

# IHSA ALL ACCESS

February Newsletter

## Upcoming Dates

Mark your calendars  
(or check your IHSA Calendar because we  
already did!)

### February 9

[All-State Academic Team Applications Due](#)  
Chess State Final Starts

### February 12

Spring Sports Rules Video Available Online

### February 15

Boys Individual Wrestling State Final Starts

### February 16

Girls Bowling State Final Starts  
Girls Gymnastics State Final Starts  
Speech - Individuals Events State Final Starts

### February 23

[Student Advisory Committee Nominations Due](#)  
Boys Swim & Dive State Final Starts  
Girls Wrestling State Final Starts  
Dual Team Wrestling State Final Starts

### February 26

Practice may begin for the following sports  
Girls: Badminton, Lacrosse, Softball, Soccer,  
& Water Polo  
Boys: Baseball, Lacrosse, Tennis, & Water Polo

### February 27

Track & Field Rules Video - Last Day for  
Viewing Credit

### February 29

Girls Basketball State Final Starts

### March 2

Music Solo & Ensemble State Final

### March 4

Practice may begin for the Boys Volleyball  
Water Polo First Contest Date

### March 7

Boys Basketball State Final Starts

### March 8

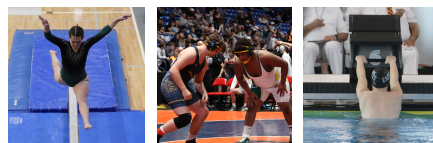
Unified Basketball State Final Starts

### March 9

Wheelchair Basketball State Final  
<https://www.ihsa.org/Calendar>

## Note from the Executive Director

On behalf of the IHSA Board of Directors and Staff, we are excited to return a monthly electronic newsletter to highlight important updates and reminders. We welcome your feedback on this additional correspondence.



Photos by Visual Image Photography - VIP

During this extremely busy month of February, it seems appropriate to remind everyone of the significant impact you make daily on the young people you serve. Athletic and activity participation bring life lessons that impact the educational experience. Your guidance and teaching how to celebrate the successes and navigate the setbacks has never been more important. Keep up the great work!

As we celebrate the culmination of our winter sports and activities over the next several weeks, we want to say "Thank You" and "Good Luck!" Enjoy the journey with your students, and thank you in advance for taking the time to catch up on the highlights for February and in future additions of IHSA ALL ACCESS.

## 50th Anniversary of Chess State Finals

The 2024 Team Chess State Finals will celebrate its 50th anniversary on February 9th & 10th at the Peoria Civic Center.

Mike Zacate, considered as the father of high school chess in Illinois, initiated the concept of a statewide team chess tournament in the late 1960s while he was a teacher and chess coach at Evergreen Park. This concept started coming to fruition in 1968 when the Northeastern Illinois Chess Championship was held at Evergreen Park.

In 1969, the tournament expanded to all IHSA member schools with a team, and 6 years later, the IHSA took over sponsorship of the tournament. The first IHSA Team Chess State Finals were held at Rantoul High School in the spring of 1975.

The tournament was held at several member schools until 1992 when the tournament moved to the Bone Student Center on the campus of Illinois State University.



50th anniversary Chess  
Logo by Kathy Topp

Since 2001, the tournament has been held annually at the Peoria Civic Center except for the virtual format conducted in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the number of participating schools increased over the years, a sectional round of competition was introduced in 2018 to determine the field of 128 state-qualifying teams.

This weekend, approximately 1,500 students will travel to Peoria to compete in the 50th IHSA edition of what has been referred to as the largest high school team chess tournament in the country.

### Did you know?

The first IHSA Speech State Finals were held in 1941.



Photos by Visual Image Photography - VIP

### Social Media



#### Follow our accounts:

Instagram:

[@IHSA\\_IL](#)

Facebook:

[@IHSA Illinois High School Association](#)

[@IHSA Officials](#)

X:

[@IHSA\\_IL](#)

[@IHSA ScoreZone](#)

[@IHSA Officials](#)

Youtube

[@IHSA](#)

[@IHSA Archives](#)

Tik Tok

[@IHSA.il](#)

Link Tree

[@IHSA\\_IL](#)

Ongoing efforts:

#### The Student Section & Spirit Showdown

Submission deadline is closed, but that doesn't mean you should stop sharing school spirit! Share videos/images with tags [@IHSA\\_IL](#) and [#IHSA SpiritShowdown](#)

#### State Finals Content

With many state finals in February, there are ample opportunities for social media posts! Tag State Final content with hashtags [#IHSA](#) [#IHSA State Final](#) & [#IHSA\(event\)](#).

## By-Law Breakdown 3.100 Independent Team Participation

As the spring season approaches, our office receives several questions regarding independent team participation and non-school competition. Below is an overview of By-law 3.100 and pertinent subsections.

During the school season, a student may not participate on their school team and non-school team in the same sport. Similarly, individuals may not compete in non-school competitions in the same sport. (By-law 3.101)

Per by-law 3.103, activities that would be considered as participating on a non-school team and are not permitted include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Tryouts (unless the tryout meets by-law 3.102 noted below)
- Drills
- Physical practice sessions
- Player evaluations
- Team meetings
- Competitions

Per by-law 3.102, a student may tryout for a non-school team during the school season as long as the tryout is exclusively a demonstration of skills, and there is no coaching or instruction provided.

Exceptions to the non-school participation by-law include the following:

- Per by-law 3.106, a student must stop practicing and competing in non-school activities within 7 days of the school team's first tryout or practice. This does permit 7 days at the start of the school season for a student to participate on both their school team and non-school team. After the 7 days, participation on the non-school team must cease and may resume when the school team's season ends.
- By-law 3.101 also permits exceptions to possibly be granted by the Executive Director for a student to compete in up to 3 non-school competitions during the school season that are sanctioned by the National Governing Body or its junior or official Illinois affiliate for the sport. Non-school competition participation requests must be completed by a school administrator in the IHSA Schools Center. The request form is found in the Eligibility Requests & Rulings tab and must be submitted no later than 10 days prior to the date of the non-school competition.

Read this by-law & others at: [www.ihsa.org/About-the-IHSA/Constitution-By-laws-Policies](http://www.ihsa.org/About-the-IHSA/Constitution-By-laws-Policies)

## Sportsmanship

As the winter athletics and activities seasons begin to culminate this month and the spring season rapidly approaches, it is important to note that sportsmanship does not have an offseason.

Interscholastic contests will produce a variety of emotions, and there is nothing wrong with showing some excitement as long as it is done in a positive and supportive manner. Increasingly poor sportsmanship has been identified as one reason officials are leaving the space, causing scheduling challenges for all. Coaches, players, and spectators should display behaviors that respect opposing teams, officials, and the sport or activity itself.

The 2023 fall season saw a 29 percent increase in player ejections, 22 percent increase in coach ejections, and 28 percent increase in spectator ejections for a total of 210 more ejections than the 2022 fall season.



Photo by Emily Bauman IHSA Publication Artist

A [sportsmanship toolkit](#) with several resources from the NFHS is available on the IHSA website. School administrators are encouraged to use and share these resources with coaches, parents, and students.

Oftentimes, attention is given to negative and unsportsmanlike behaviors, and not enough attention is given to the positive behaviors demonstrated during interscholastic activities. School administrators are encouraged to submit Sport A Winning Attitude (SAWA) reports when exemplary examples of sportsmanship are observed. SAWA reports can be submitted through the Schools Center by clicking the Reports tab.

