: May 1st - 4th

State Meet: May 10th & 11th

Season Ends: May 25th

IHSGCA Important Dates:

Hall of Fame Nominations: Are due to the HOF committee in January *on the third Wednesday*. Please go to the website to complete the resume and nomination forms.

Senior Gymnast of the Year: Are due *by the April Association meeting*. Please go to the website to complete the nomination forms.

Coaches looking for Teaching and/or Coaching positions:

Schools looking for Coaches:

2012 Retires from Coaching?

Brinkworth Senior All-Star Meet:

1) Budget for the Senior Meet

Expenditures: \$2,100 Revenues: \$1,645 Net Change: (\$455)

2) Coaches discussion: Seemed to be another success. Suggestions as we move forward?

Great experience for all involved. 109 seniors participated in 2012.

Golf Outing/Hall of Fame Banquet: Jeff Levin will be inducted in the IHSGCA HOF this year.

Al Galatte wondered whether or not we could get some sort of deal from Old Orchard if we have a high attendance rate.

Tim Hamman emphasized the importance of registering your group on the IHSGCA website so that we can get an accurate head count. In 2012, there were 30 golfers, but only 12 signed up online.

Rule Changes: None

This applies to the lower levels, which are submitted at the May meeting. There were no submissions in May 2012.

Amendments / Proposals:

- 1) Proposal by the Steering Committee of rewritten IHSGCA Constitution (See attached document):
(2nd by Blasie Blasko)

Reasoning behind the proposal:

As new coaches come into leadership positions within the Association, it is important the IHSGCA constitution serve as a guide to them on expectations, requirements, and the workings of the organization. In years past, the practice of the association has evolved away from what is outlined in the constitution. Many of these practices of the association are in conflict with the document. Some of what is in the document is outdated for our time and situation. Our purpose of this rewrite is to bring the constitution more in-line with the current practice of the association and also to bring the practice of the association more in-line with what has been determined in the constitution.

We are hoping with this proposal, the constitution will reestablish the intentions, goals, and practices of the IHSGCA, and also serve as an accurate guide to new members of our association as they assume leadership roles.

Key differences in proposal: Here are some key differences. These are general and there are other changes as noticeable on the document. Please review this edited document.

Highlighted portions are new

Crossed out portions would be removed and/or replaced by highlighted portions.

Membership Cards:

Current Constitution: Membership card requirement

Proposal: eliminates

Gifts for wives of executive body:

Current Constitution: Allows for moneys to be apportioned for such.

Proposal: eliminates

Voting Privilege for members:

Current: Full members must attend three meetings in order to have voting privileges.

Proposal: Full members must attend two meetings by the May meeting in order to have voting privileges

Meetings:

Current: Calls for an October Association Meeting

Proposal: Gets rid of October meeting.

Executive Body:

Current: 3 member executive body: President, VP, and Sec/Treasurer

Proposal: 4 member executive body that splits the responsibility of the sec. and the treasurer. Also eliminates the position of past president on the steering committee.

Rationale: provides an additional year for new members to learn the "ins and outs" of the association.

National Meet:

Current: Discusses nomination to national team

Proposal: Removes this and outlines procedures for the Brinkworth All-Star Meet.

Discussion for this proposal will occur at the winter clinic. Pro/Con and voting will be at February Association meeting.

- 2) Proposal by the steering committee to IHSA Advisory Board concerning the governing rules of IHSA Boys Gymnastics Competition at the for the 2014 season onward: (2nd by Mike Galfi)

2013 will be the last sponsored NFHS rulebook. Motion by Tim Hamman to advance the timeline to vote on this proposal at the winter clinic. (2nd: Mike Galfi)

Rationale: Most coaches attend the winter clinic, so the largest representation of our body will occur then. Vote: 17 – 0, motion passed

For the 2014 season onward, the IHSGCA proposes that our representative IHSA Advisory Board members make the following two part recommendation to the IHSA concerning the rules that govern boys' gymnastics competition for state:

- 1) The recommendation of first choice, the IHSA allow for the continued use of the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) rulebook for boys gymnastics as last amended in 2011, with continued IHSGCA interpretations approved by the IHSA.
- 2) The recommendation of second choice, the IHSA allow for boys gymnastics competitions to be governed under the rules of USA Gymnastics, the national governing body of the sport. (Similar to the precedent of IHSA competitions in tennis and golf) Specifically for varsity competition; USAG Men's Junior Olympic Program Level 9 and allowing for IHSGCA interpretations approved by the IHSA.

The second recommendation would be offered in the instance that the IHSA deems the first recommendation as unfeasible.

Additional points: There is concern about the liability issues involved with using an expired and no longer supported rule book. Texas provides a good example for how to use the FIG code with exceptions/interpretations, modifying the code to still fit their needs. The IHSA will ultimately have the final say in what happens.

Blaise Blasko read the following statement from Kevin Muenz, THSGCA vice president:

“I met with the NFHS executives with Steve Penny (USA-G President) this summer about the Men's HS program. While they are supportive of gymnastics (NFHS), they can not continue to print the rules on the men's side with the limited participation across the country. Steve Penny volunteered the USA-G resources to develop and print the HS rules for the men. My goal is to help redevelop HS gymnastics in the USA by partnering with the JO Program. It may not be the HS program we are familiar with, however, it may lead to more HS programs nationally. I would love to get your thoughts (and others) on this.”

Motion by Frank Novakowski for a second proposal with adoption of USAG rules as first choice and continuation of NFHS rule book as second choice, and both proposals with neutral wording and no favored order, to be presented to the membership and voted on at the winter clinic. (2nd: Mike Opsal) Vote: 16 – 1, motion passed

For the Good of the Association:

Chris Cassidy is teaching in Spain, and wishes the association members well.

Jeff Levin has been the chair of an exploratory committee designed to look at how to better integrate high school and club gymnastics. Here are his findings from the second meeting:

Notes from our “Exploratory Committee”

In attendance: Randy Gentile, Rich Cromwell, Frank Novakowski, Garrett Wolfe, Blaise Blasko, Dave Johnson, Josh Levin, Jeff Levin

1. We discussed how we can help one another (club-high school). Dave Johnson shared some of his experiences as a high-school competitor and elaborated how it helped him (relating to self-confidence and notoriety and overall growth). He was extremely forthright and mentioned that the high-school experience certainly has merit beyond just the gymnastics (relating more to the growth of the human being). Randy Gentile elaborated as well and was very generous relating to some of the coaches that have made huge contributions to kids and the high-school program in general.
2. Dave Johnson gave a presentation on JO gymnastics. Many questions were asked. Blaise asked many questions relating to classes 8 and 9 in JO gymnastics. We went through routines just to see how they stacked up. It was noted that our high-school boys would have no problem adjusting the requirements. It was also mentioned that JV may be more suitable for class 8.
3. Jeff Levin observed that each of the levels, due to progressive and developmental gymnastics, have systematic and well planned routines which require coaches to follow safe and sound gymnastics which highlight basics.
4. Dave Johnson and Rich Cromwell also commented that the rules have severe deductions for angular issues and execution infractions, thus forcing good basics; obviously strong basics and progressive gymnastics is a systematic way to make the sport more safe as well.
5. Josh Levin contributed his ideas regarding routine construction and the fact that JO judging is not difficult and once coaches get the idea- high scores through proper execution, rather than difficulty can be obtained.
6. Rich Cromwell (seconded by Frank N.) mentioned that freshman could possibly use a number of the compulsories (depending on their levels). It was noted that each of the levels have a different start value. Jeff noted that this would be fine, building in sort of an optional component as well.
- 6b. Frank and Blaise went through a series of routines on events and noted that most varisty routines would meet the USAG special requirements. Frank stated that what seemed like the biggest challenge for coaches would be routine construction, since skills cannot be repeated for value in USAG.
7. Both Josh and Dave did mention that judges as well as coaches need to take the “safety” test (online) and get a certificate in this area. This protects us from ligation and is indeed helpful to the growth of both judges and coaches.
8. Jeff, seconded by Josh, mentioned that the “structural” and “progressive” emphasis would also be helpful in producing better overall gymnastics and “more safe” as well.
9. The monetary component was brought up by Rich Cromwell. It was noted that the crossover approach between high-school and club would be more fluid. Rich mentioned that JO pays 1.25 per routine and also pays for mileage and hotel (when out of state). Rich said that he had made as much as a 1,000 in a weekend when he's had to judge the various levels in a three day period. It was noted that high-school pays generally around 80.00 and some of the meets exceed 100.00. Thus, JO coaches and judges who live in the area can judge some high-school meets as well.
10. Josh made the point that the “judging system” would definitely entice athletes who are presently in club to convert to high-school. Josh has observed that many of the gymnasts would like to do high-school but are confused by our rules.
11. Randy Gentile mentioned that overall he likes the changes and furthermore he feels that it would be good for gymnastics. He said that even though he has been judging in one fashion for 22 years that this would be an easy conversion. He also went on to say that this exploratory group should continue; he sees much value in these meetings.

12. Jeff mentioned that a group of us are definitely going to the Pineapple Meet which is December 14-16. He'd like to get an organized group going to the meet.
13. Dave mentioned that we should contact Greg Didech. He would probably allow us to sit next to the present JO judge so we can learn more about the system.
14. Garrett Wolfe showed interest in going. He thought it would be an outstanding opportunity to learn a new system for judging.
15. Both Josh and Dave (club affiliates) mentioned that they will be glad to continue their participation. Jeff mentioned that their contributions (along with all else) are invaluable. The next gathering will be at the Pineapple Meet. This will be brought up to the general association.
16. It should be noted that the general group felt that this meeting was long overdue. Both club and high-school gymnastics in Illinois. One of our goals as a committee to help both entities thrive and grow over the years. We have much to learn from one another.

It should be noted that the group offers CJ Johnson a “speedy” recovery.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey A. Levin
Chairman of the Exploratory Committee

Josh Levin
Contributor

The judging clinic will be Saturday, February 2nd this year. The title will be “Judging the State Meet.”

Blaise Blasko noted that he will not be the IHSA certified clinician forever. The position requires about 1.5 years of training, with three requirements: you must be a certified official, you must attend a clinic (Train the Trainer), and you must present a clinic with the current clinician. Please contact Blaise if you are interested.

Motion to Adjourn (2nd: Vic Avigliano)

Meeting Adjourned: 8:56pm