



In accordance with Section 1.450 of the IHSA Constitution, the Terms and Conditions governing the 2025-2026 IHSA Boys and Girls Track and Field Meet Series have been approved by the Board of Directors.

I. SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION

A. Classifications in the IHSA Track & Field State Series will be determined according to IHSA Policy 17 (Classification System)

- Class 1A: 0-420.00
- Class 2A: 420.01--1232.50
- Class 3A: 1232.51-above

B. Students with disabilities will compete in events within the Wheelchair Division regardless of school classification. A disability is a physical, visual or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activity.

Wheelchair Division: students who use a wheelchair for mobility or sports or those that have been classified as T/F 31-34, T51-54, or F51-57.

Students who qualify for the Wheelchair Division will compete separately for place and medals, but events for this division can be held simultaneously.

Students with disabilities wishing to participate in this Division 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.

II. DATES AND SITES

A. The Girls Sectional meets will be held on **WEDNESDAY, May 13; THURSDAY, May 14; or FRIDAY, May 15.** The IHSA T&F Administrator shall have the authority to schedule a sectional meet on Saturday when excessive travel is involved. There will be 14 sectionals in Class 1A; 11 sectionals in Class 2A and 11 sectionals in Class 3A.

B. The Boys Sectional meets will be held on **WEDNESDAY, May 20; THURSDAY, May 21; or FRIDAY, May 22.** The IHSA T&F Administrator shall have the authority to schedule a sectional meet on Saturday when excessive travel is involved. There will be 14 sectionals in Class 1A, 11 sectionals in Class 2A and 11 sectionals in Class 3A.

C. The Girls State Final Meet will be held at Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, on **Thursday, May 21 (Class 1A Prelims); Friday, May 22 (Class 2A & 3A prelims); Saturday, May 23 (Class 1A-3A Finals).**

D. The Boys State Final Meet will be held at Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, on **Thursday, May 28 (Class 1A prelims); Friday, May 29 (Class 2A & 3A prelims); and Saturday, May 30 (Class 1A-3A Finals).**

Available Sectional sites with all-weather facilities and the capability of completing Sectional meets not later than Friday will be selected. Therefore, before a Meet Referee and Manager suspend a Sectional meet past Friday, permission to do so must be secured from the administrator in the IHSA Office in charge of Boys and Girls Track and Field.

Assigned Sectional Meet Referees will be supplied a phone number to contact the IHSA Administrator closer to the event. It will be posted prior to the Sectional in the IHSA Officials Center in each Meet Referees personal site.

Suspended meets or events will continue from the point of interruption. The horizontal and vertical jump eventss, shot put or pole vault may be moved indoors, if facilities are available.

III. SCHOOLS AND OFFICIALS CENTER INFORMATION, ONLINE ENTRIES, RULES MEETING PRESENTATION, WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE, ELIGIBILITY, AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, AND REGIONAL/SECTIONAL 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 & Officials Center with your Official Representative USER ID and Password. Click on the activity tracker and click the words "Entry Form" to add sports for the upcoming year. Spring Sports Entry Deadline is Feb. 1.

B. Online School Entries

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 2025-2026 school term. IHSA uses this information to assign schools to Sectionals after February 1.

C. Late Online School Entries:

Any attempt to enter a sport or activity online after the established deadlines will be denied. Schools that wish to enter after the deadline will be considered a late entry. **To be considered** for late entry, the Principal/Official Representative must contact the IHSA administrative officer in charge of that sport or activity. The penalty for late entry shall be a payment of \$100.00 for that sport/activity by the school.

D. Coaches Data Form (Available March 30, 2026): Schools must declare their **coaching staff through the IHSA Schools Center Sport/Activity Tracker**. Coach Data Form (page 2) Adding Coaching Staff; (page 3) Six Contest Verification (Team entries only): You must check the Six Contest Verification box, before Certify & Submit (page 4) schools are verifying that the school's boys or girls interscholastic team has participated in six boys or girls interscholastic meets during the current Boys and Girls Track & Field season. This allows teams to compete for team honors (trophy) during the state series meet in accordance with IHSA By-law 3.054.

Individuals or Wheelchair Athletes: Schools with only individuals competing **do not check the Six Contest Verification box**. Individual entries are not eligible to compete for team honors (trophy).

Coaches Data Form (Available March 30, 2026): Schools must declare their **coaching staff through the IHSA Schools Center Sport/Activity Tracker**. If a school doesn't list its coaching staff, IHSA will provide one Head Coach wristband in the name of the Head Coach listed in the IHSA Schools Center. No other wristbands will be issued for that school. Assistant coaches not listed will have to purchase a ticket for admission. All State Final Qualifiers are required to have a coach represent their athletes at all IHSA State Finals. A state final school packet will not be given to any school who doesn't have a Head Coach representing their school.

E. REQUIRED RULES VIDEO (Head Coaches of every participating school and Officials): The Track & Field **Online Rules Video begins January 5-February 2**. Each participating school must have their HEAD COACH view and receive credit for the 2025-2026 Track & Field rules video. To receive credit, the coach/official must view the video in their respective IHSA School/Officials Center. Refer to the Track & Field Manual for Schools for detailed instructions.

NOTICE: If you coach at two different schools or are a coach and an official, you must contact Cheryl Lowery at the IHSA Office (clowery@ihsa.org), once you have been given credit 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.**

F. Breach of Contract By-Law 6.041 (Withdrawal Procedure)

To withdraw without penalty, the Principal must fax or email a letter to Cheryl Lowery at clowery@ihsa.org at the IHSA Office, notifying IHSA of the school's

withdrawal from Track and Field prior to the List of Participants deadline.

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

G. Eligibility

All member schools in good standing may enter an individual(s) or a team under the provisions of IHSA By-law 3.054.

In accordance with By-law 3.050, schools are subject to entering eligible student-athletes.

H. Affirmative Action Policy: Only boys may participate in the boy's competition in the state series and only girls may participate in the girl's competition in the state series, except as provided in the Illinois High School Association Affirmative Action Policy.

I. Sectional Online List of Participants/Entry Declarations and Coaching Staff: Please review the instructions in the Manual for Schools for complete instructions. Each school entering the state series (whether entering a team or individuals, or entries in the Wheelchair Division) must submit its Online List of Participants/Entry Declarations via Athletic.net. These entry declarations must be completed in Athletic.net **by 11:59 p.m. Sunday, May 10 (Girls)/May 17 (Boys)**. A **\$500.00 penalty** fee will be assessed for failure to withdraw before the LOP deadline, and the school will be locked out from entering through the School's Center during the next school term.

Sectional Online List of Participants Declarations

*If a school does not submit all or part of the Sectional Online List of Participants by the deadline, the IHSA administrator for Track & Field may permit late LOP entries with a \$100 penalty fee. The IHSA administrator for Track & Field may waive the \$100 penalty fee for extenuating circumstances. Other penalties for failing to complete the Sectional Online List of Participants by the deadline could include, but not be limited to being ruled ineligible to coach and/or athletes being ruled ineligible to compete in the State Series. Entered schools that do not submit their Sectional Online List of Participants are consequently ruled ineligible for the State Final Series and will be withdrawn from the state series. A **\$500.00 penalty fee** will be assessed for failure to withdraw before the LOP deadline, and the school will be locked out from entering through the School's Center during the next school term.*



COACHES DATA FORM: Schools are required to complete the Coaches Data Form in the Sport/Activity tracker in the IHSA Schools Center which opens on March 30, 2026. If a coach on your coaching staff doesn't appear in the drop-down menu in the Coach Data Form, a coach(es) is missing a part of their Staff Compliance requirement: Staff Compliance Requirements:

- 1) Designated as Head Track & Field Coach or Assistant Coach
- 2) Designated coaching certification (ASEP/ISBE/NFHS)
- 3) Designated completion date for the PES Examination
- 4) Designated completion date for the Concussion Risk Management Exam (every 2 school terms)
- 5) Hate Speech/Harassment Video (every 2 school terms)

Concussion Risk Management Program and the Hate Speech/Harassment Videos are required by Illinois State law requires all staff and officials to pass a Concussion Risk Management Examination and view the Hate Speech/Harassment Video examination every two school terms, prior to working with students.

The Online List of Participants/Entry Declarations must be completed through **Athletic.net**. Each participating school may enter no more than two individuals per individual event and no more than 1 relay team per relay event when completing their List of Participants/Entry Declarations. No more than eight (8) Girls/Boys to be entered as runners or as alternates in the relays. **COACHES WILL ENTER THEIR INDIVIDUALS AND RELAY TEAMS VIA THEIR ATHLETIC.NET ACCOUNT. At the seeding meeting, prior to all event seeds or heat sheets being distributed, for relay events only, coaches can opt to change a relay time to a slower seed time than what was automatically populated by Athletic.net. Individual event seed times/marks automatically populated by Athletic.net may not be adjusted. SPACES LEFT BLANK WHILE COMPLETING THE ONLINE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS/ENTRY DECLARATIONS MAY NOT BE FILLED IN AFTER THE ENTRY DEADLINE. INDIVIDUALS–IN CASE OF A POSSIBILITY THAT AN INDIVIDUAL ATHLETE WILL BE CLEARED BY THEIR DOCTOR, PUT A NAME IN EVERY AVAILABLE BLANK. A SUBSTITUTION CAN BE MADE AT THE SEEDING MEETING ON A PERSON-BY-PERSON BASIS. IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO PLACE AN ATHLETE'S NAME IN EACH BLANK.**

Coaches may change or decrease the total number of **individual** entries submitted online during the virtual sectional seeding meeting. Name Changes to relays are NOT permissible after the List of Participants/Entry Declarations deadline. Changes to individual entries must be made prior to 6:45 p.m. on the day of the virtual seeding meeting (before the results of the seeding are

released to coaches). No substitutions or changes shall be permitted in any events after the Sectional Seeding Meeting, except in individual events, in cases of a substitution made at the scratch meeting, prior to the start of the meet, made because of school disciplinary reasons, a death in the athlete's immediate family, or a disabling illness or injury to an entered contestant. Each substitute situation must be certified by either the high school principal or attending physician to the Sectional manager.

When Athletic.net populates a state series entry's best time of the year, manual times are given to the higher tenth (Example 10.42 manual must be entered as 10.5), and then the NFHS conversion method of adding .24 is applied. For example, 10.42 manual would be converted to F.A.T. as follows: 10.42 becomes 10.5, then .24 is added which brings the converted seed time to 10.74).

The online List of Participants will provide space for each participating school to enter its athletes into each event and to list the accurate names of the Girls/Boys entered in the Sectional meet. No more than eight (8) Girls/Boys to be entered as runners or as alternates in the relays. **COACHES WILL ENTER THEIR INDIVIDUALS, RELAY TEAMS AND SEEDING TIMES ONLINE. SPACES LEFT BLANK WHILE COMPLETING THE ONLINE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS MAY NOT BE FILLED IN AFTER THE ATHLETIC.NET ONLINE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS ENTRY DEADLINE. INDIVIDUALS–IN CASE OF A POSSIBILITY THAT AN INDIVIDUAL ATHLETE WILL BE CLEARED BY THEIR DOCTOR, PUT A NAME IN EVERY AVAILBLE BLANK. A SUBSTITUTION CAN BE MADE AT THE SEEDING MEETING ON A PERSON-BY-PERSON BASIS. IT IS RECOMMENDED TO PLACE AN ATHLETE'S NAME IN EACH BLANK.**

IHSA will utilize the name spellings and year in school data from the Athletic.net Declarations for the State Final program. If you notice an error, please email (clowery@ihsa.org) or contact Cheryl Lowery at (309) 663-6377 at the IHSA Office.

No school shall enter competitors in a Sectional meet unless it intends for its qualifiers to participate in the State Final Meet if they qualify to advance.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO SECTIONAL MANAGERS: You must print relay heat sheets for each event for each school entered in your sectional from the computer program your meet utilizes. This is what your Clerk of the Course will use to determine if the runners that check in the day of the event are eligible to compete for each school. Without these printed lists, your clerk will not know who is eligible (as a result being included on the Athletic.net declarations).

J. HEAD COACHES' RULES INTERPRETATION PRESENTATION (January 5, 2026-February 2, 2026)



The Track and Field online Rules Interpretation Presentation is REQUIRED for ALL schools entering a team or an individual(s). Every HEAD COACH and all officials must view to receive credit for the 2025-2026 Track and Field Rules Interpretation Presentation. To receive credit, the HEAD coach/official must view the presentation through their respective IHSA School/Officials Center by logging in to their account. While at times the online rules video may be accessible in other IHSA web locations, **the only site where a school or an official can receive credit is by logging in to their school/official center and viewing it through their Sport & Activity Tracker.**

or Discover credit card payments or school checks payable to the IHSA will be acceptable forms of payment). Upon receipt of payment, the schools center will be re-opened for your coach to view the online presentation.

- 1) Go to www.ihsa.org
- 2) Click on "Schools & Officials Center"
- 3) Enter the Coaches "User ID" and the Coaches password
- 4) Click on "T Activity Tracker", Click on "Rules Video" to begin presentation
- 5) View the Online Rules Presentation and get credit by following the instructions in the presentation.
- 6) If you exit the video presentation prior to being instructed to do so, you will not receive credit and must watch the video again.
- 7) If you experience trouble getting credit for the Rules Meeting after you have viewed the complete presentation, please contact Cheryl Lowery at the IHSA Office to verify and issue a manual credit for the Rules Meeting.

NOTICE: If you are a coach at two different schools or are a coach and an official, you must contact or email Cheryl Lowery (clowery@ihsa.org) at the IHSA Office. She will give you dual credit. You must be listed as the coach at both schools in the respective Schools Center for the schools you are coaching to receive dual credit.

IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING REQUIRED ONLINE RULES MEETINGS:

It is important to make sure your Schools and Officials Center is up to date with contact information. Please double check:

(To make changes to this information, the School Administration should click on the "Staff Logins & Roster" link and click the name of the staff member needed to be edited and make necessary changes.)

Coaches: Login to the Schools Center to make sure you are listed as the coach for your school and your email address is current. If you are receiving emails and your school is not going to participate in the Track & Field State Series, this is a "Red Flag" that the IHSA believes that your school is entered and planning to participate. To avoid penalties, you must have your official representative withdraw your school by emailing tcraig@ihsa.org by the Online List of Participants deadline.

Officials: Login to the Officials Center to make sure your email address is current.

This information is required for IHSA to effectively communicate with its coaches and officials. If you are receiving notifications from our office, please do not ignore them. You are receiving communications because you are entered into the state series, and we require/expect for you to meet all deadlines to remain eligible.

Rules Meeting Presentation Troubleshooting (once you have tried and have failed).

- a. Try again on a different computer, preferably in a different location (home instead of school, etc.) Sometimes these files download badly. Going to a different computer/location is the easiest way to get a fresh start.
- b. Go back to where you clicked on the link to start the presentation, and INSTEAD click on the link below to view the LITE version, which has no video content. Flash video can be an issue for some computers, and the lite version takes this out of the equation.

c. You must click/watch every page to advance the presentation to get credit.

d. If you experience trouble getting credit for the Rules Meeting after you have viewed the complete presentation, please contact Cheryl Lowery via email clowery@ihsa.org or call the IHSA Office to verify and issue a manual credit for the Rules Meeting.

Track and Field Online Rules Meeting Presentation Instructions:

Once the deadline passes your school will be placed on probationary status, if the online rules meeting presentation isn't reviewed by your head coach. For probationary status to be lifted from your school you must:

Submit a \$50.00 penalty fee to the IHSA Office (you must contact Tammy Craig to process Visa, MasterCard

IV. HOST FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

A. Host school shall pay for all local expenses. Each host school shall receive a guarantee of **\$1,750** and must



submit results via internet to the IHSAA Office. IHSAA will pay for the assigned officials through ArbiterPay. The host school shall receive 20% of the net income. If admission is not charged, the host school shall forfeit the guarantee. In addition, Sectional meets shall abide by the IHSAA Royalty Policy included in the current IHSAA Official Handbook.

B. All Sectional meet expenses in Item XI-A-1 will be paid by the host school. Host schools must either provide shells for the starter or plan to pay them for their shells that they provide to start the sectional meet.

C. Neither the IHSAA nor local meet management will assume responsibility for any other expenses of any kind for any meet except those expenses specified above.

D. Digital Tickets: Per IHSAA Board Policy 22, GoFan Digital Tickets will be the exclusive ticket option available for this sport at the Sectional level of the State Series. Any exceptions must be approved by the IHSAA Office.

E. Ticket Prices & Procedures: The following State Series ticket prices have been set by the IHSAA 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: \$8.00 per day

Cash Ticket: \$10.00 per day

STATE FINAL

Cash Ticket: \$12.00 per day

GoFan digital ticketing is not available at this State Final. Eastern Illinois University may provide digital tickets for sale. The IHSAA has no control over any convenience fees charged for these digital tickets.

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

G. Rights Fees for TV and Radio:

1) Television Rights Fees to be charged by Local Managers and/or the IHSAA are contained in the IHSAA Television Policy.

2) Radio Fees which shall be charged are:

- a) Sectional = No Charge
- b) State Final = \$50.00

3) Policies regarding royalty requirements for each Local Manager are contained in the current edition of the IHSAA Official Handbook. (See policies 31.)

A. Mid-March, schools who have entered to participate in the IHSAA Track & Field State Series will be assigned to their sectional. The assignments will be posted on the IHSAA Track & Field Activities pages under the State Series Information and results link. If your school doesn't appear in the assignments, your school is not entered to participate.

Class 1A Series 14 Sectional Meets

Class 2A Series 11 Sectional Meets

Class 3A Series 11 Sectional Meets

B. Online Sectional Seeding Meetings: All Seeding Meetings will be conducted virtually through a platform of the host's choice (ie.: Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google meets, etc.) on **Tuesday** prior to the Sectional Meet.

The Online seeding process should be seamless as Athletic.net will have already pulled each entry's best time/distance/height for the entire season.

1) The Virtual Sectional Seeding Meeting shall not be held during the regular school day.

2) It IS **NOT** mandatory for the head coach (or another school representative) to attend the Virtual Sectional Seeding Meeting. However, all schools are encouraged to have a representative present at their respective virtual seeding meeting. If a head coach (or another school representative) is not in attendance at the seeding meeting, those athletes must be **FAIRLY SEEDED** despite their coach's absence from the seed meeting. Coaches not in attendance forfeit their opportunity to question decisions made at the seeding meeting.

3) Calling the Sectional Host and indicating that your school will not attend the virtual seed meeting is greatly appreciated by Sectional Managers.

4) It is the responsibility of the Head Coach to contact the Sectional Host immediately if for any reason they experience an emergency that would not allow them to get to the seeding meeting on time. Sectional managers will provide participating coaches with a phone number to be used in case of such emergency. **IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE A PHONE NUMBER THEN YOU SHOULD ASK FOR ONE.**

C. Items to be considered at the Sectional Seeding Meeting are as follows:

1) Heats and sections shall be assigned for the track events and flights for the field events. The Sectional Manager shall email each coach attending the Sectional Seeding Meeting with a printed copy of the heats, sections and flights before concluding the Sectional Seeding Meeting. Seed only the participants listed from the official Athletic.net entry list for your sectional.

2) The supported computer software to manage and score sectional track and field meets is the Hy-Tek Meet Manager Software.

V. TOURNAMENT ASSIGNMENTS AND SEEDING MEETINGS



3) Times automatically populated by Athletic.net for seeding purposes in all individual track events at the Sectional Seeding Meeting will be official times achieved at metric distances during the current IHSA Track and Field season. In a relay event, only an official time achieved at the metric distance during the current IHSA Track and Field season will be populated by Athletic.net for seeding purposes. At the seeding meeting, prior to all event seeds or heat sheets being distributed, for relay events only, coaches can opt to change a relay time to a slower seed time than what was automatically populated by Athletic.net. Individual event seed times/marks automatically populated by Athletic.net may not be adjusted.

4) Marks automatically populated by Athletic.net for seeding purposes in the field events will be metric distance marks achieved during the current IHSA Track and Field season.

5) Indoor results from the same IHSA T&F season may be used for seeding purposes at the sectional meet.

6) If a boy/girl is entered in an excessive number of events at the Sectional seeding meeting, the local manager shall scratch the entries based on the highest number as listed in the Table seen below. For example: If a girl/boy is entered at the seeding meeting in events No. 4 (3200-M. Run), No. 8 (800-M. Run), No. 16 (200 Meter Dash), No. 9 (Long Jump) and No. 18 (Triple Jump), the highest numbered event is No. 18; therefore, the competitor would be scratched from that event since the competitor is allowed to enter four (4) events at the seeding meeting.

Event

#	Event
1	4 X 800 Meter Relay
2	4 X 100 Meter Relay
3	Discus Throw
4	3200 Meter Run
5	100-Meter Low/110 Meter Intermediate Hurdles
6	High Jump
7	100 Meter Dash
8	800 Meter Run
9	Long Jump
10	4 X 200 Meter Relay
11	400 Meter Dash
12	Pole Vault
13	300 Meter Low/Intermediate Hurdles
14	1600 Meter Run
15	Shot Put
16	200 Meter Dash
17	4 X 400 Meter Relay
18	Triple Jump

7) Schools are required to complete the online List of Participants/Entry Declaration through Athletic.net by the IHSA deadline, prior to the Sectional Seeding

Meeting. Coaches **may not for any reason** change the names in relays that were submitted by the deadline. Coaches **may make** changes to their names in **individual events**. The final and official seeding into heats and sections for the track events and into flights for the field events will be completed at the Sectional Seeding Meeting with coaches virtually present, AFTER all allowable changes to the original entries have been made.

8) An individual entry left blank during the online entry process cannot be filled at the virtual sectional seeding meeting.

9) Any allowable changes or substitutions must be presented by the coach no later than 15 minutes prior to the start of the seeding meeting and prior to the release of the final heat sheets to the coaches in attendance. Attempting to make changes or substitutions after viewing the heat sheets is not allowed (except to satisfy 15a through 15e below).

10) Coaches may change or decrease the total number of individual entries submitted online at the beginning of a sectional seeding meeting.

11) If any question should arise on the legality of an entry under existing rules at the Sectional meet, the Sectional Games Committee must render a decision (no IHSA rules may be set-aside or ignored).

12) Participants will be assigned to heats/sections and flights in the track and field events on the basis of: (1) best times and marks; and (2) the composite opinion of the coaches present at the meeting. If there is a discrepancy, (2) is to take precedence over (1). **All times and marks must be verifiable through official performances posted by meet hosts to Athletic.net during this IHSA track and field season.**

13) Sectional Games Committee will be responsible for making the decision whether reseeding at the scratch meeting is needed, due to scratches. After the Scratch Meeting, only the Clerk of the Course and the Meet Referee may reseed if they deem it necessary.

14) **No substitutions shall be permitted in any event after the Sectional Seeding Meeting**, except in cases of a substitution made (in an individual event only) because of school disciplinary reasons, a death in the athlete's immediate family, a disabling illness or injury to an entered contestant which must be certified to by either the high school principal, Official IHSA Representative or attending physician (or the school's certified trainer) to the Sectional manager. **This substitution option does not apply to relay runners, nor does it apply after the meet has started.** Relay lists may not be changed after the List of Participants deadline for any reason; therefore, coaches are encouraged to list eight names at the time of completing their Online entries.

Note: In accordance with the Track and Field Rules, a school may scratch competitors from individual events



to make them eligible to run on relay teams. HOWEVER, such scratches should be made before the Sectional meet begins.

THESE RULES MUST BE FOLLOWED WHEN REPLACING AN INJURED ATHLETE

- a. Any allowable substitutions must be made just prior to the Sectional meet at a scratch meeting held for that purpose.
- b. An athlete already entered in 4 individual events may not be used as a substitute for an injured athlete.
- c. The substitute shall replace the contestant in the heat/section and lane assignment determined at the Virtual Sectional Seeding Meeting and the event shall not be reseeded only to accommodate the substitute.
- d. The injured contestant being replaced (substituted for) shall not compete in any other events in the Sectional meet.
- e. No such substitutions are allowed after the meet starts.

15) **Sectional** managers should adhere to a reasonable time schedule.

16) The decision(s) of the Meet Referee and Jury of Appeals shall be final in matters pertaining to the National Federation Track and Field Rules. Neither the IHSAA Office nor the Board of Directors will review Meet Referee and Jury of Appeals decisions whether alleged errors are due to faulty judgment or misinterpretation of the rules (unless the Jury of Appeals has clearly exceeded its authority and elected to ignore rules).

17) All schools participating in the sectional meets are required to make available to the sectional host, one qualified volunteer to be assigned by the sectional host to work the meet. Adequate and competent help is critical to the success of all sectional T&F meets. Please help to ensure the success of your sectional meet by providing a qualified volunteer. **If the school fails to provide a quality volunteer, then a coach from that school's team must serve as a volunteer.** This will be true even if the school only has one coach, so head coaches are encouraged to get involved with their athletic director to ensure that this obligation has been met.

18) Sectional hosts are highly encouraged to have the appropriate device to check the size of each competitor's shot during the implement inspection process. In recent years many competitors have been disappointed to discover at the state meet that their implement does not meet the NFHS size requirement and is not legal.

VI. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND TIME SCHEDULES

A. Please refer to the Inclement Weather Policy/Procedure included in the Manual for Schools and Managers.

B. TIMING SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

- F.A.T. must be used for all running events at all sectional meets.
- If the IHSAA T&F administrator has no option but to conduct any sectional meet at a site that does not have access to a F.A.T., then only the first and second place finishers in all running events in Track & Field and the Wheelchair Division will be allowed to advance to the state finals from that meet. No one will advance to the state finals by way of meeting the adopted qualifying standard based on a manual time. The IHSAA T&F Administrator will make every effort to identify a sectional host that will use an F.A.T. system. Decisions related to a failure of an F.A.T. system during a sectional meet will be made by the IHSAA Track and Field Administrator on a case-by-case basis. Consideration to any F.A.T. failure could only be considered if there were official back up times available from meet management. Without such back up times to consider only the top two finishers will advance from that event to the State Meet.
 - A simple definition of an F.A.T. system is one used to place and time the runners in any race which starts and stops automatically. Any timing system that requires an individual to start the system manually and/or others to stop the system, no matter how sophisticated is not a F.A.T. system.

C. If at all possible, in priority ranking, Sectional meets will be conducted: (1) On 400-Meter all-weather tracks; (2) On 400-Meter tracks. 8 lane tracks are preferred over 6 lane facilities. The use of Fully Automated Timing (F.A.T.) is required.

D. At all Sectional meets, metric measurements shall be used in all field events.

E. **Sectional Seeding:** For the Sectional meets and the State Final meet, detailed information, and instructions for assigning competitors to heats, sections and lanes in the track events and to flights in the field events, is included in the Online Seeding Instructions document located on the Track & Field page along with the Terms and Conditions, and Manuals.

1) In seeding at the Sectional, Lane 4 will be the preferred lane on an eight-lane track (4,5,3,6,2,7,1,8) and Lane 3 will be the preferred lane on a six-lane track (3,4,2,5,1,6).

2) If athletes from the same school are seeded in the same heat, they will not be separated. To do so provides that school with a potential advantage. Athletes will compete in the heat where they are originally seeded.



F. Order of Events-Sectional/State Final: The order of events for the Finals of the State Final meet will be followed in the finals of the Sectional meets. At all state series meets where competition in the Wheelchair Division will occur, the designated race in the Wheelchair Division will occur immediately before the same race in the athletes without disabilities race. At the sectional meets, there will be no prelims or semifinals in the 100, 200, 100/110 high hurdles as has been required in the past. These events will be seeded and conducted as a timed final with the fastest seed times being placed in the final heat.

The use of F.A.T. is required for all sectional meets. Only Sectional Meets using the required F.A.T. will be allowed to advance competitors to the State Meet based upon a time acquired in the sectional finals. If practical, Field Events-Preliminaries and Finals should be run consecutively. Competitors in the Wheelchair Division shall be integrated into the field event preliminaries with competitors without disabilities. The Triple Jump should follow the Long Jump as soon as one pit is available.

G. Girls and Boys Sectional Finals -Order of Events

- 4 x 800-Meter Relay Finals
4 x 100-Meter Relay Finals
3200-Meter Run (If two sections are required, they will be conducted consecutively at this point in the meet)
100/110-Meter High Hurdles Finals
100-Meter Wheelchair Division
100-Meter Dash Finals
800-Meter Wheelchair Division
800-Meter Run Finals
4 x 200-Meter Relay Finals
400-Meter Wheelchair Division
400-Meter Dash Finals
300 Meter Low/Intermediate Hurdle Finals
1600-Meter Run Finals
200-Meter Wheelchair Division
200-Meter Dash Finals
4 x 400-Meter Relay Finals

Wheelchair participants will compete at the sectional to which their school is assigned. At the meet director's discretion, if there are sufficient lanes the Wheelchair Division may be run as one consolidated heat. The Wheelchair Division will have 100-Meter, 200-Meter, 400-Meter, 800-Meter track events and shot put and discus.

H. Weather Conditions: It is the responsibility of the local Sectional Manager and Meet Referee to make every effort to complete the Sectional meet on the date scheduled. It may become necessary to suspend an event or the meet due to severe storm or unusual

weather conditions that cause competition to become hazardous. Since time is of the essence, suspended meets or events should be reconvened as soon as the safety of the competitors is assured. If after a reasonable delay, the Meet Referee and Manager must suspend further competition for that day, Friday night meets may be suspended until Saturday.

IHSA State Final Time Schedule

All times are dependent on the weather. IHSA will use the IHSA Twitter account to notify schools of any changes in the time schedule due to bad weather.

Practice Schedule: Wednesday, May 20 (Girls), May 27 (Boys)

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Schools may use the track and field facilities at O'Brien Field for practice and warm-up. These practice sessions are not the responsibility of the IHSA or of EIU. Athletes and coaches use the facilities to practice at their own risk. Coaches will be responsible for the safety of their athletes/staff. Coaches must be aware of the weather and react according to IHSA severe weather safety guidelines. (If it roars, go indoors!).

4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.: Dorm Registration and check in at Taylor Hall.

4:00 - 7:00 p.m.: Coaches may pick up school packets at the south ticket window on the west side of O'Brien Field (parking lot side of stadium)

7:00 p.m.: State Final Manager, Head Officials and Games Committee meeting in the Lantz Building Varsity Room.

Thursday, May 21 (Girls), May 28 (Boys) 1A Semifinals

8:00 - 10:00 a.m.: 1A Schools only, may use track and field facilities at O'Brien Field for practice and warm-up.

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.: Coaches may pick up school packets at the south ticket window on the west side of O'Brien Field (parking lot side of stadium).

10:00 a.m.: Long Jump, Triple Jump to follow the Long Jump

10:30 a.m.: High Jump

11:00 a.m.: Pole Vault, Shot Put, Discus to follow the Shot Put

11:50 a.m.: National Anthem

12:00 p.m.: 1A competition begins in all running events.



Class 1A Track Order of Events-Semifinals

- 4 x 800-Meter Relay
- 4 x 100-Meter Relay
- (10-Minute Warm Up for Hurdles)
- 100/110-Meter High-Hurdles
- 100-Meter Dash
- 800-Meter Run
- 4 x 200-Meter Relay
- 400-Meter Dash
- 300 Meter Low/Intermediate Hurdles
- 1600-Meter Run
- 200-Meter Dash
- 4 x 400-Meter Relay

Practice Schedule following the Boys Class 1A Meet: The Special Olympics Unified State Final Championships will be held immediately following the Class 1A Boys State Preliminaries. Approximately 7:00 p.m. the Boys Class 2A/3A schools will be allowed on the track for practice (weather permitting). Schools may use the track and field facilities at O'Brien Field for practice and warm-up. These practice sessions are not the responsibility of the IHSA or of EIU. Athletes and coaches use the facilities to practice at their own risk. Coaches will be responsible for the safety of their athletes/staff. Coaches must be aware of the weather and react according to IHSA severe weather safety guidelines. (If it roars, go indoors!).

**Friday, May 22 (Girls), May 29 (Boys)
2A, 3A Semifinals**

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.: 2A and 3A schools only, may use track and field facilities at O'Brien Field for practice and warm-up.

7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Coaches may pick up school packets at the south ticket window on the west side of O'Brien Field (parking lot side of stadium). Unclaimed packets will be left at the southwest gate of O'Brien Field.

8:00 a.m.: Long Jump, Triple Jump to follow Long Jump

8:30 a.m.: High Jump

9:00 a.m.: Pole Vault, Shot Put, Discus Throw to follow Shot Put

9:50 a.m.: National Anthem

10:00 a.m.: The semifinals will be run in two parts. Part 1 will be Class 2A events and Part 2 will be Class 3A events. Class 2A track and field events will begin at **8:00 a.m.** Class 3A track events will begin at approximately **2:00 p.m.**, or later in case of delays. Class 3A field events should refer to the complete schedule for approximate starting times. The schedule of field events indicates the approximate starting times to be used as a guide.

Format for Girls/Boys field events: The Pole Vault will utilize both runways for flights 1 and 2, Flight 3 will begin as soon as flight 1 is completed. **Sixty (60) minutes** of warm-up will be permitted prior to the start of each flight.

Both runways will be utilized in the Long Jump and Triple Jump for flights 1 and 2 with the 3rd and 4th flights following on the first available runway. The Triple Jump will follow the Long Jump. Both circles in the Shot

Put and Discus will be used with flights 1 and 2 starting at the same time with the 3rd and 4th flight to follow on the first available ring.

In the Long and Triple Jump: The wind direction will determine the layout of the runways. When practical, competitors will jump with the wind.

The final designations for number of flights, runways and times will depend on the number of qualifiers. Coaches must be alert for the time schedule and flight assignments that will be included in their school packets.

If there are more than 9 qualifiers in a specific event within the Wheelchair Division, those students will compete in semifinals on Friday. Athletes in the Wheelchair Division competing in field events will be integrated into flights in Class 2A on Friday but will be placed within the Wheelchair Division for awards and advancement to the finals. Athletes competing in the Wheelchair Division in Track events will compete in heats immediately preceding the equivalent heat in Class 2A on Friday. For example, a semifinal in the Wheelchair Division. In the 100-Meter will be run immediately preceding the 100-Meter dash run in the 2A class.

Class 2A Field Events

8:00 a.m.: Long Jump, Triple Jump to follow the Long Jump

8:30 a.m.: High Jump

9:00 a.m.: Pole Vault, Shot Put, Discus Throw to follow the Shot Put

**Class 2A Track Order of Events-Semifinals
(Class 2A semifinals in the Track events will begin at 10:00 a.m.)**

- 4 x 800-Meter Relay
- 4 x 100-Meter Relay
- (10-Minute Warm Up on Hurdles)
- 100/110-Meter High-Hurdles
- 100-Meter Dash Semifinals, Wheelchair Division (if necessary)
- 100-Meter Dash Semifinals
- 800-Meter Dash Semifinals, Wheelchair Division (if necessary)
- 800-Meter Run
- 4 x 200-Meter Relay
- 400-Meter Dash, Wheelchair Division (if necessary)
- 400-Meter Dash
- 300 Meter Low/Intermediate Hurdles
- 1600-Meter Run
- 200-Meter Dash, Wheelchair Division (if necessary)
- 200-Meter Dash
- 4 x 400-Meter Relay

**Class 3A Field Events
(Times Approximate And Dependent on the end of the 2A Events – Be prepared to go early!)**

12:00 p.m.: Long Jump, Triple Jump to follow the Long Jump

12:30 p.m.: High Jump

12:30 p.m.: Pole Vault

1:05 p.m.: Shot Put, Discus Throw to follow the Shot Put (approx. 2:45 p.m.)

Class 3A Track Order of Events-Semifinals

(Class 3A Semifinals in the Track events will begin at approximately 2:00 p.m.)

4 x 800-Meter Relay
 4 x 100-Meter Relay
 (10-Minute Warm Up for Hurdles)
 100/110-Meter High-Hurdles
 100-Meter Dash
 800-Meter Run
 4 x 200-Meter Relay
 400-Meter Dash
 300 Meter Low/Intermediate Hurdles
 1600-Meter Run
 200-Meter Dash
 4 x 400-Meter Relay

Note: The times for the semifinals are approximate. The Games Committee will determine when a break may be taken if the events are running ahead of schedule.

Practice Schedule: Following the 2A/3A meet-7:00 p.m. Schools may use the track and field facilities at O'Brien Field for practice and warm-up. These practice sessions are not the responsibility of the IHSAA or of EIU. Athletes and coaches use the facilities to practice at their own risk. Coaches will be responsible for the safety of their athletes/staff. Coaches must be aware of the weather and react according to IHSAA severe weather safety guidelines. (If it roars, go indoors!).

Saturday, May 23 (Girls), May 30 (Boys)-Finals in all events

7:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.: The track is open for warm-ups to all finalists.

9:15 a.m.: Parade of Competitors (followed by Competitor Oath and recognition of head officials, honorary referees, and National Anthem)

If there are nine or fewer students qualifying from Sectionals for a specific event within the Wheelchair Division, then that event will take place on Saturday.

If entries require preliminaries for Athletes in the Wheelchair Division competing in field events, the athletes will be integrated into flights in Class 2A on Friday. Those that qualify for the finals will be placed within the Wheelchair Division for finals and awards on Saturday. Athletes competing in the Wheelchair Division in Track events will compete in heats immediately preceding the equivalent heat in Class 2A on Friday (if entries require preliminaries). Those that qualify for the finals will be placed within the Wheelchair Division for finals on Saturday in heats immediately preceding the events for athletes without disabilities. The Wheelchair Division will have 100-meter, 200-meter, 400-meter, and 800-meter track events, and shot put and discus.

Field Events Finals – 1A followed by 2A followed by 3A

1A
10:00 a.m.: Pole Vault
10:00 a.m.: Shot Put
10:00 a.m.: Long Jump
10:00 a.m.: High Jump

Triple Jump – To follow the Long Jump
 Discus – To follow the Shot Put

2A (Approximate start times – be ready to go)

10:00 a.m.: Pole Vault
10:45 a.m.: Shot Put
10:00 a.m.: Long Jump
12:00 p.m.: High Jump
 Triple Jump – To follow the Long Jump
 Discus – To follow the Shot Put

3A (Approximate start times – be ready to go)

11:30 a.m.: Shot Put
11:00 a.m.: Long Jump
12:00 p.m.: Pole Vault
2:00 p.m.: High Jump
 Triple Jump – To follow the Long Jump
 Discus – To follow the Shot Put

Track Events

10:00 a.m.
 Class 1A 3200-Meter Run, Section No. 1
 Class 2A 3200-Meter Run, Section No. 1
 Class 3A 3200-Meter Run, Section No. 1

11:00 a.m.
 Class 1A 4 x 800-Meter Relay
 Class 2A 4 x 800-Meter Relay
 Class 3A 4 x 800-Meter Relay

11:40 a.m.
 Class 1A 4 x 100-Meter Relay
 Class 2A 4 x 100-Meter Relay
 Class 3A 4 x 100-Meter Relay

12:10 p.m.
 Class 1A 3200-Meter Run, Section No. 2
 Class 2A 3200-Meter Run, Section No. 2
 Class 3A 3200-Meter Run, Section No. 2

1:10 p.m.
 Class 1A 100/110-Meter High-Hurdles
 Class 2A 100/110-Meter High-Hurdles
 Class 3A 100/110-Meter High-Hurdles

1:35 p.m.
 Wheelchair Division - 100 Meter Dash
 Class 1A 100-Meter Dash
 Class 2A 100-Meter Dash
 Class 3A 100-Meter Dash

1:55 p.m.
 Wheelchair Division - 800 Meter Dash
 Class 1A 800-Meter Run
 Class 2A 800-Meter Run
 Class 3A 800-Meter Run

2:25 p.m.
 Class 1A 4 x 200-Meter Relay
 Class 2A 4 x 200-Meter Relay
 Class 3A 4 x 200-Meter Relay

2:55 p.m.
 Wheelchair Division - 400 Meter Dash
 Class 1A 400-Meter Dash
 Class 2A 400-Meter Dash
 Class 3A 400-Meter Dash

3:15 p.m.
 Class 1A 300 Meter Low/Intermediate Hurdles
 Class 2A 300 Meter Low/Intermediate Hurdles
 Class 3A 300 Meter Low/Intermediate Hurdles

3:35 p.m.
 Class 1A 1600-Meter Run



- Class 2A 1600-Meter Run
- Class 3A 1600-Meter Run
- 4:05 p.m.
- Wheelchair Division - 200 Meter Dash
- Class 1A 200-Meter Dash
- Class 2A 200-Meter Dash
- Class 3A 200-Meter Dash
- 4:20 p.m.
- Class 1A 4 x 400-Meter Relay
- Class 2A 4 x 400-Meter Relay
- Class 3A 4 x 400-Meter Relay
- 5:00 p.m.
- Awards

A. First and second place winners in all events from each **Sectional** meet shall advance to the State Final Meet.

B. In addition, any individual or relay team who equals or surpasses the qualifying standard in the finals of their respective Sectional Meet, for the Class they represent, at any Sectional Meet using F.A.T., shall advance to the State Final Meet in their Class. Also, any athlete in the throws and/or horizontal jumps equals or surpasses the qualifying mark in the preliminaries shall advance to the State Final Meet.

If a new event is added in the state series, first and second place winners from each of the sectional meets shall advance to the State Final Meet.

VII. ADVANCEMENT OF WINNERS

C. The 2026 F.A.T. qualifying standards are as follows:

2025-2026 Proposed IHSA State Qualifying Standards						
Event	1A Girls	1A Boys	2A Girls	2A Boys	3A Girls	3A Boys
LJ	5.00m (16-5)	6.35m (20-10)	5.18m (17-0)	6.52m (21-5)	5.46m (17-11)	6.78m (22-3)
PV	2.76m (9-1)	3.70m (12-2)	2.97m (9-9)	3.88m (12-9)	3.25m (10-8)	4.19m (13-9)
HJ	1.52m (5-0)	1.85m (6-1)	1.54m (5-1)	1.87m (6-2)	1.57m (5-2)	1.93m (6-4)
SP	10.79m (35-5)	14.40m (47-3)	10.66m (35-0)	14.93m (49-0)	11.17m (36-8)	15.82m (51-11)
TJ	10.18m (33-5)	12.54m (41-2)	10.59m (34-9)	12.95m (42-6)	11.15m (36-7)	13.53m (44-5)
DISC	33.45m (109-9)	43.05m (141-3)	33.65m (110-5)	44.42m (145-9)	35.20m (115-6)	47.57m (156-1)
4 X 800	10:35.51	8:33.28	10:14.34	8:20.60	9:39.14	7:59.23
4 X 100	:51.86	:44.28	:50.35	:43.51	:48.65	:42.62
3200	12:26.55	10:08.52	11:49.92	9:53.73	11:11.19	9:25.92
100 HH	:16.86	:16.21	:16.46	:15.61	:15.40	:15.06
110 HH						
100	:12.91	:11.24	:12.58	:11.05	:12.32	:10.93
800	2:28.15	2:01.53	2:24.52	2:00.24	2:19.53	1:57.40
4 X 200	1:51.25	1:33.09	1:48.14	1:32.62	1:44.36	1:29.59
400	1:01.69	:51.92	1:00.75	:51.36	:58.80	:50.44
300 LH	:49.72	:42.22	:48.67	:41.55	:46.88	:40.40
300 IH						
1600	5:36.90	4:36.82	5:25.11	4:31.79	5:11.78	4:21.72
200	:26.91	:22.98	:26.34	:22.50	:25.38	:22.27
4 X 400	4:19.68	3:33.27	4:13.22	3:30.40	4:04.52	3:24.94

Rationale: When determining event standards, the past process of using a five-year average of 21st place from all sectionals for 1A & 3A, and a five-year average of 16th place from all sectionals for 2A was followed when possible. However, as a result of some analysis of qualifier projections using past years, there were some cases where the system was adjusted by using a different average sectional time/distance/height (i.e. 18th place instead of 21st place), or by using a different average number of years (i.e.: 4 years instead of 5 years), or simply by maintaining the prior year's standard. The Assistant Executive Director working with the Track & Field advisory committee has reserved the right to make these types of adjustments if it is obvious that this would be necessary to protect the integrity of the meet.

Athletes with Disabilities Wheelchair Track & Field Qualifying Standards:

Event	Wheelchair Athletes	
	Boys	Girls
SP	1.83m (6-0)	1.22m (4-0)
DISC	4.75m (15-0)	2.44m (8-0)
100	:40	:45
800	6:00	6:30



400	3:00	3:15
200	1:25	1:35

Note: The field event qualifying standards above show both the metric distances/heights along with the English distances/heights in parenthesis. The metric measurements will be used in determining qualifying marks for all field events. The English measurement conversions in parenthesis are only listed for convenience and are not necessarily exact conversions. Therefore, at the sectional meets, the metric distances/heights are what will be used to determine if a qualifying standard has been met by a competitor. In other words, the English conversions listed in parenthesis will not be used or considered to determine if a qualifying standard was met.

Qualifying standards Information:

1) In track events only, the qualifying standard (recorded with an F.A.T. system) must be equaled or surpassed in the final races. Times recorded in preliminary or semifinal races may not be used to qualify for the State Final Meet. The use of an F.A.T. system is required to qualify from a Sectional Meet to the state Meet based upon time.

2) In Sectional meets preliminaries shall be held in the Long Jump, Triple Jump, Shot Put and Discus Throw. Nine (9) contestants plus ties for ninth shall advance to competition in the finals as stated in NFHS Rules. Any competitor who equals or surpasses the above qualifying standards for their Class shall advance to the State Final in the Long Jump, Triple Jump, Shot Put and Discus Throw.

3) The High Jump and Pole Vault should be run as finals. The qualifying standard for the High Jump and Pole Vault must be a measured height unless the height achieved is considerably more than the qualifying standard.

4) The qualifying standards for the field events are metric measurements.

D. Sectional Meets: At sectional meets only, preliminaries and or semifinals; in the 100 and 200-Meter Dashes and the 110/100-High Hurdles WILL NOT BE CONDUCTED. These events will be seeded and conducted as a timed final.

E. Sectional Meets: Divisions conducting the following events will conduct them as finals at Sectional Meets: 4 x 800-Meter Relay, 4 x 100-Meter Relay, 3200-Meter Run, 800-Meter Run, 4 x 200-Meter Relay, 400-Meter Dash, 300-Meter Low/Intermediate Hurdles, 1600-Meter Run, 4 x 400-Meter Relay.

The winners will be chosen based on the best time made and only one set of medals and points will be awarded in each event.

F. Sectional Meets: The local manager will determine the number of sections to be run by the number of entries.

G. Sectional Meets: At all Sectional meets, preliminaries and finals in the Field Events should be run off consecutively, if practical.

H. Sectional Pole Vault: It is preferred that the Pole Vault be conducted at the assigned sectional site at the time of the sectional meet. However, due to increasing difficulties in obtaining sectional sites capable of conducting Pole Vault, the Pole Vault may be conducted at a different location prior to the Sectional (preferably the day before the sectional meet). If this is necessary, all schools competing must be:

1) Notified of the new location and time of the event.

2) The event must be conducted at a time that would not prohibit the competitors from competing in any other event at the Sectional meet.

3) A licensed Track & Field Official must be present to officiate during the event (supplied by the Sectional Manager).

4) All competitors must have a Certified Coach (By-Law 2.070) accompanying them.

5) **Note:** During the regular season coaches will be required to complete the Pole Vault weight verification card at all meets. Athletes will not be required to weigh in at these regular season meets, but the coach must verify that the athlete has been weighed and is using a legal pole as determined by the weight of the vaulter. This card can be found online at IHSA.org. A weigh in will occur during the IHSA State Series, this will include all sectional meets.

6) In the case of inclement weather, the pole vault and high jump may be moved to an indoor location. This decision will be made by the Meet Referee.

7) All schools conducting the pole vault must use the pole vault box pad defined in NFHS Track and Field **Rule 6-9-33**. The pad must meet the ASTM Standard F2949. The pole vault will not be conducted without this pad present.

I. Sectional Meets: Relay Races - It is the clerk's responsibility to verify that all relay participants are listed on each school's original online list of entries for that event. Copies of the relay lists of participants (including alternates) must be provided by the Sectional Meet Manager developed from the IHSA Official Online entries.

J. State Final Meet: If a school has qualified a relay team for the State Final, the names of the eight (8) runners who are entered in the relay must appear on the online List of Participants submitted to the Sectional Meet Manager and the IHSA Office.

If a school qualifies a relay team for the State Meet, the four (4) designated runners in the semis or finals must be from the eight (8) runners who were listed on the online List of Participants submitted to the Clerk of Course at the Sectional meet.

K. State Final Meet: A competitor may participate only in those individual events in the State Final meet for which they have qualified in Sectional competition.



L. State Final Meet: In the track events, nine (9) competitors or teams will qualify for the finals to be run on Saturday except in the 800-Meter Run, 1600-Meter Run and 4 x 800-Meter Relay where 12 will qualify for the finals. The 3200-meter run will be run in sections on Saturday.

M. State Final Seeding: In seeding the semifinals in running events at the state final meet, the top qualifier in each event from the sectional will be placed in the last heat, and the other top qualifiers from the sectionals will be placed in the heats by time. Seeding for the final in each running event shall be as follows: 1) Heat winners, according to their times, 2) all other qualifiers, according to their times. Qualifiers from the same school in an event will not be separated.

N. Qualifying For Finals at the State Meet: At the state final, in the semifinals of all running events, (In both the Athletes Without Disabilities Division and the Wheelchair Division if needed) the winner of each heat advances to the finals, and the remaining qualifying positions will be filled on the basis of time.

O. State Final Meet Ties: In case of a tie in the semifinals of the 100-Meter Dash, 100 or 110-Meter High Hurdles, and the 200-Meter Dash that would qualify more than nine (9) competitors for the Finals; Rule 4-5-4 will be followed. The tying competitors shall compete again for the available lane(s).

In case of a tie in the semifinals of the 300-Meter Low/Intermediate Hurdles, 400-Meter Dash, 4x100-Meter Relay, 4x200-Meter Relay, and the 4x400-Meter Relay, that qualify more than nine (9) competitors or teams for the Final; two final sections shall be run, and the final places will be determined on the basis of time. The runners or teams with the best qualifying times will be placed in the second section with at least three (3) runners or teams in the first section.

In case of a tie in the semifinals of the 800-Meter Run, 1600-Meter Run, and the 3200-Meter Relay that would qualify more than twelve (12) competitors or teams; all tying competitors or teams will be assigned to the final race. Positions of the tying competitors or teams will be drawn and assigned as indicated in the State Final Seeding.

NOTE: If competitors have identical times recorded to 1/100th of a second, then timing to 1/1000 of a second will be used to break all ties to determine advancement and to determine final places.

P. State Final Meet: In a relay event, no substitute is permissible after a false start. Alternates listed on the relay team card are not charged with participation in a relay event unless they become a competitor in the relay.

Q. State Final Meet: The Games Committee, in conjunction with the Head Field Referee, Head Pole Vault and Head High Jump judges shall announce the starting heights in the High Jump and Pole Vault for the preliminaries Tuesday before the State Meet on the IHSA Web Site. Competitors will be permitted to warm up at a lower designated height, but this must be done before the time scheduled for the start of the event.

R. State Final Meet: The Games Committee shall approve definite qualifying heights for the Pole Vault and High Jump and only those competitors who clear the qualifying height in the preliminaries shall compete in the finals. The qualifying height is subject to the number and strength of entries.

S. State Final Meet: In the Shot Put, Discus (in both the Athletes Without Disabilities Division and the Wheelchair Division), Long Jump and Triple Jump, twelve (12) competitors plus ties for twelfth place will advance from the Preliminaries to the Finals as stated in NFHS Rules.

T. State Final Meet: In the Pole Vault and High Jump, a minimum of nine (9) competitors will advance from the Preliminaries to the Finals.

U. State Final Meet: In both the semifinals and finals in the throws and horizontal jumps, measurements shall be made after each trial.

In the Finals, in the throws and the horizontal jumps, a measurement and announcement will be made after each trial.

VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES

Host schools must have an AED available and on site at all IHSA post season contests.

A. The current edition of the National Federation Official Track and Field Rules will be followed insofar as those rules apply to the events in which there is competition, unless otherwise specifically indicated in these Terms and Conditions or in other IHSA documents.

Note: Starting Blocks: Blocks that are adaptable to the track surface without potential damage to the surface may be used by contestants; otherwise, starting blocks provided by the management must be used by the competitors.

B. In accordance with IHSA By-laws 2.020 and 2.070, all schools are required to always have a qualified coach and/or faculty representative present during a meet and be available for assignment as might be required by the local meet manager. If a school does not have a qualified coach and/or faculty representative present at the Sectional site or the State Final 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-laws 2.020, 2.070-2.079 and who are listed on the school's "List of Participants" shall be permitted to serve in those capacities at the Sectional and State Final meets.

C. Participation Limitations:

1) As stated in IHSA By-law 5.152, an individual contestant shall be permitted to participate in a maximum of four (4) track and/or field events.

2) A contestant officially becomes a competitor when the competitor or the relay team of which he/she



is a designated runner reports to the Clerk of Course or to the Judge for a field event.

a) The eight (8) runners listed for each respective relay obtained from the Online List of Participants by the Sectional Manager are the only eligible runners in the respective relay. There can be no change in the names of runners in a respective relay after the online List of Participants has been submitted (it is permissible to change any time, including a relay time, at the seeding meeting). The Sectional Manager will not make any changes in relay runners at the seeding meeting. Nor will there be any changes from the list of runners submitted on the online List of Participants allowed at the State Final in the event the school's relay team advances from the sectional to the State Final.

b) At the Sectional seeding meeting, a school may change or scratch its entries in the individual events.

c) The Sectional Manager will submit the runner information for each qualifying relay in addition to all individual event qualifiers when they upload the official results to Athletic.net.

3) If an individual contestant exceeds participation limitations in the Sectional or State Final meet, he/she shall forfeit all individual and team points earned in any events in which they competed and in accordance with the rules, he/she shall be disqualified from further competition in the state series.

D. Uniform: Competitors shall wear school issued or school approved track and field uniforms that meet the IHSAA interpretations that follow:

1) NFHS Rule 4-3-1 – One or two-piece bodysuits, similar in color can be worn. Stripes down the side of the uniform will not be an issue. Once a running event or a field event has begun, there can be no disqualification for improper uniform. Competitors must compete in a school issued or school approved uniform that complies with NFHS Rule 4-3-1. It is the responsibility of the meet referee, starter, clerk of the course, and/or the respective field event head judge to inspect competitor uniforms prior to the start of the race or field event. They are not to knowingly allow a competitor in an illegal uniform to participate in the race or field event. If a field event judge or clerk of the course is uncertain whether a uniform complies with NFHS Rule 4-3-1, the clerk of the course or judge shall obtain a ruling from the meet referee or starter before starting the event. Referee, Starters, Clerks of the Course, and field event judges must be aware that schools may have multiple uniforms that they issue to their athletes. Athletes from the same school may participate in the same event in different school issued uniforms. If a competitor changes from an inspected uniform to jersey, shorts, undergarment(s), and/or any other unapproved items, and competes in the meet in an illegal uniform, the athlete is disqualified from the event and the meet for unsportsmanlike conduct.

2) NFHS Rule 4-3-2: In relay races, the clerk of the course, referee or starter shall not disqualify a team if the uniform worn by all runners is not identical. The color of the shorts for all relay runners and the color of the track jersey (singlet) for all relay runners must be similar. The printing, design and/or lettering on the track jersey (singlet) must be such that each relay runner's school can be easily identified, and that as a person views the four

track jerseys (singlets) together, they appear similar, and the relay runner's team is easily identified.

3) Contestants wearing jewelry will be permitted to compete. Narrow headbands to keep the hair from interfering with the contestant's vision will be permitted. Contestants with painted bodies or faces as well as costumes, adornment or items deemed unsafe will not be permitted to compete nor participate in awards ceremonies. Medical alerts must be worn so they are visible.

4) Watches may be worn by competitors during track and field competition.

E. Field Events: Local Managers shall not permit a contestant to participate after the event judge has declared an event closed. In the field events, trials must be taken in order listed. If accommodations must be made because of a conflict, the competitor must consult with the head event judge in advance of, not after, the listed order of participants.

If a conflict has forced a competitor to miss his/her scheduled trial(s) in the High Jump or Pole Vault, he/she shall be given an allowance not to exceed five minutes after competition has been completed for his/her flight at the last height attempted in his flight. If he/she reports after this five-minute period, he/she shall be considered as having passed that height. In all other field events, he/she shall have a five-minute allowance after the trials in his/her flight have been completed.

In the Pole Vault and High Jump, the one-minute allowance for a trial, as prescribed in the NFHS Rule Book will start when the crossbar has been properly positioned for each jump/vault. In the Long Jump, Shot Put, Triple Jump and Discus Throw, the one-minute time allowance in the NFHS Rule Book for the trial will begin when their name is called for the trial. In the Long Jump, Shot Put, Triple Jump and Discus Throw, the judges shall measure and announce the distance after each successful throw in the preliminaries and finals.

*In the Shot Put and Discus Throw a throwing sector of 34.92 degrees will be used.

In the Wheelchair Division the following modifications will apply.

Students will be allowed to compete in throwing events from their wheelchair or from a throwing-specific chair ("field chair"). The field chair must comply with the **Adaptive Track & Field USA (ATFUSA) and World Para Athletics (WPA)** rules, or must comply with the following standards:

The field chair sitting surface including the cushion must not exceed 75 cm in height

If the field chair has a holding bar, it must be fixed (no articulating joints)

No part of the field chair may be outside the circumference of the circle

For shot put and discus, the wheelchair or field chair must remain stationary during the competition. The athlete may have an individual hold the chair during the throw to prevent movement. The wheelchair or field chair may be anchored with straps to stakes in the ground. The stakes and straps may be in or outside the throwing circle. The athletes may use non-elastic straps to anchor them into the chair. Athletes may compete with one or both feet on or off the ground. If the athlete



competes with a foot on the ground, the foot must be inside the circle and the athlete's buttocks may not rise off the seat of the chair until the implement lands.

The size and weight of the discus and shot for the Wheelchair Division shall be the same as used for all other female or male participants.

F. Running Events:

1) The 400-Meter Dash (in both the Able-Bodied Division and the Wheelchair Division), 200-Meter Dash, 300 Low/Intermediate Hurdles 4 x 100-Meter Relay and the 4 x 200-Meter Relay shall be run in lanes all the way. The start will be from staggered positions figured for one, two and four turns, respectively.

2) In the 4 x 400-Meter Relay, the first runners shall start from positions staggered for three (3) turns and shall run the first leg in lanes. After the first baton exchange, the second runner will run one additional curve staying in his respective lane and may cut for the pole position provided he is one full running stride ahead (approximately 7 feet) as provided in Rule 5-13-2. The lanes for the remaining exchanges will be determined by the "off the curve" system mentioned in Rule 5-10-11.

3) The 800-Meter Run (in both the Athletes without Disabilities and the Wheelchair Division) and the 4 x 800-Meter Relay will be run in alleys. In races run in alleys, seeding will be non-serpentine from the outside in.

4) In the 110-Meter High Hurdles and the 300-Meter Low/Intermediate Hurdles, the space between each hurdle shall be as prescribed in Rule 5-3-8.

5) The 100-Meter Dash (in both the Athletes without Disabilities and the Wheelchair Division), and 100 and 110-Meter Hurdles will be run in straight lanes with the runner competing and finishing in the same lane they started in.

6) The 1600 and 3200-Meter Runs will start from the International (waterfall) start line. These races will not be started in alleys during the state series.

7) Wheelchair Division Athletes must compete in a manually operated wheelchair and must propel themselves. Students may use a wheelchair or track (racing) chair for competition. It is recommended that athletes use a track (racing wheelchair) for racing events. If a track chair is used, it must meet the following specifications:

- a. A wheelchair has a maximum of four wheels.
- b. The diameter of the two largest wheels (including inflated tire) does not exceed 28 inches
- c. For a track chair, the third wheel's diameter does not exceed 20 inches (including inflated tire) and is not smaller than 10 inches.

Only one push rim shall be attached to each large wheel.

d. The chair's seat, including cushion, shall not exceed 25 inches in height.

e. The athlete, when in a racing chair (on or off the track) shall wear an approved bicycle or wheelchair racing helmet.

f. The hub of the wheelchair's front wheels must be completely behind the vertical plane of the starting line at the beginning of the race.

g. If an unsafe situation or mechanical failure should occur during the race, a competitor may be

assisted back into his/her chair by a bystander to continue racing, if requested by the athlete. No forward assistance or momentum should be provided.

h. The finish is determined by the hub of the front wheels breaking the vertical plane of the finish line.

NOTE: If not specifically mentioned in this document the chair shall comply with Adaptive Track & Field (ATFUSA) and World Para Athletics (WPA).

G. Reporting To Clerk of Course: At the State Final Meet

1) All contestants in each running event shall report to the Clerk's Tent at the first call for that event. Hip numbers for the electronic timing system will be given to all competitors when they report. Race instructions shall be given to competitors in all heats after they have received their hip numbers.

2) A running event is considered closed when the Head Clerk has taken the final roll call in the Clerk's tent. Contestants must report to the tent upon hearing the first call. There will be only a first call and a final call. The final roll call will take place at or around the final call and after final instructions have been provided by the clerk's staff. Contestants who fail to be present for the final roll call shall not be allowed to participate in the event. The Head Clerk, who will ultimately take the final roll call, will have the authority to determine if a contestant will not be allowed to run resulting from a late check-in. It is clearly the responsibility of the coach and athlete to report on time. The Head Clerk's decision in this regard cannot be appealed.

3) The Assistant Referee/Conflicts (field events/running events) will have the responsibility to oversee these conflicts and will have the final authority on disqualifications related to conflicts. These disqualifications cannot be appealed.

H. Official Times at State Final Meet:

1) The Official Times at the State Final meet shall be the F.A.T. (Fully Automatic Times) recorded in 1/100 seconds and if needed, any MT (Manual Times) will be recorded in 1/10 seconds after rounding up to the next highest (slowest) tenth of a second, as required in the Track and Field Rules. These Official Times will be used for advancement, seeding and placement in an event. If in the semifinals there is a tie for the last qualifying position(s) for advancement, F.A.T. times to 1/1000 and manual times to 1/100 will be used. For example, such times will be recorded as 11.24(6) and 11.24(7). These times will be officially recorded as 11.24. If F.A.T. times are not available for all heats or sections of a race, the Manual Times will be the Official Times used for advancement, seeding and placement in an event.

2) Place results by the finish judges will not become official until the F.A.T. picture of the race, if available, has been reviewed by designated officials immediately after each race.

I. Games Committee: A Sectional Games Committee must be appointed for each Sectional meet. The Sectional Games Committee shall be comprised of the Sectional manager and four (4) head coaches present at the Sectional Seeding meeting. The Sectional



Games Committee shall render a decision on questions that might arise on the day of the Sectional meet regarding the legality of an entry under existing rules. In accordance with Rule 3-2-4, the Sectional Games Committee shall act as the final Jury of Appeals for all final appeals of officials' decisions. At the State Final Meet, the Jury of Appeals shall act in accordance to National Federation Rule 3-5.

Note 1: All appeals of officials' decisions shall be submitted in writing to the Jury of Appeals by the head coach within 30 minutes of posting the results of the event.

Note 2: In ruling on such final appeals of officials' decisions, the Jury of Appeals shall determine if a rule has been misapplied (judgment calls are not appealable). The Jury of appeals shall not set aside or waive the provisions of any Track and Field Rule or IHSA State Series Term and Condition.

Note 3: The decision(s) of the Meet Referee and Jury of Appeals shall be final in matters pertaining to the National Federation Track and Field Rules. Neither the IHSA Office nor the Board of Directors will review officials' or Jury of Appeals decisions whether alleged errors are due to faulty judgment or misinterpretation of the rules.

Note 4: No IHSA or NFHS rule may be set-aside or ignored by the Games Committee/Jury of Appeals.

J. Conduct: Unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches or contestants or the use of profane language by coaches or contestants will not be tolerated and shall be penalized under the provisions of IHSA By-laws 3.140, 6.011 and 6.012 and in accordance with the Track and Field Rules.

1) In accordance with the provisions of IHSA By-law 6.033 and the Track and Field Rules, the decisions of the Meet Referee and Games Committee shall be final.

K. Scoring:

1) Sectional Meets: In the Sectional meets; **eight (8) places** will be counted in determining the winning team. **This will only impact scoring. Medals will only to be awarded to the top six (6).** First, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth places will count 10, 8, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 points, respectively. Points in the relay events will be scored the same as each of the individual events. **In addition, schools entering only individuals will not score team points. In the traditional sectional meet, team points will be awarded only to schools that are entered as a team and have competed a minimum of 6 times during the current season.**

2) State Final Meet: In the State Final meet, nine (9) places will be counted in determining the team order. First, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth places will count 10, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 points, respectively. Points in the relay events will be scored the same as each of the individual events.

Schools entering only individuals will not score team points. Team points will only be awarded to schools that are entered as a team and have competed a minimum of 6 times during the current season.

3) Combined Championship:

a. The Combined State Championship will consist of schools, regardless of class, with athletes competing in the Track and Field State Championship

along with students competing in the Wheelchair Division. Team points will be awarded to competitors in the Wheelchair Division and combined with the points earned by their teammates in the Track & Field State Finals to determine a Combined State Champion. A Combined State Championship will only be awarded if the following conditions are met:

b. During the 2025-2026 season, there must be at least eight participants in the Wheelchair Division advancing to the State meet.

c. If the condition is met, athletes in the Wheelchair Division may be eligible to earn points toward the Combined State Championship as follows:

1) There must be at least three competitors entering an event in the Wheelchair Division.

2) Students in the Wheelchair Division may compete in up to four events but may only earn points in two events. Each student's top two results will be eligible to count for the Combined State Championship score.

3) Points awarded in the Wheelchair Division will be based on the number of participants as provided in the following chart:

# Comp	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th
2	4	3							
3	6	4	3						
4	7	5	4	3					
5	8	6	5	4	3				
6	9	7	6	5	4	3	2		
7	9	7	6	5	4	3	2		
8	10	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	
9	10	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

c. Any school with a student competing in the Track and Field State Championship along with students competing in the Wheelchair Division will be eligible for the Combined State Championship. The six-contest requirement (Section III.D) will not apply to participants in the Wheelchair Division.

d. The score applied to determine the Combined State Championship will be the total of all points for students competing in the Track and Field State Championship with students competing in the Wheelchair 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.

e. The Combined State Championship is an officially recognized IHSA State Championship.

f. Whether or not a Combined State Championship is awarded, students with disabilities will be eligible for Individual awards.

4) Scoring of Ties: In the Sectional and State Final meets, after the tie breaking procedures have been applied, if individuals or relay teams are tied for any of the places for which points are scored, the points earned by the tied competitors or teams shall be split. Ties in the High Jump and Pole Vault shall be broken as provided in NFHS Rule 6-3-2b. Ties in the Long Jump and Triple Jump shall be broken as provided in NFHS Rule 6-3-2a. Ties in the Discus Throw and Shot Put shall



be broken as provided for in NFHS Rule 6-3-2a. **Also, in all running events, ties for second place at sectional meets must be broken per NFHS Rule 3- 8-3 in order to determine who will advance to the State Meet.**

Note: In the State Final meet, in breaking ties for the first eight places in the High Jump and Pole Vault, the provisions of NFHS Rule 6-3-2b shall apply. However, if any ties are broken based on the number of "misses", only those "misses" recorded during the finals shall be considered.

L. State Final Records:

1) Any records established in the State Final Meet will be considered as the Class 1A, 2A, 3A, Wheelchair Division and/or all-time state high school outdoor record for the event. Marks established in meets other than the State Final Meet will not be considered for approval as a class or state high school record.

2) Records established in the Pole Vault, High Jump, Shot Put, Triple Jump and Long Jump at the State Final Meet will also be recognized as state records in situations where any of these events are held indoors.

3) National Interscholastic Records must conform to the provisions outlined in Rule 10 of the current Track and Field Rules Book.

Note: The Metric Records in Boys and Girls began in the 1980 Boys State Final Track and Field Meet.

M. Special State Final Meet Provisions:

1) The Discus Throw and Shot Put will be from concrete surfaced rings. The High Jump, Pole Vault, Triple Jump and Long Jump areas are surfaced with all-weather material. The track is surfaced with all-weather material. The indoor facilities at Lantz Fieldhouse are surfaced with a "Mondo Super X" type substance. Contestants will be permitted to wear spikes no longer than one-quarter inch (1/4") or rubber-soled shoes.

2) Seeding for the High Jump for Saturdays State Finals will be achieved by using the finalists' sectional performances (not by using the performances from the Thursday or Friday prelims).

3) **School Packets: State Final Qualifier Packet Pick-up Times:** IHSA Staff will be available during the following times for packet pick up. Class 2A and 3A teams who plan to attend the 1A state final must pick up their team packets (bib numbers are your only ticket for free access to O'Brien Field):

Wednesday: 4:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. at the south ticket window on the west side of O'Brien Field

Thursday: 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. at the south ticket window on the west side of O'Brien Field.

Friday: 7:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at the south ticket window on the west side of O'Brien Field. Unclaimed packets will be available at the north ticket window on the west side of O'Brien Field.

4) Relay Designation: The four (4) designated runners who will participate in the relay shall be designated when the relay team is called and reports to the Clerk of Course.

5) Thursday Practice and Warm-up at Eastern: Please refer to the State Final Instructions in the back of the School and Managers Manual for details. Schools shall observe any restricted areas that might already be prepared for use only during the State Final meet.

6) Awards Presentation: Immediately following the Finals in an event, competitors shall report to the award stand for the awards presentation in that event. Competitors also must be at the awards stand during this time for the Official Photograph of the event award winners.

N. Pole Vault Requirements

1) Contestant Weigh-In

a. **Sectional:** A weigh in will occur during the IHSA State Series, this will include all sectional meets. Each contestant in the pole vault shall be weighed on site in advance of the competition. Contestant shall weigh in wearing their school issued uniform, and any clothing in addition to the school issued uniform that will be worn while vaulting, i.e. shoes and helmet. The combined weight of the person, all clothing, shoes, and helmet will be the "competitor's weight" used to determine compliance with NFHS Rule 6-8-15 inclusive. Competitors must be weighed in prior to the start of the event. The "competitor's weight" shall be listed on the flight card for pole vault. Judges shall check the manufacturer's pole rating with the "competitor's weight" prior to each vault.

b. **Pole Vault State Final:** Each contestant in the pole vault shall be weighed in advance of the competition in the prelims only. Contestants will not be weighed in on Saturday of the state finals. Contestant shall weigh in wearing their school issued uniform, and any clothing in addition to the school issued uniform that will be worn while vaulting i.e., shoes and helmet. The combined weight of the person, all clothing, shoes, and helmet will be the "competitor's weight" used to determine compliance with NFHS Rule 6-5 inclusive. At the State Finals every pole vaulter will weigh in at the hospitality tent, located in the southeast corner of O'Brien Field. The "competitor's weight" shall be listed on the flight card for pole vault. Judges shall check the manufacturer's pole rating with the "competitor's weight" prior to each vault.

2) Pole Vault Coaches Area

a. **Sectional:** An area will be designated for pole vault coaches.

b. **State Final:** An area designated at the retaining fence on the east side of O'Brien Field near the respective landing pit(s) pole vault coaches competing in the respective flight/finals shall be designated at the retaining fence on the east side of the O'Brien Field near the respective landing pit(s).

Note: During the regular season coaches will be required to complete the Pole Vault weight verification card at all meets. Athletes will not be required to weigh in at these regular season meets, but the coach must verify that the athlete has been weighed and is using a legal pole as determined by the weight of the vaulter. This card can be found Online at IHSA.org. A weigh in will occur during the IHSA State Series, this will include all sectional meets.

3) High Jump Coaches Area

State Final: An area will be designated for High Jump Coaches near the High Jump Area. Only a coaches' wristband with a High Jump pass will grant a person access to the High Jump Coaches' area. Only schools with a High Jump qualifier will receive a High Jump pass in their school envelope. The High Jump pass



is not eligible for admission into the state Final meet. The High Jump pass is only eligible for coach to gain access into the High Jump area.

IX. TOURNAMENT POLICIES

A. Passes for the State Final Meet:

1) A contestant number will be issued to each competitor who qualifies for the State Final, and it will admit contestant to the facility. The athlete must be wearing the number before gate keepers will allow entry into the stadium.

2) Rules for Coaches Wristband/Pass

a. Coach must be on the List of Participants in the IHSA Schools Center

b. Coaches must meet all requirements (Listed on LOP; credit for PES, Concussion Exam and Hate Speech//Harassment Policy video).

c. and each school must indicate how each coach is certified to coach and select how they are certified to coach in each coaches IHSA Schools Center

Note: Only coaches who are listed on the online List of Participants will be issued a coach's wristband according to this formula: 1-5 qualifiers, school receive two (2) coaches passes; 6-10 qualifiers, school receives three (3) coaches passes; 11-above qualifiers, school receives four (4) coaches passes. No more than four (4) Coach Passes will be issued to any school.

B. Mechanical Noisemakers: All mechanical noisemaking devices shall be excluded from the facilities (this would include the vuvuzela, the horn common at World Cup soccer events).

C. Signs and Banners:

The display of signs, banners, placards, or similar items at IHSA state series events is permitted, provided:

a. They are in good taste and reflect good sportsmanship in their message and use.

b. They reflect identification and encouragement to participants and their school/community.

c. They are not displayed on the field of play or in a manner which interferes with competition.

d. They do not obstruct the view of participants or spectators; and,

e. They are not safety hazards.

D. 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.

E. State Final Practice:

1) On **Wednesday afternoon, 1A competitors** will be permitted to warm-up on the track from **4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., and between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., on Thursday morning and from 5-7:00 after the Class 1A meet the track will be open for practice (Girls Meet).** On **Thursday night** after the Special Olympics Unified Track & Field Championships (boys meet), the track will be

open for **2A and 3A competitors** for practice. On **Friday morning** the track will be open for **2A and 3A competitors from 7:00 a.m. until 8:30 a.m.** On **Saturday morning** the track will be open from **7:00 a.m. until 8:45 a.m.** for warm-ups. The track will be cleared after these special warm-up times. Contestants shall not use the space inside O'Brien Field for warm-up or practice on the days of the **State Final** except at the above designated times. The track will be cleared promptly at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday after all special warm-up times.

NOTE: Schools may use the track and field facilities at O'Brien Field for practice and warm-up. These practice sessions are not the responsibility of the IHSA or of EIU. Athletes and coaches use the facilities to practice at their own risk. **Coaches will be responsible for the safety of their athletes/staff.** Coaches must be aware of the weather and react according to IHSA severe weather safety guidelines. (If it roars, go indoors!).

2) Contestants warming up at other than the above times during the meet may use the southeast area behind the tennis courts and the area behind the East bleachers or Lantz Field house but shall not use unauthorized or off-limit areas.

3) **Field Event Warm-up:** The Head Judge in each field event will conduct a maximum 15-minute warm-up prior to the beginning of competition in each flight in the field events. Competitors who report promptly to the Head Judge may participate in this warm-up. Exception: The discus competition will be permitted a 20-minute warm-up period. **The pole vault competition will be permitted a 60-minute warm-up period.**

F. 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.

3) Broadcasting

a) 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.

b) 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.

c) 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.

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

e) 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.



4) All media requirements for the State Final meet shall be handled through the IHSA Office.

5) Local tournament managers shall be responsible for reporting state series information and results to the IHSA Office and the news media as stipulated in printed instructions received from the IHSA Office.

G. Tobacco 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 state series contest by any coach, player, any other person connected with a team, or fan shall be prohibited. 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, tobacco/liquid nicotine free zones on the date or dates of any IHSA event being held at the site.

H. 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.

I. Alcoholic Beverages and IHSA State Series

The possession, distribution, sale and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages are 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.

J. Prayer at IHSA State Series Contest: Prayer at an IHSA event that takes place over the public address system is not allowed.

3) Duplicate Awards: An order form for Duplicate Awards can be found in the Manual for Managers posted Online through the IHSA Schools Center.

B. State Final

1) Individual: At the State Final meet, medallions will be awarded to the first nine (9) place winners in each individual event in both the Athletes without Disabilities and the Wheelchair Division and relay event. In case of ties, duplicate individual awards shall be presented.

a. State Final place winners are to appear at the awards stand and receive their medallions only in their school issued uniform or school issued warm-up suit.

b. In all events, to be eligible for awards, individuals are required to report (and compete) to their event finals at the scheduled time, unless specifically excused by the IHSA Assistant Executive Director responsible for Track and Field.

2) Team: Trophies will be presented to the first, second and third place teams at the State Final meet. If the required criteria are met there will also be a Combined Team Championship. The Combined Team Championship (if conducted) will provide additional identical team trophies to the top three teams. Only schools entering a "Team" that has competed in a minimum of 6 contests will be awarded team points (no team points will be awarded to schools with only individual entries). Medallions will be presented to the State Final qualifiers from the first, second and third place teams. Eighteen (18) medallions will be provided to qualifying competitors, two (2) coaches, one (1) Superintendent, one (1) Principal and one (1) Athletic Director. In case of ties, duplicate team awards shall be presented. **Non-Competitor's medals are included with the competitors' medals at the time of the awards presentations. Administrator's medals will not be packaged in separate boxes as they were in the past. If you wish for your coaches and administrators to receive a team medal, then do not give them away to someone else. All medals you have to disperse will be hanging from the trophy at the trophy presentation.**

a. State Final place winners are to appear at the awards stand and receive their medallions only in their school issued uniform or school issued warm-up suit.

3) Duplicate Awards for schools who are part of a Coop or have lost medallions or want to order more medallions: Please use the form in your Manual for Schools.

X. AWARDS

A. Sectional

1) Individual: At the Sectional meets, medals will be awarded to the first six (6) place winners in each individual event and relay event in both the Athletes without Disabilities Division and the Wheelchair Division.

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

XI. OFFICIALS

A. Appointment and Fees

1) Sectional: A minimum of (2) officials will be assigned to each Sectional Meet by the IHSA Office (Meet Referee, Starter). A third official (Assistant Starter) will be assigned if available. The Meet Referee, Starter and Assistant Starter for each sectional will be paid by the IHSA through ArbiterPay at the following rates: **Meet Referee \$95.00, Starter \$95.00, Asst. Starter \$73.00** through their ArbiterPay account, on Monday following the meet.



Host schools must either provide or pay the Starter for shells at the Sectional Meet. Make prior arrangements with your assigned Starter.

2) **State Final Meet:** Seven (7) officials will be assigned to the State Final Meet by the IHSA Office. The Field Referee, Meet Referee, Clerk of Course, the Class 1A, 2A and 3A Starters for the State Final meet shall receive a flat fee of \$510.00. The Assistant Starter shall receive a flat fee of \$390.00 through their ArbiterPay account, on Monday following the meet.

a. **Mileage Reimbursement Policy:** At sectional and state final meets the IHSA appointed officials will be paid mileage from the IHSA Office upon receipt of a mileage voucher submitted by said officials to the IHSA Office within 30 days of the contest. The IHSA 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 Officials Center. The eligible officials are as follows: Sectional Meets-Referee, Starter and Assistant Starter. At the State Final meets- Meet Referee, Field Event Referee, Head Starters (3), Assistant Starter, Coordinator of Officials and Meet Manager. **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.

b. **Mandatory Officials Meeting:** There will be a mandatory meeting for the Head State Finals Officials at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday at the State Final site.

c. **Head Officials Housing:** The IHSA has a block of rooms set aside for the five (5) Head Officials (mentioned above) in the dorms. The IHSA Office will be direct billed from EIU Housing for rooms. Head officials who incur an overnight lodging expense to attend the mandatory officials meeting are entitled to up to three (3) nights of lodging. Head officials must notify Cheryl Lowery at the IHSA Office, upon receipt of their State Final Officials Contract whether they will require housing reservations.

3) **State Final Volunteer Officials:** Girls Meet dates: May 21-23; Boys Meet Dates: May 28-30.

Volunteers who are IHSA licensed officials at the State Meets: You must go online through the officials' center to indicating you want to volunteer, which day(s) and shirt size. You will not receive a form in the mail.

Volunteers who are non-licensed officials at the State Meets: All non-licensed officials who volunteered at last year's meet(s) will be sent an email in early January. If your email address has changed from last year, please notify Cheryl Lowery clowery@ihsa.org of your new email address.

People who have never volunteered at the State Track Meets: If you would like to volunteer this year at either the girls or boys state final, a Volunteer Registration form is available through the IHSA Girls and Boys Track Webpages, download and complete the form and email or fax it to Cheryl Lowery (clowery@ihsa.org).

4) **State Final Volunteer/Spectator Housing:** All persons who work the respective state final meets are responsible for their own housing. A listing of motels in the Charleston-Mattoon area can be found on the track and field page(s) in the IHSA Web Site at www.ihsa.org. In addition, Eastern Illinois University will make dormitory rooms available both weekends.

However, you must make housing reservations as soon as you know you will be volunteering for the meet. EIU housing will reserve rooms on a first come first served basis. Website: <http://castle.eiu.edu> or Call EIU Housing at (217) 581-5111. **Email:** housing@eiu.edu

- *2026 Housing please refer to the EIU Housing website for updated pricing.*
Costs - per person not per room (Tax included, Double room rates assume two people in the room):
Residence Halls: Discounted room rate only applies to consecutive nights.

You must provide your own linens; they will not be provided by EIU. Beds are Twin XL.

- **Housing Check-In Location:**
Teams: Lawson Hall
Officials and Spectator Check-in: Stevenson Hall
Lodging check-in begins at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday and 11:00 a.m. on Thursday & Friday