

IWP Water Polo Player Recognition 2011

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Document Revision History

Created: November 5th, 2009

Revised: November 6th, 2009

Revised: November 8th, 2009

Revised: November 9th, 2009

Revised: December 14th, 2009

Revised: September 13th, 2010

Philosophy

Illinois High School Water Polo Coaches, Officials, and Administrators wish to recognize Illinois High School Water Polo Players for their outstanding performance and sportsmanship during the High School Water Polo season.

Traditionally, recognition is made by a committee electing players to honorary All-Sectional and All-State Teams.

Challenges Faced

As the Illinois High School Water Polo League grows in size and the quality of play increases there are a greater number of players deserving of recognition.

Nominating the best and most qualified players from the highest finishing teams while also recognizing top performers from teams with lower overall results.

There is no centralized league regulated method of tracking and reporting player statistics.

Creating a selection process that is objective and fair given the following qualifications:

1. Not all members of the selection committee will have had the opportunity to observe, first-hand, all the nominated athletes.
2. The overall level of competition in the sectionals will vary from year to year, sometimes with substantial variances.
3. Some teams will have more difficult regular season schedules than others.
4. Coaches have a tendency to be biased towards their own players.

Having an inclusive nomination and selection process that is representative and not overwhelmingly tedious.

All-Sectional Selection

Procedures

1. Each Sectional will have a deputy Player Recognition coordinator.
2. Prior to the start of the Sectional Tournaments, coaches (or other school representative as designated by the school’s Athletic Director) will submit a list of their team’s “players to be considered” to the deputy coordinator.
3. The deputy coordinator will compile the submitted “player’s to be considered” lists, and distribute them to all the coaches (or designated representative) in their Sectional.
4. At the conclusion of the Sectional Tournaments, one representative from each school, will be entitled to submit a vote ballot for the selection of the All-Sectional First Team, Second Team, and Honorable Mention for their sectional as follows:
 - a. If a school does not submit a “players to be considered” list prior to the start of the Sectional Tournament, they will automatically forfeit their school’s vote ballot for the All-Sectional Teams. However, this will NOT disqualify players from that team from being eligible for recognition.
 - b. The vote ballot will be submitted as a ranking of players (example)

First Team All-Section

1. _____ (21 pts)
2. _____ (20 pts)
3. _____ (19 pts)
4. _____ (18 pts)
5. _____ (17 pts)
6. _____ ...
7. _____

Second Team All-Section

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Honorable Mention All-Section

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____ ...

5. _____ (3 pts)
6. _____ (2 pts)
7. _____ (1 pt)

Sectional Coach of the Year

1. _____
 - c. A vote ballot submitted on behalf of School XYZ may NOT include players from School XYZ, if it does, those votes will be disregarded and the other players on that vote ballot will be moved-up in the ranking.
 - d. A vote ballot submitted on behalf of School XYZ must be completed in-full, if an incomplete ballot is submitted, the ballot may be adjusted or disregarded at the discretion of the IWP Player Recognition Director.
5. A minimum of 50% of the schools participating in a given sectional must submit vote ballots to have a valid vote. If less than 50% of the vote ballots are cast in a given Sectional, the remaining teams will be encouraged to cast their ballots. The points from the vote ballots will be summed, the player with the highest point total will be the All-Sectional Player of the Year, and the remaining First Team, Second Team and Honorable Mention will be selected in order of total votes received.
6. Any coaches or schools that do not submit a “players to be considered” list or a vote ballot for the All-Sectional Teams will have a letter sent to the Athletic Director of that school expressing the league’s disappointment with that coach/school’s participation. Any coaches or schools not wishing to participate in the process for any specific cause(s) should state their reasons in advance to the Player Recognition Director to attempt to resolve the situation.

All-State Selection

Procedures

1. Only players that are on the First or Second All-Sectional Teams may be considered for All-State recognition.
2. Following the conclusion of the State Tournament a selection meeting will be held and one coach or school representative (as designated by that school's Athletic Director) will be permitted to attend the meeting such that every player on a First or Second All-Sectional Team can be represented at the selection meeting.
3. An All-State voting committee will be established consisting of 2 school representatives from each Sectional, with first priority going to the 2 schools in the sectional final.
4. Prior to the All-State voting committee meeting, the Player Recognition director will compile schedule results for the season and distribute an information packet at the meeting to all voting committee members.
5. There will be 2 rounds of voting
 - a. Round 1: 1st and 2nd Team All-State
 - b. Round 2: 3rd and 4th Team All-State
6. Every school representative (1 per school) will have exactly 2 minutes, uninterrupted, to present the players from that representative's school to the All-State voting committee to be considered for the 1st and 2nd Teams All-State (Voting Round 1).
7. Each Sectional will be required to cast 2 vote ballots in both rounds of voting.
 - a. A vote ballot submitted on behalf of Sectional ABC may NOT include players from Sectional ABC, if it does, it will have to be revised and resubmitted.
 - b. The vote ballot will be submitted as a ranking of players (example)

First Team All-State

1. _____ (20 pts)
2. _____ (19 pts)
3. _____ (18 pts)
4. _____ ...
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Second Team All-State

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____ ...
9. _____ (2 pts)
10. _____ (1 pt)

State Coach of the Year

1. _____
-
8. The points from the vote ballots will be summed, the player with the highest point total will be the All-State Player of the Year, and the remaining 1st Team and 2nd Team will be selected in order of total votes received.
 9. Following Round 1 voting, every school representative (1 per school) will have 1 minute, uninterrupted, to present the players from that representative's school to the All-State voting committee to be considered for the 3rd and 4th Teams All-State (Voting Round 2).
 10. The voting process will be repeated as detailed above.
 11. Guaranteed Recognition
 - a. A minimum of 1 Goalie must be voted or assigned (assignment made in order of points received) to the 1st Team All-State.

Additional All-State Opportunity

It is my belief that an All-State award should carry with it a greater privilege and opportunity than currently awarded. I propose that Illinois High School Water Polo hold an exhibition match following the State Tournament in which the members of the All-State Teams participate in a match. I see this as a positive event to develop for several reasons:

1. Relationships & Camaraderie: Players from different schools who are normally competitors will have the opportunity to play together as teammates and make
2. Honor the Players: It is an additional opportunity to honor the participants where they can be recognized by their schools, friends, families, and the Illinois State High School Water Polo League.
3. Sport Visibility: Having a match with the best players in the state will help to increase visibility of the sport and also increase the level of play. It is also an opportunity for College team coaches to observe the best in the state competing against the best in the state.
4. Support Future Development: It is my expectation this would be a very popular and well attended event, providing an opportunity for Illinois High School Water Polo to raise funds to support its activities in managing and developing Water Polo in Illinois.

Coach Selection: The coaching staffs of the 2 State Final teams will be the coaches for the All-Star Match.

Team Composition: Players from the All-State Teams 1 – 4 will be divided into two team based on their rank, 1st Ranked Player = Team A, 2nd Ranked Player = Team B, 3rd Ranked Player = Team A, etc.

The IHSA by-laws permit High School Water Polo players to participate in no more than 3 All-Star contests in the sport of Water Polo, therefore, we would need to track participation and validate eligibility to participate.

Initially, for 2010 the plan is to hold the All-State games on June 4th, 2010.

Notes to additional All-State Opportunity:

Successful All-Star Games were held for Boys and Girls at the conclusion of the 2010 season. The support for this event was overwhelmingly positive, it is my recommendation to the IWP Board of Directors that we continue to fund and support the All-Star Games for 2011.