

Celebrate Activities Week

Activities Week provides schools with a unique opportunity to celebrate the important role that interscholastic activities continue to play in our member schools. We know from over 100 years of experience, and from research, that the educational experience of high school students is enriched when they are involved in the interscholastic programs offered by their school. High school students learn that you achieve more when you work as a team. They learn that integrity and honesty count. They learn to appreciate diversity and much more. Most of all, high school students learn lessons about life and about becoming a good citizen in this great country.

We hope you will join the 760 schools of the Illinois High School Association in celebrating Activities Week October 15-21, 2006. The week presents a unique opportunity for schools to recognize important groups that make activity programs so successful and to highlight the efforts of students within those programs. A different group or program is spotlighted each day so we hope your school can take a few moments each day to acknowledge those contributions.

October 15 • BE A SPORT DAY

October 16 • FINE ARTS AND ACTIVITIES DAY

October 17 • OFFICIALS DAY

October 18 • YOUTH HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

October 19 • COACHES DAY

October 20 • FAN APPRECIATION DAY

October 21 • COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY

Season Limitations

As the fall season comes to a close and the winter season begins, it is important to review IHSA By-law 2.090 (Season Limitations). Please remind your coaching staff that your school may not organize, practice, scrimmage or participate in any inter-

scholastic sport prior to the beginning date of the season. This means schools may not have sport specific conditioning or tryouts prior to the dates specified in Section 5.000 of the IHSA Handbook.

Practice for a winter sport may begin on the following dates:

Boys Bowling – October 23
Girls Basketball – October 30
Girls Bowling – November 6
Girls Gymnastics – November 6
Boys Basketball – November 6
Boys Wrestling – November 6

IHSA By-law 2.090 does permit a school to hold one informational meeting for each sport prior to the start of the season to provide information regarding tryouts, procedures and forms that need to be on file.

Don't Forget

Oct. 15-21

Activities Week

Oct. 16

Boys' and Girls' Cross Country
List of Participants due

Oct. 17

By-Law Amendment Proposals
due

Nov. 6

1st meeting of the Legislative
Commission

Nov. 7

Girls' Swimming List of
Participants due

Nov. 8

Girls' Swimming Sectional
Seeding Meetings

Nov. 9-21

Town Meetings/Principals'
Rules 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!

An "If" for Athletic Coaches

*If you can train a team for many seasons
And point them for some game and see them
lose
By some small break without apparent reasons
And never bow your head to fans' abuse;
If you can see the best pass on to college
Just when they have reached the very peak
And start again anew but not acknowledge
That heart and nerve and sinew have grown
weak;
If you can keep your poise when you are winning
Or see a lead wiped out by one wild toss
And lose, and start again at your beginning
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can be a sportsman every minute
And stamp fair play on everything that's
done;
Yours is the school and the boys that're in it
For you're some coach, my son.*

One-Minute Manager

Advisory Committee Recommendations: At their October meeting, the IHSA Board of Directors approved a series of advisory committee recommendations. A complete list of approved recommendations can be found by accessing the advisory committee minutes for each sport/activity. On those individual pages, you will see whether or not specific recommendations were approved by the Board or not.

Town Meetings/Principals' Rules Meetings: The IHSA legislative season will get under way next month at 28 Town Meetings/Principals' Rules Meetings held around the state. By-Law 2.130 requires that each member school principal or his/her designee attend one of the meetings each year. A complete list of this year's meetings can be found at <http://www.ihsa.org/org/prinmeet.htm>.

Winter Sports Rules Interpretation Meetings: Rule interpretation meetings for girls' gymnastics, spirit, boys' wrestling, and boys' and girls' basketball. A complete list of meeting dates can be found at <http://www.ihsa.org/official/index.htm>. Once all meetings for each sport have been completed, a copy of the meeting power point will be available on the IHSA website in both the Schools and Officials Center for review.

Media at State Series Contests: Schools who host state series tournaments are reminded to make arrangements for media in accordance with the IHSA News Media Policy. Whenever possible, tournament managers should set aside space for print and other media reporters, in addition to space for photographers. Schools with additional questions should contact the IHSA Office.

Football Pairings Show: Once again this year, the IHSA will televise the announcement of the 256 teams who will qualify for the state football playoffs. The show will also announce the pairings for all eight classes during the October 21st telecast. [Click here](#) for a list of stations carrying the show as a part of the IHSA Television Network.

Subscription List: Thanks to everyone who responded favorably to last month's debut of *the Interpreter*. We hope the following issues prove to be insightful as well. Our intention is to send the newsletter to the following people at each member school: the Official Representative, the Principal, the Athletic Director(s), and the Activities Director. We hope that member schools then forward the newsletter on to appropriate staff/coaches at each school. We will also make past editions available on-line. If you are one of the afore-mentioned individuals and still aren't receiving your copy of *the Interpreter*, please make sure your email address is entered correctly in the IHSA Schools Center.