



# 2024-25 Boys and Girls State Water Polo Series Terms and Conditions

In accordance with Section 1.450 of the Constitution, the Terms and Conditions governing the 2024-25 IHSA Boys and Girls Water Polo Tournament Series have been approved by the Board of Directors.

## I. SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION

Competition in the IHSA Boys/Girls Water Polo Tournament Series will be held for all member schools without classification.

## II. DATES AND SITES

**A. Game Sites:** Eight sites shall be selected by the IHSA Office to host the Sectional series. The winners of the eight Sectional sites will automatically advance to the Quarterfinals of the State Tournament.

**B. Sectional Game Dates: May 12-17, 2025**

**C. State Final Tournament:** The State Final Tournament, on **May 22-24, 2025**, will be hosted by Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, Illinois.

## III. ONLINE ENTRIES, WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES, ELIGIBILITY, AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

The policy for Original Entry Deadlines, Late Entries, and Late Withdrawals shall be the policies and procedures regarding entry for all IHSA-sponsored sport/activities included in the 2024-25 Entry Policies and Procedures.

**A. Online Entries:** All member schools must enter their school into the state series competition through the IHSA School Center on the IHSA Website at [www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org). The deadline for entry is (February 1, 2025). The 2024-25 Entry Policy and Procedures outlining the online entry procedures for all IHSA-sponsored tournaments can be found in the Schools Center on the IHSA website.

**B. Late Entries:** Any attempt to enter a sport or activity online after the established deadlines will be denied. Schools that wish to enter after the deadline will be considered late. To be considered for late entry, the Principal/Official Representative must contact the IHSA administrator in charge of that sport or activity. The penalty for late entry shall be a payment of \$100.00 for that sport/activity by the school.

**C. Breach of Contract By-law 6.041 (Withdrawal Procedure):** To withdraw without penalty, the Principal or Athletic Director must notify the IHSA Office, in writing, of the

school's intent to withdraw from the respective sport prior to the seed meeting date

If a school withdraws after the seed meeting but before the first competition, the school will be charged a **\$500 penalty** and, if applicable, the cost of game officials, and the host school guarantee provided for in the Terms & Conditions.

If a school does not officially withdraw prior to the first competition and/or does not show up for competition, the school will be charged a **\$500 penalty**, the cost of game officials and the host school guarantee according to the Terms & Conditions for the respective sport.

**D. Eligibility:** All member schools in good standing may enter one team under the provisions of IHSA By-law 3.054.

**E. Affirmative Action:** Boys and girls shall be permitted to participate in the state series except as provided in the IHSA Affirmative Action Policy.

## IV. HOST FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

**A. Preliminary Games:** Games will be financially independent. Host school shall pay for all local expenses and issue the checks to goal judges (**\$20**). If admission is charged, the host school shall retain 100% of the gate receipts. Deck officials will be paid by the IHSA using ArbiterPay.

**B. Quarterfinal Games:** Host school shall pay for all local expenses and issue the checks to goal judges. The host shall receive a guarantee of **\$800** for Boys and Girls Quarterfinals, reimbursement of goal judges, and 20% of net income. If admission is not charged, the host school shall forfeit the guarantee. Deck Officials will be paid by the IHSA using ArbiterPay.

**C. Sectional Semifinal and Final:** Host school shall pay for all local expenses and issue the checks to goal judges. Host shall receive a guarantee of **\$800**, reimbursement of goal judges, and 20% of the net income. If admission is not charged, the host school shall forfeit the guarantee. Deck Officials will be paid by the IHSA using ArbiterPay.

**E. Admission Prices:**  
The IHSA Board of Directors have set the following State Series ticket prices. (A baby in arms is free at all rounds of the State Series.)

**Preliminary Rounds: \$5.00 per game**

**Quarterfinal Rounds: Digital Ticket = \$8.00/day  
Cash Ticket = \$9.00/day**

**Sectional Semifinals: Digital Ticket=\$8.00/per day  
Cash Ticket = \$9.00/day**

**Sectional Finals: Digital Ticket=\$8.00/per day  
Cash Ticket = \$9.00/day**



**State Final:** Digital Ticket: \$10.00 per session  
Cash ticket: \$11.00 per session

**F. Media Coverage & Rights Fees for Broadcasting:**

Coverage

1) State Series hosts should work to accommodate media members with space to cover State Series events whenever possible.

2) For State Series events, the IHSA Press Box Policy should be used as a guide for determining media press box access should space become an issue.

Broadcasting

1) Radio or audio-only internet broadcasts are not subject to a broadcast rights fee at the Regional, Sectional, or Super-Sectional levels. A \$100 fee exists at the State Final round, pending approval by the IHSA after completion of the IHSA's broadcast application form.

2) If a State Series contest/event is broadcast on the NFHS Network, then there are no rights fee due and no other video streaming/TV broadcasts will be allowed, pending special permission from the IHSA.

3) If a State Series contest/event is not broadcast on the NFHS Network, then the broadcast rights may be purchased to broadcast via video streaming/TV pending approval by the IHSA after completion of the IHSA's broadcast application form.

\* Broadcast application forms can be accessed by Googling "IHSA Broadcast Applications" or directly: [IHSAA.org/News-Media/News-Media-Center/Broadcast-Applications](http://IHSAA.org/News-Media/News-Media-Center/Broadcast-Applications)

**V. TOURNAMENT ASSIGNMENTS AND SEEDING**

**A. Sectional Assignment:** All teams will be assigned to a Sectional complex on a geographic basis. If possible, an equal number of teams shall be assigned to each of the eight (8) Sectional tournament complexes.

**B. Season Summary Form:** Schools entered into the Boys and Girls Water Polo state series will be required to submit a Season Summary Form online in the IHSA Schools Center. Contest results shall be entered onto the MaxPreps website. The deadline to enter your scores and complete the Season Summary is **10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 23.**

**C. Seeding:** All seeding will be conducted online through the IHSA Schools Center. Each school shall have one (1) vote in the seeding process. A school will not vote for their own team. The link to seed the teams is located in the IHSA Schools Center and will be activated at **11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 23.** The deadline to seed teams is 12:00 noon on **Thursday, April 24.** Seeding will only occur at the Sectional tournament level.

**D.** State Final pairings will be made by chance drawing in the IHSA Office.

**VI. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND TIME SCHEDULES**

**A. Playing Schedules:**

Sectionals

Girls

**Sectional Preliminary Round (if needed): Mon. May 12**

**Sectional Quarterfinals: Wednesday, May 14**

**Sectional Semifinals: Friday, May 16**

**Sectional Finals: Saturday, May 17**

Boys

**Sectional Preliminary Round (if needed): Tue. May 13**

**Sectional Quarterfinals: Thursday, May 15**

**Sectional Semifinals: Friday, May 16**

**Sectional Finals: Saturday, May 17**

1) **Starting Times:**

Preliminary Game: (hosted by the higher-seeded team) Between 5:00 and 7:30 p.m.

Semifinal Games: **5:00, 6:00, 7:00, and 8:00 p.m.** on school days. Sites with 3 games scheduled in a night must be played at **5:00, 6:00, and 7:00 p.m.**

Final Games: Two games between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

2) Warm-up time is 15 minutes prior to each game in the competition pool if an auxiliary pool or swim lanes are not available for teams to use. If an auxiliary pool or lanes are available at a Sectional site, then warm-up time is 10 minutes prior to each game in the competition pool.

3) In the event of a tie at the end of regulation play in tournament games, the overtime procedures in the National Federation Rules Book will be followed.

4) Preliminary Round games shall be held at the higher-seeded school if facilities meet NFHS specifications. If not, a mutually agreed site shall be chosen.

5) In Even numbered years Boys will play **M-W-F-S** and Girls will play **T-Th-F-S.**

6) In Odd numbered years Girls will play **M-W-F-S** and Boys will play **T-Th-F-S.**

**7) Sectional Managers may adjust the bracket order for participating teams when a schedule conflict arises. All schools must agree to the schedule modification and the IHSA must be notified prior to the contest date.**

State Final

**Thursday May 22 Girls Quarterfinals**

- Game 1 4:30 p.m.
- Game 2 5:45 p.m.
- Game 3 7:00 p.m.
- Game 4 8:15 p.m.

**Friday May 23 Boys Quarterfinals**

- Game 5 4:30 p.m.
- Game 6 5:45 p.m.
- Game 7 7:00 p.m.
- Game 8 8:15 p.m.

**Saturday May 24 Girls Semifinals**

- Game 9 9:00 a.m. Winner Game 1 vs. Winner Game 2
- Game 10 10:15 a.m. Winner Game 3 vs. Winner Game 4

**Saturday May 24 Boys Semifinals**

- Game 11 11:30 a.m. Winner Game 5 vs. Winner Game 6
- Game 12 12:45 p.m. Winner Game 7 vs. Winner Game 8

**Saturday May 24 Third Place and Championships**

- Game 13 3:30 p.m. Loser Game 9 vs. Loser Game 10  
(Girls Third Place)
- Game 14 5:00 p.m. Loser Game 11 vs. Loser Game 12  
(Boys Third Place)
- Game 15 6:30 p.m. Winner Game 9 vs. Winner Game 10  
(Girls Championship)
- Game 16 8:00 p.m. Winner Game 11 vs. Winner Game 12  
(Boys Championship)

1) In the event of a tie at the end of regulation play in tournament games, the overtime procedures from the National Federation Rules Book will be followed.

2) In Even numbered years Boys will play TH-S and Girls will play F-S

3) In Odd numbered years Girls will play TH-S and Boys will play F-S

**VII. ADVANCEMENT OF WINNERS**

The eight (8) Sectional winners shall be advanced to the State Final Tournament.

**VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES**

**A. Rules of Play:** The 2024-26 National Federation Water Polo Rules as published by the National Federation of State High School Associations are adopted as the official playing rules for all tournament matches.

1) Each game in the tournament series will be played in four, 7-minute periods.

2) A game shall not remain in a tie. Overtime procedures in the NFHS are to be followed.

3) Mercy Rule: The Mercy Rule will be used in all regular season contests, regular season tournament contests, and IHSA Sectional contests. A running clock shall be used in the fourth quarter in which there is at least a 10-point score differential. Once a game reaches this differential, the clock will run continuously and stop only for the following reasons:

- A team timeout
- An injury timeout or the removal of a disqualified player
- 5-meter penalty
- An officials' timeout
- Clock adjustment
- After a goal

Note: The Mercy Rule will not be used during the Boys' or Girls' State Final contests.

**B. Warm-up time** is 15 minutes prior to each game in the competition pool if an auxiliary pool or swim lanes are not available for teams to warm up during the preceding game. If an auxiliary pool is available at the Sectional site, competing teams will warm up after half time of the preceding game. The host manager will determine if swimming and passing drills may be practiced during this warmup or just swimming drills based upon the configuration of the pool. Warm-up time in the competition pool is then reduced to 10 minutes prior to each game in the competition pool when an auxiliary pool or swim lanes are available for teams to use.

**C. Home Team:** Throughout the tournament series, the teams listed on the top line, or the team listed first of a single

game playing bracket shall wear dark colored caps and will be considered the home team. The team listed on the bottom line shall wear white caps and will be considered the visiting team.

**D. Balls:** The KAP7 International, Inc. KAP 105 is the Official Game Ball of the IHSA Boys Water Polo State Tournament. The KAP7 International, Inc. KAP 104 is the Official Game Ball of the IHSA Girls Water Polo State Tournament. Each Sectional Manager will receive three balls to be used in the games at the site. The Manager shall give one ball to the Sectional winner upon completion of the Sectional Tournament.

**E. Team Roster:** Prior to each game of the tournament series, the coach of each competing team must indicate the names of a maximum 21 team players who will constitute the squad.

**F. Players in Team Uniform:** In each of the tournaments, a school shall have a maximum of 21 participants in uniform. The 21 players shall be the ones designated in E above. A maximum total of 25 persons from a school may be on the team bench.

**G. Player Uniforms:**

1) All players shall wear regulation caps. Please refer to the NFHS Water Polo Rules Book Rule 4, Sections 1-6 regarding cap specifications.

2) The color of the ear guards on the field players' caps must match the color of the caps as closely as possible. Ear guards on the cap of the home goalkeeper must be dark; the ear guards on the caps of the visiting goalkeeper must be white.

3) Players shall wear non-transparent, one-piece swimsuits. The suits shall contain only one visible manufacturer's logo/trademark/reference not exceeding 2 ¼ square inches in area and not exceeding 2 ¼ inches in any dimension. The suits may also include the name of the school or mascot.

4) Players shall remove any articles likely to cause injury including the following: jewelry, medical or religious medals, watches, and swim goggles.

**H. Scorers and Timers:** Adults are recommended.

**I. Goal Judges:** Goal judges will be hired by the local manager. It is recommended that you use an IHSA licensed official. If a licensed IHSA official is not available, adults at least 21 years of age, **or school staff members**, are recommended. Goal judges may not be a member of the Girls or Boys Water Polo competing teams. All goal judges should wear a plain white shirt and khakis while working the games.

**J. Assignment of Officials:** IHSA will hire four officials for Sectional Site prior to the State Final. Host schools will be notified of those assigned officials. The IHSA will hire a total of eight officials for the Boys and Girls State Finals.

**K. Conduct of Coaches and Players:**

1) No coach, player or any other person connected with the team shall be permitted to use tobacco products on the bench or playing area either during practice or while a game is in progress.

2) The captain and the head coach shall be the official spokesmen and the sole representatives of their team in all communications with the officials.



3) Abusive remarks to game officials by coaches or players shall be regarded as unsportsmanlike conduct and shall be punishable under the provisions of By-law 3.151, 6.011, and 6.012.

school requests video space, then the local manager should provide similar space to both competing schools.

2) Non-competing schools and spectators will be allowed to videotape matches in the stands provided they do not obstruct the view of participants or spectators.

**IX. TOURNAMENT POLICIES**

**A. AED:** Host schools must have an AED available and on site at all IHSA post season contests.

**B. Presale Tickets:** The IHSA will utilize digital tickets (tickets redeemed on a smartphone) at **Sectional and State Final** events via GoFan. Digital tickets can be purchased and downloaded to an iPhone using the GoFan app or on Android devices at [gofan.co/IHSA](http://gofan.co/IHSA) (.co is not a typo). Sectional Prelim sites have the option of using GoFan or cash tickets.

**C. All-Star Teams:** Tournament personnel, game officials or anyone serving under the supervision of the Illinois High School Association may not cooperate in any way toward the selection of an all-star tournament team.

**D. Consolation Games:** In the Sectional tournaments, consolation matches to determine third place winners will not be permitted.

**E. State Final Passes:** Teams shall not be given passes to any Sectionals. For the State Final Tournament games, each Sectional winner will receive up to 25 deck passes for its 21 players and other team personnel for the State Final tournament. Three additional passes for the Superintendent, Principal and Athletic Director will be given to gain entry to the tournament.

**F. Bands:** Musical Instruments and bands shall be excluded from the natatorium.

**G. Signs and Noisemakers:** The display of signs, banners, placards, or similar items at IHSA state series events is permitted, provided they are in good taste, reflect good sportsmanship in their message, they reflect identification and encouragement to participants and their school/community, they are not displayed on the field of play or in a manner which interferes with play, they do not obstruct the view of participants or spectators, and they are safe.

All mechanical and artificial noisemaking devices shall be excluded from the natatoriums. The local manager has the authority to exclude other noise making devices that distract from the competition including megaphones.

**H. Damage to Property or Equipment:** If contestants or people from any school entered in a state series are found guilty of carelessness or maliciously breaking, damaging, or destroying property or equipment belonging to the host school, such school shall be held responsible for costs incurred in replacing or repairing such property or equipment.

**I. Practice Sessions:** For the Sectional and State Final Tournament games, teams will not be permitted to practice in the pool, unless it is their home school.

**J. Videotaping by Schools or Spectators:** Videotaping is allowed under the following conditions:

1) Local managers should be ready to provide an area for a competing school to videotape, if requested. When one

**K. Flash Photography:** The use of flash cameras is prohibited by fans during any match. News media is allowed the use of strobe lighting or electronic flashes provided the local manager agrees that the flashes are not causing interference with the conduct of the contest. The local manager can require, at any time, the photographer to cease use of the flash. The manager's decision is final.

**L. Tobacco/Liquid Nicotine Products:** The use of tobacco or liquid nicotine products in any competition area, either during a practice or while a contest is in progress, or affiliated property of any IHSA state series contest by any coach, player, any other person connected with a team, or fan shall be prohibited. State series hosts are required to make all state series contest sites and any affiliated property, including parking lots, fan accommodation areas, and other school or event venue property, tobacco/liquid nicotine free zones on the date or dates of any IHSA event being held at the site.

**M. Use of Inhalers:** A student with asthma may possess and use his/her medication during an IHSA competition, while under the supervision of school personnel, provided the school meets the outlined procedures of self-administration in the Illinois school code.

**N. Alcoholic Beverages and IHSA State Series:** The possession, distribution, sale and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages are prohibited at the site and on any affiliated property of any IHSA state series contest. State series hosts are required to make all state series contest sites and any affiliated property, including parking lots, fan accommodation areas, and other school or event venue property, alcohol-free zones on the date or dates of any IHSA event being held at the site. Violation of this policy by an event host will subject the host to a penalty for violation of IHSA By-law 2.020. Such penalty may include but not necessarily be limited to prohibition against subsequent event hosting assignments. Violation of this policy by a non-hosting member school will subject the school to penalty for violation of IHSA By-law 2.020. Patrons of any IHSA state series contest determined to be in violation of this policy will be removed from the premise, and law enforcement officials will be called as warranted. No ticket refunds will be granted in such cases.

**O. State Final Team Reimbursements:** In the State Final Tournament, the teams participating in the tournament shall be allowed transportation expenses at the rate of \$2.00 per mile per team for one round trip to and from the site where the tournament will be played. In addition, each school will receive a flat expense reimbursement to assist in covering the costs incurred by schools at the State Final.

Round Trip Mileage to State Final Site	Flat Rate Reimbursement
0-150 miles	\$500.00
151-300 miles	\$1,000.00
301-over miles	\$1,500.00



**P. Prayer at IHSA State Series Contests:** Prayer at an IHSA state series contest that takes place over the public address system is prohibited.

## X. AWARDS

**A. Sectional:** Team awards will be provided by the IHSA for the winning team at each Sectional tournament.

### B. State Final:

1) Team awards and individual medallions will be presented to the First, Second, Third, and Fourth place teams at the State Final.

2) A medallion will also be presented to the Superintendent, Principal, Athletic Director, and Athletic Trainer of the First, Second, Third, and Fourth-place teams at the State Final.

## XI. OFFICIALS

### A. Appointment and Fees:

**1) Sectional Prelim Game:** The Prelim game host will hire two deck officials. Goal Judges are also secured by the host school and will be paid a flat fee of **\$20.00** per game

worked. Deck officials will be paid by the IHSA utilizing ArbiterPay at a fee of **\$50.00** per game.

**2) Sectional:** Four deck officials will be appointed by the IHSA Office for each Sectional site. Deck official will be paid by the IHSA utilizing ArbiterPay at a fee of **\$50.00** per game. Goal Judges are secured by the host school and will be paid a flat fee of **\$20.00** per game worked.

### 3) State Final:

a) Eight (8) officials will be appointed by the IHSA Office for the State Final games. Officials will be paid by the IHSA utilizing ArbiterPay at a fee of **\$75.00** per game worked plus up to three nights lodging at a hotel designated by the IHSA Administrator.

b) Goal Judges will be paid a fee of **\$20.00** per game worked plus up to three nights lodging at a hotel designated by the IHSA Administrator.

c) One Head Official will be appointed by the IHSA Office for the State Final games. The Head Official will be paid **\$175.00** per day plus up to three nights lodging at a hotel designated by the IHSA Administrator.

**B. Mileage Reimbursement Policy:** Each of the appointed officials, who incurs the expense, will receive **.45** cents per mile for each mile over 70 miles for one round trip to the site provided the official submits a mileage reimbursement form to the IHSA office.