

Schools Center Undergoing Overhaul; More Good Stuff in the Offing

Last month's Interpreter stressed the point that IHSA member schools are responsible for ensuring their own compliance with the rules, policies, and terms and conditions of the Association. That can be a daunting task at times. That's one reason the IHSA staff exists: to offer personal assistance and to develop the publications and online tools that help you stay in compliance.

One such tool is the [Schools Center](#), the password-protected area of the IHSA Web site (www.ihsa.org). All athletic and activities directors should be familiar with the Schools Center; principals and coaches, if they haven't done so already, should also get to know it well.

The Sport & Activity Tracker is the heart of the operation. After you've supplied your school ID number and password, you'll be taken to a menu page that includes the Sport & Activity Tracker, a table that summarizes

everything you need to know about making sure your school's teams are ready for the IHSA state series. For each sport or activity, the Tracker indicates, among other things:

- Whether the team has been entered in the state series
- Whether the required List of Participants has been filled out
- Whether a representative from your school has attended a rules meeting
- How many officials' ratings your school has supplied
- Whether your school has recently filled out a Top 15 list

Areas where your school is threatening to fall out of compliance are indicated in red. The Sport & Activity Tracker is a great way to make sure your team stays out of hot water and right in the action.

The Schools Center underwent some major redesign this summer and new features continue to be implemented at a fairly rapid pace. There's quite a lot going on behind the scenes as well, with the goal being to transition toward an even simpler, faster, and more user-friendly interactive site in the next couple of years. Among the things you'll likely see in the future: an easy way to upload photographs for state final programs and a virtually paperless submission and tracking of eligibility ruling requests.

As always, we welcome your suggestions for making the Schools Center more helpful to you. We may not always be able to implement your suggestions immediately, but our goal is always to decrease the work load—both yours and ours—by using efficient electronic communications.

From the Staff

Support your local activities

Of the 50 state high school associations, only 28 sponsor non-athletic activities. The IHSA is proud to be a member of that group since 1940. Taking a look at the IHSA programs:

Debate is sponsored by 26 state associations; this year 59 schools are signed up for the state series.

Speech Individual Events is run by 25 associations; 237 IHSA schools will participate this year.

Music is also sponsored by 25 states. This year 363 schools are signed up for the organization competition and 503 have signed up for solo and ensemble.

Drama competition is found in 23 states. The IHSA version includes a group interpretation event; altogether 79 schools will participate this year.

Scholastic Bowl wins the prize for the highest participation rate among IHSA schools: 553, or about 72%. Yet only 10 states sponsor a Scholastic Bowl tournament.

Journalism, the IHSA's newest activity, is sponsored by only eight states; 89 IHSA schools are signed up for this April's event.

Finally, only three states run **chess** tournaments. The IHSA state final is the biggest of them all, with about 130 schools expected to enter teams this year.

Interested in adding an activity program? The IHSA staff will be glad to help you get started in the right direction.



The future plays here.®

Porter's Pen ...

This month's contribution was first printed 75 years ago this month in The Illinois High School Athlete, which, at the time, served as the association's main communication vehicle. The author, A.W. Clevenger, was the Illinois High School Inspector. His words on school spirit still resonate nearly a century later.

The development of school spirit is thought to be closely related to physical education and especially to athletics. School spirit should be guided carefully by the teachers and by the administrative head of the school. Too frequently so-called school spirit takes the form of rowdyism. The team should want to win. There should be a spirit of sincerity in this desire on the part of every member of the team. Square dealing and fair play must be instilled in every pupil. Physical education can be made to play an important part in the development of school citizenship. A good school citizen is highly co-operative, helpful and useful, enthusiastic with regard to the best welfare of the school, a good sportsman, trustworthy, self-sacrificing, and loyal to the school's ideals and traditions.

- A.W. Clevenger

One-Minute Manager

Definition Changed: At its [December meeting](#), the IHSA Board of Directors adopted a new definition for "culminate in competition." The revision extends the time in which non-school programs must compete from two weeks to 30 days in order for students in those non-school programs to maintain their high school eligibility. The definition is referenced in IHSA By-law 3.110, Coaching School Participation.

Amendment Proposals/Survey on-line: Member schools are reminded that there is still time to participate in voting for this year's by-law amendment proposals. Schools have until December 27 to go on-line in the Schools Center to cast their vote on the four proposals being considered by the membership. Additionally, schools have until January 13, 2008, to complete the follow-up survey to this year's Principals' Rules Meetings. At those meetings, a number of topics, ranging from drug testing to a possible 3 class track and field format, were reviewed and member schools were informed that they would be surveyed on the presented topics before the IHSA Board of Directors takes any final action on the issues. The results of the by-law amendment vote will be posted on the IHSA website on January 8, 2008.

Principals' Rules Make-Up Meeting: On January 9, 2008, the IHSA will host a make-up meeting for those member schools who were unable to attend a Principals' Rules Meeting in November. Schools will need to attend this meeting in order to avoid being placed on probation or suspension with the association. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and be held at the IHSA Office.



Don't Forget

Now-Dec. 27

- Voting for IHSA By-law Amendment Proposals in IHSA Schools Center

Dec. 22-Jan. 1

- IHSA Office closed

Now-Jan. 13

- Principals' Rules Meeting follow-up survey available in IHSA Schools Center for member schools

Jan. 7

- Competitive Cheerleading List of Participants due on-line

Jan. 8

- By-law Amendment Ballots counted and results posted on-line

Jan. 9

- Girls' Gymnastics Regional/Sectional Seeding Meetings

Jan. 11

- Pep Band audition tapes due in IHSA Office

Jan. 14

- IHSA Board of Directors meeting at IHSA Office

Jan. 15

- Boys' Bowling List of Participants due on-line

Jan. 16

- Girls' Basketball (Class 1A & 2A) Team Seed Meetings