

Response to Proposal for Sectional Qualifying Process

1. Rational for Proposal by the Committee:

The goal was to create a more consistent process that could be administered throughout the state but still offer the state meet experience that Illinois is known for.

1. Possible Proposal by the Committee:

In each class at each sectional meet, the top 2 places qualify automatically. Then the next 12 based on time/distance at the sectional meet qualify to complete the field.

1. Response:

Knowing the state qualifying time/height/distance drives the training in each event.

Every level of competition has standards to qualify for the next level. There are qualifying standards from the Olympics down to developmental meets.

The fabric of track and field involves head to head competition. This proposal eliminates that competition.

This proposal would create anxiety in the athletes, coaches, parents, and spectators because they won't know if they have qualified until all sectionals are completed.

All venues won't be equal because of weather conditions.

Wind gauges would be required at all event areas. IHSA officials would be needed at all field events to ensure efficiency and accuracy.

This doesn't eliminate the disadvantage of being in a "tough sectional". To be in the top 12 in the state requires an outstanding time/height/distance regardless of the sectional meet.

If the goal is to increase participation, then lower the standards or take the top 4 places from each event.

2. Rational for Proposal by the Committee:

The goal was looked at as an opportunity to push the standard use of FAT at sectional meets.

2. Possible Proposal by the Committee:

All sectionals MUST use FAT and will have an IHSA official monitoring the results.

2. Response:

All FAT operators are not certified officials so times may not be accurate.

Offer sectionals to those schools that provide FAT. If there is more than one school in a sectional area that has FAT, develop a rotation schedule for the schools.

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