

2025-2026 – Ballot Proposal 1.300 Constitution**Modify By-laws 1.310, 1.320, 1.330, 1.340, 1.350, and 1.360****Submitted By: Clayton Smith, Official Representative – Collinsville on behalf of Brad Skertich, Superintendent - Collinsville****Summary of Proposed Changes:**

By-law 1.300 and sub-sections: High school athletics and activities are continuously expanding across our state, shaping the culture of schools and communities and offering students valuable opportunities for growth through hard work, dedication, teamwork, and facing challenges. However, alongside this growth comes an increased impact on school budgets and student enrollment. Depending on the circumstances, athletics can either greatly benefit a district's finances and enrollment numbers, or conversely, pose significant challenges to its financial stability and student numbers. Furthermore, society and political pressures continue to increase, it is vital IHSA have a wide lens in looking at all matters.

Rationale of Submitter: This proposal aims to shed light on how IHSA athletics influence competition and affect individual high schools and districts as a whole. It presents perspectives from athletic directors, high school principals, and superintendents on the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for positively impacting students, schools, districts, and communities.

Pros: Provides a comprehensive view of how IHSA decisions affect students, high schools, districts, and communities globally, while fostering collaboration and equal voices among athletic directors, high school principals, and superintendents.

Cons: None Identified

Text of By-laws with Proposed Changes**Modify By-laws 1.310, 1.320, 1.340, 1.350, and 1.360****Modify By-law 1.310 - Administration**

The administrative authority of this Association shall be vested in a Board of Directors of ~~eleven (11)~~ **fifteen (15)** members elected **and comprised of eleven (11) principals or official representatives and four (4) Chief Executive Officers (superintendents, presidents, heads of school, etc.)** each for a term of three years, as hereinafter provided.

The office of the Association shall be the office of the Board of Directors.

Modify By-law 1.320 – Election Divisions

For the purpose of electing the members of the Board of Directors **as Principals or official representatives** and providing equal representation for all parts of the state, the state shall be divided into seven (7) Divisions. Each of these Divisions shall be formed by combining three of the twenty-one (21) Districts of the state established for the purpose of electing the members of the Legislative Commission, these Districts being defined in Section 1.330 of this Constitution. In addition, four (4) members shall be elected from the membership at-large. One at-large member must be a racial minority, one must be a member of the underrepresented gender, one must be a member of a private/non-public school, one must be from an underrepresented school/Equity Position at the time of the election (50% or more student population being Black or Latinx or low-income per Illinois State Report Card data). All must be principals or administrators designated as official representatives of member schools. No more than two (2) at-large members elected to the Board of Directors may be from the same Board division.

For the purpose of electing the members of the Board of Directors as Chief Executive Officers (superintendents, presidents, heads of school, etc.) and providing equal representation for all parts of the state, the state shall be divided into three (3) Super Regions as determined by the Illinois Association of School Administrators. All must be chief school officers that maintain a high school and a member school. In addition, one at-large member must be a racial minority, or a member of the underrepresented gender, or be from an underrepresented school/Equity Position at the time of the election (50% or more student population being Black or Latinx or low-income per Illinois State Report Card data). No Board of Directors shall represent the same school district or member school.

Modify By-law 1.330 - Divisions Defined

Until changed by the Board of Directors, the seven Divisions from which Directors shall be elected **as Principals or official representatives** shall be made up of Legislative Commission Districts as follows:

- Division 1 - Legislative Commission Districts 1, 2 and 3
- Division 2 - Legislative Commission Districts 4, 5 and 6
- Division 3 - Legislative Commission Districts 7, 8 and 9
- Division 4 - Legislative Commission Districts 10, 11 and 12
- Division 5 - Legislative Commission Districts 13, 14 and 15
- Division 6 - Legislative Commission Districts 16, 17 and 18
- Division 7 - Legislative Commission Districts 19, 20 and 21

Until changed by the Board of Directors, the three Super Regions (as defined by the IASA) from which Directors shall be elected as Chief Executive Officers (superintendents, presidents, heads of school, etc.) shall be made up of:

**Northeastern
North Central
Southern**

Modify By-law 1.340 – Nominations

No later than September 1 each year, the Board of Directors shall cause to be electronically mailed to the principal of each member school in each division in which a member of the Board of Directors is to be elected, and to the membership in the event one or more at-large members of the Board of Directors is to be elected, a letter identifying the positions for which elections are to be held along with a primary ballot requesting nominations for the appropriate Board member positions.

Principals may nominate one principal or official representative from a member school in their Division as a candidate and/or one principal or official representative from any member school in the state as a candidate for an at-large position, **but a representative appointed shall not be a superintendent. Chief Executive Officers (superintendents, presidents, heads of school, etc.) may nominate one chief executive officer from a member school in their Super Region as a candidate and/or one chief executive officer from any member school in the state as a candidate for the at-large position.** These nominations must be completed online by September 15. The Board of Directors shall appoint a teller to verify the vote count. The two principals or official representatives from each Division, or from the state at-large, as pertinent to the positions for which nominations are sought **and two chief executive officers, or from the state at-large, as pertinent to the positions for which nominations are sought,** receiving the highest number of nominating votes shall be declared the nominees and they shall be notified immediately of their nomination by mail. In case of a tie vote in any Division, the tellers shall determine the winner by lot.

Modify By-law 1.350 – Election

Not later than September 20, the Board of Directors shall cause to be electronically mailed to the principal **and chief executive officer** of each member school in each Division or in the membership at-large in which an election is to be held, a ballot on which are the names of the two nominees **for principal or official representative and two nominees for chief executive officer. Principals will vote for principals or official representative from a member school and superintendents shall vote for chief executive officers from member schools and** shall mark their electronic ballots in the regular manner, voting for only one of the nominees. Each electronic ballot shall be submitted electronically to the Association by October 1. The Board of Directors shall appoint a teller who shall meet not later than October 4, to verify the vote count. The teller shall then certify to the Board of Directors the results of the balloting. Within thirty days after the election, the Board shall meet, canvass the vote and declare the candidate(s) in each Division receiving the higher number of votes for each position to have been elected. In case of a tie vote in any Division, the tellers shall determine the winner by lot.

Modify By-law 1.360 – Term of Office

Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected for terms of three years and shall take office immediately upon the determination of their election as provided in 1.350 of this Section. They shall be eligible for no more than three three-year terms. They shall serve until a successor is elected or until they cease to be a principal or official representative **or a chief executive officer** of a member school in the Division from which they were elected, unless

because of redistricting, or in the case of at-large members, until they cease to be principal or official representative **or chief executive officer** of a member school, or unless they tender their resignation and it is accepted by the Board of Directors.

In the event that high school principals or official representatives **or chief executive officers** who are Board members, because of the redistricting of the state, are removed from their Division, they shall continue to represent the Division from which they were elected for the balance of the year, provided they continue to serve as a principal **or chief executive officer** of a member school in the territory which formerly comprised the Division from which they were elected.

This proposal will be on the ballot in December

**2025-2026 Proposal 2 – Rules and Appeals Under Residence (3.030) and Transfer (3.040) Eligibility By-laws
Add By-law 1.460.2**

Submitted By: Dan Tully, Principal – Niles (Notre Dame College Prep) on behalf of the IHSA Board of Directors

Summary of Proposed Changes:

- Adds language to the Constitution that guides the rights of IHSA to revise, amend or supplement any ruling based on information received following a ruling including information gathered through litigation.
- Establishes that an appealing party may not submit additional information after a ruling unless the material was not obtainable at the time of the appeal hearing.
- Clarifies that the Executive Director may not offer a new ruling following an appeal hearing decision by the Board of Directors or the Hearing Board and limits multiple or successive petitions for appeal over the same question of eligibility or protests.

Rationale of Submitter:

The changes will allow clearer guidelines for schools and families when appealing decisions of transfer and residence eligibility.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law

Add By-law 1.460.2 – Rules and Appeals Under Residence (3.030) and Transfer (3.040) Eligibility By-laws

It shall be the responsibility of the appealing party to submit complete information to the Hearing Board or Board of Directors. The IHSA reserves the right to revise, amend, or supplement any ruling based on information received after the issuance of such ruling, including information received during further administrative proceedings or litigation.

Except where additional information is requested by the Hearing Board or Board of Directors, the appealing party may not submit additional information after a ruling in support of a request for reconsideration of such ruling unless such information is both material to the matter being appealed and was not obtainable by the appealing party at the time of the appeal hearing.

No student, parent/guardian, individual, or school shall be prejudiced for electing to delay an appeal of the Executive Director's initial eligibility ruling to gather evidence in support of such appeal. During any appeal taken by a student, parent/guardian, individual or school to a Hearing Board or the Board of Directors, the Executive Director shall have no jurisdiction over the matter and may not issue a new, supplemental, or amended decision unless directed to do so by the Board of Directors or Hearing Board. The IHSA may not consider multiple or successive petitions concerning the same question over eligibility, protests, by-laws, or rules.

2025-2026 Proposal 3 - Membership**Modify By-law 1.722**

Submitted By: Jim Prunty, Official Representative – Chicago (Leo); Dan Tully, Principal – Niles (Notre Dame College Prep)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Adds language to the Constitution that increases the number of legislative commission members.

- Adds four (4) additional positions to represent non-boundaried schools in at-large positions.
 - Two (2) members from divisions 1, 2, or 3.
 - One (1) member from divisions 4 or 5.
 - One (1) member from divisions 6 or 7.
- Positions could be held by principals, official representatives, athletic directors, or activity directors.

Rationale of Submitter:

This change will bring the make-up of the Legislative Commission closer to reflecting the percentage of non-boundaried schools in the IHSA (27%). Currently, there are 35 seats on the Legislative Commission of which only four are held by representatives from non-boundaried schools. This comes out to 11% of the Legislative Commission being represented by non-boundaried schools. Adding four at-large positions for non-boundaried representatives will increase the total number of members to 39 boosting the percentage of non-boundaried members of the Commission to 20% which will be closer to the percentage of all non-boundaried schools in the state. Under the current process for elections for vacancies to the Commission, it is realistically impossible for a non-boundaried representative to secure a greater number of votes when paired against a boundaried school representative. Over the course of time, the results have shown that non-boundaried school representative invariably lose in these situations.

Pros:**Cons:****Text of By-law with Proposed Changes****Modify By-law 1.722 – Membership**

The Legislative Commission shall consist of ~~thirty-five (35)~~ **thirty-nine (39)** members from ~~thirty-five (35)~~ **thirty-nine (39)** member schools. One official representative shall be elected from each of the twenty-one (21) Districts. One athletic administrator shall be elected from each of the seven (7) Divisions. One at-large Commission member will be elected from each of the seven (7) Divisions. All at-large Commission members must be members of the underrepresented gender or from an underrepresented school/Equity Position at the time of election (50% or more student population being Black or Latinx or low income per Illinois State Report Card data) and/or minorities. At-large Commission members must be official representatives, athletic directors, or activity directors.

Election shall be conducted for official representatives of the various Districts according to the following schedule:

- (a) In 1982 and each third year thereafter, Districts 1, 4, 10, 15, 16, 17 and 21;
- (b) In 1983 and each third year thereafter, Districts 2, 5, 8, 12, 14, 18 and 20;
- (c) In 1984 and each third year thereafter, Districts 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 19.

Elections shall be conducted for representative athletic administrators of the various Divisions according to the following schedule:

- (a) In 1992 and each third year thereafter, Divisions 1, 4 and 7;
- (b) In 1993 and each third year thereafter, Divisions 2 and 5;
- (c) In 1994 and each third year thereafter, Divisions 3 and 6.

Elections shall be conducted for at-large Commission members of the various Divisions according to the following schedule:

- (a) In 2000 and each third year thereafter, Divisions 1, 4 and 7;
- (b) In 2001 and each third year thereafter, Divisions 2 and 5;

(c) In 2002 and each third year thereafter, Divisions 3 and 6.

Elections shall be conducted for four (4) additional positions on the Legislative Commission to represent non-boundaried schools in an at-large position. The representatives would be selected in the following manner: two (2) from Board Divisions 1, 2 or 3, one (1) from Board Divisions 4 or 5 and one (1) from Board Divisions 6 or 7.

Note: Elections shall be conducted in 1992 for representative athletic administrators of Divisions 2, 3, 5 and 6. Division 2 and 5 athletic administrator representatives' terms from that election shall expire in one year with the regularly scheduled 1992 elections. Division 3 and 6 athletic administrator representatives' terms from that election shall expire in two years with regularly scheduled 1993 elections.

2025-2026 Proposal 4 – Cooperative Team Sponsorship

Modify By-law 2.030

Submitted By: Jeff Reed, Principal – Rochester; Caitlyn Moody, Official Representative – Chatham (Glenwood); Cordell Ingram, Principal – Decatur (MacArthur); David Helm, Principal – Lincoln; Tom Weir, Official Representative – Springfield (Lanphier); Jason Wind, Official Representative – Springfield (H.S.); Tiffany Williams, Official Representative – Springfield (Southeast); Benny Phillips, Official Representative – Decatur (Eisenhower); Joey Dion, Principal – Jacksonville (H.S.); Steve Evans, Official Representative – Normal (University); Bob Brenneisen, Official Representative – Springfield (Sacred Heart-Griffin); Tom Schergen, Principal – Chicago (De La Salle); Jason Dillon, Official Representative – Chicago (Cristo Rey Jesuit); Matt Snyder, Principal – Decatur (St. Teresa); Jeremy Garrett, Principal – Peoria (P. Christian); Dan Beebe, Official Representative – Aurora (A. Christian); Josh Blaszak, Principal – Chicago (St. Rita) and supported by the Equity Advisory Committee.

Summary of Proposed Changes:

- Expands the opportunity for private schools to form cooperative teams with enrollments up to 900 in single class sports and activities with no competition restriction. In multiple class sports the team may compete in the regular season only. If a sport permits individual entries, the students could represent the home school in the state series. In multi-class team bracketed sports, no state series entries permitted.

Rationale of Submitter:

- This amendment seeks to increase access to sports to more student athletes in Illinois through cooperative teams, and, in doing so, potentially increase the number of schools participating in emerging or declining sports within the IHSA.
- Would only have an effect on Single Class sports in the IHSA State Series, which many already have a significant number of coop teams between larger schools
- The spirit behind cooperative teams is that it enables high schools to offer more sports opportunities to students, sports that one school alone may not have the interest level or the resources to field.
- With the current enrollment cap of 200, only 53 Private schools have permission to form cooperative teams.
- Raising the enrollment cap on Private schools to 900, we hope to expand sports access to more students in 56 additional Private schools.
- The hope is that more cooperative partnerships between Private schools and between Public and Private schools will enable the continuation as well as increase the number of student-athletes participating in Illinois high school sports and activities.
- This would be a benefit to both private and public schools and their student-athletes.
- Current measures are already written into the language of the by-law, preventing schools with ill-intent from creating “super teams”.
- This amendment change could very well lead to Public and Private schools creating Cooperative Teams together that would not only benefit their students but also bring community cooperation.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Text of By-law 2.030 – Cooperative Team Sponsorship

The Board of Directors shall have the authority to approve the formation of cooperative athletic teams or activity programs by two or more member schools under the following conditions:

- (a) The schools are located in the same geographical area;
- (b) All schools participating in the cooperative are Class A (in a 2-class system) or Class 1A or 2A (in a 3 or 4-class system) schools according to the IHSA Classification System; or, in the event one or more of the cooperating schools is a Class 3A or 4A public school, the cooperative team is for a sport other than Boys Football or Boys or Girls Basketball; In the event one or more of the schools involved in the cooperative is a **public** non-boundary school, that school’s actual enrollment, not multiplied enrollment is used to determine the eligibility of the cooperative team request.

~~(c) Only private schools with non-multiplied enrollments of 200 or less are eligible to form cooperative teams.~~

(c) Private schools with non-multiplied enrollments of 200 or less are eligible to form cooperative teams in all sports and activities. Private schools with the non-multiplied enrollments of more than 200 and up to 900 are eligible to form cooperative teams in all activities and the following single class sports: Boys and Girls Lacrosse, Swimming/Diving, Bowling, Water Polo, Girls Gymnastics, Girls Badminton, Boys Volleyball & Girls Flag Football. The following multi-class sports are eligible to form cooperative teams but may not compete in the State Playoff Series as a team, but the student's home school can enter individuals into the State Series: Boys and Girls Tennis, Golf, Track/Field, Wrestling and Cross Country. The following multi-class sports are eligible to form cooperative teams but may not compete in the State Playoff Series as a team or individuals: Boys and Girls Soccer, Baseball, Softball, Competitive Cheerleading, and Competitive Dance.

(d) The combined enrollments of all schools involved in the cooperative team, calculated according to the IHSA Classification System, is utilized to determine the classification for the cooperative team;

(e) The cooperative sponsorship agreement is established for a period of two consecutive school years;

(f) The governing boards of all schools participating in the cooperative team agreement jointly make the application to the IHSA Board of Directors for approval of the cooperative team agreement;

(g) The joint application includes:

(1) Written approval from the conference(s) of which the cooperating schools are members, and/or in which the cooperative team will participate, or, in the event the cooperative team will not be affiliated with a conference, written approval from a minimum of seven schools included in the cooperative team's schedule of competition;

(2) A statement signed by the principals of all cooperating schools designating the name under which the cooperative team will compete;

(3) A report of the number of students from each of the cooperative schools expected to participate on the cooperative team;

(4) A report of the number of students, if any, from each of the cooperating schools who have been participating in the sport involved, in programs offered on a non-cooperative basis by their own schools;

(5) A statement expressing the reasons for the formation of a cooperative team;

(6) Written assurance that the cooperative team will not limit participation opportunities for students in any of the cooperating schools.

(7) Individual schools who are denied approval to be part of a cooperative team by a conference or the minimum of seven schools included in the cooperative team's schedule of competition can appeal the denied approval to the IHSA Board of Directors.

When a cooperative team completes two years of approved operation and the boards of education involved wish to renew the agreement for another two-year period, the involved school(s) shall submit to the IHSA, by the established date, notification that they wish to continue the cooperative with no changes and written approval from the conference.

2025-2026 Proposal 5 – Cooperative Team Sponsorship**Modify By-law 2.030**

Submitted By: Marty Manning, Official Representative – Schaumburg High School on behalf of the Mid-Suburban League

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Cooperative teams formed by two or more schools with a combined enrollment exceeding 3,500 students are not eligible to compete as a team for IHSA State Series team trophies/plaques.

Rationale of Submitter:

- The purpose of a co-op is NOT to create “super teams” by combining large high schools together. A co-op team with a combined enrollment exceeding 3,500 students falls within the top 1.4% of school enrollments in Illinois (top 12 of 800+ schools).
- This by-law proposal does NOT prevent co-op teams from forming or competing during the regular season. Schools may still form co-op teams to grow their programs and compete in the regular season, but they cannot compete as a team in the IHSA State Series.
- For sports with individual qualifiers (gymnastics, swimming, track, etc.), co-op teams are NOT eligible to advance as a team. However, athletes from co-op teams can compete as individuals in state series events that allow for individual qualifiers. Co-op teams CANNOT win team plaques (Regional/Sectional) or state trophies. However, individual athletes can still compete, qualify, and earn state medals.
- If this isn’t addressed,
 - Co-op teams will continue to form for competitive reasons and win IHSA State series competitions.
 - Schools will create co-ops not out of necessity but to beat other co-op teams that are having success at the IHSA State series competitions.
- This does not take opportunities away from any individual qualifiers in the state.

Pros:**Cons:****Text of By-law with Proposed Changes****Modify By-law 2.030 – Cooperative Team Sponsorship**

The Board of Directors shall have the authority to approve the formation of cooperative athletic teams or activity programs by two or more member schools under the following conditions:

- (a) The schools are located in the same geographical area;
- (b) All schools participating in the cooperative are Class A (in a 2-class system) or Class 1A or 2A (in a 3 or 4-class system) schools according to the IHSA Classification System; or, in the event one or more of the cooperating schools is a Class 3A or 4A public school, the cooperative team is for a sport other than Boys Football or Boys or Girls Basketball; In the event one or more of the schools involved in the cooperative is a public non-boundary school, that school’s actual enrollment, not multiplied enrollment is used to determine the eligibility of the cooperative team request.
- (c) Only private schools with non-multiplied enrollments of 200 or less are eligible to form cooperative teams.
- (d) The combined enrollments of all schools involved in the cooperative team, calculated according to the IHSA Classification System, is utilized to determine the classification for the cooperative team;
- (e) The cooperative sponsorship agreement is established for a period of two consecutive school years;
- (f) The governing boards of all schools participating in the cooperative team agreement jointly make the application to the IHSA Board of Directors for approval of the cooperative team agreement;
- (g) The joint application includes:

- (1) Written approval from the conference(s) of which the cooperating schools are members, and/or in which the cooperative team will participate, or, in the event the cooperative team will not be affiliated with a conference, written approval from a minimum of seven schools included in the cooperative team's schedule of competition;
 - (2) A statement signed by the principals of all cooperating schools designating the name under which the cooperative team will compete;
 - (3) A report of the number of students from each of the cooperative schools expected to participate on the cooperative team;
 - (4) A report of the number of students, if any, from each of the cooperating schools who have been participating in the sport involved, in programs offered on a non-cooperative basis by their own schools;
 - (5) A statement expressing the reasons for the formation of a cooperative team;
 - (6) Written assurance that the cooperative team will not limit participation opportunities for students in any of the cooperating schools.
- (h) Cooperative (co-op) teams formed by two or more schools with a combined enrollment exceeding 3,500 students are not eligible to compete as a team for IHSA State Series team trophy/plaques. This would exclude co-op teams from competing as a team in the IHSA regional, sectional, super-sectional, and state finals competitions. Individuals from all co-op teams may still compete as "individuals" at every state-level competition and be eligible to win IHSA Individual State medals.**

When a cooperative team completes two years of approved operation and the boards of education involved wish to renew the agreement for another two-year period, the involved school(s) shall submit to the IHSA, by the established date, notification that they wish to continue the cooperative with no changes and written approval from the conference.

Summary of Proposed Changes:

- Eliminates the current cooperative team by-law and allows cooperative teams to be formed for schools of any size when the following are in place:
 - A school that have never had a team in a given sport may apply to form a cooperative team with a school that sponsors that sport.
 - A school that has not sponsored a team at least the previous four (4) consecutive seasons may apply to form a cooperative team with a school that sponsors the sport.
 - Host school must have sponsored the sport for at least the previous three (3) consecutive seasons and must not have had more than one (1) IHSA Final Four appearance in that sport in the past five (5) seasons.
- Host schools with documented history of IHSA rules violations in the previous three (3) years are ineligible to serve as the host for that sport.

Rationale of Submitter:

The purpose of this amendment is to expand access to interscholastic athletic participation for students at schools without recent or historical sponsorship of a sport, while safeguarding competitive integrity within IHSA competition. To ensure equitable opportunities for all students and maintain competitive balance, schools that have not previously sponsored a team in a particular sport may enter into a co-op agreement with a school that does. Similarly, schools that have not fielded a team in that sport for the past four consecutive years are eligible to form a co-op with a school currently offering it. This amendment is intended to remove participation barriers, promote fair play, and prevent the creation of disproportionately advantaged teams.

A school that has never sponsored a team in a given sport may apply to form a co-op with a school that currently sponsors that sport.

1. A school that has not sponsored a team in a given sport for at least the previous four (4) consecutive seasons may apply to form a co-op with a school that currently sponsors that sport.
2. The host school must have sponsored the sport for at least the previous three (3) consecutive seasons and must not have had more than one (1) IHSA Final Four appearance in that sport in the past five (5) seasons.
3. Host schools with a documented history of IHSA rules violations in the previous three (3) years are ineligible to serve as the host in a new co-op agreement for that sport.

Ex: School A hasn't had a soccer team ever in their history, School B would like to Co-op with School A to allow students to participate in soccer with School B.

Ex 2: School A has lost funding for their football team and hasn't been able to have a team in the last 4 years. School B has a team and has agreed to Co-op with School B.

Competitive Balance Review

- All co-op agreements are subject to annual IHSA review for competitive balance.

If the combined program: Reaches two consecutive IHSA Final Fours, or wins one state championship within the first three years of the agreement, the IHSA may:

1. Reduce allowable roster percentages for the visiting school, or
2. Require the co-op to dissolve after the current season.

Pros:**Cons:**

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 2.030 – Cooperative Team Sponsorship

The Board of Directors shall have the authority to approve the formation of cooperative athletic teams or activity programs by two or more member schools under the following conditions:

- (a) The schools are located in the same geographical area;
- (b) ~~All schools participating in the cooperative are Class A (in a 2-class system) or Class 1A or 2A (in a 3 or 4-class system) schools according to the IHSA Classification System; or, in the event one or more of the cooperating schools is a Class 3A or 4A public school, the cooperative team is for a sport other than Boys Football or Boys or Girls Basketball; In the event one or more of the schools involved in the cooperative is a public non-boundary school, that school's actual enrollment, not multiplied enrollment is used to determine the eligibility of the cooperative team request.~~
(b) Public schools will use the following provisions to determine when cooperative teams may be formed:
 - (1) A school that has never sponsored a team in a given sport may apply to form a co-op with a school that currently sponsors that sport.**
 - (2) A school that has not sponsored a team in a given sport for at least the previous four (4) consecutive seasons may apply to form a co-op with a school that currently sponsors that sport.**
 - (3) The host school must have sponsored the sport for at least the previous three (3) consecutive seasons and must not have had more than one (1) IHSA Final Four appearance in that sport in the past five (5) seasons.**
 - (4) Host schools with a documented history of IHSA rules violations in the previous three (3) years are ineligible to serve as the host in a new co-op agreement for that sport.**
- (c) Only private schools with non-multiplied enrollments of 200 or less are eligible to form cooperative teams.
- (d) The combined enrollments of all schools involved in the cooperative team, calculated according to the IHSA Classification System, is utilized to determine the classification for the cooperative team;
- (e) The cooperative sponsorship agreement is established for a period of two consecutive school years;
- (f) The governing boards of all schools participating in the cooperative team agreement jointly make the application to the IHSA Board of Directors for approval of the cooperative team agreement;
- (g) The joint application includes:
 - (1) Written approval from the conference(s) of which the cooperating schools are members, and/or in which the cooperative team will participate, or, in the event the cooperative team will not be affiliated with a conference, written approval from a minimum of seven schools included in the cooperative team's schedule of competition;
 - (2) A statement signed by the principals of all cooperating schools designating the name under which the cooperative team will compete;
 - (3) A report of the number of students from each of the cooperative schools expected to participate on the cooperative team;
 - (4) A report of the number of students, if any, from each of the cooperating schools who have been participating in the sport involved, in programs offered on a non-cooperative basis by their own schools;
 - (5) A statement expressing the reasons for the formation of a cooperative team;
 - (6) Written assurance that the cooperative team will not limit participation opportunities for students in any of the cooperating schools.

When a cooperative team completes two years of approved operation and the boards of education involved wish to renew the agreement for another two-year period, the involved school(s) shall submit to the IHSA, by the established date, notification that they wish to continue the cooperative with no changes and written approval from the conference.

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Add language to affirm students meet the residence by-law when their residence is in the district even if they are no longer within the attendance boundary of that school provided continued enrollment is allowed by the district.

Rationale of Submitter:

Districts with multiple boundaried high schools have different rules with respect to student enrollment if students move after they initially enroll in 9th grade. In some districts, students are allowed to complete the year but are then forced to transfer to the school corresponding to their new address. In other districts, students are allowed to complete high school at their original school, even if their new address is outside the school's boundary. Districts in this latter group recognize that when students transfer from one high school to another, their chance of graduating on-time decreases significantly, and according to at least one study, their chance of enrolling in two or four-year college decreases by almost a quarter (from 81% to 62%), even when the transfer occurs during the summer. (See Sutton, A., Muller, C., & Langenkamp, A. G. (2012). High School Transfer Students and the Transition to College. Sociology of Education, 86(1), 63-82. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0038040712452889>)

Currently, IHSA rules require that student-athletes who move within a district having multiple boundaried high schools enroll in the school corresponding to their new address in order to maintain eligibility. This rule makes no sense given IHSA's goal that students focus first and foremost on academics: it requires a student whose parents move to a different neighborhood to also disrupt their educational process in order to continue competing.

Additionally, in some districts, where boundaried schools accept a large number of students from outside the boundary, this rule produces paradoxical results. For example, suppose one student lives in neighborhood A and attends the school whose boundary is a different neighborhood B, and a second student lives in a different neighborhood C, but attends the same school. If the second student were to move next door to the first student, they would be forced to transfer to the school corresponding to neighborhood A, even though their neighbor would be attending the original high school (and even though they themselves could have attended the same school while living in neighborhood A had they initially enrolled there). This result changes the student's "home school" for IHSA purposes on the entirely arbitrary circumstance of the student's family having moved.

Finally, the economic realities faced by many families force moves, often unplanned and last-minute, from one apartment to another or one neighborhood to another: changes of jobs, or loss of a job, can result in a family having to uproot and relocate at short notice. The existing rule puts an additional burden on children whose families are already facing numerous financial and social challenges.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 3.031.3 (1) – Residence

They reside full time with one birth or adoptive parent or other relative without assignment of custody or legal guardianship by the court, provided:

- (1) their residence is in the district in which the member school they attend is located; **even if they are no longer within the attendance boundary of that school (provided that continued enrollment is allowed by the district),** and
- (2) they attended that member school the previous school term.
- (3) if a freshman, they attended both seventh and eighth grade in the district.

2025-2026 Proposal 8 – Transfer Modify By-laws 3.042 and 3.043.3 Submitted By: Raeann Huhn, Principal – Wheaton (St. Francis)
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Summary of Proposed Changes:

- 3.042 and 3.043.3 Grants full eligibility after a thirty (30) day period of ineligibility to a first-time transfer student if transferring during the school year. Subsequent transfers would render a student ineligible up to 365 days unless the student is enrolling in their home public school for the second time or transferring private to private prior to the start of the student's junior year for the second time.
- Adds varsity eligibility when not meeting the transfer by-law where lower-level teams do not exist at the school, but no state series participation.

Rationale of Submitter:

An increasing number of students are moving between schools to participate in various athletic programs for a variety of reasons. This transfer policy update **would allow a one-time free transfer without changing residence.** This update **pertains to public to public, public to private, private to public, and private to private first-time transfers.** This transfer policy update would **limit eligibility** for those students who are transferring for **a second or third time or additional multiple transfers.** Additionally, **it would allow students who qualify for limited eligibility to participate in varsity sports if no lower levels are available.** Those students, however, would be **unable to participate in the state series.** This update preserves the integrity of the current transfer policy when pertaining to the second or third or additional multiple transfers.

Pros:**Cons:****Text of By-law with Proposed Changes****Modify By-law 3.042 – Transfer**

~~After~~ **Prior to** the official start date of an IHSA sport season for the current school year, if a student **who** changes attendance **for the first time** from that high school to another high school, the student shall be ~~ineligible~~ **eligible. for the remainder of the school year in any sport in which he/she participated or was participating in a practice or interscholastic contest in the current school year at the school from which the transfer occurs; or**

After the official start date of an IHSA sport season for the current school year, if a student changes attendance from that high school to another high school **for the first time**, the student shall be ineligible **for a period of thirty (30) days, commencing on the first day of attendance at the new high school in any sport in which he/she participated or was participating in a practice or interscholastic contest** the remainder of the school year in any sport in which he/she participated or was participating in a practice or interscholastic contest in the current year at the school from which the transfer occurs; or

Once classes begin in a school for the current school year, if a student changes attendance **for the first time** from that high school to another high school, the student shall be ~~ineligible~~ **eligible, for a period of thirty days,** commencing on the first day of attendance at the new high school, in any sport in which he/she was not participating or had not participated during the current school year at the school from which the student transferred.

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes**Modify By-law 3.043.3 – Transfer**

In addition, a student who transfers attendance from one high school to another high school **for the second or third time or additional multiple times** pursuant to these by-laws, shall be ineligible unless:

In the event the student transfers attendance from any high school, and the transfer is not in conjunction with a change in residence by both the student and his or her parents, custodial parent, surviving parent, or guardian to a residence

outside the boundaries of the public school district attendance area the family originally resided in, the Executive Director may grant eligibility based on documentation that the transfer met one of the following conditions:

- The student is enrolling for the ~~first~~ **second** time in the student's home public member high school with boundaries;
- **The student is in or entering freshman or sophomore year and transferring for the second time from one private school to another private school.**
- Change in family's financial position;
- Extenuating circumstances documented by the sending school's principal or official representative;
- Limited eligibility may be granted when the student transfers schools prior to the beginning of the student's Junior year. **In schools where no lower-level teams exist, students may participate in varsity competition but may not participate in the state series.**

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Permits transfer eligibility when a student transfers attendance from one high school to another in conjunction with a change in residence to reside with the other parent provided that the parent to whom the child is moving has lived in the attendance area of the school (for boundaried schools) or the school's district (for public, non-boundaried schools), or within 30 miles of the school (for non-public schools) for at least six months prior to the move.

Rationale of Submitter:

The current rule requires that a child moving from one parent's residence to that of another parent supplements the move with a change of legal custody if they are to change schools and maintain eligibility. The intent of the rule is clear: students should not be able to "shop" for athletic teams by switching the parent with whom they reside. However, the possibility of "shopping" in this way is less than might be expected, and the impact on low-income and minoritized families is disproportionate.

As currently written, the rule assumes the existence of a series of legal documents that, for many students, may not exist: their parents may never have been legally married, and there may never have been any formal legal documentation of custody arrangements. Getting that documentation can be time-consuming and expensive, thus out of reach for many low-income families. Additionally, families choose to switch students for a wide range of reasons having nothing to do with athletics: a "ripple effect" of a different change in one or both households (e.g. a partner moving in or out, potentially with children of their own), a change in economic circumstances, a desire to support the student's relationship with the other parent, or and a perception of increased danger or threat (general or specific to the student) in the original neighborhood. All of these factors—the lack of original documentation, the difficulty obtaining updated documentation, and the reasons behind the desire to switch households—are disproportionately represented in low-income and minoritized families. So as currently written, the rule limits "school shopping" by one set of students at a high cost to a much larger set of families.

The proposed amendment would still limit the student to a choice between two schools: their original school (where parent A lives) and their new school (where parent B lives), and then only if parent B had already established residency for six months prior to the move. Under this amendment, there would be little possibility of switching back and forth between schools, because there would be at most two schools to choose from at any time, and then only with prior residency established.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 3.043.3 – Transfer

The student, who is a child of ~~divorced or legally separated~~ parents **who do not share a residence**, transfers attendance from one high school to another in conjunction with a change of **residence from one parent to the other, provided that the parent to whom the child is moving has lived in the attendance area of the school (for boundaried schools) or the school's district (for public, non-boundaried schools), or within 30 miles of the school (for nonpublic schools) for at least six months prior to the move.**

~~in legal custody between the parents by action of a judge of a court of proper jurisdiction, and a change in the student's residence from the former custodial parent to the parent to whom custody has been awarded by the court, provided that a copy of the petition and the court orders so changing custody is on file with the official representative of the high school to which the student transfers.~~

2025-2026 Proposal 10 – Recruiting of Athletes**Modify By-laws 3.070, 3.071, and 3.072****Add By-law 3.074****Submitted By: Dan Tully, Principal – Niles (Notre Dame College Prep) on behalf of the IHSA Board of Directors****Summary of Proposed Changes:**

3.070 and 3.074 Adds “prospective student-athlete” to the recruiting by-law and creates new language to affirm the ED may determine ineligibility including permanent ineligibility to participate in athletics at the school which the recruitment efforts were intended to benefit.

Rationale of Submitter:**Pros:****Cons:****Text of By-law with Proposed Changes****Modify By-law 3.070 – Recruiting**

In the enforcement of the rule, member schools shall be responsible for any violation committed by any person associated with the school, including principals, official representatives, assistant principals, coaches, teachers, any other staff members or students, or any **person** or organization having any connection to the school. School personnel, particularly coaches or athletic directors, may not engage in any conversation related to athletic participation with individuals representing or employed by private athletic organizations (e.g. AAU, club/travel teams, etc.) who are speaking about or on behalf of any student athlete **or prospective student athlete**.

Modify By-law 3.071 - Recruiting

Recruitment ~~of students~~ or attempted recruitment of ~~students~~ **prospective student athletes or student athletes** for athletic purposes is prohibited, regardless of their residence.

Modify By-law 3.072 - Recruiting

It shall be a violation of this rule for any **prospective student athlete or** student athlete to receive or be offered any remunerations of any kind or to receive or be offered any special inducement of any kind which is not made available to all applicants who enroll in the school or apply to the school. Special inducement shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) Offer or acceptance of money or other valuable consideration such as free or reduced tuition during the regular year or summer school by ~~anyone connected with the~~ **any school connected person**. (Exception – private schools may waive tuition for children of faculty members, as a benefit of employment, provided there is no undue influence exerted upon the student or the family to attend the school.)
- (2) Offer or acceptance of room, board or clothing or financial allotment for clothing.
- (3) Offer or acceptance of pay for work that is not performed or that is in excess of the amount regularly paid for such service.
- (4) Offer or acceptance of free transportation by any school connected person.
- (5) Offer or acceptance of a residence with any school connected person.
- (6) Offer or acceptance of any privilege not afforded to non-athletes.
- (7) Offer or acceptance of free or reduced rent for parents **or guardians**.
- (8) Offer or acceptance of payment of moving expenses of parents **or guardians**, or assistance with the moving of parents **or guardians**.
- (9) Offer or acceptance of employment of parent(s) **or guardian(s)** in order to entice the family to move to a certain community if ~~someone connected with the~~ **a school connected person** ~~school~~ makes the offer.
- (10) Offer or acceptance of help in securing a college athletic scholarship.

Add By-law 3.074 - Recruiting

For any prospective student athlete or student athlete who has been the subject of impermissible recruitment efforts under this By-law 3.070, the Executive Director may determine that such prospective student athlete or student athlete is ineligible (including on a permanent basis) to participate in athletics at the school which the recruitment efforts were intended to benefit. In making such a determination, the Executive Director must consider the facts pertinent to the knowledge, awareness, complicity, or involvement of the prospective student athlete or student athlete in the impermissible recruitment efforts.

2025-2026 Proposal 11 – Independent Team Participation

Modify By-law 3.101

Submitted By: Tim Burkhalter, Official Representative – Lake Forest (H.S.)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Permits students to participate in two (2) non-school competitions during a sport season and an additional non-school competition that is sanctioned by the National Governing Body of that sport or its junior or official Illinois affiliate.

Rationale of Submitter: This by-law proposal aims to maintain the number of non-school competitions that a student-athlete may participate in during their high school sports season at no more than three, while recognizing that the types of these non-school competitions has increased today to many that are not run by the national governing body but still have value to our student-athletes.

Pros: Provides more flexibility to the ever-increasing number of non-school competitions that are available to student athletes while keeping local school control with regards to the submission of these events. It also provides that appropriate school/athlete/family communications are taking place that would be the best fit for that athlete and the high school team.

Cons: None, other than ensuring that the local school apply for the non-school competition within the time and manner prescribed in the amendment below.

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 3.101 – Independent Team Participation

During the school season for a given sport, in a school which maintains a school team in that sport, a student **may be granted permission to participate in no more than 2 (two) non-school competitions** ~~shall not participate on any non-school team, nor as an individual unattached in non-school competition, in that given sport or in any competition that involves the skill of the sport in question.~~ **during that sport season. Schools must submit a request for approval in the Schools Center at least ten (10) days in advance of the event. It is the responsibility of the student and the school to submit no more than 2 such requests during any season for any one athlete. Should an athlete or school exceed these 2 opportunities of their choosing or not have the non-school form on file in advance of the event,** violation shall cause ineligibility for a period not to exceed 365 days. ~~An exception may be made~~ **A third (3rd) non-school competition may be applied for and considered by the Executive Director under the guidelines adopted by the Board of Directors provided the third (3rd) competition for competitions is sanctioned directly by the National Governing Body or its junior or official Illinois affiliate for the sport.**

This proposal will take effect 30 days after passage

2025-2026 Proposal 12 – Independent Team Participation**Add By-law 3.110****Submitted By: Sean Byrne, Principal – Glen Ellyn (Glenbard South) and Jonathan Pereiro, Official Representative – Naperville (North)****Summary of Proposed Changes:**

Establishes guidance for each member school sponsoring football to organize twenty (20) academically eligible college bound athletes to participate in one (1) IHSA-approved football combine or showcase per school year. Provides additional guidance on the format and details of the combine.

Rationale of Submitter:

This proposal provides a safe, school-based platform for football student-athletes to demonstrate athletic and positional skills in front of college coaches while under IHSA supervision. It prevents reliance on costly, unregulated showcases, ensures equity of access, and maintains academic eligibility as a condition of participation. The format emphasizes safety (helmets only, no contact), fairness (20 athletes per school), an alignment with NCAA/NAIA recruiting rules. This addition supports the IHSA mission by enriching the educational and athletic opportunities available to Illinois student-athletes.

Pros:

- Provides free and equitable access to high school football athletes. Many families cannot afford the \$100+ fees charged by private combines and showcases, nor do all athletes have access to travel seven-on-seven teams. This proposal ensures that opportunities are available to participants regardless of socioeconomic background.
- Aligns with IHSA's mission of providing educational and athletic opportunities that enrich the student experience under a safe, school-based structure.
- Ensures athlete safety by requiring helmets, prohibiting full contact, and mandating school coach supervision.
- Creates standardized evaluation opportunities across the state, ensuring fairness and consistency in exposure.
- Encourages college recruiting opportunities within IHSA guidelines, reducing reliance on unregulated, commercial recruiting services.

Cons:

- Adds an additional time and supervision responsibility for schools and coaches during the school week.
- Could create scheduling conflicts with academic and athletic commitments if not carefully managed.
- Requires IHSA oversight and sanctioning to ensure compliance with NCAA/NAIA rules and prevent abuse.
- Some schools with fewer college-bound football athletes may not benefit as much as larger programs, potentially creating participation imbalances.

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes**Add By-law 3.110 – Independent Team Participation**

Each IHSA member school sponsoring football may select up to twenty (20) academically eligible, college-bound athletes to participate in one (1) IHSA-approved football combine or showcase per school year.

A. Eligibility:

- a. Athletes must meet IHSA and local school academic eligibility standards.**
- b. Athletes must be designated as college-bound by their head football coach.**

B. Event Format:

- a. Showcase shall be limited to a two (2) hour period during the school week.**
- b. Permitted activities include standardized combine testing (40-yard dash, pro agility, broad jump, vertical jump, etc.), football position-specific skill drills, and controlled group segments (seven-on-seven, pass rush, pass protection).**
- c. Helmets are required for safety; shoulder pads and full contact drill are not permitted.**

C. Supervision & Staffing:

- a. Each participating school must send at least two (2) coaches (Head Coach is preferred but not necessary) if a participating school is sending 10 or more student-athletes to the event, at least two (2) school coaches are also required to attend (Head Coach is preferred but not required). If a school is sending fewer than 10 student-athletes, only one (1) coach is required to attend.**

- b. A school official from the host site must be in attendance. A school official is considered an athletic director; building administrator (dean, assistant principal, principal), or the head coach of the host school.
- c. High school coaches may actively instruct and supervise the student-athletes participating in the event.
- d. The host school must provide an athletic trainer or medical professional to address any preventative care or potential injuries for the entirety of the event.
- e. Non-host schools may transport their student-athletes to this event via school approved transportation.
 - May include, but not limited to school bus, school mini-buses, parent/guardian vehicle, student vehicle.
- f. College Coach Attendance
 - NCAA and NAIA guidelines for recruiting, evaluation, and attendance shall be followed. College coaches may attend in compliance with their governing body's regulations.
- g. Cost & Access:
 - The event shall be free of charge to all IHSA member schools with football programs. Participation shall be voluntary.
- h. Event Dates:
 - The event will take place during an opportune time that correlates with NCAA Division 1 recruiting calendar and College Board of Testing dates. This time frame falls during late April and early May.
- i. Compliance & Sanctioning:
 - The event shall be IHSA-sanctioned and not considered independent team participation, non-school competition, or an all-star contest under By-law 2.100 or 3.100. All IHSA amateurism, eligibility, and participation rules remain in effect.

2025-2026 Proposal 13 – Special Provisions for Summer Participation

Modify By-law 3.153

Submitted By: Peter Goff, Official Representative - DeKalb

Summary of Proposed Changes:

- Modifies the summer contact day by-law to eliminate summer contact from Monday to Sunday of the week that includes July 4th every year beginning in 2026 (June 29th – July 5th, 2026). In addition, restricts schools and high school coaches from conducting open gyms or conditioning activities for these seven (7) days of the summer.
- Moves the end of the summer contact days to Sunday of Week 6.

Rationale of Submitter:

The establishment of the July 4th "No Contact Week" offers significant benefits to student-athletes and athletic programs:

- Student-Athlete Well-being: This provides a clear, standardized period for rest, recovery, and essential family time during the summer, mitigating the risk of burnout associated with year-round training and contact.
- Standardization and Clarity: Mandating a break eliminates ambiguity and prevents undue pressure on athletes to attend voluntary summer activities during a major national holiday.
- Fall Sports Team Momentum: By placing the mandatory dead period in early July, Fall sports teams will not lose momentum immediately before the start of their official seasons. The decision to take an additional week off closer to the season's start would then rest entirely with the Head Coach.
- Equitable Application: The exception for baseball and softball acknowledges the need for flexibility while maintaining the spirit of the mandatory rest for the majority of programs.

Pros: See Above

Cons: During the summer of 2026, some athletes and families might have summer vacation plans. Using Week 5 summer contact days becomes optional if schools want to use those contact days before the fall season during this summer or future summers.

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 3.153 – Special Provisions for Summer Participation

Persons who coach a sport at a member school may have a maximum of 20 days of contact or school represented activities/competition in that sport with students from that school during the period between the last day of classes or Monday of Week 49 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar (whichever date is earlier) in the spring each year and Sunday of ~~Week 5~~ **Week 6** in the IHSA Standardized Calendar. **The week that includes the 4th of July (Monday-Sunday) is a no-contact week. Coaches are not allowed to provide coaching or instruction in the skills and techniques of any sport. Schools are not allowed to open their facilities for conditioning or team workouts led by a coach.** The students may have a maximum of 20 days of contact per sport with persons who coach that sport at the school they attend during the same time period. A day of contact is defined as any date on which any coaching or instruction in the skills and techniques of any sport or any organization of sport-related activities or competition outside of weights and conditioning takes place. A school represented activity/competition is a time where the students participate in sport specific leagues or camps while representing their school with or without their coach present. These limitations apply to all sports except Baseball and Softball. An exception may be made by the Executive Director under the guidelines adopted by the Board of Directors for competitions sponsored and conducted directly by the National Governing Body for the sport.

If a school or team conducts a summer strength and conditioning program separate from any team contact days, these days will not count towards the 20 contact days provided the only contact is done with strength training, speed, agility, and conditioning drills. During the summer contact day period, strength training, speed, agility, and conditioning drills will be limited to no more than 4 days per week with a maximum of 90 minutes per training session.

2025-2026 Proposal – 14 - Classification**Modify By-law 3.170****Submitted By: Adam Eucker, Official Representative – Williamsville on behalf of the Sangamo Conference****Summary of Proposed Changes:**

Modifies the 1.65 multiplier to 2.5.

Rationale of Submitter:

In recent years, the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) has experienced a noticeable shift in competitive balance across multiple sports and activities. While several proposals have been introduced to address this issue, none have advanced to a membership vote. This proposal builds upon the feedback from prior submissions and provides a transparent, data-driven approach to reestablish fairness within the current multi-class system.

The proposed modification to increase the enrollment multiplier from 1.65 to 2.5 better reflects the dynamics of the modern classification structure. The current multiplier was originally implemented during the two-class era and has not been recalibrated to align with the expanded classification framework and increases in population density across Illinois. This adjustment ensures that the system more accurately accounts for the advantages available to non-boundaried schools in terms of the area where they can draw student from and promoting equitable postseason competition.

Furthermore, this proposal allows all member schools to view their projected classifications prior to voting, ensuring that the process is open, informed, and based on clear and consistent data.

Pros:

- Promotes greater competitive balance in postseason play across all sports and activities.
- Modernizes the multiplier to align with today's multi-class structure rather than the outdated two-class system.
- Increases transparency by allowing schools to preview their classifications before casting votes.
- Reinforces fairness and consistency in competition by addressing longstanding disparities between boundaried and non-boundaried schools.
- Keeps the current waiver process that was established by the IHSA Board of Directors in place

Data Supporting Proposal

Link to breakdown of non-boundaried trophy winners over past twelve seasons:

<https://bit.ly/4haNaLn>

Link to current non-boundaried enrollment (1.65) and proposed non-boundaried enrollment (2.5):

<https://bit.ly/4ohIHsP>

Link to current non-boundaried classifications (1.65):

<https://bit.ly/43devqB>

Link to proposed non-boundaried classifications (2.5):

<https://bit.ly/4ohJOsv>

Link to non-boundaried schools across sports and activities at current multiplier and proposed multiplier:

<https://bit.ly/42CrWjQ>

Cons:

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 3.170 – Classification

An enrollment multiplier of ~~1.65~~ **2.5** will be added to all non-boundaried school unless application of this multiplier is waived under a policy of waiver which would be established by the Board of Directors.

2025-2026 Proposal 15 – Classification Modify By-law 3.170 Submitted By: Tom Ryerson, Principal - Geneseo
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Summary of Proposed Changes:

Establishes a tiered multiplier for non-boundaried schools based on the population within a 30-mile radius of the school's address

- Tier 1: 1.50 multiplier: Population under 200,000.
- Tier 2: 1.75 multiplier: Population between 200,000 and 999,999.
- Tier 3: 2.0 multiplier: Population of 1 million or more.

Rationale of Submitter:

- Non-boundaried schools have a competitive advantage to boundaried schools by legally enrolling anyone within a 30-mile radius of the school.
- Schools in metro areas with larger populations have access to more students and resources. In many cases, the availability of public transportation allows for easier access to some non-boundaried schools
- Basing the multiplier on the population available to attend the schools is more equitable to those schools that are multiplied.

Pros:

Addresses geographic advantage disparities- Schools in densely populated areas (especially private or non-boundaried ones) have access to larger talent pools. A higher multiplier for those areas helps balance competition across regions.

Creates a more nuanced system- The tiered approach (1.50–2.00) is more precise than a flat multiplier (1.65), reflecting real differences between rural, suburban, and urban environments.

Cons:

Determining accurate 30-mile population data, updating it regularly, and managing waiver requests will create more administrative work for the IHSA

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes**Modify By-law 3.070 – Classification**

The IHSA Board of Directors has the complete authority to establish and implement policies to determine the number of classes of competition in IHSA sports and activities and to classify schools participating in such sports/activities except as follows:

An A tiered multiplier based on the population within a 30-mile radius of school's address enrollment multiplier of 1.65 will be added to all non-boundaried schools unless application of this multiplier is waived under a policy of waiver which would be established by the Board of Directors.

Multiplier Tiers:

Tier 1 - 1.50 Multiplier: Schools within a 30-mile radius population under 200,000.

Tier 2 – 1.75 Multiplier: Schools within a 30-mile radius population of 200,000 to 999,999.

Tier 3 – 2.00 Multiplier: Schools within a 30-mile radius population of 1 million or more.

The definition of a non-boundaried school is: Any private schools, charter school, lab school, magnet school, residential school, and any public school in a multi-high school district that does not accept students from a fixed portion of the district.

There will be a sub-committee comprised of IHSA staff and Legislative Commission members to develop the waiver policy for submission to the Board.

2025-2026 Proposal 16 – IHSA Tournament Series**Modify By-law 5.002****Submitted By: Filberto Torres, Official Representative – Riverside (R.-Brookfield)****Summary of Proposed Changes:**

Adds language to prevent state series contests to be played on Federal Holidays. (Veterans Day and Memorial Day)

Rationale of Submitter:

It is time to be reasonable and act with common sense and not schedule state playoff games on federal holidays. This should not be left to the whims of the advisory committee and/or the IHSA director over the sport. As the IHSA struggles for hosts on an annual basis, it only makes sense to remove some barriers to hosting that schools may have by no longer scheduling state playoffs on federal holidays. This also provides more structure and a known standard, as currently in the boys' volleyball terms and conditions it states the host can move off Memorial Day when needed or as they deem fit.

Pros:

- Could allow for more schools being willing to host as it would be easier to find workers, avoid potential building/rental fees, avoid custodial costs and overtime pay for working holidays.
- Evens the playing field across all sports for state series scheduling
- Provides consistency for students, coaches and families to be able to plan their schedules accordingly instead of regional hosts moving dates with less than 2 weeks' notice.
- Ensures competitiveness and fairness as all playoffs would follow same structure and not provide advantages for those that move off the holiday as currently is allowed.
- Could increase revenue for hosts and IHSA, as crowds could be larger if the games are not scheduled on a holiday.

Cons:

- None for member schools

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes**Modify By-law 5.002 – IHSA Tournament Series**

The Board of Directors shall establish Terms and Conditions and shall set dates for IHSA-sponsored State Tournament Series in those sports which State Tournaments are conducted. **When setting dates, the Board of Directors shall not permit nor schedule any IHSA Regional (including Regional play-in games) or Sectional state series games on federally recognized holidays. These would include: Labor Day, Veteran's Day, MLK Day, President's Day (or Washington's Birthday), and Memorial Day.**

2025-2026 Proposal 17 – Team Sports Regional Host**Add By-law 5.005****Submitted By: Todd Thompson, Official Representative – Moline (H.S.) and Scott Harding, Official Representative – East Moline (United).****Summary of Proposed Changes:**

Team Sports Regional Host adjusted to no pre-determined regional host with all games played at the higher seeded team throughout the regional. If higher seeded team cannot host, the opponent will host. If neither team can host, the contest would be played at the closest regional site to the higher seeded team.

Rationale of Submitter:

- A. Meaningful Regular Season
 - i. The current IHSA regional does not reward the higher seeded teams
 - ii. Meaningful regional team games during regular season for seeding purposes and home court advantage
 - iii. Rewarding teams that are successful and giving teams in the bottom half of seeding something to work towards.
- B. Less Travel
 - i. Limits travel in all rounds of the regional tournament
 - ii. Reduces travel concerns from safety standpoint
 - iii. Saves schools money on travel
- C. Higher Revenue
 - i. Most if not every game will have a home game that will bring more fans
 - ii. Host schools will be rewarded with concessions and % of gate.
 - iii. Less cost to schools for travel
- D. Regional Bracketing
 - i. Create a system that allows for corrected bracketing
 - ii. Seeding rewards corrective scheduling vs possible regional opponents
 - iii. Locations of regionals are earned instead of just given

Pros:**Cons:****Text of By-law with Proposed Changes****Add By-law 5.005 – Team Sports Regional Host**

In the team bracketed sports where the first round of state series competition requires regional level play, no predetermined host school will be determined. Teams will be assigned to a Sectional Complex or Sub-sectional in accordance with the IHSA Board Policy 18 Grouping and Seeding. Seeding will be determined in accordance with IHSA Board Policy 18 Grouping and Seeding.

Higher seeded teams will become the host school for all regional contests. Officials will be assigned a regional contest based on geography and the power rating established in the IHSA Officials Handbook. The Regional Championship plaque will be sent to the highest seeded team in each regional allowing the plaque to remain with the advancing team to the next round until the plaque is awarded to the Regional Champion.

If the higher seeded team is unwilling or unable to host, the lower seeded team will host that contest. If neither team is willing or able to host, the closest regional to the higher seeded team will be asked to host. Only host schools would be eligible for revenue shares per the terms in each sport's terms and conditions.

2025-2026 Proposal 18 – Season Limitation

Modify By-laws 5.011(b), 5.061(a), 5.071(a), 5.081(a), 5.101(a), 5.201(a), 5.211(a), 5.221(a), 5.291(a), 5.301(a), 5.321(a) - Boys Fall Baseball Season Limitation, Boys Cross Country Season Limitation, Boys Football Season Limitation, Boys Fall Golf Season Limitation, Boys Soccer Season Limitation, Girls Cross Country Season Limitation, Girls Flag Football Season Limitation, Girls Fall Golf Season Limitation, Girls Swimming Season Limitation, Girls Fall Tennis Season Limitation, Girls Volleyball Season Limitation.

Submitted By: Jason Dandurand, Principal – Roxana on behalf of Rock Island (Alleman), Belleville (Althoff), Bradley (B.-Bourbonnais), Cahokia, Carbondale, Hardin (Calhoun), Dwight, East Peoria, Geneseo, Highland, Lena (L.-Winslow), New Lenox (Lincoln-Way West), Chicago (Lindblom), MSA, Marion (H.S.), Mendota, Moline, Mt. Zion, Madison, Naperville (Neuqua Valley), Fithian (Oakwood), Paxton (B.-Buckley-Loda), Oneida (ROWVA), Williamsville, Peru (St. Bede), Streator (Twp.), South Holland (Thornwood), Troy (Triad), Wheeling, Melrose Park (Walther Christian)

2025-2026 Proposal 18 – Special Provisions for Summer Participation**Modify By-law 3.153**

Submitted By: Jason Dandurand, Principal – Roxana on behalf of Rock Island (Alleman), Belleville (Althoff), Bradley (B.-Bourbonnais), Cahokia, Carbondale, Hardin (Calhoun), Dwight, East Peoria, Geneseo, Highland, Lena (L.-Winslow), New Lenox (Lincoln-Way West), Chicago (Lindblom), MSA, Marion (H.S.), Mendota, Moline, Mt. Zion, Madison, Naperville (Neuqua Valley), Fithian (Oakwood), Paxton (B.-Buckley-Loda), Oneida (ROWVA), Williamsville, Peru (St. Bede), Streator (Twp.), South Holland (Thornwood), Troy (Triad), Wheeling, Melrose Park (Walther Christian)

Summary of Season Limitation Proposed Changes:

Moves the start of the fall sports from Monday of Week 6 to Wednesday of Week 5.

Rationale for Season Limitation By-law Changes of Submitter:

This amendment adjusts the football start date from Monday of Week 6 to Wednesday of Week 5 and the first contest date from Thursday of Week 8 to Thursday of Week 7. The purpose of this change is to honor current SMAC health and safety guidelines that protect student-athletes and ensure they are properly acclimated and prepared to participate.

Starting earlier provides a full 12-day acclimatization period leading into Week 8 that directly follows SMAC guidelines. This gives athletes the flexibility to meet the minimum practice requirements even if they miss time at the start of the season. If a team plays its first game on Thursday of Week 8, a student-athlete could miss one practice and still be eligible. If a team plays on Friday of Week 8, a student-athlete could miss two practices and still meet the required number of practices. This adjustment provides coaches with 14 full practice days to prepare their teams for Week 1.

This approach allows programs to prepare their athletes safely, allows for athlete illnesses, and aligns with SMAC guidelines for gradual acclimatization. It also ensures a safer and more structured preseason while maintaining competitive readiness.

Pros:**Cons:****Text of By-law with Proposed Changes****Modify By-law 5.011(b) – Boys Fall Baseball – Season Limitation**

- b.** No school belonging to this Association shall organize a Boys Fall Baseball teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than ~~Monday of Week 6~~ **Wednesday of Week 5** or later than Saturday of Week 21 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

Text of By-laws with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 5.061(a) – Boys Cross Country – Season Limitation

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize a Boys Cross Country teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than ~~Monday of Week 6~~ **Wednesday of Week 5** or later than Saturday of Week 21 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 5.071(a) – Boys Football – Season Limitation

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize a Boys Football teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than ~~Monday of Week 6~~ **Wednesday of Week 5** or later than Saturday of Week 21 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 5.081(a) – Boys Fall Golf – Season Limitation

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize a Boys Fall Golf teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than ~~Monday of Week 6~~ **Wednesday of Week 5** or later than Saturday of Week 21 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 5.101(a) – Boys Soccer – Season Limitation

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize a Boys Soccer teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than ~~Monday of Week 6~~ **Wednesday of Week 5** or later than Saturday of Week 21 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 5.201(a) – Girls Cross Country – Season Limitation

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize a **Girls Cross Country** teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than ~~Monday of Week 6~~ **Wednesday of Week 5** or later than Saturday of Week 21 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 5.211(a) – Girls Flag Football – Season Limitation

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize a **Girls Flag Football** teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than ~~Monday of Week 6~~ **Wednesday of Week 5** or later than Saturday of Week 21 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 5.221(a) – Girls Fall Golf – Season Limitation

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize a **Girls Fall Golf** teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than ~~Monday of Week 6~~ **Wednesday of Week 5** or later than Saturday of Week 21 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 5.291(a) – Girls Swimming – Season Limitation

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize a **Girls Swimming** teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than ~~Monday of Week 6~~ **Wednesday of Week 5** or later than Saturday of Week 21 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 5.301(a) – Girls Fall Tennis – Season Limitation

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize a **Girls Fall Tennis** teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than ~~Monday of Week 6~~ **Wednesday of Week 5** or later than Saturday of Week 21 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 5.321(a) – Girls Volleyball – Season Limitation

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize a **Girls Volleyball** teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than ~~Monday of Week 6~~ **Wednesday of Week 5** or later than Saturday of Week 21 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

Modify By-law 3.153 - Special Provisions for Summer Participation

Rationale of Submitter for Special Provisions for Summer Participation:

Instead of the traditional mandatory No Contact Period, commonly known as the “Dead Week,” that currently runs from Sunday of Week 4 through Sunday of Week 5, this proposal moves the **No Contact Period to Sunday of Week 4 through Tuesday of Week 5 on the IHSA standardized calendar**. This adjustment provides families and athletes with additional rest and recovery time.

By realigning the No Contact Period, every fall sport will now officially begin on Wednesday of Week 5, creating a consistent statewide start date for all fall sports. This structure promotes competitive balance, enhances athlete safety, and allows programs to build proper preseason momentum while preserving the integrity of the summer break.

In addition, there is a separate bylaw proposal that would align all fall sports to start on the same day as football, providing those sports with four extra practice days ahead of their first contest. This companion proposal further strengthens the preseason structure, ensuring that all programs benefit equally from additional preparation time.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 3.153 – Special Provisions for Summer Participation

Persons who coach a sport at a member school may have a maximum of 20 days of contact or school represented activities/competition in that sport with students from that school during the period between the last day of classes or Monday of Week 49 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar (whichever date is earlier) in the spring each year and ~~Sunday of Week 5~~ **Tuesday of Week 5** in the IHSA Standardized Calendar. The students may have a maximum of 20 days of contact per sport with persons who coach that sport at the school they attend during the same time period. A day of contact is defined as any date on which any coaching or instruction in the skills and techniques of any sport or any organization of sport-related activities or competition outside of weights and conditioning takes place. A school represented activity/competition is a time where the students participate in sport specific leagues or camps while representing their school with or without their coach present. These limitations apply to all sports except Baseball and Softball. An exception may be made by the Executive Director under the guidelines adopted by the Board of Directors for competitions sponsored and conducted directly by the National Governing Body for the sport. If a school or team conducts a summer strength and conditioning program separate from any team contact days, these days will not count towards the 20 contact days provided the only contact is done with strength training, speed, agility, and conditioning drills. During the summer contact day period, strength training, speed, agility, and conditioning drills will be limited to no more than 4 days per week with a maximum of 90 minutes per training session.

2025-2026 Proposal 19 – Boys Football

Modify By-laws 5.071, 5.072, and 5.073

Submitted By: Travis Courson, Principal – Monticello on behalf of Southland Athletic Conference, Sangamo Conference, DuPage Valley Conference, Big 12 Conference, and George Sam, IV, Official Representative—Plainfield (North) High School, Brad Byrne, Official Representative—West Chicago (Wheaton Academy), Brad Nichols, Official Representative—Chillicothe (Illinois Valley Central) High School, and Nicole Nance, Principal—Piasa (Southwestern) High School.

Summary of Proposed Changes:

- Same Start Date for Football Practice (Monday of Week 6)
- Same End Date for Football Season (Saturday of Week 21)
- Thursday, Friday, or Saturday of Week 0 for varsity level games (previously known as the scrimmage week) becomes IHSA Week 1. (Thursday of Week 7)
 - **Lower-level football may begin on Saturday, allowing two additional practices for younger players**
- Schools maintain 9-week regular season
- Pairings Announced on Sat. Week 15
- IHSA Football Playoffs will begin one week earlier (Friday or Saturday of Week 16)
- Playoff Brackets for all 8 classes will INCREASE by 16 schools.
 - Currently, 256 schools make the playoffs.
 - 128 additional schools will make the playoffs, bringing the total number of teams to 384.
 - All classes would have 48 teams instead of the current 32 teams.
 - Classes 1A-6A would be divided into North and South brackets, seeded 1-24.
 - The top 8 teams in each 1A-6A North/South bracket would receive a Round 1 bye.
 - Classes 7A and 8A would be seeded 1-48.
 - The top 16 teams in 7A and 8A would receive a Round 1 bye.
 - [EXAMPLE BRACKETS](#)
- Eliminates the drive for 5.

Rationale of Submitter and Alignment with SMAC Policy:

The current IHSA language allows exceptions to the SMAC (Sports Medicine Advisory Committee) recommendations for specific student situations. For example, students returning from military service are only required to complete ten (10) days of practice prior to their first contest. Additionally, SMAC guidelines already recognize sport-specific variations in acclimatization requirements:

- **Cross Country, Girls Volleyball, Girls Swimming & Diving, Boys Soccer:** 9 practice days required before first contest
- **Girls Tennis:** 7 practice days required before first contest
- **Boys & Girls Golf:** Exempt from the acclimatization policy altogether

It is also worth noting that in football, a student who is injured after the season begins through Week 3 of the regular season can return and immediately participate once medically cleared, without completing additional acclimatization days.

These examples demonstrate that SMAC has already made reasonable and sport-specific adjustments to accommodate differing physical demands and circumstances across sports.

Safety:

Comparative State Data Supporting Proposal

- **Missouri** – Same preseason timeline as Illinois, but requires 14 team practices before the first game (not per-player). Illinois' current *12-day per-player* requirement is more restrictive.
- **Iowa** – Same preseason timeline, but only a 10-day team rule before the first game, and no individual player requirement. Local schools determine when an athlete is ready to play.
- **Wisconsin** – Starts a week earlier, requires 14 team practices, but only 5 days per individual player before

participation is allowed. Illinois' rule is stricter by more than double

- **Indiana** – Starts a week earlier, requires 8 days per player, with 5 of those in full pads. Illinois again exceeds this requirement by 50%.
- **Kentucky** – Requires 11 days per player, slightly fewer than Illinois' currently 12.

Pros:

- **More opportunity for schools:** Expanding to 48 teams per class increases access to the postseason, allowing more student-athletes and schools to experience playoff football.
- **Eliminates conference instability:** By removing the “need for 5 wins,” schools won’t be pressured into frequent conference realignments that destabilize long-standing rivalries.
- **Encourages challenging schedules:** Successful programs won’t be “punished” for scheduling stronger opponents since they aren’t tied to 5-win minimums, promoting better inter-conference matchups.
- **More inclusive representation:** Small, rural schools and mid-sized schools that traditionally hover at 4–5 wins gain more equitable access to postseason play.
- **Less stress on “must-win” games:** Reduces pressure on students and coaches to chase exactly 5 wins, supporting better mental health and allowing coaches to focus on development.
- **Enhanced player safety:** Expanding playoff access reduces the incentive for schools to schedule unsafe late-season “pickup” games just to reach playoff eligibility. The revised calendar also provides adequate acclimation and recovery time.
- **Revenue growth:** More schools in the postseason generates additional gate revenue for both schools and the IHSA.
- **Community engagement:** Playoff football energizes towns, boosts local businesses, and strengthens school-community pride.
- **Tradition building:** Expanding playoffs allows more communities to create playoff traditions, which is consistent with IHSA’s mission of educationally based athletics.
- **Equity across sports:** Football’s current playoff access is narrower compared to other IHSA sports where all schools have postseason opportunities.
- **Sustainability:** Less conference turnover makes IHSA’s job easier long term in overseeing schedules, classifications, and equity across the state.
- Cross Country, Girls Volleyball, Girls Swimming & Diving, Boys Soccer: 9 days of practice; Girls Tennis is 7 days of practice and boys and girls golf are exempt from the acclimatization policy.
- In addition, varsity student-athletes are entering the season in better overall condition than in the past due to the prevalence of year-round training. Most programs now incorporate structured off-season strength, speed, and skill development, making it outdated to assume teams begin preseason camp without prior preparation. This adjustment provides a balanced and realistic approach that supports athlete readiness, aligns with existing SMAC practices, and maintains a strong commitment to health and safety standards.

Cons:

- While the IHSA SMAC policy outlines requirements for acclimatization, we recognize that student-athletes are increasingly active throughout the summer. Many are already participating in the allowable 90 minutes of strength and conditioning per day, along with up to 20 contact days, which may include helmets and shoulder pads. Maintaining the current acclimatization requirements without considering this level of summer activity may not accurately reflect the physical readiness of today’s student-athletes.

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 5.071 – Boys Football Season Limitation

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Boys Football teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of Week 6 or later than Saturday of Week 21 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
 - b. A member school may conduct its first interscholastic **varsity** contest in Boys Football no earlier than Thursday of ~~Week 8~~ **Week 7** in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
-

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 5.072 – Boys Football Pre-Season Practice Requirements

A student shall become eligible to participate in an interscholastic contest in Boys Football after completing a minimum of 1 1/2 hours of actual field practice on ~~twelve (12)~~ **nine (9)** different days excluding Sunday and any day on which the student actually plays in an interscholastic football contest. ~~A student who is returning from military service will only be required to complete ten (10) days of practice prior to the first contest.~~ These practices must be conducted in accordance with Association By-laws. ~~A student shall become eligible to participate in a preseason scrimmage in Boys Football on Friday or Saturday of the IHSA Week 7 of the master calendar after completing a minimum of 1 1/2 hours of actual field practice on eight (8) different days excluding Sunday and any day on which the student plays in a preseason football scrimmage.~~

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 5.073 – Boys Football Contest Limitation

- No Boys Football team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than nine (9) games ~~and one (1) preseason scrimmage~~ between two schools exclusive of the IHSA series and exclusive of the City of Chicago Prep Bowl series, participated in by the Chicago Public League and the Chicago Catholic League, and I8FA playoff series, participated in by members of the Illinois 8-Man Football Association.
- ~~Scrimmage Restrictions:~~
- ~~IHSA approved officials must be used~~
- ~~Teams may participate in up to four separate 12 play segments (two offense/two defense)~~
- ~~There will be no kickoffs, punts, field goals allowed~~
- ~~Teams may try for an extra point without a defense on the field without counting as a play~~
- ~~No individual player shall participate in more than 48 total plays on the day of the scrimmage ie sophomore who plays varsity could go 24 plays in sophomore scrimmage and 24 plays in varsity scrimmage~~
- ~~Individual players are not allowed to participate in live contact or Thud in practice the day before or after participating in scrimmage~~

2025-2026 Proposal 20 – Boys Football

Modify By-law 5.073

Submitted By: Jason Dandurand, Principal – Roxana on behalf of Rock Island (Alleman), Belleville (Althoff), Bradley (B.-Bourbonnais), Cahokia, Carbondale, Hardin (Calhoun), Dwight, East Peoria, Geneseo, Highland, Lena (L.-Winslow), New Lenox (Lincoln-Way West), Chicago (Lindblom), MSA, Marion (H.S.), Mendota, Moline, Mt. Zion, Madison, Naperville (Neuqua Valley), Fithian (Oakwood), Paxton (B.-Buckley-Loda), Oneida (ROWVA), Williamsville, Peru (St. Bede), Streator (Twp.), South Holland (Thornwood), Troy (Triad), Wheeling, Melrose Park (Walther Christian).

Summary of Proposed Changes:

- Football proposal that moves the start of the season earlier allowing 16 more schools per class into the IHSA Play-offs with first round byes to top seeds. Establishes a regular season Flexed Regional Football system for determining regular season opponents as opposed to the current conference system. Depending on the number of teams in the region, up to 4 games will be scheduled by the school.
- SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES:** [Click Here to Explore the Details](#)

Rationale of Submitter:

The goal is simple, we want to fix some long-standing issues with how high school football is scheduled and organized. The Flex Regional System will inject an exciting element into high school football for years to come. It is designed to maintain rivalries, and gives more schools a fair shot at the playoffs. But it's bigger than just football. By creating a smarter, fairer football system, we also help every other sport in the state. Right now, football often drives decisions that affect all athletic programs... from travel to conference alignment.

When football is regionalized, schools can make better decisions for basketball, baseball, volleyball, and everything else. It brings stability to athletic programs as a whole.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 5.073 – Boys Football Contest Limitation

No Boys Football team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than nine (9) games ~~and one (1) preseason scrimmage between two schools~~ exclusive of the IHSA series and exclusive of the City of Chicago Prep Bowl series, participated in by the Chicago Public League and the Chicago Catholic League, and I8FA playoff series, participated in by members of the Illinois 8-Man Football Association.

Scrimmage Restrictions:

- ~~IHSA approved officials must be used~~
- ~~Teams may participate in up to four separate 12 play segments (two offense/two defense)~~
- ~~There will be no kickoffs, punts, field goals allowed~~
- ~~Teams may try for an extra point without a defense on the field without counting as a play~~
- ~~No individual player shall participate in more than 48 total plays on the day of the scrimmage i.e. sophomore who plays varsity could go 24 plays in sophomore scrimmage and 24 plays in varsity scrimmage~~
- ~~Individual players are not allowed to participate in live contact or Thud in practice the day before or after participating in scrimmage~~

2025-2026 Proposal 21 – Boys Volleyball Season Limitation**Modify By-law 5.141**

Submitted By: Nathan Flannery, Official Representative – Deerfield (H.S.); Justin Cooper, Official Representative – Vernon Hills

Summary of Proposed Changes:

- Modifies the Boys Volleyball season limitation to begin and end one week earlier.

Rationale of Submitter:

- Moves the boys' volleyball season one week earlier to align with the start of almost all other spring sports.
- Eliminates end-of-year graduation conflicts for the majority of schools, as only teams advancing to Sectionals or beyond would be impacted.
- Previous rationale for starting later than other spring sports is now largely obsolete:
 - Boys' basketball Regionals are now scheduled a week earlier than in the past, significantly reducing gym and athlete conflicts. By week 35, the majority of schools have concluded boys' basketball.
 - Schools with enrollments under 1,500 have demonstrated the ability to successfully run boys volleyball alongside baseball, track and field, lacrosse, tennis, water polo, and other sports with full rosters at multiple levels.
- Volleyball is no longer dependent on waiting for baseball tryouts to conclude before forming teams.

Pros:**Cons:****Text of By-law with Proposed Changes****Modify By-law 5.141 – Boys Volleyball Season Limitation**

No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Boys Volleyball teams, practice, or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than ~~Week 36~~ **Week 35** or later than Saturday of ~~Week 48~~ **Week 47** in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

2025-2026 Proposal 22 – Girls Spring Softball – Season Limitation**Modify By-law 5.271****Submitted By: Augie Fontanetta, Official Representative – Winnetka (New Trier)****Summary of Proposed Changes:**

- Modifies the Girls Spring Softball Season practice and contests dates to begin one week earlier.

Rationale of Submitter:

The softball advisory committee approved a recommendation to move the state finals to one weekend and encompassing all four classes enhancing the experience for athletes, coaches, fans and officials. The proposal allows the softball teams to begin their season and games one week earlier than baseball with the recent change in the state final schedule. Moving the season up one week prior to other spring sports will give softball teams peak facility availability to conduct their tryouts and one additional week to conduct games in the spring to coincide with the state series and state final tournament schedule changes. The softball state finals will now be held a week before baseball, this proposal would make the season lengths for baseball and softball the same.

Pros:**Cons:****Text of By-law with Proposed Changes**

- No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Girls Spring Softball teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of ~~Week 35~~ **Week 34** or later than Saturday of Week 49 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
- A member school may conduct its first interscholastic contest in Girls Spring Softball no earlier than Monday of ~~Week 37~~ **Week 36** in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

The proposal will be take effect 30 days after passing for the 2025-2026 season

2025-2026 Proposal 23 – Girls Wrestling Season Limitation

Modify By-law 5.371

Submitted By: Marty Manning, Official Representative – Schaumburg (H.S.)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

By law 5.371 defines the season limitations for Girls Wrestling. The current season dates run parallel with the boys wrestling season dates. This proposal seeks to scaffold the start and end of the girls wrestling season relative to the boys season similar to other IHSA sports. This proposal would move the start of the girls wrestling season up two weeks to week 17 (October 26, 2026) and end on Week 31 (February 7, 2026) on the standardized IHSA. In this proposal girls wrestling individual regionals would be hosted week 28 (January 15 & 16, 2027), sectionals week 29 (January 23, 2027), and individual state week 30 (January 30, 2027).

Rationale of Submitter:

- Girls wrestling has been the fastest growing sport in the nation over the last 5 years. Over the past 4 seasons Illinois has seen the number of girls participating in Girls wrestling grow from 1,249 girls in 2021-22 to 3,675 participants in 2024-25.
- **Gender Equity:** Girls wrestling is now an established sport and should have their own uninterrupted state series experience along with a dual team state tournament.
- **Hosting issues:** As girls participation has grown, finding the additional hosting sites needed has been an issue. Scaffolding the start date and post-season from the boys, will increase venue availability as well as referee availability.
- **Coaching resources:** The scaffolding approach matches the setup of other sports (Bowling, Track) where schools are represented by both boys and girls teams. Some schools in the association share coaches for these programs similar to boys and girls wrestling. The scaffolding of the start of the season and the post-season has allowed coaches in those sports to be able to best staff the coaching of their teams at the most critical times in the year. The current timeframe of the wrestling post-season has put many programs in a situation where they are splitting coaching resources in the postseason.
- **Multisport student-athletes:** The current girls wrestling season ends with the individual state tournament concluding days before the Spring sport season begins and almost six weeks into the indoor track season. Moving the end of the girls wrestling individual season creates a better timeline for multi-sport wrestlers that participate in a spring sport.

Pros:

- Allows co-ed programs a chance to build a foundation for the girls wrestling team before the more experienced boys begin practicing.
- Allows multi-sport athletes a smoother transition into their spring sports season
- Prevents a coaching staff from having to split coaching resources during the postseason.
- Allows co-ed programs to focus on the boys individual series in February and end their season at the Individual Boys State tournament.
- Allows the girls to get more focused training and coaching during their post-season.
- Girls get their own full series of individual and team tournaments.
- Creating a separate season calendar for Girls Wrestling will encourage schools to hire Girls only coaches.
- Allow both genders to have their state series run on consecutive weekends with no overlap

Cons:

- Overall wrestling season will increase by 1 week for co-ed programs that do not qualify a team for the Boys state dual tournament.
- Need to find a Host for the Individual State Tournament.

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 5.371 – Girls Wrestling Season Limitation

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Girls Wrestling teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than ~~Monday of Week 19 or later than Saturday of Week 34~~ **Monday Week 17 or later than Saturday of Week 31** in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

- b. A member school may conduct its first interscholastic contest in Girls Wrestling no earlier than Monday of ~~Week 21~~ **Week 19** in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

2025-2026 Proposal 24 – Players Ejected for Unsportsmanlike Conduct
Modify By-law 6.011
Submitted By: Joey Dion, Principal – Jacksonville (H.S.)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Modifies the suspension for ejection of unsportsmanlike conduct by players in tackle football for flagrant contact to have a video review process to clarify the correct rule application. Proposal would create a Football Review Committee made up of nine (9) football officials meeting certain requirements and selected by the Executive Director along with the football head clinician and the IHSA football administrator to review video and make a recommendation to the Executive Director to overturn and return a student to their next game.

Rationale of Submitter:

The three types of ejections that warrant a review are misidentified player, misapplication of a rule, and flagrant contact. Technology has advanced to the point where each type of these plays is available on video. Currently, the IHSA allows for reviews of the first two types of ejections, respectively. Reviewing flagrant contact ejections is necessary to protect the student athletes from incorrect officials' decisions on the field. Much like the review of a misidentified player and a misapplied rule, the goal is to get the call correct. When video supports that a play should be reviewed, it provides an opportunity to ensure the correct call is made for our student athletes.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 6.011 – Players Ejected for Unsportsmanlike Conduct

In all sports except tackle football, any player ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next interscholastic contest at that level of competition, and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim, in addition to other penalties the IHSA or the school may assess.

Any player ejected from a tackle football game for a personal foul or unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the remainder of the quarter in which the ejection occurred and for the next four quarters at that level of interscholastic competition and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim, in addition to other penalties the IHSA or the school may assess.

If the school contests the ejection and video evidence clearly indicates that a player was misidentified in an ejection, the IHSA will work with the school(s) involved to ensure the proper player(s) are identified. After the IHSA Executive Director reviews the video provided by the school(s) and verify the misidentification, the misidentified player shall be eligible for the next interscholastic contest at that level of competition.

If a player violates a rule, and is ejected from a contest, and the school believes the ejection penalty was a result of a misapplication of a playing rule related to that violation, the school may communicate with the IHSA Executive Director to clarify the correct rule application. After reviewing the situation, if the Executive Director determines that an official did misapply a rule that led to the player ejection, the Executive Director may waive the requirement that the player is ineligible for the next interscholastic contest at that level of competition.

If a player is ejected from a tackle football game for flagrant contact, and the school believes the ejection was an error in judgment by the official, the school may communicate with the IHSA Executive Director and submit video to clarify the correct ruling. The Executive Director will seek input from the IHSA staff under procedures established by the IHSA office. If after receiving the IHSA staff-report, the Executive Director determines that the ejection was an incorrect ruling, the Executive Director may waive the requirement that the player is ineligible for additional quarters in the next interscholastic contest at that level of competition.

Football Review Committee

Committee: The Football Review Committee (FRC) will consist of: Nine (9) IHSA football officials who meet two requirements: (1) Certified license for at least 5 years and (2) a Football Clinician; the IHSA Football Head Clinician; and the IHSA Assistant Executive Director who is the Football administrator. All clinicians shall be selected by the Executive Director.

When the IHSA office receives an appeal, the IHSA football administrator shall select a three-person Review Panel from the FRC to consider the appeal.

After receiving the Review Panel's report and recommendation regarding the appeal, the football administrator shall consult with the Football Head Clinician and make a final recommendation to the Executive Director.

Appeal:

To appeal an ejection for flagrant contact, the school must submit this information to the IHSA office.

- A written appeal explaining why the school feels the ejection was not warranted
- Video(s) of the play, including all available angles
- Names of the officials who officiated the game

The ejection appeal must be submitted to the IHSA office within 48 hours after the game. For an ejection during a game played on Friday, the appeal must be submitted by the following Monday.

Review Panel Procedure:

The Review Panel shall review the appeal, all video(s) submitted, and the Special Report submitted by the game officials. The Review Panel may also discuss the appeal with the game officials and other members of the FRC in an attempt to reach a conclusion.

The Review Panel shall complete its review within 24 hours and submit a report to the IHSA Executive Director recommending either: (1) Sustain the appeal or (2) Reject the appeal.