

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions have been adopted as official interpretations of the Board of Directors under its authority and responsibility as provided in Article 1.420 of the IHSA Constitution.

Attend — Enrolled and physically present in classes for the period specified in the by-laws, or in the event a by-law does not contain such specification, then for one school term as this is defined in the Illinois School Code. This definition pertains to students, parents or any other person for whom it is necessary under these by-laws to determine whether the person attended a member high school.

Breach of contract — Literally, the nonfulfillment of the terms of a contract. Therefore, if the written terms of a contract are not fulfilled by both schools which are party to the agreement, the contract is technically breached. (By-law 6.040)

Classes begin — The first day of school attendance as designated by a member school's official calendar as filed with the Education Service Region Superintendent.

Coach — Any person, regardless of whether employed or volunteer, who instructs, supervises, or otherwise manages or participates with student athletes in conjunction with a practice, tryout, drill, workout, evaluation of competition activity.

Coaching school, camp or clinic — Any program, sponsored by an organization or individual, which provides instruction in sports theory and/or skills and which does not culminate in competition.

College, junior college or university athletic team — An organized team in a sport sponsored and operated by a college, junior college or university.

Compensation — Any financial consideration, including travel expenses. (By-law 2.080)

Competition "in" or "that involves" the skill of the sport — An event in which teams and/or individuals compete against one another, utilizing one or more of the skills of the sports listed above, under specified competition rules, to determine one or more winner(s).

Contest — Any interscholastic competition, including a scrimmage, in which students representing two or more high schools participate with or against each other.

Custodial Parent — A parent (mother or father) who has been assigned custody or joint custody by a court of proper jurisdiction.

Demonstration — The act, process or means of making one's ability, skill or potential to play a sport evident to one or more observers.

Emancipated student — A student who has been a resident of the State of Illinois for a minimum of one year and who is ruled by the Executive Director to have provided documentation to the IHSA demonstrating that the student is completely financially independent of parents, guardians or any other person, and is completely self-supporting.

Extenuating Circumstances — Are those which have had a significant adverse impact on a student's education or well-being which would be remedied, in whole or in substantial part, by a transfer of schools. In order to be considered "extenuating", the circumstance must be specific to the student in question and must have been brought to the attention of the school's principal and appropriate members of the school's faculty and administration. If applicable, the school must have been given the opportunity to take corrective action. Discipline issues, conflicts with peers, conflicts with school personnel, academic performance and any issue relating to athletics, are examples of circumstances that generally will not be considered "extenuating."

Financial assistance — Monetary contribution, remission of tuition or credit toward payment of school costs, granted exclusively on the basis of objectively determined need.

Game — An organized contest between two different teams.

Home high school — The member school in which a student is enrolled and where the student is granted credit toward graduation for the academic work being taken. Can include the school where the student is claimed for state financial reimbursement.

Home schooled student — A home schooled student is considered to be a student in a private school.

In the same sport — In a team sport, "in the same sport" means practice for or competition in an event played under the published rules for the sport utilized in the IHSA State Tournament Series, or any other published rules for the sport for teams comprised of the same number of players as in the rules used for the IHSA State Series in the sport. In a sport where competition may be in a different events or on an individual basis, "in the same sport" means competition in any event included in the IHSA State Tournament Series for the sport or in which interscholastic competition is offered by the student's high school. (By-law 3.010)

Improper contact — Verbal and/or written communication regarding athletic programs and/or participation, except in response to a parental request; any communication by school personnel to a prospective student which states, suggests or implies advantages which might accrue to the prospective student in relation to or arising from athletic participation in the event the prospective student should attend the school.

Initiate contact — Engaging in verbal and/or written communication regarding athletic programs and/or athletic participation, in the absence of a student's or parent's request for admissions information, with any boy or girl who has not filed an application or taken other steps toward registration at a member high school.

Induce — Communication and/or actions expressed to inspire, move or lead by persuasion or influence related to athletic participation or opportunity a student to attend a particular school.

Involved in any respect — Engaging in anything to do with a non-school team, including, but not limited to coaching, scheduling, transporting, officiating and hiring of officials, training, taping, managing team expenses, purchasing of uniforms and equipment, etc.

Lives on a full-time basis — The location at which a student is permanently domiciled and actually resides on a full-time basis of at least five (5) calendar days per week.

Move — The actual physical relocation in joint residence by the parents of a student and the student from one school district to another, with the intent to reside there indefinitely and terminate all occupancy of their previous residence. (By-law 3.041)

Non-boundaried school — 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.

One year — One year means 365 consecutive days.

Parents — The birth mother and biological father of a student, or the persons to whom a court of proper jurisdiction grants adoption of the student.

Participate — To be present for and personally engage in any organized tryout, drill, practice, training or competition activity for a sport.

Participation — The act of personally engaging in an organized tryout, training or competition activity in a sport.

Physical conditioning programs — Organized physical activity performed without use of any "skill of a sport" which is designed and intended exclusively to facilitate the development of physical strength, agility, muscle tone, stamina, flexibility and general physical fitness of participants.

Prospective student-athlete — A boy or girl who is not a student at and who has not yet registered at a public or non-public high school, but who has been identified by expression of interest and/or pre- or non-high school athletic participation as an individual potentially interested in participating in interscholastic athletics.

Recreational programs — Organized free play, with no instruction, coaching or participant evaluation of any kind, with the exclusive goal of providing enjoyable physical activity to participants.

Regularly certified teacher — A person who possesses a currently registered Illinois teacher's certificate which required completion of student teaching and possession of at least a bachelor's degree. (By-law 2.071) "Substitute" or "Type 39" certificates, which permit an individual to be a substitute teacher only for a limited time period and require only possession of at least a bachelor's degree, without a teacher training or student teaching experience, are acceptable. (By-law 2.072)

Same geographical area — The "same geographical area" will be defined by the boards of education forming a cooperative team. The practical factors involved in the cooperative agreement will create practical parameters to the geographical area any cooperative might serve.

Scholarship — Monetary contribution, remission of tuition or credit toward payment of school costs, based upon selection criteria of any kind other than need.

School personnel — Any person, compensated or non-compensated, who provides services to the operations of a school with the consent of the administration and/or Board of Education or governing Board.

School season — The period of time a school may conduct activity in a sport, commencing with the date on which a school engages in its first practice at any level and ending with the date of the school's last contest at any level in any given school term.

School team — An entity comprised of one or more students in a school, under the control and conduct of the school, which represents the school in interscholastic athletic competition.

School term — the period commencing on the first day of student attendance at the member school at which the student attends or is enrolled or the first such day at any member school in the same school district, whichever is first, until the last day of student attendance at the member school at which the student attends.

School they attend — the school at which a student is enrolled and permanent records are kept. This term is used in connection with student attendance. (By-law 3.013)

School year — That period of time commencing with the first day of school in the fall and culminating on the last day of school in the spring, commonly called school term.

Scrimmage — Practice under actual or simulated game-play conditions, involving members of one or more individual teams.

Skill of the sport — Those basic physical actions, techniques and procedures that have been determined by the IHSA Board of Directors to be essential to the sport. Following is a listing of interscholastic sports and the skill(s) of each sport for which IHSA maintains a season as determined by the Board of Directors:

Badminton — Striking or simulating the striking of a shuttlecock with a racquet in the form of serving or returning.

Baseball — Using or simulating the use of baseball equipment including but not limited to a bat, ball or glove to hit throw, catch or pitch; running bases.

Basketball — Any shooting, passing, dribbling, rebounding, shot blocking, defending activity using or simulating the use of a basketball.

Bowling — Any delivery or simulated delivery of a bowling ball on any surface toward bowling pins.

Competitive Cheerleading — Competitive, organized routines which contain the components of tumbling, dance, jumps, cheers, and stunting.

Sideline Cheer (Spirit Groups) — Organized groups that may display the components of tumbling, dance, jumps, cheers, and stunting to direct spectators of events to cheer on sports teams at games.

Competitive Dance — Movement of the body to rhythm. Movement includes body placement, alignment, posture, expression of style, control, extension, flow and continuity. (Excluding: Ethnic or Folk Dancing, Ballet and Tap.)

Cross Country — Running any distance on any surface other than a track.

Football — Any blocking, tackling, catching, punting, kicking or throwing activity using or simulating the use of a football, or using any traditional football training equipment, including, but not limited to blocking sleds or blocking dummies.

Golf — Striking a golf ball with a club in any manner, such as pitching, driving, putting, chipping.

Gymnastics — Any activity which uses or simulates use of apparatus such as a mat, vaulting horse, pommel horse, horizontal bars, parallel bars, uneven bars, still rings, spring board, mini-trampoline, trampoline, etc. including but not limited to balances; mounts or dismounts; flight, free, connected, locomotor, non-locomotor, or bounding movements; turns; twists, or swings.

Soccer — Any dribbling, passing, throw-ins, kicks, shooting, heading, tackling, or goal keeping using or simulating the use of a soccer ball, or any other equipment used in playing the game of soccer.

Softball — Using or simulating the use of softball equipment including but not limited to a bat, ball or glove to hit throw, catch or pitch; running bases.

Swimming and Diving — Any activity in which participants turn, start, kick, dive including entering water from a springboard or starting platform, or propel themselves through water by means of any stroke, including but not limited to freestyle, backstroke, butterfly or breaststroke.

Tennis — Striking or simulating the striking of a ball with a racquet in any manner, including, but not limited to forehand, backhand, serve, return, volley, lob or overhead hit.

Track and Field — Running any distance on a track, jumping for height or distance, throwing or using any implement, technique or motion associated with any field event.

Volleyball — Any passing, setting, digging, spiking, tipping, dumping or blocking activity using or simulating the use of a volleyball or using any volleyball competitive equipment with a ball and a net.

Water Polo — Any dribbling, throwing, shooting, passing or goalkeeping activity using or simulating the use of a water polo ball.

Wrestling — Any activity in which participants engage in or simulate set-ups, takedowns, reversals, throws, escapes, riding or nearfalls.

Sport season — As used in relation to the age limitation for eligibility, that period of time between the dates specified in the Sections of By-law 5.000 during which member schools may organize their teams, practice or participate in interscholastic competition in any given sport. (By-law 3.060)

Student — A boy or girl who has formally registered and begun to attend classes at a high school.

Student-athlete — A student who has participated in one or more practices and/or athletic contests in any sport offered by or under the auspices of a high school.

Student-Athlete with a disability — A person with a disability is one who has a record of, or is regarded as having, a substantial, as opposed to a minor, physical or mental impairment. A substantial impairment is one that significantly limits or restricts a major life activity such as hearing, seeing, speaking, walking, breathing, performing manual tasks, caring for oneself, learning or working.

Team activity — Anything done by the team or its members together to plan for, prepare for, travel to, compete in or evaluate after the completion of non-school competition.

Thirty Mile Radius — A straight line measurement between a student's home and the private or non-boundaried school the student plans to attend.

Tournament — A competition involving three or more schools in which teams and/or athletes compete under an elimination and/or round robin format within a 10 consecutive week day period which results in a single winner of the competition and or event(s). No regular season tournament shall allow for a member school to participate in more than five (5) games/contests/matches. IHSA By-law 5.004 provides an exception for wrestling tournaments.

Transfer Student — Any student who attended another high school prior to coming to your school whether or not he/she begins attending on the first day of the school term. This also includes home schooled students who were taking high school work and then transfer to a member school. Home schools are considered to be non-boundaried schools.

Tryout — An organized occasion on which one is considered for selection to a team in a sport by undergoing evaluation of the ability, skill or potential to play the sport.

Undue influence — Any influence exerted by school personnel upon a prospective student or a prospective student's family related to athletic participation, potential or accomplishment.

Week No. 1 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar — The IHSA Standardized Calendar utilizes the first full seven day week of July that begins on Sunday as Week No. 1.

CONSTITUTION

The following Constitution has been adopted by the membership of the Illinois High School Association and is applicable to the current school term.

1.000 CONSTITUTION

Included in this Section:

- 1.000 Constitution
- 1.100 Name and Objectives
- 1.200 Membership
- 1.300 Board of Directors
- 1.400 Powers and Duties of Board
- 1.500 Officers
- 1.600 Dues and Assessments
- 1.700 Legislative Commission
- 1.800 Meetings of the Association
- 1.900 Amendments

1.100 NAME AND OBJECTIVES

1.110 This Association shall be known as the Illinois High School Association (IHSA).

1.120 It shall be the purpose of this Association to provide leadership for the development, supervision and promotion of interscholastic competition and other activities in which its member schools engage. Participation in such interscholastic activities offers eligible students experiences in an educational setting which may provide enrichment to the educational experience.