

Competitive Balance Committee

August 26, 2026

The Competitive Balance Review Committee met on August 26, 2026 at the IHSA office.

The committee members in attendance were 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); Whitney Martino, West Aurora; Chris McGraw, Bloomington(Central Catholic); Tim McConnell, Erie; Juliana Zavala, Chicago (University); and Skip Birdsong, Belleville (Althoff). Tracie Henry, IHSA Staff; Matt Troha, IHSA Staff and Craig Anderson, IHSA Staff.

Committee members not in attendance: Tom Schergen, Chicago (De La Salle); Danley Killam, Carlinville.

The committee discussed a revised version of a by-law proposal from a previous meeting aimed at addressing transfer by-laws. After a lengthy discussion, the committee reached an agreement that the new version was not stringent enough. The committee revised the proposal and also authored a draft of a proposal to make certain sections of the residence by-laws more stringent as well. The committee asked the IHSA staff members to finalize both drafts ahead of its meeting in September.

The committee discussed House Bill 5808 that was recently introduced by Representative Yang Rohr that would eliminate IHSA transfer by-laws and determine transfer eligibility based solely on each principal's concurrence or non-concurrence.

The committee reviewed a proposal from a previous meeting that would create separate State Series paths for private and public schools. The committee shared feedback with the author and discussed if and how such a proposal would work in football. The author plans to update the proposal based on feedback from the meeting and return in September for a final review. The Policy could then be presented at Town Hall meetings in November and then implemented by the IHSA Board if there was support for it in the Town Hall setting. The idea of piloting it in different sports was also discussed.

The committee reviewed a draft of an IHSA policy that would allow a school with 60% free and reduced lunch to apply for a waiver to move down one class on a sport-by-sport basis. The committee determined that their main focus should be on the residence and transfer by-laws, as well as the proposal that would create separate State Series paths. They recommended that the free and reduced waiver proposal be forwarded to the IHSA Board of Directors to carry forward.

The committee set a goal to finalize its by-law proposals for the membership and policy recommendations for the Board at its September meeting, which would be followed by a

communication to the membership on behalf of the committee that explains their findings and the intent of their actions.

The committee will meet next on September 22, 2026 at the IHSA office and set a tentative meeting date for October 6, 2026 if necessary.