

**2014-15 – Proposal No. 1**

Amend By-law 3.034.3 – Residence

Submitted by Michelle Mershon, Principal, Peru (St. Bede)

**By-law 3.034.3 Currently Reads:**

**International and Foreign Exchange Students:** Students attending school in Illinois under the auspices of approved student exchange programs shall be considered eligible regarding residence and transfer for a maximum period of one calendar year, commencing with the date of their enrollment and beginning attendance at an IHSA member school. To be considered for approval, a foreign exchange program must **be approved by the IHSA and the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). It must also** assign students to schools by a method which insures that no student, school, or other interested party may influence the assignment for athletic or other purposes. The Board of Directors shall establish additional criteria by which it shall approve foreign exchange student programs. **International students attending school in Illinois who are not participating in an approved student exchange program will not be eligible with respect to residence or transfer for the duration of their high school attendance unless they meet the requirements of the applicable provisions of the residency and transfer By-Laws as determined in an official ruling from the Executive Director. For purposes of this By-Law, the residential school exception set forth in By-Law 3.034.1 shall not apply to establish a student's residency.**

**Revise By-law 3.034.3 to Read:**

**International and Foreign Exchange Students:** Students attending school in Illinois under the auspices of approved student exchange programs shall be considered eligible regarding residence and transfer for a maximum period of one calendar year, commencing with the date of their enrollment and beginning attendance at an IHSA member school. To be considered for approval, a foreign exchange program must **be approved by the IHSA and the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). It must also** assign students to schools by a method which insures that no student, school, or other interested party may influence the assignment for athletic or other purposes. The Board of Directors shall establish additional criteria by which it shall approve foreign exchange student programs. **International students attending school in Illinois who are not participating in an approved student exchange program will not be eligible with respect to residence or transfer for the duration of their high school attendance unless they meet the requirements of the applicable provisions of the residency and transfer By-Laws as determined in an official ruling from the Executive Director or they are in a program which has been approved by the IHSA Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall establish the criteria by which it shall approve such programs.** For purposes of this By-Law, the residential school exception set forth in By-Law 3.034.1 shall not apply to establish a student's residency.

**Rationale:**

As educators we value the contribution that interscholastic activities have on students. We profess that these activities teach teamwork, self-sacrifice for a greater goal and commitment. International students who come to the United States to study for multiple years should also have the opportunity to learn these values. Participation on extra-curricular teams often bridges the language and cultural differences between students and eases the apprehensiveness/shyness among international students the experience of participation also aids in the socialization process, far more successfully than through classroom experiences.

It is true that today's students will live in a global community. Through extra-curricular participation all students can benefit from participating with students from other countries. All students will experience greater opportunities to learn the values and beliefs of other cultures.

International Students and Foreign Exchange Students are two unique and different groups of students and each should have an opportunity to experience interscholastic activities while attending member schools.

Individual vetting of programs by the IHSA staff and Board will provide the safety net needed with regard to International Students.

**2014-15 – Proposal No. 5**

Amend By-law 3.153 – Special Provisions for Summer Participation

Submitted by Mark Pos, Official Representative, Gurnee (Warren), Todd Poelker, Principal, Lincoln &amp; Robert McBride, Principal, Naperville (Neuqua Valley)

**By-law 3.153 Currently Reads:**

Persons who coach a sport at a member school may have a maximum of 25 days of contact in that sport with the students from that school during the period between the last day of classes or Monday of Week 49 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar (whichever date is earlier) in the spring each year and Sunday of Week 5 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar. Additionally, there may be no contact during the mandatory “Dead Week” for either Week 52 or Week 1 (whichever week encompasses the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday). This “Dead Week” would be determined annually by the IHSA. The students may have a maximum of 25 days of contact per sport with persons who coach that sport at the school they attend during the same time period. A day of contact is defined as any date on which any coaching or instruction in the skills or techniques of any sport takes place. These limitations apply to all sports except Baseball and Softball. An exception may be made by the Executive Director under the guidelines adopted by the Board of Directors for competitions sponsored and conducted directly by the National Governing Body for the sport.

**Revise By-law 3.153 to Read:**

Persons who coach a sport at a member school may have a maximum of 25 days of contact in that sport with the students from that school during the period between the last day of classes or Monday of Week 49 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar (whichever date is earlier) in the spring each year and Sunday of Week 5 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar. ~~Additionally, there may be no contact during the mandatory “Dead Week” for either Week 52 or Week 1 (whichever week encompasses the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday). This “Dead Week” would be determined annually by the IHSA.~~ The students may have a maximum of 25 days of contact per sport with persons who coach that sport at the school they attend during the same time period. A day of contact is defined as any date on which any coaching or instruction in the skills or techniques of any sport takes place. These limitations apply to all sports except Baseball and Softball. An exception may be made by the Executive Director under the guidelines adopted by the Board of Directors for competitions sponsored and conducted directly by the National Governing Body for the sport.

**Rationale: Mark Pos, Gurnee (Warren)**

1. This proposal did not have overwhelming support when it passed last year.
2. This should be a local school district choice if they do not want to allow camps during the week surrounding July 4<sup>th</sup>.
3. School district allowed to make their own decisions regarding having summer school during this period, so they should be able to do the same for camps.
4. This will likely have the unintended conflict for kids in multiple sports. For many schools, fall sports currently wait until July to run their summer camp programs. If they are forced to lose a week in July they might be forced to start in June and conflict with other camps.

5. If camps are truly not required, then an athlete missing camp around July 4th should not fear punishment or retribution. This again should be a local school district issue.

**Rationale: Todd Poelker, Lincoln**

1. Sports that schedule their 25 contact days starting at the beginning of summer and ending as early as possible will be forced to stretch their contact period longer into July.
2. At schools that use several snow/emergency days during the school year and potentially end their school year in early/mid-June, teams will have fewer total summer days in which to use their 25 contact days if we have an extra no-contact week in early July.
3. Schools can still choose to implement an extra no-contact period during the summer, but that would be a local decision.

**Rationale: Robert McBride, Naperville (Neuqua Valley)**

This proposal would return By-law 3.153 to the 2013 status.

The IHSA has already established the 25 contact day rule that limits the amount of time that a program may meet for practice over the summer. Schools and school districts already have the authority to implement a “dead week” if the school community believes that it is beneficial and necessary to achieve a balance of time with family activities without a blanket policy from the IHSA for all schools and districts to follow. At the same time, families always have the option to take a break or vacation from any summer sports or activities during the week of July 4<sup>th</sup> or any other week with no penalty. In fact, the IHSA already has a rule that participation in summer practices cannot be used as a means to determine season participation. This by-law revision will return local control.

The ‘dead week’ does not apply to some sports already because of their competitive season. However, other sports may have athletes competing in summer championships during this “dead week” as it is a way to minimize the effect on families that need to travel to compete. Instituting a “dead week” has the potential to eliminate opportunities for student athletes during the summer.

**2014-15 – Proposal No. 10**

Add By-law 3.173 – Football Regular Season and Playoff Proposal  
Submitted by Tim Carlson, Principal, Sycamore (H.S.)

**By-law 3.173 to Read:**

- I. CREATING A NEW BY-LAW TO GOVERN IHSA FOOTBALL
  - a. This proposal is creating a system for how the IHSA runs football.
    - i. Establishes a nine (9) game regular season schedule for all teams eligible for the IHSA Playoffs.
    - ii. Establishes how the regular season determines the IHSA Football Playoffs.
    - iii. Establishes how the playoffs are run.
    - iv. This proposal would allow the IHSA Board of Directors to decide if we start region football in 2015 or 2016.
- II. ESTABLISHING EIGHT (8) CLASSIFICATIONS – (1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A, 7A, 8A)
  - a. Enrollment
    - i. Each school will average the official enrollments for the two years prior to the seasons in which the seasons will be played.
    - ii. Here is an example:
      1. If approved for the 2015 and 2016 schedules will be established by the enrollment from the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 schedules.
      2. Schools with a single gender will apply all by-laws before the average is determined.
    - iii. When the average enrollment is determined, the multiplier will then be enforced to the schools that have met the criteria during the seasons in which the enrollment were used.
    - iv. A list will be formed from the greatest number to the smallest number.
  - b. Placing Schools in a Classification
    - i. The IHSA will divide the state into eight (8) classifications.
    - ii. The number of regions in each classification will be eight (8).
    - iii. The number of schools in each classification will be set by the IHSA.
      1. Each region will consist of seven (7), eight (8), or nine (9) schools.
  - c. Moving Up in Classification
    - i. Any school interested in playing up a classification needs to notify the IHSA by Monday of Week 28.
- III. ESTABLISHING REGIONS WITHIN THE EIGHT (8) CLASSIFICATIONS
  - a. The IHSA will set the regions in all classifications.
  - b. The regions will be set by geography.
  - c. These regions will be announced by the Monday of Week 31.
  - d. Each region will be labeled by their classification and a number.
    - i. Example – 8A-Region 1
- IV. ESTABLISHING SCHEDULES FOR A TWO (2) YEAR CYCLE
  - a. Region Schedules
    - i. The IHSA will develop the schedules.
    - ii. Teams will be placed in alphabetical order in each region.

- iii. Numbers will then be drawn for 7 team, 8 team, and 9 team regions.
  - iv. The first number drawn will be given to the team at the top of the list, subsequent numbers will be placed in the order they are drawn.
    - 1. All 7 number will be drawn for the 7 team regions.
    - 2. All 8 numbers will be drawn for the 8 team regions.
    - 3. All 9 numbers will be drawn for the 9 team regions.
  - v. The regular season rotation is listed in Appendix A.
  - vi. Home teams will be established so that the number of home games during the two year cycle is even.
    - 1. 7 team regions – 3 home games and 3 away games each season.
      - a. Plus 3 non region games, 2 home games one season, 1 the other season
    - 2. 8 team regions – 4 home games one season, 3 home games the other season.
      - a. Plus 2 non region games, 1 home and one away each season
    - 3. 9 team regions – 4 home games and 4 away games each season.
      - a. Plus 1 non region home game one of the two season.
  - vii. The numbers will be drawn by the Monday of Week 31 of the year prior to the resetting of the regions.
- b. Non-Region Games
- i. Nine (9) team regions will play one non-region game.
    - 1. These non-region games will be with a neighboring region.
    - 2. These regions will have a bye week in their region.
    - 3. The week of their bye in their region, they will play the team with the same number.
    - 4. These games will be announce by the Monday of Week 35.
  - ii. Eight (8) team regions will play two non-region games.
    - 1. These non-region games will be weeks one and two of the season.
    - 2. Each team will submit six (6) teams they would like to play.
      - a. They will list them in the order of priority
    - 3. If two teams list each other as first choice, they will be guaranteed to play in either week one or week two.
    - 4. All other games will be played based on geography and the priority list.
    - 5. The IHSA will set all non-region games.
    - 6. These non-region games will be announced by the Monday of Week 35.
  - iii. Seven (7) team regions will play three non-region games.
    - 1. One non-region games will be with a neighboring region.
      - a. These regions will have a bye week in their region.
      - b. The week of their bye in their region, they will play the team with the same number.
    - 2. Two non-region games will be weeks one and two of the season.
      - a. Each team will submit six (6) teams they would like to play.
      - b. They will list them in the order of priority

- c. If two teams list each other as first choice, they will be guaranteed to play in either week one or week two.
- d. All other games will be played based on geography and the priority list.
- e. The IHSA will set all non-region games.
- f. These non-region games will be announced by the Monday of Week 35.

c. Levels of Play

- i. Schools will be playing all levels that schools offer.
  - 1. The preference would be to play one play one game before the varsity game.
  - 2. Other levels could be played on Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Monday.
  - 3. If a school has a level and their opponent does not, they are free to seek another school to play for that specific week.

d. Game Times, Dates, Locations

- i. Schools must mutually agree upon dates and times by the Monday of Week 1 of the IHSA calendar.
- ii. Schools need to be flexible for conditions that may necessitate dates of specific games. (Examples – Religious Holidays, Homecoming Traditions, Community Events, Travel, Stadium Availability)

- e. When the schedule is set for year one, year two will set be set to play at the opposite sites.

V. ESTABLISHING PLAYOFF TEAMS

- a. The top 4 schools in each region will make the IHSA Football Playoffs.
  - i. Each playoff spot will be determined in each region in the following order:
    - 1. First Place
    - 2. Second Place
    - 3. Third Place
    - 4. Fourth Place
- b. If two schools are tied for a place, the following criteria will break the tie:
  - i. Head to Head Competition
- c. If three or more schools are tied for a place, the following criteria will break the tie:
  - i. Head to Head Competition.
  - ii. Total Point Differential for all games within the Region.
  - iii. Total Point Differential for all games won within the Region.
  - iv. Total Point Differential for all games lost within the Region.
  - v. Schools will be eliminated from the tiebreakers, when one position is determined, we will then return to the appropriate criteria for any remaining schools.
- d. Point Differential
  - i. A maximum of +/- 12 can be earned for point differential in a single game.
    - 1. If Team A defeats Team B, 28-14, Team A has a +12 point differential, while Team B has a -12 point differential.
    - 2. This number is set so that there is no need to ‘run up’ the score during a game.

- ii. If a game goes to overtime, the winning team will have a +1 point differential, with the losing team having a -1 point differential, regardless of the final score.

VI. BRACKETING THE IHSA PLAYOFFS

- a. For all classifications, four regions will be placed in the North and four regions will be placed in the South.
- b. The four champions of each region will be seeded.
  - i. Seeding will be done by the total number of playoff points earned by a team.
    - 1. Playoff points will be the wins of all your regular season opponents.
  - ii. Once the champions are placed on the bracket, the 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams will be placed on the opposite side of the bracket from their champion.
  - iii. The 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams will be placed next, the same side as the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team, but the other quarter bracket.
  - iv. The 4<sup>th</sup> place teams will be placed next, the same side as the champion, but the other quarter bracket.
  - v. A copy of the bracket is in Appendix B.

VII. HOME SITES FOR THE IHSA PLAYOFFS

- a. In the first round, all games will be hosted by the championship and 2<sup>nd</sup> place schools.
- b. In the second round through the semi-finals, the host will be the school that has hosted the least number of games.
  - i. If that number of games hosted is equal, the school with the most playoff points will be the host.
  - ii. If the total playoff points are equal, the school with the best regular season point differential will host.
  - iii. If the point differential is equal, the IHSA will conduct a coin flip.

VIII. OFFICIATING

- a. For the regular season the home team will be responsible for the payment of officials
  - i. Each region may hire an assignor to contract officials for the all regular season games.
    - 1. Many conferences currently use assignors, this could be done for each region as well.
- b. For the playoffs the IHSA will assign all games.

**Rationale:**

Conference Stability

In the last five years, 20 conferences have changed alignment do to departures or additions

In the last five years, 4 new conferences have been formed.

Eliminates teams playing outside the state of Illinois

38 schools are playing out of state schools

49 games versus out of state schools

Games played in 11 different states



Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri,  
Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Wisconsin

Eliminate creative scheduling to get the magic 5th win

Schedules are set by the state

Place in the region determines your playoff status

Give some type of system that the public understand

The public can see the standings to see where their team is in the standing

Similar to how they follow their favorite pro teams

Can keep a running total of the tiebreakers with the records

Creates additional interest in certain areas.

Teams earning playoff bids versus like schools

Every year there are teams that earn playoff berths on the backs of schools that are significantly smaller.

The same can be said in reverse, some schools do not make the playoffs due to playing schools significantly larger.

**2014-15 – Proposal No. 15**

Amend By-law 5.301 – Season Limitations – Girls Tennis

Submitted by Mark Pos, Official Representative, Gurnee (Warren)

**By-law 5.301 Currently Reads:**

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Girls Fall Tennis teams, practice, or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Wednesday of Week 6 or later than Saturday of Week 17 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
- b. A member school may conduct its first interscholastic contest in Girls Fall Tennis no earlier than Monday of Week 8 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

**Revise By-law 5.301 to Read:**

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Girls Fall Tennis teams, practice, or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Wednesday of Week 6 or later than Saturday of Week 17 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
- b. A member school may conduct its first interscholastic contest in Girls Fall Tennis no earlier than **Thursday of Week 7** in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

**Rationale:**

1. While the IHSTCA did not propose or support moving the start of practice from Monday of Week 7 forward to Wednesday of Week 6, that by-law was proposed and passed several years ago
2. Like Boys and Girls Golf, the girl's tennis players coming off of a summer of play would clearly be ready to compete in match play following the seven days of practice to start the season.
3. The addition of an extra Saturday would help girls' tennis reach a more equitable status with the length of the boy's season and potential tournament dates for Saturday tournaments.
  - a. Boys Tennis currently has 70 days from the first day of practice until the Friday of the Sectional.
  - b. Girls Tennis currently has 56 days from the first day of practice until the Friday of the Sectional.
  - c. Boy's Tennis currently has 9 Saturdays in the season that can be used for tournament play.
  - d. Girl's Tennis currently has 7 Saturdays in the season that can be used for tournament play.

There are not real negatives to this by-law since teams that do not want to start their match schedule earlier would not have to schedule during the additional time.

**2014-15 – Proposal No. 17**

Amend By-law 5.361 – Scholastic Bowl Season Limitation

Submitted by Michael Dunn-Reier, Official Representative, Aurora (Illinois Math and Science Academy)

**By-Law 5.361 Currently Reads:**

- 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.

**Revise By-Law 5.361 to Read:**

**Schools belonging to this Association may organize their Scholastic Bowl teams at any time during the year to practice or to participate in interscholastic contests.**

**2014-15 – Proposal No. 18**

Amend By-law 5.362 – Scholastic Bowl Contest Limitation

Submitted by Michael Dunn-Reier, Official Representative, Aurora (Illinois Math and Science Academy)

**By-law 5.362 Currently Reads:**

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall participate on more than eighteen (18) dates of interscholastic contests, exclusive of the IHSA series.
- b. No individual shall compete on more than eighteen (18) dates of interscholastic contests, exclusive of the IHSA series.

**Revise By-Law 5.362 to Read:**

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall participate on more than **thirty (30)** dates of interscholastic contests, exclusive of the IHSA series, **between Monday of Week 1 through Sunday of Week 52.**
- b. No individual shall participate on more than **thirty (30)** dates of interscholastic contests, exclusive of the IHSA series, **between Monday of Week 1 through Sunday of Week 52.**

**Rationale:**

The IHSA has made well-thought-out and significant changes in the Scholastic Bowl rules over the past five years in order to bring Scholastic Bowl more in line with the so-called 'national format' used in dozens of other states around the USA. While there are still some minor differences, the only significant distinction is in the number of players that constitute a team. Changing the definition of Scholastic Bowl to include four-on-four competition is an appropriate next step.

This change will not only allow Scholastic Bowl teams to participate in a number of very worthy and high quality four-on-four competitions; it will also free schools from having to maintain separate Scholastic Bowl teams and 'quiz bowl' clubs. It makes total sense to eliminate this "distinction without a difference." However, combining these groups, which have until now had to maintain separate schedules, requires that the season limitation be adjusted and the contest limitation be increased.

The Scholastic Bowl season currently starts in mid-August. For 90% of the schools in Illinois who field Scholastic Bowl teams, the *de facto* end of the season will continue to be defined by the IHSA State Tournament which is held in mid-March. Eliminating the *de jure* end of the season will allow those schools in the 10% to plan out their competition year to include preparing for, and competing in, the established multi-state tournaments that are scheduled for late May and early June.

The leadership in smaller schools may be under the impression that extending the Scholastic Bowl season will give larger schools a competitive advantage. But with all the state and federal mandates for special education and support for students with learning disabilities, Scholastic Bowl has become, for many smaller schools, one of the few remaining programs for gifted students. Allowing this academic-based program to continue throughout the entire year will help keep the best and the brightest students at all Illinois schools engaged and challenged.

Scholastic Bowl, after all, is the only IHSA non-athletic 'activity' that has a season limitation. The season limitation was imposed about 20 years ago, at a time when this type of IHSA-sanctioned academic

competition in Illinois was in its infancy. In the two decades since, Illinois has become a bright star, and even a leader, in academic competition nationwide. This has been due, in part, to those schools and teams that have 'gone the extra mile' by fielding 'quiz bowl' teams to compete in 'quiz bowl' competitions. It's time to acknowledge that Scholastic Bowl is a form of 'quiz bowl'. At this point, the IHSA's season limitation on this form of academic competition is an anachronism.

A growing number of local tournament hosts are moving to a four-on-four format in order to align their tournaments with the format used in other states and in national competitions. Scholastic Bowl teams at IHSA-member schools have not been able to participate in such tournaments. (Schools may have been sending other quizzing clubs or groups to such events, but they have not been allowed to send their Scholastic Bowl teams.) The IHSA believes that four-on-four contests are worthy events, and that Scholastic Bowl teams should be allowed to participate in them and count them towards their record.

It seems contrary to the mission of schools and of the IHSA to set a season limitation on learning. Consequently, the current language limiting when a scholastic bowl team can be organized and be functioning as a team should be eliminated. The ability for a scholastic bowl team to exist during the entire school year should be allowed. Increasing the number of opportunities for a team/individual to compete should be raised to accommodate the new opportunities for school teams to compete in the 4 on 4 national formatted tournaments and the proposed extended season. No IHSA member school has any obligation to approve their team to compete on as many as 30 dates, but they would be allowed to do so if the local school administration deemed this appropriate for their team and students.

Currently, several conference/league schedules include after-school meets at which just one or two matches are played each time. Depending on the number of teams in the conference/league and whether they play each other once or twice, this can use up from 6 to 12 dates of the current 18 allowed on the calendar, thus leaving too few dates for participation in other events. Increasing the number of competition dates would take care of this problem.

Coaches who wish to bring out the best in their students and give them more opportunities to play have been forced to deal with navigating around this archaic rule. By recognizing that Scholastic Bowl and Quiz Bowl are effectively the same, and extending the season, coaches of high-level programs can continue to provide the competition experience for their students, and it will allow coaches of emerging teams more freedom and opportunity to pursue higher levels of competition without having to deal with two sets of rules. As educators, we should be for anything that increases student opportunity to participate and learn.