

Competitive Balance Committee

July 14, 2026

The Competitive Balance Review Committee met virtually on July 14, 2026. The committee members in attendance were 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); Barry Creviston, Jacksonville (Routt); Whitney Martino, West Aurora; 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; Tim McConnell, Erie; Juliana Zavala, Chicago (University); and Skip Birdsong, Belleville (Althoff).

The committee discussed a proposal that would create separate State Series paths for boundaried and non-boundaried schools. A similar proposal was discussed at the previous meeting, but the version discussed in July redefined schools as “public” and “non-public”, as opposed to boundaried and non-boundaried. In team-bracketed sports, seven public schools would advance to the Elite Eight and one non-public school would advance. At that juncture, the paths would intersect and unfold as the IHSA State Series has in the past, maintaining a unified postseason with one state champion in each class. The committee discussed if and how a proposal such as this, if implemented, would impact the need for the multiplier or success formula. The committee discussed the potential of bringing a similar proposal to the Town Halls in the fall to get feedback and straw poll voting from member schools to gauge support.

The committee reviewed five potential by-laws related to residence and transfer eligibility based on feedback from their previous meeting. The committee was in favor of a by-law proposal that seeks to address athletically influenced transfers and whether the appropriate ruling would be no eligibility, no State Series eligibility, or lower-level eligibility only. The committee asked the IHSA staff to take that concept and write it into a formal by-law proposal for review and voting at the committee’s next meeting. If the committee is in favor, a committee member will seek to propose it during the IHSA’s legislative process this fall.

The committee discussed a policy that would allow a school with 50% free and reduced lunch to apply for waiver to move down one class on a sport-by-sport basis. The committee discussed developing a less subjective process for this to determine qualification based on success, as well as how non-public schools would document this.

The committee discussed updated statistical data related to State Series success between boundaried and non-boundaried schools now that spring sports are completed. The IHSA plans to release this information, including key data points, to member schools early in the 2026-27 school year.

The committee will meet next on August 26, 2026 at the IHSA office and set their following meeting for September 22 at 10:00 AM at the IHSA office.