

AIA Spiritline Committee
Minutes
May 7, 2015

- **Recap of State**
 - Michele showed the committee a highlight video from state that was shown to the executive board.
- **Certification for next year**
 - All returning coaches will do the NFHS courses through webinars.
 - The dates will be available early next week. Courses will be offered Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays.
 - All new coaches must do the NFHS rules courses in person.
- **New Awards for 2015 – 2016**
 - Each winner and runner up in each individual category will receive medals that are engraved and have the AIA seal.
- **Spirit of the Game**
 - There will be a new competition for spiritline next year that coincides with the football state championships.
 - We went through the spirit of the game tournament guide and Michele highlighted the key points.
 - There was a lot of discussion about how this would look, ways to qualify, and the hopes that this will encourage more teams to compete.
 - This will also bring in Unified Sports.
- **Adding a division**
 - Ashlee discussed the possibility of adding a division to encourage more teams to compete and to prevent teams (especially the rural teams) from being discouraged. She was concerned that the same teams have won repeatedly.
 - Ashlee also suggested only taking the top five teams from qualifiers if we add a division in order to keep the state competition to a single day.
 - Michele informed the committee that if they would like a new division a proposal to the board needs to be done.
 - Ideas were discussed as to how to create the new division, but no decision or recommendation was made.
- **Transgender Athletes**
 - Karen discussed some of the issues involved with having transgender athletes such as determination of the team as either all girl or co-ed, guidelines for attire, and rooming and bathroom issues.
 - Michele will discuss this with the AIA executive committee to let us know how the AIA will handle this.

- **Guidelines for clinics/tryouts of 8th grade students**
 - Shannon is concerned that many teams are still holding “tryouts” but calling them clinics to bypass the AIA ruling.
 - Michele and Kris clarified that 8th graders can participate in “clinics” and can do summer practices however they cannot officially tryout until the first week of permissive football.
 - Michele and Kris explained that schools are expected to self-report and if other people don’t bring the issues to the AIA they do not know they exist.

- **Behavior of athletes and coaches at competitions**
 - Shannon and several other coaches reported poor sportsmanship from teams at qualifiers and state. This included teams undressing out in the open in front of other teams.
 - Michele and Kris explained again that these issues must be brought to their attention right away and not at the end of the day or weeks later.
 - In addition the committee decided we should focus on the positive things as well. Some schools do exactly what their asked and display great sportsmanship and it would be good to acknowledge that at competitions in the form of a shout out.

- **Dates/Locations of Qualifiers**
 - Kris said the dates of qualifiers will remain the same. The two weekends prior to Thanksgiving. However the location is not set yet.