



**Iowa Association of Track Coaches
Fall Meeting Minutes (Detailed)
November 16, 2025 - 9:00 AM
Waukee Northwest High School**

1. Call to Order

President Ben Duea called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and welcomed all attendees.

2. Introduction and Welcome

Ben Duea and 1st Vice President Abby Schmitz expressed appreciation for the strong attendance and the continued growth of the organization. Abby reviewed meeting expectations and virtual participation procedures.

3. Attendance

Representatives Jim Duea (IHSAA) and Tyler Lovan (IGHSAU) were present. Both provided updates throughout the meeting as needed.

4. IGHSAU / IHSAA Updates

Jim and Tyler reported continued collaboration between both associations, specifically addressing improvements in communication about state meet preparations and XC/TF administrative processes. Both acknowledged coach feedback regarding awards disparities, selection timelines, and site distribution equity.

5. Drake Relays

Ben Due reported for Blake Bolden an excellent year for Drake Relays, acknowledging the success of cross country and track programs statewide. He presented ideas to expand

hospitality for coaches and create a dedicated space near the stadium warm-up area. The proposal includes tenting, food service, security presence, and streaming availability for coaches.

6. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the prior meeting were approved without corrections.

7. Membership Report

Secretary/Treasurer Peggy McGuire reported:

- Membership levels remain stable.
- Several schools have not paid dues; outreach continues.
- Some schools paid twice, and adjustments are being processed.
- Emphasis placed on ensuring academic awards and recognition do not penalize athletes for unpaid school dues.

8. Social Media & Website Report

Ben Duea reported significant growth in engagement through social platforms and increased website usage, especially during state-level events. The Exchange Zone podcast continues to expand reach and visibility.

Committee Reports

9. Hall of Fame Committee

Mike Jay presented updates on Hall of Fame selections. Inductees have been notified and preparations for the banquet are underway. Coordination with the new venue and event staff is in progress.

10. Awards and Hall of Fame Banquet

Coordinator Greg Thompson emphasized the importance of accurate RSVPs due to strict no-walk-in policies. All award recipients must submit confirmation in advance.

11. XC Team Rankings

Ben Duea reported that team rankings ran smoothly. The committee continues to refine processes for accuracy and transparency.

12. Individual Rankings (CrossCountryRatings.com)

James Mills provided an extensive report:

- The site averaged high traffic and strong coach usage.
- Currently requires 10–15 hours per week for data entry due to inconsistent formatting of meet results.
- James expressed the system is unsustainable as a one-person operation.
- Coaches strongly affirmed the value of the tool.
- Discussion centered on forming a regional or committee-based data entry team.
- Bound integration was explored; Bound indicated other priorities.
- IATC leadership agreed to invest resources and discuss long-term ownership and operation of the ranking system.

13. IATC Exchange Zone Podcast

Kyle Wagner highlighted strong listenership numbers and discussed hopes for restoring a “Selection Sunday” reveal show pending association approval.

14. Dick Washburn State Middle School Meet

Meet Director Eric Cogdill presented:

- Record-high finishers: 1,597.
- Revenue totals: \$47,100 profit for IATC.

- Planned course improvements, including widening turns and adjusting road crossings.
- Discussion about entry limits and potential splitting of 1A boys if numbers exceed safe thresholds.
- Recap of weather contingency planning and previous success with Sunday rescheduling.

15. Apparel Report

Eric Cogdill provided:

- Apparel profit increases from fall 2023 to 2025.
- Vendor cost increases (approx. \$0.90 per garment).
- Excellent sell-through resulted in elimination of rented storage unit.
- Hydration and inventory management improved logistics.

16. Mentorship Program

Coordinators Kelly Grothius

- 12 successful mentor-mentee pairings.
- Strong feedback from both sides.
- High engagement from mentees who self-enrolled.
- Next steps include expanding into track & field and exploring off-season Zoom learning sessions.
- Need for additional track mentors, especially in the Des Moines metro and large-school divisions.

17. Academic All-State (XC)

Abby and Sara reported:

- Increased number of submissions.
- Ongoing issues with form errors, inaccurate coach emails, and missing placement data.
- Discussion about ACT requirement—general consensus to keep ACT optional due to changing postsecondary pathways.

- Maintained top-30 standard despite class size disparities; no changes for 2025.

18. All-State (XC) Abby Schmitz and Peggy McGuire

- Discussion about preserving historical all-state records. Archives will be updated for the last five years.

19. Joint XC / TF Advisory Topics

Discussion included:

- Awards inconsistencies between boys' and girls' sports.
- Streaming of state meets and concerns about cost.
- Trophy differences across sports; cross country receives significantly less recognition than football/volleyball.
- Ongoing issue of announcements during state meet regarding coach notifications.
- Proposals for multi-class state qualifier sites.
- Bound data entry frustrations and desire for IATC advocacy.

20. IATC Indoor Championships

Director Ben Duea discussed major facility concerns from Iowa State:

- They believe the meet is near fire-code capacity.
- Security and crowding issues noted.
- Mandatory changes: separate sessions by class, facility-clearing between sessions, new bus flow procedures.
- Future concerns: Boys State Basketball tournament moving to Hilton same weekend.
- Two options proposed for 2026 onward: Friday/Monday scheduling or moving indoor to week 1 of competition after reducing preseason days.

27. New Business

Topics included:

- Drake Relays hospitality tent proposal.
- Clinic volunteer needs (session presenters, introducers).
- NHSACA national conference seeking presenters.
- New IATC office space, storage consolidation, and podcast studio setup.
- Launch of Past Presidents Dinner at the January clinic.

28. Adjournment

President Ben Duea adjourned the meeting.