



# THE LONG WHISTLE

## ISOA Newsletter

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### Why ISOA

Boy's season is drawing to a close. Sectional and State Assignments are on the IHSA website. Meeting dates for Sectional Officials have been announced.

Thank you for your membership in ISOA. While your dues support is important for carrying out our work, what is more important, is your active participation in our community. At a meet, you (and usually a partner) are "alone" on deck confronting what may be to you, a "unique" meet situation. While you can turn to the IHSA Rules Interpreters (who are all members of ISOA) for

rules interpretations, how do you handle what may be local customs or expectations? Our official's association offers you an informal way to reach out for advice and guidance. Our members have been there for many years and know the landscape.

### President's Message

The boy's season sure was quick this time. Here it is with us just getting into the throes of winter (its been pretty mild up to now) and the season is almost over.

One of the things that ISOA can serve to do is help all of us to be more consistent and professional in how we officiate. In the hospitality area at a recent invitational I was visiting with a coach from a school and region where I have not worked and was dumbfounded in his comments about some of the antics he has encountered. Apparently he has had some officials at his school where the starter sat down after the start of each event.

In discussing the coach's comments with an experienced official (who's guidance I respect) it was suggested that an official performing at that level probably doesn't belong to the ISOA and benefit from regular clinic participation and this community. We HAVE TO be professional and consistent in our duties! The more consistent we are the better the sport becomes and the more respect we gain from the coaches and students with whom we work.

Let me know what you think @ [scfedota@ameritech.net](mailto:scfedota@ameritech.net)

-Steve Fedota, President

### Repeat After Me...

*"Coach, swimmer number three in lane five was not in contact with the starting platform when the previous swimmer completed his distance ."*

When we all use the same words to describe an infraction to a coach and that language is taken right out of the rulebook (*Rule 8, 3, 4 p.70*) there can be no arguments and communication between



Tom Strunk

847/687-7862  
(proceeds benefit ISOA)

## IOSA Awards—

### AWARD NOMINATIONS NOW DUE!!!

In the early years of my membership of ISOA I thought that I really didn't know enough officials to single out a particular official for one of the Association awards and did not participate in the nomination process for these awards. This is the farthest thing from the truth! Each of us works with a larger circle of officials and each year we learn more about the quality and characteristics of our peers ... but nobody works with every other official. We NEED YOUR input into determining the most appropriate member for any of these awards. ISOA has appointed a committee headed by Todd Gray ([tgray217@gmail.com](mailto:tgray217@gmail.com)) to determine the most deserving of the nominations for these awards. Consider your deck mates for one of these awards and **contact Todd by FEBRUARY 1—that's just a few days away** with a name and details of why you think the individual should be considered for the award.

#### Official of the Year

This award is given to an individual who serves as a role model for other officials to emulate. This should be one who has mastered both rule knowledge and mechanics, and can serve as a mentor to newer officials.

This person should also have demonstrated service to the sport and/or ISOA and one who is viewed as a leader among their peers.

#### Most Improved Official

This official should be one whose performance has shown marked improvement from year-to-year.

This award does **not** mean that one was a poor official at any time, it is meant to recognize steady growth and improvement -- something we're all capable of doing .

#### Rookie of the Year

A "rookie" is defined as an official who is in his/her first 3 years as an IHSA official.

This official should display a solid understanding of both rules and mechanics, and be willing and able to seek and implement feedback on his/her performance.



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## Nominations for ISOA Officer Positions Now Open

Mike Hutton, Brian Smith and Skip Yates volunteered at the last meeting to serve on the Nomination Committee for the open positions of **President, Treasurer and Member at Large**. If you are interested in serving in any of these positions or would like to nominate someone to serve, after receiving the person's approval as a nominee, please contact any member of the nomination committee. Nominations will be accepted until the Association meeting on February 23, 2019

### Supplies

Fred Gafrick, ISOA Treasurer maintains "The Store" - our equipment and supply inventory of various scoresheets, DQ Cards and can provide nametags. We are working on again making orange and blue striped ties available as well as embroidered items.

[fgafrick@comcast.net](mailto:fgafrick@comcast.net)

## Continuing Education

*Case situations to consider...*

### Situation #1:

During a dual meet, at the conclusion of JV 400 Freestyle relay, the fourth swimmer of the third place team exists the pool (*one swimmer is still completing her last length*).

Recognizing her coach encourages swimmers to display sportsmanship by remaining in the water until all competitors complete the race, she begins to reenter the pool. *Winning third place ensures the JV team the victory for the meet.* With this excitement, a member of the varsity team hugs the fourth swimmer and both fall into the water.

As the referee, what do you do?

### Situation #2:

During a dual meet, in the 200 Freestyle relay, Swimmer # 3 places the movable starting wedge in the most forward position and then places a towel on starting block in front of the wedge. He then ascends the block and stands ready with both feet behind the wedge.

As swimmer #2 is completing the distance of his leg of the race, Swimmer #3 leans forward with his head beyond the front edge of the block. In doing so, his balance is affected and he steps forward in front of the wedge with one foot. In a continual motion he loses his balance and pushes off the block as his teammate touches the wall.

As the starter what do you do? As the referee, what do you do?

## Clinic News

As the referee, do you use arm signals at the start? Do you provide a voice command to the Starter?

The "Use of Whistles as Preparatory Commands" (*Appendix A in the current rulebook*) appears to be consistently applied by officials, and hand signals are often applied in particular meet situations (especially where there are hearing-impaired competitors) but there appears to be some confusion about the use of a verbal "turn over" command to the starter.

IHSA has defined a verbal turn-over to the starter is a **BEST PRACTICE** and **MUST** be incorporated into the starting procedure. During his January clinic, Head Clinician Joe Plack commented, "*You don't have to like it, but you have to do it.*"

As the Referee, if you don't already turn the start over to your Starter with a verbal command - please start using "Mr. Starter, Miss Starter, or Madame Starter."

Any questions: please see the summary page Mike Hutton, IHSA Coordinator of Officials provided in a separate email to all ISOA members.

### OFFICIAL NOTICE

**The next meeting of ISOA will take place before the Boys Championship Swim Meet @ New Trier High School February 23, 2019 @ 8:30 AM**

*If you are not volunteering at the State Championship and would like to attend this meeting please contact Steve Fedota to make arrangements for entrance to the building*

