

Suburban Parochial Track & Field League
 Minutes of the 2/15/18 League Meeting
 St James Hall, Glen Ellyn

- I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:01pm
 Prayer – Ed Sullivan
- II. Roll Call – Shannon Ryson
 Missing schools: St. Isaac Jogues, St. Joan of Arc, St. Scholastica/Dominic
- III. Minutes of June 2017 Meeting:
 Due to unfortunate circumstances with previous Secretary’s health, the June ’17 meeting minutes were not available.
- IV. Reports
 - a. Treasurer: Justin Busche provided update on league fees for 2018 season - unchanged from 2017 @ \$1,000/member. Track Expenses sheet also provided. Invoice to be sent to each member electronically.

2017 Expenses below:

Awards	\$ 7,484
Track Rentals	\$ 11,576
Elmhurst College	\$ 1,015
Montini	\$ 500
Geneva (3)	\$ 3,272
Westmont (2)	\$ 1,495
Marmion (2)	\$ 1,200
Valleyview (BHS/BMS) (4)	\$ 4,094
Supplies/Equipment	\$ 1,814
Trainers/Starters	\$ 700
Fees/website/misc.	\$ 700
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 22,274

- b. Scheduling: Class Changes / Schedule – Steve Harris distributed class change information, which was accepted by attendees. Tentative schedule was also distributed.
 - i. A vote was taken on whether or not to have two co-ed meets or one per season (Week 3). With three schools missing, the 2/3 vote was

met to have one co-ed meet this season. Those voting FOR two meets were Visitation, SFX, St. Luke, HT/ND, OLP and St. Cletus. These six schools will compete in co-ed meet this season.

- c. Events: Chuck Cranny submitted the results of the Events Committee meeting. Meeting minutes attached.
 - i. Open 100M is recommended to be offered at all meets, except Divisional meet.
 - ii. 800M will be moved between 200 / 400 m at Championship meet.
 - iii. Discussion of removal of 400M Relay Minor was discussed and rejected.
 - iv. Blocks will not be utilized at SPL meets.

 - d. Rules: John Mulholland submitted results of the Rule Committee (attached).
 - i. A unanimous vote was taken to adopt/incorporate the IHSA/IESA Severe Weather Policy in the league by-laws, deleting Section I.9 (Lightning Policy) as it is redundant. Shannon Ryson, SPL Secretary to change in by-laws.
 - ii. Reminder to all teams and meet hosts that Starter is also consider a judge.
 - iii. Universal abbreviations need to be updated to include the following new teams: St Luke and St Mary of Gostyn. Holy Ghost will be removed from the member school list.
- V. Adjournment : Meeting concluded at 8:50pm.

SPL Events Committee Meeting: 1/24/18

Committee Members:

Saint Cletus: Chuck Cranny

Saint Irene: Nancy Butler

Saint Isaac Jogues: Julie Potts, Tim Stanley

Saint John of the Cross: absent

Saint Petronille: Shea Moroni

Saint Raphael: absent

Other attendee:

Saint Francis: John Mulholland

Discussion topics

1. Request was made at the last SPL meeting to keep the 100m Open in all meets
 - The committee recommends that the SPL league encourages meet organizers to keep the 100m Open to allow all athletes a chance to compete.
2. Eliminate 4 x 100 minor
 - a. Due to lack of participation
 - b. Schools staking the relay
 - The committee discussed this issue at length and recommends that we continue to keep the 4 x 100 minor in the meets.
 - The committee recommends that all coaches use good judgment when placing their athletes in the 4 x 100m
3. Move the open 800 to between the 400 and 100
 - The committee recommends moving the open 800 between the 200m and 400m during the Championship Track Meet. This provides a rest break for any athlete running both the 200m and 400m or running the 200m and 100m.
4. Use of Blocks (Rules Committee)
 - Rules Committee is evaluating this proposal
5. Field events need to keep going and not stop or finish early
 - The committee recommends all schools to train their volunteers prior to the track meet

- All athletes must check in appropriately for each of their events
6. High Jump starts at 8:30am and all other field events start at 8:15am to avoid conflicts
 - The committee recommends starting all field events at 8:15am and the high jump at 8:30am
 - 1 year trial to see if there is any improvement with this conflict issue
 7. Use colored Post Its for the finish line judging
 - The committee recommends the use of colored Post Its to be used at all SPL track meets
 - The committee recommends the colored Post Its be laminated and kept in the SPL Track Bag for use at each meet.
 8. Combine 5/6 and 7/8 for races during the meet
 - The committee does not recommend combining 5/6 and 7/8 grade levels for raced during the meet.
 9. Elimination of one Co-Ed meet and add a traditional meet. Thus in week #3 we would have one Co-Ed meet and two traditional meets
 - The committee recommends a head coach vote on this issue.
 - The committee recommends any changes to occur in the 2019 track and field season.

Suburban Parochial Track & Field League
Minutes of the 01/15/2018 Rules Committee Meeting
St. Francis Xavier Unity Hall

I. Call To Order:

The Rules Committee meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM

II. Roll Call:

- Representatives from Committee member schools present: Our Lady of Peace, Sacred Heart, St. Francis Xavier, St. Joan of Arc, St. Luke, St. Michael, St. Pius and Visitation. Also attending as a guest was Julie Potts from St. Isaac Jogues.

Absent: St. Scholastica, who notified the Chair of their inability to attend.

Note: This is the second year in a row that St. Scholastica has missed the Committee meeting.

As provided for in Article IV B.3 of the SPL Constitution, "a member of the Executive Board will send a notice to the school's head coach, athletic director and principal notifying them of the absence."

III. Old Business

At the 2017 post-season meeting, the membership asked the Committee to review the following and make recommendations:

1. Review By-Law E.2, which prohibits the use of blocks

Recommendation: On review and after discussion, the Committee recommends maintaining the status quo for the 2018 season, prohibiting the use of blocks during any SPL T&F sanctioned or sponsored meet.

While the Committee recognizes that teaching varsity (7th & 8th grade) athletes how to use blocks for the 75m and 100m sprints and 75m Hurdles would be beneficial as it would put the SPL on par with public school athletes and prepare them for high school, the additional cost to teams (cost per set anywhere from \$52 - \$180) and negative impact on meet administration (additional time) supports maintenance of the status quo. However, the Committee does feel there is merit to the proposal with additional observation and discussion.

2. Review /amend By-Law I.4

Recommendation: The Committee recommends adopting the IHSA/IESA Severe Weather Policy in its entirety, incorporating it within amended By-Law I.4 to read:

4. Severe Weather Policy & Meet Cancellation

When thunder is heard, or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Take shelter immediately.

Lightning is one of the most consistent and underrated causes of weather-related deaths or injury in the United States. Nearly all lightning-related injuries occur between the months of May and September and between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Therefore, the greatest concern for injuries in an outdoor contest appears to be during that time, though it can happen any time of year.

It is essential that host schools, competing schools, and contest officials establish dialogue in advance of the contest or event to ensure that all involved are aware of what the plan will be in determining whether or when to suspend play. Host schools are encouraged to share their plan with competing schools and officials prior to the start of the tournament.

Advance Planning

Local Managers should have a documented plan in place, designated people who are responsible for monitoring the weather and a qualified person (typically a trained manager and/or officials) to make the decision to suspend play. In state series competitions, the host school administrator or official(s), if assigned, can make the decision to suspend play.

Monitoring Weather

Local Managers during the contest should be aware of any potential thunderstorms that may form during the competition; if an evacuation is needed, managers should also know how long it would take teams to get to their safest location. Monitoring the weather with a weather alert radio, or with lightning detection systems, or any other available means, is recommended.

If competing schools have portable devices they will be bringing to a contest and have specific policy or directions from their administration that they must follow, the school must communicate those policies with the host school. Host schools must know the policies of each school assigned to their tournament prior to its start.

Lightning Awareness

Generally speaking, it is felt that anytime a cloud-to-ground strike of lightning can be seen, or thunder heard, risk is already present. It is time to seek shelter.

Criteria for Suspending Play

If the local management does not have commercial weather warning equipment at the site or an efficient method of making an accurate,

timely decision on location, listening for thunder is the best way to mitigate the danger. If thunder is heard, or lightning is seen hitting the ground, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike in your location. According to the National Weather Service, lightning can strike 10 miles away from the parent thunderstorm. When thunder roars, go indoors! It is important that local manager monitor not only how far away the lightning is but also how fast it is approaching. Thunderstorms can form and move quickly and danger can arrive quickly.

Either host school administration or assigned contest officials have the authority to suspend or cancel interscholastic contests. It is recommended that those groups work together in making such determination and use any and all available information in doing so. Participating schools with concerns at particular events should direct those to the host school management or assigned contest official.

The following guidelines should be followed in determining when to suspend an event:

Anytime a cloud-to-ground strike of lightning can be seen, or thunder heard, risk is present, and a contest should be suspended. At that point, the **30-minute rule** for resumption should go into effect.

Note: Due to the layout of some outdoor facilities, contest officials or tournament managers may not be able to see lightning actually "strike the ground." However, whenever lightning is seen moving out of clouds towards the ground, it can be assumed that the lightning is striking the ground somewhere, and as a result, the contest should be suspended.

If lightning or thunder is not present but the weather is starting to become ominous, tournament management and/or contest officials should use all available information to determine if and when a contest should be suspended.. Care for both participants and spectators should be taken into account at this point. If in doubt, contest officials or tournament managers are encouraged to exercise caution and suspend play. Tournament officials should be ready to implement their emergency plans. However, competing schools who pull their teams or athletes off the field of competition prior to a contest or event suspension do so at the risk of forfeiture or disqualification from the game or event.

Suspended contest or events should be resumed at a time when the weather and/or field conditions allow for resumption.

Evacuation Plan

Safe Areas: All personnel, athletes and spectators should be clearly informed of available safe structures or shelters in the event a

thunderstorm approaches. A safe structure is any fully enclosed building frequently used by people. In absence of that - athletes and spectators should go to any vehicle with a hard metal roof. Roll up the windows and do not touch the sides of the vehicle. If no safe structure or vehicle is available, find a thick grove of small trees surrounded by taller trees or a dry ditch. Assume a crouched position on the ground with only the balls of your feet touching the ground. Wrap your arms around your knees and lower your head. Minimize contact to the ground since lightning often travels through the ground.

Avoid: Tall trees or objects like light poles or flagpoles, individual trees, standing pools of water and open fields. Also avoid being the highest object on the field. Do not take shelter under trees. Avoid bathrooms if another building is available, and do not use a land-line telephone. A cellular phone or portable phone is a safe alternative if in a secure shelter or vehicle.

Resuming Activity

The NSSL (National Severe Storms Laboratory) recommends that everyone should wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning or sound of thunder before returning to the field or activity.

Meet Suspension / Cancellation

a. Meets cannot be declared “cancelled” before 8:00 a.m. on the day of the meet. In cancelling a meet, the health and well being of the athletes, coaches and spectators will be taken into consideration, as well as, the likelihood of the severe weather conditions continuing.

b. A majority vote of head coaches will determine whether a meet should be canceled or suspended or specific events that are directly affected by the weather make them unsafe for the competitor.

c. If a meet (or specific events / session) are suspended the meet will continue the next day. If a qualifying or the championship meet cannot continue the next day because of adverse weather conditions, the meet will be run on the next two days without adverse weather conditions, with the junior varsity events being held on the first day and the varsity events on the second day.

The Scheduling Committee will find available dates and times for weekdays prior to the scheduled meet and preferably prior to the season. Upon unanimous agreement of the schools participating in a qualifying meet, other arrangements can be made, providing the qualifying meet is completed on or before the Thursday before the championship meet.

With the adoption and incorporation of the IHSA/IESA Severe Weather Policy into the by-law, delete in its entirety, Section I.9 (Lightning Policy) as it's redundant.

3. Clarify the SPL Championship Meet substitution policy

Recommendation: Amend the current SPL Finals Meet – Meet Administration document to read:

A. Eligible Participants.

1. ...

2. Substitutions:

(a) Absent or injured athletes: Substitutions for an absent athlete due to injury, illness or other reason who qualified for the League Finals Meet (SPL Championship Meet) is allowed. A **single** substitute will compete in the event or all events for which the absent athlete qualified for. There is NO division of events among multiple substitutes. Further, the substitute will assume the lane assignment(s) or field event participation sequence(s) that the absent athlete had earned.

(b) Notification: Substitutions must be communicated in advance of the LEAGUE FINALS MEET to the Meet Director or Meet Director's designate in writing NO LATER than 30 minutes before the Meet / Session begins. The deadline for the Junior Varsity (JV) session is 8:00 AM while the Varsity deadline is 11:45 AM.

(c) Relays: Substitutions within relay teams is allowed and at the Coach's discretion.

4. Starter's Responsibilities re: Relays

A review of the SPL's Meet Administration document titled "Chief Starter" specifically identifies the starter as a *judge* (italics added) who can report fouls and disqualifications for relay passes outside the exchange zone.

5. Amend the By-Laws and Meet Administration documents to eliminate an additional Co-Ed Meet and replace with a Traditional Meet in Week #3.

Action:

(1) After discussion by the Rules Committee, the question was referred to the Events Committee for review by committee chair, John Mulholland as the decision to change meet formats is the purview of the Events Committee. Subsequent to a recommendation to change the Rules Committee would in turn suggest language to amend the By-Laws and Meet Administration documentation.

(2) However, the Rules Committee did discuss the pro's and con's of changing

the Week #3 meet formats to: Two (2) Traditional Meets and One (1) Co-Ed Meet for the following reasons.

(a) Acknowledging the original intent of the Co-Ed meets to provide an opportunity for more athletes to compete and “win” awards (ribbons) ... and have fun ... smaller teams are in fact having problems filling out both relay and field teams that would accomplish the original intent. The increased number of athletes (5 event limit) also creates a backlog in certain field events, which in turn leads to delays and the timely progression to session #2 5th-8th relays and varsity session #3. Further, teams do not have an opportunity fine tune athlete performances in preparation for the Week #4 Divisional qualifying meets, especially if meets run in Week #1 and #2 do not follow a traditional meet format.

Consequently, the Rules Committee would favor a change in the Week #3 meet formats and amending the By-Laws and Meet Administration documents, subject to the recommendation of the Events Committee and approval by the League membership.

IV. New Business

1. Amend By-Law B.2(b) to (a) correct incorrect wording in the title changing from “non- sanctioned” to “non-sponsored” and; (b) reflect the SPL’s paying track rental fees for all SPL sanctioned and sponsored meets.

2. Amend By-Law I.10 – Universal Abbreviations [List]

(a) Subsequent to their resignation from the SPL-T&F, delete Holy Ghost (HG) from the Universal School Abbreviations [List].

(b) Subsequent to their 2017 postseason admission to SPL-T&F add:
St. Luke (SL); and
St. Mary of Gostyn (SMG)
to the Universal School Abbreviations [List]

3. Recommend posting the SPL-T&F minutes to the web site in order to provide continuity and a point of reference for the League. This action mimics SPL-CC

4. Recommend amending the Constitution to make the Treasurer an **elected** officer with a predetermined term to correspond with other SPL-T&F officers.

V. Other Business

No additional business was presented to the Committee

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned on a unanimous voice vote at 8:10 PM

