

## 4.000 ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY BY-LAWS

Included in this Section:

- 4.000 Activity Eligibility By-laws
- 4.010 Attendance
- 4.020 Scholastic Standing
- 4.030 Participation Limitations
- 4.040 Age
- 4.050 Use of Assumed Name
- 4.060 Misbehavior During Activities
- 4.070 Use of Participants
- 4.080 Spirit Limitations

Students in member schools shall be eligible to participate in interscholastic activity contests as representatives of their schools provided:

### 4.010 ATTENDANCE

**4.011** A student must attend a member school and may only represent in interscholastic competition the member school the student attends. For purposes of this by-law, the term “attend” shall mean that the student is enrolled at the member school and is taking at, or under arrangements approved by, the member school, a minimum of twenty (20) credit hours of work for which credit toward high school graduation will be granted by the member school upon the student’s completing and passing the courses. The school which enrolls the student shall be exclusively responsible to verify the student’s compliance with all of the eligibility requirements of the by-laws

The Board of Directors shall have discretion to waive this requirement of this by-law for the Illinois schools for the deaf or blind. In unit systems having a 6-3-3 or 6-4-2 type of organization, ninth grade students may participate on senior high school teams at the member high school in the district designated by the Board of Education, provided:

- (a) such participation is approved by the district’s superintendent of schools;
- (b) the senior high school principal shall certify that the ninth grade students:
  - (1) are eligible under the requirements of these By-laws;
  - (2) are students at a junior high school located in the district which supports the senior high school; and
  - (3) are not members of a grade or junior high school team in the same activity; and
- (c) the senior high school principal assumes full responsibility for the conduct of these students during all contests in which they represent the senior high school.

**4.012** They shall have been enrolled and in attendance not later than the beginning of the eleventh school day of the semester. Exception may be considered only if written verification that delay in enrollment or attendance is caused by illness of the students or their immediate family or by other circumstances deemed acceptable by the Board of Directors which are submitted to the Executive Director for presentation to the Board of Directors.

**4.013** Including a student’s name on school attendance records for a period of ten (10) or more school days during any given semester, beginning with the date of the student’s first physical attendance and ending with the date of the student’s official withdrawal from school, shall constitute a semester of attendance for the student.

**4.014** If a student does not attend school for ten (10) days in a semester, as defined in Section 4.013, but participates in any interscholastic activity, the student shall be considered to have completed a semester of attendance, unless withdrawal from school occurs prior to completion of ten (10) days attendance and is necessitated by disabling illness or injury which is certified by a physician.

**4.015** They shall not have any lapse of school connection during any given semester of greater than ten consecutive school days. Lapse of school connection for greater than ten consecutive school days shall render them ineligible for the remainder of the entire semester. Exceptions may be considered only if written verification that lapse in school connection is caused by illness of the students or their immediate family or by other circumstances deemed acceptable to the Board of Directors which are submitted to the Executive Director for presentation to the Board of Directors.

**4.016** Absence of students required by military service to state or nation in the time of any state of national emergency shall not affect students’ eligibility.

**4.017** Bona fide pupils of grade schools or junior high schools in the district of a member school may participate with the high school musical organizations and ensembles in interscholastic music activities.

**4.018** Students in member schools which maintain a joint music curricular program with one or more other member schools may participate in interscholastic music activities as members of groups composed of students from the schools involved in the joint curricular program.

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## **Illustrations for Section 4.010 of the By-laws**

*The illustrations and situations it contains are for purposes of assisting in understanding the application of the particular by-law to which they pertain. In the case of any conflict, whether actual or believed, between the illustrations, examples or situations in this publication and the constitution or by-laws of the IHSA, the constitution and by-laws shall control.*

### **255) HOME SCHOOL STUDENT ELIGIBILITY**

- Q. May a student who is home schooled, participate on a high school team or in an interscholastic activity program?
- A. Yes provided the student is enrolled at the member high school, the student is taking a minimum of twenty credit hours of work at the member school or in a program approved by the member school, and, the student must be granted credit for the work taken either at the member school or in a program it approved. (By-law 4.011)

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## **4.020 SCHOLASTIC STANDING**

- 4.021 They shall be doing passing work in at least twenty (20) credit hours of high school work per week.
- 4.022 They shall, unless they are entering high school for the first time, have credit on the school records for twenty (20) credit hours of high school work for the previous semester. Such work shall have been completed in the semester for which credit is granted or in a recognized summer school program which has been approved by the Board of Education and for which graduation credit is received.
- 4.023 They shall not have graduated from any four-year high school or its equivalent.
- 4.024 Passing work shall be defined as work of such a grade that if on any given date a student would transfer to another school, passing grades for the course would immediately be certified on the student's transcript to the school to which they transfer.
- 4.025 Work taken in junior college, college, university, or by correspondence may be accepted toward meeting the requirements of this Section provided it is granted credit toward graduation from high school by the local Board of Education.

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## **4.030 PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS**

- 4.031 After they enroll in the ninth grade, students shall be eligible for no more than eight (8) semesters. They shall not be eligible for more than the number of semesters for which their school is recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education.
- 4.032 After they enroll in the ninth grade, they shall not be eligible for more than four (4) school years of competition in any non-athletic activity.

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## **4.040 AGE**

- 4.041 A student shall be eligible through age nineteen (19).

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## **4.050 USE OF ASSUMED NAME**

- 4.051 After entering a member school, students shall not compete under any name other than their own.

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## **4.060 MISBEHAVIOR DURING ACTIVITIES**

- 4.061 Students participating in interscholastic activities in violation of the By-laws, or other persons found to be in gross violation of the ethics of competition or the principles of good sportsmanship, may be barred by the Board of Directors from interscholastic activities.

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## **4.070 USE OF PARTICIPANTS**

- 4.071 Only students who are currently eligible to participate in an activity shall appear at the site as representatives of their school.

## 4.080 SPIRIT LIMITATIONS

- 4.081** All cheers, performances, routines, or other activities conducted by a school's spirit squads (i.e. cheerleaders, pom pons, flags, drill team) shall be conducted in accordance with the Spirit Rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

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### **Illustrations for Section 4.080 of the By-laws**

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#### **256) NATIONAL FEDERATION SPIRIT RULES**

- Q. What effect does use of the National Federation Spirit Rules have on cheerleading, either at interscholastic contests or at competitive events?  
A. The National Federation Spirit Rules have been adopted as the official rules and interpretations for all cheerleading in and involving IHSA member schools. (By-law 4.080)

#### **257) SUMMER APPLICATION OF RULES**

- Q. Do the spirit rules apply during the summer?  
A. No. These rules are enforced only for cheerleading and pom pon squad competitions. (By-law 4.081)

#### **258) TOSSES AND PYRAMIDS**

- Q. May tosses and pyramids be performed under the National Federation Spirit Rules?  
A. Yes. Tosses and pyramids may be performed, but must be performed in accordance with the rules stated in the National Federation Spirit Rules Book. All pom pons, cheerleading and drill team groups must follow the rules published in the National Federation Spirit Rules Book for both non-competitive performances and competition. (By-law 4.080)

## **5.000 SPORT SEASON BY-LAWS**

Included in this Section:	5.140	Boys Spring Tennis	5.280	Girls Track and Field
5.000 Sport Season By-laws	5.150	Boys Track and Field	5.290	Girls Volleyball
5.010 Boys Fall Baseball	5.160	Boys Wrestling	5.300	Girls Cross Country
5.020 Boys Spring Baseball	5.170	Girls Badminton	5.310	Girls Summer Softball
5.030 Boys Summer Baseball	5.180	Girls Basketball	5.320	Girls Soccer
5.040 Boys Basketball	5.190	Girls Bowling	5.330	Boys Volleyball
5.050 Boys Cross Country	5.200	Girls Fall Golf	5.340	Scholastic Bowl
5.060 Boys Football	5.210	Girls Spring Golf	5.350	Boys Water Polo
5.070 Boys Fall Golf	5.220	Girls Gymnastics	5.450	Girls Water Polo
5.080 Boys Spring Golf	5.230	Girls Fall Softball	5.550	Boys Bowling
5.090 Boys Gymnastics	5.240	Girls Spring Softball	5.650	Lacrosse
5.110 Boys Soccer	5.250	Girls Swimming	5.750	Competitive Cheerleading
5.120 Boys Swimming	5.260	Girls Fall Tennis		
5.130 Boys Fall Tennis	5.270	Girls Spring Tennis		

#### **5.001 Standardized IHSA Calendar**

All IHSA-sponsored State Tournament Series and IHSA Sport Seasons shall be conducted on dates established in accordance with the standardized calendar developed by the National Federation of State High School Associations. This calendar shall number the weeks of the year, with week one (No. 1) being the first full week of July (Sunday through Saturday).