



***Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union***  
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***Iowa High School Athletic Association***  
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January 28, 2016

TO: Athletic Directors, Track and Field Coaches, and Track and Field Officials  
SUBJECT: 2016 Preseason Track and Field Information

The 2016 Track and Field season will begin on Monday, February 15, 2016 which is the first day for practice and competition. We want to share some information with you as athletic administrators, coaches and officials.

**COACH NAMES AND EMAILS – Special attention to the AD's** - We currently have a large number of both boys' and girls' coaches who are not listed in the IHSAA Directory or have no email address. Please understand that correspondence like this is not being sent to your coach and it is your responsibility to make certain they are properly informed. Please use your Member School Login at the IHSAA site and make certain you track and field coach information is current. Use this site for both boys and girls coaches.

**RULE BOOKS** – Both schools and officials will not receive a 2016 Track and Field and Cross Country rules book for the upcoming season. All parties were notified during the 2015 season to keep their rules books through the 2016 cross country season as the IHSAA and the IGHSAA now provide rule books in all of our sports on an every other year basis. Schools and officials will receive a new rule book in time for the 2017 track and field season. Rule changes for the 2016 track and field season are posted at <http://www.iahsaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/2016TrackFieldRuleChanges.pdf> and will be covered in the online rules meeting.

**ONLINE RULES MEETING** - The online track and field rules meeting will be available for viewing on Monday, March 7, 2016. The rules meeting will be available until March 31, 2016. Please remember that all head coaches are required to view this online rules meeting. Failure to do so will result in consequences for the coach failing to meet this requirement. **Officials** – You are also required to view this meeting as part of your registration. You will be receiving the IHSAA Officials' Departments regarding the online rules meeting and other requirements required of officials.

**MEET OFFICIALS TRAINING SESSIONS** – At its June meeting, the track and field advisory committee discussed at great length officiating of track and field meets, in particular, how can we make officiating better at regular season competitions so our students are better prepared for the state meet. The committee presented the idea of having schools offering a training session for their volunteer officials prior to the start of the season. Members of the Iowa Association of Track Officials are open to the idea of coming out and leading a training session cover such topics as field events and relay exchanges. If interested, please contact a track and field official in your area to see if they are available to help train your meet volunteers for the 2016 season.

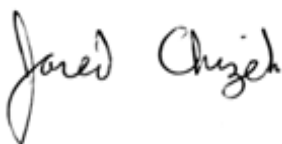
**CONCUSSION EDUCATION REQUIREMENT** – By legislative action all coaches, grades 7-12, are required to receive concussion education before the first day of practice. . If any coaches were recently hired or will be hired and they have not viewed the concussion course, it is imperative that you get this take care of prior to the first date of practice. **Officials** – Although you are not required to view this meeting, the IHSAA and IGHSAA would strongly suggest you view this online video if you have not already done so. Rule 4-4-2 places some responsibility on officials for recognizing the signs and symptoms of concussion. Watching this video can be to your advantage.

**POLICY REGARDING COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS** - In the sport of track and field, member schools that are placed in different classes due to cooperative agreement decisions made by other member schools, shall remain in the same class. The member school will be placed in the lower of the two split classifications. Member schools placed in different classes, based on the member school's decision to have different cooperative programs for each gender or cooperative programs with different schools, will remain in different classifications and be assigned to state qualifying events as classified. Member schools will not be allowed the choice to participate in a higher classification. In order for classifications to be determined in a timely manner, no new cooperative program will be accepted, nor will any existing cooperative program be allowed to dissolve after 5:00 pm Friday, March 18, 2016 for track and field.

**CLASSIFICATIONS** – Preliminary classifications are now posted on both the IHSAA and IGHS AU web site under their respective Track and Field pages. Please review your school's information to make sure it is correct, particularly if you are a part of a cooperative sharing agreement. Again, classifications become final at 5:00 pm Friday, March 18, 2016.

**STATE QUALIFYING MEETS & STATE MEET** – The State Qualifying Meets will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2016. The State Qualifying Meet sites will be posted soon on our websites. The State Meet will be held Thursday-Saturday, May 19- 21, 2016. The State Meet schedule does not change this year. Class 2A and Class 3A will compete in the morning and Class 1A and Class 4A will compete in the afternoon.

There will be more information provided to you as we get closer to the start of the track and field season and as the season progresses. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or concerns.



Jared Chizek  
Assistant Director



John Overton  
Assistant Director