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JANUARY NEWSLETTER



Photo of Jacksonville Competitive Dance Team from the 2024 IHSA State Finals courtesy of Visual Image Photography - VIP

Upcoming Dates

January 20
Boys/Girls Track & Field Season Begins
Girls Gymnastics List of Participants Due

January 22
Athletic Administrators Advisory Committee Meeting

January 29
[Student Section & Spirit Showdown Entries Due](#)

January 30
Drama/Group Interpretation List of Participants Due

January 31
[Student Advisory Committee Member Applications Due](#)
Boys Bowling State Finals Begin
Competitive Dance State Finals Begin

February 1
Spring Sports & Activities Entry Deadline
[Spring Sports & Activities Co-op New Applications Due](#)
[Spring Sports & Activities Co-op Renewal Applications Due](#)

February 2
Student Advisory Committee Meeting

February 3
Boys/Girls Track & Field Contests May Begin
Speech List of Participants Due

February 4
Girls Bowling List of Participants Due

February 7
Competitive Cheer State Finals Begin

February 10
Board of Directors Meeting

February 14
[All-State Academic Team Applications Due](#)
Team Chess State Finals Begin

From the Executive Director's Desk

Happy New Year! We wish you much success in your sports and activities programs throughout 2025.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the administrators who participated in the classification questionnaire. With 80% of our member schools contributing valuable insights, the Board of Directors now has the necessary data to evaluate potential adjustments to the classification policy in the coming months.

As a result of this review, the Board has decided to delay the establishment of classification cut-offs for the 2025-2026 school year, which will not follow the timeline outlined in the current policy guidelines. Notifications regarding the 2025-2026 classification cut-offs will be issued once the Board has determined whether any changes will be made to the policy. Additionally, the Board will await the final enrollment data for the 2024-2025 school year from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) before making further decisions.

With the Board's approval of a return to an annual classification cycle, the most current enrollment data from ISBE will be used to determine classification. Therefore, the 2024-2025 enrollment figures will be used to establish classifications for the 2025-2026 school year.

To review the results of the questionnaire, please click [here](#).

We appreciate your patience as the Board continues to review the feedback and carefully considers any necessary adjustments to the classification policy for the 2025-2026 school year. Thank you.

Photo of Hononegah Boys' Bowling Team from the 2024 IHSA State Finals courtesy of Visual Image Photography - VIP



50th Year Celebrations

The IHSA celebrated 50 years of crowning state champions in Girls Volleyball and Football throughout the 2024 season! A statewide committee of coaches, media members, and other constituents helped select the Top 50 programs during the first half century of IHSA competition in both sports, with the Top 50 list being unveiled from 50 to 1 throughout the fall.

The countdown served as a way to recognize some of the great athletes, coaches, teams, and traditions from Illinois high school girls volleyball and football. Click below for the Top 50 lists.

[Top 50 Volleyball Programs](#)
[Top 50 Football Programs](#)



Members of the Flanagan High School football team served as Honorary Captains at the 2024 IHSA Football State Finals, 50 years after winning the 1974 Class 1A championship and becoming the first ever IHSA football state champions.



The Marist High School volleyball team poses with the 50-year logo after capturing the 2024 IHSA Class 4A Girls Volleyball State Championship.

Photos provided by Matt Troha.



Student Section & Spirit Showdown

Entries for the 2025 Student Section & Spirit Showdown, sponsored by the IHSA Student Advisory Committee, are being accepted through January 29th. For entry instructions and judging criteria, [click here](#).

All-State Academic Team

[Nomination forms for the 2025 IHSA All-State Academic Team](#) are being accepted through February 14th. Each school may nominate one female and one male student. Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.50 on a 4.0 scale after their 7th semester and must have participated in at least two IHSA-sponsored activities during each of the last two years. [Click here for complete details and instructions](#).

Students selected to the All-State Academic Team will be honored at a banquet on Sunday, April 13th.

NFHSLearn Course of the Month

This month's NFHSLearn Course of the Month is [Sportsmanship](#). The course defines sportsmanship and addresses the importance of appropriate behaviors to create a positive environment and healthy competition for all. This free course is designed for coaches, students, parents, and officials. Anyone can set up an account for free at www.nfhslearn.com and get started.

Social Media



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By-Law Breakdown – New By-Laws

All nine by-law proposals that were on the by-law referendum ballot last month received a majority vote of the membership for passage. While most will go into effect on July 1st, three of the nine by-laws were proposed to go into effect thirty days after the vote. See the breakdown below for the three by-laws in effect as of January 16th, 2025.

By-law 2.080 – Selection and Use of Licensed Officials

When it is found that an unlicensed official has worked a contest, the official shall be suspended for the remainder of that sport season. If the unlicensed official was scheduled by an assignor, the assignor shall be placed on probation. All member schools shall be notified of the official who is out of compliance. At the beginning of each season, the IHSA office shall send member schools a list of all officials who have had a lapse in their license.

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

By-law 2.180 – Travel Policy

When a school team travels out of state for competition, participating students can miss up to four total school days, including travel to and from competition, per season.

By-law 3.153 – Special Provisions for Summer Participation

School coaches may have a maximum of [20 contact days](#) with students during the summer in each sport. A contact day is defined as any date that includes coaching or instruction in the skills and techniques of the sport or any organization of sport-related activities or competition outside of weights and conditioning.

Coaches may continue to conduct strength and conditioning workouts that are not counted as contact days provided there is no coaching or instruction in the skills of the sport. Strength and conditioning workouts are limited to no more than four days per week and no more than 90 minutes per session.

Winter Officials Appreciation Week

Join the IHSA in the celebration and recognition of winter officials Jan 12-18. Thank you to the thousands of officials who help make every contest possible.

Photo from the 2024 IHSA Boys' Individual Wrestling State Finals courtesy of Visual Image Photography - VIP



Schools Center 101

This month's Schools Center 101 focuses on menu items R and TMS.

Reports – Special/SAWA, Concussion, & Yellow Cards (R): Upon clicking the R button, the Special Reports page will open. All Special Reports filed in the last four years will be listed. The Yellow cards link will show a summary of all yellow cards filed from boys and girls soccer contests in the current and previous school year. Under Concussion Reports, a summary of concussion reports from the last two years will be listed. These reports are submitted by Certified Athletic Trainers or other staff at each school.

The remaining links in the Reports (R) section of the Schools Center permit administrators to file specific reports. When filing a Special Report on an Official, please include all factual information related to the unprofessional conduct displayed by an official. Use the SAWA Report (Sport A Winning Attitude) link to submit an instance of exemplary sportsmanship displayed by coaches, players, teams, officials, or spectators. Use the Hate Speech & Harassment Report link to document an incident when reported by a student after a contest.

Transfer Management System (TMS): Administrators will be able to find their username and default password for the online Transfer Management System on this page. Frequently asked questions and a video tutorial are also available on this page as resources. Please note that all transfer eligibility requests must be submitted through the online Transfer Management System beginning January 1st.

Departments	
T Sport & Activity Tracker	L Staff Responsibilities & Logins
I School Information & Facility Maps	E Eligibility Requests & Rulings
V Voting & Town Meetings	R Reports - Special/SAWA Concussion & Yellow Cards
H IHSA State Series Hosting & ScoreZone	TMS Transfer Management System