

MINUTES OF THE IHSA BOYS AND GIRLS SOCCER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 23, 2025

The IHSA Boys and Girls Soccer Advisory Committee met at the IHSA office on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 10:00 am. Committee members present were Pepejon Chavez, Lincolnshire (Stevenson); Jennifer Belmonte, Darien (Hinsdale South); Rich Alvarez, Gilman (Iroquois West); Tim Johnson, Carlinville; Lori Yates, Roxana; William Niemeyer, Bartlett; and IHSA Assistant Executive Director Beth Sauser. Not in attendance: Fareeda Shabazz Anderson, Chicago (Payton) and Gary Griffin, Rockford (East).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Boys and Girls Section II Dates and Sites

Recommendation: Adjust the 1A Boys and Girls seasons to align with the Boys and Girls 2/3A regional and sectional schedules. Move 1A Super Sectionals to Monday from Saturday. Allow Class 2A/3A Super Sectional sites to host on Monday or Tuesday. Class 1A/2A/3A Regional and Sectional semifinal games may be held on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday. If the semi-finals are held on two days, the days must be concurrent. The recommended schedule is attached.

Rationale:

- a. Class 1A, 2A and 3A all have the same state series schedule.
- b. Class 1A quarterfinal games are not competing for officials during Class 2/3A regular season games.
- c. Increases Class 1A host options by moving the regional and sectional semifinal games off football weekends.
- d. Add Monday as an option to play regional and sectional semifinal competitions to assist host managers in scheduling facilities and workers.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Recommendation: Modify State Association Adoption # 8 to:

Individual Card Count – Coach and Player

All Cautions are counted toward a coach or player individual limitation.

Each Straight Red Card is counted as 2 yellows towards an individual's card count total.

- A. When a coach or player accumulates 5 cards during the season, that person is suspended for the next game.
- B. If a coach or player accumulates 3 additional cards (for a total of 8), that person is suspended for the next two games.
- C. If a coach or player accumulates 3 additional cards (for a total of 11), that person is suspended for the next three games.
- D. If a coach or player accumulates 3 additional cards (for a total of 14), that person is suspended for the next four games etc. These are minimum penalties.
- E. At the start of the IHSA tournament series, a coach or player will begin the tournament with a clean slate if they have accumulated 4 or fewer cards during the regular season.
- F. If a coach or player enters the tournament series having accumulated 5 or more yellow cards during the season, their card count continues through the duration of the state series.

Notes:

1. Once the game restarts, cards cannot be rescinded after being issued; therefore, all yellow and red cards **MUST** be reported to the school and the IHSA.

2. Schools or coaches who do not receive a special report via the IHSA School Center 48 hours of the contest must send the officials' names and ID numbers to the IHSA office for follow-up. The IHSA will contact officials who do not submit yellow/red cards and may face sanctions.
3. The yellow card count includes all yellow cards received, regardless of how many players or coaches receive in a single game.

Example: If a player receives a caution during the game and then receives a subsequent straight red card during the same game, that player's yellow card count will be charged for one for the yellow, two for the straight red, and the individual's red card count shall be charged for one.

4. The committee recommends that Soccer officials submit an explanation in the Yellow Card report that describes the offending behavior or language when a player or coach is issued a yellow card for dissent.
5. The committee recommends that administrators review yellow card reports submitted for dissent in a timely manner to address the offending player or coach regarding their behavior before their next game.

Rationale: The Team Caution Count consequence has been removed. Administrators and Coaches are encouraged to work with individuals who accumulate multiple cards during the season.

2. **Recommendation:** The committee recommends that each straight red card a player or coach receives is counted as 2 yellows towards an individual's card count total

Rationale: The committee felt that if an individual receives a straight red, that is akin to receiving two cautions and should be recorded as such. Especially without the total team count in effect.

3. **Recommendation:** The committee recommends the continued use of the current Soccer State Association Adoptions and any needed editorial changes to be made by Beth Sauser for 2025-26 seasons.

Rationale: Approved the continued use of state association adoptions.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee reviewed the minutes from the 2024 meeting.
2. The new IHSA By-laws for the 2025-26 school year were reviewed.
3. The committee reviewed and discussed the new NFHS Soccer Rules for 2025-25.
4. The committee reviewed the current Terms and Conditions and directed Beth Sauser to make any needed editorial changes. Including the State Final start times after discussions with the State Final Managers.
5. The committee discussed if a coach does not seed, Max Preps rankings are automatically used, so there are no blank columns in the seeding matrix. This will also help when a coach is unavailable to seed, and other school personnel who are not knowledgeable in the sport submit the seeds on behalf of the head coach. Another option is for MaxPreps to seed throughout the season.
6. The committee asked to remind officials that if an adequate number of ball runners are not provided and the ball is kicked away. The official can stop the clock for the ball to be retrieved.
7. Officials have requested that solid black socks be the official IHSA sock vs the current required three-striped sock beginning with the 25-26 season.

8. The committee was asked to discuss the possibility of a “zero week: game in soccer. A by-law proposal must be submitted by the October 2025 deadline and proceed through the IHSA Legislative process.
9. The committee reviewed and discussed correspondence and the terms and conditions proposals from Athletic Administrators.
10. The committee reviewed 42 other states' season varsity game limitations and caution count/red card policies at length and as a result made the recommendations as written above.
11. The committee reviewed the team red and yellow card counts and averages since 2014. The boys 2024 season recorded 652 straight red cards given, which was the highest recorded to date by 51 cards over the 2023 season and 152 more than the 2022 season.
12. They asked that officials remember that teams can hear their discussion when the crew is wearing headsets. The committee is trying to avoid anything said that teams and/or fans should not hear or anything discussed outside of game play.
13. The committee discussed the new NFHS rule stating coaches may approach officials during halftime only if beckoned by the official. They suggest establishing a protocol and including that information in the 25-26 IHSA Rules Interpretation meeting for all coaches and officials.
14. The committee discussed the right to play bill brought forth in Springfield.
15. The IHSA thanks Pepejon and Lori Yates for their service and contributions to the Soccer Advisory Committee.
16. Next meeting: Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at the IHSA office.

Recommended State Series Schedules beginning 2025-26

Boys Soccer (Class 1A, 2A & 3A)	2025-26
Season Starts (Mon. Week 6)	Aug. 11
1st contest May be Held (Mon. Week 8)	Aug. 25
On-Line Season Summary Form Deadline (Wed. 10:00 am. Week 13)	Oct. 1
On-Line Team Seeding Deadline(Thurs. Noon Week 13)	Oct. 2
1A/2A/3A Regional Quarterfinals (Fri. - Sat. Week 15)	Oct. 17-18
1A/2A/3A Regional Semifinals (Mon. - Tues. - Wed. Week 16)	Oct. 20-22
1A/2A/3A Regional Finals (Fri. - Sat. Week 16)	Oct. 24-25
1A/2A/3A Sectional Semifinals (Mon. - Tues. - Wed. Week 17)	Oct. 27-29
1A/2A/3A Sectional Finals (Fri. - Sat. Week 17)	Oct. 31-Nov. 1
1A Super-Sectional Finals (Mon. Week 18)	Nov. 3
2A/3A Super-Sectionals (Mon. - Tues. Week 18)	Nov. 3-4
1A State Final (Thurs. - Sat. Week 18)	Nov. 6-8
2A/3A State Final (Fri. - Sat. Week 18)	Nov. 7-8
Season Ends (Sat. Week 18)	Nov. 8

Girls Soccer (Class 1A, 2A & 3A)	2025-26
Season Starts (Mon. Week 35)	Mar. 2
1st contest May be Held (Mon. Week 37)	Mar. 16
On-Line Season Summary Form Deadline (Wed. 10:00 am. Week 43)	Apr. 29
On-Line Team Seeding Deadline (Thurs. 12:00 Noon Week 43)	Apr. 30
1A/2A/3A Regional Quarterfinals (Fri.-Sat. Week 45)	May 15-16
1A/2A/3A Regional Semifinals (Mon. - Tues. – Wed. Week 46)	May 18-20
1A/2A/3A Regional Finals (Fri.-Sat. Week 46)	May 22-23
1A/2A/3A Sectional Semifinals (Mon. - Tues. - Wed. Week 47)	May 25-27
1A/2A/3A Sectional Finals (Fri.-Sat. Week 47)	May 29-30
1A Super-Sectional Finals (Mon. Week 48)	Jun. 1
2A/3A Super-Sectionals (Mon. - Tues. Week 48)	Jun. 1-2
1A State Final (Thurs. - Sat. Week 48)	Jun. 4-6
2A/3A State Final (Fri.- Sat. Week 48)	Jun. 5-6
Season Ends (Sat. Week 48)	Jun. 6