



Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union
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Iowa High School Athletic Association
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January 26, 2017

TO: Athletic Directors, Track and Field Coaches, and Track and Field Officials
SUBJECT: 2017 Preseason Track and Field Information

The 2017 Track and Field season will begin on Monday, February 13, 2017 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 receive a 2017 Track and Field and Cross Country rules book for the upcoming season. Rules books were sent from our office earlier this week. As in the past, the IHSAA and the IGHSAA provide rule books in all of our sports every other year. Schools and officials need to keep the 2017 rule book through the 2018 cross country season. The IHSAA and IGHSAA will notify both schools and officials of any rule changes for the 2018 season through written correspondence and the online rules meeting.

ONLINE RULES MEETING - The online track and field rules meeting will be available for viewing on Monday, February 20, 2017. The rules meeting will be available until March 23, 2017. 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.

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,

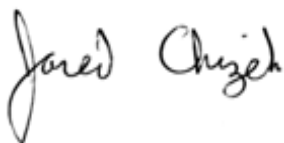
no new cooperative program will be accepted, nor will any existing cooperative program be allowed to dissolve after 5:00 pm Friday, March 17, 2017 for track and field.

CLASSIFICATIONS – Preliminary classifications are now posted on both the IHSAA and IGHSAU 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 17, 2017.

ORDER OF EVENTS – With the addition of the boys 800-meter sprint medley relay, a new common schedule of events be created for the 2017 track and field season. The IHSAA and IGHSAU worked with the Iowa Association of Track Coaches to create the new schedule. What was ultimately decided was to use the “old” girls’ order of events schedule with one modification: the 800-meter sprint medley relay will now be the first event run on the track. When it is a coed meet, the girls will run first followed by the boys. In regards to the state meet, the boys 800-meter sprint medley relay will run Saturday morning after the girls’ relay. Links to the regular season order of events (both with and without prelims) can be found on both organizations’ web sites. Many coaches and administrators have asked where the breaks are going to be placed during the state qualifying meets. The 45-minute break will follow the boys 4x800 meter relay. The 10-minute break in Class 3A and 4A will follow the boys 800 meter run.

STATE QUALIFYING MEETS & STATE MEET – The State Qualifying Meets will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2017. The State Qualifying Meet sites will be posted soon on our websites. The State Meet will be held Thursday-Saturday, May 18- 20, 2017. The State Meet schedule does change this year. Class 1A and Class 4A will compete in the morning and Class 2A and Class 3A 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.



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