

## By-Law 3.100 – Independent Team Participation

By-Law 3.100 has many facets and becomes relevant many times during the school year. Because of its nature, member schools call and ask a variety of questions throughout the year. School administrators and coaches should take the time to become familiar with this important by-law. There are 28 Illustrations (180-207) contained in the IHSA Handbook to help administrators and coaches better understand the provisions contained in the by-law.

Subpart 3.101 of this by-law states in part that, "During the School season for a given sport, in a school which maintains a school team in that sport, a student shall not participate on any non-school team, nor as an individual unattached in non-school competition, in that given sport or in any competition that involves the skill of the sport in question." 3.101 also provides for a waiver process for competitions sponsored and conducted by the National Governing Body or its official Illinois affiliate for that sport.

Subpart 3.106 clarifies that, "To be eligible for a school team in a given sport, students must cease non-school practice and competition in that sport no later than five (5) days after the date on which the school team engages in its first practice or tryout in that sport." What does this mean? It means that once your school organizes its team in a given sport (and 5 days pass, including the first day of practice), no athlete planning on participating on that team may practice or compete with any other team during the IHSA season in that sport. For example, if cross country practice begins on Monday, August 13, and a non-school event (ie., a charity road race) is planned for Saturday, August 18 of that week, no athlete on the school team may participate in the non-school event because it did not occur within the five days.

The by-law also states in part that athletes shall not participate on any non-school team, nor as an individual in that given sport or in any competition that

involves the skill of the sport in question. This means that high school athletes may not participate in events such as (but not limited to) cross country road races of any distance or format, golf tournaments of any format, swimming events of any distance, 3 on 3 basketball contests, or 3 on 3 soccer contests during the IHSA season. Remember that this list contains only some of the more common examples. The key to proper interpretation is the term "Skill of the Sport."

The by-law has additional subparts for consideration as well. Subpart 3.103 defines what it means to "Participate on any non-school team." Subpart 3.105 specifies that it is not legal for high school athletes to participate on, practice with or against any college, junior college or university athletic team. Subpart 3.107 outlines the parameters under which a high school coach may interact with a non-school team during the school year.

## From the Staff

Like any organization, the IHSA has rules that are developed to guide and govern the members of the association. It is extremely important to the effective operation of any organization that all individual members are knowledgeable of the rules; and equally important, are knowledgeable of the procedures for creating or modifying the rules.

Basically, the IHSA has 3 types of rules. They are By-Laws, Policies and Terms and Conditions. None of these are established by the IHSA Administrative Staff. And all these rules are approved either by the entire membership or the IHSA Board of Directors.

By-Laws are considered the major rules and the foundation of the association. They govern high school participation in athletics and activities. By-Laws are written, reviewed and approved by member school principals through the legislative process. Any member school's principal may submit a proposal to create or modify an existing by-law. These proposals must be received by the IHSA Office prior to October 16th (Tuesday of week 16). The Legislative Commission meets twice each year in November to review any new proposals. Proposals that receive a majority

of votes from the legislators will go on the ballot to be voted on by member schools. Any proposal that receives a majority of the membership vote becomes a new IHSA By-Law. The Official Representative from each school will cast a ballot for their school. Communication between the Official Representative and the school's administrators, advisors and coaches is critical prior to the actual vote being cast. It is through this communication process that the coaches' feelings on issues will be heard.

The second kind of rules that govern the IHSA are policies. Policies are by definition, "a definite course or method of action selected from among alternatives and in light of given conditions to guide and determine present and future decisions." (Webster's) They serve as the "how to get it done" part of IHSA operations. Policies are approved by the Board of Directors. While policies are ultimately approved by the Board, they can be developed in a number of ways. The membership, the Board or the IHSA Staff can make a request that a new policy be considered. At times the Board may collect feedback from the member schools prior to approving any policy recommendation.

Terms and Conditions (T&C's), the final type of rules for the association, are the rules established to set up and conduct all of the IHSA State Tournaments. T&C's are created at the advisory committee level. Advisory committees are made up of coaches, AD's and principals from across the state representing all of the Board Divisions. Recommendations to be considered by each committee can be made by member schools, coaches, principals, etc. At their annual committee meetings the various committees will discuss all of the recommendations they have received since the last state tournament in that sport or activity. Any recommendation must receive a majority of the committee vote in order for that recommendation to be passed on to the next level of review. Those recommendations will be reviewed by the Athletic Directors Advisory Committee, the IHSA Administrators and finally voted on by the Board of Directors. If approved by the Board, the recommendation becomes a part of the official Terms and Conditions for that sport or activity. Committee minutes are posted on line for membership review prior to the final Board vote.



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## Porter's Pen ...

*The welfare of the nation depends in very small degree upon what few men in Washington are doing but in very great degree upon what men less widely known are doing in scattered communities of the country. We subscribe to the belief that the nation will be great in proportion to the effectiveness of the work done in each community by men who are giving a lifetime of service to building an efficient organization in some worthwhile local institution. A shoe gives its most satisfactory and efficient service when it has shaped itself to the foot. There is a similar relationship between a man and his job. A score of years is none too long for the fitting process. It is as the tick of a watch in the centuries it takes to age and refine a nation.*

## One-Minute Manager

**Town Meetings/Principals' Rules Meetings:** During November, the IHSA will conduct 28 [Town Meetings/Principals' Rules Meetings](#) around the state to discuss important association matters and to review the proposals made by member schools to amend the IHSA's By-laws. Those proposals that are approved by the Legislative Commission at their second meeting will be placed on a ballot for a formal vote by the membership, which is slated for November 28-December 27.

**Advisory Committee Recommendations:** Three times a year, the IHSA Board of Directors takes action on recommendations made by [IHSA Advisory Committees](#). The most recent action taken by the Board occurred at their October 9th meeting. A complete list of recommendations acted upon can be accessed [here](#).

**Football Pairings Show:** On October 20th, the IHSA will release the pairings for all eight classes of the football playoffs. Fans can follow the action live on-line at [www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org) or by watching the IHSA's Playoff Special, again televised in a number of state-wide markets. The road to Champaign begins in Bloomington on October 20th for 256 schools!

**Activities Week:** October 14-20 has been designated [Activities Week](#) for all IHSA member schools. The week provides member schools with a unique opportunity to recognize all those who help make the interscholastic experience a positive one for student-athletes.

**Do What's Right:** The Sportsmanship Advisory Committee extended the deadline for conferences and independent schools to register for the Do What's Right! Program until October 24, 2008. This is in response to the many requests from conferences with scheduled October meetings that need the extra time for its members to approve the DWR! Program. If you have any questions please contact Beth Sauser at 309-663-6377.

## Don't Forget

### October 20

- IHSA Boys' Football Pairings Announced

### November 1

- Winter Entries Due On-Line

### November 5

- 1st meeting of the [IHSA Legislative Commission](#)

### November 6

- Girls' Swimming and Diving List of Participants Due On-Line by 12:00 p.m.

### November 8-20

- [Town Meetings/Principals' Rules Meetings](#)

