

Frequently Asked Questions

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PARKING

Where is ADA parking?
Illinois State University is committed to its role in the provision of equal opportunity and access in employment and education for persons with disabilities. The university provides reasonable accommodations to otherwise qualified faculty and staff who are disabled or become disabled and need assistance performing the essential functions of their positions.

ADA parking is available in lots G-73 and G-64 for the 2026 IHSA Football State Finals.

Where is general fan parking?
General fan parking is available in lots G-64, F-64, G-53, U-91, and the University Street Parking Garage. NO TAILGATES are allowed in these lots. No large vehicles or buses are allowed in the University Street parking Garage.

Where is RV parking?
RV parking is available in lot G-81. A parking attendant will be on-site to assist with entry and parking to accommodate several RVs and large buses. Non-alcohol tailgating is allowed in this lot.

Where are the designated tailgating lots?
Non-alcohol tailgates are ONLY permitted in lots G-82, S-81, and G-81 (RV lot). Tailgate activities taking place in other parking lots will be asked to pack their things and enter the facility. Failure to comply with these rules will result in removal from the parking lot by ISU PD.

Is there a parking map?
To see the 2026 IHSA Football State Finals parking map click here.

How do I know if I'm in the right parking lot?
Each parking lot will have signs at the entrance to ensure fans are going to the right place. The signs will designate the purpose of the lot – general event parking, tailgate lot, or RV lot. Examples of the signs can be found below.







TAILGATING

Where are the designated tailgating lots?

Non-alcohol tailgates are ONLY permitted in lots G-82, S-81, and G-81 (RV lot). Tailgate activities taking place in other parking lots will be asked to pack their things and enter the facility. Failure to comply with these rules will result in removal from the parking lot by ISU Police Department. To see the 2026 IHSA Football State Finals parking map click here.

Can I have alcohol in the tailgating lots?

In compliance with IHSA policies, absolutely NO ALCOHOL is allowed in any Illinois State parking lot during the 2026 IHSA Football Finals.

Under no circumstances shall persons under 21 years of age be served, sold, or have possession of alcoholic beverages in the tailgate areas. Violation of these statutes may result in arrest.

All tailgate lot rules and regulations can be found here.

What is allowed in the tailgating lots?

Food, non-alcoholic drinks, and yard games are allowed in the designated tailgating lots.

STADIUM POLICIES

Can I bring my pet?

Animals are not permitted in University owned or leased buildings except for the following exceptions:

- Animals associated with entertainment productions or promotional events are permitted in university-owned or leased buildings only if the animals are under the direct control of their trainer or an individual connected with the event.
- Animals are permitted in university-owned or leased buildings when they are engaged in safety or security work that has been authorized by University officials.
- Service animals are permitted in University owned or leased facilities in accordance with the State of Illinois legislation. Illinois State University uses the definition outlined by the Americans with Disabilities Act which states that service animals include any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. **Animals whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.**

Illinois State University Service Animal Policy and Procedures

Is alcohol allowed or sold?

In accordance with IHSA policies, no alcoholic beverages will be permitted to be brought in the stadium. No alcoholic beverages will be sold or served.

Any fan who appears intoxicated will not be granted access to Hancock Stadium. In addition, any fan who appears intoxicated or is in possession of alcohol will be escorted out of the stadium. Any outside alcohol discovered within the stadium will be confiscated. Illinois State Athletics reserves the right to search any fan for alcoholic beverages.

Is smoking/tobacco use allowed?

The use of tobacco on property controlled by Illinois State University is restricted by the laws of the State of Illinois and the policies of the University. Smoking is prohibited on all campus property, including buildings, grounds, and parking lots. This includes Hancock Stadium, Horton Field House, and all surrounding parking and tailgate lots. There will be no designated smoking areas at any Illinois State Athletic event. Smokeless cigarettes and E-Cigs are also prohibited.

Photography & Videotaping

Flash photography is permitted at the IHSA Football State Finals. However, all videography requests must be approved by the IHSA.

Can I re-enter the stadium with my original ticket?

Patrons are **not allowed** to leave the stadium and re-enter with a previously scanned ticket. Any fan who exits the facility and would like to come back in must purchase another ticket.

Can I get on the field?

Only participants with IHSA or ISU credentials will be granted access to the field. Entering the field without proper credentials is trespassing and will be handled accordingly by ISU Police Department.

What is the code of conduct for fans at Hancock Stadium?

Proper behavior is expected of all fans in attendance at Illinois State University athletic events. Inconsiderate or illegal behavior will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in a lawful manner and may result in ejection from the stadium and/or revocation of ticket privileges. Please be courteous and respectful to fellow fans with your actions and maintain good sportsmanship to all teams and game officials. Individuals who fail to do so, will be dismissed from athletic events.

Bag Search, Weapons Detection, and Prohibited Items

Will my bag be searched?
All bags will be inspected prior to your entry to Hancock Stadium. All items prohibited in Hancock Stadium will be confiscated at this time and not stored for pickup. Please have all bags ready for inspection upon your arrival at the gate to ensure timeliness. See Prohibited Items for all items not allowed in Hancock Stadium. Diaper bags (with child) and medical bags will be permitted after inspection by security personnel of Hancock Stadium.

Will I have to go through a metal detector?
YES! Illinois State Athletics is pleased to introduce a new security screening process for entry into Hancock Stadium. The safety of our guests, student-athletes, employees, and event staff remains our highest priority. All guests entering Hancock Stadium will pass through a walk-through weapons detection system as part of the entry process. If necessary, security personnel will conduct additional screening using a handheld metal-detecting wand. Accommodations will be available for guests who require an alternative screening method. These security measures help identify potential safety threats and prevent prohibited items from entering the venue.

Do I have to take everything out of my pocket to walkthrough the metal detector?
NO! To help keep lines moving efficiently, please leave items in your pockets as you pass through the metal detector unless instructed otherwise by security personnel. Guests carrying bags should proceed through the metal detector and then visit the bag check table for a secondary inspection and bag tag.

Will clear bag policy be enforced?
NO, the clear bag policy will not be enforced for IHSA State Finals. Backpacks are not allowed.

What items are prohibited in Hancock Stadium?
- Alcohol
- Backpacks (all bags subject to search)
- Non-clear containers (bottles, containers)
- Folding chairs or any type of portable seating
- Food and beverage
- Noisemakers and irritants of any type (laser pointers, horns, whistles, confetti, etc.)
- Pets (with the exception of service animals)
- Strollers
- Weapons of any kind
- Portable heaters



All items carried into the stadium are subject to search upon arrival by our event staff. Any items not allowed into the stadium will be confiscated and will not be stored for pickup. Personal radios, cameras, and service animals are allowed inside Hancock Stadium. Please be courteous when using a personal radio.

What items are allowed?
- 1 unopened clear water bottler per person
- Blankets
- Hand and feet warmers
- Seat cushions without metal
- Purses
- Cowbells

TICKET INFORMATION

How do I purchase tickets for the 2026 IHSA Football State Finals?
Tickets for the 2026 IHSA Football State Finals can be purchased online through http://GoRedbirds.com, by calling Illinois State Athletics Ticket Office at 309-438-8000, or at the ticket office on game day.

All ticket holders must abide by Illinois State University policies. ISU reserves the right to ask any ticket holder to exit the stadium if asked to do so by event personnel. Illinois State Athletics is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets.

How do I purchase tickets for the 2026 IHSA Football State Finals online?
To order tickets for the 2026 IHSA Football State Finals online, go to http://GoRedbirds.com. Select the ticket tab on the home page and choose "Buy Tickets". Under Illinois State Events find IHSA Football State Finals. Select "Buy Now" for the session you would like to attend, choose your number of tickets, and checkout. A mobile ticket will be sent to your email.

Online ticket sales will go live 2 weeks before the state finals on Friday, November 13th.

Can I purchase tickets for the 2026 IHSA Football State Finals by calling the Illinois State Athletics Ticket Office?
To order tickets for the 2026 IHSA Football State Finals over the phone, call the Illinois State Athletics Ticket Office at 309-438-8000. Illinois State Athletics Ticket Office is open from 9:00 am-5:00 pm Monday-Friday. The CEFCU Arena Ticket Office will be closed on game days.

Where do I go to purchase tickets for the 2026 IHSA Football State Finals in person?
Hancock Stadium game day ticket office locations are at Gate 1 and Gate 4 on the west side, and at the main ticket office on the east side at Gate 8. All offices will open at 8:00 am on Friday and Saturday for the IHSA Football State Finals. Walk-up sales will be available.

Are tickets the same price at the window and online?
Yes, tickets for the 2026 IHSA Football State Finals are $21 online and at the window.

If I purchase a ticket to one state final on Friday, can I get into any other games?
Yes, a ticket for any of the games on Friday (1A, 2A, 3A, 4A) will get you into the stadium at any time on Friday. Any Saturday ticket (5A, 6A, 7A, 8A) will get you in at any time on Saturday. However, there is a no re-entry policy. If you exit the stadium at any time, you will have to purchase a new ticket to re-enter. For example, if you want to come to the 1A game on Friday, but the game has already started and is no longer available to purchase online, you can purchase a ticket for the 2A game online instead and still gain entrance at whatever time you arrive.

I was told to pick up my ticket/credential at will call. Where do I go?
All Will-Call tickets and credentials will be available for pickup at the Hancock East Ticket Office.

Facility Information

Where are the games played?
All IHSA Football State Finals games are played at Hancock Stadium.

The stadium address is 211 North Main Street Normal, Illinois 61790.

How do I get to Hancock Stadium?
Hancock Stadium is on the northwest corner of College Ave. and Main St., two miles south of exit 165.

From I-55, take exit 165, U.S. 51-South Main St., south to College Ave. From I-39, exit at I-55 East, and the first exit is 165. From I-74, follow I-55 North to exit 165. From the airport, turn left on Empire (Rt. 9) for approximately two miles, right on Veteran's Parkway for approximately four miles, and left on College Ave., for approximately six miles. The address is 211 N Main St. Normal, IL 61761.

Where are the concession stands located?
Concession stands can be found along the east and west side concourses of Hancock Stadium. Papa Johns is located on the east side concourse.

Where are restrooms located?
Men's and women's restrooms can be found on the east and west concourses of Hancock Stadium. Portable restrooms can be found in the tailgate lots surrounding Hancock Stadium.

Where are baby changing stations located?
Baby changing stations are located in men's, women's, and family restrooms on the east concourse, in addition to the men's and women's restrooms on the third floor (Aaron Leetch Club and Suites).

Breastfeeding privacy areas are available in the First Aid offices located on the East and West concourses.

Where is First Aid located?
EMTs will be on-site for all football games. The First Aid offices are located on the east and west concourses. If you or someone around you needs medical assistance, alert the nearest usher or event staff member.

Where is Lost and Found located?
All lost and found items can be found in the First Aid offices located on the east and west concourses of Hancock Stadium. After game day, all items of value will be relocated to 150 CEFCU Arena or the Illinois State University Police Department. Call 309-438-2000 to retrieve any items.

Where is an ATM located?
Hancock Stadium has one ATM on the West concourse by the First Aid office.

Who do I call if I have questions?
Athletics Ticket Office: 309-438-8000
Athletics Administration: 309-438-2000
Weisbecker Scholarship Fund: 309-438-3803
Illinois State University Police: 309-438-8631
Hancock Stadium Event Rentals: 309-438-0080

Is there a map of the facility?
To see the Hancock Stadium map that includes the locations of seating sections, restrooms, FirstAid, concessions, and more click here.

Seating Sections

How do I know where to sit?
Home Team: Sections 101-107
Home Team Band: Section 108
Visiting Team: Sections 121-125
Visiting Team Band: 126

What should I do if my team's game hasn't started yet?
If the game before yours is still going on, please sit at the top of your designated seating section to allow the current team's fans to finish watching their game and exit the stadium safely. Following the trophy ceremony, there will be a 20-minute warmup period before the next game begins, so you will have plenty of time to fill into the bottom rows of your section before your game begins.

Where do I meet student-athletes and coaches after the game?
After the game, student-athletes and coaches will not come out into the stands. They will return to their locker room and their bus will pick them up in the same location they dropped them off before the game.

Hangout in Horton

Is there anywhere our team fans can meet pre-game?
Hangout in Horton will take place in Horton Field House. There will be two areas designated for those teams playing in the next game. These areas will need to be cleared out once the team's game starts. Tables, chairs, and outlets will be available for an indoor, non-alcoholic tailgate area. Fans who wish to provide food for the tailgate will enter at the Northwest or Southeast corner of Horton Field House to drop off the food items. Then they will enter Gate 1 or Gate 4 to scan their tickets. There will be a video wall live streaming the state finals courtesy of VisitBN and access to officially licensed IHSA State Finals gear sold by Minerva. Hangout in Horton will open 60 minutes prior to the first game of the day.

How long can our fans and team stay in Hangout in Horton?
Hangout in Horton will be available for teams and fans until their game begins. When your team's game begins, you should clean up your area and enter the stands. There will be tables along the West wall to store food, decorations, or other supplies while your team's game is going on.

Do I have to have a ticket for the IHSA Football State Finals to enter Hangout in Horton?
Hangout in Horton will require fans to scan their game tickets to enter the facility. Fans will be able to enjoy Hangout in Horton, restrooms, and concessions prior to the game then immediately enter the stands of Hancock Stadium without exiting the facility.

Programs and Merchandise

Where do I get a program?
All game programs for the 2026 IHSA Football State Finals will be DIGITAL.

Where can I purchase IHSA Football State Finals gear?
Minerva is the official supplier of IHSA Football State Finals gear. They will have items available for sale in the Hangout in Horton area, on the West side concourse behind sections 122 and 123, and in a merchandise trailer on the East side concourse.

PARKING MAP



IHSA Fan Parking

G-64

F-64

G-53

U-91

University St. Parking Garage

G-81 (RVs & buses)

ADA Parking

G-73

G-64

Tailgate Lots

G-82

S-81

G-81 (RVs & buses)

Reserved Parking – NO FANS

G-73

F-62

G83/U83 (school sponsored buses)

Do you have questions about parking?

Office of Parking and Transportation: (309) 438-8391

University Police: (309) 438-8631

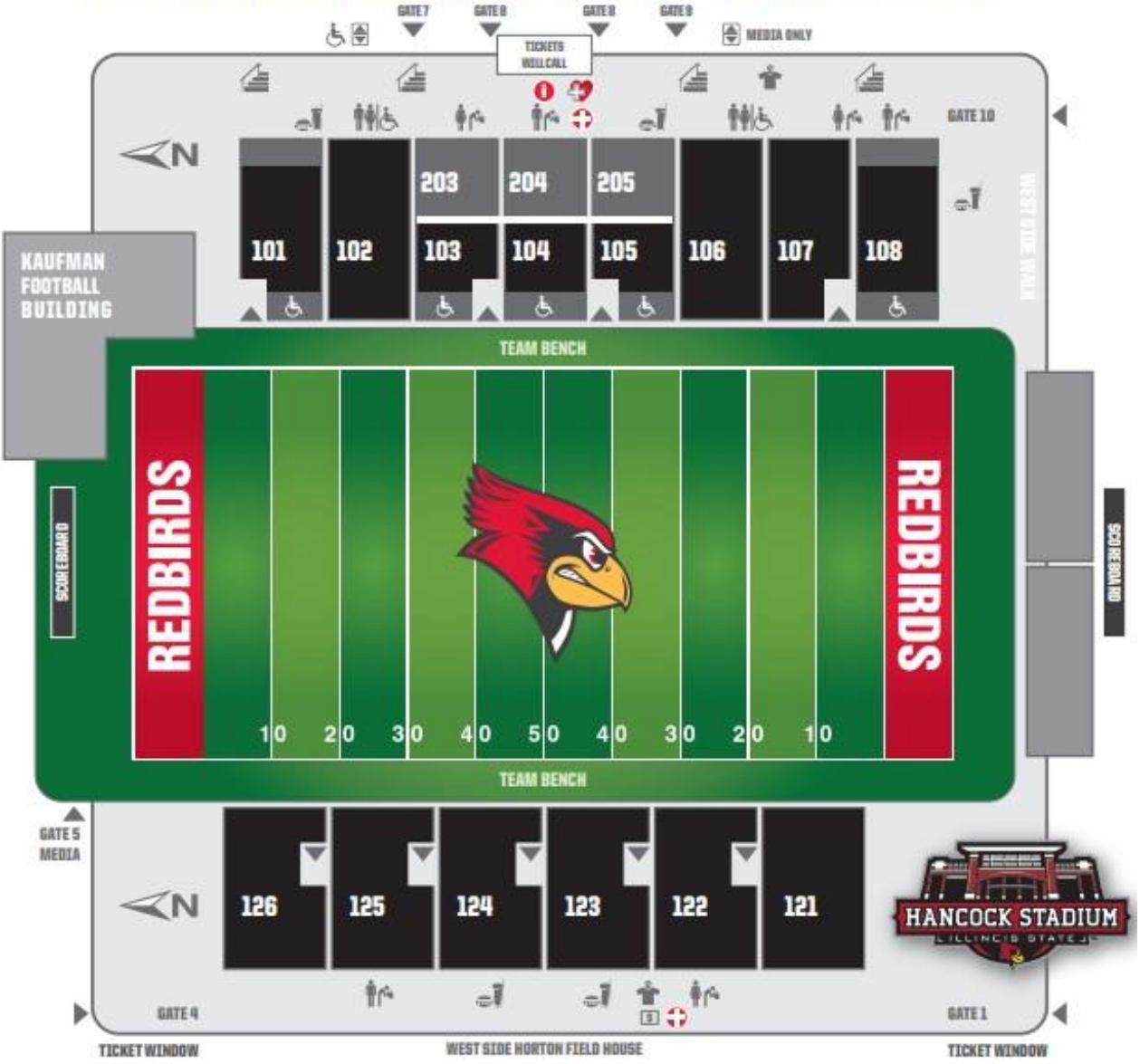
Recorded Information: (309) 438-PARK

www.parking.ilstu.edu

STADIUM MAP

HANCOCK STADIUM MAP

HOME OF IHSA FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES



LEGEND

- INFORMATION/GUEST SERVICES
- ALL GENDER/FAMILY RESTROOM
- WOMEN'S RESTROOM/FOUNTAIN
- MEN'S RESTROOM/FOUNTAIN
- SPECIAL NEEDS
- FIRST AID
- AED LOCATION
- CONCESSIONS
- ELEVATOR
- STAIRS
- ATM

EAST SIDE

TICKET OFFICE
- PUBLIC TICKET SALES
- WILL CALL
- MEDIA

GATE 7
CLUB/SUITE ENTRANCE

GATE 8
MAIN ENTRANCE

GATE 9
MEDIA PRESS-BOX ELEVATOR ENTRANCE

WEST SIDE

GATE 1
PUBLIC TICKET SALES

GATE 4
PUBLIC TICKET SALES

GATE 5
MEDIA ON-FIELD ENTRANCE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: WWW.IHSA.ORG/SPORTS-ACTIVITIES/FOOTBALL

Tailgating at Illinois State University for IHSA Football

Fans wishing to tailgate can do so in the following University lots: S-81, G81 & G-82. Lots will be closed when all spots are full. All tailgate areas may close at the discretion of University officials. ***Parking Lots open at 8 AM. Tailgating starts at 8 AM and ends at the start of the last game.*** No Alcohol allowed.

From IHSA Handbook, Administrative Procedures, Guidelines, Policies; Alcoholic Beverages & IHSA State Finals, Page 101.

The possession, distribution, sale and or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited at the site and on any affiliated property of any IHSA state series contest. State series hosts are required to make all state series contest sites and any affiliated property, including parking lots, fan accommodation areas, and other school or event venue property, alcohol free zones on the date or dates of any IHSA event being held at the site. Violation of this policy by an event host will subject the host to a penalty for violation of IHSA By-law 2.020. Such penalty may include but not necessarily be limited to prohibition against subsequent event hosting assignments. Violation of this policy by a non-hosting member school will subject the school to penalty for violation of IHSA By-law 2.020. Patrons of any IHSA state series contest determined to be in violation of this policy will be removed from the premise, and law enforcement officials will be called as warranted. No ticket refunds will be granted in such cases.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ALL IHSA TAILGATING EVENTS

The Illinois State University Police Department will strictly enforce state and federal laws and regulations, applicable University policies and procedures, and the following rules during all tailgating events:

1. The University permits tailgating in designated areas ONLY (S-81, G81 & G-82).
2. The possession, distribution, sale and or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on ISU properties for any IHSA state series contest.
3. Any use of cannabis is prohibited on University property under the *Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act*. This prohibition is not altered by the state law regarding the use of cannabis.
4. Concealed Carry is prohibited during all tailgating events in accordance with University Policy 5.1.1.
5. Violation of any laws may result in arrest.
6. Portable toilets will be made available by the University in the tailgating lots. No visitors or tailgaters may bring portable toilets, platforms, stages or other structures.

7. All tailgating equipment/supplies/games must be kept behind any painted emergency access lanes (red lines), and may not block adjacent parking spaces, sidewalks, or impede driving aisles.
8. All tailgaters are responsible for proper disposal of trash and other debris such as charcoal. Trash containers will be provided in tailgating areas. The disposal of grease, hot coals or hazardous materials onto the grounds or into storm drains is prohibited. Any person damaging University property will be responsible for the cost of repairs; including damage to grass from cooking grease.
9. No open fires, including fire pits, are allowed. Charcoal and/or propane grills are allowed. Charcoal must be self-lighting.
10. All tailgaters and spectators must conduct themselves in ways to ensure the safety and enjoyment of others. Abusive and/or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.
11. The University permits tailgating participants to use tents to enhance their enjoyment of the event. However, tents may not interfere with vehicular and/or pedestrian traffic. Tents in Lots S-81 & G-82 may not occupy a space reserved for a vehicle(s). The University will not be liable for damage caused by displaced tents.
12. The use of sound amplification devices is prohibited without appropriate pre-approval required by University Policy 6.1.13 Sound Amplification.
13. No sales or solicitations are allowed.
14. Smoking and/or tobacco use is prohibited on all campus property, including buildings, grounds and parking lots.

Questions regarding this procedure may be directed to the Illinois State Athletic Department, Event & Facility Management at (309) 438-8000.

Thank you for your cooperation!