



In accordance with Section 1.450 of the IHSA Constitution, the Board of Directors has approved the Terms and Conditions governing the 2026-2027 IHSA Girls/Boys Swimming & Diving Series.

I. SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION

A) Competition in the IHSA Girls & Boys Swimming and Diving Tournament Series will be held for all member schools without classification.

B) Students with physical/visual disabilities will compete in girls' or boys' swimming against other students with physical disabilities regardless of school classification. A disability is a physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity.

1) Students with physical/visual disabilities wishing to participate in the girls' or boys' swimming events for students with physical/visual disabilities must have a statement of disability on file with appropriate personnel responsible for student health issues at the student's school. The IHSA reserves the right to request this documentation as part of the entry process.

2) Competitors with physical/visual disabilities will be categorized into one of two classifications based on U16/18 standards developed by Wheelchair and Ambulatory Sports USA (WASUSA).

3) Competitors who are classified as S1-S7 shall participate in Classification A.

4) Competitors who are classified as S8-S13 shall participate in Classification B.

5) Student athletes with physical/visual disabilities (or any adult acting on their behalf, e.g., a coach, parent, or guardian) are required to provide their school with a written statement of their classification, for purposes of the 2026-2027 IHSA swimming and diving championship series, by any of the following means at the time of registration for the 2026-2027 swimming season:

Provide an official WASUSA classification card or other evidence demonstrating the athlete's classification category; or If a student athlete with a physical/visual disability is not classified as detailed above by the time of the Sectional meet, the athlete may still be allowed to swim in the athletes with physical/visual disabilities division but will automatically be classified to swim under Classification B. A student athlete with a physical/visual disability may not swim under a provisional status in more than one IHSA State Series in his/her high school career.

Note: At the State Final Meet, an athlete competing in the Athletes with Physical and Visual Disabilities division under a provisional classification can set an IHSA state record, which will be recognized at the time. However, if the athlete is later denied formal classification by the U.S. Paralympics (as outlined in #3 and #4 of this section), their record will be rescinded, and the previous record will be reinstated.

II. DATES AND SITES

A) Sectional Entries, including Athletes with Physical and Visual Disabilities (List of Participants)/Coaches Data Form Deadline: Monday, November 2 (Girls)/Monday, February 15 (Boys) @ midnight.

B) Online Seeding Meetings: November 4, 2026 (Girls) and February 17, 2027 (Boys).

C) Girls Sectional meets will be held on November 7, 2026, at 16 sites. Sectional assignments will be posted on the IHSA website mid-September.

D) Girls State Finals will be held on November 13-14, 2026 at FMC Natatorium @ Ty Warner Park, Westmont.

E) Boys Sectional meets will be held on February 20, 2027 at 16 sites. Sectional assignment will be posted on the IHSA website mid-November.

F) Boys State Finals will be held on February 26-27, 2027 at FMC Natatorium @ Ty Warner Park, Westmont.

III. SCHOOLS CENTER INFORMATION, ONLINE SCHOOL ENTRIES, RULES MEETING PRESENTATION, WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE, ELIGIBILITY, AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, AND ONLINE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A) The policy for Original School Entry Deadlines, Late Entries, and Late Withdrawals shall be the policies and procedures regarding entry for all IHSA-sponsored sport/activities. For complete instructions, please login to the IHSA Schools Center with your Official Representative USER ID and Password. Click on the activity tracker and click the button to add sports for the upcoming year. Sports Entry Deadlines are August 24 (fall), Nov. 1 (winter).

B) **Online School Entries (Including individuals in the Students with Physical/Visual Disabilities Division):** All Official Representatives must login to the IHSA School Center; click on "Sport & Activity Tracker"; click on "enter your teams or individuals". There you will select the sports and activities your school will participate in during the 2026-2027 school term. IHSA uses this information to assign schools to Sectionals after the Fall entry deadline (August 24 and November 1 (Winter).

C) **Late Online School Entries:** Schools that wish to enter Girls Swimming after August 24 will be considered late. To be considered for late entry, the Principal/Official Representative must email Kraig Garber (kgarber@ihsa.org) for approval. A penalty fee of \$100.00 may be assessed.

D) Schools that wish to enter Boys Swimming after November 1 will be considered late. To be considered for late entry, the Principal/Official Representative must email Kraig Garber (kgarber@ihsa.org) for approval. A penalty fee of \$100.00 may be assessed.

E) Six-Contest Verification

1) **Teams:** Schools must verify that the school's boys or girls' interscholastic team has participated in six boys or girls interscholastic meets during the current Boys and Swimming & Diving season. This allows teams to compete for team honors (trophy) during the state meet in accordance with IHSA By-law 3.054.

2) **Individuals:** Schools with only individuals competing do not check the Six Contest Verification box.



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Individual entries are not eligible to compete for team honors (trophy).

F) Required Rules Video Presentation:

1) The Head Coach of every participating school and officials: The Swimming & Diving Online Rules Video **begins August 10 and ends on September 15**). Boys Swimming & Diving head coaches can view the Rules presentation through **December 1**.

2) Swimming & Diving Officials: The Swimming & Diving Online Presentation/Exams for Officials **begins July 29 and ends August 19**. Officials must log in to their ArbiterSports account to complete their exam and Rules presentation.

If you coach at two different schools or are a coach and an official, or if you are a girls and boys diving coach, you must contact Cheryl Lowery at the IHSA Office (clowery@ihsa.org), once you have been given for watching the presentation once so she can verify and manually give you credit for the other position you hold. Our server runs an update every evening, if you view the presentation and it doesn't give you credit (within 24 hours) the first time, contact Cheryl Lowery at the IHSA Office.

G) Diving Rules Presentation (Required for coaches and officials to serve on Sectional Dive Panel) - Refer to the Online Seeding Meeting Timeline in the Manual for Schools and Managers.

H) Breach of Contract By-Law 6.041 (Withdrawal Procedure): You must withdraw by notifying the IHSA Office, not the Sectional Manager. To withdraw without penalty, the Official Representative from the school must email Cheryl Lowery (clowery@ihsa.org) at the IHSA Office, notifying IHSA of the school's intention to **withdrawal by 11:59 p.m. Monday, November 2 (Girls)/February 15 (Boys)**.

Note: If a school withdraws after the deadline and/or does not show up for competition, the school will be **charged a \$500 penalty**. If applicable, the school may be charged for any additional financial loss sustained by the offended school(s) or the Association, because of such breach.

I) **Eligibility:** All member schools in good standing may enter an individual(s) or a team under the provisions of IHSA By-law 3.054 for both the able-bodied swimming and diving program and the events for students with physical/visual disabilities. In accordance with By-law 3.050, schools are subject to entering eligible student-athletes.

J) **Affirmative Action Policy:** Only boys may participate in the boys' competition in the meet series and only girls may participate in the girls' competition in the meet series, except as provided in the Illinois High School Association Affirmative Action Policy.

K) **Online List of Participants (Including individuals participating in the Students with Physical/Visual disabilities Division):** Each school entering the sectional (whether entering a team or an individual) must submit its Online List of Participants via the Internet through the IHSA Schools Center Web Site, to the IHSA Office. Complete instructions are posted in the Manual for Schools. If a school does not submit the Online List of Participants by the deadline, coaches and participants from that school are subject to sanctions, which could include but not be limited to being ruled ineligible to compete in the Sectional. Schools which do not submit their school's Online List of

Participants and are consequently ruled ineligible for the Sectional and must formally withdraw (see Withdrawal Procedures/Breach of Contract above in Section III-C).

SPACES LEFT BLANK DURING THE ONLINE LIST OF PARTICIPANT PROCESS MAY NOT BE FILLED IN AFTER THE ONLINE LIST OF PARTICIPANT ENTRY DEADLINE.

L) **COACHES NAMES:** If a coach on your coaching staff doesn't appear in the drop-down menu when completing the List of Participants, any of the following missing requirements will not allow you to add your coach until it has been completed. School Administrators can check the Staff Compliance page in your IHSA Schools Center to determine the missing requirement for that staff member:

1) Designated as Head Swimming Coach, Head Diving Coach or Assistant Coach (Head Diving coaches must complete the yearly Diving Rules Presentation to be considered for the Sectional Diving Panel.)

2) Designated coaching certification (ASEP/ISBE/NFHS, including Sports First Aid).

3) Designated completion date for the PES Examination

4) Designated completion date for the Concussion Risk Management Exam-80%- 24 out of 30. (Every two school terms).

5) Designated completion date for the Hate Speech/Harassment Video (Every Two School Terms).

NOTE: Coaches who wish to be considered for the Sectional Diving panel must also view the required Diving Rules Presentation, be nominated by the Head coach on the List of Participants and be listed as the Head Diving Coach in their IHSA Schools Center.

A school may enter two contestants in each individual swimming event and two contestants in the diving event. A school can enter a maximum of two (2) participants per event in each gender for the physical/visual disabilities division.

IV. HOST FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

A) Host school shall pay for all local expenses. Each sectional host will receive a guarantee of **\$800.00**. A financial report must be sent by the sectional manager to the IHSA office within 10 days following each sectional meet. This form can be found in the "H Tournament Hosting & ScoreZone" section.

B) Neither the State Association nor the local meet manager will assume responsibility for any other contestant expenses of any kind for any meet except those expenses specified above.

C) **Digital Tickets:** Per IHSA Board Policy 22, GoFan Digital Tickets will be the exclusive ticket option available for this sport at the Sectional and Super-Sectional rounds of the State Series. Any exceptions must be approved by the IHSA office.

D) **Admission Prices:** The following State Series ticket prices have been set by the IHSA Board of Directors. A baby in arms is free at all rounds of the State Series. Pricing for all other individuals is as follows:

Sectional: Digital Ticket: **\$7.00**

Cash Ticket: **\$9.00**

E) **State Final as follows:** \$30.00 via the GoFan digital ticketing platform.

Diving tickets are \$15 per day via the GoFan digital ticketing platform.

Swimming tickets must be purchased as a set

(Friday/Saturday ticket) for \$30 per child, student or adult and must be purchased through the GoFan digital ticketing platform.

The Sectional meet revenue shall include the television and radio rights fees collected by the Sectional manager as provided for in Item IV-E and IX-G.

F) Rights Fees for TV and Radio: See the IHSA web site (www.ihsa.org) for the fees to be charged by Local Managers and/or the IHSA for television and cable broadcasts and radio originations.

V. SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT ASSIGNMENTS AND SEED MEETINGS

A) All schools who complete their On- Line School Entry for both the able-bodied swimming and diving program and the events for students with physical/visual disabilities by the deadline in the IHSA Girls/Boys State Swimming and Diving Meet Series will be assigned to compete in one of the sixteen (16) Sectional meets depending on geographic basis. School Sectional Assignments will be posted on the respective IHSA Swimming/Diving Activity Web Page Mid- September (Girls) and Mid-November (Boys).

B) ONLINE ELECTRONIC SECTIONAL SEEDING MEETING: Please refer to the Swimming & Diving Manual for Schools & Managers for instructions and the timeline.

PERMISSABLE CHANGES DURING THE ELECTRONIC SECTIONAL SEEDING: After the LOP deadline, changes to names or times will not be permissible for neither individual events nor relays. The only allowable entry changes prior to 6:00 p.m. of the Electronic Seeding meeting are those that involve circumstances where the school has deemed an athlete ineligible to compete as certified to in writing by a principal or a licensed physician in cases of illness or injury. This type of entry change is only applicable to individual events and on a person for person basis. Relay entry changes are not permissible under any circumstances after the LOP deadline. Other allowable changes that may be made prior to 6:00 p.m. of the Electronic Seeding meeting are those that involve misspelling of names or a correction to an athlete's year in school.

NOTE: Individual swimmers who do not have an interscholastic time for the current season must submit a non-interscholastic time for seeding purposes. The principal must provide written verification of accuracy to the Sectional manager, the non-interscholastic time has been performed in actual competition during the period of July 1, 2026, through the current Girls/Boys swimming season. These non-interscholastic time verifications from the principals must be available for review by competing team coaches upon request. If an interscholastic time that has been performed during the current season is available, it must be used for seeding purposes at the Sectional meet. "No Time" entries shall not be accepted. Schools do not need to submit a time for the competitor(s) it is entering in the Students with Physical/Visual Disabilities Division.

Note 1: All seed times submitted for Sectional meet seeding must be recorded to hundredths. Times submitted in tenths shall have the factor nine (9) added to them for seeding purposes (i.e., 55.1 for a Backstroke time will be changed to 55.19 at the Seeding Meeting.)

Note 2: Verified non-interscholastic times for relay team entries shall not be "add-up" times.

Note 3: A verified leadoff relay time is not an acceptable

individual seedtime in the appropriate event.

Note 4: Entries will be assigned to heats and lanes in the swimming events determined by (1) best times; and (2) the composite opinion of the head Girls/Boys swimming coaches. In case of a discrepancy, (2) is to take precedence over (1). Coaches must be prepared to present evidence (which might include official meet results) to support the times submitted for seeding purposes at the Sectional meet.

C) Scratch Meeting: A scratch meeting with the Sectional Referee and all coaches shall be held immediately prior to the start of the Sectional Swimming and Diving Meet. After the scratch meeting, there shall be no substitutions or changes in a school's entries. Only changes related to illness or injury will be permitted at the Sectional Scratch Meeting (see V-G. below), and in individual events only.

Entry Substitutions: AT THE SECTIONAL MEET - In case of illness or injury, as certified to in writing by a principal or physician, an entry substitution may be made in an individual event following the Electronic Sectional Seed Meeting on a person for person basis only. Additionally, in circumstances where the school has deemed an athlete ineligible to compete as certified to in writing by a principal, an entry substitution may be made in an individual event following the Electronic Sectional Seed Meeting on a person for person basis only. These substitutions must be made at the Sectional Meet Scratch Meeting (Referee and all coaches) to be held immediately prior to the start of the Sectional meet. No contestant shall be permitted to change events to act as a substitute.

Note: A different swimmer may be substituted in each event in which the injured or ill swimmer was entered. All Swimmers/Divers used as substitutes must have been on this year's school team and must be eligible in all respects.

VI. SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND TIME SCHEDULES

A) For the Sectional meets, the local managers shall hold Electronic Seed Meetings on Wednesday prior to sectionals. Please refer to the Manual for Schools & Managers for complete instructions.

B) SUGGESTED Sectional Meet Time Schedule: Saturday, November 7, 2026 (Girls) and Saturday, February 20, 2027 (Boys). The host school WILL determine when they open the doors for participants and spectators prior to the start of the meet. Sectional Meet Managers will provide final details prior to the Sectional Meet to the schools assigned to their Sectional Meet.

- 100 minutes prior to competition - Pool board(s) open for Diving Warm-ups
- 60 minutes prior to competition - Deadline for divers and coaches to initiate entry changes
- 15 minutes prior to competition - Boards close
- 10 minutes prior to competition - Diving Referee speaks with divers
- 5 minutes prior to competition - Diving Referee speaks with judges

C) Swimming Order of Events:

- 200-Yard Medley Relay
- 200-Yard Freestyle for Students with Physical/Visual Disabilities
- 200-Yard Freestyle
- 200-Yard Individual Medley
- 50-Yard Freestyle for Students with Physical/Visual



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- 50-Yard Freestyle
- (15 minute break during Sectionals and 25-Minute Break during State Final)

- 100-Yard Butterfly
- 100-Yard Freestyle for Students with Physical/Visual Disabilities

- 100-Yard Freestyle
- 500-Yard Freestyle
- 200-Yard Freestyle Relay

- (15-minute break during Sectionals and 25-Minute Break during State Final)

- 100-Yard Backstroke
- 100-Yard Breaststroke for Students with Physical/Visual Disabilities
- 100-Yard Breaststroke
- 400-Yard Freestyle Relay

Note: All Swimming events at the Sectional meets shall be conducted on the "Timed Finals" basis. No preliminary or final heats shall be held.

VII. STATE TIME SCHEDULE

A) The Girls State Final Meet will take place on November 13-14, 2026, and the Boys State Final Meet will take place on February 26-27, 2027. A detailed schedule for the state final meets will be posted in the Resources section of the Girls or Boys Swimming and Diving web- pages at least one week prior to the state final events.

B) ADVANCEMENT OF WINNERS

1) The first-place winners in each individual swimming event and the first-place winners in the diving from each Sectional meet shall advance to the State Final meet and compete in the events in which they qualified.

2) In Addition, any individual or relay team in the swimming events who equals or surpasses a minimum qualifying time in the Sectional meets shall be certified by the meet manager and shall advance to the State Final meet in the qualifying event(s). Legal lead-off leg times may not be used to qualify to the State Meet in corresponding individual events.

3) The first-place winners in each individual swimming event for swimmers with physical/visual disabilities from each Sectional meet shall advance to the State Final meet and compete in the events in which they qualify. In addition, any individual who equals or surpasses- es a minimum qualifying time in the Sectional meets shall be certified by the meet manager and shall advance to the State Final in the qualifying event(s). Qualifying times for girls or boys to advance from the sectional to the state finals in the physical/visual disabilities division shall be based on the gender appropriate WASUSA S5/U16/18 standard for Classification A and WASUSA S8/U16/18 standard for Classification B

2026-2027 STATE FINAL QUALIFYING STANDARDS ¶
State Swim Qualifying Standards are determined in the following manner: The Qualifying Standards for each individual swimming event will be calculated by determining the 36th place time from all sectionals. That time will then be used to obtain an average of the last FIVE years' average times in each event (a different number of years to obtain the average may be used in one or more events if deemed appropriate). In relay events the same process will be implemented but the 30th sectional place time will be used to make the calculations. ¶

Event¶	2026· Girls¶	Students with Physical/¶ Visual Disabilities¶	
	¶	Class·A¶	Class·B¶
200·Medley·Relay¶	1:49.45¶	¶	¶
200·Free¶	1:56.11¶	7:30.00*¶	5:30.00*¶
200·IM¶	2:10.69¶	¶	¶
50·Free¶	24.45¶	3:00.00*¶	2:15.00*¶
100·Butterfly¶	58.46¶	¶	¶
100·Free¶	53.00¶	4:45.00*¶	3:30.00*¶
500·Free¶	5:13.54¶	¶	¶
200·Free·Relay¶	1:38.88¶	¶	¶
100·Back¶	58.75¶	¶	¶
100·Breast¶	1:07.40¶	5:30.00*¶	5:00.00*¶
400·Free·Relay¶	3:37.77¶	¶	¶

Event¶	2027· Boys¶	Students with Physical/¶ Visual Disabilities¶	
	¶	Class·A¶	Class·B¶
200·Medley·Relay¶	1:36.57¶	¶	¶
200·Free¶	1:44.63¶	7:00.00*¶	5:00.00*¶
200·IM¶	1:57.67¶	¶	¶
50·Free¶	21.74¶	2:45.00*¶	2:00.00*¶
100·Butterfly¶	52.02¶	¶	¶
100·Free¶	47.52¶	4:15.00*¶	3:00.00*¶
500·Free¶	4:48.04¶	¶	¶
200·Free·Relay¶	1:27.59¶	¶	¶
100·Back¶	53.03¶	¶	¶
100·Breast¶	59.23¶	5:00.00*¶	4:30.00*¶
400·Free·Relay¶	3:13.76¶	¶	¶

Important Notice:

Sectional hosts are required to email Kraig Garber (kgarber@ihsa.org) a complete set of meet results immediately after completing the Winner Report before leaving the site.

In the diving event at the Sectional Meet the sixteen (16) divers with the highest scores in Rounds 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 shall qualify for semifinal Rounds 6, 7 and 8, the twelve (12) divers with the highest total score after Round 8 shall qualify for the finals.

All swimming events in the Sectional meets shall be conducted on the "Timed Finals" basis. No preliminary or final heats will be held.

Note: All Sectional times shall be recorded to two decimal places. In the event automatic timing equipment fails, and stopwatches are used for backup timing, times shall be recorded in accordance with Rule 6-1-2.

In the diving event at the State Final, the twenty (20) divers with the highest scores in Rounds 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 shall qualify for semifinal Rounds 6, 7 and 8, the sixteen (16) divers with the highest total score after Round 8 shall qualify for the finals.

Note: In the event of a tie for the final qualifying position in the State Finals (16th place), all divers tied for 16th place will dive in the finals. However, as per Item X-B-1 in these terms and Conditions, all competitors will be competing for a maximum of 16 medals. The top 16 scores at the conclusion of the final three dives will receive medals. No additional medals for any additional qualifier will be awarded (unless after all dives are completed there remains a tie for the 16th position).

In the State Final meet, there shall be eight (8) contestants qualifying from preliminaries for the championship finals and eight (8) contestants qualifying for the consolation finals in the swimming events. In case of a tie for the last qualifying place, a swim-off should be conducted not later than 45 minutes after the last heat of the last event in which any of the swimmers in question has competed during that session of the meet.

Note: All times shall be recorded to two decimal places. In the event automatic timing equipment fails, and stopwatches are used for backup timing, times shall be recorded in accordance with Rule 6-1-2.

VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES

A) The current Swimming and Diving Rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations are the official rules governing the competition in all state series meets unless otherwise specifically provided for in these Terms and Conditions or in printed instructions to meet managers.

B) In accordance with IHSA By-laws 2.020 and 2.070, every school is required to have a certified coach or Official Representative present always during the sectional meet and be available for assignment as might be required by the meet manager. If a school does not have a qualified coach or faculty representative present at the Sectional site during warm-ups or competition, that school's competitors shall not be permitted to participate. Note: Schools are reminded that only coaches and faculty representatives who meet the provisions of IHSA By-law 2.020 and 2.070 and who are listed on the School's Online List of Participants shall be permitted to serve in those capacities at the Sectional.

C) A school may enter the IHSA Swimming and Diving State Series one relay team in each relay event. All

eligible schools are allowed to enter four (4) swimmers and four (4) alternates (8 names maximum). Any school qualifying at least one relay for the state finals will be issued one (1) additional deck pass for the alternate of the school's choice. This single deck pass is to be issued to the individual selected by the coach to represent the team as the teams designated relay alternate. The other alternates listed in the schools List of Participants at the time of entering the State Series will not be provided deck passes. No alternate listed in the List of Participants will be provided spectator tickets for any day of the state final events. As always, any athlete listed as an alternate in a specific relay(s) can be used to swim in that relay. NOTE: For all teams, the IHSA will use the athlete's names that competed at the sectional meet in any relay(s) for the purpose of determining quantities of participant's deck passes and spectator tickets that will be available to qualifying individuals at the state meet.

D) In accordance with Rule 3-2-1, an individual contestant shall be permitted to enter a maximum of four events, no more than two of which may be individual events. Being designated as a member of a relay team does not count as an entry unless the competitor competes in the event.

Note: Regarding contestant limitations, the Sectional and State Final meets shall be separate meets.

E) Student-athletes in the physical/visual disabilities division shall be allowed to swim in up to four individual events in the Sectional meet. In the State Championship Meet, an athlete with a physical/visual disability, who qualified in the applicable events through the sectional, shall be guaranteed to swim in at least two events and shall be able to swim in up to four (4) events if there are two (2) athletes with disabilities of any classification swimming in the third and fourth events. Starts at both the sectional and state finals can be from the platform, the pool deck, or in water.

F) At the Sectional meets, the panel of judges for diving shall be comprised of five (5) persons, The Meet Referee and Starter (assigned by the IHSA Office) and three nominated Head Diving Coaches from the schools participating in the Sectional meet. Head Diving Coaches that wish to be considered as Dive Judges are required to view the Diving Rules Presentation found in the IHSA School Center and be nominated by their Head Swimming Coach.

Note 1: Wednesday prior to Sectionals. Deadline to vote for 3 coaches to serve on sectional dive panel from the list of eligible coaches must be returned to the Sectional Host by 6:00 p.m. Only coaches from schools that have divers competing in the sectional competition may vote. Only names of coaches who received credit for the Diving Rules Presentation and were nominated during the school's List of Participants process will be listed for the vote. The vote must be done electronically (so all can participate).

Note 2: Diving Score Sheets will be distributed at Diving practice on Wednesday prior to Sectionals and will be available on Saturday morning of the Sectional Meet (2 forms per school).

G) At the State Final meet, the IHSA Office shall assign all officials, including a Referee, Starter, Diving Referee, Head Timer, Head Finish Judge and Coordinator of Officials as well as two panels of seven (7) diving judges.

All diving judges must be a Certified IHSA Swimming & Diving official. The first diving panel shall judge rounds 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8 and comprised of (7) IHSA certified officials. The second diving panel shall judge round 3, 4, 5, 9, 10 and 11 and shall be comprised of (7) IHSA officials.



Note 1: To be eligible for appointment to the diving panels at the State Final meet, diving officials must have attained the Certified © level within the IHSA promotional system.

Note 2: To be eligible for appointment to the diving panels at the state meet, IHSA officials must have attended a level 2 clinic within the preceding one (1) year.

Note 3: To be eligible for appointment to a diving panel at the state meet, the IHSA official must have viewed BOTH the annual rules presentation video AND the separate diving judging video.

The six (6) assigned Head Officials for the state meet (Coordinator of Officials, Meet Referee, Starter, Diving Referee, Head Timer and Head Finish Judge) shall NOT serve on a State Final Diving judging panel.

Note 4: If there ever exists an inadequate number of certified officials to complete two panels of seven judges as described here, the IHSA Assistant Executive Director for Swimming and Diving retains the ability to assign Recognized (R) level officials only after all eligible and available Certified level officials have been exhausted.

H) In accordance with IHSA By-law 6.033 and the Swimming and Diving Rules, the decision of the Meet Referee and Diving Referee shall be final.

I) Conduct of swimmers and divers:

Unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches or contestants or the use of profane language by coaches or contestants will not be tolerated and shall be punishable under the provisions of Bylaws 3.141 and 4.061.

J) Uniforms: Swimmers and divers shall wear suits that comply with specifications included in the modified NFHS Rule 3-3. Coaches and athletes are encouraged to work with their distributor to determine if any suit meets the standards defined in 3-3. To be deemed a legal suit, any suit must meet the style and construction restrictions described in rule 3-3, (i.e.: must be completely permeable to water and air). The World Aquatics mark, individual barcode and/or the USA Swimming approved checkmark logo on certain suits designating that the suit has been approved for World Aquatics and/or USA Swimming competition is not considered to be a second manufacture's logo nor a form of advertising. Such suits with a World Aquatics marking and/or checkmark, if otherwise legal, shall be legal for NFHS competition. It is legal to wear two caps.

K) Backstroke Ledges may be used during the IHSA regular season and State Series. If a host school opts to use backstroke ledges, then it shall be done in accordance with NFHS Rule 2-7-3.

L) In the swimming events at the Sectional meets, points shall be awarded to the swimmers achieving the Twelve (12) fastest times in each event.

M) In the swimming events at the State Final meet, points for (1st) first through (8th) eighth places shall be awarded solely on the order of finish in the championship finals. Points for (9th) ninth through (16th) sixteenth places shall be awarded solely on the basis on the order of finish in the consolation finals.

N) Diving: At the Sectional, points for the first through twelve (12th) places shall be awarded solely on the order of finish in the championship finals. At the State Final meet, points for the first sixteen (16) places shall be awarded solely on finish in the championship finals.

O) In the scoring of the Sectional meets, points shall be awarded for the first twelve (12) places as follows:

- 1) Relay Events - 32-26-24-22-20-18-14-10-8-6-4-2**
2) Individual Events - 16-13-12-11-10-9-7-5-4-3-2-1

P) In the scoring of the State Final meet, points shall be awarded for the first through (16) sixteenth places as follows:

- 1) Relay Events -40-34-32-30-28-26-24-22-18-14-12-10-8-6-4-2**
2) Individual Events - 20-17-16-15-14-13-12-11-9-7-6-5-4-3-2-1

No team points shall be recorded for the places won by contestants from schools that do not meet the six contest requirements of IHSA By-law 3.054. No points shall be scored for places won by such contestants and this provision shall not alter the order of finish or the points scored of other contestants.

IX. TOURNAMENT POLICIES

A) State Final Ticket Distribution Policy: Ticket Sales for State Final Qualifiers: Each qualifier in the State Final meet will be permitted to purchase two (2) Swim Events tickets per swim qualifier, plus one alternate (if they qualify a relay team). Students who are competing in the students with physical/visual disabilities will be able to purchase 2 Swim event tickets. In addition, after meet management has determined the number of spectator tickets to be distributed to qualifiers, meet management will determine if extra spectator tickets are available. If so, then all schools that have qualified at least one individual for the state finals will be allowed to purchase additional Swim Event tickets as meet management deems appropriate based on the venue's capacity. If meet management determines that additional swim tickets will be granted, then teams who have qualified at least one relay will be granted one (1) more additional ticket than those teams who only had qualifiers in individual events if meet management determines that this will be within the venue capacity. Information pertaining to spectator ticket distribution will be posted on the IHSA Swimming & Diving webpage following the sectional meet.

B) Participant Passes for the State Final: At the State Final meet, a participant pass will be issued to each girl/boy who qualifies for the State Final meet for both the able-bodied swimming and diving program and the events for students with physical/visual disabilities. Any school that qualifies a 200-yd. and/or 400-yd. Freestyle Relay will receive one (1) additional deck pass for an alternate of their choice. Schools that qualify a 200-yd. Medley Relay will also receive one (1) additional deck pass for an alternate of their choice. Therefore, to receive two (2) alternate deck passes, a school must qualify at least one Freestyle Relay AND the 200-yd. Medley Relay. All alternates must be listed on the List of Participants for the relay(s) in which they may compete. In addition, for those schools that have qualifiers for the State Final meet, for both the able-bodied swimming and diving program and the events for students with physical/visual disabilities, qualified coaches, who are listed on the school's Online List of Participants, shall be issued a coaches wristband with the following formula:

Coaches Wristbands Policy



2026-2027 Swimming & Diving

State Series Terms & Conditions

1-5 Qualifiers = Two (2) Coaches' wristbands
6-10 Qualifiers = Three (3) Coaches' wristbands
11 or more Qualifiers = Four (4) Coaches' wristbands

Note 1: Managers or Rub Down personnel will not receive a participant pass.

Note 2: Participant and coach passes shall not be transferable and shall entitle those persons who receive participant passes only to the seating assignment in the pool deck area. IHSA has the authority to revoke a participant and/or coach's wristband at any time. Certified coaches who are listed on the Online List of Participants will be issued a coach's wristband (in accordance with the above formula). However, those coaches must meet all IHSA Coaching By-law Requirements and its subsections (By-law 2.070). Coaches who do not meet By-law 2.070 are not eligible and cannot be entered on the Online List of Participants and are not eligible to receive a wristband. Only legitimate coaches and authorized meet personnel who have been issued wristbands and stamped contestants shall be allowed on the pool deck at the Sectional and State Final meet.

C) Coaches Wristbands: To ensure that only approved personnel are on the pool deck, meet management and/or IHSA officials will secure the required wristband on coaches as they enter the facility. Only Coaches listed on the List of Participants for the participating school through the IHSA Schools Center (who has been identified how they are certified to coach, has completed/passed their PES and the Concussion Risk Management program and Hate Speech/Harassment Video) will be issued a coach's wristband. Any wristband that appears to be tampered with at any time during the championship will be confiscated and the individual in possession will not be allowed entrance without the purchase of a ticket. If no tickets are available for purchase the individual will not be allowed admittance. There have been numerous instances in past years involving coaches providing an extra coach's band to individuals other than the certified coach for which the band was approved and intended. Schools involved in the transfer of coaches' bands will have themselves and their program placed on probation for the following year.

The IHSA will eliminate the diving coach's wristband from the number of allowable coach's wristbands as calculated by the number of qualifying swimmers and divers. The qualifying divers will be removed from the list of qualifiers used to determine the number of coaches' wristbands. In other words, the swimming coaches' wristbands will be determined by using only the number of swimmers qualifying from each team.

D) Bands: No bands, pom-pom squads or drill team groups shall perform.

E) Signs, Banners, Balloons and Mechanical Noisemakers: The display of signs, banners, posters, or similar items at IHSA state series events is permitted, provided:

- 1) They are in good taste and reflect good sportsmanship in their message and use.
- 2) They reflect identification and encouragement to participants.
- 3) They are not displayed on the field of play or in a manner that interferes with the meet; They do not obstruct the view of participants; and,
- 4) They are not safety hazards.

5) All mechanical noise making devices, including balloons, shall be excluded from the swimming and diving facilities.

F) Cheerleaders: Participating schools are encouraged to use school cheerleaders provided their cheers are appropriate to the sport of swimming and diving, are in accordance with IHSA By-laws, and provided they have purchased tickets for seating during the meet.

G) Damage to Property and Equipment: If contestants or people from any school entered in a state series meet are found guilty of carelessness or maliciously breaking, damaging or destroying property or equipment belonging to the host school, such school shall be held responsible for costs incurred in replacing or repairing such property or equipment.

H) Media Coverage & Rights Fees for Broadcasting

1) State Series hosts should work to accommodate media members with space to cover State Series events whenever possible.

2) For State Series events, the IHSA Press Box Policy should be used as a guide for determining media press box access should space become an issue.

I) Broadcasting

1) Radio or audio-only internet broadcasts are not subject to a broadcast rights fee at the Regional, Sectional, or Super-Sectional levels. A \$100 fee exists at the State Final round, pending approval by the IHSA after completion of the IHSA's broadcast application form.

2) If a State Series contest/event is broadcast on the NFHS Network, then there is no rights fee due and no other video streaming/TV broadcasts will be allowed, pending special permission from the IHSA.

3) If a State Series contest/event is not broadcast on the NFHS Network, then the broadcast rights may be purchased to broadcast via video streaming/TV pending approval by the IHSA after completion of the IHSA's broadcast application form.

* Broadcast application forms can be accessed by Googling "IHSA Broadcast Applications" or directly at IHSA.org/News-Media/News-Media-Center/Broadcast-Applications

4) Flash photography is not allowed by anyone. Anyone who does not abide by these provisions will not be permitted to film or videotape at the meet.

J) Tobacco/Liquid Nicotine Products: The use of tobacco or liquid nicotine products in any competition area, either during a practice or while a contest is in progress, or affiliated property of any IHSA Sectional contest by any coach, player, any other person connected with a team, or fan shall be prohibited. Sectional hosts are required to make all sectional contest sites and any affiliated property, including parking lots, fan accommodation areas, and other school or event venue property, tobacco/liquid nicotine free zones on the date or dates of any IHSA event being held at the site.

K) Use of Inhalers: A student with asthma may possess and use his/her medication during an IHSA competition while under the supervision of school personnel, provided the school meets the outlined procedures of self-administration in the Illinois school code.

Note: If a diver from a school qualifies for the diving event at the State Final meet, and video of her/his dives is needed for her/his application for All-American consideration, arrangements to film are to be made with the local manager prior to the meet.



L) Children Not Allowed on deck: Children will not be allowed on deck. Only authorized personnel, coaches and participants are permitted on deck. No Exceptions.

M) Alcoholic Beverages and IHSA State Series Events: The possession, distribution, sale and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages are prohibited at the site and on any affiliated property of any IHSA sectional contest. Sectional hosts are required to make all sectional contest sites and any affiliated property, including parking lots, fan accommodation areas, and other school or event venue properly, tobacco/liquid nicotine 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 sectional 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.

1) Individual: Medals will be awarded to the first six place winners in each individual event. Medals will be given to the first six individuals finishers in each event at the sectional meet for students in the Physical/Visual Disabilities Division.

2) Team: Plaques will be presented to the school winning the team championship at the Sectional meets.

3) Duplicate Awards: The Duplicate awards order form is available within Manual for Schools and Managers.

B) State Final

1) Individual: Medallions will be awarded to the first sixteen (16) place winners in each individual event and relay event. Medals will be given to the first sixteen (16) individual finishers in each classification in each event at the state final meet for students in the Physical/Visual Disabilities Division.

2) Team: Team Medallions and Trophies will be presented to the first, second and third place teams at the State Final meet. Eighteen (18) medallions for competitors, two (2) for coaches, one (1) superintendent, one (1) principal, one (1) athletic Director and one (1) certified Athletic trainer will be provided.

C) Duplicate Awards: Duplicate Awards order form is available within the Schools and Managers Manual.

X. AWARDS

A) Sectional

Note: Only schools that meet the six contest requirements of the IHSA By-law 3.054 shall be eligible to compete for team honors in the Sectional and State Final meets.

1) **Combined State Championship:** The Combined State Championship will consist of schools with athletes competing in the Swimming and Diving State Championship along with students competing in the Students with Disabilities Division. A Combined State Championship will be awarded if the following conditions are met: There must be at least eight participants in the Students with Disabilities Division advancing to the State meet; and There must be at least three students per classification (Classifications A and B are defined in Section I). If the conditions are met, athletes in the Students with Disabilities Division may be eligible to earn points toward the Combined Championship as follows

2) **There must be at least three competitors entering an event for Students with Disabilities.** Students with Disabilities may swim in up to four events. They will only earn points in two events. Each student's top two results will be eligible to count for the Combined State Championship score. Points awarded in the Students with Disabilities Division will be based on the number of participants per class as provided in the following chart:

# Comp.	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th
2	3	2														
3	4	3	2													
4	5	4	3	2												
5	6	5	4	3	2											
6	8	7	6	5	4	3										
7	9	8	7	6	5	4	3									
8	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3								
9	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3							
10	13	11	10	9	8	7	6	4	3	2						
11	14	12	11	10	9	8	7	5	3	2	1					
12	16	13	12	11	10	9	7	5	4	3	2	1				
13	17	14	13	12	11	10	8	6	5	4	3	2	1			
14	18	15	14	13	12	11	9	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
15	19	16	15	14	13	12	10	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
16	20	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	9	7	6	5	4	3	2	1



Any school with a student competing in the Swimming and Diving State Championship along with Students in the Disabilities Division will be eligible for the Combined State Championship. The six-contest requirement (Section III.D) will not apply to participants in the Students with Disabilities Division.

The score applied to determine the Combined State Championship will be the total of all points for students competing in the Swimming and Diving State Championship with students competing in the Students with Disabilities Division. Team Medallions and Trophies will be presented to the first, second and third place teams at the State Final meet for the Combined State Championship.

The Combined State Championship is an officially recognized IHSA State Championship. Whether or not a Combined State Championship is awarded, students with disabilities will be eligible for Individual awards.

XI. STATE FINAL HOUSING FOR SCHOOLS AND VOLUNTEER OFFICIALS

A block of rooms has been set aside at the Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook Hills Resort and Conference Center. It is a short distance from the State Final Site. Please go to the housing link under the IHSA Girls and/or Boys Swimming State Final Meet and click on the direct link to Hotel Reservations.

XII. OFFICIALS

A) Appointment and Fees

1) Sectional: Four (4) officials will be assigned from the IHSA Office. The IHSA Office will assign and pay officials to the 16 Sectional Meets. \$190.50 flat fee for the Meet Referee, Diving Referee and Starter and \$145.50 for the Turn/Stroke Judge.

2) State Final: Six (6) officials will be assigned and paid by the IHSA Office. The head officials will receive the following flat fees: \$340.00 flat fee for the Meet Referee, Starter and Diving Referee; \$260.00 flat fee for the Head Timer/Head Finish Judge; \$350.00 flat fee for the Coordinator of Officials.

3) **Mandatory Officials Meeting:** There will be a mandatory meeting for the six (6) Head State Finals Officials (COO, Meet Referee, Starter, Head Timer, Head Finish Judge, and Diving Referee) at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday at the State Final site. **Housing:** The IHSA has a block of rooms set aside for Head Officials. Housing for Head officials who incur an overnight lodging expense to attend the mandatory officials meeting are entitled to two (2) nights of lodging and will be paid by the IHSA Office upon check-in (provided they stay at the hotel designated by the IHSA Administrator). Head officials must notify Cheryl Lowery at the IHSA Office, upon receipt of their State Final Officials Contract if they DO NOT need to acquire housing reservations. Volunteer officials must log in to their Arbiter account block out any dates you are not available and complete the Volunteer Registration form at the link provided later by IHSA.

B) **Mileage Reimbursement Policy:** The officials appointed by the IHSA will be paid mileage from the IHSA Office upon receipt of a mileage voucher submitted by the appointed official to the IHSA Office within 30 days of the contest. Appointed officials will receive **45 cents per mile for every mile over 70 miles for each round trip**. Mileage vouchers can be printed from the IHSA Web Site through the IHSA Arbiter.

Note: Mileage is determined to and from the official's home to the site of the competition unless prior approval has been given from the administrator in charge of the sport/Activity.

Any school with a student competing in the Swimming and Diving State Championship along with Students in the Disabilities Division will be eligible for the Combined State Championship. The six-contest requirement (Section III.D) will not apply to participants in the Students with Disabilities Division.

The score applied to determine the Combined State Championship will be the total of all points for students competing in the Swimming and Diving State Championship with students competing in the Students with Disabilities Division. Team Medallions and Trophies will be presented to the first, second and third place teams at the State Final meet for the Combined State Championship.

The Combined State Championship is an officially recognized IHSA State Championship. Whether or not a Combined State Championship is awarded, students with disabilities will be eligible for Individual awards.