



Water Polo

State Final Information

Illinois High School Association
2715 McGraw Drive
Bloomington, IL 61704

Phone: (309) 663-6377 FAX: (309) 663-7479
E-mail: lmutchler@ihsa.org Web: <http://www.ihsa.org>

TO: Principal, Athletic Director and Head Coach

FROM: Beth Sauser, Asst. Executive Director

DATE: May 2025

RE: 2025 IHSA Boys and Girls Water Polo State Finals Qualifying Team

Congratulations on qualifying for the 2025 Boys and Girls Water Polo State Finals!
Please read the following information to help assist with any questions that may arise.

There will be virtual meeting with Beth on Monday, May 19th, at 2:00 p.m. for Head Coaches and Administrators of the state qualifying teams.

Head coaches are asked to meet with Beth Sauser, from the IHSA, in the pool office prior to warming up for your first game of the tournament. Participant passes and the Coach's packet will be distributed at this time.

Administrative passes for Superintendent, Principal, and Athletic Director and requested media passes may be picked up at the ticket booth at Lincolnshire High School.

Please review the attached documents which pertain to the Water Polo State Final Tournament.

Good Luck and we look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

Beth Sauser

**2025 IHSA BOYS/GIRLS WATER POLO
STATE FINAL TOURNAMENT**

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS BULLETIN FOR COMPETING SCHOOLS

1. Tournament Inquiries and State Final Contacts:

IHSA Office – Beth Sauser, Assistant Executive Director, Administrator of Water Polo or LeAnna Mutchler, Coordinator of Sports (309) 663-6377

State Final Manager – Tricia Betthausser, Stevenson High School (847) 415-4226

Emergency Calls - during the tournament (847) 634-4000 ext. 1209

Press Credential/Information – Matt Troha, Assistant Executive Director (309) 663-6377

2. Included Are:

- A. Hotel List
- B. School Information Sheet
- C. Tournament General Time Schedules
- D. Map of Stevenson High School
- E. Water Polo Terms and Conditions
- F. School Media Press Credential Request Form

3. Team Expenses:

A. In the State Final Tournament, the teams participating in the tournament shall be allowed transportation expenses at the rate of \$2.00 per mile per team for one round trip to and from the site where the tournament will be played. In addition, each school will receive a flat reimbursement to cover some of the costs incurred by schools at the State Final. Hotel rooms at the State Final Tournament will be reserved by the IHSA. Any expenses or costs associated or charged to the rooms will be at each school's expense.

Round Trip Mileage To State Final Site:	Flat Rate Reimbursement
0-150 miles	\$500.00
151-300 miles	\$1,000.00
301-over miles	\$1,500.00

4. Player Numbers, Uniforms:

A. The list of the players that was submitted in the program data form who will constitute your playing squad. Please be conscientious about having the players wearing the numbers that were submitted for the official program. **Please note that each team may have a maximum of twenty-one (21) players in uniform for each game. Do not ask for exceptions. Players on the roster may change from game to game.**

B. It is especially important that each of the competing teams take two complete sets of caps to the tournament.

5. Fan and Team Bus Parking, Parking Permits:

A. Team Bus Parking – Since the school is in session on the first two days of the tournament, we strongly encourage participants and teams to arrive after 3:45 pm. Those teams should then enter through the parking lot D entrance. All participants arriving before 3:45 pm on Thursday and Friday should be dropped off at the Field House entrance in parking lot D. If teams are dropped off before 3:45 pm (when the parking lots clear out) the buses will then have to temporarily move to the Port Clinton parking lot. They will be able to return to parking lot D once our school is dismissed and busses have left campus (after 4:00 p.m.).

There will be limited parking spaces in parking lot D after 2:45 pm for spectators of the 4:30 game. Security guards will be present in the parking areas (See enclosed Map). Coaches will be given team packets and participant passes on arrival at Stevenson. These may be obtained in the pool office.

B. Spectators are encouraged to park in lots B & D. All parking lots will become more available after 3:45 pm on the first two days of the tournament. Doors to the pool will open at 3:45 pm. There is handicapped access, via an elevator, to the pool balcony.

6. Locker Rooms:

- A. All participants will use the pool locker rooms. **Towels** - Towels will not be provided. Please bring your own towels.
- B. **Locks** - Bring locks to secure your valuables. Neither the IHSA nor Stevenson High School can assume responsibility for lost or stolen property.
- D. **Access** - Only participants and coaches will be admitted to these locker rooms, and only coaches, administrators, and officials will be allowed in the pool office.
- E. **Security** - Participants are responsible for their own valuables. The locker rooms will be locked whenever they are not occupied. However, neither tournament management, Stevenson High School nor the IHSA will assume responsibility for any losses nor injuries while on the premises.

7. Medical Arrangements:

An athletic trainer appointed by tournament management will be on duty on the pool deck during the tournament and will attend to participating players provided their coach is present during evaluation.

8. Tickets:

GoFan is the official digital ticketing partner of the IHSA, and the **IHSA is exclusively using GoFan digital tickets at the IHSA State Finals.**

A digital ticket is a one that is purchased and redeemed directly on a smartphone. You can access the digital ticket using from the GoFan website (gofan.co) or the GoFan app on an iPhone.

Tickets (Adult, Student, and Child) will be \$10.00 for each session. Cash ticket is \$11.00 (there will be two separate sessions on Saturday).

9. Warm-Ups:

A. Warm-ups in the competitive pool will be allowed for fifteen (15) minutes prior to the first game of the session. Warm-ups in the competitive pool will be allowed for ten (10) minutes each subsequent game thereafter. Please see the attached timeline for participants and fans in your information packet.

NOTE: Teams may warm-up in the auxiliary pool while games are played. **Please remind your players to enter the auxiliary pool FEET FIRST.**

B. **Home and Away Teams** - The team listed on the top line of the playing bracket (or first) is the Home team and will wear dark caps. The team listed on the bottom line of the playing bracket is the Visiting team and will wear white caps.

C. Stevenson will provide balls for warm-ups.

D. The warm-up clock will start even if teams are not ready to enter the pool. Teams will be notified when the competition pool is open for warm-up before each game.

E. Half-time is five (5) minutes.

10. Introductions:

For all tournament games, as soon as the 10-minute warm-up is completed, the officials will meet both teams in the middle of the deck in front of the scores table.

Each team will line up across from their team bench in the following order facing the fans: Official, Goal Judge, Head Coach, Assistant Coaches, Manager(s), goalies, and players in numerical order. When an individual name is called, they should step forward toward the stands and then step back into the line.

A. Quarterfinal Game Introductions:

1. **Visiting team players:** non-starters in numerical order are introduced.
2. **Home team players:** non-starters in numerical order are introduced.
3. **Visitor – Home players:** starting line-ups announced in alternating manner
4. **Visitor-Home Coaches:** Head Coach and Assistants are introduced.

Note: Each head coach and his/ her win-loss record at the school will be announced. Following that information, each school's varsity assistant coaches will be announced.

5. **Officials:** Officials are introduced.

6. **National Anthem:** Will be played before games 1, 5, 9, 13 and 15.

7. **After the National Anthem is finished the coaches and players will shake their opponents' hand to wish them good luck as the Sportsmanship announcement is read, then walk around the pool to their respective benches for brief final instructions.**

8. **After the introductions, if no National Anthem is played, the coaches and players will shake their opponents' hand to wish them good luck as the Sportsmanship announcement is read, then walk around the pool to their respective benches for brief final instructions.**

B. Semi-finals, 3rd Place and Championship Games:

Each team will line up across from their team bench in the following order facing the fans: Official, Goal Judge, Head Coach, Assistant Coaches, Manager(s), goalies, and players in numerical order. When an individual name is called, they should step forward towards the stands and then step back into the line.

Only the starting line-ups and head coaches will be introduced.

1. **Visitor – Home players:** starting line-ups announced in alternating manner.

2. **Visitor-Home Coaches:** Head Coaches are introduced.

Note: Each head coach and his or her win-loss record at the school will be announced.

3. **Officials:** Officials are introduced.

4. **National Anthem:** Will be played before games 9, 13 and 15.

5. **After the National Anthem is finished the coaches and players will shake their opponents' hand to wish them good luck as the Sportsmanship announcement is read and walk around the pool to their respective benches for brief final instructions.**

6. **After the introductions, if no National Anthem is played, the coaches and players will shake their opponents' hand to wish them good luck as the Sportsmanship announcement is read and walk around the pool to their respective benches for brief final instructions.**

11. Team Bench:

Only the players and team personnel who have been issued Participant Passes are allowed to sit on the team bench. In accordance with the Terms and Conditions, a maximum of 21 girls or boys shall be in uniform on the team bench during a game. Anyone seated on the team bench must possess a Participant Pass. **There will be no exceptions.**

If listed on the State Final Program Information, one (1) certified athletic trainer will receive an Athletic Trainer pass and sit behind the team bench.

12. Passes: (Participant, School Administrator, Student Media):

NOTE: Please be reminded that it is the responsibility of the representatives of the competing schools to maintain possession of their passes. Replacement passes will not be issued. If passes are lost or given to others, you must buy a ticket to enter.

A. Participant Passes (*Passes will be distributed to the coach by Beth Sauser upon arrival*) – Each school advancing to the State Final Tournament will be issued **up to** 25 participant passes for use by the maximum 21 team members and four team personnel, per the Terms and Conditions. Please distribute these passes to your players for them to wear as they enter Stevenson High School. If you bring more than 21 players, you must purchase additional tickets at Stevenson High School.

****Participant Passes will be collected by tournament officials when athletes enter the locker room prior to competition. These passes will be handed back to the athletes as they leave the locker room after their competition has concluded.**

B. Administrative Passes (3) (*Passes will be at the ticket booth for pick up*) – Each school advancing will be issued three Administrative Passes for use by the Superintendent/President, Principal, and Athletic Director. There will be a VIP entrance located in the Glass Commons. After parking in lot B, please enter through the circle drive and proceed to the right towards the pool. You will be able to sign in and pick up your Administrator's passes before entering the pool deck.

Participant and School Administrator Passes are good for all Tournament Sessions - A Participant Pass is good for all tournament sessions of your respective tournament. Only Team Personnel with a Participant Pass are permitted in the team's locker room. Players in uniform will be admitted to the deck during their contest, but they must present their Participant Pass at all other times to be admitted to the authorized team areas of Stevenson High School.

C. Student Media Credential (3) (Passes will be at the ticket booth for pick up) - Each school advancing has an opportunity to request three student media credentials. Students must show their student ID at the Media Pass Gate to obtain their pass for the tournament. If a school wishes to hire a yearbook company or professional photographer, those non-students must request a Press Credential through Beth Sauser. Student Media credential holders may not sit on the bench or cover the game in the bench area.

13. Tournament Programs:

Below is the link to our website to view or purchase the program. From this link, you can click on the program cover to view the flip-book digital program, or click on the link to order hard copies following the State Final tournament.

<https://www.ihsa.org/Resources/State-Programs>.



14. Post-Game Press Interview Sessions:

A. After the championship game, short interviews will be conducted on deck prior to the awards ceremony.

15. Presentation of Awards on Saturday:

A. Coaches and players are asked to cooperate with tournament management by immediately going to the designated area on deck for the awards presentation. Coaches and players are asked to assist tournament management in seeing that fans and unauthorized persons do not come onto the deck following a game. Only 25 team/school representatives, plus the Superintendent, Principal, Athletic Director, and Athletic Trainer, may participate in the awards presentation.

B. All team personnel must stay on deck immediately following the game to participate in the awards ceremony.

16. Video Taping:

Participating schools are allowed to videotape their game from the stands. Schools will be able to set up their equipment twenty (20) minutes before game time.

17. Alcohol:

Alcoholic beverages are prohibited on any Stevenson High School premises.

18. Containers:

Bottles, cans, coolers, or other plastic containers are prohibited from Stevenson High School.

19. Fan Conduct:

A. Patrons using foul language or appearing to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol may be ejected from Stevenson High School. If someone is interfering with the enjoyment of others, please contact the Stevenson security immediately. The IHSA Terms and Conditions prohibit the use of any mechanical or artificial noisemakers. This includes, but is not limited to, musical instruments, clap sticks, megaphones, and containers filled with rocks, coins, etc. Balloons are prohibited in the spectator/pool areas as well.

B. School Administrators are responsible for their fans' behavior and actions while at Stevenson High School. Stevenson security and volunteers are there to assist you in making the state tournament a positive experience for your team and fans.

NOTE: Prior to arriving at Stevenson High School each Administrator should designate:

1. Staff members to serve as school security in the stands. Prepare them to work with students and parents in the stands before, during and after the game.
2. Review the Do What's Right! Sportsmanship Expectations

20. Smoking:

In accordance with the State Law, smoking is prohibited at Stevenson High School. A designated smoking area has been established 15 feet away from the South entrance on the concourse level.

21. Concessions and Restrooms:

Stevenson High School will have a full concession area with tables and chairs set up in the Glass Commons area overlooking the shallow end of the pool. Restroom facilities are also in this area.

22. Hospitality:

There will be a hospitality room set up in a Multi-Purpose room located next to the pool (Room 5044). Food and beverages will be available throughout the tournament for coaches, officials, administrators, and workers only.

23. Merchandise

Minerva Promotions booth is located in the Glass Commons Area and offers a variety of State Final apparel items.

State Final merchandise may also be purchased online!



*Schools or fans may not sell or distribute State Final merchandise at the site.



Boys/Girls Water Polo

Hotel Information

Participating Schools, Family and Friends:

Following is a list of hotels in the Lincolnshire area. You will be responsible for making your own hotel reservations during the Water Polo State Series Tournament. If you would like more information concerning these hotels, other hotels in the Lincolnshire area and/or any restaurants, please contact the **Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau** at 1-800-LAKE-NOW, or by accessing their website: www.lakecounty.org.

Courtyard by Marriott
505 Milwaukee Ave.
Lincolnshire, IL 60069
Phone: 847-634-9555
www.courtyard.com

Hampton Inn
1400 Milwaukee Ave.
Lincolnshire, IL 60069
Phone: 847-478-1400
www.hamptoninn.com

Homewood Suites by Hilton
10 Westminster Way
Lincolnshire, IL 60069
Phone: 847-945-9300
www.hawthorn.com

IHSA Boys/Girls Water Polo



www.ihsa.org • general@ihsa.org • Phone: 309-663-6377 • Fax: 309-663-7479

SCHOOL INFORMATION SHEET

Please fill out the following information and email or fax it to LeAnna Mutchler by 10:00 a.m. on Monday, May 19th.

Name of City/School _____

Circle One: Boys Girls

Head Coach's Name _____

Head Coach's Cell Phone Number _____

Athletic Director's Name _____

Athletic Director's Cell Phone Number _____

Principal's Name _____

Principal's Cell Phone Number _____

List below any additional bench personnel—and their responsibility on the bench-- that were not included in your Team Information pages, but will be included in your total of 25 on the bench: (do not include trainer—they will have their own pass)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Water Polo Tournament Series Time Schedule

THURSDAY, MAY 22

Girls Quarterfinals

Ticket Booth and Doors Open	3:30 p.m.
Auxiliary Pool opens for Game 1 teams	3:45 p.m.
Game 1 Warm-Ups Begin:	4:05 p.m.
Introductions/ Anthem:	4:20 p.m.
Game 1	4:30 p.m.
Game 2	5:45 p.m.
Game 3	7:00 p.m.
Game 4	8:15 p.m.

* Games 2, 3 and 4 follow same timeline as Game 1, except the National Anthem will not be performed for games 2, 3 and 4.

FRIDAY, MAY 23

Boys Quarterfinals

Ticket Booth and Doors Open	3:30 p.m.
Auxiliary Pool opens for Game 1 teams	3:45 p.m.
Game 5 Warm-Ups Begin:	4:05 p.m.
Introductions/ Anthem:	4:20 p.m.
Game 5	4:30 p.m.
Game 6	5:45 p.m.
Game 7	7:00 p.m.
Game 8	8:15 p.m.

* Games 6, 7 and 8 follow same timeline as Game 5, except the National Anthem will not be performed for games 6, 7 and 8.

SATURDAY, MAY 24

Girls Semifinals

Ticket Booth and Doors Open	8:00 a.m.
Auxiliary Pool opens for game 9 teams	8:20 a.m.
Game 9 Warm-Ups Begin:	8:40 a.m.
Introductions/ Anthem:	8:55 a.m.
Game 9	9:00 a.m. - Winner Game 1 vs. Winner Game 2
Game 10	10:15 a.m.-Winner Game 3 vs. Winner Game 4

Boys Semifinals

Game 11	11:30 a.m. - Winner Game 5 vs. Winner Game 6
Game 12	12:45 p.m. - Winner Game 7 vs. Winner Game 8

*Games 10, 11 and 12 will follow the same timeline as game 9, except the National Anthem will not be performed for games 10, 11 and 12.

SATURDAY, MAY 24

3rd Place and Championship

Ticket Booth and Doors Open	3:00 p.m.
Game 13	3:30 p.m. - Loser Game 9 vs. Loser Game 10 (Girls Third Place)
Game 14	5:00 p.m. - Loser Game 11 vs. Loser Game 12 (Boys Third Place)
Game 15	6:30 p.m. - Winner Game 9 vs. Winner Game 10 (Girls Championship)
Game 16	8:00 p.m. - Winner Game 11 vs. Winner Game 12 (Boys Championship)

**BOYS AND GIRLS WATER POLO STATE TOURNAMENT
STEVENS ON HIGH SCHOOL
LINCOLNSHIRE
THURSDAY – SATURDAY, MAY 22-24**

**Tournament
Pairings**

Thursday, May 22 – Girls Quarterfinals

Ticket Booth and Doors open at 3:30 p.m.

GAME 1: 4:30 p.m.	SECTIONAL WINNER FROM: Glenview (Glenbrook South) Libertyville	(H) (V)
GAME 2: 5:45 p.m.	SECTIONAL WINNER FROM: Naperville (North) Barrington	(H) (V)
GAME 3: 7:00 p.m.	SECTIONAL WINNER FROM: Chicago (Lane) LaGrange (Lyons)	(H) (V)
GAME 4: 8:15 p.m.	SECTIONAL WINNER FROM: Elmhurst (York) New Lenox (Lincoln-Way West)	(H) (V)

Friday, May 23– Boys Quarterfinals

Ticket Booth and Doors open at 3:30 p.m.

GAME 5: 4:30 p.m.	SECTIONAL WINNER FROM: LaGrange (Lyons) Naperville (North)	(H) (V)
GAME 6: 5:45 p.m.	SECTIONAL WINNER FROM: Chicago (Lane) Barrington	(H) (V)
GAME 7: 7:00 p.m.	SECTIONAL WINNER FROM: Libertyville Elmhurst (York)	(H) (V)
GAME 8: 8:15 p.m.	SECTIONAL WINNER FROM: Glenview (Glenbrook South) New Lenox (Lincoln-Way West)	(H) (V)

Saturday, May 24

Ticket Booth and Doors open at 8:00 a.m.

GAME 9 – Girls Semifinals:

9:00 a.m.	Winner Game 1	(H)
	Winner Game 2	(V)

GAME 10:

10:15 a.m.	Winner Game 3	(H)
	Winner Game 4	(V)

GAME 11 – Boys Semifinals:

11:30 a.m.	Winner Game 5	(H)
	Winner Game 6	(V)

GAME 12:

12:45 p.m.	Winner Game 7	(H)
	Winner Game 8	(V)

Saturday, May 24

GAME 13 – Girls Third Place Game:

3:30 p.m.	Loser Game 9	(H)
	Loser Game 10	(V)

GAME 14 – Boys Third Place Game

5:00 p.m.	Loser Game 11	(H)
	Loser Game 12	(V)

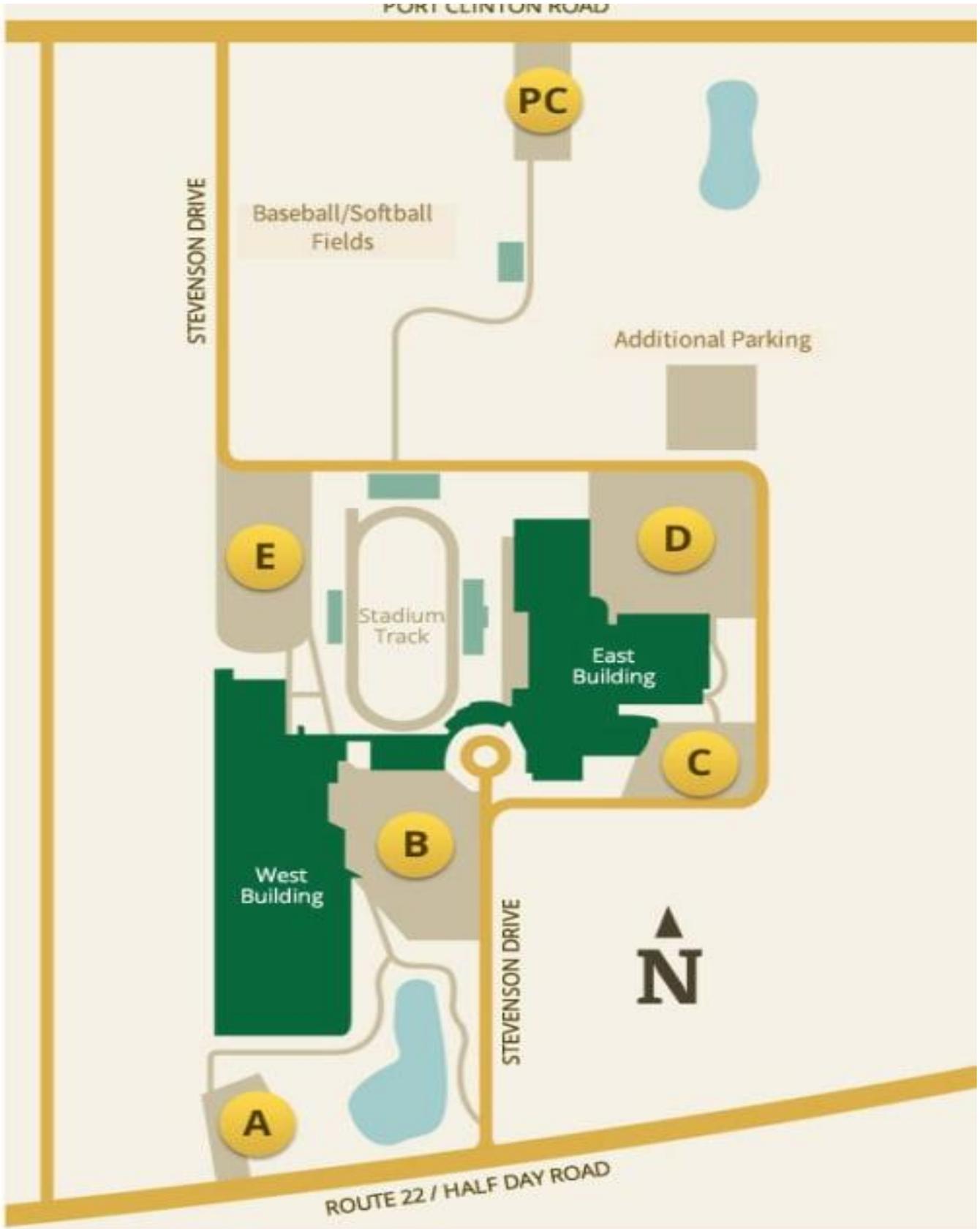
GAME 15 – Girls Championship Game:

6:30 p.m.	Winner Game 9	(H)
	Winner Game 10	(V)

GAME 16 – Boys Championship Game:

8:00 p.m.	Winner Game 11	(H)
	Winner Game 12	(V)

Stevenson High School Campus Map



The Aquatic Center is in the East Building

2024-25

Boys and Girls State Water Polo Series

Terms and Conditions

In accordance with Section 1.450 of the Constitution, the Terms and Conditions governing the 2024-25 IHSA Boys and Girls Water Polo Tournament Series have been approved by the Board of Directors.

I. SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION

Competition in the IHSA Boys/Girls Water Polo Tournament Series will be held for all member schools without classification.

II. DATES AND SITES

A. Game Sites: Eight sites shall be selected by the IHSA Office to host the Sectional series. The winners of the eight Sectional sites will automatically advance to the Quarterfinals of the State Tournament.

B. Sectional Game Dates: May 12-17, 2025

C. State Final Tournament: The State Final Tournament, on May 22-24, 2025, will be hosted by Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, Illinois.

III. ONLINE ENTRIES, WITHDRAWL PROCEDURES, ELIGIBILITY, AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

The policy for Original Entry Deadlines, Late Entries, and Late Withdrawals shall be the policies and procedures regarding entry for all IHSA-sponsored sport/activities included in the 2024-25 Entry Policies and Procedures.

A. Online Entries: All member schools must enter their school into the state series competition through the IHSA School Center on the IHSA Website at www.ihsa.org. The deadline for entry is (February 1, 2025). The 2024-25 Entry Policy and Procedures outlining the online entry procedures for all IHSA-sponsored tournaments can be found in the Schools Center on the IHSA website.

B. Late Entries: Any attempt to enter a sport or activity online after the established deadlines will be denied. Schools that wish to enter after the deadline will be considered late. To be considered for late entry, the Principal/Official Representative must contact the IHSA administrator in charge of that sport or activity. The penalty for late entry shall be a payment of \$100.00 for that sport/activity by the school.

C. Breach of Contract By-law 6.041 (Withdrawal Procedure): To withdraw without penalty, the Principal or Athletic Director must notify the IHSA Office, in writing, of the school's intent to withdraw from the respective sport prior to the seed meeting date

If a school withdraws after the seed meeting but before the first competition, the school will be charged a **\$500**

penalty and, if applicable, the cost of game officials, and the host school guarantee provided for in the Terms & Conditions.

If a school does not officially withdraw prior to the first competition and/or does not show up for competition, the school will be charged a **\$500 penalty**, the cost of game officials and the host school guarantee according to the Terms & Conditions for the respective sport.

D. Eligibility: All member schools in good standing may enter one team under the provisions of IHSA By-law 3.054.

E. Affirmative Action: Boys and girls shall be permitted to participate in the state series except as provided in the IHSA Affirmative Action Policy.

IV. HOST FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

A. Preliminary Games: Games will be financially independent. Host school shall pay for all local expenses and issue the checks to goal judges (**\$20**). If admission is charged, the host school shall retain 100% of the gate receipts. Deck officials will be paid by the IHSA using ArbiterPay.

B. Quarterfinal Games: Host school shall pay for all local expenses and issue the checks to goal judges. The host shall receive a guarantee of **\$800** for Boys and Girls Quarterfinals, reimbursement of goal judges, and 20% of net income. If admission is not charged, the host school shall forfeit the guarantee. Deck Officials will be paid by the IHSA using ArbiterPay.

C. Sectional Semifinal and Final: Host school shall pay for all local expenses and issue the checks to goal judges. Host shall receive a guarantee of **\$800**, reimbursement of goal judges, and 20% of the net income. If admission is not charged, the host school shall forfeit the guarantee. Deck Officials will be paid by the IHSA using ArbiterPay.

E. Admission Prices:

The IHSA Board of Directors have set the following State Series ticket prices. (A baby in arms is free at all rounds of the State Series.)

Preliminary Rounds: **\$5.00 per game**

Quarterfinal Rounds: **Digital Ticket = \$8.00/day**

Cash Ticket = \$9.00/day

Sectional Semifinals: **Digital Ticket=\$8.00/per day**

Cash Ticket = \$9.00/day

Sectional Finals: **Digital Ticket=\$8.00/per day**

Cash Ticket = \$9.00/day

State Final: Digital Ticket: \$10.00 per session

Cash ticket: \$11.00 per session

F. Media Coverage & Rights Fees for Broadcasting:

Coverage

1) State Series hosts should work to accommodate media members with space to cover State Series events whenever possible.

2) For State Series events, the IHSA Press Box Policy should be used as a guide for determining media press box access should space become an issue.

Broadcasting

1) Radio or audio-only internet broadcasts are not subject to a broadcast rights fee at the Regional, Sectional, or Super-Sectional levels. A \$100 fee exists at the State Final round, pending approval by the IHSA after completion of the IHSA's broadcast application form.

2) If a State Series contest/event is broadcast on the NFHS Network, then there are no rights fee due and no other video streaming/TV broadcasts will be allowed, pending special permission from the IHSA.

3) If a State Series contest/event is not broadcast on the NFHS Network, then the broadcast rights may be purchased to broadcast via video streaming/TV pending approval by the IHSA after completion of the IHSA's broadcast application form.

* Broadcast application forms can be accessed by Googling "IHSA Broadcast Applications" or directly: IHSA.org/News-Media/News-Media-Center/Broadcast-Applications

V. TOURNAMENT ASSIGNMENTS AND SEEDING

A. Sectional Assignment: All teams will be assigned to a Sectional complex on a geographic basis. If possible, an equal number of teams shall be assigned to each of the eight (8) Sectional tournament complexes.

B. Season Summary Form: Schools entered into the Boys and Girls Water Polo state series will be required to submit a Season Summary Form online in the IHSA Schools Center. Contest results shall be entered onto the MaxPreps website. The deadline to enter your scores and complete the Season Summary is **10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 30.**

C. Seeding: All seeding will be conducted online through the IHSA Schools Center. Each school shall have one (1) vote in the seeding process. A school will not vote for their own team. The link to seed the teams is located in the IHSA Schools Center and will be activated at **11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 30.** The deadline to seed teams is 12:00 noon on **Thursday, May 1.** Seeding will only occur at the Sectional tournament level.

D. State Final pairings will be made by chance drawing in the IHSA Office.

VI. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND TIME SCHEDULES

A. Playing Schedules: Sectionals

Girls

Sectional Preliminary Round (if needed): Mon. May 12

Sectional Quarterfinals: Wednesday, May 14

Sectional Semifinals: Friday, May 16

Sectional Finals: Saturday, May 17

Boys

Sectional Preliminary Round (if needed): Tue. May 13

Sectional Quarterfinals: Thursday, May 15

Sectional Semifinals: Friday, May 16

Sectional Finals: Saturday, May 17

1) Starting Times:

Preliminary Game: (hosted by the higher-seeded team) Between 5:00 and 7:30 p.m.

Semifinal Games: **5:00, 6:00, 7:00, and 8:00 p.m.** on school days. Sites with 3 games scheduled in a night must be played at **5:00, 6:00, and 7:00 p.m.**

Final Games: Two games between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

2) Warm-up time is 15 minutes prior to each game in the competition pool if an auxiliary pool or swim lanes are not available for teams to use. If an auxiliary pool or lanes are available at a Sectional site, then warm-up time is 10 minutes prior to each game in the competition pool.

3) In the event of a tie at the end of regulation play in tournament games, the overtime procedures in the National Federation Rules Book will be followed.

4) Preliminary Round games shall be held at the higher-seeded school if facilities meet NFHS specifications. If not, a mutually agreed site shall be chosen.

5) In Even numbered years Boys will play **M-W-F-S** and Girls will play **T-Th-F-S.**

6) In Odd numbered years Girls will play **M-W-F-S** and Boys will play **T-Th-F-S.**

7) Sectional Managers may adjust the bracket order for participating teams when a schedule conflict arises. All schools must agree to the schedule modification and the IHSA must be notified prior to the contest date.

State Final

Thursday May 22 Girls Quarterfinals

Game 1 4:30 p.m.

Game 2 5:45 p.m.

Game 3 7:00 p.m.

Game 4 8:15 p.m.

Friday May 23 Boys Quarterfinals

Game 5 4:30 p.m.

Game 6 5:45 p.m.

Game 7 7:00 p.m.

Game 8 8:15 p.m.

Saturday May 24 Girls Semifinals

Game 9 9:00 a.m. Winner Game 1 vs. Winner Game 2

Game 10 10:15 a.m. Winner Game 3 vs. Winner Game 4

Saturday May 24 Boys Semifinals

Game 11 11:30 a.m. Winner Game 5 vs. Winner Game 6

Game 12 12:45 p.m. Winner Game 7 vs. Winner Game 8

Saturday May 24 Third Place and Championships

Game 13 3:30 p.m. Loser Game 9 vs. Loser Game 10 (Girls Third Place)

- Game 14 5:00 p.m. Loser Game 11 vs. Loser Game 12 (Boys Third Place)
- Game 15 6:30 p.m. Winner Game 9 vs. Winner Game 10 (Girls Championship)
- Game 16 8:00 p.m. Winner Game 11 vs. Winner Game 12 (Boys Championship)

1) In the event of a tie at the end of regulation play in tournament games, the overtime procedures from the National Federation Rules Book will be followed.

2) In Even numbered years Boys will play TH-S and Girls will play F-S

3) In Odd numbered years Girls will play TH-S and Boys will play F-S

VII. ADVANCEMENT OF WINNERS

The eight (8) Sectional winners shall be advanced to the State Final Tournament.

VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES

A. Rules of Play: The 2024-26 National Federation Water Polo Rules as published by the National Federation of State High School Associations are adopted as the official playing rules for all tournament matches.

1) Each game in the tournament series will be played in four, 7-minute periods.

2) A game shall not remain in a tie. Overtime procedures in the NFHS are to be followed.

3) Mercy Rule: The Mercy Rule will be used in all regular season contests, regular season tournament contests, and IHSA Sectional contests. A running clock shall be used in the fourth quarter in which there is at least a 10-point score differential. Once a game reaches this differential, the clock will run continuously and stop only for the following reasons:

- A team timeout
- An injury timeout or the removal of a disqualified player
- 5-meter penalty
- An officials' timeout
- Clock adjustment
- After a goal

Note: The Mercy Rule will not be used during the Boys' or Girls' State Final contests.

B. Warm-up time is 15 minutes prior to each game in the competition pool if an auxiliary pool or swim lanes are not available for teams to warm up during the preceding game. If an auxiliary pool is available at the Sectional site, competing teams will warm up after half time of the preceding game. The host manager will determine if swimming and passing drills may be practiced during this warmup or just swimming drills based upon the configuration of the pool. Warm-up time in the competition pool is then reduced to 10 minutes prior to each game in the competition pool when an auxiliary pool or swim lanes are available for teams to use.

C. Home Team: Throughout the tournament series, the teams listed on the top line, or the team listed first of a single game playing bracket shall wear dark colored caps and will be considered the home team. The team listed on the bottom line shall wear white caps and will be considered the visiting team.

D. Balls: The KAP7 International, Inc. KAP 105 is the Official Game Ball of the IHSA Boys Water Polo State Tournament. The KAP7 International, Inc. KAP 104 is the Official Game Ball of the IHSA Girls Water Polo State Tournament. Each Sectional Manager will receive three balls to be used in the games at the site. The Manager shall give one ball to the Sectional winner upon completion of the Sectional Tournament.

E. Team Roster: Prior to each game of the tournament series, the coach of each competing team must indicate the names of a maximum 21 team players who will constitute the squad.

F. Players in Team Uniform: In each of the tournaments, a school shall have a maximum of 21 participants in uniform. The 21 players shall be the ones designated in E above. A maximum total of 25 persons from a school may be on the team bench.

G. Player Uniforms:

1) All players shall wear regulation caps. Please refer to the NFHS Water Polo Rules Book Rule 4, Sections 1-6 regarding cap specifications.

2) The color of the ear guards on the field players' caps must match the color of the caps as closely as possible. Ear guards on the cap of the home goalkeeper must be dark; the ear guards on the caps of the visiting goalkeeper must be white.

3) Players shall wear non-transparent, one-piece swimsuits. The suits shall contain only one visible manufacturer's logo/trademark/reference not exceeding 2 ¼ square inches in area and not exceeding 2 ¼ inches in any dimension. The suits may also include the name of the school or mascot.

4) Players shall remove any articles likely to cause injury including the following: jewelry, medical or religious medals, watches, and swim goggles.

H. Scorers and Timers: Adults are recommended.

I. Goal Judges: Goal judges will be hired by the local manager. It is recommended that you use an IHSA licensed official. If a licensed IHSA official is not available, adults at least 21 years of age, **or school staff members**, are recommended. Goal judges may not be a member of the Girls or Boys Water Polo competing teams. All goal judges should wear a plain white shirt and khakis while working the games.

J. Assignment of Officials: IHSA will hire four officials for Sectional Site prior to the State Final. Host schools will be notified of those assigned officials. The IHSA will hire a total of eight officials for the Boys and Girls State Finals.

K. Conduct of Coaches and Players:

1) No coach, player or any other person connected with the team shall be permitted to use tobacco products on the bench or playing area either during practice or while a game is in progress.

2) The captain and the head coach shall be the official spokesmen and the sole representatives of their team in all communications with the officials.

3) Abusive remarks to game officials by coaches or players shall be regarded as unsportsmanlike conduct and shall be punishable under the provisions of By-law 3.151, 6.011, and 6.012.

IX. TOURNAMENT POLICIES

A. AED: Host schools must have an AED available and on site at all IHSA post season contests.

B. Presale Tickets: The IHSA will utilize digital tickets (tickets redeemed on a smartphone) at **Sectional and State Final** events via GoFan. Digital tickets can be purchased and downloaded to an iPhone using the GoFan app or on Android devices at gofan.co/IHSA (.co is not a typo). Sectional Prelim sites have the option of using GoFan or cash tickets.

C. All-Star Teams: Tournament personnel, game officials or anyone serving under the supervision of the Illinois High School Association may not cooperate in any way toward the selection of an all-star tournament team.

D. Consolation Games: In the Sectional tournaments, consolation matches to determine third place winners will not be permitted.

E. State Final Passes: Teams shall not be given passes to any Sectionals. For the State Final Tournament games, each Sectional winner will receive up to 25 deck passes for its 21 players and other team personnel for the State Final tournament. Three additional passes for the Superintendent, Principal and Athletic Director will be given to gain entry to the tournament.

F. Bands: Musical Instruments and bands shall be excluded from the natatorium.

G. Signs and Noisemakers: The display of signs, banners, placards, or similar items at IHSA state series events is permitted, provided they are in good taste, reflect good sportsmanship in their message, they reflect identification and encouragement to participants and their school/community, they are not displayed on the field of play or in a manner which interferes with play, they do not obstruct the view of participants or spectators, and they are safe.

All mechanical and artificial noisemaking devices shall be excluded from the natatoriums. The local manager has the authority to exclude other noise making devices that distract from the competition including megaphones.

H. Damage to Property or Equipment: If contestants or people from any school entered in a state series are found guilty of carelessness or maliciously breaking, damaging, or destroying property or equipment belonging to the host school, such school shall be held responsible for costs incurred in replacing or repairing such property or equipment.

I. Practice Sessions: For the Sectional and State Final Tournament games, teams will not be permitted to practice in the pool, unless it is their home school.

J. Videotaping by Schools or Spectators: Videotaping is allowed under the following conditions:

1) Local managers should be ready to provide an area for a competing school to videotape, if requested. When one school requests video space, then the local manager should provide similar space to both competing schools.

2) Non-competing schools and spectators will be allowed to videotape matches in the stands provided they do not obstruct the view of participants or spectators.

K. Flash Photography: The use of flash cameras is prohibited by fans during any match. News media is allowed the use of strobe lighting or electronic flashes provided the local manager agrees that the flashes are not causing interference with the conduct of the contest. The local manager can require, at any time, the photographer to cease use of the flash. The manager's decision is final.

L. Tobacco/Liquid Nicotine Products: The use of tobacco or liquid nicotine products in any competition area, either during a practice or while a contest is in progress, or affiliated property of any IHSA state series contest by any coach, player, any other person connected with a team, or fan shall be prohibited. State series hosts are required to make all state series contest sites and any affiliated property, including parking lots, fan accommodation areas, and other school or event venue property, tobacco/liquid nicotine free zones on the date or dates of any IHSA event being held at the site.

M. Use of Inhalers: A student with asthma may possess and use his/her medication during an IHSA competition, while under the supervision of school personnel, provided the school meets the outlined procedures of self-administration in the Illinois school code.

N. Alcoholic Beverages and IHSA State Series: The possession, distribution, sale and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages are prohibited at the site and on any affiliated property of any IHSA state series contest. State series hosts are required to make all state series contest sites and any affiliated property, including parking lots, fan accommodation areas, and other school or event venue property, alcohol-free zones on the date or dates of any IHSA event being held at the site. Violation of this policy by an event host will subject the host to a penalty for violation of IHSA By-law 2.020. Such penalty may include but not necessarily be limited to prohibition against subsequent event hosting assignments. Violation of this policy by a non-hosting member school will subject the school to penalty for violation of IHSA By-law 2.020. Patrons of any IHSA state series contest determined to be in violation of this policy will be removed from the premise, and law enforcement officials will be called as warranted. No ticket refunds will be granted in such cases.

O. State Final Team Reimbursements: In the State Final Tournament, the teams participating in the tournament shall be allowed transportation expenses at the rate of \$2.00 per mile per team for one round trip to and from the site where the tournament will be played. In addition, each school will receive a flat expense reimbursement to assist in covering the costs incurred by schools at the State Final.

Round Trip Mileage to State Final Site	Flat Rate Reimbursement
0-150 miles	\$500.00
151-300 miles	\$1,000.00
301-over miles	\$1,500.00

P. Prayer at IHSA State Series Contests: Prayer at an IHSA state series contest that takes place over the public address system is prohibited.

X. AWARDS

A. Sectional: Team awards will be provided by the IHSA for the winning team at each Sectional tournament.

B. State Final:

1) Team awards and individual medallions will be presented to the First, Second, Third, and Fourth place teams

paid by the IHSA utilizing ArbiterPay at a fee of **\$50.00** per game. Goal Judges are secured by the host school and will be paid a flat fee of **\$20.00** per game worked.

3) State Final:

a) Eight (8) officials will be appointed by the IHSA Office for the State Final games. Officials will be paid by the IHSA utilizing ArbiterPay at a fee of **\$75.00** per game worked plus up to three nights lodging at a hotel designated

a fee of **\$20.00** per lodging at a hotel

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licy: Each of the nse, will receive **.45** es for one round trip submits a mileage



Contact: Matt Troha • mtroha@ihsa.org • Phone: 309-663-6377 • Fax: 309-663-7479

STUDENT MEDIA CREDENTIALS FOR PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Congratulations on qualifying for an IHSA state final in a team sport. In order to provide the best possible coverage of this event for your school newspaper, yearbook and AV club, etc. you are entitled to have up to three students receive credentials to cover this event as official media members. In the event that you have less than three students, an adult sponsor may be included on this list. To apply for student media credentials, please have your Athletic Director or an individual involved with the aforementioned programs email Matt Troha (mtroha@ihsa.org) at the IHSA with the following information:

- 1) The names of individuals attending
- 2) Whether they are students or adults
- 3) If the attending individuals will serve as reporters, photographers, videographers, etc.

Student media who are registering for credentials are expected to maintain a level of professionalism while covering this event. That includes no cheering while in the press box or game coverage area. Proper attire is also required. Wearing school shirts and colors is acceptable, but students wearing face paint, costumes, carrying props, etc. will be required to change before receiving credential clearance.

The individual applying for student media credentials will receive specific information on credential pick-up and media regulations at the event via email in the days leading up to the state final.

Please note that student media credentials are only available for state final events in team sports. Due to the sheer volume of schools who qualify in individual sports, our press facilities would be unable to accommodate student media from all participating schools in individual sports. Student media are also welcome to cover IHSA state final activities. Credentials are not required for these events, but please have your students check-in with state final personnel upon arrival for media coverage regulations.

VIDEO TAPING STATE FINALS FOR COACH FILM BREAKDOWN

Each school will be eligible to receive a pass for an individual attending the state final event to shoot game film that is for the sole purpose of being used by the coaching staff for postgame breakdown. Passes for videographers shooting highlight videos, documentaries, etc. should be included in student media application reference above. Additional passes for videotaping purposes will need to come from the allotment of state final passes given to school/head coach at or prior to the state final event.

To apply for a credential to shoot video, please have your Athletic Director email Matt Troha (mtroha@ihsa.org) at the IHSA with the name of the individual who will be taping and whether they are an adult or a student.

Please contact Matt Troha (309-663-6377) at the IHSA for any questions related to this document.

State Final Student Media/Video Taping



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