

**Amend Article 1.470 of the Constitution**

Submitted by Catherine Finch, Principal, Stockton, on behalf of the IHSA Board of Directors

**Article 1.470 currently reads:**

**1.470 FILL VACANCIES**

In case a vacancy occurs on the Board of Directors, the remaining members shall fill the vacancy by the appointment of a principal of a member school from the Division in which the vacancy occurs. The member appointed shall serve until the annual election of the Association as provided in Sections 1.310 through 1.370 of this Constitution.

**Revise Article 1.470 to read:**

**1.470 FILL VACANCIES**

In case a vacancy occurs on the Board of Directors, the remaining members shall fill the vacancy by the appointment of a principal of a member school from the Division in which the vacancy occurs.

***In the case of an at-large member vacancy, a racial minority, underrepresented gender or private school principal will be appointed to fill the vacancy.***

The member appointed shall serve until the annual election of the Association as provided in Sections 1.310 through 1.370 of this Constitution.

**Rationale**

The present by-law does not address a vacancy created for one of the at-large members. This will give the authority to the Board to make an appointment.

**Pros:**

1. Gives the Board the authority to appoint an at-large member when a vacancy occurs.

**Cons:**

None

**Amend Article 1.920 of the Constitution**

Submitted by Catherine Finch, Principal, Stockton, on behalf of the IHSA Board of Directors

**Article 1.920 currently reads:**

**1.920 REFERENDUM VOTE**

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 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 mailed to all member schools not more than twenty (20) days after the second meeting of the Legislative Commission. All votes must be returned to the office of the Association within thirty (30) days after the second meeting of the Legislative Commission. A majority of the votes cast shall be required for the passage of any proposal.

The Board of Directors shall appoint a committee of tellers consisting of three high school principals, not members of either the Board of Directors or the Legislative Commission, to count the ballots. These ballots must be counted and the results announced to the membership by mail within thirty (30) days after the conclusion of the balloting.

**Revise Article 1.920 to read:**

**1.920 REFERENDUM VOTE**

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 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 principal **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.

**Rationale of Submitter**

This proposal would allow the amendment voting to be conducted via electronic forms. There would be fewer spoiled ballots from ballots being returned in the wrong envelopes. The electronic balloting process would be easily accessible to the appropriate people who are authorized to vote using their passwords and would be set up so only one vote for each school would be allowed for the appropriate nominations and elections. In addition, this would bring the amendment process in line with the other election processes already approved by the membership.

**Pros:**

1. The legislative process for voting on proposals will be electronic; the nomination and election processes are presently being conducted electronically.

**Cons:**

None

**Add By-law 2.160**

Submitted by Don Dillon, Principal, Marengo High School

**Add By-law 2.160 to read:**

**2.160** *No athletic team from a member school may participate in an athletic contest on Memorial Day.*

**Rationale**

1. To secure and preserve the time for the families within our own communities the opportunity to commemorate those lives lost during war.
2. The scheduling of the IHSA activities on Memorial Day deprives those athletes primarily the opportunity to be with immediate family, relatives and loved ones to remember lost loved ones of recent years or days.
3. To support the celebration and family outings without additional intrusion via scheduled activities brought on by state organizations and federal governments (municipalities).
4. To not deny those families with children in school who have advanced to tournament play the full observance of Memorial Day.
5. To allow all students within a school community to take part in the community events as spectators and participants within the community celebration.
6. Regional sites tend to be less than one hour travel time thereby making it expedient to play after school hours.
7. Over the past several years, the relationship between the values and traditions that we legislate to preserve within our own communities has become increasingly unclear. That sports and commercialization has taken over the tradition of honoring those who have sacrificed their lives so that we can have 364 other days to continue on with the freedom to participate in a multitude of scheduled activities.

**Pros:**

1. Students participating in spring sports have conflicts with community activities.
2. Hosting an event on Memorial Day costs a member school extra money for personnel.

**Cons:**

1. Takes away a day for competition in the spring when weather can cause problems with outside events.
2. Does not prevent a coach from holding practice on Memorial Day.
3. No other holiday is off limits for participation.

**Amend By-laws 3.011 and 4.011**

Submitted by Larry Maynard, Official Representative, Champaign (Judah Christian)

**By-law 3.011 currently reads:**

**3.011** A student must attend a member school and may only represent in interscholastic competition the member school the student attends. For purposes of this by-law, the term "attend" shall mean that the student is enrolled at the member school, and is taking at, or under arrangements approved by the member school, a minimum of twenty (20) credit hours of work for which credit toward high school graduation will be granted by the member school upon the student's completing and passing the courses. The school which enrolls the student shall be exclusively responsible to verify the student's compliance with all of the eligibility requirements of all IHSA by-laws.

The Board of Directors shall have the discretion to waive the requirement of this by-law for the Illinois schools for the deaf or blind. In unit systems having a 6-3-3 or 6-4-2 type of organization, ninth grade students may participate on senior high school athletic teams at the member high school in the district designated by the Board of Education, provided:

- (a) such participation is approved by the district's superintendent of schools;
- (b) the senior high school principal shall certify that the ninth grade students:
  - (1) are eligible under the requirements of these By-laws,
  - (2) are students at a junior high school located in the district which supports the senior high school, and
  - (3) are not members of a grade or junior high school team in the same sport; and,
- (c) the senior high school principal assumes full responsibility for the conduct of these students during all athletic contests in which they represent the senior high school.

**By-law 4.011 currently reads:**

**4.011** A student must attend a member school and may only represent in interscholastic competition the member school the student attends. For purposes of this by-law, the term "attend" shall mean that the student is enrolled at the member school and is taking at, or under arrangements approved by, the member school, a minimum of twenty (20) credit hours of work for which credit toward high school graduation will be granted by the member school upon the student's completing and passing the courses. The school which enrolls the student shall be exclusively responsible to verify the student's compliance with all of the eligibility requirements of the by-laws.

The Board of Directors shall have discretion to waive this requirement of this by-law for the Illinois schools for the deaf or blind. In unit systems having a 6-3-3 or 6-4-2 type of organization, ninth grade students may participate on senior high school teams at the member high school in the district designated by the Board of Education, provided:

- (a) such participation is approved by the district's superintendent of schools;
- (b) the senior high school principal shall certify that the ninth grade students:
  - (1) are eligible under the requirements of these By-laws;
  - (2) are students at a junior high school located in the district which supports the senior high school; and
  - (3) are not members of a grade or junior high school team in the same activity; and
- (c) the senior high school principal assumes full responsibility for the conduct of these students during all contests in which they represent the senior high school.

**Revise By-law 3.011 to read:**

**3.011**

A student must attend a member school and may only represent in interscholastic competition the member school the student attends. ***If a student attends a private high school which does not offer boys football as an interscholastic activity that is offered by the public high school in the school district in which the student resides, then the private school student shall be permitted to represent the public high school in his or her home district in that activity provided:***

- a) ***The private school student meets the residency requirements of 3.031, and***
- b) ***The private school is an associate or full member of the IHSA, and***
- c) ***The private high school (9-12) student enrollment is less than 175 students, and***
- d) ***The private school is limited to no more than five (5) students participating in boys football at any one particular public high school, and***
- e) ***The private school student meets all eligibility requirements of both the IHSA and the public school, and***

- f) ***Both schools involved are in compliance with By-law 3.070 concerning recruitment of student athletes, and***
- g) ***The public school is willing to permit private school students to participate on the same basis as any public school student.***

For purposes of this by-law, the term “attend” shall mean that the student is enrolled at the member school, and is taking at, or under arrangements approved by the member school, a minimum of twenty (20) credit hours of work for which credit toward high school graduation will be granted by the member school upon the student’s completing and passing the courses. The school which enrolls the student shall be exclusively responsible to verify the student’s compliance with all of the eligibility requirements of all IHSA by-laws.

The Board of Directors shall have the discretion to waive the requirement of this by-law for the Illinois schools for the deaf or blind. In unit systems having a 6-3-3 or 6-4-2 type of organization, ninth grade students may participate on senior high school athletic teams at the member high school in the district designated by the Board of Education, provided:

- (a) such participation is approved by the district’s superintendent of schools;
- (b) the senior high school principal shall certify that the ninth grade students:
  - (1) are eligible under the requirements of these By-laws,
  - (2) are students at a junior high school located in the district which supports the senior high school, and
  - (3) are not members of a grade or junior high school team in the same sport; and,
- (c) the senior high school principal assumes full responsibility for the conduct of these students during all athletic contests in which they represent the senior high school.

**Revise By-law 4.011 to read:**

A student must attend a member school and may only represent in interscholastic competition the member school the student attends. ***If a student attends a private high school which does not offer boys football as an interscholastic activity that is offered by the public high school in the school district in which the student resides, then the private school student shall be permitted to represent the public high school in his or her home district in that activity provided:***

- a) ***The private school student meets the residency requirements of 3.031, and***
- b) ***The private school is an associate or full member of the IHSA, and***
- c) ***The private high school (9-12) student enrollment is less than 175 students, and***
- d) ***The private school is limited to no more than five (5) students participating in boys football at any one particular public high school, and***
- e) ***The private school student meets all eligibility requirements of both the IHSA and the public school, and***
- f) ***Both schools involved are in compliance with By-law 3.070 concerning recruitment of student athletes, and***
- g) ***The public school is willing to permit private school students to participate on the same basis as any public school student.***

For purposes of this by-law, the term “attend” shall mean that the student is enrolled at the member school, and is taking at, or under arrangements approved by the member school, a minimum of twenty (20) credit hours of work for which credit toward high school graduation will be granted by the member school upon the student’s completing and passing the courses. The school which enrolls the student shall be exclusively responsible to verify the student’s compliance with all of the eligibility requirements of all IHSA by-laws.

The Board of Directors shall have the discretion to waive the requirement of this by-law for the Illinois schools for the deaf or blind. In unit systems having a 6-3-3 or 6-4-2 type of organization, ninth grade students may participate on senior high school athletic teams at the member high school in the district designated by the Board of Education, provided:

- (a) such participation is approved by the district's superintendent of schools;
- (b) the senior high school principal shall certify that the ninth grade students:
  - (1) are eligible under the requirements of these By-laws,
  - (2) are students at a junior high school located in the district which supports the senior high school, and
  - (3) are not members of a grade or junior high school team in the same sport; and
- (c) the senior high school principal assumes full responsibility for the conduct of these students during all athletic contests in which they represent the senior high school.

#### **Rationale of Submitter**

This amendment permits students enrolled in small, private schools to participate in boys football activities in their home public school district, but only when the private school does not offer boys football as an interscholastic activity and has a student enrollment of less than 175 students.

Since IHSA rules do not allow private schools to establish cooperative boys football teams, it is extremely difficult for smaller, private schools to provide an equal opportunity for their students to participate in boys football. Ultimately, this amendment provides that equal opportunity for students enrolled in a smaller-size, private school to participate in boys football.

This amendment does not force any public or private school to change current policy and doesn't give any school an undue advantage since the private school is limited to five (5) students allowed to participate in boys football at any public school.

Lastly, this amendment is consistent with the IHSA Beliefs and Mission statement which provides for equitable participation in interscholastic athletics and states that each student is important, that each member school is equal, and that fairness must always be safeguarded.

**Pros:**

- 1. Provides an opportunity for students who attend small private schools to participate in football.

**Cons:**

- 1. The amendment is limited to football.
- 2. There is no provision in the by-law for computing football enrollment.
- 3. More than five students may have the desire to participate at their home public schools.
- 4. Allowing 5 students to join a small school's football program may greatly enhance the football team.

**Amend By-law 3.043.1 of the Constitution**

Submitted by Rev. Thomas R. von Behren, Principal, Arlington Heights (St. Viator)

**By-law 3.043.1 currently reads:**

**3.043.1** The students transfers attendance in conjunction with a change in residence by both the student and his or her parents, custodial parent, 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

**Revise By-law 3.043.1 to read:**

**3.043.1** The students transfers attendance in conjunction with a change in residence by both the student and his or her parents, custodial parent, surviving parent (in the case of a student with one deceased parent), or guardian from one public high school **attendance area** ~~district~~ to a different public high school **attendance area** ~~district~~; or

**Rationale**

In a large school district, families may move, choose to attend a private school and be penalized for not moving far enough.

**Pros:**

1. Allows a student who moves from one attendance area to another attendance area in a multiple high school district to be eligible at the new public school or at a private school within a thirty mile radius.

**Cons:**

1. Could create private/public school conflicts.

**Add By-law 3.043.3 of the Constitution**  
Submitted by Joe Schmidt, Principal, Chicago (St. Patrick)

**By-law 3.043.3 currently reads:**

3.043.3 The student changes attendance from a private school or a public school with no boundaries to a public high school located in the school district in which the student resides full time with his or her parents, custodial parent, surviving parent, or guardian; the student is enrolling for the first time in a public member high school with boundaries; and the principals of both of the high schools involved accept the transfer, concurring that there is no evidence of a) any violation or avoidance of, or noncompliance with, any by-law, b) any recruiting in connection with the transfer; or

**Revise By-law 3.043.3 to read:**

3.043.3 The student changes attendance from ~~a private school or a public~~ **one IHSA member** school with ~~no boundaries to a public high school~~ **to another member school** in the school district in which **which is located within a 30 mile radius of his or her residence;** the student resides full time with his or her parents, custodial parent, surviving parent, or guardian; the student is **changing high school attendance for the first time;** ~~enrolling for the first time in a public member high school with boundaries;~~ and the principals of both of the high schools involved accept the transfer, concurring that there is no evidence of a) any violation or avoidance of, or noncompliance with, any by-law, b) any recruiting in connection with the transfer; or **c) athletics is not a motivating factor for the transfer.**

**Rationale**

There are numerous situations where the student may transfer from one member school to another member school that are not related to interscholastic competition; situations; where a student just needs a fresh start or social problems exist and a change in schools is needed. This revision establishes a more equitable by-law and adds a provision to the transfer rules requiring principals to consider whether athletics is a motivating factor in the transfer. This provision strengthens the by-law and provides additional safeguards with regard to athletically motivated transfers. In addition, the suggested modification is consistent with the membership's belief that a transfer from one member school to another should not be related to athletic participation.

**Pros:**

1. Allows a transfer student to be eligible when the student transfers for the first time and the principals concur that there is no evidence of a) any violation or avoidance of, or noncompliance with, any by-law, b) any recruiting in connection with the transfer; or *c) athletics is not a motivating factor for the transfer.*
2. Allows an opportunity for a student to transfer and be eligible when all parties agree that it is in the student's best interest.

**Cons:**

1. May put additional pressure on principals to approve transfers.
2. May encourage additional transfers.

**Amend By-law 3.047 of the Constitution**

Submitted by Catherine Finch, Principal, Stockton, on behalf of the IHSA Board of Directors

**By-law 3.047 currently reads:**

**3.047** The member school to which a student transfers shall enforce any period of ineligibility imposed upon the student prior to the transfer by the school from which the student is transferring, even if the student is otherwise eligible under these by-laws. The period of ineligibility at the school to which the student transfers shall be the remaining duration of the period of ineligibility imposed, but not longer than 365 days after the date of the transfer, whichever is less.

**Revise By-law 3.047 to read:**

**3.047** The member school to which a student transfers shall enforce any period of ineligibility imposed **or that would have been imposed** upon the student ~~prior to the transfer~~ by the school from which the student is transferring, even if the student is otherwise eligible under these by-laws. The period of ineligibility at the school to which the student transfers shall be the remaining duration of the period of ineligibility imposed **or that would have been imposed had the student not transferred**, but not longer than 365 days after the date of the transfer, whichever is less.

**Rationale**

The proposed modifications will strengthen the by-law and prohibit a student who is facing sanctions at a high school from transferring schools to avoid a period of ineligibility.

**Pros:**

1. Prevents a student from transferring and being eligible at another school prior to a penalty being imposed.
2. This is the original intent of the by-law.

**Cons:**

1. There are times when a school will not assess a penalty in order to have the student transfer to another school.

**Amend By-law 3.106**

Submitted by Robert Meader, Principal, Lockport (Twp.)

**By-law 3.106 currently reads:**

**3.106** To be eligible for a school team in a given sport, students must cease non-school practice and competition in that sport no later than the date on which the school team engages in its first interscholastic contest in that sport.

**Amend By-law 3.106 to read:**

**3.106** To be eligible for a school team in a given sport, students must cease non-school practice and competition in that sport no later than **five days after** the date on which the school team engages in its first **practice or tryout interscholastic contest** in that sport.

**Rationale**

The current by-law permits students to continue participating on non-school teams until the school actually competes in an interscholastic contest. Depending on the activity and the school's schedule, it may be several weeks after practice has started before the school participates in an interscholastic contest. During this time period, students will be required to practice for their high school team, and they may also be required to practice and participate in contests for the non-school team. As a result, the time students devote to athletics may increase substantially and conflicts may develop between the school team and the non-school team regarding practice schedules, coaching strategies and philosophies. Finally, an athlete may be chosen for the high school team and practice with the non-school team and then quit the high school team to continue with the non-school team, thus depriving other students from being on the team and hurting the team and school.

**Pros:**

1. Allows a student who does not make the high school team to return to the club/outside team.
2. Reduces conflicts between the high school and outside team regarding practices, etc.
3. Allows a student to remain a part of the club/outside team until tryouts have been completed.

**Cons:**

1. The rule change may be more effective if the change corresponded with the first day of practice.

**Amend By-law 3.121**

Submitted by Catherine Finch, Principal, Stockton, on behalf of the IHSA Board of Directors

**By-law 3.121 currently reads:**

3.121 No student at a member school shall participate on an all-star team in basketball, football, soccer or volleyball during the student's high school career; except that after completing their interscholastic athletic eligibility in any one of these sports, a student may participate in one (1) all-star contest in that sport, provided the school season for that sport has been completed, and the contest is approved by the Board of Directors.

**Amend By-law 3.121 to read:**

3.121 No student at a member school shall participate on an all-star team in basketball, football, soccer or volleyball during the student's high school career ***until completing their interscholastic athletic eligibility in that particular sport. A student may participate in no more than three (3) all-star contests in a sport.***

**Rationale**

There are many more all-star participation opportunities now than there were just a few years ago. There are numerous all-star events being sponsored on a local level rather than a statewide basis. More students are being afforded the opportunity to compete in all-star events, and as a result, more students are forced to decide between participating in more than one all-star event or participating in a spring sport. This amendment proposal strikes a more realistic balance between participating in all-star games and continued IHSA eligibility.

**Pros:**

1. Today, there are many more opportunities for students to participate in all-star contests.
2. Would allow an athlete to participate in more than one all-star contest.
3. Would provide an opportunity for students to still be able to participate in a spring activity when he/she participates in more than one all-star contest.

**Cons:**

1. By increasing the number, we could be encouraging even more all-star contests to be held.
2. Could disrupt the student's participation in a spring sport.

**Add By-law 3.132**

Submitted by Catherine Finch, Principal, Stockton, on behalf of the IHSA Board of Directors

**Add By-law 3.132 to read:**

***Only bona fide students of a school may participate in a practice session for any interscholastic team sponsored by that member school.***

**Rationale**

This by-law amendment clearly states that only students of the school may participate in a school's practice sessions. IHSA By-laws address this issue only through Board of Directors interpretation at this point. This By-law would clearly articulate the position that schools may only use their own students in the conduct of practice sessions. In addition, the By-law would help schools address liability issues that may arise when individuals who are not students at the school participate in practices.

**Pros:**

1. Puts the current interpretation into the by-law.
2. Eliminates adults, junior high students, alumni, college students and others from practicing with the athletes.
3. The strength of the school team should be determined by the school's team members.
4. There are liability issues when other people come to practice with the school's athletes.

**Cons:**

None

**Revise By-laws 5.071 and 5.201**

Submitted by Carole Manning, Principal, Chicago (St. Ignatius)

**By-law 5.071 currently reads:**

**5.071 Season Limitation**

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Boys Fall Golf teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of Week 7 or later than Saturday of Week 15 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
- b. A member school may conduct its first interscholastic contest in Boys Fall Golf no earlier than Friday of Week 7 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

**By-law 5.201 currently reads:**

**5.201 Season Limitation**

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Girls Fall Golf teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of Week 7 or later than Saturday of Week 15 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
- b. A member school may conduct its first interscholastic contest in Girls Fall Golf no earlier than Friday of Week 7 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

**Amend By-law 5.071 to read:**

**5.071 Season Limitation**

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Boys Fall Golf teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of Week **6** or later than Saturday of Week **14** in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
- b. A member school may conduct its first interscholastic contest in Boys Fall Golf no earlier than Friday of Week **6** in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

**Amend By-law 5.201 to read:**

**5.201 Season Limitation**

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Girls Fall Golf teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of Week **6** or later than Saturday of Week **14** in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
- b. A member school may conduct its first interscholastic contest in Girls Fall Golf no earlier than Friday of Week **6** in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

**Rationale**

Currently, the sectional golf championships are held the second Tuesday of October and the state championships are conducted the following weekend. This has conflicted with the PSAT as well as other standardized testing that is held the second Tuesday of October throughout the state. The makeup exam for the PSAT is held on the same weekend that the state championships in golf are conducted. Changing the start of the season would allow the sectional championships and state championships to be held a week earlier and avoid test conflicts such as the PSAT. Student athletes should not have to make a choice between golf and the test. In addition to avoiding a conflict with the PSAT, it is likely the weather would be better if the championships were held a week earlier.

**Pros:**

1. Avoids the conflict with the PSAT dates.

**Cons:**

1. There could be other options to address the Tuesday date for the state series.
2. Could create additional conflicts.
3. Impacts the site availability and contractual issues for the state series.

**Delete By-laws 5.041(c) and 5.181(c)**  
Submitted by Dr. Dawn Snyder, Rock Island (H.S.)

**By-law 5.041 currently reads:**

**5.041 Season Limitation**

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Boys Basketball teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of Week 19 or later than Saturday of Week 37 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
- b. A member school may conduct its first interscholastic contest in Boys Basketball no earlier than Monday of Week 21 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
- c. A member school shall not permit any team to participate in an interscholastic Boys Basketball contest prior to the date of its first varsity team game.

**By-law 5.181 currently reads:**

**5.181 Season Limitation**

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Girls Basketball teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of Week 18 or later than Saturday of Week 37 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
- b. A member school may conduct its first interscholastic contest in Girls Basketball no earlier than Monday of Week 20 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
- c. A member school shall not permit any team to participate in an interscholastic Girls Basketball contest prior to the date of its first varsity team game.

**Revise By-law 5.041 by deleting (c) to read:**

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Boys Basketball teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of Week 19 or later than Saturday of Week 37 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
- b. A member school may conduct its first interscholastic contest in Boys Basketball no earlier than Monday of Week 21 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

**Revise By-law 5.081 to read:**

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Girls Basketball teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of Week 18 or later than Saturday of Week 37 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
- b. A member school may conduct its first interscholastic contest in Girls Basketball no earlier than Monday of Week 20 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

**Rationale of Submitter**

Would provide an opportunity for non-varsity teams to participate in tournaments prior to the varsity team's first competition. No other sport mandates that varsity teams must begin participation prior to the non-varsity teams being allowed to participate.

**Pros:**

1. Brings basketball into the same category as all of the other sports.
2. Allows non-varsity basketball teams to participate prior to the varsity's first contest.
3. Current quarter limits and tournament limits should provide adequate safeguards.

**Cons:**

1. Could be abused by some schools using varsity players on the non-varsity teams.

<b>Amend By-law 5.341</b> Submitted by David L. Claypool, Park Ridge (Maine South)
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**By-law 5.341 currently reads:**

**5.341 Season Limitation**

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Scholastic Bowl teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of Week 8 or later than Sunday of Week 38.

**Revise By-law 5.341 to read:**

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Scholastic Bowl teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of Week 8 or later than Sunday of Week 38.
- b. *Each school belonging to this Association shall be limited to practicing and participating in no more than one (1) scholastic bowl tournament beginning the Sunday of Week No. 38 and ending the Monday of Week No. 8.***

**Rationale**

Would allow a team to participate in either the Masonic or a national tournament after the end of the season. (1) While limitations on extracurricular activities are fundamentally important in educational settings, several sports have exceptions to participation outside of the standard calendar (football punt-pass-catch competitions, summer leagues for basketball and baseball, national summer competitions in wrestling). The limitation on academic competition, by comparison, is absolute. (2) Illinois is the only state that places such a limitation on academic activity. (3) Other non-athletic activities (music, chess, etc.) have no such limitations placed on them. (4) This proposal maintains a reasonable limit on participation by preventing unlimited competition over the summer. Of course, school administrators would still have final approval on the participation of their school. Such an administrator could simply prevent his/her school from competing, if he/she feels it is in the students' and/or school's best interest. (5) Summer competition is a large part of the national scholastic bowl experience. Competition in these events allows students with similar academic interests to meet students from across the country and to compare experiences. It also serves as a wonderful motivation for students to improve academically, especially for intelligent students who might otherwise lack motivation.

**Pros:**

1. Allows students to participate in events that are held outside of the season.

**Cons:**

1. Other activities/sports may look for exceptions to competition outside of the season.

**Add By-law 5.753**

Submitted by John Martin, Official Representative, Lincolnshire (Stevenson)

**Add By-law 5.753 to read:**

**5.341 Individual Limitation**

***No individual shall be permitted to participate on a member school's Competitive Cheerleading team unless he/she is a rostered participant on the member school's winter (basketball) sideline cheerleading team.***

**Rationale of Submitter**

In 2002-03, the IHSA member schools adopted By-law 5.750 for Competitive Cheerleading. The By-law was the result of a cooperative effort of the IHSA staff and the Board of the Illinois Cheerleading Coaches Association (ICCA); however, the final proposal omitted an ICCA rule which is integral to State competition, requiring competitors to be actual cheerleaders and members of cheerleading teams, not competitive gymnasts or members of an all-star squad, and allowed for an interpretation (#272 Q. What eligibility rules apply to sideline cheerleaders? A. The activity eligibility by-laws (Section 4.000), but only if the team engages in interscholastic competition) that effectively negates years of progress that ICCA has made to elevate the level and status of cheerleading.

The current by-law allows a school to enter anyone as a member of its competitive cheerleading squad. As the interpretations clearly state, it also raises competitive cheerleading to the level of a sport, while putting sideline cheerleading in the category of an activity. The ICCA has made its first priority the promotion of school spirit and cheering from teams; competition becomes a reward for the successful completion of this goal. Current By-law 5.750 reverses this; competition becomes the ultimate goal, with actual cheerleading as a lesser, unimportant activity. The impact on school spirit programs could be devastating.

At the IHSA Spirit Rules Interpretation meetings this Fall, the materials handed out to coaches included a letter from the IHSA entitled, "Congratulations on Being Selected as a Cheerleader." That handout includes the following statement: "A cheerleader's job is to improve student morale, to boost team spirit and to help your school achieve the most worthwhile objectives in its interscholastic program...As a cheerleader, you have accepted a spirit leadership responsibility for all the sports your school offers..." The ICCA believes this to be true at games and at competitions, and that cheerleading competitions should be fair and equal contests among schools and their cheerleaders. Individual participants must be actual cheerleaders on a cheerleading team which would have roster limitations in a set of Terms and Conditions like other sports.

**Pros:**

1. The cheerleading competition should showcase cheerleaders who have been participating in sideline cheer.
2. ICCA requires competitors to be sideline cheerleaders.
3. Would prevent a school from adding gymnasts or other elite athletes to their squad just for competition.

**Cons:**

1. Limits the number of cheerleaders who can participate.
2. No other sport or activity requires participation on a team in order to be a member of a different school team.
3. This should be a local school decision.