



access

AUGUST NEWSLETTER



Photo provided by Danville High School

Upcoming Dates

Mark your calendars
(or check your IHSA Calendar because we already did!)

August 29
Football Contests May Begin

September 4
Boys/Girls Track & Field Advisory Committee Meeting
Do What's Right! Advisory Committee Meeting

September 5
Baseball Advisory Committee Meeting
Bass Fishing Advisory Committee Meeting
Softball Advisory Committee Meeting

September 10
Boys/Girls Lacrosse Advisory Committee Meeting
Journalism Advisory Committee Meeting

September 11
Esports Advisory Committee Meeting
Officials Advisory Committee Meeting

September 15
Nominating Ballots for Officer Elections Due Online

September 16
Board of Directors Meeting
Nominating Ballots Counted and Results Posted

September 17
Last Day of Credit for Fall Rules Presentations

September 18
Athletic Administrators Advisory Committee Meeting

Social Media



Follow our accounts:

Instagram: [@IHSA_IL](#) Tik Tok: [@IHSA.il](#)

X: [@IHSA_IL](#) [@IHSAAScoreZone](#) [@IHSAOfficials](#) Youtube: [@IHSA](#) [@IHSAArchives](#)

Facebook: [@IHSA Illinois High School Association](#) [@IHSA Officials](#)

Note from the Executive Director

I hope your 2024-2025 school year is off to a great start!

At the IHSA office we are excited about the year ahead as we are implementing new opportunities and changes that will expand opportunities for students and improve the responsibilities of our coaches and administrators. Here are some exciting highlights for the upcoming school year:

- IHSA has introduced an on-line Transfer Management System (TMS) to allow schools and the IHSA office to exchange information in a platform that should expediate eligibility rulings. While the TMS is new to the IHSA, we appreciate your patience as we implement this system to start the school year.
- The InSideOut Initiative is kicking off September 10 and 11 this year at meetings in Bloomington and Chicago respectively for all athletic/activity directors. This is a free event and training for the years ahead for athletic/activity directors to institute this initiative in their athletic and activity programs. We look forward to seeing all athletic/activity directors at one of these upcoming meetings.
- Our first ever IHSA Girls Flag Football State Series will be conducted in October of 2024. Over 150 schools have signed up to participate in the inaugural state series.
- The IHSA Board of Directors has modified Board Policy 39 requiring all athletic and activity coaches to have CPR/AED training completed before working with students. Each coach's training expiration date must be entered in the Staff Compliance section of the Schools Center.

- The IHSA Board of Directors added a new [Board Policy \(41\)](#) requiring varsity athletic coaches to rate officials who work their contests. A minimum number of ratings and a deadline to have the ratings submitted by sport is available in the policy. The 2024-2025 school year is a pilot year to become more familiar with the policy, and we appreciate the time and attention to this change by athletic directors and all varsity coaches.
- Late withdrawals from an IHSA state series will incur a \$500 penalty fee. Review each sport and activity's terms and conditions for withdrawal deadlines.
- Several recommendations from the following advisory committees were approved as consent items: Basketball, Bowling, Cheerleading, Chess, Dance, Esports, Gymnastics, Music, Officials, Scholastic Bowl, Soccer, Speech, Sports Medicine, Student, Swimming & Diving, and Wrestling. Consent items can be accessed [here](#).
- The 2025 Bass Fishing State Finals will take place at Lake Shelbyville.
- Finally, the IHSA is looking for a school to host the 2025 Girls and Boys Water Polo State Finals. If your school has the capacity and availability to host, please contact Beth Sauser (bsauser@ihsa.org) with your interest and any questions on next steps.

We wish you a very successful and rewarding 2024-2025 school year! Thank you for your support of IHSA sports and activities.

All School Mailings

The annual All-School Mailings were sent the week of August 12th. Schools should have received copies of the 2024-2025 handbook, calendars, maps, and other documents.

Please review the [online All-School mailing materials](#), which includes information on the New Administrators Workshop, sports medicine, student recognition programs, Student Section & Spirit Showdown, athletes with disabilities, and more.



Did you know the IHSA welcomed Chris Schwarz as an Assistant Executive Director in July?



The IHSA is pleased to welcome Chris Schwarz as an Assistant Executive Director. Chris joined the IHSA officially on July 1 after a career in education as a teacher, coach, and administrator.

Chris began his career in 2011 teaching science at La Harpe Junior High School while also coaching varsity baseball at Monmouth-Roseville High School. In 2014, he assumed roles of assistant principal at Notre Dame High School in Burlington, IA, and as a pitching coach at Monmouth College.

Since 2017, Chris has served as an administrator in the United Community Unit School District in Monmouth. He spent four years as the junior high principal and the last three years as the high school principal. In addition, he sponsored the United Junior High Fishing Club and coached the United High School Bass Fishing Team.

Chris assumes administrative responsibilities at the IHSA for boys golf, boys basketball, esports, bass fishing, and cooperative teams and can be reached at cschwarz@ihsa.org.

SMAC Reminders

As we begin fall contests, please remember that in the event a player is sent out of a contest with a possible head injury the only people who can return a player are:

- Physicians licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois (MO/DO)
- Certified Athletic Trainers (ATC)
- Advanced Practice Nurses (APN)
- Physicians Assistants (PA)

In the event one of the above designated health care providers is not able to clear an athlete to return to play in the contest, the athlete who was removed for a possible head injury cannot return to play in that contest.

It is also important to have an Emergency Action Plan in place and practice that plan with your game day staff and/or team so that people are prepared to perform their task should the need arise. The EAP should be reviewed and posted with officials and visiting teams prior to each contest so they are aware of where to go based on the situation.

By-Law Breakdown – 3.120: All-Star Participation

Passed by membership vote last December, By-law 3.120 does not allow a student to participate on an all-star team until the student has completed their high school eligibility in that sport. By-law 3.120 also limits students to no more than 3 all-star contests in a sport.

Earlier this month, the IHSA Board of Directors approved a recommendation to update the definition of an “all-star team.” An all-star team is defined as a team of students who are selected to participate in a non-school contest or tournament based on athletic ability, performance or reputation when representing the member high school the student attends or previously attended. Students represent their school by using the school’s name, being selected or nominated by the school, or by wearing any part of the school’s athletic uniform.

The IHSA Board of Directors also approved a recommendation for By-law 3.120 to only have application during the school year (Monday of Week 8 to Saturday of Week 49 of the IHSA standardized calendar), which permits any high school student to participate in an all-star game as a representative of their school during the summer (Sunday of Week 50 to Sunday of Week 8). Please see the following examples.

Example 1: Can current seniors participate in an all-star basketball game in April and wear their high school’s uniforms?

Answer: Yes, because this game is played after the IHSA basketball season has concluded, and seniors will have completed their interscholastic eligibility in basketball.

Example 2: Can underclassmen or non-seniors participate in the same all-star basketball game as described in Example 1?

Answer: No.

Example 3: Can students, regardless of high school age, participate in an all-star baseball game in July wearing their school’s baseball cap?

Answer: Yes, because this game is played during the summer between Sunday of Week 50 and Sunday of Week 8, any high school student can play in this all-star game and represent their school.

Example 4: Can students, regardless of high school age, participate in an all-star softball game organized by travel softball organization in September?

Answer: Yes, provided that the students are not representing their high schools in any manner according to the definition of an all-star team.

Read this by-law & others at: www.ihsa.org/About-the-IHSA/Constitution-By-Laws-Policies

Add an Official Student Representative for Your School

On August 4th and 5th, the IHSA Student Advisory Committee (SAC) held their retreat at IHSA office, where they established goals for the 2024-2025 school year.

One of the committee’s goals is to have more outreach to high school students around the state. Member schools can now list one Official Student Representative with a contact email in the Schools Center. Student information will be kept internally by the IHSA office. Any email correspondence from the SAC to listed Official Student Representatives will be reviewed by IHSA administrators before mailing, and school administrators may change their Official Student Representative at any time.



Photo by Dan Le

The SAC envisions using this tool to promote and encourage participation in SAC-sponsored activities like the Student Section & Spirit Showdown and Student Leadership Conference as well as empower more student leaders in Illinois. The link to enter information for an Official Student Representative is available under the Quick Links section after logging into the Schools Center.



Follow the SAC on Instagram ([@ihsa_sac](https://www.instagram.com/ihsa_sac)) to keep up with their activities and initiatives. Contact Dan Le (dle@ihsa.org) or Beth Sauser (bsauser@ihsa.org) with any questions regarding the Official Student Representative.

