

## Competitive Balance Committee

May 6, 2026

The Competitive Balance Review Committee met on May 6, 2026. The committee members in attendance were Juliana Zavala, Chicago (University); Tom Schergen, Chicago (De La Salle); Whitney Martino, West Aurora; Dan Tully, Nilas (Notre Dame), Scott Maupin, Wilmington; Katie Cazalet, Dunlap; Brian Brooks, St. Joseph(S.J.-Ogden); Jason Clay, Vandalia; Barry Creviston, Jacksonville (Routt); Maurice Young, Country Club Hills (Hillcrest); Tracie Henry, IHSA Staff; Matt Troha, IHSA Staff; and Craig Anderson, IHSA Staff.

Committee members not in attendance: Tim McConnell, Erie; Chris McGraw, Bloomington (Central Catholic); Skip Birdsong, Belleville (Althoff); Danley Killam, Carlinville.

The committee reviewed the membership survey responses and discussed the outcomes. The highlights of that discussion included the following:

- The survey received 346 total responses. 275 boundary schools, 69 non-boundary schools and 2 schools that were not designated.
- The survey showed interest by member schools in having the transfer by-laws more restrictive with consideration of adding athletic motivated transfers to result in some sort of penalty.
- The committee discussed the success adjustment and its application currently to just non-boundary schools.
- Survey results showed that 88% of the schools completing the survey schedule both boundary and non-boundary schools during the regular season.

As a result of some of the conclusions from the survey, the committee discussed potential transfer by-law changes and expanding the scope of investigation into students/families meeting the transfer and residence by-laws when transferring schools. Residency verification beyond a signed affidavit of residence when students transfer schools in conjunction with a change in residence. The committee also discussed regular season eligibility but no state series eligibility in the first year of a transfer student being in attendance under certain parameters that may consider the athletic motivated transfer of schools.

The committee discussed potential bracketed tournament make-up to have a separate lane for non-boundary schools versus boundary schools until a further round of the state tournament series. The IHSA staff will plan to prepare some models for the committee to review at a future meeting.

The committee discussed consideration of a classification model like what the Ohio High School Activities Association uses where rosters of players determine a school's classification based on a numerical system where individual players on the roster have a value based on their enrollment and number of transfers. The committee reviewed some documents received from

the OHSAA and will plan to meet with a director from their office at the next competitive balance committee meeting to gain a better understanding.

The committee discussed and recognized that a non-boundary school does not automatically have a competitive advantage. There are many other factors that determine a likelihood of success.

The committee discussed the “open division” that some states use to allow the most successful teams to have a separate state tournament series. IHSA staff will work on gathering additional information on this concept.

In preparation for the next competitive balance committee meeting, the IHSA staff will prepare models of state series brackets with separate paths for non-boundary schools. The IHSA staff will also begin to prepare possible transfer and residence by-law edits related to the recent discussion of the committee.

Finally, the committee will review socio-economic factors in classification that are used in some states to consider a lower classification assignment. The committee will discuss this in June.

The committee will have their next meeting on June 3, 2026, at the IHSA office and plans to conduct a virtual July meeting on July 20, 2026.