

**Advisory Committee Terms and Conditions Recommendations**  
**Consent Items**  
**June 15, 2026**

<b>Boys/Girls Basketball</b>
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**Terms and Conditions Recommendation:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

**Athletic Administrator Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

1. Boys and Girls Section IX. Girls A1. and Boys B1: Presale Tickets

**Recommendation:** Modify to Host schools may provide presale tickets to schools competing...

**Rationale:** This modification allows a regional host manager the flexibility to determine if presale tickets are necessary.

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**Boys/Girls Basketball Administrative Recommendations:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 3  
Rejected Recommendation: 2  
Table Recommendation:

**Athletic Administrator Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2, 3  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

1. **Recommendation:** The committee recommends the use of the following State Association Adoptions:
  - a. Mercy Rule: continue using with previously established parameters
  - b. Coaches Box (28' in length)
  - c. Shot Clock
    - I. Will be used at the varsity level during the 2026–27 regular season, regular season tournaments, shootout games and during the IHSA State Tournament series contests. The decision to use the technology at lower-level contests is left to conferences and individual schools.
    - II. For non-conference lower-level games, both schools must agree in advance to use the technology.
    - III. The model rule previously adopted by the IHSA Board of Directors must be followed.

NOTE: Shot Clock Placement: The primary gym must meet NFHS guidelines in the NFHS Rules Book. Shot clock placement in an auxiliary gym, where a basketball mount is not feasible; the shot clocks must be placed on the wall behind the basket, at or above the backboard, clearly visible and unobstructed.

**Rationale:** The NFHS Basketball Rules allow state associations the flexibility to adopt specific adjustments to a select number of rules. Over the years, the IHSA has adopted modifications to the rules above. The committee believes the current adoptions remain relevant and should continue to be accepted.

**2. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda**

3. **Recommendation:** The committee recommends adding the following shot clock protocols to the IHSA shot clock information for 2026-27 Varsity games. During a contest where the shot clock is used:
  - a. Ball that hits the rim on a pass/deflection and is recovered by the offense in the frontcourt shot clock resets to :20. Same situation recovered in the backcourt by the offense shot clock resets to :35.
  - b. No visible 10-second count for officials in the backcourt. Officials use the shot clock for the ten-second backcourt. Any official can call the 10-second backcourt violation when it occurs.
  - c. If a single technical foul is called, the shot clock should be set to 35 seconds after the official reports the technical foul, and before the inbound throw-in at the division line.
  - d. A ball knocked out of bounds in the backcourt results in a new 10-second period. If the shot clock is at 29, the 10-second violation would be called with 19 on the shot clock.
  - e. Ball wedged in the rim/backboard should be a :20 reset if offense retains possession.
  - f. Out of bounds off the jump ball to start a game or an OT period with neither team gaining possession should be :20 if the throw-in is in the frontcourt and :35 if the throw-in is in the backcourt.

- g. Shot clocks must be set up so that the LED lights around the backboard do not go off when the shot clock horn sounds. Backboard LED lights should only illuminate when the game clock gets to :00. A special report should be submitted if not followed.
- h. An air horn, an electronic whistle, or another device that creates a different sound shall be present at every scorer's table available to use if the shot clock horn malfunctions. The end-of-quarter horn must be different than the shot clock horn.

**Rationale:** The NFHS Basketball Rules allow state associations to adopt procedures for shot clock implementation.

**Boys/Girls Bowling**

**Terms and Conditions Recommendations:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2, 3

Rejected Recommendation:

Table Recommendation:

**Athletic Administrator Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2, 3

Rejected Recommendation:

Table Recommendation:

1. **Recommendation:** Starting with the 2027-28 season urethane bowling balls are banned from IHSA post season competition.

**Rationale:** The urethane ball has been banned at the collegiate level and some USBC tournaments. The urethane ball disrupts the pattern so much that it changes the lane conditions for other bowlers in the block. It doesn't provide an advantage for the bowler but definitely causes a disadvantage for the rest of the field.

2. **Recommendation:** VIII Item B Number 3 Electronic Devices: Competitors and coaches are prohibited from playing music with or without headphones, using cell phones, electronic devices or any unusual equipment that might be distracting or assist a bowler in receiving outside coaching or instruction at any time including during warmups. Players are also prohibited from wearing any SMART watch that can receive information at any time during warmups or competition. Any player caught wearing a SMART watch will receive a zero for the frame they are caught in and a zero in any subsequent frame until the watch is removed. Coaches are allowed to electronic devices in the pit area (for example: for statistic taking purposes). **Coaches only may use their phones and/or tablets to record (video or take photos) of a player and review footage with the player after the player has finished their frame and before the said bowler is due up for their next frame.** Competitors will not be allowed to use electronic devices during competition.

**Rationale:** All coaches now have access to recording devices even on the simplest of smart phones, this removes any argument about teams not being able to afford a recording device. Reviewing a photo or video with a player will not hold up the pace of play as there is sufficient time from when a specific player is finished with their frame and when they are due up next. Approx 8 to 10 minutes on average

3. **Recommendation:** Remove lunch break and update the time schedule.

**The Boys State Final Time Schedule is as Follows:**

**Friday**

7:30 a.m. Doors open for teams and individual competitors and their coaches.

8:00 a.m. Doors open to the general public

8:30 a.m. Opening Ceremonies

8:45 a.m. Warm up for Round 1

9:00 a.m. First Round (24 teams and 30 individuals)

3:15 p.m. approx. First round completed

**Saturday**

7:15 a.m. Doors open for competitors in the Chair Class and their coaches ONLY

7:30 a.m. Doors open for 2nd day qualifying teams, individuals, and their coaches.

8:00 a.m. Doors open to the general public

8:30 a.m. Introductions

8:45 a.m. Warm up for Round 2 and Bowling Chair Class

9:00 am Second Round (12 teams and 30 individuals) and Bowling Chair Class

12:15-12:30 p.m. reseeding break

12:30-12:40 p.m. Warm up for Round 3 (5 minutes on each lane)

12:40 p.m. Third round (12 teams and 30 individuals) and Bowling Chair Class

3:30 p.m. approx. Awards ceremony (immediately following round 3)

**The Girls State Final Time Schedule is as Follows:**

**Friday**

7:30 a.m. Doors open for teams and individual competitors and their coaches.  
8:00 a.m. Doors open to the general public  
8:30 a.m. Opening Ceremonies  
8:45 a.m. Warm up for Round 1  
9:00 a.m. First Round (24 teams and 30 individuals)  
3:15 p.m. approx. First round completed

**Saturday**

7:15 a.m. Doors open for competitors in the Bowling Chair Class and their coaches ONLY  
7:30 a.m. Doors open for 2nd day qualifying teams, individuals, and their coaches.  
8:00 a.m. Doors open to the general public  
8:30 a.m. Introductions  
8:45 a.m. Warm up for Round 2 and Bowling Chair Class  
9:00 am Second Round (12 teams and 30 individuals) and Bowling Chair Class  
12:15-12:30 p.m. reseeding break  
12:30-12:40 p.m. Warm up for Round 3 (5 minutes on each lane)  
12:40 p.m. Third round (12 teams and 30 individuals) and Bowling Chair Class  
3:30 p.m. approx. Awards ceremony (immediately following round 3)

**Rationale:** The lunch break is just getting too long; the bowlers get cold waiting, and the afternoon rounds always start off so slow. There is plenty of time for the athletes to eat and stay hydrated during the day.

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**Boys/Girls Bowling Administrative Recommendations:**

**Administrative Staff:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2, 3, 4  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

**Athletic Administrator Advisory Committee:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2, 3, 4  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

1. **Recommendation:** Ball CARTS have become very large and are taking up extra space that doesn't exist. Bowling ball carts, ball caddies, etc. must be kept on the buffer pairs and can't be moved until after the 3-game block is over

**Rationale:** This will ensure that as much space as possible is available for the bowlers and coaches in the pit area as well as allow for ball carts to be placed conveniently where the bowlers can access them.

2. **Recommendation:** Add starting lane graphics to the manual so that schools understand what lane each game is started on.

**Rationale:** There remains confusion on what lane to start on, hopefully this will provide clarity

3. **Recommendation:** Update LOP page wording so that coaches understand they should enter anyone who could possibly play on the roster page.

**Rationale:** Every year there are emergency situations that come up where players need to be added to the list of participants who aren't listed on the roster.

4. **Recommendation:** Clean up the penalties section in the Terms and Conditions on page 4 section C, to show that the penalties cover the whole section

**Rationale:** This wording clean up with provide clarity that the penalties cover the entire section.

**Terms and Conditions Recommendations:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2, 3, 4  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

**Athletic Administrator Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2, 3, 4  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

1. **VI. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND TIME SCHEDULES 4) State Final:** In lieu of an in-person qualifying coaches meeting prior to competition at the state final, ~~a coaches meeting will be conducted at 8:00 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to the state final.~~ a prerecorded State Final coaches' meeting will be emailed to all participating schools and posted in the IHSA Schools Center. Each qualifying school's coach or official representative is responsible for reviewing this recording, which covers essential policies, procedures, and local rules governing the competition.

**Recommendation:** Replace the in-person meeting with a prerecorded presentation emailed to qualifying coaches and posted in the IHSA Schools Center.

**Rationale:** In alignment with current IHSA strategic planning objectives to leverage technology; the State Final Coaches' Meeting moves to a prerecorded format to ensure that all qualifying schools have equitable access to information regardless of their schedules. By providing this briefing via the IHSA Schools Center and email, the IHSA eliminates conflicts and allows coaches to review event rules, policies, and local procedures at their own pace. This ensures more prepared coaches.

2. **VIII TOURNAMNET RULES B) Competition Guidelines 1) Timing c.** The team may use a maximum of two minutes and 15 seconds (2:15) of the three-minute time limit for music.

**Recommendation:** Music Length Extension - Extend maximum music time from 2:00 to 2:15 within the 3-minute routine.

**Rationale:** Enhanced Athlete Safety and Recovery: In a high-intensity 3-minute routine, those 15 seconds of music allow for more controlled transitions. Without the extra music, teams often must sprint between segments, increasing the risk of trips or poorly set stunts.

Pacing: Allows for "reset" moments between rubric skills.

Form: Minimizes rushed technique that leads to injury.

Aligns with national standards and allows for safer skill incorporation. Aligning IHSA music limits with National standards would increase music allowance from 66% to 70% of the total routine. While current IHSA rules allow for 2 minutes of music within a 3-minute block, a move toward the national standard supports technical consistency and athlete safety during high-intensity transitions.

3. **D) Competitor's Apparel: 1. Team Uniforms e.**

Add new language:

**Recommendation:** Bench personnel (subs/alternates) must be in school-issued uniforms or school-issued warm-ups to maintain an identifiable presence.

**Rationale:** The recommendation to require school-issued uniforms or warm-ups or spirit/logo wear for bench personnel (substitutes, alternates, and managers) is based on the following:

**Official Identification:** In a competition environment, officials and event staff must be able to immediately distinguish between authorized team members and unauthorized spectators or coaches. Standardized apparel ensures that everyone in the designated "performance" or "bench" area is a verified participant.

## Editorial Revision - Team Ties

4. F) Team Ties: ~~At all competitions, teams tied for a position which qualifies for advancement from preliminaries to finals shall be advanced without the tie being broken.~~

**Recommendation:** At all levels of competition, ties will not be broken. Any teams tied for a qualifying position in preliminaries will advance to the finals.

**Rationale:** New wording clarifies the rule without altering its core purpose. The proposed change is intended to streamline the existing rule for better readability while explicitly addressing the scope of its application. The goal of this revision is to simplify the language while ensuring that the rule remains the same. The committee did not want to recommend a tie break process.

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### **Competitive Cheerleading Administrative Recommendations:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 2

Rejected Recommendation: 1

Table Recommendation:

**Athletic Administrator Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation:

Rejected Recommendation: 1

Table Recommendation:

#### **1. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda**

#### **2. Scoresheet, Rubric, Legality and Deductions**

- Updated to the "definitions and scoring tools" and scoresheet rubric document.
- Added a grid on the bottom of page 2 of the definitions and scoring tools document with required number of skills in each difficulty category based off of the number of athletes on the floor.
- CHANGE: rather than using "majority" to determine difficulty, updated the language will read "skill minimums" (highlighted in yellow in all places where this has been updated).
- Tosses: Updated numbers for tosses based off the number of athletes on the floor.
- Partner Stunts: Added minimum numbers for partner stunts based off the number of athletes on the floor.
- Pikes: Added the definitions of Layout and Pike from the NFHS rulebook to the definitions and scoring tools document. A pike and a layout are different skills.

<b>Competitive Dance</b>
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### **Terms and Conditions Recommendations:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 3

Rejected Recommendation: 2, 4

Table Recommendation:

**Athletic Administrator Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 3

Rejected Recommendation: 2, 4

Table Recommendation:

## **VI. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE I). Sectional Manager:**

1. **Recommendation:** Sectional Manager: The local manager shall have authority to take proper and appropriate action in any case of unusual situations arising during the competitions. However, no part of the terms and conditions may be set aside. In all cases involving an interpretation not specifically covered by the rules, the competition manager shall consult with the Head Official before the announcement of results or the presentation of awards. The Sectional Manager or appointed manager shall conduct a meeting for coaches virtually. ~~or prior to each division at the sectional tournament on the Saturday morning of sectionals.~~ The Sectional Manager will introduce the Head Official and any other personnel that they deem necessary to introduce to the coaches. The Sectional manager will discuss items on the sectional agenda (tournament logistics) and answer any questions

regarding the competition. **The Sectional Manager will release the assigned officials in the coaches meeting at minimum 36 hours prior to the sectional beginning.**

**Rationale:** Having a standardized virtual coaches meeting will ensure that all coaches and teams receive the same information on the same timeline.

**2. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda**

**3. VII. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE E. TIME SCHEDULE**

**Recommendation:** Sectional and State Competition time schedules shall be posted online at [www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org). Time schedules are determined by a random sort for sectionals and the state finals including prelims and final performances. **The IHSA office will determine the performance order for state-level competition. This order will be posted online on the competitive dance page at [www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org) under state series information & results. The following formula shall be used to determine the preliminary performance order for the state final:**

1. Each sectional is randomly assigned a letter code (A to E) before the start of the state series.
2. The chart below and the sectional code are published at the same time as the sectional performance order.
3. Each team's performance order within a particular division is determined by the place the team won at the sectional tournament, according to the table.
4. In case of a tie for 6th place at a sectional, an additional entry will be added at the end of the order.
5. In case of a tie for any place at a sectional, the teams will perform in the opposite order in the state finals. For example, at sectional A, two teams tie for 2nd (and 3rd) place. In the chart, the order assigned to A-2 is #14. The order assigned to A-3 is #18. Reversing the order, the team that performed first in the sectional is assigned order #18. The team that performed last in the sectional is assigned order #14.

ORDER	SECTIONAL	PLACE	2026 (3A EXAMPLE)
1	A	6	Buffalo Grove
2	B	5	South Elgin
3	C	4	Minooka
4	D	3	Glen Elyn (Glenbard West)
5	E	2	Park Ridge (Maine South)
6	A	1	Barrington
7	B	6	Hampshire
8	C	5	Plainfield (North)
9	D	4	Elmhurst (York)
10	E	3	Chicago (Whitney Young)
11	A	2	Lincolnshire (Stevenson)
12	B	1	Roselle (Lake Park)
13	C	6	Edwardsville (H.S)
14	D	5	Downers Grove (South)

15	E	4	Tinley Park (Andrew)
16	A	3	Mundelein (H.S)
17	B	2	Bartlett
18	C	1	Lockport (Twp.)
19	D	6	Naperville (Neuqua Valley)
20	E	5	Orland Park (Sandburg)
21	A	4	Winnetka (New Trier)
22	B	3	Huntley
23	C	2	New Lenox (Lincoln-Way West)
24	D	1	Naperville (North)
25	E	6	Chicago (Lane)
26	A	5	Palatine (Fremd)
27	B	4	Hoffman Estates (Conant)
28	C	3	New Lenox (Lincoln-Way Central)
29	D	2	Oswego (East)
30	E	1	LaGrange (Lyons)

Note: Finalized state final performance schedules will be posted online on Monday after the sectional level competition

3A - EXAMPLE

A - DUNDEE CROWN 1 B - DUNDEE CROWN 2 C - CHAMPAIGN CENTRAL D- GENEVA

E - MAINE SOUTH

**Rationale:** Standardizes the performance ordering process to provide clear criteria and removes the random sorting. Provides transparency in the scheduling process and will allow additional time for qualifying schools to make travel arrangements.

**4. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda**

**Competitive Dance Administrative Recommendations:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2, 3, 4

Rejected Recommendation:

Table Recommendation:

**Athletic Administrator Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2, 3, 4

Rejected Recommendation:

Table Recommendation:

1. Scoresheets will be released electronically to coaches in a transparent format so coaches see the scoresheets and standings for all teams in their division.
2. Officials will indicate in the comment section which subcategory card they are assigned on the rubric.
3. Modify the rubric language from lacking to terminology such as: learning, emerging and novice.
4. Include a missed pom pass as a missed skill assessed on the deductions and legalities scoresheet.

**Girls Gymnastics**

**No Terms and Conditions Recommendations Forwarded**

**Boys/Girls Soccer**

**Terms and Conditions Recommendation:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

**Athletic Administrator Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

**1. Boys and Girls Section IX H. Cheerleaders and Mascots**

**Recommendation:** A maximum of eighteen (18) cheerleaders and one (1) mascot may be on the track at any state series contest.

**Rationale:** Modifies the current language to be in line with other sports and removes the prerequisite of cheering at the first game of the state series.

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**Boys/Girls Soccer Administrative Recommendations:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2, 3  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

**Athletic Administrator Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2, 3  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

- 1. Recommendation:** The committee recommends the continued use of the current Soccer State Association Adoptions and any editorial changes needed to be made by Beth Sauser for 2026-27 seasons.

**Rationale:** Approved the continued use of state association adoptions.

- 2. Recommendation:** The committee recommends that coaches view a version of the annual soccer rules meeting specifically tailored to coaches. While IHSA and NFHS rules remain consistent across both the coaches' and officials' versions, the content would be customized to address the needs of each audience.

**Rationale:** The committee emphasized the importance of providing coaches with clear, relevant rules education. A streamlined, coach-specific presentation would improve clarity and efficiency by focusing on the most applicable information.

- 3. Recommendation:** The committee recommends creating a PDF highlighting information from the rules meeting that coaches can print and carry to the field.

**Rationale:** Helpful tool for coaches when traveling or at a site.

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**Boys/Girls Swimming**

**Terms and Conditions Recommendations:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

**Athletic Administrator Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

**1. Item VII-B – State Swim Qualifying Standards**

**Recommendation:** To adopt the following qualifying standards. Sectional Qualifying Standards for the Boys' and Girls' State Finals will be determined in the following manner. The Qualifying Standards for each individual swimming event will be calculated by determining the 36<sup>th</sup> place time from all sectionals. That time will then be used to obtain an average of the last FIVE years' average times in each event (a different number of years to obtain the average may be used in one or more events if deemed appropriate). In relay events the same process will be implemented but the 30<sup>th</sup> sectional place time will be used to make the calculations. Using this process, the proposed qualifying standards for the 26-27 seasons are:

Event	Girls	Boys
200 MED RELAY	1:49.45	1:36.57
200 FREE	1:56.11	1:44.63
200 IM	2:10.69	1:57.67
50 FREE	:24.45	:21.74
100 BUTTERFLY	:58.46	:52.02
100 FREE	:53.00	:47.52
500 FREE	5:13.54	4:48.04
200 FREE RELAY	1:38.88	1:27.59
100 BACK	:58.75	:53.03
100 BREAST	1:07.40	:59.23
400 FREE RELAY	3:37.77	3:13.76

**Rationale:** The advisory committee feels that we are on the right track by using this system. Using an objective system is easier to use, easier to defend and provides fair standards for competitors. When necessary, the system is adjustable by using a different average sectional time or a different average (i.e. 4 years). The Assistant Executive Director working with the swimming and diving advisory committee has reserved the right to make changes if it is obvious that this would be necessary in order to protect the integrity of the meet.

## 2. Item VIII.F.Note 2 – Scoring Diving at Sectional Meets

**Recommendation:** Amend VII.F Notes to state the following:

Note 2: If Sectional Hosts have the capability, they may use eDive or DiveMeets to register divers, manage entries, and score the diving event. Hosts using one of the electronic scoring programs must notify attending schools with diving entries of the scoring program's registration procedures and the dive sheet submission process on or before diving practice on Wednesday prior to Sectionals. Even if an electronic program like eDive or DiveMeets is used, hosts are still required to keep a written record of the judge's scores for all competition dives as a back-up in the event that electronic information is lost. Additionally, coaches and divers must sign their dive sheet per NFHS Rule 9-3-5

Note 2 3: For hosts manually scoring the sectional diving event, diving score sheets will be distributed at Diving practice on Wednesday prior to Sectionals and will be available on Saturday morning of the Sectional Meet (2 forms per school).

**Rationale:** As more schools embrace electronic means of managing the diving event, the committee feels that hosts should be allowed to use the reputable programs noted in this recommendation as the primary means to manage entries and score the diving event at sectional meets as long as it is done in accordance with NFHS Rules.

### **Boys/Girls Swimming Administrative Recommendations:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2

Rejected Recommendation:

Table Recommendation:

**Athletic Administrator Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2

Rejected Recommendation:

Table Recommendation:

1. **Recommendation:** To adopt the following awards schedule at the Girls and Boys State Final Meets:

### **Finals Meet/Awards Order**

1. 200 Medley Relay	7. 100 Free
<i>Awards*</i>	<i>Awards*</i>
2a. 200 Free AWD	8. 500 Free
2. 200 Free	9. 200 Free Relay
3. 200 IM	<i>Awards/Break (15 min) comp pool open</i>
<i>Awards*</i>	10. 100 Back
4a. 50 Free AWD	11a. 100 Breast AWD
4. 50 Free	11. 100 Breast
5. Diving	<i>Awards*</i>
<i>Awards/Break (15 min)</i>	12. 400 Free Relay
6. 100 Fly	<b>Individual Awards</b>
7a. 100 Free AWD	<b>Team Awards</b>

\*During these awards breaks, the competition pool will be closed, but the warm-up pool will have lanes open for use.

**Rationale:** The committee felt that although last year’s adjustment to the awards schedule was a step in the right direction, it could be improved. The committee felt that although last year’s schedule established more meet efficiency, they felt that the faster meet pace became problematic for athletes. The committee feels that this adjustment to the awards schedule still makes for an efficient process, but they feel it better serves the athletes as it creates a more favorable pace to the meet. They also feel that this is similar to or more in line with how other governing bodies manage awards for large meets.

- Recommendation:** The committee recommends using the letters A,B,C,D (A = straight; B = Pike; C = Tuck; D = Free) as opposed to T,P,S,F when denoting dive positions on dive sheets throughout the IHSA State Series.

**Rationale:** The position letters A,B,C,D are the industry standard in diving, so divers and coaches are very accustomed to denoting dive positions in this manner. Over the past several years, DiveMeets has been the primary method of registering and scoring dives at the State Final Meet, and the program only allows for divers to denote position using A,B,C, or D. Therefore, it is not new to the State Series, so it makes sense to extend this down to the Sectional meets as well.

<b>Boys/Girls Wrestling</b>
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**Terms and Conditions Recommendations:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**  
 Approved Recommendations: 2, 3, 5  
 Rejected Recommendation: 4  
 Table Recommendation:

**Athletic Administrator Advisory Committee Review:**  
 Approved Recommendations: 2, 3, 5  
 Rejected Recommendation: 4  
 Table Recommendation:

**Recommendation #1 Reviewed and approved at the April 13<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting**

**1. II. Dates & Sites**

**Recommendation:** Starting in the 2026-27 school year, follow this state series schedule.

Girls Regional	Saturday of IHSA Week 28
Girls Sectional	Friday & Saturday of IHSA Week 29
Girls State Finals	Friday & Saturday of IHSA Week 30
Boys Regional	Saturday of IHSA Week 31

Boys Sectional	Friday & Saturday of IHSA Week 32
Boys Individual State Finals	Thursday, Friday, & Saturday of IHSA Week 33
Dual Team State Finals	Friday & Saturday of IHSA Week 34

**Rationale:** Since a by-law change will move the girls season earlier in the school year, the committee believes it makes sense to move the Boys Regional back to the Saturday of IHSA Week 31, where it was for many years. This allows both the girls and the boys individual state series to wrestle on three consecutive weekends.

## 2. VII. Advancement of Winners

### **Recommendation:**

- Girls Regional:** Increase the total number of Regionals from 12 to 24.  
3 Regionals will feed into each Sectional.  
The top 4 girls in each Regional weight class will advance to the Sectional.
- Girls Sectional:** Increase the total number of Girls Sectionals from 4 to 8.  
Brackets will have 12 girls in each weight class, just like the Boys Sectional. The top 3 girls in each Sectional weight class will advance to the State Finals.
- Girls State Finals:** Brackets will have 24 girls in each weight class.

**Rationale:** This recommendation addresses the continued growth of Girls Wrestling. Currently, some Girls Regionals are almost unmanageable in two days because of the total number of girls in the Regional. Even if we see growth of 35 more Girls Wrestling schools than we had in 2025-26, the recommended changes will place 16 or fewer schools in each Regional. That means the Girls Regional can be conducted on one day, just like the Boys Regional. The Girls Sectional will continue to be a two-day tournament with 12 wrestlers in each weight class, just like the Boys Sectional. Since the Girls State Finals will be a separate event from the Dual Team State Finals in 2026-27, a 24-girl bracket acknowledges the growth of the sport and creates a one-class state tournament over two days without considering dividing into two classes.

## 3. VI. Tournament Structure & Time Schedules

**Recommendation:** Conduct the Girls State Finals on four mats using this two-day schedule with 24 girls in each weight class.

### Friday - Session 1

8:00 - 9:00	Packet pickup
9:00	Doors open for Weigh-ins & Skin Checks
9:30	Weigh-ins
10:00	Doors open to the public
10:15	Coaches meeting
11:00	Round 1 (Round of 24)
2:00 (approx.)	Round 2 (Round of 16)
5:00 (approx.)	Round 1 Wrestlebacks

### Saturday - Session 2

7:00	Doors open for Weigh-ins
7:30	Weigh-ins
8:00	Doors open to the public
9:00	Quarterfinals & Round 2 Wrestlebacks
12:00 (approx.)	Round 3 Wrestlebacks
1:30 (approx.)	Semifinals & Quarterfinal Wrestlebacks
3:00 (approx.)	Semifinal Wrestlebacks
4:00 (approx.)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place & 5 <sup>th</sup> Place matches
5:00 (approx.)	Clear the gym

### Saturday - Session 3

6:00	Doors open to the public
6:45	Grand March
7:00	Championship matches

**Rationale:** This schedule provides two days of State Finals competition with a reasonable start time on Friday and end time on Saturday that are very comparable to the Boys State Finals schedule.

**4. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda**

**5. II. Dates & Sites**

**VI. Tournament Structure & Time Schedules B.**

**Recommendation:** If Proposal #4 doesn't pass, change the Dual Team State Series back to the format we used for several years.

**Tuesday of IHSA Week 34:** Dual Team Sectional at 6:00

**Saturday of IHSA Week 34:** Dual Team State Finals (each class wrestles on 2 mats)

Session 1

6:00 Doors open for weigh-ins 7:00 Weigh-ins

7:45 Coaches meeting

8:00 Doors open to the public

9:00 Upper bracket Quarterfinal Duals

11:00 Lower bracket Quarterfinal Duals

1:30 Semifinal Duals

3:30 (approx.) Clear the arena

Session 2

4:30 Doors open to teams and the public

5:30 Championship & 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Duals

**Rationale:** We used this Dual Team State Finals schedule prior to 2022 when we added the Girls State Finals to the weekend.

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**Boys/Girls Wrestling Administrative Recommendations:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2

Rejected Recommendation:

Table Recommendation:

**Athletic Administrator Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2

Rejected Recommendation:

Table Recommendation:

1. **Recommendation:** Increase the maximum fee a body fat assessor is allowed to charge each school to \$10 per wrestler.

**Rationale:** The current \$5 maximum fee was established in 2002. The committee feels it's appropriate to allow an assessor to charge a maximum of \$10.

2. **Recommendation:** Add a girls 2-lb. growth allowance each season on December 11.

**Rationale:** The boys 2-lb. growth allowance is December 25. Since the girls season starts two weeks earlier than the boys season, the committee feels it's reasonable to add a girls growth allowance on December 11.

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**Chess**

**Terms and Conditions Recommendations:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2, 3, 4

Rejected Recommendation:

Table Recommendation:

**Activity Director Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2, 3, 4

Rejected Recommendation:

Table Recommendation:

**Recommendation #1:** Add language that requires all players listed in a team's strength order for a given round to report to the competition table and check in with the opposing team's coach. A forfeit win against an empty board must be recorded on the official scoresheet by the player claiming the win.

VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES, C. Tournament Roster, Strength Order, Participation, and Substitution

5c. All players listed in a team’s strength order for a given round must report to the competition table and check in with the opposing team’s coach. A forfeit win against an empty board must be recorded on the official scoresheet by the player claiming the win.

**Rationale:** Having all players report to the competition table even when the opposing team may not have a player for Board 7 or Board 8 will verify that the players, who are listed in Chesscalate for that round, are present. Teams will not be able to claim points for a forfeit win unless the player is physically present to claim the win against an empty board.

**Recommendation #2:** Remove Article VI-F.

VI. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND PLAYING SCHEDULES, F. Accommodation for Very Long Games

~~During the IHSA Team Chess State Tournament, at the end of Round 3 and Round 6 only, a player who is involved in a very long game may ask the Head Steward for a 10 minute delay in starting his or her game in the next round. This request must be made before leaving the playing area.~~

**Rationale:** This rule originally existed for instances when a round started late due to delays in scoring and pairings. The Chesscalate program has expedited the scoring and pairings process for the state series allowing for the tournament to stay on schedule with adequate breaks between rounds. The committee feels that this accommodation is no longer necessary.

**Recommendation #3:** Update the IHSA administrator’s procedures for compiling the sectional results to determine the state-qualifying teams.

XI. OFFICIALS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES, A. IHSA Administrator

6) The IHSA Administrator ~~collects the Winner Reports from the sectional tournament managers~~ compiles the results from all sectionals through Chesscalate and determines the teams that have qualified for the State Tournament according to Section VII of the terms and conditions.

**Rationale:** Results from all sectionals can be compiled through Chesscalate, and the sectional managers no longer have to submit a Winner Report. All competing teams are ranked in order according to the team points and tiebreak points earned at the sectional tournaments, and the top 128 scoring teams qualify for the state tournament.

**Recommendation #4:** Remove Article XI-B-4 and renumber other articles appropriately.

XI. OFFICIALS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES, B. Tournament Manager

~~4) The Tournament Manager is responsible for promptly reporting the results of each match and posting the pairings of each round.~~

**Rationale:** All results and pairings are available in Chesscalate. The tournament manager no longer completes these tasks.

**Chess Rules Recommendation:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

**Activity Director Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

**Recommendation #1:** Clarify Rule 17-13-4.

RULE 17: Conduct of the Players, Coaches and Spectators, Section 13

Article 4. For a game in progress, a coach may summon a Steward, but only for the Steward to be an observer. The coach, in such a case, must not make it known to the players that a Steward is being summoned, or indicate in any other manner, that an infraction of the rules may have occurred. Only one of the players in a game may request a ruling by a Steward relative to any question connected with the game itself. Coaches may request Stewards to take action on matters beyond the actual playing of a game in progress, ~~such as noise.~~

**Rationale:** Coaches are not limited to requesting a steward for just noise issues. The committee feels removing this example will help coaches understand that they may request a steward for any matters beyond playing of the game, such as kibitzing or use of electronic devices.

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**Chess Administrative Recommendations:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

**Activity Director Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

**Recommendation #1:** Editorial change in the terms and conditions by adding a reference to Rule 14-8-1 to Article VI-C and VI-D.

VI. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND PLAYING SCHEDULES, C. Time Schedule – Sectional

Note: In Round 1, the clock for each player on a team shall be started at the start time designated by the local manager. Refer to Rule 14-8-1 when a clock is not available at the start of the round. No later than 30 minutes before the start of Round 1, coaches must contact the tournament manager if their team will be arriving late but still intends to compete in the tournament. If a coach gives proper notification, the team will be paired for Round 1. If a coach fails to give proper notification to the tournament manager, the team will not be paired and will receive zero points for that round.

VI. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND PLAYING SCHEDULES, D. Time Schedule – State Tournament

Note: If a team has not arrived for the start of Round 1, the clock for each player on that team shall be started at 10:00 am. Refer to Rule 14-8-1 when a clock is not available at the start of the round. If a team has not arrived by 10:30 am, that team shall forfeit the match per Section VIII- C-3a of the IHSA Terms and Conditions.

**Rationale:** Each team in a match supplies half of the equipment and supplies needed for the round. When a team or player is late and the round has started, some players at the table may be without a clock to start if their opponents are designated to supply them. This change helps direct coaches and officials to Rule 14-8-1 for procedures when a clock is not available.

**Recommendation #2:** Editorial change to the rulebook and change all references of stopping the clock to pausing the clock.

**Rationale:** During competition, the clock is not stopped until the match has been completed. Clocks may be paused for situations, such as when an appeal is requested, and restarted when competition resumes. When stopped, some chess clocks completely reset, and the committee feels that pause is the more appropriate terminology.

<b>Athletic Officials</b>
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**No Terms and Conditions Recommendations Forwarded**

<b>Esports</b>
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**Terms and Conditions Recommendations:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 2, 4, 5  
Rejected Recommendation: 1, 3  
Table Recommendation:

**Activity Director Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

**1. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda**

**2. VIII. Tournament Rules A. Events**

**Recommendation:** Schools may enter participants in the following contests:

1. Team Game: One team comprising of more than two (2) students:
  - a. Mario Kart 8 Deluxe: one four-person team (roster maximum: seven [7])
  - b. Super Smash Bros. Crew Battle: one five-person four-person team (roster maximum: nine [9]) seven [7]
  - c. Rocket League: one three-person team (roster maximum: five [5])

**Rationale:** This modification to the crew battle roster would allow the opportunity for more teams to compete. The current rule requires a five-person team, which has prevented schools from entering the state series in this event. The change to a four-person team would increase the participation rate for this event.

### 3. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda

#### 4. VIII. Tournament Rules A. Events

**Recommendation:**

2. Individual Game: Two Individual Entries:
- a. Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Singles
  - b. EA Sports FC
  - c. EA Sports Madden NFL
  - d. NBA2k

**Rationale:** There is a demand to reintroduce this game from students across the state. This game would also expand the current offerings provided for students. The IHSA also has an established set of game rules because NBA2k used to be an offered game in the IHSA state series.

#### 5. VIII. Tournament Rules J. Controllers

**Recommendation:**

J. Controllers

Participants may bring their own controllers that are limited to the following:

- 1. PC Games: First-party and third-party controllers with back paddles.
- 2. Console Games: First-party and third-party controllers are allowed, provided they do not have macro switches or turbo buttons. The controller must operate as a one button press, one function device. ~~With all extraneous paddles, macro switches, and any other programmable buttons are physically removed. Turbo buttons and functions are not permitted.~~
- 3. It Is the team’s responsibility to ensure their controllers are functioning properly.

**Rationale:** This language provides clearer direction for the use of first and third-party controllers.

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**Esports Administrative Recommendations:**

***Administrative Staff Review:***

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

***Activity Director Advisory Committee Review:***

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

- 1. It is recommended that all sectional hosts post the exact scores in Challenge. This will help when determining which team or player serves as the next qualifier if a team or player cannot attend the next round.
- 2. It is recommended that sectional hosts play the contests in bracket order, as it appears on Challenge.

<b>Music Solo/Ensemble</b>
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**Terms and Conditions Recommendation:**

***Administrative Staff Review:***

Approved Recommendation: 1  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

***Activity Director Advisory Committee Review:***

Approved Recommendation: 1  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

#### 1. B. Rules for Solo Events 1. Approved Solo Events Vocal 501 - Group Vocal Solo Into One Category

**Recommendation:** Vocal Solos

- 501. Jazz & Musical Theatre Vocal Solos
- 502. Arias and Art Songs

**Rationale:** By restricting students to a single vocal solo for Sweepstakes credit, we clarify that a performer may not compete more than once with the same instrument (III. A. 4. – clarifying that one’s voice is their instrument). This cap prioritizes artistic quality over sheer entry volume, ensuring that Sweepstakes standings reflect the collective depth of a program rather than a high frequency of individual entries. If scheduling permits, students may still perform in additional events for ratings or for comments only, though these will not contribute to the Sweepstakes score.

**Music Organization Contest**

**Terms and Conditions Recommendations:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2

Rejected Recommendation:

Table Recommendation:

**Activity Director Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2

Rejected Recommendation:

Table Recommendation:

1. **VIII. Music Organization Contest Rules B. Program 3.** - Remove the tiered system requiring different voice parts for different size schools.

**Recommendation:** All Class B, C, or D choruses (bass, treble and mixed), regardless of classification, must perform at least three-part music. All Class A or AA treble or bass choruses must perform at least three-part music; Class A mixed choruses must perform at least three-part music; Class AA mixed choruses must perform at least four-part music.

Regardless of school classification, the following applies: Mixed Choirs are required to perform repertoire consisting of at least three parts; Treble or Bass Choirs are required to perform repertoire consisting of at least two parts.

**Rationale:** The transition to a unified part requirement provides directors with greater flexibility by allowing the choice of music that fits the actual voices in the room, rather than forcing a specific classification. This change acknowledges the unique voicing challenges often found in smaller programs (regardless of school enrollment size). The primary goal of this revision is to modernize contest standards by prioritizing musicality and pedagogical flexibility. This change acknowledges equity and rigor. that the vocal makeup of an ensemble can vary significantly from year to year, regardless of the school's size.

2. **Addition of Modern Band Event Category**

**Recommendation:** VIII. Add Modern Band

**Rationale:** Modern Band provides an inclusive entry point for diverse student population, ensuring every student has a stage where they can shine. Modern Band reflects the real-world musical experiences of many students by bridging school-based music and popular genres. Modern Band maintains the high standards of integrity and discipline that define all IHSA events. The evaluation criteria is parallel to existing adjudication frameworks. This ensures that the event is both rigorous and practical to implement.

**NOTE:** To ensure the long-term success and quality of this addition, the committee has proposed a two-year implementation plan:

- **2026-27 Pilot Phase:** Allows for a "comments-only" period at contest sites, providing managers and directors the opportunity to review the rollout and make necessary adjustments.
- **2027-28 Full Implementation:** Moves the event into the competitive sphere for Sweepstakes points once the framework is refined.

This forward-looking enhancement ensures that programming will undergo review after 2026-27, remains relevant, sustainable, and capable of serving the evolving needs of students.

**Music Organization Administrative Recommendation:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

**Activity Director Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

Solo & Ensemble and Organizational Contest: Add the following Language

**D. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES 5. Reporting After Contest Closure (p. 10) and VIII. MUSIC ORGANIZATION CONTEST RULES L. Violation and Penalties**

The IHSA office will consider questions relative to administrative and/or clerical matters only and will do so only through the end of the first Monday following the completion of the contest involved. In compliance with IHSA By-law 6.033, protests, or challenges relative to the decision of any judge will not be considered.

Work with Music Wire to add an “alert” or “flag” to be added to the online entry system if a school enters two groups under the same category (e.g. "You have entered two mixed choruses. Only one of these groups can receive sweepstakes points. Do you wish to continue?").

**Scholastic Bowl**

**Terms and Conditions Recommendations:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2, 3  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

**Activity Director Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2, 3  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

**1. Rule 4-A-3g – Communication (Verbal and Non-Verbal Time-out Gesture)**

**Recommendation:** Amend the language in 4-A-3g to the following:

The “time-out” gesture (making a “T” with the hands) as a signal Notification, non-verbal or verbal, to the coach that a time-out or an appeal may be warranted. Moderators should ignore this signal and should continue the match as usual, neither slowing down nor speeding up the pace. Upon seeing this signal, a coach may choose to call a time-out (according to Rule 3-E), initiate an appeal (according to Rule 4-I), or do nothing, as the coach sees fit.

**Rationale:** This does not change the current intent behind the rule. The language adjustment is intended to clarify that it is legal for players to signal either a verbal or non-verbal request to their coach that a timeout is needed. As always, the moderator will ignore the player’s verbal or non-verbal signal as only the coach can request and be granted a time-out.

**2. Rule 2-B-2 – Team Organization; T&C III.E**

**Recommendation:** Amend the language in 2-B-2 and T&C III.E to the following:

Rule 2-B-2 – Four (4) or Five (5) team players must start the first each match and all subsequent matches of the day’s competition. ~~However, fewer~~ Fewer than four (4) players may continue ~~in~~ the first match and/or start subsequent matches if there are extenuating circumstances.

T&C III.E – Eligibility: Only students who are eligible in accordance with IHSA By-laws may participate in the IHSA Scholastic Bowl Tournament Series. A school may enter one (1) team in the IHSA Scholastic Bowl State Tournament Series. A maximum of fifteen (15) competitors will be allowed to participate for a school in the Regional, Sectional and/or State Final tournaments. Four (4) or Five (5) team players must start the first each match and all subsequent matches of the day’s competition. ~~However, fewer~~ Fewer than four (4) players may continue ~~in~~ the first match and/or start subsequent matches if there are extenuating circumstances. A coach must designate one of the participating players as captain.

**Rationale:** This does not change the current intent behind the rule or T&C. The original language could mistakenly be interpreted to mean that a team MUST begin every match with 4 or 5 players despite extenuating circumstances still applying from a previous match (ex: an ill player). This adjustment to the language is meant to further clarify the intent of the rule.

### 3. T&C VIII.O – Tournament Rules, Categories and Sub-categories for Toss-up and Bonus Questions.

**Recommendation:** Move Computer Science out of the sub-categories within the Miscellaneous category, and move it into Science sub-category D. With this recommendation, Science sub-category D would now state the following: 1/1 Drawn from other sciences such as but not limited to: Astronomy, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Health Science, Archaeology/Paleontology, Computer Science, and not requiring all subcategories to be represented equally or at all.

**Rationale:** The committee felt that having Computer Science within the Miscellaneous category treated it as more random knowledge when it is better suited in Science sub-category D.

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#### **Scholastic Bowl Administrative Recommendation:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

**Activity Director Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

**Recommendation:** Name Adam Silverman as the IHSA Head Writer/Editor of the IHSA Scholastic Bowl State Series questions for the 2027 State Series.

**Rationale:** Adam has served as part of the writing team for a number of years, and his share of the questions that he has been responsible for writing has grown significantly over those years. He acted as Head Editor for the 2026 State Series, and the Advisory Committee wishes to see him remain in that role.

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#### **Speech Individual Events**

#### **No Terms and Conditions Recommendations Forwarded**

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#### **Speech Individual Events Administrative Recommendations:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 2, 3  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

**Activity Director Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 2, 3  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

**1. Not a Recommendation**

**2. Special Occasion Speaking – Appearance Standards – Editorial Revision - Approve by Advisory Committee**

**Recommendation:** Remove the phrase "the speaker's appearance should provide no distractions" from the Standards for Excellence.

**Rationale:** Performance should be evaluated on merit. Feedback regarding attire is often subjective and introduces personal bias or cultural prejudice into the evaluation process.

**3. Contest managers and competing schools will be reminded of the following Points of Emphasis: Guidelines for Performance in the Round:**

**Recommendation:**

- Timers shall begin timing with the first identified audio or visual performance element, either inside or outside the performance circle, following the room chair's introduction. Time shall not begin during the neutral entrance or setup.
- Scenery—including backdrops, set pieces, furniture, or large items intended to represent a setting—is not permitted. Performers may use handheld props creatively, but these must remain small enough to be carried by hand and may not be arranged to create or imply a stage set or background. The only furniture permitted are the chairs and tables provided by the contest.

- All performance elements must occur within the designated performance circle. Entrances and exits should remain neutral; performers may maintain physical characterization but may not add sound, dialogue, or singing outside of the circle. No performance elements are permitted in the aisles.

**Rationale:** Without changing the intent of the rules the goal of the Points of Emphasis is to add clarification to avoid varied interpretations.

**Speech Drama**

**Terms and Conditions Recommendations:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2  
 Rejected Recommendation:  
 Table Recommendation:

**Activity Director Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2  
 Rejected Recommendation:  
 Table Recommendation:

**1. F) Special Rules and Limitations:**

**Recommendation:**

The following items are prohibited:

- fire
- firearms and explosives
- animals
- non-member school students

**SHORT FILM NOTES:** The use of live animals is prohibited in all categories, except for Short Film, provided all safety and animal welfare guidelines are met. Pans and street crowd shots featuring individuals of all ages are permitted.

**Rationale:** While the *Special Rules and Limitations* are designed for a controlled, standard environment (like a live performance), the "Short Film" category operates under unique creative and technical standards and needed clarification.

**2. X AWARDS B) State Final:**

**Recommendation:**

...Individual medallions shall be given to the members of the first, second, and third place Contest Play Casts, Group Interpretation Casts, the All State Contest Play Cast, the All State Group Interpretation Cast, **Short Film Cast**, and Musical Theatre Cast.

**Rationale:** Now in its fifth year, these two events have increased in entry numbers to prove long term sustainability. Providing medallions for Short Film and Musical Theatre officially recognizes the events excellence.

**Speech Drama Administrative Recommendation:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1  
 Rejected Recommendation:  
 Table Recommendation:

**Activity Director Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1  
 Rejected Recommendation:  
 Table Recommendation:

**Recommendation:** State Final Musical Theatre Performance - The committee recommends that the 1st place winner of the Musical Theatre Review be invited to perform their winning selection live during the Drama State Final awards ceremony.

**Rationale:** This provides a high-profile performance opportunity for the winning program and showcases the discipline to the entire state community. It also serves as a bridge between the digital submission process and the live state final atmosphere as the event continues to grow.

**Sports Medicine Advisory Committee**

**Policy Recommendation:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation:  
Rejected Recommendation: 1  
Table Recommendation:

**Athletic Administrator Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation:  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

**1. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda**

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**Sports Medicine Administrative Recommendations:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 2, 3, 4, 5  
Rejected Recommendation: 1  
Table Recommendation:

**Athletic Administrator Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

**1. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda**

2. The Committee recommends a best practice recommendation for the pre-game medical meeting. This recommendation is based on the National Athletic Trainer Association position statement in 2024 to require a pre-game medical meeting.  
([https://www.nata.org/sites/default/files/2025-08/emergency\\_action\\_plan\\_development.pdf](https://www.nata.org/sites/default/files/2025-08/emergency_action_plan_development.pdf))

Several Committee members provided examples of how they run a meeting.

Stacey and the Committee will work together to put out a general document or index card for schools to share with coaches. Here is an example: [IHSA Pregame Medical Meeting Information - Google Docs](#)

Stacey will work with Kendrique Coats to also put together a Mental Health Emergency Action Plan and best practices in those situations.

This information will be shared on SMAC web page, the All School Mailing, and for the coaches' pre-season rules videos.

3. The Committee recommends putting together a best practices recommendation for Cold Weather Care to share on the SMAC page. Stacey will work with the Committee to get this posted to share out with schools. This will not be a policy just a best practice to help schools navigate weather
4. The Committee discussed the increase in wildfires and how it's impacting outdoor air quality. The Committee wished to share the National Weather Service Air Quality information on the SMAC page for ease of reference. Stacey will work to get this posted.
5. The Committee recommends having a medical information piece on the bids for IHSA post season events. Stacey will work to add a medical information sheet to online manuals for hosts so that hosting schools know what information to send out to schools coming to their venue to compete. Here is an example: [IHSA SMAC Postseason Medical Coverage Outline - Google Docs](#)

**Student Advisory Committee**

**Policy Recommendation:**

**Administrative Staff Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

**Activity Director Advisory Committee Review:**

Approved Recommendation: 1  
Rejected Recommendation:  
Table Recommendation:

**Recommendation #1:**

The committee recommends the addition of an at-large member to the SAC. The at-large position would be selected from the applicant pool with the focus being an underrepresented group on the SAC, which may be by gender, ethnic minority, school size/school type, or IHSA sport or activity.

**Rationale:**

The addition of an at-large member would increase the diversity in the makeup of the SAC and allow for additional student perspectives. If approved, the committee would have an even number of members (22), which would be conducive for partner and small group activities during meetings and for the Student Leadership Conference breakout presentations that are led by SAC members.

Financial considerations include one additional hotel room for overnight events (SAC Retreat and Student Leadership Conference), mileage reimbursement for each in-person SAC meeting (4 meetings per school year), and one additional SAC sweatshirt.

**Do What's Right - Sportsmanship**

**No Recommendations Forwarded**

**Athletic Administrators**

**No Recommendations Forwarded**

**Activities Directors**

**No Recommendations Forwarded**

**Athletes With Disabilities**

**No Recommendations Forwarded**