

To: Official Representative  
From: Kurt Gibson  
Date: April 3, 2020  
Re.: IHSA Bass Fishing State Series update

Greetings from the IHSA! We hope you and your school community are doing well and staying safe in these uncertain times. You are receiving this note because your school has entered the 2020 IHSA Bass Fishing state series, and I wanted to provide you with an update on the status of the state series as of today, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Before providing that update, please know our office recognizes these are tough times for everyone so please know IHSA is thinking of you and your school community.

As for our office, we, too, are trying to make sense of all that's happening. With schools closed and interscholastic programs properly sidelined for the time being, we're trying to stay connected with our membership and students across Illinois. Uncertainty about what's next and what might be lost brings anxiety, and our focus has been on trying to ease those worries as best we can from afar.

As you may know, Bass Fishing sectional tournaments were scheduled for Thursday, April 30, 2020, which is currently the last day for the Governor's stay at home order. Even before the stay at home order was extended through April 30<sup>th</sup>, a number of sectional locations were already closed and not likely to have been open on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, at this time, the IHSA Bass Fishing state series has been postponed. It is expected that the IHSA Board of Directors will determine later this month whether any spring sports or activities will be conducted, and once a determination is made, schools will be notified of that decision.

If athletic and activity programs can be conducted later this Spring, a new calendar, possibly new sectional locations, and possibly new assignments to sectional locations will be announced. My office is currently working with the Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to examine what options might exist for a bass fishing state series that could be conducted in late May and/or June. It is not expected that, even if a state series in any sport or activity can be held, any competition would be held past the end of June. If the current situation improves and allows for a state series to be held, any and all new details will be communicated to schools and posted on the IHSA Bass Fishing page.

Hopefully, this update answers questions many of you may have had. If you have others, however, please don't hesitate contacting me via email at [kgibson@ihsa.org](mailto:kgibson@ihsa.org). Our office is currently closed, and staff is working remotely. We hope you are staying safe and encouraging your anglers to stay at home so we can stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus and return things to normal.