

2012-2013 Gymnastics Proposals to the IHSAA/IIAAA

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Snider High School

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Proposal #1: Change inquiry process to allow two inquires per event without penalty and to allow no penalty for the first inquiry afterwards that does not result in a score change. Any subsequent inquires that do not result in changes will each be assessed a .5 penalty from the team score.

Rationale:

The current inquiry process allows each team one “free” inquiry, which must be submitted within 5 minutes after all scores for that team are recorded for that individual event. With the exception of mathematical errors, each inquiry after the first one that does not result in a score change will incur a .5 penalty from the team score.

1. A team generally will not submit more than one inquiry, fearing a team deduction. Most coaches generally wait until the very last rotation/block in the meet to see if the team's position would change with the positive score change.
2. The timing of a desire for an inquiry is key. If a team feels they have a valid inquiry in the first three rotations, they do not have all the information (team scores) to take the chance of a team deduction.
3. Large meets with more than four teams have teams competing in different blocks. The teams in the second or subsequent block have an advantage regarding inquiries. After each rotation, they have more information/scores to decide if an inquiry will affect their team position, and if it is worth the risk of a deduction. They are the only group who has the opportunity at the end of the meet to know if an inquiry will definitely make a change in their position.

Example: Team 1 is in the first block of an 8 team tournament. When they finish competition, they will have available the team totals for only 4 teams. An inquiry at this point is still a gamble for Team 1 (or any other team in the first block). Team 8 is in the second block. When they finish competition, they will know the team scores for all 8 teams.

4. Individuals on teams are at a disadvantage in the inquiry process. A team may not inquire an individual's score, fearing a team deduction. If the team does not advance in the tournament series, the individual may not advance because the inquiry was not submitted. This could also affect medals in the State tournament.

78 % of those who responded to this question voted yes.

(56 voted yes, 16 voted no, 72 responses out of 76 schools, 95% return rate)

Proposal #2: Ties for individual advancement in the tournament series shall remain; all individuals who receive the last qualifying score will advance.

Rationale:

1. Ties are not broken in regular season and invitational meets, according to National Federation rules. (2012-2014 rules book, page 14, Section 3, Article 1: “In dual, triangular and invitational meets, when a tie occurs, the tie stands.”).
2. Two judges are deemed necessary for the tournament series, in part for fairness. The gymnast's score is computed by averaging the two scores, placing equal value on each score. Breaking the tie by the head judge's score places more value on one person's score.
3. Judges are trained to rank gymnasts by the average score. Judges make sure that the average is in the rank order they prefer. Therefore, the judges have made a very conscious and careful decision that gymnasts receiving the same score are of equal skill and ranking, and that there is no difference between the two. Together, they have made the decision that if there is a tie for the last qualifying spot, all girls should advance.

Example: Three girls tie for fifth place; all 3 girls will advance.

90 % of those who responded to this question voted yes.

(65 voted yes, 7 voted no, 72 responses out of 76 schools, 95% return rate)

Method of Acquiring Results

The survey questions were developed by members of the ICGSA based on discussions with fellow coaches. The ICGSA emailed the survey to all member schools for their consideration. Question 2 (47 yes & 16 no) and question 3 (51 yes & 12 no) are National Federation issues, so they did not become a part of our proposal.

The following is a complete list of questions from the survey.

2013 Gymnastics Survey

1. Yes No I think teams should be allowed two inquires per event without penalty. No penalty will be assessed for the first inquiry afterwards that does not result in a score change; any subsequent inquires that do not result in changes will each be assessed a .5 penalty for the team score.
2. Yes No I think there should be no deduction for a coach standing between the spring board and vault table during a front handspring vault.
3. Yes No I think the back hip circle should be included with squat-on & stoop-on as exceptions to requiring a 45 degree cast.
4. Yes No I think all ties should stand in qualifying and state meets.

School: _____

Coach: _____