

## 2006-07: A Look Back

For 107 years, the IHSA has provided leadership in interscholastic activities for its member schools. Each of those 107 years has told their own story, and the 2006-07 school year was no exception. While there were a number of issues confronted by the association and its members, the finality of expanding classes, the celebration of the 100th boys' basketball state finals, and the continuing effort to improve sportsmanship dominated headlines in Illinois.

However, the real stories of the year are the ones that reinforce the importance of interscholastic programs in high schools. It's the story of countless coaches and student-athletes working together to realize goals and learn a little bit about themselves along the way. It's the story of officials who work under extremely difficult conditions and expectations and continue to give their best efforts. It's the story of student bodies and communities that rally around and support their teams, regardless of the record, reminding us of the pride these events evoke in all of us.

And so from all of us at the IHSA, thank you for all your efforts in helping enrich the educational experience for students all across Illinois.



## 2007-08: A Peek Ahead

Looking ahead to next year, the association will face a number of important issues. The most obvious will be the move additional classes in cross country, boys' golf, baseball, softball, girls' volleyball, and boys' and girls' basketball. Over the past two years, member schools have been provided a myriad of communications explaining how the various state series will be set up. One of the opportunities, particularly to Class 1A schools, that will present itself is the chance to host regional and sectional tournaments. Schools are reminded to go on-line in the [IHSA Schools Center](#) to complete both the Facilities Survey and Host Availability Survey to mark their interest in hosting.

2007-08 will also see IHSA staff and the Board of Directors reviewing programs being conducted by the association with an eye to future offerings. [Policy 15](#) details the criteria used to add and delete programs within the IHSA.

Drug testing will be another issue considered by the Board in 2007-08. It is expected that the IHSA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee will make a drug testing proposal to the Board early next school year. In preparation for that, materials will be made available to member schools in the All-School Mailing regarding drug testing and its status within the association.

And finally, 2007-08 will see the start of a new era with the IHSA website. IHSA staff has been working on developing a new look for the website, which will include moving more of the important links people use most frequently to the front page. So while the look may change, it's high quality will remain. It's expected this change will be in place by the time individuals return to school in August.

## Don't Forget

**June 15, 22, 29**

IHSA Office closed

**July 4, 6, 13, 20, 27**

IHSA Office closed

**August 1**

[IHSA rules interpretation meetings begin](#)

**August 3**

IHSA All-School Mailing sent out to member schools

**August 8**

Practice can begin in Football, Boys' Soccer, Boys' and Girls' Golf

**August 13**

Practice can begin in Boys' and Girls' Cross Country, Girls' Swimming, Girls' Tennis, and Girls' Volleyball

**August 20**

Season begins for Scholastic Bowl



**The future plays here.™**

## Porter's Pen ...

*Courtesy, respect for authority and person habits of cleanliness are best taught in connection with those activities which are generally considered thoroughly masculine. Otherwise a natural barrier is raised between teacher and learner. A desire to acquire these attributes is created only when they can be entirely separated from the thought of sailor collars and spectacles. A player who says "sir" to the referee, and means it, or who approvingly slaps the south end of an opponent when that opponent has made a good tackle or block may have acquired a habit, that as long as he lives, will be a monument to the good teaching of his coach. Good athletic training must include some attention to these attributes of character.*



## From the Staff

10 months ago, our staff embarked on this new venture called the Interpreter. From the beginning, it was our intention to develop a publication that would allow us to share information, educate our members about our rules, direct individuals to areas on our website they might not otherwise visit, and remind us of the importance of the work we do with students. Hopefully, we've met that goal. Yet, as we look to 2007-08 and beyond, we want this newsletter to also meet your needs

If you have suggestions for articles or features, please feel free to let us know. If you have other ideas that you think would be of value for our publication, we'd love to hear those as well. You can email us those ideas and suggestions at [general@ihsa.org](mailto:general@ihsa.org).

One area that will improve our distribution of the Interpreter is in making sure that the administrative email addresses your school has on-file through the IHSA Schools Center are correct. It's always been our hope that after we send this to school administrators they will share the newsletter with their coaches and use it as a learning tool for them. All back editions are archived on our website in the Schools Center under the "Document Index" located at the bottom of the right hand column in the Schools Center.

Thanks again for all your support. Have a great summer. We'll see you again in the fall!

## One-Minute Manager

**Distinguished Service Awards:** On June 11, the IHSA held its first Distinguished Service Awards Banquet in Bloomington. 12 well deserving individuals were recognized at the event for their service to the association and member schools in various IHSA programs and activities. The IHSA congratulates these individuals on this accomplishment.

**New By-Laws for 07-08:** A number of new by-laws will go into effect on July 1, 2007, following their passage as a part of the 2006-07 IHSA Legislative Session. A complete list of the new by-laws can be found in the following announcement.

**Advisory Committee Recommendations:** At their June 11, 2007, meeting the IHSA Board of Directors acted on a number of Advisory Committee recommendations. A list of the recommendations can be found at IHSA Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.

**Summer Contact Period (By-Law 3.150):** Member schools are reminded that the summer contact period can begin on the day after the last day of classes (which includes final exams) or on Monday, June 4, 2007, depending on which day is earlier for each school. By-Law 3.150 reviews all components of the summer participation by-law. Schools are encouraged to have coaches submit their schedules in advance of the summer for review by their athletic administration and then again at the end of the summer in order to verify compliance with the summer contact rule.