

Competitive Balance Committee

June 3, 2026

The Competitive Balance Review Committee met on June 3, 2026. The committee members in attendance were Tim McConnell, Erie; Juliana Zavala, Chicago (University); Tom Schergen, Chicago (De La Salle); Dan Tully, Niles (Notre Dame), Scott Maupin, Wilmington; Katie Cazalet, Dunlap; Brian Brooks, St. Joseph (S.J.-Ogden); Jason Clay, Vandalia; Maurice Young, Country Club Hills (Hillcrest); Skip Birdsong, Belleville (Althoff); Tracie Henry, IHSA Staff; Matt Troha, IHSA Staff; and Craig Anderson, IHSA Staff.

Committee members not in attendance: Chris McGraw, Bloomington(Central Catholic); Danley Killam, Carlinville; Barry Creviston, Jacksonville (Routt); Whitney Martino, West Aurora.

The committee discussed several sample proposals related to transfer and residence by-laws that were developed based on conversations from the previous committee meetings and feedback from a recent membership survey. The committee provided direction to the IHSA staff to help prepare a more detailed proposal prior to the July meeting.

The committee held a call with staff members from the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) to learn more and ask questions about the OHSAA competitive balance formula that was implemented in 2014.

The committee held a call with staff members from the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) to learn more and ask questions about the AIA's open divisions in basketball, soccer, and football.

The committee reviewed and discussed sample brackets/pairings in multiple sports based upon a proposed system that would separate non-boundaried schools into their own Sectionals, creating a path for one non-boundaried school to qualify for the state finals in team-bracketed sports, and a semifinal path in football in select classes.

The committee reviewed and discussed socio-economic policies that are being used by other states that would allow schools within a certain threshold to potentially move to a lower classification.

The committee came to an agreement that they anticipate creating by-law proposals that

address multiple different topics. Given the October deadline, they acknowledged that it will be difficult to address every area they seek to in the coming months. As a result, they plan to develop a plan to share with membership that would provide timelines on potential proposals and their aim.

The committee will hold its next meeting virtually on July 14 and will resume in-person meetings at the IHSA office on August 26.