

## By-Laws 3.070 (Recruiting)

Recruiting. Ask 100 people for a definition of this word, and you're likely to get a 100 different responses. The word summons up a number of connotations in people, most of which conjure up negative emotions. Within the rules structure of the IHSA, the recruiting rule, [IHSA By-Law 3.070](#), is one of the more misunderstood.

Essentially, the rule does a couple of important things. First, it establishes the acceptable levels and amounts of contact member schools can have with prospective students in regards to the school's athletic/activity programs. Secondly, it also defines what types of opportunities member schools can make available to prospective students and current student-athletes.

One of the other large misconceptions regarding the recruiting rule is that the rule applies

only to non-boundaried schools. Nothing could be further from the truth. All IHSA member schools, boundaried or non-boundaried, public or private, are subject to the provisions of By-Law 3.070. Member schools can't allow themselves to fall into a trap of thinking that certain students will be 'theirs' because of the middle school or junior high they attend, and, as a result, reach out to those students in a manner not allowed for in the recruiting by-law prior to their enrollment at the member school. School administrators are responsible for ensuring that the amount, type, and level of contact between the school and prospective students are acceptable and not in violation of the by-law. Likewise, it is also the school's responsibility to verify that they aren't making opportunities or inducements available to prospective or current students that aren't available to the

school's entire student population. Illustrations accompanying By-Law 3.070 provide answers to the acceptable types of communication and opportunities schools can offer.

However, it's the final section of the by-law that addresses what most people might initially think of when asked to define recruiting. The final section clarifies that, even if no special inducements are given, school personnel are prohibited from even encouraging prospective students to attend a member school.

Violations of the recruiting rule are rare due to the knowledge member school administrators have regarding the rule. Yet, when they occur, the penalty is often severe, with sanctions being levied against a student(s), coaches, and schools.

### From the Staff

As the winter season comes to a close and the spring season begins, it is important for schools to review [IHSA By-law 2.090](#) (Season Limitations). Administrators are asked to remind their coaching staffs that a member school may not organize, practice, scrimmage, or participate in any interscholastic sport prior to the beginning date of the season or after the ending 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. More specifically, this means member schools may not have football-only conditioning or weight lifting sessions.

IHSA By-law 2.090 does, however, permit a member 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 with the school.

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

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| January 14  | Boys' and Girls' Track and Field (date already passed)              |
| February 11 | Boys' Gymnastics (date already passed)                              |
| February 25 | Girls' Badminton, Girls' Softball, Girls' Water Polo, Girls' Soccer |
|             | Boys' Baseball, Boys' Tennis, Boys' Water Polo                      |
| March 3     | Boys' Volleyball  |





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## Porter's Pen ...

### The Referee

*The referee struts up and down  
 And smooths his oily hair.  
 He yells and blows his whistle with  
 Napoleonic air.  
 He glowers when I take a step  
 Or brush against my guard  
 And if I chance to hack a man  
 He socks it to me, hard.*

*The referee's a flighty bird;  
 He has an eagle eye.  
 I can't get any foul past him  
 No matter how I try.  
 But if my guard hangs on my neck  
 Or smacks my ears down flat,  
 The referee ain't lookin', or  
 He's blind as any bat.*

*The referee's a hard-boiled egg,  
 A domineering guy,  
 And if I try to sass him back  
 I kiss the game good-bye.  
 I take his bum decrees and smile  
 But wish for one good chance  
 To sneak behind when he stoops down  
 And boot him in the pants.*

## One Minute Manager

**Advisory Committee Recommendations Approved:** At their February meeting, the IHSA Board of Directors approved a series of advisory committee recommendations. A full list of those approved recommendations can be found by accessing the [press release](#) from the board meeting at the IHSA website.

**More Expansion Plans Announced, Bass Fishing Approved:** Also at their February meeting, the IHSA Board of Directors approved the expansion to three classes in boys' wrestling, boys' and girls' soccer, and boys' and girls' track and field, beginning with the 2008-09 school term, and the implementation of a bass fishing tournament, scheduled to be held in the spring of 2009.

**Add-A-Tude Turns 10:** Add-A-Tude, the IHSA's sportsmanship mascot, turns 10 this year, and the IHSA wants you to help us celebrate Add-A-Tude's first decade as the nation's first and foremost sportsmanship mascot. As a part of the celebration, a 'new' Add-A-Tude will be unveiled this spring, one that displays a sleek, more current look.



## Don't Forget

**March 3**

Music Organization entries due to State Final Managers

