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MARCH

NEWSLETTER



Photo from the 2024 IHSA Boys Basketball State Finals courtesy of Visual Image Photography - VIP

## Upcoming Dates

- March 17**  
Girls Badminton, Baseball, Boys' Lacrosse, Girls' Lacrosse, Girls' Soccer, Softball, & Boys' Tennis Contests May Begin
- March 21**  
Chess Advisory Committee Meeting
- March 22**  
Scholastic Bowl State Finals
- March 24**  
Boys' Volleyball Contests May Begin
- March 25**  
Spring Rules Presentations – Last Day for Credit
- March 26**  
Journalism List of Participants Due
- March 28**  
Drama State Finals Begin
- April 2**  
Athletes with Disabilities Advisory Committee Meeting
- April 4**  
Esports List of Participants Due
- April 9**  
Boys & Girls' Bowling Advisory Committee Meeting  
Boys & Girls' Swimming Advisory Committee Meeting  
Officials: Head Clinicians Meeting
- April 11**  
Music Organization State Finals Begin
- April 13**  
All-State Academic Team Banquet
- April 14**  
Board of Directors Meeting

The IHSA office will be closed on Friday, April 18, and Monday, April 21.



## From the Executive Director

Please click the IHSA logo to the right for this month's Executive Director report, which will explain the changes to IHSA Board Policy 17 regarding classifications beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. The section below provides a written overview of the changes to Policy 17.



## Policy 17 Overview

Classification Cycle: Classifications will be made annually rather than every two years using the most recent September 30th enrollment data.

Classification Cutoffs: Cutoffs between classes will be fixed rather than percentage based. See the policy language for cutoffs in each multi-class sport/activity.

1.65 Multiplier: The actual enrollments of all non-boundaried schools will be multiplied by 1.65 for classification purposes. **Please note that the multiplier does not bump all non-boundaried schools up to a higher class.**

Multiplier Waiver: Automatic waivers are no longer given to sport and activity programs of non-boundaried schools. Schools seeking a waiver from the multiplier for a sport or activity must apply through the online Schools Center. This must be done annually.

Applications will be reviewed by IHSA staff, and recommendations for approval or denial of a waiver will be given to the IHSA Board of Directors. The IHSA Board of Directors has final authority over application decisions.

Success Adjustments: Non-boundaried school programs will be subject to a success adjustment should a program win two IHSA state trophies over the last three years rather than the last two years.

Cooperative Teams: The multiplied enrollments of non-boundaried schools will be used for classifications of cooperative teams unless a waiver has been approved in that sport or activity for the non-boundaried schools involved.

Multiplier Waiver: Should a team at a non-boundaried school be moved up to a higher class after being multiplied, the school may consider applying for a multiplier waiver. Before applying, schools should determine whether they meet the criteria to apply.

Again, being multiplied does not move all non-boundaried teams to a higher class. If the multiplier does not change a school's classification in a certain sport or activity, there is no need to apply for a waiver.

If there is a change in a team's classification after being multiplied, then the success of that program must be reviewed before applying. Should a team achieve a certain level of success over the last three school terms, the school will not be eligible to apply for a waiver in that sport or activity.

Teams that do not meet the success criteria are eligible to apply for a waiver. Being eligible to apply does not guarantee that a waiver will be granted. Information collected from the application will be reviewed for consideration of a waiver.



## IHSAF Scholarships

The IHSA Foundation will be offering \$14,000 in scholarships to class of 2025 seniors. The Foundation supports senior students who are either planning to pursue one or more of the following career paths:

- (1) major in education,
- (2) return to the coaching profession, or
- (3) are a current IHSA licensed official.

Each school can nominate one student for a \$1,000 scholarship. The scholarship does not require a minimum GPA or test score. IHSA School Official representatives will receive an email on March 20 with the submission link to forward to the school's nominee. The deadline for submission is April 11 with the winners being recognized virtually the week of April 28.

Learn more about the IHSAF [here](#).



## NFHSLearn Course of the Month

This month's NFHSLearn Course of the Month is [Developing Youth Through Sport](#). This course, designed for coaches, focuses on the impact that sports can have on students and offers strategies to safely and positively develop student-athletes. Skill development as well as creating an environment conducive to learning are some of the topics addressed.

This is another free course offered by the NFHS. Anyone can set up an account for free at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com) and get started.

## Social Media



Instagram:  
[@IHSA\\_IL](#)

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Youtube:  
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## 2025 Student Section & Spirit Showdown

Congratulations to the winning schools and finalists of the 2025 Student Section & Spirit Showdown contest presented by the IHSA Student Advisory Committee (SAC)! Schools submitted a 90-second to 3-minute video showcasing their student sections, school spirit, and community service.

The finalists were recognized during halftime of the Class 2A championship game at the Girls Basketball State Finals on March 8th, and the winners were presented with banners by members of the IHSA SAC.

Class 1A/2A Champions: Marquette Catholic  
Class 1A/2A Finalists: Arcola, Bunker Hill, & Monticello

Class 3A/4A Champions: Lincoln-Way Central  
Class 3A/4A Finalists: Amos Alonzo Stagg, Lyons Township, & Prospect



## Spring Season Contest Limitations

As spring contests get underway, please review the season contest limitations for each sport. The limitations listed are exclusive of IHSA state series contests.

Baseball	35 games
Softball	35 games
Boys & Girls' Water Polo	30 games
Boys & Girls' Lacrosse	20 matches
Girls' Soccer	25 matches
Boys' Volleyball	35 matches

Badminton	18 dates
Boys' Tennis	20 dates
Boys & Girls' Track & Field	18 dates

A date is defined as a single day on the calendar. A two-day non-conference meet or tournament during the regular season counts as two dates. However, per Illustration 270 in the IHSA Handbook, a two-day conference meet or tournament is considered to be one date.

## National Athletic Training Month

National Athletic Training Month (NATM) is held every March in order to spread awareness about the important work of athletic trainers. Take some time to thank and recognize your athletic training staff for the role that they play in the health care of the students at your school.

## Chicago Bears - Girls Flag Football Clinics

The Chicago Bears are conducting two girls flag football coaches clinics this spring. Contact Tracie Henry ([thentry@ihsa.org](mailto:thentry@ihsa.org)) for the registration link and more information.

Sunday, April 13, at Halas Hall  
Friday, May 9, at Illinois Wesleyan University

## Let's Talk SMAC (Sports Medicine Recommendation)

### Spring Sports Safety in Cold Weather

Early spring weather can be unpredictable in Illinois. To prepare for weather changes through games or practices, athletes are encouraged to wear appropriate layers with moisture-wicking or wind protection. Wind and precipitation can increase the chance of cold-weather injury.

Coaches should have plans for deteriorating weather conditions such as decreasing time outside, allowing athletes opportunities to rewarm, or rescheduling if conditions worsen past a playable point. Coaches should always consult their own specific policy or athletic trainer for further information regarding practicing in cold temperatures.

