2026-2027 Proposal 0 (To Be on Ballot) – 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- Modernizes the multiplier to align with today's multi-class structure rather than the outdated two-class system.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

Cons:

Data Supporting Proposal

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

https://bit.ly/46SH1iA

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

https://bit.ly/4gL7wfN

Link to current non-boundaried classifications (1.65):

https://bit.ly/4cvF2nW

Link to proposed non-boundaried classifications (2.5):

https://bit.ly/3VkpHk2

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

https://bit.ly/4ymGJfI

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 3.170 – 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 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.

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

This proposal would take effect at the end of the current classification cycle, which is in effect until the end of the 2026-2027 school year.

2026-2027 Proposal 1 – Action on Amendments
Modify By-law 1.730
Submitted By: Dan Tully, Principal – Niles (Notre Dame) and Tim McConnell, Principal - Erie

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Increases the percentage of schools required to send petitions to IHSA to put a proposal on the ballot a year following the legislative commission not voting it onto the ballot from 20% to 50%.

Rationale of Submitter:

Requiring signatures from at least 50% of the membership before a proposal is placed on the amendment ballot establishes an appropriate threshold for demonstrating meaningful support for a proposed change. A 50% requirement provides greater assurance that the proposal reflects an issue of broad interest and is representative of the membership, rather than advancing to the ballot with support from a relatively small percentage of member schools.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 1.730

All proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-laws and all other proposed legislation of a permanent character shall be referred to this Commission for consideration. In considering such proposals, the Commission shall have two meetings. In the first of these, the Commission shall meet as a Committee of the Whole. At their own expense, high school principals or any representative or committee not exceeding three members from any statewide organization of teachers may appear before the Committee to promote or oppose any proposal before the Committee or to counsel and advise the Committee regarding any desired modifications in the proposals. The second meeting, which shall be the official legislative meeting of the Commission, may be held on the same day as the first meeting or at any time within thirty (30) days following the first meeting. The Commission shall be authorized to reword or amend a proposal, but shall obtain authorization from the official representative submitting the original proposal before referring the revised or amended proposal to the Association. The Commission, with formal recommendations, shall refer to the Association for final action on all proposals except those rejected by a majority vote of the Commission members present. The report of the Commission shall be accompanied by a brief statement of the arguments for and against each proposal referred to the Association. Votes of the individual members of the Legislative Commission shall be recorded and made available to member school official representatives upon written request. If, after consideration by the Legislative Commission, a proposal is not accepted for inclusion on the referendum ballot, but petitions requesting inclusion of the proposal on a referendum ballot are received from ~~**twenty percent (20)**~~ ***fifty percent (50)*** of the member school principals, the proposal shall automatically be included on the next referendum ballot without further action by the Legislative Commission.

2026-2027 Proposal 2 – Referendum Vote
Modify By-law 1.920
Submitted By: Dan Tully, Principal – Niles (Notre Dame) and Tim McConnell, Principal - Erie

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Increases the percentage of voting member schools to pass a by-law amendment proposal from a simple majority to a super majority (2/3).

Rationale of Submitter:

A two-thirds supermajority: at least 66⅔%. Requiring a supermajority for amendment proposals helps ensure that changes have broad support across the membership rather than reflecting a narrow or temporary majority. Amendments can have a significant and lasting impact on the membership, so proposed changes should demonstrate a strong level of consensus before being adopted. A proposal that passes with only slightly more than 50 percent support may remain divisive and could be reversed the following year as participation or opinions shift. A supermajority threshold promotes greater stability, encourages thoughtful consideration of proposed changes, and helps ensure that amendments reflect the collective interests of a substantial majority of the membership.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 1.920

All proposals pertaining to the Constitution and By-laws and all other matters requiring an approving vote of the member schools that have been recommended for final action by the Legislative Commission shall be electronically mailed not more than ten (10) days after the second meeting of the Legislative Commission. Ballots for use in voting on such proposals shall be electronically mailed to all member schools not more than twenty (20) days after the second meeting of the Legislative Commission. All voting must be completed online within thirty (30) days after the second meeting of the Legislative Commission. A ~~**majority**~~ ***super-majority (two-thirds)*** of the electronic votes cast shall be required for the passage of any proposal.

The Board of Directors shall appoint a teller, a high school official representative who is not a member of either the Board of Directors or the Legislative Commission, to verify the vote count. These electronic ballots must be counted, and the results announced to the membership by electronic mail within thirty (30) days after the conclusion of the balloting.

2026-2027 Proposal 3 – 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); Brian Barnes, Official Representative-Springfield (H.S.); Tiffany Williams, Official Representative-Springfield (Southeast); Benny Phillips, Official Representative-Decatur (Eisenhower); Joey Dion, Principal-Jacksonville; 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).

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 cooperative team may be formed and compete in the regular season only. If a sport permits individual entries, the students could represent the home school in the state series.

Rationale of Submitters:

- 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
Modify By-law 2.030

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-boundaried school, that school's actual enrollment, not the multiplied enrollment is used to determine the eligibility of the cooperative team request.
~~***(c) Only private schools with non-multiplied enrollments of 200 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, Girls Flag Football, Swimming/Diving, Bowling, Water Polo, Girls Gymnastics, Girls Badminton, Boys Volleyball. 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.

Add ***(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.

2026-2027 Proposal 4 – Cooperative Team Sponsorship
Modify By-law 2.030(h)
Submitted By: Joe Alstat, Off. Rep. – Washington; Darin Driscoll, Off. Rep. – Bartonville (Limestone); Denee Menzione, Off. Rep. – East Peoria; Brandon Shaver, Off. Rep. – Pekin; Brad Hulet, Off. Rep. – Canton; Jared Hart, Off. Rep. – Metamora; Katie Cazalet, Principal – Dunlap; Scott Jones, Off. Rep. - Morton

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Single class sports with a team only entry shall be exempt from the enrollment limitation of 3,500. This would include the sports of Girls & Boys Lacrosse, Girls and Boys Water Polo, Boys Volleyball, and Girls Flag Football.

Rationale of Submitter:

- Many of these team sports are emerging and growing sports within the IHSA. Many schools throughout Illinois do not yet have sufficient participation numbers to independently sustain these programs.
- Cooperative teams in these sports are often formed out of necessity to provide participation opportunities for student-athletes and to continue growing the sport statewide, rather than to create competitive advantages.
- Unlike long-established sports with broad participation across Illinois, lacrosse, water polo, flag football, and boys volleyball continue to develop at both the youth and high school levels. Restricting cooperative teams from participating in the IHSA state series as a team would significantly hinder the growth and sustainability of these sports.
- This proposal recognizes the unique developmental state of these sports while still allowing the IHSA to maintain the intent of the proposed cooperative enrollment limitations for more established sports.
- If this exemption is not addressed:
    - Schools may discontinue lacrosse, water polo, flag football and boys volleyball programs due to insufficient participation numbers.
    - Student-athletes may lose opportunities to participate in interscholastic athletics.
    - The growth of these sports across Illinois may be negatively impacted.
- Allowing lacrosse, water polo, flag football, and boys volleyball cooperative teams to continue participating fully in the IHSA State Series supports student participation, program development, and continued statewide growth of these sports.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 2.030(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.

Single class sports with a team only entry shall be exempt from the enrollment limitation outlined in By-law 2.030(h) regarding eligibility to compete in the IHSA State Series as a team. These cooperative teams would include: Boys & Girls Lacrosse, Boys & Girls Water Polo, Boys Volleyball, and Girls Flag Football.

This Proposal Will Take Effect 30-Days After Passage

2026-2026 Proposal 5 – Cooperative Team Sponsorship
Modify By-law 2.030(h)
Submitted By: Dan Arntzen, Off. Rep. – Oswego (H.S.); Patrick Woods, Off. Rep. – Bolingbrook; Kevin Fitzgerald, Off. Rep. – Joliet (Central); Steve Millsaps, Off. Rep. – Joliet (West); Matt Williams, Off. Rep. – Minooka; Steven Tracy, Off. Rep. -Oswego (East); Patrick Hanley, Off. Rep. – Plainfield (Central); Chet Lines, Off. Rep. – Plainfield (South); Paul Raspolich, AD – Plainfield (East); George Sam, Off. Rep. – Plainfield (North); Mike Strode, Off. Rep. – Romeoville (H.S.); Luke Engelhardt, Off. Rep. – Yorkville (H.S.)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Eliminates the combined enrollment limit of 3,500 for cooperative teams to compete in the IHSA State Series for team awards.

Rationale of Submitter:

The purpose of this proposal is to remove the enrollment-based restriction on cooperative teams and restore the eligibility provisions that were in place prior to the 2026-27 school year.

Cooperative programs allow student-athletes from multiple member schools to participate together when individual schools may not have sufficient participation numbers, resources, or facilities to support a program independently. Restricting a co-op team's ability to compete for team recognition based solely on the combined enrollment of the participating schools creates a distinction between student-athletes competing as part of a cooperative program and those competing for a single school, regardless of the circumstances that led to the formation o the co-op.

The proposed amendment would restore the opportunity for eligible cooperative teams to compete for IHSA team recognition at the regional, sectional, super-sectional, and state final levels under the same State Series framework applicable to other teams.

The proposed change does not create a new eligibility standard; rather, it removes the enrollment-based restriction established in By-Law 2.030(h).

Pros:

- Student-Centered Opportunities: Prevents student-athletes in large multi-school districts from being denied State Series team competition simply because their district's total enrollment exceeds 3,500, particularly in facility-dependent sports (e.g., swimming, water polo, gymnastics).
- Ethical Guardrails Against "Super Teams": The mandatory trophy-triggered reevaluation directly addresses concerns from single-school districts that co-ops could assemble unfair "all-star" rosters. If a co-op wins, it faces immediate Board scrutiny.
- Elimination of "Rubber-Stamp" Renewals: Requiring a full application every two years raises the bar for transparency and accountability for all co-ops across Illinois, ensuring programs exist for genuine necessity rather than convenience.
- Intra-District Reality: Acknowledges that schools under a single Board of Education share tax bases, facilities, and district resources, making intra-district co-ops fundamentally different from inter-district co-ops formed between towns or communities.

Cons:

- Program Instability for Championship Teams: A trophy-winning team facing a mandatory annual review may experience uncertainty regarding program continuity, potentially affecting multi-year coaching pleas or scheduling.

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 2.030(h)

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-boundaried school, that school's actual enrollment, not the multiplied enrollment is used to determine the eligibility of the cooperative team request.
(c) Only private schools with non-multiplied enrollments of 200 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 Board of Education wishes 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.

This Proposal Will Take Effect 30-Days After Passage

2026-2026 Proposal 6 – Cooperative Team Sponsorship
Modify By-law 2.030
Submitted By: Dan Arntzen, Off. Rep. – Oswego (H.S.); Patrick Woods, Off. Rep. – Bolingbrook; Kevin Fitzgerald, Off. Rep. – Joliet (Central); Steve Millsaps, Off. Rep. – Joliet (West); Matt Williams, Off. Rep. – Minooka; Steven Tracy, Off. Rep. -Oswego (East); Patrick Hanley, Off. Rep. – Plainfield (Central); Chet Lines, Off. Rep. – Plainfield (South); Paul Raspolich, AD – Plainfield (East); George Sam, Off. Rep. – Plainfield (North); Mike Strode, Off. Rep. – Romeoville (H.S.); Luke Engelhardt, Off. Rep. – Yorkville (H.S.)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Permits cooperative teams that exceed 3,500 to participate in the IHSA state series and compete for team awards if the schools forming the cooperative team are part of the same school district. When one of these cooperative teams wins a team trophy at the state finals, the IHSA Board of Directors would be required to review the necessity of the cooperative team to continue the following year.

Rationale of Submitter:

Multi-high school districts often face distinct operational and facility challenges where individual schools lack access to specialized venues (such as swimming pools, golf courses, or gymnastics facilities) or lack sufficient participant numbers to field independent teams. Restricting team eligibility in these specific intra-district scenarios penalizes student-athletes based solely on district enrollment rather than athletic advantage. Because these teams operate under a single Board of Education out of operational necessity, intra-district cooperative teams should remain eligible for IHSA team competition and honors upon IHSA Board review.

To ensure fairness, ethical oversight, and competitive equity across the state, this proposal incorporates two vital safeguards:

1. State Trophy Success Trigger: Winning a state trophy is a clear sign of program strength. Requiring a formal reevaluation by the IHSA Board of Directors whenever a co-op team earns a state trophy (1^{st}-4^{th} place depending on the sport) ensures that successful co-ops are re-examined to confirm they will meet the spirit of the cooperative rule and have not created an unfair competitive advantage.
2. Accountability Through Full Re-Application: The standard renewal form fails to provide meaningful data on whether a cooperative program remains necessary. Requiring all schools to complete a full New Application form every two years forces school districts to continuously justify the co-op through current participation numbers, roster limits, and facility audits. This eliminates "rubber-stamped" renewals and holds all member schools accountable to the core purpose of cooperative athletics: expanding participation opportunities for students who would otherwise lack them.

Pros:

- Student-Centered Opportunities: Prevents student-athletes in large multi-school districts from being denied State Series team competition simply because their district's total enrollment exceeds 3,500, particularly in facility-dependent sports (e.g., swimming, water polo, gymnastics).
- Ethical Guardrails Against "Super Teams": The mandatory trophy-triggered reevaluation directly addresses concerns from single-school districts that co-ops could assemble unfair "all-star" rosters. If a co-op wins, it faces immediate Board scrutiny.
- Elimination of "Rubber-Stamp" Renewals: Requiring a full application every two years raises the bar for transparency and accountability for all co-ops across Illinois, ensuring programs exist for genuine necessity rather than convenience.
- Intra-District Reality: Acknowledges that schools under a single Board of Education share tax bases, facilities, and district resources, making intra-district co-ops fundamentally different from inter-district co-ops formed between towns or communities.

Cons:

- Program Instability for Championship Teams: A trophy-winning team facing a mandatory annual review may experience uncertainty regarding program continuity, potentially affecting multi-year coaching pleas or scheduling.

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 2.030

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-boundaried school, that school's actual enrollment, not the multiplied enrollment is used to determine the eligibility of the cooperative team request.
(c) Only private schools with non-multiplied enrollments of 200 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.**~~

(h) Cooperative teams whose enrollment exceeds 3,500 students shall not be eligible for team competition or team awards in the IHSA State Series, unless all participating schools in the cooperative agreement are governed by the same Board of Education and demonstrate a specific need, such as – a lack of necessary facilities or insufficient student participation to field independent teams, as approved by the IHSA Board of Directors. If a cooperative team operating under an approved agreement wins an IHSA State Series team trophy, there must be a mandatory reevaluation by the IHSA Board of Directors prior to the start of the next school year to determine the ongoing necessity and competitive balance of the cooperative program.

When a cooperative team completes two years of approved operation and the ~~**boards of education**~~ Board of Education ~~**involved**~~ wishes 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.

Every cooperative team agreement must submit a completed Application of Approval of Cooperative Team every two years. This form includes the reason, an explanation, and reasons for the need of the cooperative. The abbreviated renewal application process is eliminated. Approval of any cooperative team for a subsequent two-year period shall be contingent upon demonstrating ongoing need, including updated student participation figures and documented facility constraints.

This Proposal Will Take Effect 30-Days After Passage

2026-2026 Proposal 7 – Multiple School Interscholastic Activities
Modify By-law 2.060
Submitted By: Amy Boscolo, Official Representative – Edwardsville (H.S.)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Expands opportunities for Multiple School activities in the sport of golf to begin as early as 7:00am on a school day.

Rationale of Submitter:

The proposed adjustment recognizes the unique scheduling and environmental challenges associated with interscholastic golf and provides schools with greater flexibility to conduct golf competitions safely and efficiently.

The IHSA golf season is limited to approximately 60 days, and golf is particularly vulnerable to weather-related cancellations during August and September. Extreme heat can make afternoon competition unsafe or impractical, resulting in the loss of a significant portion of the already limited competitive season. These weather challenges can disproportionately affect schools in southern Illinois, where extreme heat conditions can persist later into the season.

Unlike many other interscholastic sports, golf is dependent upon an outdoor facility that cannot be relocated indoors or illuminated for competition. Golf courses also operate as a business and may have public tee times and other scheduled play occupying the morning hours. When a tournament is cancelled because of extreme heat, it can be extremely difficult to secure a replacement date and course on short notice. Events are frequently scheduled weeks, months, or even a year in advance, making rescheduling particularly challenging.

An earlier starting time would provide schools with an additional option to avoid the most extreme temperatures of the day while maintaining the integrity of the competitive season. Beginning golf events earlier in the day can also help address daylight limitations later in the season, particularly in late September and early October. A 1:00 p.m. starting time can make it difficult to complete an 18-hole competition before darkness, particularly for girls' events or larger tournaments that require additional time to complete.

Golf is also uniquely suited to an earlier start time because competition does not require the same facility or lighting considerations associated with many other sports. Schools can continue to establish appropriate precautions for heat, hydration, and other environmental conditions regardless of the starting time.

The proposed change would not require schools to participate in an early-start event. Schools that have concerns regarding students missing instructional time would retain the ability to decline invitations to events scheduled before their normal dismissal time. This allows individual schools and athletic departments to determine whether participation in an early-start golf event is appropriate for their students and circumstances.

Additionally, there is currently no uniform school start or dismissal time across Illinois. Schools begin and end their instructional day/year at different times, with some schools beginning later in August or returning to school later in the season. A uniform 1:00 p.m. restriction therefore does not affect all schools equally.

Golf is uniquely impacted by By-law 2.060 because it has no ability to move competition indoors or extend play into the evening with artificial lighting. Allowing multiple school golf activities to begin as early as 8:00 a.m. would provide golf programs with the same scheduling flexibility already afforded to multiple school conference activities while maintaining the ability of individual schools to determine their participation.

This proposed adjustment would provide an additional tool for schools and tournament managers to address extreme heat, weather-related cancellations, course availability, daylight limitations, and the limited length of the IHSA golf season, while preserving local control over student participation.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 2.060

(b) Multiple school activities, ***except golf activities,*** may not begin before 1:00 p.m. on a school day; ***multiple school golf activities may begin as early as 7:00 a.m. on a school day;***

2026-2027 Proposal 8 – Classification
Add By-laws 2.162-2.166
Submitted By: The West Suburban Conference: Jack Andrews, Principal on behalf of Humberto Ayala-Addison (A. Trail); Dan Woulfe, Off. Rep.-Berwyn-Cicero (Morton); Art Ostrow, Off. Rep.-Darien (Hinsdale South); David Rose, Off. Rep.- Downers Grove (North); Brandon Murphy, Off. Rep.- Downers Grove (South); Rob Wagner, Off. Rep.- Elmhurst (York); Rick Mason, Off. Rep.- Franklin Park-Northlake (Leyden); Joe Kain, Off. Rep.- Glen Ellyn (Glenbard West); Julius Shelby, Off. Rep.- Hillside (Proviso West); Mike Jezioro, Off. Rep.- Hinsdale (Central); John Grundke, Off. Rep.- LaGrange (Lyons); Rodney Hull, Off. Rep.-Maywood (Proviso East); Nicole Ebsen, Off. Rep.- Oak Park (O.P.-River Forest); Dan Krause, Off. Rep.- on behalf of Ed Sullivan Athletic Director Villa Park (Willowbrook)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

- Modify the IHSA postseason classification structure of sports with three (3) or more classifications to create a competitive distinction between boundary and non-boundary schools. One classification would be designated exclusively for non-boundary schools. The remaining classifications would consist of boundary schools only, distributed evenly by enrollment. Includes exceptions for Football (2 NB and 6 B) Threshold:

- If the implementation of the boundary and non-boundary classification model results in any single classification (boundary or non-boundary) having fewer than 112 participating schools, that sport shall be exempt from the proposed classification model and shall retain its current classification structure. Or if a sports classification is not based solely on enrollment, that sport will retain its existing classification structure.

Rationale of Submitters:

The current IHSA classification system does not account for the structural differences between boundary and non-boundary schools, particularly regarding student enrollment and population access.

Key considerations:

- **Enrollment Differences:** Non-boundary schools are not restricted by geographic attendance boundaries, allowing for broader enrollment access compared to traditional public (boundary) schools.
- **Competitive Equity:** Boundary schools draw exclusively from defined geographic areas, while non-boundary schools may have selective or expanded enrollment models.
- **Postseason Balance:** Separating classifications allows for more equitable competition among schools operating under similar enrollment structures and IHSA by laws.
- **Program Growth:** In sports with sufficient participation (3+ classes), this model preserves postseason opportunities while improving competitive integrity.
- **Data-Driven Threshold:** The 12% threshold ensures that sports with insufficient non-boundary participation are not forced into an unsustainable model.

Anticipated Outcomes

- Increased competitive balance in IHSA postseason play
- Clearer alignment between school structure and classification
- Preservation of postseason opportunities across all sports
- Reduction in perceived inequities between school types
- A scalable and data-informed model for future IHSA classification adjustments

Conclusion

This proposal aims to modernize IHSA postseason classification by recognizing the fundamental differences between boundary and non-boundary schools. By implementing this structure in sports with sufficient participation, IHSA can enhance competitive equity while maintaining the integrity and accessibility of postseason competition.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law
Add By-laws 2.162-2.166

By-law 2.162
Any IHSA State Series competition in sports having three or more classifications shall be organized into separate classifications for boundaried and non-boundaried schools as provided in this by-law. Sports having fewer than three classifications shall remain subject to applicable IHSA classification rules, policies, and guidelines otherwise adopted by the Board of Directors.

A school's status as boundaried or non-boundaried shall be determined under By-law 2.161. Any cooperative team that consists at least in part of a non-boundaried school shall be considered a non-boundaried school for purposes of this By-law 2.162.

By-law 2.163
Classification Structure
Except for football, which shall be governed by subsection 2.166, each sport subject to this by-law shall retain the total number of classifications otherwise established for that sport, allocated as follows:

(a) One classification shall consist exclusively of non-boundaried schools, regardless of enrollment.

(b) The remaining classifications shall consist exclusively of boundaried schools. Boundaried schools shall be ranked by enrollment and distributed among those classifications so that the number of State Series entries in each classification is as nearly equal as practicable.

(c) The boundaried classifications shall be designated in ascending order by enrollment, beginning with Class 1A. The non-boundaried classification shall receive the highest classification designation for that sport.

By-law 2.164
3 Minimum Participation and Exceptions

(a) The classification structure established in subsection 2.163 shall apply only if each resulting classification would contain at least 112 State Series entries. If any resulting classification would contain fewer than 112 State Series entries, the sport shall be classified under the IHSA guidelines and regulations otherwise applicable to that sport.

(b) The Board of Directors shall determine annually whether each sport satisfies the minimum participation requirement. The determination shall be based on State Series entries received by a deadline established and published by the Board. An approved cooperative team shall count as one entry. Subsequent withdrawals shall not alter the determination for that school term.

(c) Sports in which classifications are established by criteria other than school enrollment, such as the composition or size of the competing squad, shall remain subject to their otherwise applicable classification structure. Enrollment multipliers and competitive-success adjustments shall not, by themselves, cause a sport to fall within this exception.

(d) Football shall not be subject to the 112-entry minimum and shall instead be governed by subsection 2.166.

By-law 2.165
Enrollment Cutoffs
For each sport classified under subsection 2.163, the Board of Directors shall establish and publish enrollment cutoffs annually using the applicable State Series entries and IHSA enrollment figures.
The Board of Directors shall establish procedures for resolving identical enrollments at classification cutoffs and allocating entries when equal distribution is not mathematically possible.

By-law 2.166
Football

(a) The football State Series shall consist of eight classifications: six exclusively for boundaried schools and two exclusively for non-boundaried schools.

(b) Of the total playoff berths established under otherwise applicable IHSA by-laws or rules, 75 percent shall be allocated to boundaried schools and 25 percent shall be allocated to non-boundaried schools. Playoff qualifiers shall be selected separately within each group by applying the IHSA playoff qualification criteria to the schools in that group.

(c) The qualifying boundaried schools shall be ranked by enrollment and divided equally among six classifications, designated Classes 1A through 6A in ascending order by enrollment.

(d) The qualifying non-boundaried schools shall be ranked by enrollment and divided equally between two classifications, designated Classes 7A and 8A in ascending order by enrollment.

(e) If either group contains fewer eligible entrants than its allocated number of playoff berths, all eligible entrants in that group shall qualify. Unfilled berths shall not be transferred to the other group. The Board of Directors shall establish Terms and Conditions for distributing the qualifying schools within that group's designated classifications and administering any necessary byes.

Administration and Relationship to Other Classification Rules

The Board of Directors shall adopt guidelines and regulations necessary to implement this by-law. Existing classification guidelines and regulations, including enrollment adjustments and competitive-success provisions, shall continue to apply to the extent consistent with this bylaw. No such provision shall place a boundaried school in a classification reserved for non-boundaried schools or a non-boundaried school in a classification reserved for boundaried schools. Any permitted election to compete in a higher classification shall be limited to classifications reserved for the school's category.

2026-2027 Proposal 9 – Residence
Modify By-law 3.031.3
Submitted By: Paul Karafiol, Principal – Chicago (Lake View)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Add language to affirm students meet the residence by-law when their residence is in the district even if they no longer reside 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 a 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. It means, for example, that if two students attend school A residing outside the school's attendance boundary, and one student moves next door to the other, the moving student would be required to transfer schools.

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 the 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:

In multi-school districts where students are allowed to maintain enrollment even when moving out of a school's attendance area, would allow students to continue their education uninterrupted while competing. Would eliminate a rule that is difficult for schools to enforce anyway.

Cons:

Might provide an incentive for short-term moves into the attendance area of a boundaried school in order to gain access to athletics there.

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 3.031.3

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.

2026-2027 Proposal 10 – Residence
Modify By-law 3.031.4
Submitted By: Dan Tully, Principal – Niles (Notre Dame) and Tim McConnell, Principal – Erie on behalf of the Competitive Balance Committee

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Amends the by-law permitting residence eligibility for students of parents who reside outside a school's attendance area when a parent is a full-time certified staff member in the district for a unit district. Students may use the residence by-law exception once in their high school career.

Rationale of Submitter:

This rule previously required that staff had to be in a certified role for their child to have athletic eligibility at the school where they work. Since the threshold was lowered to open the opportunity to any high school/district employee, the IHSA has reported abuses of the rule for athletically motivated reasons. Adding the 'certified' language back into the rule would provide a greater safeguard.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 3.031.4

In the cases where a Local Board Policy has been established for children of employees to attend the school tuition-free, the students shall have eligibility at the school where the parent works ***as a*** full-time ***certified staff member***.

In cases where a Local Board Policy has been established for children of employees in unit districts with one high school to attend the school tuition-free, the student(s) shall have eligibility in the district where the parent works ***as a*** full-time ***certified staff member***.

Tuition- free attendance can only be elected one time per school in the duration of the student's high school career and the timing of the student's attendance must be in compliance with the transfer by-law 3.040.

2026-2027 Proposal 11 – Transfer
Modify By-law 3.041
Submitted By: Dan Tully, Principal – Niles (Notre Dame) and Tim McConnell, Principal – Erie on behalf of the Competitive Balance Committee

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Adds language to illustrate current practice of using the Transfer Management System for completion of the Principal's Concurrence.

Rationale of Submitter:

This change is simply a language cleanup to properly reflect the current IHSA practice for completing the Principals Concurrence form online as a part of the IHSA's online Transfer Management System.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 3.041

In all transfer cases, the official representative of the school from which the student transfers and the school to which the student transfers must approve of the transfer and execute a form provided by the IHSA Office. This form is to be initiated and signed by the official representative of the school to which the student transfers and provided the official representative of the school from which the student transfers for signature by that official representative. The concurrence of the official representative accepting a transfer shall not be determinative of eligibility or binding on the Executive Directors and/or the Board of Directors who shall have the discretion to investigate the accuracy of such conclusion and to override the acceptance of a transfer if evidence of violation or avoidance of non-compliance with any by-law or recruiting in connection with the transfer is found. A student is not eligible to participate in an interscholastic contest until the transfer form, fully executed by official representatives is ~~**on file in the offices of the school to which the student transfers**~~ ***completed in the on-line Transfer Management System (TMS)***.

2026-2027 Proposal 12 – Transfer
Modify By-laws 3.043.1, 3.043.2, 3.043.3, and 3.044
Submitted By: Dan Tully, Principal – Niles (Notre Dame) and Tim McConnell, Principal – Erie on behalf of the Competitive Balance Committee

Summary of Proposed Changes:

- Modifies the transfer eligibility by-laws to allow students full eligibility in their first transfer prior to the start of their sophomore school year.
    - Limits students transfer eligibility to limited eligibility for up to 365 days when transferring after the start of their sophomore school year unless;
    - The student is transferring in conjunction with a move by the family of over 30 miles and at least one parent provides verification of a change in employment necessitating the move and transfer of schools.

Rationale of Submitter:

The Competitive Balance Committee believes that a growing number of athletically motivated transfers are having a disproportionate impact on competitive equity within the IHSA. The Committee is seeking these changes to the Residence and Transfer by-laws to create a middle ground solution that deters transfers by allowing for the following:

1) Transfer without penalty prior to the start of a student's sophomore year, as we acknowledge that some students initial school choice may not be the best fit for them.

2) Beyond sophomore year, transfers would not have varsity eligibility, but the opportunity for lower level eligibility would be expanded significantly to help meet the IHSA's mission of providing participation.

3) The current carveouts (financial change, documented extenuating circumstances) have been increasingly exploited or sometimes attained under scrutiny. Thus, the lone carveout would be a family move greater than 30 miles that is accompanied by a documented employment relocation.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 3.043.1

In addition, a student who transfers attendance from one high school to another high school pursuant to these by-laws, shall be ineligible unless:

The student transfers ***prior to the student's first day of*** attendance ***of their sophomore year***; or ~~in conjunction with a change in residence by both the student and his or her parents, custodial parents, surviving parent (in the case of a student with one deceased parent), or guardian from one public high school district to a different public high school district; or~~

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 3.043.2

In the event the student transfers attendance ***to any high school to any other high school*** ~~from one public high school in a school district which supports two (2) or more public high schools to another public high school in that school district,~~ ***and the transfer is with or without a move by the family after the start of the student's sophomore year, the student will be granted limited eligibility for 365 days beginning on the first day of attendance at the new high school; or*** ~~**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 within the boundaries established by the governing board of the school district for the high school to which the student transfers; or**~~

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 3.043.3

In the event the student transfers attendance from any high school to any other high school, and the transfer in conjunction with a ***move by the family greater than thirty (30) miles and accompanied by an employment relocation of a parent, full eligibility will result with documentation verifying the move and change in employment.*** ~~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 time in the student's home public member high school with boundaries;~~
- ~~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.~~

Text of By-law
Delete By-law 3.044

~~The student, who (a) is an orphan; (b) is a child of divorced, legally separated, or unmarried parents with respect to whom there has not been a change in custody ordered by a court of proper jurisdiction; or (c) is a ward of the state who transfers attendance from one high school to another high school, shall be subject to the eligibility provisions of Sections 3.043.1 – 3.043.3 as if the student resided with his/her parent(s), provided that following the transfer, the student continues to reside with the same family, foster family, group home or other unit or entity after the transfer as prior to and at the time of the transfer.~~

2026-2027 Proposal 13 – Residence
Modify By-law 3.043.4
Submitted By: Paul Karafiol, Principal – Chicago (Lake View)

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 supplement the move with a chance 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 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, 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 and was listed on the child's birth certificate. 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:

Expands access to athletics for students who switch households between that of one parent and another. Because those students often have other socioeconomic factors working against them, this rule would promote equity in athletics by removing a barrier caused by conditions outside their control. As written, would not allow students to "ping-pong" between parents for different athletics seasons, which closes a legal loophole available to families willing to legally transfer custody every six months.

Cons:

Would allow student-athletes with nonpartnered parents to choose between two schools based on the residences of their parents, whereas student-athletes whose parents are partnered only get one choice.

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 3.043.4

~~**The student, who is a child of divorced or legally separated parents, transfers attendance from one high school to another in conjunction with a change 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 order so changing custody is on file with the official representative of the high school to which the student transfers.**~~

The student, who is a child of 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 public schools) or the school's district (for non-boundaried public schools), or within 30 miles of the school (for nonpublic schools) for at least six months prior to the move, and that reasonable documentation is submitted establishing the adult to whom the child is moving as the child's parent, and that the child has not already changed residence to that of the first parent in the last twelve months.

2026-2027 Proposal 14 – Special Provisions for Summer Participation
Modify By-law 3.150
Submitted By: Monica Burkholder, Principal – Lanark (Eastland)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Adds an additional no contact day period during the summer. Defines the new non-contact period to be the seven (7) calendar days immediately before the first allowable practice date for each fall sport. (Provides flexibility when different fall sports have different first practice dates.) For winter and spring sports, summer contact days conclude Sunday of week 5.

Rationale of Submitter:

The intent is not to eliminate summer opportunities or further reduce the 20 contact days available to coaches. Instead, the proposal would establish two common breaks where students, families and coaches know there will be no sport-specific expectations.

The July 4 period provides a predictable break in the middle of the summer. The preseason period provides students an opportunity to step away beginning a fall season that may extend for three or four months.

These breaks are also important for families. Summer is one of the few times during the school year when families have an extended opportunity to travel, spend time together and plan activities without the demands of school. As summer athletic opportunities have increased, finding a week when an entire family can be together has become more difficult, particularly for families with multiple children involved in different sports and activities. Establishing predictable no-contact periods gives families dates they can plan around well in advance.

Even when summer athletic activities are considered voluntary, students and parents may feel pressure to attend because they do not want to fall behind, disappoint a coach or lose an opportunity within the program. A statewide no-contact period removes that concern. Families would know that everyone is taking the same break and that their child is not missing a practice, workout, camp or competition while they are away.

There is also a growing concern about the demands placed on multi-sport athletes. Many students move directly from one school season into club sports, summer contact days and then the next school season. Establishing these periods would provide two guaranteed opportunities for students to have time away without feeling that they are missing something their teammates are attending.

This proposal also creates consistency between schools. Due to the late change of "no contact" last year, a lot of schools kept two "no contact" weeks and it proved to be beneficial for all involved. When everyone is required to take the same break, individual athletes and families are not put in the position of deciding whether they can afford to miss a voluntary workout, camp, or team activity.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 3.153

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 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 or 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.

Additional Mandatory No-Contact Period: Regardless of the number of summer contact days utilized, coaches at IHSA member schools shall have no sport-specific contact with students from their school during:

- ***The seven (7) consecutive calendar days immediately preceding the first allowable practice date established by the IHSA for that fall sport, and Sunday of week 5 for winter and spring sports.***

During this period, there shall be no sport-specific coaching, instruction, organized team activity, camp, clinic, school-represented competition or sport-specific workout involving school coaches and their student-athletes.

2026-2027 Proposal 15 – 5.000 – Sport Season By-laws
New By-law 5.005 - State Series Classification and Quadrant Assignment
Submitted By: The West Suburban Conference: Jack Andrews, Principal on behalf of Humberto Ayala-Addison (A. Trail); Dan Woulfe, Off. Rep.-Berwyn-Cicero (Morton); Art Ostrow, Off. Rep.-Darien (Hinsdale South); David Rose, Off. Rep.- Downers Grove (North); Brandon Murphy, Off. Rep.- Downers Grove (South); Rob Wagner, Off. Rep.- Elmhurst (York); Rick Mason, Off. Rep.- Franklin Park-Northlake (Leyden); Joe Kain, Off. Rep.- Glen Ellyn (Glenbard West); Julius Shelby, Off. Rep.- Hillside (Proviso West); Mike Jezioro, Off. Rep.- Hinsdale (Central); John Grundke, Off. Rep.- LaGrange (Lyons); Rodney Hull, Off. Rep.-Maywood (Proviso East); Nicole Ebsen, Off. Rep.- Oak Park (O.P.-River Forest); Dan Krause, Off. Rep.- on behalf of Ed Sullivan Athletic Director Villa Park (Willowbrook)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Creates separate qualification pathways for boundaried and non-boundaried schools during the initial portion of the State Series. Discretion provided to the IHSA Board of Directors as to the pathways and groupings allowing alternative qualification procedures for state series formats not in a four-team State Semifinal structure.

Rationale of Submitters:

The IHSA currently recognizes a distinction between boundaried and non-boundaried schools for classification purposes. Under By-law 3.170, non-boundaried schools are subject to a 1.65 enrollment multiplier because of their ability to draw students from outside a traditional attendance boundary.

However, once teams enter the State Series, the distinction between boundaried and non-boundaried schools is largely removed from the qualification process.

This proposal seeks to address a competitive-equity concern that can arise in bracketed State Series competition. Boundaried schools generally enroll students who reside within a defined geographic attendance area. Non-boundaried schools, as defined by IHSA policy, may have a substantially different student-recruitment structure and, in many cases, can draw students from a broader geographic area.

The existing IHSA classification system acknowledges that distinction through the enrollment multiplier. The proposed amendment would extend that recognition to the State Series qualification process.

The intent is not to create separate championships or to diminish the accomplishments of non-boundaried schools. Rather, the intent is to ensure that the State Series provides meaningful representation from both types of schools before the championship is ultimately decided.

Pros:

- The primary purpose of the proposal is to provide boundaried schools with a greater opportunity to reach the State Semifinals.
- Preserves one state champion in each sport classification. The proposal does not create separate public and private State Championships.
- Builds upon existing IHSA policy The IHSA already recognizes the distinction between boundaried and non-boundaried schools through By-law 3.170 and the classification system.
- Addresses a structural issue rather than individual teams. The proposal does not target particular schools or programs. It modifies the qualification structure for all applicable sports.
- Maintains the value of the State Championship Once teams reach the unified portion of the State Series, everyone competes for exactly the same championship.
- The Board of Directors retains authority to determine the appropriate implementation for bracketed team sports.

Cons:

- Changes the traditional State Series structure. Some may argue that every school should qualify through exactly the same pathway.
- Qualification would not be based exclusively on overall bracket results. The separate pathways would necessarily affect which teams advance.
- This creates additional administrative complexity. The IHSA would need to establish qualification allocations and geographic groupings for each applicable sport.

- This could create potential disagreement over the appropriate allocation. Schools may disagree over whether the appropriate Final Four representation should be 3–1, 2–2, or another structure.
- Some potential concerns regarding competitive fairness may exist once the State Series begins in that all schools should compete under identical qualification criteria.

Text of By-law
Add By-law 5.005 - State Series Classification and Quadrant Assignment

(a) The Board of Directors is authorized to establish, implement, and revise a State Series classification and tournament system that assigns boundaried and non-boundaried schools to separate qualifying quadrants in any sport in which State Series competition culminates in a four-team semifinal field.

(b) Any system adopted under this By-law shall provide four qualifying quadrants, each advancing one team to the semifinal field. Three quadrants shall consist exclusively of boundaried schools. The fourth quadrant shall consist exclusively of non-boundaried schools. Accordingly, three of the four semifinal berths shall be reserved for boundaried schools, and one shall be reserved for non-boundaried schools.

(c) Subject to subsection (b), the Board of Directors shall have full and complete discretion to determine the classification structure, composition, size, and geographic scope of each quadrant; the assignment of schools; and all qualifying, seeding, advancement, and tournament procedures. In exercising this authority, the Board may consider geography, enrollment, competitive equity, participation levels, travel, administrative feasibility, and any other factors it deems pertinent. Quadrants need not contain equal numbers of schools, encompass comparable enrollment ranges, or follow uniform geographic boundaries.

(d) The Board of Directors may adopt different systems for different sports or classifications and may revise those systems and quadrant assignments from time to time. The Board shall determine the treatment of cooperative teams and other programs involving both boundaried and non-boundaried schools and may adopt policies, definitions, procedures, and interpretations necessary to administer this By-law.

(e) Notwithstanding any other classification or State Series provision, the Board of Directors may modify existing classification policies and tournament structures as necessary to implement a system authorized by this By-law, provided that each four-team semifinal field under that system satisfies subsection (b).

(f) For State Series competitions that do not culminate in a four-team semifinal field, the Board of Directors may establish qualification procedures that are consistent with the intent of this By-law 5.002 to create increased representation of boundaried schools.

2026-2027 Proposal 16 – Boys Football
Modify By-laws 5.071, 5.072 and 5.073
Submitted By: Zak Huston, Principal – Camp Point (Central)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Restores the 2025-2026 football practice, contest and pre-season practice schedules/requirements including the reinstatement of the 0-week scrimmage and the Monday of week 6 first day of practice/acclimatization. Total football play-off qualifying schools returns to 256 teams.

Rationale of Submitter:

This proposal restores the football schedule used before the 2026–2027 school year to better balance athletics with students' overall high school experience. An appropriate summer break gives students time for family, friendships, work, rest, and interests beyond sports. Returning to the traditional calendar also helps address transportation barriers before school begins and reduces the earlier demands placed on school staff, while maintaining required preseason preparation. The proposal restores the preseason scrimmage and a 256-team playoff field, preserving a meaningful regular season and postseason qualification.

Pros:

Students' social and emotional well-being should guide the calendar. These benefits respond to the original expansion proposal's claims.

- **Protects student well-being and summer break.** Students need time for family, friendships, work, rest, and interests beyond athletics. Schools should address unhealthy competitive pressure directly while protecting this important part of the high school experience. Easier playoff entry does not establish better mental health. Football practice will start August 4th in 2027, August 2nd in 2028, and August 1st in 2029. We are also requiring an extra week for our baseball players, taking away a week from the start of their summer break and now asking our football players to take a week off of the end of their summer break.
- **Keeps the required preparation time.** The traditional calendar allows the required 12 practice days before the first game, which is in line with SMAC guidelines.
- **Recognizes community involvement throughout the season.** Regular-season games already bring communities together.
- **Gives schools more time to prepare for fall activities.** Starting football earlier adds event planning, staffing, transportation, and supervision duties while schools are preparing to welcome students back, requiring an extra week of work for many members of a school staff. Restoring the traditional schedule gives staff more time to focus on opening school before taking on these added demands.
- **Improves student access and supports school programs.** Two full weeks of practice before school starts can create transportation barriers, leaving students short of required practices and teams short of eligible players. Starting at the traditional time preserves better access for all students. More playoff berths alone do not solve participation problems.
- **Protects a break from year-round commitments.** With IHSA spring events not over until the middle of June, this would provide another week for students to recover.
- **Preserves meaningful playoff achievement.** A nine-week regular season already provides meaningful participation. Restoring 32 qualifiers per class keeps a playoff berth a distinct accomplishment. The possibility of qualifying with only two wins weakens that distinction.

Cons:

- **Fewer postseason opportunities.** Returning from 48 to 32 teams per class removes 128 playoff berths statewide, including opportunities for some competitive teams with difficult schedules.
- **Scheduling adjustments.** Schools may need to revise game contracts, transportation, staffing, and event plans already built around the earlier calendar.
- **Less potential postseason revenue.** Fewer playoff games may reduce gate receipts and fundraising opportunities for schools and the IHSA, although event expenses would also fall. However, revenue should not be a driving factor in high school athletics.

Text of By-law

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 7**~~ ***Week 8*** in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 5.072 – 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) 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 ½ 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
Modify By-law 5.073 – 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

Corresponding Changes to Football Terms and Conditions

Restore the 256-team playoff field
The IHSA Boys Football State Series shall consist of eight enrollment classifications with 32 qualifying teams in each classification, for a total of 256 qualifying teams. The 48-team-per-class playoff format and its opening-round byes shall be discontinued. The playoffs shall begin in Week 17 and conclude in Week 21 of the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

This Proposal Will Take Effect 30-Days After Passage

2026-2027 Proposal 17 – Boys Football
Modify By-law 5.073
Submitted By: David Hawkins, Principal – Rochester

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Allows football playing schools to schedule a regular season football game as an exhibition game when both teams have their opponents cancel on them after the IHSA season start date.

Rationale of Submitter:

In-season cancellations of regular season football games are becoming more common as football participation declines in many schools. Under current IHSA rules, teams have the option of either accepting the forfeit victory or finding an opponent and playing on the field and accepting the result of that competition. Many teams are reluctant to schedule a game after an opponent cancels, as they would rather take the forfeit win and the playoff points instead of running the risk of losing the game. We believe that more teams would be willing to schedule a game against an opponent who also had a school cancel on them if they were able to label it as an exhibition game. Unlike other sports who play between 25 and 35 regular season contests, football only plays nine games, so losing an opponent to a cancellation effectively eliminates over 10% of a team's season. Also, football does not have the same scheduling flexibility of other sports, as teams are locked into one opponent per week.

Pros:

- Gives teams the flexibility to schedule a game so athletes do not lose participation opportunities.
- Incentivizes playing a game on the field, which is what is best for kids.
- Does not punish a school/football program because of an opponent's last minute cancellation of the season.
- Communities do not lose an evening of "Friday Night Lights"

Cons:

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 5.073 – Contest Limitation

No Boys Football team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than nine (9) games 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.

Allow teams to schedule a regular season football game as an exhibition when both teams have their opponents cancel on them after the IHSA season start date.

2026-2027 Proposal 18 – Sport Season By-laws 5.100 Boys Soccer and 5.250 Girls Soccer
Modify By-laws 5.103 and 5.252 – Contest Limitations
Submitted By: Filberto Torres, Off. Rep.- Riverside (R.-Brookfield); Tony Millard. Off. Rep.-Lombard (Glenbard East); John Woods, Off. Rep. – Libertyville; Justin Cooper, Off. Rep. -Vernon Hills

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Modifies the Boys Soccer and Girls Soccer regular season contest limitation from 25 to 22 games.

Rationale of Submitter:

Out of Covid, we have said the words or phrases "student mental health", "student well-being", "student health and wellness" or some variation of that yet have done little in actionable items to actually put student health and wellness at the forefront when it comes to athletics. Illinois plays the most soccer games of states surrounding us. There are states (Indiana being one of them) that complete their entire state series before reaching the 31 regular season games like in Illinois. We understand that an argument can be made that this is just the maximum and schools do not have to schedule to the max, but we don't believe that works in today's society due to the constant comparison, scrutiny and "keeping up with the Jones' " that is constantly happening in today's sports climate. There is too much pressure on coaches and schools to schedule like their fellow conference schools and/or neighboring and rival schools.

Illinois – 25 games
Indiana – 16 (no tournaments) 14 and 1 tournament
Iowa – 17
Wisconsin - 24
Michigan - 18

Pros:

- Allows for more practice time
- Allows the potential for more rest/days off during the season
- Students can take a break from the constant pressure of games, being "on stage" constantly and always preparing for them
- Provides fewer weeks of 3-5 games in a week to get to 25 games throughout the season

Cons:

- Schedules - losing 3 games means schools have to pick what games or tournaments to lose/drop out of.

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 5.103 – Contest Limitation – Boys Soccer

No Boys Soccer team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than ~~**twenty-five (25)**~~ ***twenty-two (22)*** games, exclusive of the IHSA series.

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 5.252 – Contest Limitation – Girls Soccer

No Girls Soccer team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than ~~**twenty-five (25)**~~ ***twenty-two (22)*** games, exclusive of the IHSA series.

2026-2027 Proposal 19 – Sport Season By-law 5.201 – Girls Flag Football
Modify By-law 5.211 Season Limitation
Submitted By: Filberto Torres, Off. Rep.- Riverside (R.-Brookfield); Tony Millard. Off. Rep.-Lombard (Glenbard East)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Modifies the Girls Flag Football season limitation to begin practice on Wednesday of Week 5 with contests to begin on Saturday of Week 6.

Rationale of Submitters:

To better align girls flag football to allow for a greater and more impactful season since we cannot write a bylaw to push back the state series and state finals. Understanding that there are a lot of ADs not currently happy that tackle football starts earlier, and to start another sport earlier may not be ideal, but we have to work with what we have. Starting the season earlier allows the girls to start games sooner, and get more games in, as opposed to how it worked this season. If the state series is pushed back, consideration to pull the proposal would happen.

Pros:

- Aligns start dates for girls flag football and tackle football to be the same
- Allows for more games to be played

Cons:

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 5.211 – Season Limitation – Girls Flag Football

(a.) No school belonging to this Association shall organize its 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.

(b.) A member school may conduct its first interscholastic contest in Girls Flag Football no earlier than ~~**Monday of Week 8**~~ ***Saturday of Week 6*** in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

2026-2027 Proposal 20 – Sport Season By-law 5.210 – Girls Flag Football
Modify By-law 5.213 – Contest Limitation
Submitted By: Filberto Torres, Off. Rep.- Riverside (R.-Brookfield); Tony Millard. Off. Rep.-Lombard (Glenbard East)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Modifies the Girls Flag Football regular season contests permitted from 25 to 22.

Rationale of Submitters:

To better align girls flag football to allow for a greater and more impactful season since we cannot write a bylaw to push back the state series and state finals. Understanding that there are a lot of ADs not currently happy that tackle football starts earlier, and to start another sport earlier may not be ideal, but we have to work with what we have. Starting the season earlier allows the girls to start games sooner, and get more games in, as opposed to how it worked this season. If the state series is pushed back, consideration to pull the proposal would happen.

Pros:

- Schedules - losing 5 games, but with shorter season, 25 was not manageable

Cons:

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 5.213 – Contest Limitation – Girls Flag Football

No Girls Flag Football team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than ~~**twenty-five (25)**~~ ***twenty-two (22)*** games, exclusive of the IHSA series.

2026-2027 Proposal 21 – Sport Season By-laws 5.140 Boys Volleyball and 5.320 Girls Volleyball
Modify By-laws 5.142 and 5.323 Contest Limitations
Submitted By: Filberto Torres, Off. Rep.- Riverside (R.-Brookfield); Tony Millard. Off. Rep.-Lombard (Glenbard East); John Woods, Off. Rep. – Libertyville; Justin Cooper, Off. Rep. -Vernon Hills

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Modifies the Boys Volleyball and Girls Volleyball regular season contest limitation from 35 to 31 contests.

Rationale of Submitters:

Out of Covid, we have said the words or phrases "student mental health", "student well-being", "student health and wellness" or some variation of that, yet have done little in actionable items to actually put student health and wellness at the forefront when it comes to athletics. Illinois plays the most volleyball games of the states surrounding us. There are states (Indiana, Iowa, etc.) that complete their entire state series before reaching the 35 regular season games like in Illinois. We understand that an argument can be made that this is just the maximum and schools do not have to schedule to the max, but we don't believe that works in today's society due to the constant comparison, scrutiny and "keeping up with the Jones' " that is constantly happening in today's sports climate. There is too much pressure on coaches and schools to schedule like their fellow conference schools and/or neighboring and rival schools.

Illinois - 35 games
Indiana – 23 and 2 tournaments
Iowa – 14 dates
Wisconsin – 15 contests, max of 7 of those multi-school contest (tournament)
Michigan - 18 dates, max of 18 sets per day

Pros:

- Allows for more practice time
- Allows the potential for more rest/days off during the season
- Students can take a break from the constant pressure of games, being "on stage" constantly and always preparing for them
- Provides fewer weeks of needing 3-5 games in a week to get to 31 games throughout the season

Cons:

- Schedules - losing 4 games means schools have to pick what games or tournaments to lose/drop out of.

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 5.142 – Contest Limitation – Boys Volleyball

No Boys Volleyball team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than ~~**thirty-five (35)**~~ ***thirty-one (31)*** games, exclusive of the IHSA series.

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 5.323 – Contest Limitation – Girls Volleyball

No Girls Volleyball team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than ~~**thirty-five (35)**~~ ***thirty-one (31)*** games, exclusive of the IHSA series.

2026-2027 Proposal 22 – Sport Season By-laws 5.040 Boys Basketball and 5.180 Girls Basketball
Modify By-laws 5.042 and 5.182 - Team Limitations
Submitted By: Filberto Torres, Off. Rep.- Riverside (R.-Brookfield); Tony Millard. Off. Rep.-Lombard (Glenbard East); John Woods, Off. Rep. – Libertyville; Justin Cooper, Off. Rep. -Vernon Hills

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Modifies the Boys Basketball and Girls Basketball regular season contest limitation from 31 to 28 games.

Rationale of Submitters:

Out of Covid, we have said the words or phrases "student mental health", "student well-being", "student health and wellness" or some variation of that, yet have done little in actionable items to actually put student health and wellness at the forefront when it comes to athletics. Illinois plays the most basketball games of states surrounding us. There are states (Indiana being one of them) that complete their entire state series before reaching the 31 regular season games like in Illinois. We understand that an argument can be made that this is just the maximum and schools do not have to schedule to the max, but we don't believe that works in today's society due to the constant comparison, scrutiny and "keeping up with the Jones' " that is constantly happening in today's sports climate. There is too much pressure on coaches and schools to schedule like their fellow conference schools and/or neighboring and rival schools.

Illinois - 31 games
Wisconsin – 24 games
Indiana – 22 games
Iowa – 21 games
Michigan - 22 games

Pros:

- Allows for more practice time
- Allows the potential for more rest/days off during the season
- Students can take a break from the constant pressure of games, being "on stage" constantly and always preparing for them
- Provides fewer weeks of 3-5 games in a week to get to 31 games throughout the season

Cons:

- Schedules - losing 3 games means schools have to pick what games or tournaments to lose/drop out of.

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 5.042 – Team Limitation – Boys Basketball

No Boys Basketball team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than ~~thirty-one (31)~~ ***twenty-eight (28)*** games, exclusive of the IHSA series.

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 5.182 – Team Limitation – Girls Basketball

No Girls Basketball team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than ~~thirty-one (31)~~ ***twenty-eight (28)*** games, exclusive of the IHSA series.

2026-2027 Proposal 23 – Sport Season By-laws – 5.020 Boys Baseball and 5.270 Girls Softball
Modify By-laws 5.022 and 5.272 - Contest Limitations
Submitted By: Filberto Torres, Off. Rep.- Riverside (R.-Brookfield); Tony Millard. Off. Rep.-Lombard (Glenbard East); John Woods, Off. Rep. – Libertyville; Justin Cooper, Off. Rep. -Vernon Hills

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Modifies the Boys Baseball and Girls Softball regular season contest limitation from 35 to 31 games.

Rationale of Submitters:

Out of Covid, we have said the words or phrases "student mental health", "student well-being", "student health and wellness" or some variation of that, yet have done little in actionable items to actually put student health and wellness at the forefront when it comes to athletics. Illinois plays the most basketball games of states surrounding us. There are states (Indiana being one of them) that complete their entire state series before reaching the 31 regular season games like in Illinois. We understand that an argument can be made that this is just the maximum and schools do not have to schedule to the max, but we don't believe that works in today's society due to the constant comparison, scrutiny and "keeping up with the Jones' " that is constantly happening in today's sports climate. There is too much pressure on coaches and schools to schedule like their fellow conference schools and/or neighboring and rival schools.

Illinois – 35 games
Iowa – 40 games over 24 dates - they go into June and have to play double headers to get games in
Indiana – 28 (no tournaments), 26 and 1 tournament
Wisconsin – 26 games

Pros:

- Allows for more practice time
- Allows the potential for more rest/days off during the season
- Students can take a break from the constant pressure of games, being "on stage" constantly and always preparing for them
- Provides fewer weeks of needing 3-5 games in a week to get to 35 games throughout the season

Cons:

- Schedules - losing 4 games means schools have to pick what games or tournaments to lose/drop out of.

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 5.022 – Contest Limitation – Boys Baseball

No Boys Spring Baseball team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than ~~thirty-five (35)~~ ***thirty-one (31)*** games, exclusive of the IHSA series.

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 5.272 – Contest Limitation – Girls Softball

No Girls Spring Softball team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than ~~thirty-five (35)~~ ***thirty-one (31)*** games, exclusive of the IHSA series.

2026-2027 Proposal 24 – Coaches Ejected for Unsportsmanlike Conduct
Modify By-law 6.012
Submitted By: Matt Myers, Official Representative – Buffalo Grove

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Adds language to permit schools to request a review of the ejection of a coach when there may have been a misapplication of a playing rule. If determined there was a misapplication of a playing rule by the executive director, an ejected coach may be reinstated to coach the next contest.

Rationale of Submitter:

- This amendment would give schools a narrow way to address a coach's next-contest suspension when an ejection resulted from an official's misapplication of a rule. The coach's ejection from the contest would stand, but the IHSA Executive Director could review the rule application and waive the additional suspension if an error led to the ejection.
- Similar language exists for player ejections in 6.011 but does not exist for coach ejections in 6.012.
- Only the school, not the coach themself, may present the identified misapplication of the rule and request the eligibility ruling from the Executive Director.
- All ejected coaches will continue to be ineligible for their next contest, unless granted eligible status by the Executive Director.

Pros:

Cons:

Text of By-law
Modify By-law 6.012 – Coaches Ejected for Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Any coach 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.

If a coach violates a rule and is ejected from a contest, and the school believes the ejection penalty was a result of a misapplication of a 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 coach's ejection, the Executive Director may waive the requirement that the coach is ineligible for the next interscholastic contest at that level of competition, and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim.