

2024-2025 Proposal 1 – 1.000 Constitution

Modify By-laws 1.310, 1.320, 1.330, 1.340, 1.350, and 1.360

Submitted By: Clayton Smith, Official Representative – Collinsville on behalf of Brad Skertich, Superintendent - Collinsville

Summary of Proposed Changes:

By-law 1.300 and sub-sections: High school athletics and activities are continuously expanding across our state, shaping the culture of schools and communities and offering students valuable opportunities for growth through hard work, dedication, teamwork, and facing challenges. However, alongside this growth comes an increased impact on school budgets and student enrollment. Depending on the circumstances, athletics can either greatly benefit a district's finances and enrollment numbers, or conversely, pose significant challenges to its financial stability and student numbers. Furthermore, society and political pressures continue to increase, it is vital IHSA have a wide lens in looking at all matters.

Rationale of Submitter: This proposal aims to shed light on how IHSA athletics influence competition and affect individual high schools and districts as a whole. It presents perspectives from athletic directors, high school principals, and superintendents on the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for positively impacting students, schools, districts, and communities.

Pros: Provides a comprehensive view of how IHSA decisions affect students, high schools, districts, and communities globally, while fostering collaboration and equal voices among athletic directors, high school principals, and superintendents.

Cons: None Identified

Text of By-laws with Proposed Changes

Modify By-laws 1.310, 1.320, 1.340, 1.350, and 1.360

Modify By-law 1.310 - Administration

The administrative authority of this Association shall be vested in a Board of Directors of ~~eleven (11)~~ **fifteen (15)** members elected **and comprised of eleven (11) principals or official representatives and four (4) superintendents** each for a term of three years, as hereinafter provided.

The office of the Association shall be the office of the Board of Directors.

Modify By-law 1.320 – Election Divisions

For the purpose of electing the members of the Board of Directors **as Principals or official representatives** and providing equal representation for all parts of the state, the state shall be divided into seven (7) Divisions. Each of these Divisions shall be formed by combining three of the twenty-one (21) Districts of the state established for the purpose of electing the members of the Legislative Commission, these Districts being defined in Section 1.330 of this Constitution. In addition, four (4) members shall be elected from the membership at-large. One at-large member must be a racial minority, one must be a member of the underrepresented gender, one must be a member of a private/non-public school, one must be from an underrepresented school/Equity Position at the time of the election (50% or more student population being Black or Latinx or low-income per Illinois State Report Card data). All must be principals or administrators designated as official representatives of member schools. No more than two (2) at-large members elected to the Board of Directors may be from the same Board division.

For the purpose of electing the members of the Board of Directors as Superintendents and providing equal representation for all parts of the state, the state shall be divided into three (3) Super Regions as determined by the Illinois Association of School Administrators. All must be superintendents that maintains a high school and a member school. In addition, one at-large member must be a racial minority, or a member of the underrepresented gender, or be from an underrepresented school/Equity Position at the time of the election (50% or more student population being Black or Latinx or low-income per Illinois State Report Card data). No Board of Directors shall represent the same school district or member school.

Modify By-law 1.330 - Divisions Defined

Until changed by the Board of Directors, the seven Divisions from which Directors shall be elected **as Principals or official representatives** shall be made up of Legislative Commission Districts as follows:

Division 1 - Legislative Commission Districts 1, 2 and 3
Division 2 - Legislative Commission Districts 4, 5 and 6
Division 3 - Legislative Commission Districts 7, 8 and 9
Division 4 - Legislative Commission Districts 10, 11 and 12
Division 5 - Legislative Commission Districts 13, 14 and 15
Division 6 - Legislative Commission Districts 16, 17 and 18
Division 7 - Legislative Commission Districts 19, 20 and 21

Until changed by the Board of Directors, the three Super Regions (as defined by the IASA) from which Directors shall be elected as Superintendents shall be made up of:

*Northeastern
North Central
Southern*

Modify By-law 1.340 – Nominations

No later than September 1 each year, the Board of Directors shall cause to be electronically mailed to the principal of each member school in each division in which a member of the Board of Directors is to be elected, and to the membership in the event one or more at-large members of the Board of Directors is to be elected, a letter identifying the positions for which elections are to be held along with a primary ballot requesting nominations for the appropriate Board member positions.

Principals may nominate one principal or official representative from a member school in their Division as a candidate and/or one principal or official representative from any member school in the state as a candidate for an at-large position, *but a representative appointed shall not be a superintendent. Superintendents may nominate one superintendent from a member school in their Super Region as a candidate and/or one superintendent from any member school in the state as a candidate for the at-large position.* These nominations must be completed online by September 15. The Board of Directors shall appoint a teller to verify the vote count. The two principals or official representatives from each Division, or from the state at-large, as pertinent to the positions for which nominations are sought *and two superintendents, or from the state at-large, as pertinent to the positions for which nominations are sought,* receiving the highest number of nominating votes shall be declared the nominees and they shall be notified immediately of their nomination by mail. In case of a tie vote in any Division, the tellers shall determine the winner by lot.

Modify By-law 1.350 – Election

Not later than September 20, the Board of Directors shall cause to be electronically mailed to the principal *and superintendent* of each member school in each Division or in the membership at-large in which an election is to be held, a ballot on which are the names of the two nominees *for principal or official representative and two nominees for superintendent.* Principals *will vote for principals or official representative from a member school and superintendents shall vote for superintendents from member schools and* shall mark their electronic ballots in the regular manner, voting for only one of the nominees. Each electronic ballot shall be submitted electronically to the Association by October 1. The Board of Directors shall appoint a teller who shall meet not later than October 4, to verify the vote count. The teller shall then certify to the Board of Directors the results of the balloting. Within thirty days after the election, the Board shall meet, canvass the vote and declare the candidate(s) in each Division receiving the higher number of votes for each position to have been elected. In case of a tie vote in any Division, the tellers shall determine the winner by lot.

Modify By-law 1.360 – Term of Office

Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected for terms of three years and shall take office immediately upon the determination of their election as provided in 1.350 of this Section. They shall be eligible for no more than three three-year terms. They shall serve until a successor is elected or until they cease to be a principal or official representative *or a superintendent* of a member school in the Division from which they were elected, unless because of redistricting, or in the case of at-large members, until they cease to be principal or official representative *or superintendent* of a member school, or unless they tender their resignation and it is accepted by the Board of Directors. In the event that high school principals or official representatives *or superintendents* who are Board members, because of the redistricting of the state, are removed from their Division, they shall continue to represent the Division from which they were elected for the balance of the year, provided they continue to serve as a principal *or superintendent* of a member school in the territory which formerly comprised the Division from which they were elected.

2024-2025 Proposal 2 - Constitution**Modify By-laws 1.320, 1.340 and 1.360****Submitted By: Dan Tully, Principal – Niles (Notre Dame College Prep) on behalf of the IHSA Board of Directors****Summary of Proposed Changes:**

Adds superintendents to be listed with principals and official representatives who can be nominated and elected to any of the eleven (11) positions on the Board of Directors.

Rationale of Submitter:

Superintendents play a role in supporting high school sports and activities and currently may represent a Board Division or an at-large representative position on the Board when serving as the school's official representative. Adding the superintendent in the constitution in this way will allow for a superintendent to serve on the Board of Directors while another administrator at their school may serve as the official representative of their school.

Pros:**Cons:****Text of By-law with Proposed Changes****Modify By-laws 1.320, 1.340 and 1.360****Modify By-law 1.320 – Election Divisions**

For the purpose of electing the members of the Board of Directors and providing equal representation for all parts of the state, the state shall be divided into seven (7) Divisions. Each of these Divisions shall be formed by combining three of the twenty-one (21) Districts of the state established for the purpose of electing the members of the Legislative Commission, these Districts being defined in Section 1.330 of this Constitution. In addition, four (4) members shall be elected from the membership at-large. One at-large member must be a racial minority, one must be a member of the underrepresented gender, one must be a member of a private/non-public school, one must be from an underrepresented school/Equity Position at the time of the election (50% or more student population being Black or Latinx or low-income per Illinois State Report Card data). All must be *superintendents*, principals, or administrators designated as official representatives of member schools. No more than two (2) at-large members elected to the Board of Directors may be from the same Board division.

Modify By-law 1.340 - Nominations

No later than September 1 each year, the Board of Directors shall cause to be electronically mailed to the principal of each member school in each division in which a member of the Board of Directors is to be elected, and to the membership in the event one or more at-large members of the Board of Directors is to be elected, a letter identifying the positions for which elections are to be held along with a primary ballot requesting nominations for the appropriate Board member positions.

Superintendents or Principals may nominate one *superintendent*, principal, or official representative from a member school in their Division as a candidate and/or one superintendent, principal, or official representative from any member school in the state as a candidate for an at-large position. These nominations must be completed online by September 15. The Board of Directors shall appoint a teller to verify the vote count. The two *superintendents*, principals, or official representatives from each Division, or from the state at-large, as pertinent to the positions for which nominations are sought, receiving the highest number of nominating votes shall be declared the nominees and they shall be notified immediately of their nomination by mail. In case of a tie vote in any Division, the tellers shall determine the winner by lot.

Modify By-law 1.360 – Term of Office

Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected for terms of three years and shall take office immediately upon the determination of their election as provided in 1.350 of this Section. They shall be eligible for no more than three three-year terms. They shall serve until a successor is elected or until they cease to be a *superintendent*, principal or official representative of a member school in the Division from which they were elected, unless because of redistricting, or in the case of at-large members, until they cease to be *superintendent*, principal or official representative of a member school, or unless they tender their resignation and it is accepted by the Board of Directors.

In the event that high school *superintendents*, principals, or official representatives who are Board members, because of the redistricting of the state, are removed from their Division, they shall continue to represent the Division from which they were elected for the balance of the year, provided they continue to serve as a *superintendent*, principal, or *official representative* of a member school in the territory which formerly comprised the Division from which they were elected.

2024-2025 Proposal 3 – 1.400 Powers and Duties of Board
Add By-law 1.451 – Sport and Activity Advisory Committee
Submitted By: Mike Jezioro, Official Representative – Hinsdale (Central)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Adds a by-law that details the specific make-up of advisory committees while establishing a nomination and election process to those who can serve on advisory committees.

Rationale of Submitter:

Advisory committee's make many important recommendations to the IHSA legislation in regards to the state series for that sport, and those committee's members appointments have not been clarified by the IHSA nor has the voting responsibilities been added to the IHSA Constitution.

Pros:

- Allows a transparent process for selection to the advisory committee
- Allows equal representation from across all divisions in the state
- Allows for a state finals host to have a voting representation on the committee
- Allows member schools to have a voice in the selection process of the advisory committee

Cons:

- Adds another nomination and voting process to member schools

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Add By-law 1.451 Sport and Activity Committee

When the IHSA Board establishes an advisory committee, each advisory committee will consist of the following voting members to serve a three (3) year term. For sports that compete in both genders, one advisory committee will be established for the sport or activity – a coach from each gender of the sport shall be chosen at minimum.

- One representative from each of the seven (7) divisions. Representatives will be one of the following from that school in the division: Athletic Director, Coach, or IHSA Official Representative.
- The coordinator of officials for the state finals.
- The athletic director, or their designee, of the state finals host, if the state finals is hosted at a member school.
- Should there be no nominees from a division, the IHSA Director shall appoint a representative.

The advisory committee will also contain the following non-voting member:

- The IHSA Assistant Executive Director that oversees that sport or activity.

The nomination process and election of the committee members shall follow the following procedure:

- Nominations should be completed by September 15th of each year by the IHSA Official Representative through the Schools Center.
- By September 20th the ballots shall be created by the IHSA Office.
- Each Official Representative shall have until October 1st to vote on the nominees in their Division.

2024-2025 Proposal 4 – 1.400 Powers and Duties of Board

Modify By-law 1.460 add By-law 1.460.1 - Rulings and Appeals

Submitted By: Dan Tully, Principal – Niles (Notre Dame College Prep) on behalf of the IHSA Board of Directors

Summary of Proposed Changes:

1.460 and 1.460.1 (new) Modifies the process for who at IHSA makes initial transfer and residence eligibility rulings and establishes an appeal process that involves a subgroup of the Board of Directors. Two assistant executive directors would be promoted to associate executive directors to support this work, and on a rotation, three (3) Board members would conduct virtual appeal hearings on days other than current Board of Directors meetings to decide appeals to transfer and residence eligibility.

Rationale of Submitter:

The number of transfers and appeal hearing requests has been increasing over the past several years. Permitting appeal hearings to be heard in advance of Board meetings will allow the focus and work of the Board to meet the needs of the Association.

Pros: This proposal recognizes the changing landscape of Association work.

Cons:

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 1.460 and Add By-law 1.460.1

Subject to 1.460.1, the Executive Director shall have the authority and responsibility to investigate and decide all matters concerning eligibility, protests, by-laws or rules. The Executive Director may modify the effect of or penalty for violation of or non-compliance with any by-law or rule if the circumstances causing the student or school to be ineligible or otherwise in violation of or non-compliance with the by-law or rule are determined:

- (a) to have been completely beyond the control of all of the following:
 - (1) the student
 - (2) the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s)
 - (3) the school
- (b) or where the violation of non-compliance has been caused exclusively by a clerical or administrative error.

A student, parent/guardian, school, or individual, in whose favor or against whom a decision of the Executive Director made pursuant to this Section applies, may appeal that decision by submitting a written request for a hearing to the Board of Directors. In response to such a written request, the Board of Directors or, in its discretion, a hearing officer appointed by the Board, shall conduct a hearing to review the action of the Executive Director.

At a hearing, the party appealing the action and all other interested parties, including but not limited to representatives of the member school, may appear and present information for consideration. After a hearing before the Board, or upon receipt and review of the hearing officer’s report, the Board may, within the authority of this Constitution and By-laws, sustain, modify, or overturn the Executive Director’s decision, or sustain, increase, decrease or otherwise modify any penalty for violation of any by-law or rule or take such other action as it finds appropriate. If a hearing has been conducted by a hearing officer-appointed by the Board, the student, parent/guardian, school or individual in whose favor or against whom a decision has been sustained or modified, may request, in writing through the principal of the involved member school, a further hearing to be held before the Board of Directors in accordance with the provisions of this Section, at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board or at a special meeting of the Board convened by the president of the Board *for the purpose of hearing the appeal*. The decision or action of the Board of Directors, pursuant to any hearing held before it, shall in all instances be final.

1.460.1 Rulings and Appeals under Residence (3.030) and Transfer (3.040) Eligibility By-laws.

The Executive Director, with the consent of the Board of Directors, shall designate one or more Associate Executive Directors to investigate and decide all eligibility matters under the Residency (3.030) and Transfer (3.040) By-Laws. The Associate Executive Director responsible for the investigation and ruling may modify the effect of or penalty for violation of or non-compliance with the Residency or Transfer By-Law in issue if the circumstances causing the student or school to be ineligible or otherwise in violation of or non-compliance with the by-law or rule are determined:

- (a) to have been completely beyond the control of all of the following:***
 - (1) the student***
 - (2) the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)***
 - (3) the school***
- (b) or where the violation or non-compliance has been caused exclusively by a clerical or administrative error.***

A student, parent/guardian, school, or individual, in whose favor or against whom a decision of the Associate Executive Director made pursuant to this Section applies, may appeal that decision by submitting a written request to the IHSA for a hearing before a Hearing Board constituted for the purpose of hearing appeals involving eligibility under the Residency and Transfer by-laws. The Hearing Board shall be comprised of three (3) members of the IHSA Board of Directors chosen under procedures adopted by the IHSA Board of Directors.

After a hearing before the Hearing Board, the Hearing Board may, within the authority of this Constitution and the By-laws, sustain, modify, or overturn the Associate Executive Director's decision, or sustain, increase, decrease or otherwise modify any penalty for violation of the Residence or Transfer by-law or rule or take such other action as it finds appropriate. The vote of each member of the Hearing Board shall be recorded in the decision. If the decision of the Hearing Board is unanimous, the decision shall in all instances be final. If the decision of the Hearing Board is not unanimous, the student, parent/guardian, school or individual in whose favor or against whom a decision has been sustained or modified, may request, in writing through the principal of the involved member school, a further appeal hearing to be held before the Board of Directors in accordance with the provisions of this Section, at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board or at a special meeting of the Board convened by the president of the Board for the purpose of considering the appeal. The decision or action of the Board of Directors, pursuant to any hearing held before it, shall in all instances be final.

Any eligibility matters involving combined questions of Residence or Transfer and any other eligibility by-law(s) shall be decided by the Executive Director (with any appeal heard by the Board of Directors) under the provisions of Section 1.460.

2024-2025 Proposal 5 – Cooperative Team Sponsorship

Modify By-law 2.030

Submitted By: Tom Schergen, Principal – Chicago (De La Salle); Jason Dillon, Official Representative – Chicago (Cristo Rey Jesuit); Larry Daly, Principal – Decatur (St. Teresa); Jeremy Garrett, Principal - Peoria (P. Christian); Dan Beebe, Official Representative – Aurora (A. Christian); Josh Blaszak, Principal – Chicago (St. Rita).

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Expands the opportunity for private schools to form cooperative teams with enrollments up to 900 in single class sports and activities with no competition restriction. In multiple class sports the cooperative team may compete in the regular season only. If a sport permits individual entries, the students could represent the home school. In multi-class team bracketed sports, no state series entries permitted.

Rationale of Submitter:

- This amendment seeks to increase access to sports to more student athletes in Illinois through cooperative teams, and, in doing so, potentially increase the number of schools participating in emerging or declining sports within the IHSA.
- Would only have an effect on Single Class sports in the IHSA State Series, which many already have a significant number of coop teams between larger schools
- The spirit behind cooperative teams is that it enables high schools to offer more sports opportunities to students, sports that one school alone may not have the interest level or the resources to field.
- With the current enrollment cap of 200, only 53 Private schools have permission to form cooperative teams.
- Raising the enrollment cap on Private schools to 900, we hope to expand sports access to more students in 56 additional Private schools.
- The hope is that more cooperative partnerships between Private schools and between Public and Private schools will enable the continuation as well as increase the number of student-athletes participating in Illinois high school sports and activities.
- This would be a benefit to both private and public schools and their student-athletes.
- Current measures are already written into the language of the by-law, preventing schools with ill-intent from creating “super teams”.
- This amendment change could very well lead to Public and Private schools creating Cooperative Teams together that would not only benefit their students but also bring community cooperation.
- By-law would not be able to be adjusted without membership approval through the by-law process.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 2.030 – Cooperative Team Sponsorship

The Board of Directors shall have the authority to approve the formation of cooperative athletic teams or activity programs by two or more member schools under the following conditions:

- (a) The schools are located in the same geographical area;
- (b) All schools participating in the cooperative are Class A (in a 2-class system) or Class 1A or 2A (in a 3 or 4-class system) schools according to the IHSA Classification System; or, in the event one or more of the cooperating schools is a Class 3A or 4A public school, the cooperative team is for a sport other than Boys Football or Boys or Girls Basketball; In the event one or more of the schools involved in the cooperative is a **public** non-boundaried school, that school’s actual enrollment, not the multiplied enrollment is used to determine the eligibility of the cooperative team request.

~~(e) Only private schools with non-multiplied enrollments of 200 are eligible to form cooperative teams.~~

(c) Private schools with non-multiplied enrollments of 200 or less are eligible to form cooperative teams in all sports and activities. Private schools with the non-multiplied enrollments of more than 200 and up to 900 are eligible to form cooperative teams in all activities and the following single class sports: Boys and Girls Lacrosse, Swimming/Diving, Bowling, Water Polo, Girls Gymnastics, Girls Badminton, Boys Volleyball. The following multi-class sports are eligible to form cooperative teams but may not compete in the State Playoff Series as a team but the student’s home school can enter individuals into the State Series: Boys and Girls Tennis, Golf, Track/Field, Wrestling and Cross Country. The following multi-class sports are eligible to form cooperative teams but may not compete in the State Playoff Series as a team or individuals: Boys and Girls Soccer, Baseball, Softball, Competitive Cheerleading, and Competitive Dance.

- (d) The combined enrollments of all schools involved in the cooperative team, calculated according to the IHSA Classification System, is utilized to determine the classification for the cooperative team;
- (e) The cooperative sponsorship agreement is established for a period of two consecutive school years;
- (f) The governing boards of all schools participating in the cooperative team agreement jointly make the application to the IHSA Board of Directors for approval of the cooperative team agreement;
- (g) The joint application includes:
 - (1) Written approval from the conference(s) of which the cooperating schools are members, and/or in which the cooperative team will participate, or, in the event the cooperative team will not be affiliated with a conference, written approval from a minimum of seven schools included in the cooperative team's schedule of competition;
 - (2) A statement signed by the principals of all cooperating schools designating the name under which the cooperative team will compete;
 - (3) A report of the number of students from each of the cooperative schools expected to participate on the cooperative team;
 - (4) A report of the number of students, if any, from each of the cooperating schools who have been participating in the sport involved, in programs offered on a non-cooperative basis by their own schools;
 - (5) A statement expressing the reasons for the formation of a cooperative team;
 - (6) Written assurance that the cooperative team will not limit participation opportunities for students in any of the cooperating schools.
 - (7) Individual schools who are denied approval to be part of a cooperative team by a conference or the minimum of seven schools included in the cooperative team's schedule of competition can appeal the denied approval to the IHSA Board of Directors.***

When a cooperative team completes two years of approved operation and the boards of education involved wish to renew the agreement for another two-year period, the involved school(s) shall submit to the IHSA, by the established date, notification that they wish to continue the cooperative with no changes and written approval from the conference.

2024-2025 Proposal 6 – Selection and Use of Licensed Officials

Modify By-law 2.080

Submitted By: Filberto Torres, Official Representative, Riverside (R.-Brookfield); Steven Tracy, Official Representative, Elgin (Larkin); Kaleb Carter, Official Representative – South Elgin

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Modifies the requirements for the selection and use of licensed sports officials in varsity sports. Adds penalties for officials working as unlicensed officials and for assignors (where used by member schools) when an unlicensed official is assigned to work a contest. No penalties to the school when using an assignor and for a first-time offense.

Rationale of Submitter:

We have seen a spike in schools being put on probation for this by-law and the by-law is not very specific, nor does it truly apply to today's world of athletics. This by-law needs to be updated so schools are not punished unnecessarily, and resources are not wasted on tedious tasks. Schools and students should also not be punished for an adult problem brought on by referees who are out of compliance.

Pros:

- Brings the language of the bylaw into the 21st century
- Cleans up the process for officials, schools, and IHSA
- Stops punishing schools for officials who are out of compliance
- Puts the onus on assignors, officials and IHSA to be more proactive and transparent with schools

Cons:

- None for member schools

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 2.080 – Selection and Use of Licensed Officials

All ~~major~~ officials for *varsity* athletic contests must be licensed with the IHSA in the sport the individual is to officiate, ~~except that in the event~~ *exceptions can be made when* contracted officials do not appear for a contest below varsity level, and with mutual consent by all competing schools, members of the coaching staff, faculty, and/or administrative staff of any of the competing schools may officiate the contest. The Board of Directors shall be responsible to establish policies and procedures governing the licensing process. *Should a school be found to have used an unlicensed official, the unlicensed official shall be suspended for the rest of that sport season, the assignor shall be put on probation by the IHSA and the school, along with entirety of member schools shall be notified of the official who is out of compliance. No punishment for schools shall be set forth by the IHSA for a first-time offense by sport if they employ an assignor. At the beginning of each season, the IHSA shall send member schools a list of officials across all sports who have had a lapse in their license and cannot officiate.* ~~The names of game officials for each interscholastic athletic contest must be submitted by the host school to the visiting school not later than five school days before such contest and must be mutually agreed upon not later than the night preceding the contest.~~

This proposal will take effect 30 days after passage

2024-2025 Proposal 7 – Travel Policy

Modify By-law 2.180

Submitted By: Amy Boscolo, Official Representative – Edwardsville (H.S.)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Modifies the travel policy to permit a school team to travel out of state any distance with students missing up to four (4) school days (which can be consecutive) including travel to and from competition. Goes into effect upon the conclusion of the vote if approved by the member schools.

Rationale of Submitter:

The proposed adjustment to the travel policy maintains the limit of four school days that students can miss for competitions while providing greater flexibility in how those days are utilized. This change enables schools to determine the best travel arrangements and schedules that suit their specific needs, accommodating longer trips or events that may require more travel time. By allowing teams to use the four missed days without restricting the number of occasions, this policy fosters enhanced participation in out-of-state competitions, supports team development, and encourages a well-rounded student experience. This flexibility can lead to better planning and logistics, ultimately benefiting both students and schools.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 2.180 – Travel Policy

School teams may travel out of state any distance. ~~provided the~~ Participating students *can* miss ~~no more than two school days~~, *up to four (4) school days*, including travel to and from the competition. The number of instances that any single school team can use this provision is *not* limited ~~to two per school year~~ *per occasion, but the total days missed (four) per season.*

This proposal will take effect 30 days after passage

2024-2025 Proposal 8 – 3.030 Residence

Modify By-law 3.030

Submitted By: Kenneth Johnson, Official Representative – Chicago (Corliss)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Introduces a definition of an Informal Guardian and modifies the by-laws that would determine residence eligibility to include the informal guardian as an adult the student could live with other than parents, custodial parent or court appointed legal guardian to meet the residence by-law.

Rationale of Submitter:

This amendment recognizes the non-traditional living arrangements of students, such as those in blended families or experiencing homelessness, while ensuring fairness with clear documentation and penalties for falsified claims.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 3.030 - Residence

A student is eligible to participate in interscholastic activities at the school in the district where the student's ~~custodial~~ parent(s), ~~or court-~~
~~appointed~~ legal guardian(s), ~~reside on a full-time basis.~~ *or other responsible adult with whom they reside full-time. In cases of
homelessness or multiple households, documentation of the living situation must be submitted for IHSA review. Penalties for falsified
residency claims include a 90-day suspension and forfeiture of games.*

2024-2025 Proposal 9 – 3.030 Residence

Modify By-law 3.031.1

Submitted By: Kenneth Johnson, Official Representative – Chicago (Corliss)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Introduces a definition of an Informal Guardian and modifies the by-laws that would determine residence eligibility to include the informal guardian as an adult the student could live with other than parents, custodial parent or court appointed legal guardian to meet the residence by-law.

Rationale of Submitter:

This amendment offers flexibility for families facing financial or logistical barriers to obtaining legal guardianship, while ensuring proper documentation through notarized affidavits or other trusted sources.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 3.031.1 - Residence

They reside full-time with their parents, ~~custodial parent, or~~ court-appointed guardian, *or informal guardian, as validated by a notarized affidavit or documentation from a trusted organization*, or have lived with ~~another~~ *a related family member providing full support for at least two years prior to* *upon* enrolling ~~in high school.~~

2024-2025 Proposal 10 – 3.030 Residence

Modify By-law 3.031.2

Submitted By: Kenneth Johnson, Official Representative – Chicago (Corliss)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Introduces a definition of an Informal Guardian and modifies the by-laws that would determine residence eligibility to include the informal guardian as an adult the student could live with other than parents, custodial parent or court appointed legal guardian to meet the residence by-law.

Rationale of Submitter:

This amendment ensures consistency across the by-laws and recognizes informal guardianship without requiring court-appointed legal status.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 3.031.2 – Residence

They reside full-time with their parents or *legal* guardian, *or informal guardian*, and have attended the seventh and eighth grades as non-resident tuition-paying students in the district.

2024-2025 Proposal 11 – 3.030 Residence

Modify By-law 3.031.3

Submitted By: Paul Karafiol, Principal – Chicago (Lake View)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Modifies the residence by-law to allow continued residence eligibility when students move outside their attendance area in a multiple high school district and continued attendance at that high school is permitted by the district.

Rationale of Submitter:

Districts with multiple boundaried high schools sometimes allow students to remain enrolled in a boundaried school even if they move into the boundary of a different school of the same district. Without this amendment, a student competing at boundaried school A whose family moves inside the boundaries of school B would be forced to transfer to school B in order to keep competing, even if the district overseeing both schools allows the student to remain at school A. Districts make these allowances because transfers have been shown to reduce students' attendance, grades, and chances of graduation. IHSA should support these policies by allowing students who remain at a school after moving within a district to compete with their original school.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 3.031.3 - Residence

They reside full time with one birth or adoptive parent or other relative without assignment of custody or legal guardianship by the court, provided:

- (1) their residence is in the district in which the member school they attend is located, *even if they are no longer within the attendance boundary of that school (provided that continued enrollment is allowed by the district)*, and;
- (2) they attended that member school the previous school term.
- (3) if a freshman, they attended both seventh and eighth grade in the district.

2024-2025 Proposal 12 – 3.040 Transfer

Modify By-law 3.043.3

Submitted By: Nathan Hinz, Official Representative – Crete (Illinois Lutheran)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Adds an exception for transfer eligibility to be granted by the Executive Director in sports the student did not previous participate during the previous academic year at the school from which the student transferred.

Rationale of Submitter:

The current IHSA rules regarding transfer students often impose restrictions that limit their ability to participate in all sports after moving from one high school to another. Specifically, students who transfer from a public school to a private school are not granted eligibility unless there are documented extenuating circumstances. However, this includes sports in which students did not participate at their previous school.

This proposal seeks to amend the IHSA’s eligibility rules to permit students who transfer from public to private schools to be immediately eligible for participation in varsity sports in which they did not participate during the previous academic year.

Pros:

- Transfer students often seek a fresh start in their academic careers. Allowing transfers to play new sports will contribute to their personal and social development in a new school environment.
- The current restrictions on transfer students were designed to prevent unfair recruitment but discourages students from the well-documented benefits of sport participation.
- More students will be able to join sports teams, fostering a wider base of athletic involvement across all schools.
- Transfer students who did not compete in a particular sport at their previous school overwhelmingly pose no competitive imbalance or recruitment concerns, as they are new participants in that sport.
- Increasing opportunities for students to engage in new sports promotes fairness across the association and aligns with the IHSA’s mission to enhance the educational experience of students through athletics.

Cons:

- While the number of these situations would be minimal, it is possible for a student who is experienced in a particular sport but did not participate at his or her previous high school to become a target of improper recruiting.

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 3.043.3 - Transfer

In the event the student transfers attendance from any high school to any other high school, and the transfer is not in conjunction with a change in residence by both the student and his or her parents, custodial parent, surviving parent, or guardian to a residence outside the boundaries of the public school district attendance area the family originally resided in, the Executive Director may grant eligibility ***in certain or all sports*** based on documentation that the transfer met one of the following conditions:

- The student is enrolling for the first time in the student’s home public member high school with boundaries;
- Change in family’s financial position;
- Extenuating circumstances documented by the sending school’s principal or official representative;
- Limited eligibility may be granted when the student transfers schools prior to the beginning of the student’s Junior year.
- ***The student did not participate in a particular sport during the previous academic year at the school from which the student transferred.***

2024-2025 Proposal 13 - 3.040 Transfer

Modify By-law 3.43.4

Submitted By: Paul Karafiol, Principal – Chicago (Lake View)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Permits residence eligibility for students transferring schools in conjunction with the student moving to live with the other parent who is not the custodial parent provided that parent has resided in the attendance area of the new school or the school's district or within a 30 mile radius of the school for at least six months prior to the move.

Rationale of Submitter:

The current rule requires a change of legal custody corresponding with the change of residence, which implies the existence of a series of legal documents that, for many students, may not exist: their parents may never been legally married, and there may never have been any formal legal documentation of custody arrangements. Getting that documentation can be time-consuming and expensive, thus out of reach for many low-income families. The requirement that the receiving parent have lived in the boundary of the school or district for at least six months will deter families from using the provisions of this rule to “shop” for a school based on its athletics program.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 3.043.4 - Transfer

The student, who is a child of ~~divorced or legally separated parents~~, *parents who do not share a residence*, transfers attendance from one high school to another in conjunction with a change *of residence from one parent to the other, provided that the parent to whom the child is moving has lived in the attendance area of the school (for boundaried schools) or the school's district (for public, non-boundaried schools), or within 30-miles of the schools (for non-public schools) for at least six months prior to the move.* ~~in legal custody between the parents by action of a judge of a court of proper jurisdiction, and a change in the student's residence from the former custodial parent to the parent to whom custody has been awarded by the court, provided that a copy of the petition and the court order is changing custody is on file with the principals of the high school to which the student transfers.~~

2024-2025 Proposal 14 – 3.060 Age

Add By-law 3.062

Submitted By: Paul Karafiol, Principal – Chicago (Lake View)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Increases the age limitation from when a student turns 20 to 22 when a student arrives from another country with limited high school years completed. Football is an exception to this restriction.

Rationale of Submitter:

Refugees and migrants often come to the United States with interrupted schooling and limited opportunities for self-advocacy in joining the grade appropriate to their age. Such students, through no fault of their own and without having engaged in any machinations to compete below their age group, can reach the age limit set in rule 4.041 without having completed their high school education. As we seek to integrate these young people into our society, culture, and values, we should be promoting their ability to participate in interscholastic athletics. Not allowing these students to compete puts another hurdle in their path to becoming full-fledged members of American society, after they have already crossed so many. Football seems like a sport where an exception is warranted for safety reasons.

Pros:

- Would grant eligibility to immigrant students who arrive in the US and are placed in a grade below the standard one for their age, giving them an incentive to maintain academic progress and fully integrate into their school communities.

Cons:

- Would allow some older athletes to compete against younger, native-born athletes and athletes who immigrated but were appropriately placed in schools, which might disadvantage those athletes.

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Add By-law 3.062 - Age

If a student arrives at the United States from another country and is placed in a grade such that they would not graduate from high school taking a standard course load before they turn 20, and if they continue to progress academically at the rate of one grade per year, they shall be eligible to compete in IHSA athletics until they turn 22 or until they graduate from high school, whichever comes first, except for the sport of Football, where the standard age limitation shall apply.

2024-2025 Proposal 15 – 3.100 Independent Team Participation

Modify By-law 3.107

Submitted By: Trish Betthausser, Official Representative – Lincolnshire (Stevenson)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Modifies the opportunity for high school coaches to coach or serve an administrative role for non-school teams during the school year only if the number of squad members from his/her school which are on the non-school team roster does not exceed one-half the number of players needed to field a team in actual IHSA State Series competition. Eliminates “involved in any respect” from the current by-law.

Rationale of Submitter:

Currently an individual who serves an administrator for a non-school team cannot coach high school, even if the number of players is under the one-half limit. In addition, Question 208 is confusing and inequitable for the sports that may have co-ed clubs (swimming, track and field, wrestling, diving, cross country, soccer, etc.) The “number of participants in the club from his/her school exceeds one half...” is applied to the letter of the law, then it is saying if there are more than 15 total boys and girls from X high school are in the same club, then the individual in question cannot be a part of the club staff at all.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 3.107 – Independent Team Participation

During the School year, a person who is a coach in any sport at a member school, may be involved in ~~any respect with any non-school team, only if the number of squad members from his/her school which are on the~~ *a coaching or administrative role with any* non-school team, *only if the number of squad members from his/her school which are on the non-school team* roster does not exceed one-half the number of players needed to field a team in actual IHSA State Series competition in that sport. The number of non-school team squad members that are counted only include those that are eligible to play in the next season sport.

2024-2025 Proposal 16 – 3.120 All-Star Participation

Modify By-law 3.121

Submitted By: Trish Betthausen, Official Representative- Lincolnshire (Stevenson)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Modifies the All-Star limitation by-law to be in place during the school year only.

Rationale of Submitter:

Allows opportunities for athletes to participate in unique competitions outside of the high school season.

Pros:

- Cleans up the language
- Allows students to compete in 3 all-star contests per sport during the summer months

Cons:

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 3.121 – All-Star Participation

No student at a member school shall participate on an all-star team in any IHSA sport, during the ~~student's high school career until completing their interscholastic athletic eligibility in that particular sport.~~ *school year, (from Monday of Week 8 through Saturday of Week 49 of the IHSA standardized calendar) while they still have remaining high school eligibility.* A student may participate in no more than three (3) all-star contests in a sport.

2024-2025 Proposal 17 – 3.150 - Special Provisions for Summer Participation

Modify By-law 3.153

Submitted By: Mark Bacys, Official Representative – Danville (H.S.); Eric Benson, Principal – Somonauk on behalf of the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee.

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Modifies the number of summer contact days restriction from 25 to 20 days.

Rationale of Submitter:

The Sports Medicine Advisory Committee feels this recommendation will help athletes' physical and mental health by reducing the number of contact days our high school athletes can have. Right now, many multi-sport athletes go year-round from sport to sport; this is weighing on our athletes to a point where they are more beat up coming out of summer than they are at the end of the season. This by-law amendment will still allow weightlifting and conditioning if no sport-specific training occurs. This by-law recommendation will keep our kids active in our schools and hopefully give them the break they need over the summer to rest, relax, and enjoy their breaks from school.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 3.153 – Special Provisions for Summer Participation

Persons who coach a sport at a member school may have a maximum of ~~25~~**20** days of contact *or school represented activities/competition* in that sport, with students from that school during the period between the last day of classes or Monday of Week 49 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar (whichever date is earlier) in the spring each year and Sunday of Week 5 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar. The students may have a maximum of ~~25~~**20** days of contact per sport with persons who coach that sport at the school they attend during the same time period. A day of contact is defined as any date on which any coaching or instruction in the skills and techniques of any sport *or any organization of sport-related activities or competition outside of weights and conditioning takes place. A school represented activity/competition is a time where the students participate in sport specific leagues or camps while representing their school with or without their coach present.* These limitations apply to all sports except Baseball and Softball. An exception may be made by the Executive Director under the guidelines adopted by the Board of Directors for competitions sponsored and conducted directly by the National Governing Body for the sport.

If a school or team conducts a summer strength and conditioning program separate from any team contact days, these days will not count towards the ~~25~~**20** contact days provided the only contact is done with strength training, speed, agility, and conditioning drills. During the summer contact day period, strength training, speed, agility, and conditioning drills will be limited to no more than 4 days per week with a maximum of 90 minutes per training session.

This proposal will take effect 30 days after passage

2024-2025 Proposal 18 – 3.170 Classification
Modify By-law 3.170 and Delete By-law 3.171
Submitted By: David Ribbens, Official Representative – Chicago (University)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Deletes the exception to the classification by-law to eliminate the 1.65 multiplier.

Rationale of Submitter:

The enrollment multiplier has failed to deliver on the IHSA's intent and reflects poor educational policy:

- The multiplier rule reflects an unsuccessful attempt to control the outcomes of athletic contests, a goal that is outside the IHSA's mission and purpose.
- The IHSA mission statement, and subsequent statement of purpose, make no mention whatsoever of providing a level playing field or of attempting to control the success of one segment of schools versus another.
- A "level playing field" exists throughout the IHSA as we all agree to abide by the IHSA eligibility rules, seasons of competition, coaching certifications, use of IHSA certified officials, NFHS rules of play.
- The multiplier at its core is punishing students' success from non-boundaries schools by hoping they are less successful competing with larger schools. The concept has no place in educationally based athletics.
- The IHSA stated goal of "leveling the playing field" was never defined so there is no way to measure whether it is accomplishing the goal.

Pros:

- Each student will be counted equally regardless of their school type
- Teams will be assigned to the State Series on their actual enrollment

Cons:

- Keeping the enrollment multiplier punishes specific teams for being successful, a practice that is not sound educational policy

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 3.170 and Delete By-law 3.171 - Classification

By-law 3.170

The IHSA Board of Directors has the complete authority to establish and implement policies to determine the number of classes of competition in IHSA sports and activities and to classify schools participating in such sports/activities. ~~except as follows:~~
~~An enrollment multiplier of 1.65 will be added to all non-boundaried schools unless application of this multiplier is waived under a policy of waiver, which would be established by the Board of Directors.~~

~~The definition of a non-boundaried school is: Any private school, charter school, lab school, magnet school, residential school, and any public school in a multi-high school district that does not accept students from a fixed portion of the district.~~

Classifications shall be determined on a semi-annual basis.

~~There will be a sub-committee comprised of IHSA staff and Legislative Commission members to develop the waiver policy for submission to the Board.~~

~~3.171 Any member public member school charging less than the full tuition rate authorized by the Illinois School Code will be considered a non-boundaried school for classification purposes.~~

2024-2025 Proposal 19 – 3.170 Classification

Modify By-law 3.170

Submitted By: Adam Eucker, Official Representative – Williamsville on behalf of the Sangamo Conference.

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Removes the 1.65 multiplier and the multiplier waiver for all schools. Replaced with enrollments of non-boundary schools to be the average enrollment of all public and non-boundary high schools that are above that school's enrollment and within a 30-mile radius of the school.

- In three (3) class sports, non-boundaried schools will not move more than one class higher than their multiplied enrollment from the previous enrollment cycle.
- In sports of four classes or more, non-boundaried schools will not move more than two classes higher than their multiplied enrollment from the previous enrollment cycle.
- The multiplied enrollment (1.65) will only be used to determine the initial placement in the 2025-2026 school year.

Rationale of Submitters:

Currently non-boundaried schools can draw students from a thirty-mile radius as per by-law 3.032.4. All public/boundaried schools are limited to the student population that is within the physical square miles of their school district. By allowing non-boundaried schools to draw students from a larger area, this can give them a competitive advantage. This proposal would show the true population density that non-boundaried schools can draw from.

Pros:

- A greater competitive balance can be established during the IHSA post-season.
- Places non-boundaried schools at the correct enrollment classification based upon the number of students they can draw from for enrollment.
- Provides a clear picture of the true population density that non-boundaried schools can draw from.
- The current multiplier of 1.65 was established during a two-class system. This would bring things in alignment with the current classification system.

Cons:

- Additional work would be put on IHSA in terms of calculating enrollments on a yearly basis.

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 3.170 - Classification

~~An enrollment multiplier of 1.65 will be added to all non-boundaried school unless application of this multiplier is waived under a policy of waiver which would be established by the Board of Directors.~~

All non-boundaried schools will compete at the enrollment of the average of all public/ boundaried schools that are above their enrollment within their thirty-mile radius.

In sports and activities that have three classes, a non-boundaried school will not move more than one class higher than their multiplied enrollment from the previous enrollment cycle.

In sports and activities that have four classes or more, a non-boundaried school will not move more than two classes higher than their multiplied enrollment from the previous enrollment cycle.

The multiplied enrollment (1.65) will only be used to determine the initial placement in the 2025-2026 school year.

This proposal would take effect at the end of the current classification cycle, which is in effect until the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

Link to breakdown of non-boundaried trophy winners over past eleven seasons:

<https://bit.ly/3XUB4wQ>

2024-2025 Proposal 20 – 5.000 Sport Season By-laws

Add By-law 5.004 – Season Limit Violations

Submitted By: Filberto Torres, Official Representative – Riverside (R.-Brookfield)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Adds specific language to the penalties for schools that exceed their season limitation in any sport. The penalty includes:

- Head Coach suspended for entire state series and the number of games they went over in the following season.
- If the school is a predetermined host, they forfeit the host school guarantee
- Athletic Director and school put on probation for the rest of the year.
- Subsequent violations in the same sport shall result in forfeiture of the team from the state series.

Rationale of Submitter:

There have been a handful of schools/teams who have missed out on the IHSA State Series due to season limit violations and we believe it is unfair to punish students for errors made by adults. It is time for some common sense and a return of focus on protecting the students we serve.

Pros:

- Allows for a reasonable resolution to the issue as a first-time offense
- Allows students to participate in the state series
- Penalizes those responsible for oversight and not the students

Cons:

- None for member schools

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Add By-law 5.004 – Sport Season By-laws

If a school goes over the season limitations in any sport, the following policy shall be enforced:

- *Head Coach is suspended for the entirety of the State Series for as long as their team is still competing. Head Coach is also suspended the next season for the amount of games they went over the season limit.*
- *If the school is hosting any state series events in that sport, they shall forfeit the host guarantee.*
- *Athletic Director and School shall be put on probation for rest of year.*
- *Subsequent violations in the same sport shall result in forfeiture of the team from the state series as was enforced previously.*

2024-2025 Proposal 21 – 5.000 Sport Season By-laws

Modify By-laws –5.022 Boys Spring Baseball – Contest Limitations; 5.052 Boys Basketball – Team Limitations; 5.042 Boys Basketball – Team Limitations; 5.073 Boys Football – Contest Limitations; 5.103 Boys Soccer – Contest Limitations; 5.142 Boys Volleyball – Contest Limitations; 5.182 Girls Basketball – Team Limitations; 5.252 Girls Soccer – Contest Limitations; 5.323 Girls Volleyball – Contest Limitations

Submitted By: Chris Kusnerick, Official Representative – Alton (Sr.)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Team sports permitted to conduct Preseason Jamborees that involve three or four teams format only including football. Each sport has some specific rule/game exceptions/modifications.

Rationale of Submitter:

Pros:

- The success of the Football scrimmages in the fall showed the benefits of having an additional opportunity to compete in a limited basis against an opponent before your first contest
- Great opportunity to work on some game specific situations against an opponent
- Gives officials in all team sports the opportunity to work a contest before an actual regular season contest. With this format it is very conducive to work in younger, inexperienced officials with veteran officials in game like situations
- Numerous states across the country already allow this

Cons:

- Not all IHSA sponsored sports can participate such as Track and Field, Wrestling, Golf, etc.

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 5.022 Boys Spring Baseball – Contest Limitations

No Boys Spring Baseball team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than thirty-five (35) games ***and one (1) preseason scrimmage/jamboree among three or four schools*** exclusive of the IHSA series.

Scrimmage Restrictions:

- ***Free substituting***
- ***Each half inning will end after three outs or eight runs whichever comes first***
- ***Players are limited to two innings as a pitcher during the event***

Three or Four-Team Format:

- ***When three schools participate, a maximum of four innings against each team with a maximum of eight innings per school for the event will be allowed.***
- ***When four schools participate, a maximum of three innings against each team and a maximum of nine innings for each school for the event will be allowed.***
- ***A scrimmage/jamboree may be conducted after your team has completed nine conditioning practices and before your first contest.***

Modify By-law 5.042 Boys Basketball – Team Limitations

No Boys Basketball team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than thirty-one (31) games ***and one (1) preseason scrimmage/jamboree among three or four schools*** exclusive of the IHSA series.

Scrimmage Restrictions:

- ***Personal fouls will not be tallied***

Three or Four-Team Format:

- ***When three schools participate, each school will play three quarters of six minutes each against each of the two other teams, for a maximum of six quarters and 36 total minutes.***
- ***When four schools participate, each school will play two quarters of six minutes each against each of the three other teams, for a maximum of six quarters and 36 total minutes***
- ***A preseason scrimmage/jamboree may be conducted after your team has completed nine conditioning practices and before your first contest.***

Modify By-law 5.073 Boys Football – Contest Limitations

No Boys Football team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than nine (9) games and one (1) preseason scrimmage/*jamboree among three or four* schools exclusive of the IHSA series and exclusive of the City of Chicago Prep Bowl series, participated in by the Chicago Public League and the Chicago Catholic league, and I8FA playoff series, participated in by members of the Illinois 8-Man Football Association.

Scrimmage Restrictions:

- IHSA approved officials must be used
- Teams may participate in up to four separate 12 play segments (two offense/two defense)
- There will be no kickoffs, punts, field goals allowed
- Teams may try for an extra point without a defense on the field without counting as a play
- No individual player shall participate in more than 48 total plays on the day of the scrimmage ie – sophomore who plays varsity could go 24 plays in sophomore scrimmage and 24 plays in varsity scrimmage
- Individual players are not allowed to participate in live contact or Thud in practice the day before or after participating in scrimmage

Three or Four-Team Format:

- *When three schools participate, a maximum of two quarters per team with a maximum of eighteen (18) offensive plays per quarter shall be allowed. When four schools participate, a maximum of three quarters per team with a maximum of twelve (12) offensive plays per quarter shall be allowed.*
- *A preseason scrimmage/jamboree may be conducted after your team has completed eight conditioning practices and before your first contest.*

Modify By-law 5.103 Boys Soccer – Contest Limitations

No Boys Soccer team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than twenty-five (25) games *and one (1) preseason scrimmage/jamboree among three or four schools* exclusive of the IHSA series.

Three or Four-Team Format:

- *When three schools participate each school will play one period of 35 minutes each against each of the two other teams, for a maximum of two periods and 70 total minutes.*
- *When four schools participate, each school will play one period of 25 minutes each against each of the three other teams, for a maximum of three periods and 75 total minutes.*
- *A scrimmage/jamboree may be conducted after your team has completed nine conditioning practices and before your first contest.*

Modify By-law 5.142 Boys Volleyball – Contest Limitations

No Boys Volleyball team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than thirty-five (35) games *and one (1) preseason scrimmage/jamboree among three or four schools* exclusive of the IHSA series.

Three or Four-Team Format:

- *When there are three schools participating, a maximum of six sets (three against each team to 21 points) shall be allowed.*
- *When there are four schools participating, a maximum of nine sets (three against each team to 15 points) shall be allowed.*
- *Point caps are at the host school's discretion*
- *A scrimmage/jamboree may be conducted after your team has completed nine conditioning practices and before your first contest.*

Modify By-law 5.182 Girls Basketball – Team Limitations

No Girls Basketball team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than thirty-one (31) games *and one (1) preseason scrimmage/jamboree among three or four schools* exclusive of the IHSA series.

Scrimmage Restrictions:

- **Personal fouls will not be tallied**

Three or Four-Team Format:

- *When three schools participate, each school will play three quarters of six minutes each against each of the two other teams, for a maximum of six quarters and 36 total minutes.*
- *When four schools participate, each school will play two quarters of six minutes each against each of the three other teams, for a maximum of six quarters and 36 total minutes*

- *A preseason scrimmage/jamboree may be conducted after your team has completed nine conditioning practices and before your first contest.*

Modify By-law 5.252 Girls Soccer – Contest Limitations

No Girls Soccer team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than twenty-five (25) games *and one (1) preseason scrimmage/jamboree among three or four schools* exclusive of the IHSA series.

Three or Four-Team Format:

- *When three schools participate each school will play one period of 35 minutes each against each of the two other teams, for a maximum of two periods and 70 total minutes.*
- *When four schools participate, each school will play one period of 25 minutes each against each of the three other teams, for a maximum of three periods and 75 total minutes.*
- *A scrimmage/jamboree may be conducted after your team has completed nine conditioning practices and before your first contest.*

Modify By-law 5.272 Girls Spring Softball – Contest Limitations

No Girls Softball team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than thirty-five (35) games *and one (1) preseason scrimmage/jamboree among three or four schools* exclusive of the IHSA series.

Scrimmage Restrictions:

- *Free substituting*
- *Each half inning will end after three outs or five runs whichever comes first*

Three or Four-Team Format:

- *When three schools participate, a maximum of four innings against each team with a maximum of eight innings per school for the event will be allowed.*
- *When four schools participate, a maximum of three innings against each team and a maximum of nine innings for each school for the event will be allowed.*
- *A spring preseason scrimmage/jamboree may be conducted after your team has completed nine conditioning practices and before your first contest.*

Modify By-law 5.323 Girls Volleyball – Contest Limitations

No Girls Volleyball team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than thirty-five (35) games *and one (1) preseason scrimmage/jamboree among three or four schools* exclusive of the IHSA series.

Three or Four-Team Format:

- *When there are three schools participating, a maximum of six sets (three against each team to 21 points) shall be allowed.*
- *When there are four schools participating, a maximum of nine sets (three against each team to 15 points) shall be allowed.*
- *Point caps are at the host school's discretion*
- *A scrimmage/jamboree may be conducted after your team has completed nine conditioning practices and before your first contest.*

2024-2025 Proposal 22 – 5.070 - Boys Football
Modify By-law 5.073 Contest Limitation
Submitted By: Chauncey Carrick, Official Representative – Sycamore (H.S.)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Eliminates the opportunity beyond the 9-game regular season in football for the City of Chicago Prep Bowl series participated in by the Chicago Public League and the Chicago Catholic League.

Rationale of Submitter:

The schools in the Chicago Public League (CPL) and the Chicago Catholic League (CCL) have the same opportunity to participate in the IHSA playoffs as the other 39 conferences that play football in the IHSA. By allowing the CPL and the CCL to have an additional playoff system, this gives their programs a significant advantage over the remaining 39 football conferences in the IHSA. If a member of a conference that is excluded from the City of Chicago Prep Bowl series does not make the IHSA playoffs, their season is over. Not only can CPL and CCL schools participate in the Prep Bowl series, often times they are added to the Prep Bowl series upon elimination from the IHSA Playoffs series, another opportunity denied to the other 39 conferences that participate in football. In 2022, a member of CCL went 3-6, but still played 13 games, one less game than the teams that played for a State Championship, while all 3-6 teams in the 39 excluded football conferences did not play any additional games. The current Prep Bowl series gives the CPL and the CCL a significant advantage in player development over the other 39 conferences that participate in football.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 5.073 – Boys Football Contest Limitation

No Boys Football team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than nine (9) games exclusive of the IHSA series ~~and exclusive of the City of Chicago Prep Bowl series, participated in by the Chicago Public League and the Chicago Catholic League,~~ and the I8FA playoff series, participated in by member of the Illinois 8-man Football Association.

2024-2025 Proposal 23 – 5.340 Competitive Cheerleading

Modify By-law 5.341 – Season Limitation

Submitted By: Ryan Rubenstein, Official Representative – Barrington; Scott McDermott, Official Representative – Mt. Prospect (Prospect); Mark Ribbens, Official Representative – Wauconda

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Modifies the Competitive Cheerleading season to be moved to the fall with implementation for the 2025-2026 or 2026-2027 school year depending on contracts with the state final host.

Rationale of Submitter:

1. If approved this could go into effect in the 2025-2026 school year but could be delayed until the 2026-2027 school year.
 - Current contract with Grossinger Motor Arena is up for renewal in 2026, but conversations have been had with them regarding moving the date up as early as 2025.
 - This also allows teams enough time to schedule competitions and summer camp(s).
2. A fall season would provide a seamless transition from summer contact time.
 - Even Though summer practices are not mandatory many teams utilize their summer contact time.
3. Fall season will assist member schools with indoor facility usage in regards to practice space and contest scheduling only competing with girls volleyball for indoor space during the fall.
4. Fall season will minimize the conflict with “club/all-star” organizations potentially encouraging more in-school participation.
 - Some students are currently choosing between the high school competitive season and their club/all-star organizations. This would provide an opportunity for students to do both just like most other sports (ie. basketball, volleyball, etc.)
5. Fall season would also allow gymnasts who are currently choosing between gymnastics and cheerleading an opportunity to compete in both sports.
 - We do recognize that there are current fall athletes (girls volleyball, cross country, football, etc. at some schools who would then be excluded from the competitive season if dual sport participation is not allowed by your school.)
6. Fall season will allow more flexibility for the close to 60 licensed officials who are currently licensed in both cheer and dance potentially increasing the officials pool.
7. Fall Season would eliminate gray areas regarding approved sideline/competitive team practices.
8. Fall season would eliminate conflict between state series and semester exams for student athletes.
9. Fall season allows “homecoming choreography” and “competitive choreography” to be the same material.
 - This has potential to benefit a team/school budget to not have to pay for additional choreography.

Pros:

- Sideline cheerleading can still happen should your school choose, just like it does during the current competitive season. From the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee this could help address overuse injuries.
And/or
- This creates additional opportunities for students by having a competitive team and sideline team.

Other states who currently host competitive cheerleading in the fall season include Alabama, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, Iowa, Indiana, West Virginia. Oregon also competes (gameday only) during the fall season.

Note: Proposed start date is the current start of fall sports. The proposed end week of the season can be adjusted by the IHSA to best fit the standardized calendar to minimize conflict with other fall state series events.

Cons:

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 5.341 – Competitive Cheerleading Season Limitation

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall conduct its Competitive Cheer team practice earlier than Monday of Week ~~17~~ 6 or later than Saturday of Week ~~31~~ 20*** in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
- b. No school belonging to this Association shall conduct its Competitive Cheer squad to participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Week ~~18~~ 7*** or later than Saturday of Week ~~31~~ 20 in the Standardized Calendar.
- c. *Tryouts for the winter sideline teams should not take place until after Week 20 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar*

2024-2025 Proposal 24 – 5.340 Competitive Cheerleading and 5.350 Competitive Dance

Modify By-laws 5.342 and 5.352 – Contest Limitation

Submitted By: Ryan Goodisky, Official Representative – Marion (H.S.)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Increase the number of regular season contests in competitive cheerleading and competitive dance from 6 to 8 dates.

Rationale of Submitter:

- Most programs compete in a Conference competition, which takes up one date of the 6 currently allowed contests, leaving teams only 5 other opportunities to compete prior to the State Series.
- There are 11 eligible weekends (following the date the first contest may be held) leading up to Sectionals in the winter season. Therefore, only being able to compete 6 times is limiting against the scope of the season. Due to each routine being roughly 2 ½ minutes long, with only 6 contests, dancers are spending an entire season training and preparing for a mere 15-30 minutes of performance time total for the season (depending on if they perform 1 or 2 routines at each contest). Often, with the scheduling of the contests overlapping, it is extremely difficult to participate in more than one contest per date.
- Other sports compete in many more matches prior to their playoff series. This allows for better team performance, overall team experience, and team unity heading into the State Series.
- Teams who choose to compete at the National level have to use 3 contest days to include the preliminary, semi-final, and final rounds of competition. However, there is no guarantee that teams will make it past the first round of competition. This typically happens after the IHSA State Series, which means 1-2 contest days may be wasted. With 3 contest dates being used by Nationals, these highly competitive teams are only able to compete in 3 IHSA competitions (including Conference) and receive feedback from 3 sets of officials. Other teams are able to receive feedback from up to 6 judging panels prior to the State Series, which puts these programs at a disadvantage.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-laws 5.342 and 5.352 – Competitive Cheerleading and Competitive Dance Contest Limitation

No Competitive Cheer team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than ~~six (6)~~ **eight (8)** dates exclusive of the IHSA state series.

No member of a Competitive Dance Team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than ~~six (6)~~ **eight (8)** dates exclusive of the IHSA state series.

2024-2025 Proposal 25 – 6.000 Protest and Penalty By-laws

Modify By-law 6.011 – Players Ejected for Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Submitted By: Augie Fontanetta, Official Representative – Winnetka (New Trier) and Mark Ribbens, Official Representative - Wauconda

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Modifies the suspension for ejection of unsportsmanlike conduct by players in football to be ineligible for the remainder of the quarter they are ejected and the next four (4) quarters at that level and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim, in addition to other penalties by IHSA or the school may assess.

Rationale of Submitter:

Football participates in nine games per season, and the proposed bylaw amendment provides a more equitable solution for ejections when compared to other sports. The proposed amendment is for the sole purpose of student-athlete ejections and not for the purpose of a coach ejection.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 6.011 – Players Ejected for Unsportsmanlike Conduct

In all sports except tackle football, any player ejected from an athletic contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next interscholastic contest at that level of competition and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim, in addition to other penalties the IHSA or the school may assess.

Any player ejected from a tackle football game for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the remainder of the quarter in which the ejection occurred and for the next four quarters at that level of interscholastic competition and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim, in addition to other penalties the IHSA or the school may assess.

If the school contests the ejection and video evidence clearly indicates that a player was misidentified in an ejection, the IHSA will work with the school(s) involved to ensure the proper player(s) are identified. After the IHSA Executive Director reviews the video provided by the school(s) and verify the misidentification, the misidentified player shall be eligible for the next interscholastic contest at that level of competition.

If a player violates a rule and is ejected from a contest, and the school believes the ejection penalty was a result of a misapplication of a playing rule related to that violation, the school may communicate with the IHSA Executive Director to clarify the correct rule application. After reviewing the situation, if the Executive Director determines that an official did misapply a rule that led to the player ejection, the Executive Director may waive the requirement that the player is ineligible for the next interscholastic contest at that level of competition.

2024-2025 Proposal 26

Modify By-laws 1.320, 1.340, 1.350, 1.360, 1.460, 1.470, 1.530, 1.721, 1.722, 1.723, 1.724, 1.725, 1.726, 1.728, 1.730, 1.830, 1.920, 1.930, 2.020, 2.130, 2.020, 2.030 g 2, 2.120, 2.130, 2.130, 2.130.1, 3.011, 3.041, 3.043.3, 3.043.4, 3.070, 3.091, 4.011 b, 4.011 c, 6.030, 6.034, 6.055

Submitted By: Barry Gurvey, Official Representative - Harvard

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Change most references in the constitution and by-laws of “principal” and “administrator,” to “Official Representative.”

Rationale of Submitter:

To simplify the By-laws and make the “Official Representative” the “go to” person for all things related to the IHSA. This still gives local control to a school, as they will decide who will serve as their Official Representative.

Pros:**Cons:****Text of By-law with Proposed Changes****Modify By-laws See Attached**

Location in By-Laws	Current Term	New Term	Notes
1.210 d	Principal	No Change	officials representative is further defined in this section
1.250 d 1 2	Principal	No Change	
1.32	Principal	Official Representative	
1.32	Administrator	Official Representative	
1.34	Principal	Official Representative	first paragraph
1.34	Principal	Principal or Official Representative	second paragraph, first instance
1.34	Principal	Principal	second paragraph, second, third, and fourth instances
1.35	Principal	Official Representative	both instances
1.36	Principal	Principal or Official Representative	last instance
1.46	Principal	Official Representative	
1.47	Principal	Official Representative	
1.53	Principal	Official Representative	both instances
1.721	Principal	Official Representative	delete "principals"
1.722	Principal	Official Representative	delete all three listings of "principals"
1.723	Principal	Official Representative	first paragraph
1.723	Administrator	Official Representative	second paragraph, second line
1.723	Principal	Official Representative	
1.723	Administrator	Official Representative	second paragraph, second to last sentence
1.723			third paragraph...could be obsolete with above changes
1.723			fourth paragraph would be obsolete as only the official rep would be considered for the Legislative Commission
1.724	Principal	Principal or Official Representative	third instance of principal

1.725	Principal	Official Representative	second paragraph, both instances (delete ath admin and act directors
1.726	Principal	Official Representative	delete athletic administrator
1.728	Principal	No Change	
1.73	Principal	Principal or Official Representative	first paragraph
1.73	Principal	Official Representative	second paragraph, first instance
1.73	Principal	Official Representative	second paragraph, last instance (last sentence)
1.83	Principal	Official Representative	both instances
1.92	Principal	Official Representative	
1.93	Principal	Official Representative	both instances
2.02	Principal	Official Representative	change title to "Responsibility of Official Representative"
2.13	Principal	Official Representative	change title to Official Representatives' Attendance at Meetings
2.02	Principal	Official Representative	
2.030 g 2	Principal	Official Representative	
2.13	Principal	Official Representative	both instances
2.130.1	Principal	Principal or Official Representative	
3.011	Principal	Official Representative	all four instances
3.041	Principal	Official Representative	all six instances
3.043.3	Principal	No Change	
3.043.4	Principal	Official Representative	
3.07		Official Representative	add "official representative" to the list of those associated with the school
3.091	Principal	Official Representative	
4.011 b	Principal	Official Representative	
4.011 c	Principal	Official Representative	
6.03	Principal	Official Representative	
6.034	Principal	Official Representative	
6.055	Principal	Official Representative	both instances