



2022 IHSA VIRTUAL JOURNALISM SECTIONALS: BROADCAST NEWS

DIRECTIONS & RULES

You are a staff reporter for Abraham High School's radio station WMIL (Middleland, Ill.). You will listen to an interview, conducted by a colleague, of Kurt Gibson, the Associate Executive Director of the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) about the IHSA's inaugural season and State Series tournament in esports. Using the interview and background information provided on the subsequent pages, write a news story for the next issue.

Using your own recording equipment, the interview, and background information provided on the subsequent pages, create a 75-second MP3 news broadcast clip with a minimum of two sound bites from the interview for the station. Each story must end with: "Reporting from Abraham High School, this is JT Jones with WMIL."

Available equipment may include, but are not be limited to: MP3 players, laptops, iPad, cell phones, and any other audio recorder.

Start Time: 9:30 AM

Work must be complete: 1:00 PM

INTERVIEW INFO

Interview posted at:

<https://www.ihsa.org/Sports-Activities/Journalism/2022-State-Series>

Interview Questions (video timestamp):

Q1 (:28) Process that led IHSA to offer esports?

Q2 (3:13) How does esports fit into the IHSA offerings?

Q3 (5:18) How do schools form a team & compete in IHSA State Series?

Q4 (7:53) Qualifications for high school esports coaches?

Q5 (9:40) Are teams playing "regular-season" games and tournaments?

Q6 (11:54) What games will be played in IHSA State Series?

Q7 (13:45) What does the IHSA hope to achieve by offering esports?



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

PRESS RELEASE: IHSA Board Approves Formation of Esports Advisory Committee

(December 18, 2018) – Bloomington, IL -- The IHSA Board of Directors met for their regularly scheduled meeting at the IHSA office in Bloomington on Monday, December 10, 2018, where the Board approved the formation of an advisory committee for Esports.

The committee will be charged with developing recommendations on a format for a potential IHSA Esports State Series and State Final in the future.

“We are excited any time we can entertain the possibility of offering Illinois high school students more opportunities to represent their schools in competition,” said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. “We know that students benefit in the short- and long-term when they are involved in a high school sport or activity. Esports may present us with a chance to expand our mission by creating another new and unique State Final experience.”

“The IHSA was the first state high school association in the country to offer a Bass Fishing State Final, and we will always strive to be innovators,” said Erie High School principal and IHSA Board President Tim McConnell. “Esports has tremendous participation among high school students that only continues to grow, so it’s important that we continue to look at ways to connect with high school students and their interests.”

The Esports advisory committee is scheduled to meet for the first time in the spring of 2019.

PRESS RELEASE: IHSA Boards Sets Inaugural Esports State Series For April

(August 23, 2021) – Bloomington, IL -- The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Board of Directors met for its regularly scheduled meeting, which included both virtual and in-person attendance, on Monday, August 23, 2021, where the Board approved the formation of an esports State Series and began a new era for the IHSA Boys and Girls Swimming & Diving State Finals at FMC Natatorium in Westmont.

The IHSA will hold its first-ever esports State Series in April of 2022 with the inaugural state tournament featuring three titles: NBA2K, Rocket League, and Super Smash Brothers.

“It is exciting any time that we can expand the IHSA mission by offering another opportunity for students to represent their schools in competition,” said IHSA Executive Director Craig



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Anderson. “We appreciate the time and effort put forth by our staff and the committee members who helped get us to this point.”

Esports becomes the 10th activity offered by the IHSA, joining bass fishing, chess, debate, drama & group interpretation, speech, journalism, music, and scholastic bowl. The addition of esports brings the IHSA’s total State Series offerings to 41 total sports and activities.

“Not unlike when the IHSA added bass fishing, some may question how esports fits into the IHSA’s offerings, but we never wavered in our belief that we want to align the Association with the interests of our high school students,” said Anderson. “Research shows that there are educational, mental, and social benefits to having students compete for their high school in any activity or sport, so we look forward to Illinois high school students who are passionate about esports being able to enjoy those benefits.”

The IHSA’s esports State Series will be held during weeks 42 and 43 of the standardized IHSA calendar (April 17-April 30, 2022). The Association staff will begin the process of finding a state final host venue immediately and bring a recommendation to the Board later this year.

State Series Information

Sectionals: Saturday, April 23, 2022

State Finals: Saturday, April 30, 2022

Sectional esports Games

Rocket League

Rocket League is a vehicular soccer video game developed and published by Psyonix. The game was first released for Microsoft Windows and PlayStation 4 in July 2015

Super Smash Brothers Ultimate

Super Smash Bros. Ultimate is a 2018 Japanese crossover fighting game developed by Bandai Namco Studios and published by Nintendo. It is the fifth installment in the Super Smash Bros. series. The game follows the series' traditional style of gameplay: controlling one of the various characters, players must use differing attacks to weaken their opponents and knock them out of an arena.

NBA 2K

NBA 2K is a series of basketball sports simulation video games developed by Visual Concepts and released annually since 1999. The premise of each game in the series is to emulate the sport of basketball, more specifically, the National Basketball Association.



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Sectional Sites

Hoffman Estates (H.S.)

LaGrange (Lyons)

Oak Lawn (Richards)

Oswego (East)

Peoria (Richwoods)

Rockford (Guilford)

Salem

* Teams who place first or second in Sectionals will advance to State Finals

State Final Sites

Bloomington High School and Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington

IHSA Activity Participation

The number of schools participating in the postseason IHSA State Series in each IHSA activity in 2021-22 is provided below (first year of State Series in parenthesis). IHSA currently has 815 member high schools:

Scholastic Bowl: 510 schools (1987)

Music Solo/Ensemble: 383 schools (1941)

Bass Fishing: 326 schools (2009)

Music Organization: 247 schools (1941)

Speech: 193 schools (1941)

esports: 151 schools (2022)

Chess: 147 schools (1974)

Journalism: 98 schools (2006)

Debate: 52 schools (1941)

Drama: 55 schools (1941)

IHSA esports Advisory Committee

Todd McFarlin, Coach, Chicago (Steinmetz)

Eric Wenckowski, District Administrator, Hoffman Estates (H.S.)

Amy Whitlock, Coach, Oswego (East)

Greg Gardner, Assistant Principal, LaGrange (Lyons)

Mike Jacobson, Principal, Oak Lawn (Richards)

Jeff Pitner, Coach, Rockford (Guilford)

Zack Gilbert, Coach, Normal (University)



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Mark Bacys, Athletic Director, Danville (H.S.)

Chris Kuntzman, Coach, Taylorville

Zachary Lamczyk, IT Coordinator, Salem

Derek Austill, Coach, Roxana

SUBMITTING YOUR WORK

Please follow the instructions below carefully, as this will be very important in our ability to receive, process, and distribute your work for judging.

1. Determine how you are going to get your work to your advisor (email, school network, flash drive, etc.).
2. You will need your Sectional Code & School Code to name your files. If you don't know your codes, you can find them on the prompt email attachment or at: www.ihsa.org/Sports-Activities/Journalism/2022-State-Series
3. Output your audio story into shareable file (preferably MP3 or one that can be attached to an email or can be accessible from the cloud or public sharing program like a Google Doc via link). The name of your file should be your Single Digit Sectional number – Event Category – Four-Digit School Code.

Example below:

1 – Broadcast News – 1234

4. Submit the file to your advisor and confirm they received it.