

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. 2

Amend By-law 3.043.3 – Transfer

Submitted by John Stimler, Principal, Chicago (Mt. Carmel)

By-law 3.043.3 Currently Reads:

In the event the student transfers attendance from any high school to any other high school, and the transfer is not in conjunction with a change in residence by both the student and his or her parents, custodial parent, surviving parent, or guardian to a residence outside the boundaries of the public school district attendance area the family originally resided in, the Executive Director may grant eligibility based on documentation that the transfer met one of the following conditions:

- The student is enrolling for the first time in the student's home public member high school with boundaries;
- Change in family's financial position;
- Extenuating circumstances documented by the sending school's principal or official representative

Revise By-law 3.043.3 to Read:

In the event the student transfers attendance from any high school to any other high school, and the transfer is not in conjunction with a change in residence by both the student and his or her parents, custodial parent, surviving parent, or guardian to a residence outside the boundaries of the public school district attendance area the family originally resided in, the Executive Director may grant eligibility based on documentation that the transfer met one of the following conditions:

- The student is enrolling for the first time in the student's home public member high school with boundaries;
- **The student is transferring for the first time from a private school to a different private school within a 30 mile radius of his or her residence;**
- **The principals of both private high schools involved accept the transfer by concurring there is no evidence of non-compliance with any IHSA By-law regarding the student's transfer;**
- Change in family's financial position;
- Extenuating circumstances documented by the sending school's principal or official representative.

Rationale:

Last year a partial return to the 2012-13 transfer rule was passed by the membership. This negated the 2013-14 transfer rule that was developed by a special committee and passed by the membership in the fall of 2013. Since the passage of the transfer by-law last year did not fully restore the transfer rule to the 2012-13 version, this proposed addition to section 3.043.3 would complete the return to the transfer policy as it existed in 2012-2013.

2014-15 – Proposal No. 3 (Revised)

Amend By-law 3.073 – Recruiting of Athletes

Submitted by Brendan Conroy, Principal, Chicago (St. Rita) and Gerald Morrow, Principal, Chicago (Robeson)

By-law 3.073 Currently Reads:

It shall also be a violation of this rule to induce or attempt to induce or encourage any prospective student to attend any member school for the purpose of participating in athletics even when special remuneration or inducement is not given.

Schools are not prohibited from conducting academic recruitment programs, programs which may include information concerning the school's extracurricular offerings. However, such recruitment programs must be designed to provide an overview of the academic and extracurricular programs offered by a school and are not to be used as a subterfuge for recruiting students for athletic purposes. Such general recruitment programs permissible under this rule shall be carried out under the following guidelines:

- With the exception of an open house conducted at a member school, no member of a school's coaching staff may present or distribute the school's information to students not yet in high school unless they are representing all phases of the entire high school program at official junior high functions such as high school nights, fairs, days or visits.
- Any information presented or distributed shall be limited to the academic and extracurricular offerings provided by the school. The information may include a description of the athletic facilities available at the school.
- Any information presented or distributed shall not imply, in any manner, that the member school's athletic program is better or more accomplished than any other member school's athletic program.
- Any information presented or distributed shall not imply, in any manner, that it would be more advantageous for a prospective student athlete to attend a member school over any other school because of its extracurricular programs.
- Information may be presented or distributed only at an open house conducted at a member school, or at a school housing grades below the ninth from which the member school can normally expect enrollment.

Revise By-law 3.073 to Read:

It shall also be a violation of this rule to induce or attempt to induce or encourage any prospective student to attend any member school for the purpose of participating in athletics even when special remuneration or inducement is not given.

Schools are not prohibited from conducting academic recruitment programs, programs which may include information concerning the school's extracurricular offerings. However, such recruitment programs must be designed to provide an overview of the academic and extracurricular programs offered by a school and are not to be used as a subterfuge for recruiting students for athletic purposes. Such general recruitment programs permissible under this rule shall be carried out under the following guidelines:

- With the exception of an open house conducted at a member school, no member of a school's coaching staff may present or distribute the school's information to students not yet in high school unless they are representing all phases of the entire high school program at official junior high functions such as high school nights, fairs, days or visits.
- Any information presented or distributed shall be limited to the academic and extracurricular offerings provided by the school. The information may include a description of the athletic facilities available at the school.
- Any information presented or distributed shall not imply, in any manner, that the member school's athletic program is better or more accomplished than any other member school's athletic program.

- Any information presented or distributed shall not imply, in any manner, that it would be more advantageous for a prospective student athlete to attend a member school over any other school because of its extracurricular programs.
- Information may be presented or distributed only at an open house conducted at a member school, ~~or at a school housing grades below the ninth from which the member school can normally expect enrollment,~~ **or at an off campus site approved by the principal/official representative of the school with assurances that such programs are not being used as a subterfuge for recruiting students for athletic purposes, and assurance of full compliance with the aforementioned requirements of this by-law./official representative of the school.**

Rationale:

Public and private schools are offering off campus open house programs in an effort to accommodate potential families and to shift the burden of hosting open houses from feeder grade schools. These programs must continue to follow all the guidelines outlined in By-law 3.073.

2014-15 – Proposal No. 4

Amend By-law 3.101 – Independent Team Participation

Submitted by Kevin Pobst, Principal, Naperville (North) on behalf of DuPage Valley Conference and Upstate Eight Conference

By-law 3.101 Currently Reads:

During the school season for a given sport, in a school which maintains a school team in that sport, a student shall not participate on any non-school team, nor as an individual unattached in non-school competition, in that given sport or in any competition that involves the skill of the sport in question. Violation shall cause ineligibility for a period not to exceed 365 days. An exception may be made by the Executive Director under the guidelines adopted by the Board of Directors for competitions sanctioned directly by the National Governing Body or its official Illinois affiliate for that sport.

Revise By-law 3.101 to Read:

During the school season for a given sport, in a school which maintains a school team in that sport, a student shall not participate on any non-school team, nor as an individual unattached in non-school competition, in that given sport or in any competition that involves the skill of the sport in question. Violation shall cause ineligibility for a period not to exceed 365 days. **The only exceptions would be College ID Camps (two per student-athlete per season) and competitions sanctioned directly by the National Governing Body or its official Illinois affiliate for the sport approved by the Executive Director under the guidelines adopted by the Board of Directors.** ~~An exception may be made by the Executive Director under the guidelines adopted by the Board of Directors for competitions sanctioned directly by the National Governing Body or its official Illinois affiliate for that sport.~~

Rationale:

Over the past few years College ID Camps have become a key recruiting/scholarship tool for colleges and universities. College coaches are requesting/requiring prospects to attend these ID camps in order to be considered for a scholarship or place on the team. The purpose of this change is to allow IHSA student-athletes to participate in College ID camps during their IHSA season. Outside clubs are encouraging their players to play club instead of high school, citing the inability to attend College ID Camps as a key reason. Obviously we believe in the importance of high school sports and do not want to lose players to the club system. These ID camps are a positive experience for our student-athletes and we should find a way to allow them to attend.

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 & 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 4th 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 4th 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 4th.
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 4th 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. 6 (REVISED)

Amend By-law 3.153 – Special Provisions for Summer Participation
Submitted by Briant Kelly, Official Representative, Libertyville

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 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 4th holiday) of the IHSA Standardized Calendar. This “Dead Week” would be determined annually by the IHSA. 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 and 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 **20** days of contact in that sport with 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 **4** 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 4th holiday) of the IHSA Standardized Calendar. This “Dead Week” would be determined annually by the IHSA.~~ Students may have a maximum of **20** 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 and 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:

Currently there are 25 contact days in the summer, which are probably too many for high school athletics. A normal summer consists of about 9 weeks (63 days), but if you exclude Saturdays and Sundays, there are 45 days available. Furthermore, many school districts are also closed on Fridays, which could limit the summer to 36 days available. If high school athletes want to participate in multiple sports, 25 contact days is very difficult to manage for two or three sports. By limiting the contact days to 20 days, it will help a high school athlete that wants to participate in multiple sports and also have some personal time during the summer.

Changing the summer dead week (Remove the July 4th dead week). The proposal from 2013-2014 adds a dead week into the summer calendar during the July 4th week. However, a dead week during the middle of summer does not help with football climatization, school maintenance or even family summer plans (as this doesn't apply to baseball/softball). It would be more appropriate to add the dead week to the end of the summer. A two week dead period will enable school maintenance to handle any facility/equipment issues. Two weeks will also allow families to have more time for vacation. Additionally, this would then apply to all sports, as baseball/softball leagues are finished.

2014-15 – Proposal No. 6 (Revised Split Into Two Proposals 3.153.1 and 3.153.2)

Amend By-law 3.153 – Special Provisions for Summer Participation

Submitted by Briant Kelly, Official Representative, Libertyville

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 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 4th holiday) of the IHSA Standardized Calendar. This “Dead Week” would be determined annually by the IHSA. 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 and 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 **20** days of contact in that sport with 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 **4** 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 4th holiday) of the IHSA Standardized Calendar. This “Dead Week” would be determined annually by the IHSA.~~ Students may have a maximum of **20** 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 and 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.

Split By-law 3.153 Into Two Sections

By-law 3.153.1 Revised to Read:

Persons who coach a sport at a member school may have a maximum of **20** days of contact in that sport with 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 **4** 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 4th holiday) of the IHSA Standardized Calendar. This “Dead Week” would be determined annually by the IHSA.~~

2014-15 – Proposal No. 6 (Revised Split Into Two Proposals 3.153.1 and 3.153.2)

Amend By-law 3.153 – Special Provisions for Summer Participation

Submitted by Briant Kelly, Official Representative, Libertyville

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 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 4th holiday) of the IHSA Standardized Calendar. This “Dead Week” would be determined annually by the IHSA. 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 and 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 20 days of contact in that sport with 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 4 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 4th holiday) of the IHSA Standardized Calendar. This “Dead Week” would be determined annually by the IHSA.~~ Students may have a maximum of 20 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 and 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.

Split By-law 3.153 Into Two Sections

By-law 3.153.2 Revised to Read:

Students may have a maximum of 20 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 and 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.

2014-15 – Proposal No. 7

Amend By-law 3.170 – Classification

Submitted by Dan Krause, Principal, Villa Park (Willowbrook) on behalf of the West Suburban Conference

By-law 3.170 Currently Reads:

The IHSA Board of Directors has the complete authority to establish and implement policies to determine the number of classes of competition in IHSA sports and activities and to classify schools participating in such sports/activities except as follows:

An enrollment multiplier of 1.65 will be added to all non-boundaried schools unless application of this multiplier is waived under a policy of waiver which would be established by the Board of Directors.

The definition of a non-boundaried school is: Any private school, charter school, lab school, magnet school, residential school, and any public school in a multi-high school district that does not accept students from a fixed portion of the district.

Classifications shall be determined on an annual basis.

There will be a subcommittee comprised of IHSA staff and Legislative Commission members to develop the waiver policy for submission to the Board.

Revise By-law 3.170 to Read:

The IHSA Board of Directors has the complete authority to establish and implement policies to determine the number of classes of competition in IHSA sports and activities and to classify schools participating in such sports/activities **except as follows: based upon actual student enrollment.**

Classifications shall be determined on an annual basis.

Rationale:

Implemented in 2005, the multiplier was intended to provide competitive balance and a “leveled playing field” between boundaried and non-boundaried schools. Since that time, approximately only one-third of the non-boundaried schools have the multiplier applied to them. This represents less than 10 percent of the IHSA membership, rendering the multiplier ineffective and irrelevant.

2014-15 – Proposal No. 8

Amend By-law 3.170 – Classification

Submitted by Dan Krause, Principal, Villa Park (Willowbrook) on behalf of the West Suburban Conference

By-law 3.170 Currently Reads:

The IHSA Board of Directors has the complete authority to establish and implement policies to determine the number of classes of competition in IHSA sports and activities and to classify schools participating in such sports/activities except as follows:

An enrollment multiplier of 1.65 will be added to all non-boundaried schools unless application of this multiplier is waived under a policy of waiver which would be established by the Board of Directors.

The definition of a non-boundaried school is: Any private school, charter school, lab school, magnet school, residential school, and any public school in a multi-high school district that does not accept students from a fixed portion of the district.

Classifications shall be determined on an annual basis.

There will be a subcommittee comprised of IHSA staff and Legislative Commission members to develop the waiver policy for submission to the Board.

Revise By-law 3.170 to Read:

Creation of boundary and non-boundary classification system for the IHSA state competition series in all sports.

Proposal:

For the purposes of the IHSA state competition series, the IHSA Board of Directors will first classify schools as boundaried or non-boundaried, and then classify schools into the appropriate number of classes based on student enrollment.

The definition of a non-boundaried school is: Any private school, charter school, lab school, magnet school, residential school, and any public school in a multi-high school district that does not accept students from a fixed portion of the district.

Classifications shall be determined on an annual basis.

Rationale:

All schools participating in the IHSA state championship series will be identified as a “boundary” or “non-boundary” school. A state championship series will be created for all boundaried schools and all non-boundaried schools for each IHSA sponsored activity/sport.

Since student eligibility is defined by By-law 3.030 (Residence) based upon the type of school the student attends, the IHSA state series would reflect this characteristic first, and then by school student enrollment.

For each activity/sport’s championship series, the number of classifications for each division, boundaried and non-boundaried, will be determined by the IHSA Board of Directors based on student enrollment.

Boundaried and non-boundaried schools are not prohibited from competing during regular season play.

2014-15 – Proposal No. 9

Add By-law 3.172 – Boys and Girls Two Class Tennis

Submitted by Eric Brauer, Official Representative, Palos Heights (Chicago Christian)

Add By-law 3.172:

The IHSA State Series for Boys and Girls Tennis will be conducted in two classes.

Data From the Submitter:

- Since IHSA boys tennis began in 1935-1936, NO school under 1000 students has placed in the top 2, and only 8 schools under 1000 students have placed in top 5, meaning that 98% of top 5 team finishers come from schools over 1000 students
- Since IHSA girls tennis began in 1972-1973, NO school under 1000 students has placed in the top 2, and only 1 school under 1000 students has placed in the top 5, meaning that 99.5% of top 5 team finishers come from schools over 1000 students
- This fall, 107 out of 128 singles qualifiers came from large schools over 1000 students (83.6% of qualifiers)

Rationale:

Schools with 100 students are competing against schools with 4,000 students.

- Softball has 4 classes for 640 teams (160 per class)
- Wrestling has 3 classes for 440 teams (147 per class)
- Boys Soccer has 3 classes for 449 teams (150 per class)
- Girls Soccer has 3 classes for 398 teams (133 per class)
- Cheerleading has 4 classes for 299 teams (75 per class)
- Dance just started with 3 classes for 244 teams (81 per class)
- Football has 8 classes for 554 teams (69 per class)
- **Tennis has over 300 teams in each boys and girls, (314 for girls this year) so 2 classes fits the other sport numbers.**
- The state finals would be held in 2 different geographic regions
 - The larger class up in the northern suburbs of Chicago as it is currently setup
 - The smaller class south of I-80 at a more centralized location.
 - You would gain better geographic representation at the IHSA State Finals by allowing smaller schools to send more qualifiers to compete at the IHSA State Finals
- Schools with only 10 tennis players would be able to compete against other schools with 10 tennis players
- Other individual sports such as track, cross country, wrestling, and golf all have multiple classes, so should tennis
- Schools with under 1000 students would actually have a chance to place at the IHSA State Finals
- A 2nd class of tennis would provide equitable competition consistent with the IHSA's mission statement

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 2nd place teams will be placed on the opposite side of the bracket from their champion.
 - iii. The 3rd place teams will be placed next, the same side as the 2nd place team, but the other quarter bracket.
 - iv. The 4th 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 2nd 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. 11

Add By-law 5.005 – Pre-Season Scrimmages

Submitted by Todd Poelker, Principal, Lincoln

By-law 5.005 to Read:

Sports teams at each level of competition may participate in an interscholastic preseason scrimmage. The preseason scrimmage must be held on the Friday or Saturday prior to each sport's first allowable contest according to the IHSAA Standardized Calendar. The preseason scrimmage may be between two schools or it may be a multi-school event. Each team and each student that competes in the scrimmage may only play the equivalent of one full contest in that sport (i.e. four quarters in football and basketball, seven innings in baseball/softball, etc.).

Interscholastic preseason scrimmages in Boys Football shall be limited to regular offensive and defensive formations. Teams may not run special teams plays during an interscholastic preseason scrimmage.

Rationale:

- Teams will have the opportunity to practice game situations against an opponent prior to the first contest of the season.
- As a result of the scrimmage, coaches will be able to learn which team concepts need attention prior to the first real contest of the season.
- Schools and teams can use revenue from preseason scrimmages to fund special projects.

If the Pre-Season Scrimmages By-law is added, add section (a) to the Boys Football Pre-Season Practice Requirements.

5.072 Pre-Season Practice Requirements - Boys Football

- a. A student shall become eligible to participate in an interscholastic preseason scrimmage in Boys' Football after completing a minimum of 1 ½ hours of actual field practice on eight (8) different days excluding Sunday and any day on which the student actually plays in an interscholastic football scrimmage. These practices must be conducted in accordance with Association By-laws.
- b. A student shall become eligible to participate in an interscholastic contest in Boys' Football after completing a minimum of 1 ½ hours of actual field practice on twelve (12) different days excluding Sunday and any day on which the student actually plays in an interscholastic football contest. These practices must be conducted in accordance with Association By-laws.

2014-15 – Proposal No. 12 (Revised Split Into Two Proposals 12 and 13)

Amend By-laws 5.021 and 5.271 – Boys Spring Baseball and Girls Spring Softball – Season Limitations
Submitted by Jerry Dobbs, Official Representative, Palatine (H.S.)

Revised Proposal No. 12 - Amend By-laws 5.021 and 5.271 – Boys Spring Baseball and Girls Spring Softball

Submitted by Jerry Dobbs, Official Representative, Palatine (H.S.)

By-law 5.021 Currently Reads:

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Boys Spring Baseball teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of Week 35 or later than Saturday of Week 49 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
- b. A member school may conduct its first interscholastic contest in Boys Spring Baseball no earlier than Monday of Week 37 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

Revise By-law 5.021 to Read:

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Boys Spring Baseball teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of **Week 37** or later than Saturday of Week 49 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
- b. A member school may conduct its first interscholastic contest in Boys Spring Baseball no earlier than Monday of **Week 39** in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

Rationale:

- Many of the schools are limited to indoor practice space during this time of year, and most do not have facilities large enough to safely evaluate players for full team try-outs.
- Players are currently being cut from teams without ever being able to demonstrate their skills in the actual facility they will be competing during the season. (Outdoor baseball fields)
- This pushes the start of competition back 2 weeks to allow for better weather conditions across the state
- Currently many schools are traveling outside of the state during this period (spring break) to find conditions favorable for play. This practice causes several issues for schools financially as well as players are being asked to raise money prior to them even making the team.
- Very few games scheduled in the first 2 weeks of the current season are seldom played and many are played on poor field conditions and dangerously cold weather.

By-law 5.271 Currently Reads:

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Girls Spring Softball teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of Week 35 or later than Saturday of Week 49 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
- b. A member school may conduct its first interscholastic contest in Girls Spring Softball no earlier than Monday of Week 37 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

Revise By-law 5.271 to Read:

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Girls Spring Softball teams, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of **Week 37** or later than Saturday of Week 49 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
- b. A member school may conduct its first interscholastic contest in Girls Spring Softball no earlier than Monday of **Week 39** in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

Rationale:

- Many of the schools are limited to indoor practice space during this time of year, and most do not have facilities large enough to safely evaluate players for full team try-outs.
- Players are currently being cut from teams without ever being able to demonstrate their skills in the actual facility they will be competing during the season. (Outdoor softball fields)
- This pushes the start of competition back 2 weeks to allow for better weather conditions across the state
- Currently many schools are traveling outside of the state during this period (spring break) to find conditions favorable for play. This practice causes several issues for schools financially as well as players are being asked to raise money prior to them even making the team.
- Many teams are currently renting indoor fields in the early season to play scheduled games. This puts an undue financial burden on schools to play at this time of the season.
- Very few games scheduled in the first 2 weeks of the current season are seldom played and many are played on poor field conditions and dangerously cold weather.

Revised Proposal No. 13 – Amend By-laws 5.022 and 5.272 – Boys Spring Baseball and Girls Spring Softball – Contest Limitations

Submitted by Jerry Dobbs, Official Representative, Palatine (H.S.)

By-law 5.022 Currently Reads:

No Boys Spring Baseball team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than thirty-five (35) games, exclusive of the IHSA series.

Revise By-law 5.022 to Read:

No Boys Spring Baseball team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than **twenty-seven (27) games**, exclusive of the IHSA series.

Rationale:

- By reducing the number of games in a season from 35 games to 27 games allows for teams to keep their current conference scheduling format and still play several non-conference games.
- Double headers can still be utilized
- The 27 game season will be very close to the current 35 game season.
- There will be approximately a \$3,200 savings per school.

By-law 5.272 Currently Reads:

No Girls Spring Softball team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than thirty-five (35) games exclusive of the IHSA series.

Revise By-law 5.272 to Read:

No Girls Spring Softball team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than **twenty-seven (27) games**, exclusive of the IHSA series.

Rationale:

- By reducing the number of games in a season from 35 games to 27 games allows for teams to keep their current conference scheduling format and still play several non-conference games.
- Double headers can still be utilized.
- The 27 game season will be very close to the current 35 game season.
- There will be approximately a \$3,200 savings per school.

2014-15 – Proposal No. 14

Amend By-laws 5.141 and 5.143 – Boys Track and Field Season Limitation & Contest Limitation
Submitted by Anthony Manville, Official Representative, Plainfield (East)

By-law 5.141 Currently Reads:

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Boys Track and Field teams, practice, or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of Week 29 or later than Saturday of Week 47 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
- b. A member school may conduct its first interscholastic contest in Boys Track and Field no earlier than Monday of Week 31 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

Revise By-law 5.141 to Read:

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Boys Track and Field teams, practice, or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of Week 29 or later than Saturday of **Week 48** in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
- b. A member school may conduct its first interscholastic contest in Boys Track and Field no earlier than Monday of Week 31 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

By-law 5.143 Currently Reads:

Team: No Boys Track and Field team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate on more than eighteen (18) dates exclusive of the IHSA series, including indoor and outdoor dates.

Individual: No individual shall compete in Boys Track and Field on more than twenty-one (21) dates exclusive of the IHSA series, including indoor and outdoor dates.

Revise By-law 5.143 to Read:

Team: No Boys Track and Field team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate on more than **nineteen (19)** dates exclusive of the IHSA series, including indoor and outdoor dates.

Individual: No individual shall compete in Boys Track and Field on more than twenty-one (21) dates exclusive of the IHSA series, including indoor and outdoor dates.

Rationale:

This proposal would allow many high schools to participate in a ‘pilot’ unofficial team state meet the week after the IHSA State Series. These schools are just asking for IHSA approval to extend the season one week in order for the schools to host this pilot 3A Boys team state meet, this change will not affect the current IHSA series. As it is structured currently the IHSA State Series does not accurately prove the best 3 teams in the State. Individuals who do very well can as a result earn a top 3 team trophy by themselves. The schools want to pilot this type of meet on their own for the 2015 season to show the success it can have with the goal that the IHSA could adopt it in the coming years.

***Upon acceptance of both proposals we would like the changes to take effect immediately and extend the 2015 Track and Field season calendar. This will allow the host and participating high schools to conduct this meet after the IHSA State Meet and no later than June 6th, 2015. This should be acceptable because it does not require anything on part of the IHSA and it is left up to the participating high schools to conduct.**

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. 16

Amend By-laws 5.341 Season Limitation; 5.342 Contest Limitation and 5.343 Individual Limitation
Submitted by Briant Kelly, Official Representative, Libertyville

By-law 5.341 Currently Reads:

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall conduct its Competitive Cheer team practice earlier than Monday of Week 17 or later than Saturday of Week 31 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
- b. No school belonging to this Association shall allow its Competitive Cheerleading squad to participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of Week 18 or later than Saturday of Week 31 in the Standardized Calendar.

By-law 5.342 Currently Reads:

No Competitive Cheerleading team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than six (6) dates exclusive of the IHSA state series.

By-law 5.343 Currently Reads:

- a. 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.
- b. No member of a Competitive Cheerleading Team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate on more than 6 dates, exclusive of the IHSA series.

Revise By-law 5.341 to Read:

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall conduct its Competitive Cheer team practice earlier than **Wednesday of Week 6** or later than Saturday of Week **21** in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
- b. No school belonging to this Association shall allow its Competitive Cheerleading squad to participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of Week **8** or later than Saturday of Week **21** in the Standardized Calendar.

Revise By-law 5.342 to Read:

No Competitive Cheerleading team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than six (6) dates exclusive of the IHSA state series.

Revise By-law 5.343 to Read:

- a. 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 **fall (football)** sideline cheerleading team.
- b. No member of a Competitive Cheerleading Team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate on more than 6 dates, exclusive of the IHSA series.

Rationale:

During the winter months, it is extremely difficult for schools to schedule gym space for all of the indoor sports. However, during the fall with only girls volleyball, there is a better availability of gym space. There will also be a better availability for schools to host invitationals during the fall season. Additionally, during the summer months many cheerleading teams spend time on stunting and choreography, therefore, a fall season would be closer to those summer months.

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.