

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS - CONSENT ITEMS
Board of Directors Meeting
October 14, 2026

BOYS BASEBALL

Terms and Conditions Recommendation:

Administrative Staff Review:

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

Athletic Administrator Advisory Committee Review:

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

1. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda

2. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda

3. XI. Officials E. State Final Assignments

Recommendation: Use a four-umpire crew at the State Finals. Assign eight total umpires

to the State Finals instead of the current twelve. Each umpire will officiate four total games during the weekend (two games each day).

Rationale: A four-umpire crew at the State Finals will provide the best experience for our teams. From the umpires' perspective, umpiring in a four-umpire crew is much simpler than umpiring in a three-umpire crew because base coverage, field coverage, and rotations are more efficient, especially on fly balls to the outfield. State Finals umpires are already our elite umpires who will be able to grasp the concepts and rotations of a four-umpire crew with additional education and training prior to the State Finals.

Boys Baseball 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:** A new NFHS rule requires a double 1st base starting this school year. The rule also allows schools to use a larger 1st base (18" MLB style) instead of a double 1st base. The committee recommends all IHSA schools use a double 1st base. When teams play at MLB stadiums in Chicago or St. Louis, they will use 18" bases.

Rationale: Many schools have already prepared for the rule change. Schools have purchased a double 1st base and have adjusted their field by installing a double 1st base anchor. Using a double 1st base also creates consistency for players and coaches who participated in middle school/junior high baseball and for umpires who umpire high school baseball and softball.

- 2. Recommendation:** A new NFHS rule will allow players to use a -4, -5, or -6 bat starting January 1, 2028. The NFHS's rationale is to create better chances of success at the plate for younger and developing players. States are allowed to be more restrictive than NFHS rules. The committee recommends that IHSA baseball players are only allowed to use a traditional -3 bat at all levels.

Rationale: The committee doesn't feel this rule change is necessary and has concerns for player safety regarding the speed of the ball coming off a lighter bat. The IHSA office surveyed 608 head coaches to seek their opinions on the new rule. 341 coaches responded to the survey.

64% (219 coaches) recommend allowing players to use a -3 bat at all levels of competition. 26% (88 coaches) recommend allowing players to use a -4, -5, or -6 bat in non-Varsity games.

10% (34 coaches) recommend allowing players to use a -4, -5, or -6 bat at all levels of competition.

3. **Recommendation:** A new NFHS rule allows teams to use a tiebreaker option of starting each extra inning with a runner on 2nd base. The committee recommends that conferences are allowed to adopt the new tiebreaker option for conference games. Additionally, schools are allowed to use the tiebreaker option in non-conference games and in regular season tournaments. Schools will not use this tiebreaker option in the state series.

Rationale: Games rarely go into extra innings. When they do, the committee feels this is a reasonable rule in the regular season with the goal of concluding the game with a winning team and preventing pitchers from throwing additional pitches.

GIRLS BADMINTON

Terms and Conditions Recommendation:

Administrative Staff Review:

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

Athletic Administrator Advisory Committee Review:

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

1. **Recommendation:** The Committee recommends that we adjust the season calendar so that the online rules video and coaches' verification are due at the same time (coaches verification replaces the LOP, as the LOP will be handled through BadmintonReporting)
BadmintonReporting entries must be completed by 10pm on Sunday of week 44

Rationale: The Committee is ready to move fully to BadmintonReporting and use it for all post season bracket building and winners reporting. This would eliminate the need for the LOP or the IHSA winners report.

2. **Recommendation:** The Committee recommends adding the seeded play language from H) Making the Sectional Draw to the substitution information in C) Sectional Substitutions so that both areas in the Terms and Conditions reference that "A sectional redraw shall be required by the sectional manger when there is a lineup change to a seeded player(s). A redraw will not be made for a lineup change that involves non-seeded player(s)."

Rationale: The Committee feels it makes sense to keep all sectional substitution information consistent throughout the Terms and Condition.

3. **Non-Consent – See Board Agenda**

4. **Non-Consent – See Board Agenda**

5. **Non-Consent – See Board Agenda**

Girls Badminton 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. **Recommendation:** The Committee discussed the issues we're having securing sectional hosts. The teams should know they're going into the sectional seed meeting as a top seed, they should be able to prepare their administration prior to the seed meeting. The schools should want to reward their teams and their kids for being a top seed by wanting to host. Stacey will send out an email to all schools 1 month prior to the seeding date reminding schools that if they anticipate they could be a top 4 seed, they should start planning to host now. Hosting is a reward for the student-athletes for their hard work during the season to earn a top seed, please consider hosting. The online willing to host form will be sent in this email with the due date on Monday of Weed 43.
Stacey will put a note in the online coaches' rules video to communicate with your AD's about the potential to host and prepare now for the Thursday of week 44 date.

Rationale: The Committee feels we have to find a better way to be prepared with sectional hosts.

2. **Recommendation:** The Serve

We need a document clean up that says what is legal/illegal. The Case Book will be cleaned up to follow The Serve Document that was sent out during the season.

The online coaches' rules video will make a point of emphasis that coaches need to do a better job enforcing the service rules during the season, this includes talking to each other, teaching players to call illegal serves, and preparing players for the state series. We need to prepare players for the state finals as that is the ultimate goal and we do have officials at the state finals calling or talking to players about illegal serves.

Review of the serve should be a pre-match meeting point of emphasis with all players prior to competition starting. - make coaches online rules video point of emphasis Scott will put together a video to show that will be posted on the girls' badminton page.

Rationale: The Serve continues to be an issue each year. There is no way to help with other than to rely on the coaches to help with the teaching of the serve.

3. **Recommendation:** The Committee recommends updating the sectional brackets to only having 1 sixteen team bracket.

Rationale: The 16 team brackets is how the teams need to be put in for Badminton Reporting, so it makes sense to have 1 bracket that reflects this instead of multiple brackets in the manual. Scott will work on this.

4. **Recommendation:** The Committee recommends that if no volunteers come forward to serve on the State Final Games Committee at the sectional seeds meeting, then the top 2 seeded schools in that sectional seed meeting will be required to act as the Games Committee representatives from that sectional seed meeting at the State Finals.

Rationale: It is getting harder and harder to get volunteers for the State Final Games Committee, this will ensure that 2 representatives from each sectional seed meeting, who will likely be at the state tournament the longest, will be serving on the Games Committee.

GIRLS SOFTBALL

Girls Softball 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. **Recommendation:** Adjust the State Final time schedule: 10:00AM

~~12:15PM~~
~~2:30PM~~
~~4:45PM~~

12:30PM
3:00PM
5:30PM

Rationale: After evaluating the start times for the 2026 State Final, the proposed adjustments would provide a more accurate and attainable timeline for the tournament.

BOYS/GIRLS LACROSSE

Boys/Girls Lacrosse Terms and Conditions Recommendation:

Administrative Staff Review:

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

Athletic Administrator Advisory Committee Review:

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

1. **Non-Consent – See Board Agenda**

2. **Recommendation 2:** VIII-H-2.: The team listed on the top line of a single game playing bracket will be considered the home team. For boys' lacrosse, the home team shall wear white jerseys, and for girls' lacrosse, the home team shall wear white or light jerseys. ~~shall wear white or light shirts and will be considered the home team.~~

Note: Beginning in 2031, the home team for girls' lacrosse games will be required to wear white jerseys per a 2026 NFHS rule change.

Rationale: The NFHS rules regarding uniforms worn by the home team have been changed in both boys and girls' lacrosse. The boys' rule change was made in 2018 with a 2022 implementation. The girls' lacrosse rulebook has adopted this change for full implementation in 2031. The terms and conditions are being updated to reflect the rule change for boys' lacrosse.

3. **Non-Consent – See Board Agenda**

4. **Recommendation:** VI-D: ~~30-minute~~ 20-minute timed warm-up, each team provided one half of the field. When the warm-up clock strikes 0:00 teams return to benches. In order, begin Equipment Check, Coaches and Captains Meeting, Team Introductions and National Anthem. Game begins.

Rationale: Other IHSA sports limit their post season on-field warmups to 20 minutes. This change will help with the logistics of hosting multiple games on a single day (i.e. double headers at the Sectional or Super-Sectional as well as the four games hosted each day at the State Final).

5. **Recommendation 5:** II-B: Sectional Game Dates

Girls Sectional Play-In: Monday-Wednesday of Week 46

Girls Sectional Quarterfinals: Friday or Saturday of Week 46 (may be scheduled as doubleheaders)

Girls Sectional Semifinals: Tuesday or Wednesday of Week 47 (may be scheduled as doubleheaders)

Girls Sectional Finals: Friday or Saturday of Week 47

Boys Sectional Play-In: Monday-Wednesday of Week 46

Boys Sectional Quarterfinals: Friday or Saturday of Week 46 (may be scheduled as doubleheaders)

Boys Sectional Semifinals: Tuesday or Wednesday of Week 47 (may be scheduled as doubleheaders)

Boys Sectional Finals: Friday or Saturday of Week 47

Rationale: In order to provide the most flexibility to hosts and in assigning officials, the dates for the contests above are proposed. This will allow host schools to host games on days that work with their facility and school calendars, increase flexibility for host schools to host boys and girls lacrosse or other events, and allow for officials to be better utilized across the board.

BOYS/GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD

Boys/Girls Track and Field Terms and Conditions Recommendation:

Administrative Staff Review:

Approved Recommendations: 1, 2

Rejected Recommendations: 3

Table Recommendation:

Athletic Administrator Advisory Committee Review:

Approved Recommendations: 1, 2

Rejected Recommendation: 3

Table Recommendation:

1. **Item VII- C: IHSA State Series T&F Qualifying Standards:**

Recommendation: To adopt the qualifying standards below for the 2027 season:

2026-2027 Proposed IHSA State Qualifying Standards						
Event	1A Girls	1A Boys	2A Girls	2A Boys	3A Girls	3A Boys
LJ	5.05m (16-7)	6.40m (21-0)	5.18m (17-0)	6.57m (21-7)	5.48m (18-0)	6.80m (22-4)
PV	2.79m (9-2)	3.70m (12-2)	2.99m (9-10)	3.96m (13-0)	3.25m (10-8)	4.21m (13-10)
HJ	1.54m (5-1)	1.88m (6-2)	1.57m (5-2)	1.90m (6-3)	1.60m (5-3)	1.93m (6-4)
SP	10.79m	14.52m	10.66m	15.21m	11.17m	16.10m

	(35-5)	(47-8)	(35-0)	(49-11)	(36-8)	(52-10)
TJ	10.23m (33-7)	12.62m (41-5)	10.59m (34-9)	12.97m (42-7)	11.15m (36-7)	13.56m (44-6)
DISC	33.47m (109-10)	43.61m (143-1)	33.65m (110-5)	44.98m (147-7)	35.20m (115-6)	48.08m (157-9)
4 X 800	10:34.34	8:32.06	10:16.72	8:17.91	9:43.14	8:00.13
4 X 100	:51.77	:44.13	:50.35	:43.51	:48.68	:42.49
3200	12:18.74	10:03.46	11:49.92	9:46.45	11:11.19	9:23.14
100 HH 110 HH	:16.78	:16.13	:16.42	:15.61	:15.39	:14.92
100	:12.84	:11.21	:12.60	:10.99	:12.32	:10.90
800	2:27.37	2:01.53	2:24.52	1:59.68	2:18.35	1:57.33
4 X 200	1:50.70	1:32.86	1:48.14	1:32.48	1:44.36	1:29.10
400	1:01.69	:51.92	1:00.75	:51.36	:58.82	:50.03
300 LH 300 IH	:49.17	:42.16	:48.48	:41.55	:46.64	:39.86
1600	5:29.39	4:36.82	5:25.11	4:29.25	5:10.51	4:20.94
200	:26.78	:22.89	:26.33	:22.51	:25.45	:22.20
4 X 400	4:18.35	3:33.27	4:12.85	3:29.48	4:02.61	3:23.93

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

2. II.I Sectional Online List of Participants/Entry Declarations and Coaching Staff

Recommendation: Adjust the Athletic.net online list of participants deadline from 11:59pm on Sunday of IHSA Week 45 (Girls) and IHSA Week 46 (Boys) to 11:59pm on Monday of IHSA Week 45 (Girls) and Week 46 (Boys).

Rationale: The committee feels that since entries, seeding, and results are all streamlined through a singular platform (Athletic.net), it reduces the manual tasks that were once required of the IHSA and Sectional Hosts following the entry deadline. Therefore, moving the list of participants entry deadline back one day is warranted. This will also allow for regular season performances at meets conducted on that Monday of the deadline to be captured and used for sectional seeding purposes.

3. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda

BOYS/GIRLS WATER POLO

Boys/Girls Water Polo Terms and Conditions Recommendation:

Administrative Staff Review:

Approved Recommendations: 1
Rejected Recommendations:
Table Recommendation:

Athletic Administrator Advisory Committee Review:

Approved Recommendations: 1
Rejected Recommendation:
Table Recommendation:

1. Item VIII. A. 3) Rules of Play: Mercy Rule (boys and girls)

Recommendation: Mercy Rule will be used in all regular season, sectional, and **Super Sectional** contests. A running clock shall be used in the fourth quarter in which there is at least a 10-point differential score. Once a game reaches this differential and the clock starts running, it will continue running and stop only for one of the following:

- A team timeout
- An injury timeout or the removal of a disqualified player

- 5-meter penalty
- An officials' timeout
- Clock adjustment
- After a goal

Note: The Mercy Rule will not be used during the boys' or girls' state finals.

Rationale: Adding the mercy rule at the Super Sectional level is consistent with current practice.

BASS FISHING

Bass Fishing Terms and Conditions Recommendation:

Administrative Staff Review:

Approved Recommendations: 1, 2, 3

Rejected Recommendations: 4, 5

Table Recommendation:

Athletic Administrator Advisory Committee Review:

Approved Recommendations: 1, 2, 3, 5

Rejected Recommendation: 4

Table Recommendation:

1. Dates and Sites

Recommendation: 2) The sectional tournament shall be on Thursday, May 21, 2026 (Thursday of Week 46 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar). Tournament sites and team assignments will be posted online.

Note: All sectional tournaments shall be a one-day tournament. In the event of cancellation due to weather, the next Monday, May 25th (Monday of Week 47 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar), shall be the make-up date. In the event the sectional make-up date occurs on Memorial Day, the tournament shall be held on Tuesday of Week 47 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

Rationale: Due to the sectional locations being on large bodies of water, Memorial Day poses a safety risk to the anglers (60 boats) because of the amount of boat traffic. Since there is a two-week window between the sectional round and the state tournament, the committee felt this would be a safer option for the potential rain date.

2. Section V. Tournament Assignments

Recommendation: A. Schools will be assigned geographically to one of 30 IHSA Regional Tournaments. The top six (6) boats from each regional tournament will qualify for one of six (6) sectional tournaments, and the top 10 boats from each sectional tournament will qualify for the IHSA Bass Fishing State Finals. The 7th and 11th place boats from each regional and sectional tournament will serve as the alternate qualifier. If one of the advancing boats cannot participate, the alternate boat will replace the boat that initially qualified. Boats that cannot participate at the sectional, have until Tuesday following the regional tournament to notify the IHSA of its inability to participate. Boats that cannot participate at the state finals have until Wednesday following the sectional tournament to notify the IHSA of its inability to participate.

Rationale: This language needed to be added because of the regional round implementation. This will give schools a deadline to notify the IHSA of their inability to participate at the sectional. This deadline will then allow the IHSA Office ample time to possibly secure an alternate. This wording is similar to the wording that exists for the state final deadline.

3. Section VIII. Tournament Rules

Recommendation: O. Every boat must have an adult captain for driving purposes, and only that captain can drive when the outboard motor is in use. The captain/coach or team participants can operate the electric motor. A boat captain must be an employee of the district or be a board-approved bass fishing captain.

Rationale: This language was taken from "P. Coaching" because the committee felt this matched better with the boating requirements section.

4. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda

5. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda

ATHLETIC OFFICIALS

No Recommendations Forwarded.

DO WHAT'S RIGHT - SPORTSMANSHIP

No Recommendations Forwarded.

ESPORTS

Administrative Staff Review:

Approved Recommendations: 1, 2, 3

Rejected Recommendation:

Table Recommendation:

Athletic Administrator Advisory Committee Review:

Approved Recommendations: 1, 2, 3

Rejected Recommendation:

Table Recommendation:

1. Event 1: Rocket League

Recommendation: Change the “Region” to “US-Central” instead of “US-East”.

Rationale: US-Central is now the appropriate region to utilize for this game.

2. Event 6: EA Madden NFL

Recommendation: Game Settings – Add “Catch Meter: Disabled”

Rationale: This is a new feature for Madden. The committee wasn't comfortable allowing a feature without fully knowing the impact it could have on the game.

3. Event 7: NBA 2K Game Rules

Game Title: NBA 2K

IHSA State Series Format

- 1v1 competition played on PS5
- All competition is played live in person.
- Schools are assigned to one of 8 Sectional Tournaments at various locations around the state. The Sectionals are scheduled for Saturday, April 22nd.
- The top 2 individuals from each Sectional advance to the State Final Tournament for a total of 16 state qualifiers. The State Final is scheduled for Saturday, April 29th, at Evergreen Park High School.
- Each school may enter up to 2 individuals into the Sectional round of competition.
- Each Sectional Tournament and the State Final Tournament are a double elimination format.

Miscellaneous Information

- Schools must declare their entries into the IHSA State Series by March 31st.
- Estimated number of participants in 2023: 180 to 190 individual students
- Players may only select from current NBA teams; no retro or All-Star teams permitted.
- Players may change teams each round of the tournament.
- Each game is played with 3-minute quarters until the championship, which is played with 5-minute quarters.
- No streaming of the tournament
- Medals are awarded to the top 4 finishers at each Sectional Tournament.
- Medals are awarded to the top 4 finishers at the State Final Tournament as well as a plaque to the 1st place finisher.

Event 7 - NBA 2K

DESCRIPTION

- NBA 2K is a series of basketball sports simulation video games developed and released annually since 1999. The premise of each game in the series is to emulate the sport of basketball, more specifically, the National Basketball Association, and present improvements over the previous installments. The series was originally published by Sega Sports and is now published by 2K Sports.
- This competition will be a 1v1 matchup.

- Schools may enter up to 2 individuals into the sectional tournament.

PURPOSE

NBA 2K offers students a chance to compete in one of the more popular and accessible sports games.

GENERAL TOURNAMENT RULES

- All games will be played using the latest NBA 2K edition. The games in the 2026-2027 state series will be played on a PS5 console.
- The console will be selected by the Esports Advisory Committee 1 year prior to the season.
- Only current NBA teams are allowed. Retro, Fantasy and/or All-Star Teams are prohibited.
- All state series tournaments will be played using the latest NBA 2K update.
- The game must be using the current patch and rosters as of **Wednesday** before Sectional tournaments and the **Wednesday** before the State Final tournament.
- Players are permitted to change teams during the tournament.
- Players can also change plays and coaches' settings during the tournament.
- A coinflip will determine which player picks his/her team first.
- It is permissible for two competing players to play with the same team in the same game.
- All equipment will be provided by the host school. Players are allowed to bring and use their own approved controllers. **If needed, sectional hosts may request schools to bring additional equipment.**

GAME SETTINGS

- All Settings and Camera Views are DEFAULT. Skill level is HALL OF FAME.
- The length of playing time will be 3 minutes per quarter, except for the Championship Game, which will be 5 minutes per quarter.
- MANUAL OR AUTOMATIC Substitutions, Time Outs, and Late Game Fouling are allowed but must be pre-set before the start of the game.
- No manual substitution can be made via START button. Substitutions are only allowed in-game via D-Pad and during called Time Outs.
- Players can not block their opponent's view.
- Touching the game console is prohibited.
- Only current NBA teams are allowed. Retro, Fantasy and/or All-Star Teams are prohibited.
- Team starting roster adjustments must be made before going into the game.
- No trash talking is allowed and will be subject to penalty determined by the Games Committee.
- Injuries **will be off**. Player Fatigue **will be at 50%**.
- ~~If you pause the game using the START button you must burn a timeout as a penalty. If you have no timeouts left, the player will be required to forfeit the game.~~ **The game may only be paused upon agreement from both players to call for a tournament official. Pausing the game in the middle of gameplay in any other manner will result in that player forfeiting the game.**
- The game may only be paused during a timeout. Pausing the game using the START button in any other manner will result in a player forfeiting the game.
- If the game goes into overtime, the competing individuals will be allowed to compete given the allocated time. The individual with the highest score at the end of overtime wins the game.

COACH INTERACTIONS

- Coaches are not allowed to contact players unless during the following specified times:
 - Before a game begins
 - Halftime, **up to a minute**
 - After the 4th quarter if Overtime is needed, **up to a minute**
 - After the match is completed

~~PENALTY RULES~~

- ~~• If you receive a penalty, you must burn a timeout.~~
- ~~• If you have no timeouts left, you will be required to take a penalty (for offense, out of bounds for defense foul opponent).~~
- ~~• Multiple penalties and potential rule violations will be considered by the Games Committee. If the committee feels there is a rule violation, the competitor who violated the rule will be disqualified from the tournament.~~

- ~~Decisions made by the Games Committee with regards to penalties and rule violations are final.~~

GLITCH RULES

- Should this happen, players must pause the game immediately and call for an IHSA official or tournament host to come and review the play. DO NOT take the liberty of reviewing the play before contacting an IHSA official or tournament host.
- In the event of an extreme scenario that has a big impact on the game like outage of power, accidental unplugging or some other event not in either player's control that would not allow the participants to finish the game, the game will be completely restarted.

CONDUCT

- Players shall refrain from using "in-your-face" foul language. Also, players shall be respectful of all other players. The referee or tournament officials have final say over what is "respectful", and a player may be disqualified from the tournament if he/she does not cooperate.