

Holiday "Cheers" From the IHSA

The holiday season is upon us, and we here at the IHSA want to spread a little cheer news with our member schools. The 2nd annual IHSA Competitive Cheerleading state series will be held at U.S. Cellular Coliseum in Bloomington, Illinois, on February 2nd and 3rd. Some of the best cheer teams in Illinois will take the floor to compete in this high-energy tournament. Some important deadlines for competitive teams to remember can be found in the "Don't Forget..." section on the front page of this month's newsletter.

Also, those interested in cheerleading should check out the [IHSA Competitive Cheerleading Menu](#) for additional information.

Don't Forget

Now through Dec. 29

On-line voting for By-Law Amendment proposals

Dec. 22-Jan. 1

IHSA Office Closed

Jan. 2

IHSA Office reopens

Jan. 4

Results announced of on-line By-law voting

Jan. 8

Competitive Cheerleading List of Participants due

Jan. 10

Girls' Gymnastics Seed Meetings

Competitive Cheerleading team photos due

What is Sideline Cheer?

Sideline Cheerleading is often confused with Competitive Cheerleading. The IHSA encompasses Competitive Cheer under the IHSA Athletic By-laws, while Sideline cheer falls under the Activity By-laws with other spirit activities such as poms, drill, dance and flags. All spirit teams are to comply with the minimum safety standards set in the NFHS spirit rules book. **Some new points of emphasis for spirit teams during the winter season are:**

- Basket tosses and other similar multi-base tosses are permitted only on appropriate mats, grass, rubberized and soft yielding surfaces.
- Spirit participants must remain outside the playing area during a 30-second or less time-out in a basketball game.

- Spirit participants must not stand behind the free throw lane extended during a basketball game
- Spirit participants must stay behind the 3ft. safety zone during a basketball game
- Spirit participants should not wear jewelry or chew gum
- Spirit participants must wear their hair in a manner that minimizes risk for participants

It is imperative that all IHSA member school's spirit programs comply with these minimum safety standards. All spirit rules can be reviewed in the NFHS Spirit Rules Book, which can be purchased by contacting the IHSA.

It's Activity Time!

Did you know that the IHSA hosts championships in nine activities? Chess, Scholastic Bowl, Music Solo and Ensemble and Organization, Drama, Debate, Speech, and our newest state series in Journalism offer students an opportunity to showcase their talent in a variety of arenas. In many of these activities, member schools can enter full teams or individuals. Please check the IHSA activity tracker to make sure you have successfully entered your school into interscholastic competition in the many activities offered here at the IHSA!





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Porter's Pen ...

Sportsmanship

Good sportsmanship is largely a matter of habit. Attitude toward neighboring schools and toward other members of a student's own school can be greatly influenced by the attitude of the coach and administrator and by the activities which are designed to call attention to desirable habits. It is a known fact that activities along the line of sportsmanship education which are sponsored early in the season have a great deal to do with the general conduct throughout the season. Many schools have found it desirable to use the first few games of the basketball season to educate students and townspeople in matters pertaining to the ethics of competition. Sometimes these activities take the form of discussion by a group of trained cheer leaders or student club leaders and sometimes they take the form of clinics where the crowd is instructed relative to the new rules and relative to the policies of the state association as a whole. Like most worthwhile things, sportsmanship develops only through effort on the part of well trained leaders. The reputation which a school builds up during a season may be greatly influenced by the initial impetus along the line of proper habits.

A little attention to matters of this kind early in the season will often make it unnecessary for an administrator to adopt corrective measures as the season progresses.

One-Minute Manager

VOTE, VOTE, VOTE: Now until December 29, 2006, member schools are encouraged to go on-line and cast their votes for the six proposals brought forth from the IHSA Legislative Commission this year. The proposals on the ballot were a part of the 15 total proposals reviewed during the Town Meetings/Principals' Rules Meetings held at 28 sites around the state last month. A complete run-down of the proposals can be found at <http://www.ihsa.org/announce/files/2006-amendment-proposals.pdf>

Last Chance: On January 9, the IHSA will host one last Principals' Rules Meeting for those schools who failed to attend one in November. Those schools who need to attend this meeting to avoid having their school suspended from competing in IHSA state series events will be notified of the date and time of the meeting once that information is finalized.

Advisory Committee Recommendations: IHSA Advisory Committees meet at least once a year to review the current programs being offered by the Association and make Terms and Conditions recommendations for them. Individuals who wish to serve on an IHSA Advisory Committee can contact Sue Hinrichsen at the IHSA Office to express their interest in serving. Coaches and administrators are encouraged to review IHSA Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes to keep abreast of recommended changes for each sport/activity. The IHSA Board of Directors will review the most recent committee recommendations at their February 2007 meeting. Please check <http://www.ihsa.org/org/minutes.htm> for a review of recent advisory committee minutes.

Rulings/Notices: Another new feature found in the Schools Center on the IHSA website is a section devoted, for each sport, to rulings and notices. This link can be found on the left hand side of the 'homepage' for each school in the Schools Center once they've logged in. The page, as we discussed in our inaugural issue of *The Interpreter* in September, is a place where current rules situations will be reviewed for schools and officials. Administrators, please encourage your coaches to go there often during their respective seasons.

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Illinois High School Association™