

## We're Back

**Welcome to this first edition of the IHSA's e-newsletter!** We hope you find it to be a useful communication's tool. For years, our office published a monthly newsletter under various titles, using it as a means to keep members abreast of developments within the association.

In this age of instant communication, we're launching this newsletter as a way of returning to our past, all with the intent of keeping our members informed on happenings within the membership. If you have any comments, please contact any administrator at the IHSA Office. We want this to be a successful venture for us all.

### Rule Review: Open Gym

This month's by-law review will focus on one of the most asked-about rules in the Association's handbook: Open Gym.

By-law 3.160 establishes the criteria under which schools may hold open gyms. One of the most important things to remember when conducting an open gym is that the open gym may only be attended by members of the audience that was notified of the open gym. In other words, open gyms **MUST** be announced in some kind of public fashion. This kind of notice could be through daily announcements, posting of flyers or other notices, or even through notices published in local newspapers. Schools need to monitor that

only those who were notified of the open gym in the above kind of manner are in attendance at open gyms. *Word of mouth* is not an allowable method for notifying anyone of an open gym.

Open gyms may be sport specific. However, they can't be gender specific.

Another key component of open gym is that no instruction of any kind from anyone can occur. While coaches can most certainly participate in an open gym, they can not offer any kind of coaching to players of any kind during open gyms.

[More Details](#)

### Don't Forget

**Sept. 18**

Boys Soccer Season Summary sheet due

**Sept. 18**

Girls and Boys Golf List of Participants due

**Sept. 20**

Boys Soccer seed mtgs.

**Oct. 2**

Girls Volleyball Season Summary sheet due

**Oct. 4**

Girls Volleyball seed mtgs.

**Oct. 10**

Girls Tennis List of Participants due

**Oct. 11**

Girls Tennis seed mtgs.

### From the Staff

As we embark on the 2006-07 school year, it's important for administrators to remember that one of the best ways a school can monitor its status and progress with meeting IHSA requirements is to use the *Activity Tracker* in the School Center. The *Activity Tracker* allows administrators to monitor such things as rules meeting attendance, completion of Team Data and List of Participants forms, ratings submissions, and much more. Make this feature one of your daily stops at [www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org).

One other major change our staff will be working on this year concerns our rules meetings. By the end of the year individuals will no longer complete a scantron form at the meeting to verify their attendance. We will instead be providing attendees with a unique number that they can input on any computer. Moving to this kind of approach will, we believe, reduce the number of problems schools sometimes encounter in getting credit for attending these meetings.



**The future plays here.™**

## Porter's Pen ...

H.V. Porter was an administrator with the IHSA from 1929-1940. An educator and coach with many talents, Mr. Porter, among other duties, saw the IHSA grow as an association during his tenure with our office. One of his chief duties during his stint with the IHSA was to oversee the monthly publication sent to member schools. That original publication, *The Illinois High School Athlete*, was the first of its kind in the nation and served as a model for other states/organizations to follow. In addition to the regular reporting of information to member schools, Mr. Porter liked to offer his own insights into the educational and coaching aspects into the publication. From time to time, the *Interpreter* will revisit some of those special insights. While this month's article was originally printed in September 1930, the staff of the *Interpreter* thinks the message resonates still today. Enjoy, and best wishes for a successful school year!

### *A Good Start Is Half the Race*

*September means renewed activity in school circles, new plans, new hopes, new chances for accomplishment. School executives, teachers, and student attack the problem of the year with renewed enthusiasm. There is an invigorating hum from the open windows of each school plant, an air of purposeful haste, a colorful pageant of exuberant youth, a display of bright colored silks and linens and cottons and calicos and neatly pressed suits that are a trifle incongruous against the sun-tanned and wind-toughened faces and throats and hands. A faint odor of new paint and varnish and cleaning fluids, and bright hopeful gleams in the eyes of those who see in the beginning of the new school year the chance to realize dreams and aims.*

*The Athlete staff is glad to share in this yearly revival of effort. The progress and well-being of the nation rests upon the activities of the school. The enthusiasms of youth keep national enterprise from stagnation.*

## One-Minute Manager

**06-07 By-Law Proposals:** Tuesday, October 17, is the deadline for schools to submit by-law proposals for the 2006-07 IHSA legislative session. Proposals should be submitted to IHSA Executive Director Marty Hickman. Individuals with questions should contact the IHSA Office.

**Host Fees Increase:** The IHSA Board of Directors approved increases in hosting guarantees beginning with the 2006-07 school term for member schools who host IHSA state series events in the following sports: cross-country, golf, badminton, bowling, gymnastics, tennis, and track and field. [More details.](#)

**Rulings/Notices:** Another new feature for schools and officials this year is a link called "Rulings and Notices." This link, which can be found in both the Schools and Officials Centers, will give both groups up to date information on special situations that have arisen during the various sports seasons. Each sport will have its own separate page and will be kept current by IHSA staff. Encourage your coaches to check there periodically during their seasons so they can stay abreast of any rules situations that have developed.

**List of Participants:** Over the past few years, our office has begun using the on-line *List of Participants* form as our primary means of finding out from schools who their competitors will be in our individual based state series competitions. Pre-state finals level managers are able to access these completed forms to set up their various regional and sectional tournaments in accordance with the Terms and Conditions for each sport. It's important for schools to know that should they not complete a *List of Participants* form by the established deadline for a sport/activity, their coach may not be allowed to coach during the state series. Seeing that this important form is completed in a timely fashion is one of the obligations a school accepts when they enter into one of our state series competitions.

**Do What's Right!** This new sportsmanship program is geared to enhance the current sportsmanship practices being used by IHSA member schools. The Do What's Right! program creates minimum sportsmanship guidelines which can be adopted and practiced throughout the state. During the past few weeks there has been a tremendous response to the new sportsmanship banners available to order. If you would like to submit pictures of your school's new banner hanging in your facility, please send them to Beth Sauser at [bsauser@ihsa.org](mailto:bsauser@ihsa.org).

For more information on the Do What's Right! program or to order a banner log on to the IHSA website at [www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org).

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