

Advisory Committee Terms and Conditions Recommendations
Consent Items
June 16, 2025

Boys/Girls Basketball

Terms and Conditions Recommendation:

1. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda

2. Boys and Girls Section VI. B. 1), 2), and 3): Tournament Structure and Time Schedule

Recommendation: Each competing team has 15:00 minutes on the competition floor for pre-game warmup.

Rationale: The extra time resulted in pre-game routines becoming out of rhythm and not fully utilized since regular-season warmup times are 15 minutes.

3. Girls Section VI. B. 1) Tournament Structure and Time Schedule Sessions: Class 1A, 2A, 3A and 4A

Regional Tournaments:

Recommendation: The committee recommends that the higher seed host school determine the Start time of the Saturday Regional Quarterfinal game to begin between 10:00am and 7:00pm.

Rationale: Increasing the start time window allows more flexibility in scheduling for the Regional Quarterfinal game.

Administrative Recommendations:

1. Recommendation: The committee recommends the use of the following State Association Adoptions:

- a. Mercy Rule: continue using with previously established parameters
- b. Coaches Box (28' in length)
- c. Shot Clock
 - i. May be used in 2025-26 regular season, regular season tournaments, and shoot-out games at any level. The decision to use the technology at any level is left to conferences and individual schools.
 - ii. For non-conference games, both schools must agree in advance to use the technology.
 - iii. The model rule previously adopted by the IHSA Board of Directors must be used.

Rationale: The NFHS Basketball Rules allows states the flexibility to adopt specific adjustments to a select number of rules. Over the years, the IHSA had adopted modifications to the rules above. The committee believes the current adoptions remain relevant and should continue to be accepted.

2. Recommendation: Member schools may use the 35-second shot clock in the 2025-26 regular season.

NOTE: Implementation of the 35-second shot clock will begin with the 2026-27 season for all varsity regular season and state series contests. The decision to use the shot clock for sub-varsity contests will continue to be determined by conference and individual schools.

Rationale: The approved recommendation from last year did not specify the regular season, only the post-season. The intent of the 2024 recommendation was for the shot clock to be in effect for all regular-season games beginning in 2026 - 2027.

3. Recommendation: During a contest where the shot clock is used, the five-second closely guarded count is not used.

Rationale: Teams utilizing the shot clock have a time limit to attempt a try for goal, so the five-second dribble limit or holding the ball while closely guarded is insignificant.

4. Recommendation: During a contest where the shot clock is used, the clock shall be reset to 20 seconds if the offense resumes possession of the ball after a missed shot or if the defense kicks the ball during the offensive team's possession.

Rationale: This action maintains game flow and pace of play.

5. **Recommendation:** Shot Clock Placement: The primary gym must meet NFHS guidelines in the NFHS Rules Book. Shot clock placement in an auxiliary gym, where a basketball mount is not feasible, the shot clock must be placed on the wall behind the basket, at or above the backboard, and clearly visible and unobstructed.

Rationale: Allows the use of shot clocks in auxiliary gyms per schools' requests for guidance.

Boys/Girls Bowling

1. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda

Recommendations 2 and 3 go together in order to keep the number of lanes used balanced

2. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda

3. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda

4. VIII. Tournament Rules F) Lane Assignments and Conditions 7) Lane Breakdown

Recommendation: In the event of a lane breakdown that takes more than 15 minutes, the bowlers shall move to an open pair of lanes to the right of their block. In the event of a hard break, pins should be reset at the time of the break on the new lanes. One practice ball on each new lane will be allowed for each bowler as a warmup. The remainder of the competition must be finished using the new lanes regardless of the original pair being repaired, unless there is a situation where other lanes breakdown and that is the only remaining pair available.

Rationale: The previous wording said the round must be finished on the new pair, but adjusting back to the old pair, if repaired, for round 2 could give an advantage as the previously broken-down pair would have fresher oil. Once a pair goes out of the even with a breakdown it should be out of use for the remainder of the day, unless there is a situation where other lanes breakdown and that is the only remaining pair available.

5. VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES C) The Competition Area 2) Coaches in Competition Area c

Recommendation: c. Penalties will accumulate for the tournament. Penalties for violation of coaches in competition area are: first offense – 50 team pin deduction/ 10 individual pin deduction, second offense - 100 team pin deduction/ 20 individual pin deductions, third team offense – 200 team pin deduction/ 40 individual pin deductions, and fourth team or individual offense- disqualification.

Rationale: The penalty section only talks about team penalties, but nothing about individuals. This updated wording provides clarification on what to do with infractions for individual participants.

Competitive Cheerleading

Terms and Conditions Recommendations:

1. Recommendation: I. School Classification A) Divisions: ~~Large-3A~~ Medium 2A ~~Small-1A~~

Rationale: The proposed change in classification nomenclature from "Small Team," "Medium Team," and "Large Team" to "Class 1A," "Class 2A," and "Class 3A" is intended to create consistency across IHSA programs. Specifically, this change aligns with the naming conventions currently used in other IHSA activities, such as competitive dance, and reflects the common statewide system of classification based on school enrollment size. Using 1A, 2A, and 3A as identifiers provides clarity, reduces confusion, and reinforces uniformity across IHSA-sponsored events. This update will ensure that schools, coaches, and spectators can more easily understand divisions and make comparisons across different activities and sports.

2. Recommendation: I. School Classification

- A) ~~1. 24 rostered participants with 20...~~
- ~~2. 20 rostered participants with 16...~~
- ~~3. 16 rostered participants with 12...~~

add new B) Roster and Participants: All teams may have up to 26 rostered participants with no more than 20 and no less than 12 participants in the 3A division; 8 in the 2A division; and 5 in the 1A division allowed on the competition floor.

In the Coed Division, all teams may have up to 26 rostered participants and the minimum number required on the competition floor will be based on the schools' initial enrollment.

Note: A mascot is considered part of a team and will be counted towards the maximum number of cheerleaders allowed on the competition floor.

Rationale: The recommended update to Section I, School Classification, introduces clear and consistent guidelines regarding roster sizes and the number of participants allowed on the competition floor. Establishing a maximum roster size of 26 across all divisions standardizes team management while allowing flexibility in practice and preparation. Defining specific participant limits on the floor—12 for 3A, 8 for 2A, and 5 for 1A—reflects the differing needs and capacities of schools based on enrollment size and ensures a level playing field in competition. Including a provision for Coed Division teams to align minimum floor participation with the school's enrollment classification maintains consistency and fairness across all formats of competition. Overall, these changes create a more structured and equitable system that supports competitive balance.

3. Recommendation: VI. Tournament Structure and Time Schedules F) Competition Disruption:

Tournament management reserves the right to cease competition under the following conditions:

1) At the sectional and state preliminary rounds IHSA licensed officials reserve the right to stop a routine due to an obvious injury/bodily fluid.

- a. If an injury/bodily fluid causes the team's routine to be interrupted during a performance, the head official and tournament management shall determine the time for the team to feed back into the warm-up and competition order to complete their performance. ~~This time should not exceed 30 (thirty) minutes for the team to perform their routine again.~~ The time for injury disruption should not exceed 30 (thirty) minutes for the team to perform their routine again. In the event of bodily fluid disruption tournament management shall determine the best time to rotate the team back into warm up. Judging will resume from the point at which the injury/~~interruption~~ bodily fluid interruption occurred as determined by the head official. The routine must be performed full-out from the beginning. All point deductions accumulated to the point of injury/bodily fluid will carry over. If a team prefers not to re-work the routine, at the coaches' discretion, they may take the score they have received up to that point. If a skill has not been performed a "0" will be given in that category. ~~If multiple injuries occur, the same process will be in effect.~~ If a team's routine is stopped a second time due to injury/bodily fluid the team will take the score they have received up to that point. Note: If an athlete leaves the performance surface due to injury/bodily fluid, the out of bounds deduction will not be assessed and the routine shall continue. When able and safe, the athlete may return to the performance surface.

Rationale: The proposed addition to Section VI, Tournament Structure and Time Schedules, provides clear and consistent protocols for managing routine disruptions due to injury or the presence of bodily fluids during competition. Establishing this procedure ensures that all teams are treated fairly and equitably in the event of an unexpected interruption, while prioritizing the safety and well-being of participants.

The inclusion of clear guidelines for multiple disruptions and the treatment of out-of-bounds deductions during medical exits further promotes fairness, safety, and clarity. Overall, this recommendation ensures a standardized and compassionate response to competition interruptions that supports athletes, coaches, and tournament officials alike.

4. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda

5. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda

Administrative Recommendations:

Scoresheet, Rubric, Legality and Deductions

1. Develop an Ad Hoc Committee to review the score sheet and rubric.

Rationale: With changes to the NFHS Spirit Rules, the IHSA scoring instruments and documents need to be reviewed and adjusted accordingly. There has not been a review audit since 2016.

2. Recommendation: Adjust the Pyramid section to reflect the following:

Level 4: 9-10

Pyramid must include:

- Three extended single leg structures
- A variety of top people in extended single leg positions and release moves
- Three release transitions - release moves must include at least one inversion and one that ends in an extended single leg position.

and/or

-Three skills toss including a twist

Rationale: Current rubric requirements for achieving Level 4 in pyramids is not elite compared to other rubric categories. While the additional requirements may not separate teams further, it does increase the difficulty while still minimizing risk required to get into Level 4. This will now require more than one athlete to perform a release transition and will require three release transitions. Three release transitions would be a gradual progression increase in requirements from previous levels. A small (*IA*) team could still achieve Level 4 just as they do now with a variety of top people.

3. Editorial Revision

I. School Classification A) Division:

Schools shall be categorized for participation in the Competitive Cheerleading State Series based on the following:

...Team Division: School enrollment of 1600.01 and over

...Team Division: School enrollment between 700.01 to 1600.00

...Team Division: School enrollment up to 700.00

Coed Team Division: Two males or more on the competition floor is an open division regardless of school size ...

VI. Tournament Structure and Time Schedules D) Coaches Meeting: An in-person coaches' meeting will may be conducted prior to each division of competition at sectional as outlined in the performance schedule. This meeting is optional for a coach (or a school representative) from each school must to attend. this meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to review any facility and logistical information regarding the event. Questions regarding policies, procedures and rules governing the conduct of the event should be directed to the IHSA. Coaches will be responsible for the information covered at the meeting.

1. The sectional manager or appointed manager can shall conduct an in-person ~~the~~ meeting for coaches prior to each division at the sectional tournament on the Saturday of sectionals.

2. The sectional manager will introduce the head official/officiating crew and any other competition personnel that they deem necessary to introduce to the coaches. The sectional manager will discuss items on the sectional agenda/tournament logistics and answer any questions regarding the competition venue.

3. Sectional managers have the option to prerecord or send out this information to qualifying schools in lieu of an in-person coaches meeting.

4. VI. Tournament Structure and Time Schedules E. Warm-up Time: 2. Schools entered in the competition will only be allowed warm-up/practice time as scheduled by the IHSA. Mats should be provided for all three warm-up stations: ~~stretching— 2 mats, tumbling— 3 mats, full warm-up— 9 mats~~ (full-floor), with no skill restrictions at any station per NFHS rules.

Competitive Dance

No Terms and Conditions Recommendations Forwarded.

Competitive Dance Administrative Recommendations:

1. **Scoresheet and Rubric Revision– Recommendation:** The following proposed changes aim to align the score sheet with a 55/40/5 balance between skill, artistic evaluation and program quality. Consistent with competitive

sports, these adjustments prioritize assessing teams based on their athletic performance, ensuring that skill execution carries greater weight in the evaluation process while still balancing artistry.

Rationale:

Current Scoresheet:

Choreography	15 points
Musicality	15 Points
Difficulty	15 Points
Technique	15 Points
Synchronization	15 Points
Staging/Spacing	15 Points
Showmanship/Overall Visual Effect	10 points
Total Points:	100 Points

New Proposal:

Choreography	15 Points
Musicality	15 Points
Difficulty	15 Points
Technique	15 Points
Synchronization	15 Points
Spacing	10 Points
Staging	10 Point
Performance Quality	5 Points
Total Points:	100 Points

Modify the Choreography Rubric Language:

Rationale: Modifying the rubric language slightly by placing greater emphasis on the creative expression of choreography will provide a clearer framework for teams, helping to define expectations more precisely.

13-15 pts: Excelling- Exceptional flow and continuity; exciting build in choreography; ~~exceptional use of unique material, creativity, program concept and design.~~ **and memorable moments in choreography, exceptional use of visual effects, variety in choreography and use of unique material**

Separate Staging & Spacing in the scoresheet:

Rationale: The current rubric combines staging and spacing into a single category. However, to better align with the rationale of separating artistic and skill-based scoring, these elements should be evaluated independently. Staging pertains to the intentional placement and movement of performers to enhance visual impact and storytelling, while spacing focuses on the precision and consistency of formations and transitions. By distinguishing these components, judges can more accurately assess both the artistic and technical execution, ensuring a clearer and more effective evaluation process.

In addition, to maintain the 55/40/5 balance in the scoresheet, where artistic elements account for 40% of the total score, the value of Staging assigned to this category must be reduced from 15 points to 10 points.

SPACING- 10 Points

10-9.0 Excelling: The athletes are excellent at utilizing the performance floor effectively. Performers display an exceptional spatial awareness in stationary formations. There is excellent precision and spatial accuracy during transitions. There is an exceptional level of spatial awareness throughout the routine.

8.9-8.0 Applying: The athletes are good at utilizing the performance floor effectively. Performers display good spatial awareness in stationary formations. There is good precision and spatial accuracy during transitions. There is a good level of spatial awareness throughout the routine.

7.8-7.0 Developing: The athletes are sometimes utilizing the performance floor effectively. Performers display some spatial awareness in stationary formations. There is some precision and spatial accuracy during transitions. There is some level of spatial awareness throughout the routine.

6.8-6.0 Lacking: The athletes lack utilizing the performance floor effectively. Performers lack spatial awareness in stationary formations. There is minimal spatial accuracy during transitions. There is a minimal level of spatial awareness throughout the routine.

STAGING 10 Points:

10-9.0 Excelling- Exceptional variety and creativity in the formations. The formations and transitions created are logical and purposeful. The levels, directions, and sectioned group work highlight the athletes in an effective way. The exceptional use of seamless transitions creates a memorable visual impact.

8.9-8.0 Applying—Good variety and creativity in the formations. The formations and transitions created are logical and purposeful. The levels, directions, and sectioned group work highlight the athletes in an effective way. There is some use of seamless transitions which sometimes creates a memorable visual impact.

7.8-7.0 Developing -Some variety and creativity in the formations. The formations and transitions created are logical and purposeful. The levels, directions, and sectioned group work highlight the athletes in an effective way. The use of seamless transitions creates a memorable visual impact.

6.8-6.0 Lacking- Lacking variety and creativity in the formations. The formations and transitions created are rarely logical and purposeful. The levels, directions, and sectioned group work lack highlighting the athletes in an effective way. There is rarely a use of seamless transitions which rarely creates a memorable visual impact.

Showmanship/ Overall Visual Effect and Replace with Performance Quality - 5 points

Rationale: The current language of the scoresheet emphasizes showmanship, which is a foundational aspect of any high-level routine. However, at the state level, all teams have already demonstrated excellence in these areas. To better differentiate performances, a greater emphasis should be placed on intentionality of the performance quality. By refining this category to highlight passion, connection to the material, breath, energy, and commitment teams can be more distinctly evaluated based on their ability to bring creative interpretation to their routines. This shift will create a clearer competitive edge and encourage teams to push the boundaries of artistic innovation

No rubric assigned- the point allocation for this category remains flexible and based on overall impression.

Girls Gymnastics

Terms and Conditions Recommendations:

No Terms and Conditions Recommendations Forwarded.

Boys/Girls Soccer

Terms and Conditions Recommendations:

1. Boys and Girls Section II Dates and Sites

Recommendation: Adjust the 1A Boys and Girls seasons to align with the Boys and Girls 2/3A regional and sectional schedules. Move 1A Super Sectionals to Monday from Saturday. Allow Class 2A/3A Super Sectional sites to host on Monday or Tuesday. Class 1A/2A/3A Regional and Sectional semifinal games may be held on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday. If the semi-finals are held on two days, the days must be concurrent. The recommended schedule is attached.

Rationale:

- Class 1A, 2A and 3A all have the same state series schedule.
- Class 1A quarterfinal games are not competing for officials during Class 2/3A regular season games.
- Increases Class 1A host options by moving the regional and sectional semifinal games off football weekends.
- Add Monday as an option to play regional and sectional semifinal competitions to assist host managers in scheduling facilities and workers.

Recommended State Series Schedules beginning 2025-26

Boys Soccer (Class 1A, 2A & 3A)	2025-26
Season Starts (Mon. Week 6)	Aug. 11
1st contest May be Held (Mon. Week 8)	Aug. 25
On-Line Season Summary Form Deadline (Wed. 10:00 am. Week 13)	Oct. 1
On-Line Team Seeding Deadline(Thurs. Noon Week 13)	Oct. 2
1A/2A/3A Regional Quarterfinals (Fri. - Sat. Week 15)	Oct. 17-18
1A/2A/3A Regional Semifinals (Mon. - Tues. - Wed. Week 16)	Oct. 20-22
1A/2A/3A Regional Finals (Fri. - Sat. Week 16)	Oct. 24-25
1A/2A/3A Sectional Semifinals (Mon. - Tues. - Wed. Week 17)	Oct. 27-29
1A/2A/3A Sectional Finals (Fri. - Sat. Week 17)	Oct. 31-Nov. 1
1A Super-Sectional Finals (Mon. Week 18)	Nov. 3
2A/3A Super-Sectionals (Mon. - Tues. Week 18)	Nov. 3-4
1A State Final (Thurs. - Sat. Week 18)	Nov. 6-8
2A/3A State Final (Fri. - Sat. Week 18)	Nov. 7-8
Season Ends (Sat. Week 18)	Nov. 8

Girls Soccer (Class 1A, 2A & 3A)	2025-26
Season Starts (Mon. Week 35)	Mar. 2
1st contest May be Held (Mon. Week 37)	Mar. 16
On-Line Season Summary Form Deadline (Wed. 10:00 am. Week 43)	Apr. 29
On-Line Team Seeding Deadline (Thurs. 12:00 Noon Week 43)	Apr. 30
1A/2A/3A Regional Quarterfinals (Fri.-Sat. Week 45)	May 15-16
1A/2A/3A Regional Semifinals (Mon. - Tues. - Wed. Week 46)	May 18-20
1A/2A/3A Regional Finals (Fri.-Sat. Week 46)	May 22-23
1A/2A/3A Sectional Semifinals (Mon. - Tues. - Wed. Week 47)	May 25-27
1A/2A/3A Sectional Finals (Fri.-Sat. Week 47)	May 29-30
1A Super-Sectional Finals (Mon. Week 48)	Jun. 1
2A/3A Super-Sectionals (Mon. - Tues. Week 48)	Jun. 1-2
1A State Final (Thurs. - Sat. Week 48)	Jun. 4-6
2A/3A State Final (Fri.- Sat. Week 48)	Jun. 5-6
Season Ends (Sat. Week 48)	Jun. 6

Administrative Recommendations:

1. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda

- 2. Recommendation:** The committee recommends that each straight red card a player or coach receives is counted as 2 yellows towards an individual's card count total

Rationale: The committee felt that if an individual receives a straight red, that is akin to receiving two cautions and should be recorded as such. Especially without the total team count in effect.

- 3. Recommendation:** The committee recommends the continued use of the current Soccer State Association Adoptions and any needed editorial changes to be made by Beth Sauser for 2025-26 seasons.

Rationale: Approved the continued use of state association adoptions.

Terms and Conditions Recommendations:**1. Item VII-B – State Swim Qualifying Standards**

Recommendation: To adopt the following qualifying standards. Sectional Qualifying Standards for the Boys' and Girls' State Finals will be determined in the following manner. The Qualifying Standards for each individual swimming event will be calculated by determining the 36th place time from all sectionals. That time will then be used to obtain an average of the last FIVE years' average times in each event (a different number of years to obtain the average may be used in one or more events if deemed appropriate). In relay events the same process will be implemented but the 30th sectional place time will be used to make the calculations. Using this process, the proposed qualifying standards for the 25-26 seasons are:

Event	Girls	Boys
200 MED RELAY	1:48.95	1:36.73
200 FREE	1:56.01	1:44.59
200 IM	2:10.58	1:57.40
50 FREE	:24.41	:21.73
100 BUTTERFLY	:58.38	:51.92
100 FREE	:52.95	:47.54
500 FREE	5:13.38	4:47.23
200 FREE RELAY	1:38.84	1:27.45
100 BACK	:58.60	:52.94
100 BREAST	1:07.25	:59.26
400 FREE RELAY	3:37.24	3:13.49

Rationale: The advisory committee feels that we are on the right track by using this system. Using an objective system is easier to use, easier to defend and provides fair standards for competitors. When necessary, the system is adjustable by using a different average sectional time or a different average (i.e. 4 years). The Assistant Executive Director working with the swimming and diving advisory committee has reserved the right to make changes if it is obvious that this would be necessary in order to protect the integrity of the meet.

2. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda.**3. Item IX.B – Tournament Policies – Participant Passes for the State Final**

Recommendation: Any school that qualifies a 200 Freestyle Relay and/or 400 Freestyle Relay for the State Final Meet will receive one (1) additional deck pass for an alternate of their choice. Schools that qualify a 200 Medley Relay will also receive one (1) additional deck pass for an alternate. Therefore, to receive two (2) alternate deck passes, a school must qualify at least one freestyle relay (200 or 400) *and* the 200 Medley Relay. All alternates must be listed on the List of Participants for the relay(s) in which they may compete.

Rationale: The committee recognizes that the 200 Medley Relay, being stroke-specific, presents unique challenges compared to freestyle relays. Each swimmer must specialize in a particular stroke (backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, or freestyle), making substitutions more complex and critical to maintaining team performance. Therefore, an additional deck pass is warranted specifically for a medley relay alternate to ensure teams have proper coverage for each specialized leg of the race. In contrast, swimmers can transition between the 200 and 400 freestyle relays with minimal impact on team performance, as all swimmers compete using the same stroke. Providing additional deck passes based on qualifying for these relays supports team flexibility while maintaining competitive integrity.

4. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda.**5. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda**

6. VIII.K (New)

Recommendation:

By state association adoption, backstroke ledges may be used during the regular season and IHSA State Series. If a host school opts to use backstroke ledges, then it shall be done in accordance with NFHS Rule 2-7-3.

Rationale: Following the April 9 IHSA Swimming and Diving Advisory Committee Meeting, the NFHS approved a rule that allows state associations to adopt rule 2-7-3 permitting the use of backstroke ledges in interscholastic competition. Therefore, on April 28 at 2pm, the Swimming and Diving Advisory Committee reconvened and decided to move this recommendation forward. The committee deemed that this change is warranted because they feel that the use of the backstroke ledges in high school swimming is inevitable. Backstroke ledges are commonly permitted by other rule making bodies, and the use of the ledges are widespread outside of high school swimming. Schools that host swimming and diving meets will not be required to purchase backstroke ledges. Per the rule, if a school wishes to purchase backstroke ledges to be used at their home meets, then the minimum water depth of the start end of their pool must be no less than 6 feet deep and that depth must extend out at least 5 meters (16 feet, 5 inches) from the end wall. Additionally, hosts that will purchase ledges for use at their home meets must offer identical ledges to all lanes, and the swimmer has the option to use it or not. There are other provisions of the rule that must be adhered to as well.

Boys/Girls Wrestling

Terms and Conditions Recommendations:

Recommendation #1 Reviewed at the April 17th Board Meeting

1. II. Dates & Sites

Recommendation: Starting in the 2025-26 school year, follow this state series schedule.

Boys Regional	Saturday of IHSA Week 31
Girls Regional.....	Friday & Saturday of IHSA Week 32
Boys Sectional	Friday & Saturday of IHSA Week 32
Girls Sectional	Friday & Saturday of IHSA Week 33
Boys Individual State Finals	Thursday, Friday, & Saturday of IHSA Week 33
Dual Team Sectional	Tuesday of IHSA Week 34
Girls Individual State Finals	Friday & Saturday of IHSA Week 34
Dual Team State Finals	Friday & Saturday of IHSA Week 34

Rationale: The committee realizes state series dates were adjusted last year and were to go into effect in the 2025-26 school year. However, the committee heard from several coaches around the state who did not favor last year's changes that flip-flopped the Boys Regional and Girls Regional and moved the Dual Team Sectional to a Thursday. The newly proposed schedule creates a state series where each gender will wrestle on three consecutive weekends. It is also less intrusive on the traditional regular season schedule.

2. VI. Tournament Structure & Time Schedules

Recommendation: Adjust the Boys Individual State Finals schedule to start one hour earlier on Thursday and 30 minutes later on Friday morning.

Thursday

11:00	1A Preliminaries on 6 mats
1:00 (approx.)	2A Preliminaries on 6 mats
3:15 (approx.)	3A Preliminaries on 6 mats
5:30 (approx.)	1A-2A-3A Winner's Bracket Quarterfinals (each class on two mats)

Friday

9:00	1A-2A-3A First Round Wrestlebacks (each class on two mats)
1:00 (approx.)	1A-2A-3A Second Round Wrestlebacks (each class on two mats)

Rationale: This change means all wrestlers who win their preliminary bouts will wrestle again on Thursday. Currently, only 1A and 2A winners wrestle twice on Thursday. This change also creates a consistent schedule for all three classes throughout the weekend and should encourage better attendance Thursday evening since all three classes are wrestling simultaneously.

3. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda

Administrative Recommendation:

Recommendation: Create a training video to educate head coaches on how to use TrackWrestling. Head coaches are recommended to watch the training video in the IHSA Schools Center.

Rationale: The IHSA requires coaches to use TrackWrestling for event scheduling and roster and weight management. Coaches who aren't properly trained or don't completely utilize the program are putting their wrestlers at risk of participating in weight classes where they aren't certified to compete. Requiring coaches to watch a training video and enter weights and results throughout the season provides the safest and healthiest experience for our wrestlers and makes the Regional seeding process much simpler.

Athletic Officials

Administrative Recommendations:

1-3: Earlier this school year, IHSA member schools modified By-law 2.080. Subsequently, adjustments to the IHSA Officials Handbook need to be made to reflect the change in the by-law. The three 'proposals' below address the change. (all recommended changes highlighted in yellow below)

1. Officials Handbook I.H. (new #6)
 - 6) Assign an unlicensed or non-compliant official to an interscholastic contest or officiate a contest when non-compliant.
2. Officials Handbook I.H. (new edit after #6)

If an official is placed on disciplinary probation, he/she/they is ineligible for promotion in the current licensing year and may be ineligible for an IHSA post-season assignment. The individual must meet all requirements for an active license the subsequent year to avoid suspension.

Recognized assignors who assign unlicensed or non-compliant officials to interscholastic contests will be ineligible for post season assignments in the current year and unable to submit a Top 15 List for the sport(s) where the violation(s) occurred. Additional violations could result in more penalties, as determined by the IHSA Executive Director.

3. Officials Handbook IV.G (new last sentence; will replace current one)

Violations of IHSA By-law 2.080 will result in penalties as outlined in the IHSA Member School Handbook and the IHSA Officials Manual.

Rationale: Earlier this school year, the IHSA membership modified the language to By-law 2.080. As a result, language should be added to the IHSA Officials Handbook to provide guidance on how the new modified language should be applied. These proposals address this change.

4. Create a process to allow licensed IHSA Officials a second promotion window during a school year;
NOTE: *this additional window does NOT eliminate the seasonal promotion opportunity that many officials will still utilize*

When: Week 15 IHSA Standardized Calendar (one week only: Sunday – Saturday) for **spring sports**

- Spring sports: baseball, boys' lacrosse, girls' lacrosse, softball, track & field, and water polo

Week 39 IHSA Standardized Calendar (one week only: Sunday – Saturday) for **fall/winter sports**

- Fall/Winter sports: football, flag football, soccer, swimming and diving, volleyball, basketball, competitive cheerleading, competitive dance, girls' gymnastics, and wrestling

Who: Officials who have met qualifications to apply for promotion; officials can only apply for promotion ONCE in a given school year (school year defined as July 1 – following June 30);

Additional Considerations

1. In order to be eligible for the second promotion window, officials MUST have completed all application requirements by October 1st (for the Week 15 window) and March 15 (for the Week 39 window) and be eligible for promotion. No one will be allowed to apply for promotion earlier than outlined in the IHSA Officials' Handbook. There will be no exceptions to this requirement.
2. If an official tests for promotion in consecutive years and fails to promote, he/she/they will be required to wait one full calendar year from the last promotion attempt before becoming eligible for promotion.

Rationale: For some officials, the current promotion calendar is challenging. Allowing a second promotion window should enable more officials to undergo the promotion process. The current proposal maintains the integrity of the process by allowing an official to only go for promotion once in a school year.

Chess

Terms and Conditions Recommendations:

Recommendation #1: Update time control language to more standard terms for qualifying team tournaments.

III. ONLINE ENTRIES, WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES, ELIGIBILITY, AND ONLINE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS, F. Team Tournament Requirement

- 1) Teams qualify for the Team Chess state series by participating in at least one team tournament during the regular season. For the purposes of this requirement a team tournament must involve at least six teams of at least five players each, playing at least three rounds with a minimum **time control** of 30 minutes **plus a 5-second delay** per player, and must be team-paired and not prescheduled (as would occur in a round robin).

Rationale: This update uses more standard time control language that is used by tournament organizers during the regular season and by the IHSA for the state series. A minimum of 30 minutes plus 5-second delay per player will better prepare teams for the 55-minute/5-second delay time controls used during the state series.

Recommendation #2: Update timing of when first-round pairings of the state finals can be made and add language regarding pairing procedures in the event a team withdraws after the seeding meeting.

V. TOURNAMENT ASSIGNMENTS AND SEEDING MEETINGS, E. Pairing Procedures – State Tournament

- 5) Teams shall be paired ~~immediately~~ before the start of the first round of competition. **If a team officially withdraws after the seeding meeting and before the start of the state finals, tournament pairings may be redone at the tournament director's discretion.**

Rationale: First-round pairings for the state finals are ready to be made after the seeding meeting is completed on the Sunday prior to the state finals. A team that withdraws from the state finals after the seeding meeting cannot be replaced per IHSA terms and conditions VII-A-3. If a team withdraws after the seeding meeting and within a timely manner before the state finals begin, the tournament director, at his or her discretion, may redo the pairings to maintain the most appropriate setup for the tournament. There may be circumstances when the pairings can be left as is.

Recommendation #3: Modify procedures to keep pairings as is and follow forfeiture rules, if necessary, when a team has not arrived for the start of Round 1 at the state finals.

VI. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND PLAYING SCHEDULES, D. Time Schedule – State Tournament

Note: ~~If a team has not arrived for the start of Round 1, the clock for each player on a that team shall be started at 10:00 am. If a team has not arrived by 10:30 am, that team shall forfeit the match per Section VIII-C-3a of the IHSA Terms and Conditions. No later than 30 minutes before the start of Round 1, coaches must contact the tournament manager if their team will be arriving late but still intends to compete in the tournament. If a coach gives proper notification, the team will be paired in Round 1. If a coach fails to give proper notification to the tournament manager, the team will not be paired and will receive zero points for that round.~~

Rationale: Teams are able to determine their first-round opponent after seeing the list of seeds and typically set up at the appropriate table when the competition room opens for the opening ceremony of the state finals. To avoid a delay in the start of the tournament when a team has not arrived for the start of Round 1, tournament officials should

proceed with the pairings as is and enact the forfeiture rules, if necessary, rather than redoing all the pairings for Round 1 as prescribed in the current terms and conditions language.

Recommendation #4: Modify the start time for the sectional tournaments by providing a range of times that sectional managers can choose from to begin competition at their respective sites. The remainder of the sectional tournament schedule will be based on the start time as determined by the sectional manager.

VI. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND PLAYING SCHEDULES, C. Time Schedule - Sectional

The time schedule for the 2025-26 IHSA Team Chess sectional tournaments is as follows:

Saturday, January 31, 2026

8:15 am	8:45 am	Check in
9:00 am		Round 1
11:30 am		Round 2
2:15 pm		Round 3
4:45 pm		Round 4
6:30 pm		Awards

Local managers will be given the autonomy to schedule the sectional tournament at their site to begin between the following range of times. Round 1 shall begin no earlier than 8:30 am and no later than 10:00 am. Check-in shall begin 45 minutes before Round 1 is scheduled to begin.

2 hours and 30 minutes shall be allocated between the start of rounds. An additional 15 minutes for lunch may be provided after a round designated by the local manager. The awards presentation shall be held after the conclusion of Round 4 once results have been finalized.

Note: In Round 1, the clock for each player on a team shall be started at ~~9:00 am~~ the start time designated by the local manager. No later than 30 minutes before the start of Round 1, coaches must contact the tournament manager if their team will be arriving late but still intends to compete in the tournament. If a coach gives proper notification, the team will be paired for Round 1. If a coach fails to give proper notification to the tournament manager, the team will not be paired and will receive zero points for that round.

Rounds and awards may start ahead of the scheduled time at the manager's discretion, after consultation with the head coaches.

Rationale: A range of start times will provide sectional managers with flexibility when hosting to account for various uses of their facilities by other groups and/or travel times of the participating schools. Varying start times will also help the tournament statistician troubleshoot any technical issues at the start of each sectional tournament in an efficient manner.

Recommendation #5: Add language to clarify who can be inside the roped area at the state finals.

IX. TOURNAMENT POLICIES, A. Spectators

Spectators are permitted at the tournament; however, they are required to observe **in** silence during all tournament play. Failure to observe proper decorum during tournament play will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct. Other than as specifically allowed elsewhere in the Terms and Conditions or the IHSA Rules of Chess, the use of electronic devices in the competition area is prohibited. Spectators may not enter the roped area at the state finals. Other than tournament officials, only coaches and members of the teams assigned to the tables inside the ropes may enter the roped area.

Rationale: There is currently no reference to the roped area in the Terms and Conditions or the IHSA Rules of Chess. Language does exist in an informational section of the IHSA Chess Manual. Adding this language to the terms and conditions will clarify who is allowed inside the ropes, and tournament officials will be able to reference this language when an individual inquires.

Recommendation #6: Add language prohibiting sunglasses from being worn by competing players unless for medical reasons.

IX. TOURNAMENT POLICIES, H. Apparel

- 4) Apparel worn by players and coaches should be in good taste, show good sportsmanship, and be appropriate for state series competition. Hats, visors, hoodies, sunglasses, and other items of apparel that

cover a player's head or face (except those of a religious or medical nature) are not permitted. the Tournament Director or Head Steward have the authority to require that inappropriate apparel be corrected.

Rationale: Officials have seen an increase in number of students wearing sunglasses during competitions for no valid reason related to gameplay. Prohibiting sunglasses would align with the expectations that apparel should show good sportsmanship and not intimidate other players.

7. Non-Consent – See Board Agenda

CHESS RULES RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation #1: Add rule that recommends chessboards to have ranks and files labeled.

RULE 2: The Chessboard and Its Arrangement, Section 3

Article 4. The most acceptable chessboard has ranks and files labeled on the board.

Rationale: Labeled ranks and files on a chessboard clearly identifies the squares on the board and can help players with notation during gameplay.

Recommendation #2: Remove Article 1, which states that the scorer is responsible for providing notation sheets in the state series.

RULE 23: Responsibility of the Officials, Section 5

~~Article 1. The Scorer is responsible for providing notation sheets for each round upon which a game may be recorded.~~

Rationale: Notation sheets used to be included in the printed IHSA state final programs. Each player would receive a copy of the program and utilize the notation sheets. IHSA programs are now digital, and a previous update to the terms and conditions noted that teams were responsible for providing their own notation sheets in the state series. Removing this language would align with current practices according to the terms and conditions.

Esports

No Terms and Conditions Recommendations Forwarded.

Music Solo/Ensemble

Terms and Conditions Recommendations:

SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST

Item 1: Solo & Ensemble Section VIII. A. 2.

MUSIC SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST RULES SWEEPSTAKES MAXIMUMS

Recommendation:

The following maximums apply when counting for Sweepstakes points:

Solos:

Vocal Solos	35
String Solos	20
Wind and/or Perc. Solos	35

Ensembles:

Vocal Ensembles	22
Instrumental Ensembles	22
Brass Ensembles	6
Percussion Ensembles	9
String Ensembles	9
Woodwind Ensembles	9
Piano Duets	4

Rationale: By revising the Sweepstakes point maximums, the adjustment aligns with recent changes to the instrumental choir category and provides directors and students with increased flexibility in forming instrumental ensembles. It also encourages greater participation by expanding performance opportunities for students.

Item 2: Solo & Ensemble VIII. A. 2.

MUSIC SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST RULES SWEEPSTAKES MAXIMUMS

Recommendation:

The following maximums apply when counting for Sweepstakes points:

Choirs:

Flute Choir	1
Clarinet Choir	1
Woodwind Choir	1
Brass Choir	1
Percussion Choir	1
Instrumental Choir	6
Bell Choir	1
String Choir	1
Vocal Choir	6

Rationale: This update provides clarity and ensures consistency across all choir categories by aligning maximums with the intended structure of the Sweepstakes scoring system. By establishing the following maximums for choirs when calculating Sweepstakes points, we are better aligning the terms and conditions for clarification of intent.

Item 3: Solo & Ensemble VIII. C. 1.

MUSIC SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST RULES C. RULES FOR ENSEMBLE AND CHOIR EVENTS 1. APPROVED ENSEMBLE AND CHOIR EVENTS Instrumental Ensembles

Recommendation:

~~619 Mixed Brass/Percussion Ensembles~~

619 Mixed String/Percussion

Rationale: Eliminates redundant categories and simplifies event organization and assists host managers in more effectively planning and scheduling of performances.

Item 4: Solo & Ensemble VIII. C. 1.

MUSIC SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST RULES C. RULES FOR ENSEMBLE AND CHOIR EVENTS 1. APPROVED ENSEMBLE AND CHOIR EVENTS Vocal Ensembles

Recommendation:

651 Vocal Ensemble

~~651 Treble Ensemble~~

~~652 Bass Ensemble~~

~~653 Mixed Ensemble~~

Rationale: This update provides directors with greater autonomy and flexibility in organizing vocal ensemble entries, allowing them to better tailor groupings to their students' needs and strengths.

Item 5: Solo & Ensemble VIII. C. 6. A. b. c.

MUSIC SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST RULES C. RULES FOR ENSEMBLE AND CHOIR EVENTS 6. DOUBLING AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Recommendation:

- Doubling of parts is permitted in instrumental ~~events~~ ensembles but may not exceed two players per part.
- Doubling of parts is permitted in vocal ~~events~~ ensembles but may not exceed four players per part with a maximum of eight performers.
- Doubling limitations do not apply to instrumental and vocal choirs.
- An ensemble's instrumentation must properly represent the intentions of the score. In brass and woodwind choirs, percussion may be used if it is an integral part of the score. Please notify the manager if percussion is required, ~~in events 701-704.~~

e. Instrumental substitutions are not allowed. For example, a tenor sax may not substitute for a baritone/euphonium in a Brass Choir.

Rationale: This revision provides necessary clarification and consistency regarding part doubling and instrumentation in ensemble and choir events.

Item 6: Solo & Ensemble VIII. C. 7.

MUSIC SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST RULES C. RULES FOR ENSEMBLE AND CHOIR EVENTS 7. CONDUCTORS

Recommendation:

7. CONDUCTORS Ensembles shall perform without a conductor. High school students are permitted to conduct any instrumental or vocal choir as well as ~~instrumental choir events (nos. 701–750) and~~ keyboard percussion ensembles. ~~(no. 614) may be conducted by a high school student.~~ The student conductor's technique will be considered in the evaluation of the performance. Student conductors are counted when determining the number of students in an entry.

Rationale: This revision clarifies and expands the guidelines regarding the use of conductors in ensemble performances.

Item 7: Solo & Ensemble Editorial Revisions

VIII. MUSIC SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST RULES A. GENERAL RULES 2. (PAGE 7)

Entries in "Mixed" Ensembles must be counted as an entry under the category of any one of the instruments in the ensemble. ~~For example, event no. 607 must be entered either as a Brass or a Woodwind Ensemble.~~ Designation is at the director's discretion.

VIII. MUSIC SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST RULES C. RULES FOR ENSEMBLES AND CHOIR EVENTS 1. APPROVED ENSEMBLE AND CHOIR EVENTS (PAGE 9)

606 Mixed Wind/String Ensemble (Any ensemble consisting of woodwind, brass, and string instruments)

ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEST

Item 8: ORGANIZATIONAL VIII. B. 3.

MUSIC ORGANIZATION CONTEST RULES B. Programs 3) Chorus

Recommendation:

3) Chorus: Each chorus shall perform selections with a minimum time of seven (7) minutes and a maximum time of twelve (12) minutes. No director or accompanist may sing with the chorus in the concert portion of the performance. All Class B, C, or D choruses (bass, treble and mixed), regardless of classification, must perform at least three-part music. ~~All Class A or AA treble or bass choruses must perform at least three-part music, while Class A or AA mixed choruses must perform at least four-part music.~~ All Class A or AA treble or bass choruses must perform at least three-part music; Class A mixed choruses must perform at least three-part music; Class AA mixed choruses must perform at least four-part music.

Rationale: This revision clarifies performance expectations for chorus classifications to ensure consistency and equity across all levels.

Item 9: ORGANIZATIONAL VIII. B. 4. b.

MUSIC ORGANIZATION CONTEST RULES B. Programs 4) Show Choirs/Jazz Choirs

Recommendation:

4) Show Choirs/Jazz Choirs: Special rules governing this event are: b. Show
Choirs/Jazz Choirs must meet a minimum performance time of seven (7) minutes and a maximum performance time of twelve (12) minutes. Jazz Choirs must include one "swing-style" (unequal division of the beat) selection in their program.

Rationale: This editorial change provides clearer expectations for both directors and adjudicators by establishing a defined performance time range to ensure consistency across show and jazz ensembles and allows for effective scheduling and equitable evaluation.

Music Organization

Terms and Conditions Recommendation:

Item 10: ORGANIZATIONAL VIII. J. 2.

MUSIC ORGANIZATION CONTEST RULES J. ACCOMPANIMENT 2) Accompanists

Recommendation:

Accompanists may only be used in Choral Entries. The pianist may be an adult, ~~For choral entries only the pianist~~ and all other instrumentalists may be adults if they are providing accompaniment designated by the score or implied by the genre. In all other cases, all instrumentalists must be eligible students. ~~Instrumentation must be called for in the score or implied by the genre.~~ Show Choir or Jazz Choir accompaniment may be provided by up to seven instrumentalists.

Rationale: This revision provides clear and consistent guidelines regarding the use of accompanists in choral entries, ensuring both educational integrity and artistic authenticity. This change enhances clarity for directors and adjudicators while maintaining the integrity of student participation.

Music Organization Contest

Terms and Conditions Recommendations:

Item 8: ORGANIZATIONAL VIII. B. 3.

MUSIC ORGANIZATION CONTEST RULES B. Programs 3) Chorus

Recommendation:

3)
Chorus: Each chorus shall perform selections with a minimum time of seven (7) minutes and a maximum time of twelve (12) minutes. No director or accompanist may sing with the chorus in the concert portion of the performance. All Class B, C, or D choruses (bass, treble and mixed), regardless of classification, must perform at least three-part music. ~~All Class A or AA treble or bass choruses must perform at least three-part music, while Class A or AA mixed choruses must perform at least four-part music.~~ All Class A or AA treble or bass choruses must perform at least three-part music; Class A mixed choruses must perform at least three-part music; Class AA mixed choruses must perform at least four-part music.

Rationale: This revision clarifies performance expectations for chorus classifications to ensure consistency and equity across all levels.

Item 9: ORGANIZATIONAL VIII. B. 4. b.

MUSIC ORGANIZATION CONTEST RULES B. Programs 4) Show Choirs/Jazz Choirs

Recommendation:

- 4) Show Choirs/Jazz Choirs: Special rules governing this event are:
- b. Show Choirs/Jazz Choirs must meet a minimum performance time of seven (7) minutes and a maximum performance time of twelve (12) minutes. Jazz Choirs must include one “swing-style” (unequal division of the beat) selection in their program.

Rationale: This editorial change provides clearer expectations for both directors and adjudicators by establishing a defined performance time range to ensure consistency across show and jazz ensembles and allows for effective scheduling and equitable evaluation.

Item 10: ORGANIZATIONAL VIII. J. 2.

MUSIC ORGANIZATION CONTEST RULES J. ACCOMPANIMENT 2) Accompanists

Recommendation:

Accompanists may only be used in Choral Entries. The pianist may be an adult, ~~For choral entries only the pianist~~ and all other instrumentalists may be adults if they are providing accompaniment designated by the score or implied by the genre. In all other cases, all instrumentalists must be eligible students. ~~Instrumentation must be called for in~~

~~the score or implied by the genre.~~ Show Choir or Jazz Choir accompaniment may be provided by up to seven instrumentalists.

Rationale: This revision provides clear and consistent guidelines regarding the use of accompanists in choral entries, ensuring both educational integrity and artistic authenticity. This change enhances clarity for directors and adjudicators while maintaining the integrity of student participation.

Scholastic Bowl

Terms and Conditions Recommendations:

1. Item VIII.H – State Final Team Seating

Recommendation: Adjust the language as follows:

~~State Final Team Seating: The team on the left side of the bracket (pairings) will be designated as the “Home” team and will be seated facing the left hand side of the Moderator. The team on the Right side of the bracket (pairings) will be designated as the Visiting team and will seated facing the right hand side of the Moderator.~~ The competitors within each team will be seated side-by-side and facing in the same direction. The moderator will be positioned to see the faces, name plates, and responder lights of all competitors, and as close as possible to halfway between the two teams. Coaches and reserve players should be physically separated from the competitors and may be behind or in front of the teams depending on room constraints. Only coaches, school officials, and substitute players may sit at the coaches’ table. If there is many spectators watching a match, the preferred setup is to have the teams positioned in a chevron (V-shape), moderator at the point of the V, all facing the coaches, reserve players, and spectators.

Rationale: This T&C change would apply if the proposed changes to Rule 3-C-1 are adopted. First-come-first-served competition seating has been a long-time practice in scholastic bowl. This would align the state final seating procedures with what teams are accustomed to during the regular season.

2. Item VIII.O – Categories and Subcategories for Toss-Up and Bonus Questions

Recommendation: Adjust the following categories as follows:

MATH ~~4/4~~ 3/3

Drawn from a mix of Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, Probability, Statistics, History of Mathematics, ~~Computer Science~~, and Miscellaneous Math Topics. Subcategories are not required to be represented equally or at all.

MISCELLANEOUS ~~4/4~~ 2/2

Drawn from the different categories: Interdisciplinary, Journalism, Sports, Technology, Computer Science, Agriculture, Family Consumer Science, Drivers Education, Industrial Arts, Pop Culture, Consumer Education and not requiring all subcategories to be represented equally or at all.

Note: Within the 2/2, no more than 1/1 will be from the Pop Culture & Sports subcategory.

Rationale: The committee feels that computer science is more appropriately placed in the Miscellaneous category as opposed to the Math category. Additionally, the committee would like the note added to the Miscellaneous section to help narrow the broad scope of these questions.

RULE BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS:

3. Rule 3-C – Pre-match Procedures

Recommendation: Add new rule, re-number the section, and adjust the index as needed.

3-C -1. The team arriving first typically has first choice of sides. A coach may request, and the moderator will grant, a change of sides before the match begins, to accommodate a player’s special need.

Rationale: First-come-first-served has been a long-time practice, but it makes sense to allow a coach to request a specific side to accommodate a player with a hearing or visual impairment.

4. Rule 3-D – Start of Match

Recommendation: Change name of Section 3-D and add new rules to the end of Section 3-D

3-D. Start of Match and Start of Each Question

3-D-6. If the questions are preceded by categories, the moderator will read the category and pause briefly before reading the question.

3-D-7. If the questions are not preceded by categories, Rules that reference the category will automatically be adjusted as follows:

3-D-7a. Rules 3-E-3 and 4-A-6d will refer to the first word of the question.

3-D-7b. Rules 3-G-2b, 4-J-1, and 4-J-2 will defer to moderator's discretion.

Rationale: Members of the committee expressed that category tracking is a team strategy. This proposed change also allows for use of sets without categories as that does occur during regular season scholastic bowl matches. Therefore, 3-D-7, 3-D-7a, and 3-D-7b were proposed to provide guidance when categories are not provided within question sets.

5. Rule 3-D – Start of Match

Recommendation: Adjust Rule 3-D-2 as follows:

3-D-2. Players may not bring accessible written material to the table with them. Notebooks with previously written material may be brought to the table, but must be turned to a new, blank page; previous pages may not be reviewed at any time during the game. Players may bring a scoresheet. The moderator should verify that papers at the table are blank or pristine. ~~contain only bonus grids.~~ Written material found before the game starts should be put away (notebooks turned to a new page, etc.) without penalty. Turning back in a notebook or otherwise consulting previously written material during a game is considered illegal communication in accordance with rule 4-A-4b.

Rationale: Teams often adjust strategy based on the score. The committee feels that there is no advantage gained by allowing players to personally track the score of a match on their own scoresheet.

6. Rule 3-F - Halftime

Recommendation: Modify Rule 3-F-2 to clarify that changing sides must be justified.

3-F-2. Teams will change sides at half-time if either coach ~~requests it~~ makes a compelling argument to the moderator that environmental factors are creating an unfair advantage.

Rationale: The committee feels that changing sides is a challenge for scorekeeping and can lead to scoring errors. However, this proposal would still allow for the moderator to grant a request to change sides at half if a team presents a compelling reason as to why it is necessary.

7. Rule 4-A – Communication

Recommendation: Adjust Rule 4-A-3a to state the following:

4-A-3a. The "wait" gesture, "I got it" gesture, or anything that silently communicates the message "do not trigger the lockout system" during second reading of a toss-up.

Rationale: The committee feels that adding this phrasing adds clarity to this rule as "I got it" is the most common gesture.

8. Rule 4-B - Answering

Recommendation: Add new rule 4-B-1e.

4-B-1e. The moderator has the authority to decide whether a player has begun their answer before time has expired and/or before time is called. Moderators should accept a player's answer if the player was beginning an answer as time expired or as time was being called.

Rationale: The committee feels that this better clarifies that this type of decision is within the moderator's authority. This establishes that this is a judgement call by the moderator which would remove any potential for an appeal.

9. Rule 4-C - Completeness

Recommendation: Modify existing prompting rules to allow for directed prompts. Adjust the following rules as follows:

4-C-1. Moderators must ask for additional information to be given ("prompt") if the answer given is correct but is ambiguous. If the question set includes specific instructions for which answers to prompt, those instructions should be followed; but even without printed instructions, a moderator is permitted to prompt. In most cases, the moderator will prompt only with the word, "prompt," or an equivalent generic phrase such as, "be more specific" or "need more information." However, if the answer lines include follow-up phrases or questions to use when a certain answer is given, that guidance should be followed. Situations that warrant prompting include, but are not limited to, the following:

4-C-4. In rare cases a printed answer may include a moderator instruction to "anti-prompt". This occurs when a question is seeking a general answer, but a clue in the question points to something more specific. If the question set includes specific instructions for which answers to anti-prompt, those instructions should be followed; but even without printed instructions, a moderator is permitted to anti-prompt. In most cases, the moderator will anti-prompt only with the word, "anti-prompt," or an equivalent generic phrase such as, "be less specific." However, if the answer lines include follow-up phrases or questions to use when a certain answer is given, that guidance should be followed.

~~4-C-5. Even without printed moderator instructions, a moderator is permitted to "anti-prompt".~~

Rationale: Question writers have begun anticipating these situations and providing specific guidance, which should be followed exactly, or as adjusted during the moderators' meeting. In a tournament where the same question sets are used in multiple rooms, moderators must be consistent with prompting and not provide extra clues that give unfair advantage. The intent of Rule 4-C-5 is to be incorporated into Rule 4-C-4, so Rule 4-C-5 is redundant.

CASE BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS:

10. 4-C – Completeness

Recommendation: Add the following Case as 4-C-1 – Case #1:

The moderator asks a tossup that ends "Name the process of feeding data to a model to help it learn."

The printed answer & instructions are: **training** a model Prompt on "machine learning" by asking the player "Prompt - Which step of machine learning?"

Player #1 on Team X rings in and answers "machine learning."

The moderator should respond "Prompt - Which step of machine learning?"

Usually when prompting, the moderator should only say the word "prompt," so as to be clear to the player and to be consistent across all rooms on how the question is being judged. Some prompts, such as those in the examples for names with rule 4-C-1a below, are very clearly understood. In more complicated scenarios, the question writer may anticipate that a certain answer needs to be prompted, but wants to be sure that the player knows how they are being prompted. In this case, the question gives the moderator instructions on how to direct the prompt, and the moderator should follow these instructions as printed.

The general notion that moderators should not direct or "help" players with prompt instructions remains true; this should only be done when the question instructs a moderator to do so, and should only be done as directed.

Rationale: The committee feels that this added case supports and provides necessary clarity to the proposed change to Rule 4-C-1.

Administrative Recommendation:

Recommendation: Name Adam Silverman as the IHSA Head Writer/Editor of the IHSA Scholastic Bowl State Series questions for the 2025 State Series.

Rationale: Adam served as part of the writing team that Brad Fischer assembled over the last four years, and his share of the questions that he has been responsible for writing has grown significantly over those years. For the 2024 State Series, Adam had written as much as 70% of the State Series questions. During his time writing scholastic bowl questions for the IHSA, the IHSA State Series Question Survey has shown a very positive response much to Adam's credit.

Speech Individual Events

Terms and Conditions Recommendations:

Item 1: VI. E. 2.

TOURNAMENT STRUCTURES AND TIME SCHEDULES

State Final Time Schedule

Recommendation:

~~4:00 p.m.~~ AWARDS ASSEMBLY – Immediately following the Final Rounds

Rationale: Adjusting the awards assembly to begin immediately following the final rounds streamlines the event schedule.

Item 2: VII. D. 4. c.

ADVANCEMENT OF WINNERS

Recommendation:

In performance in the round, the eighteen (18) qualifiers from the six (6) Sectionals will be divided into two sections of nine performances each. Entries in each section will perform once and be ranked by a panel of ~~three-five~~ judges. The ~~three-five~~ performances in each section. In the preliminary rounds, the high and low rankings will be discarded, and the remaining ranks will be added, with the lowest cumulative rankings ~~will advance~~ advancing to the finals ~~along with any performance whose total of rankings is lower than the total of rankings for the third place performance in the opposite preliminary group.~~ The finals will be judged by a panel of five (5) judges; each judge will rank the performances 1st through 6th (no ties). The high and low rankings will be discarded, and the remaining ranks will be added. The performance in the round with the lowest cumulative rankings is first; second lowest is second, and so on. If a tie occurs, the tied competitors shall be separated from all other competitors and assigned relative rankings. If there is still a tie, then the ranks assigned by all five (5) judges will be considered, and the contestant with the lowest total of five rankings will be declared the winner.

Rationale: This recommendation is intended to enhance fairness, consistency, and clarity in the adjudication process for Performance in the Round at the IHSA State Finals. Utilizing a panel of five judges per section and discarding the high and low rankings aligns with best practices in subjective performance assessment. This approach reduces the potential impact of outlier scores—whether overly favorable or critical—ensuring that advancing entries are evaluated based on a more reliable consensus among judges. Additionally, striking the above language from the current rule addresses an overcorrection for perceived imbalance between preliminary groups. Overall, this structure is designed to reward excellence and minimize judging anomalies.

ORATORICAL DECLEAMATION (DEC) Material

Recommendation:

Material must come from appropriate printed, published sources and must meet high standards for good literature. Material can come from editorial, essays, speeches, commencement address, ~~etc.~~ and be pertinent to current issues. Dramatic literature is not permitted.

Rationale: Clarifying the source requirements for Oratorical Declamation ensures that material aligns with the educational and rhetorical goals of the event. Emphasizing published, non-dramatic sources such as editorials, essays, and speeches reinforces the intent of the event—to showcase a speaker's ability to interpret and deliver material grounded in real-world discourse and contemporary relevance. This distinction maintains the event's integrity and differentiates it from events focused on dramatic interpretation.

Speech Drama

Item 4: VI. D. 2.

TOURNAMANT STRUCTURE AND TIME SCHEDULE

Recommendation:

b. Group Interpretation: Performance order in Group Interpretation shall be made by the IHSA office. An attempt will be made to separate duplicate entries. Adjustments for double entries will be made as necessary. Groups will then perform under the following time schedule.

If one competition room is used:

Friday: PRELIM A	PRELIM B
Session 1	Session 3
8:00 a.m.	2:45 p.m.
8:40 a.m.	3:25 p.m.
9:20 a.m.	4:05 p.m.
10:00 a.m.	4:45 p.m.
10:40 a.m.	5:25 p.m.
Session 2	Session 4
11:50 a.m.	6:40 p.m.
12:30 p.m.	7:20 p.m.
1:10 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
1:50 p.m.	8:40 p.m.

If two competition rooms are used:

Friday: PRELIM A <u>& B</u>
9:00 a.m.
9:45 a.m.
10:30 a.m.
11:15 a.m.
12:00 noon
1:15 p.m.
2:00 p.m.
2:45 p.m.
3:30 p.m.

~~Post-Finalists~~ – Announced ~~Directly~~ after the last performance

Saturday: FINALS

8:30 a.m.	
9:20 a.m.	
10:10 a.m.	
11:00 a.m.	
11:50 a.m.	
12:40 p.m.	(1:30 p.m. if needed)

Rationale: At state final venues, the primary goal is to run two GI preliminary sections simultaneously, when space allows at the host site. The revised schedule—including a second GI room—should be presented alongside the standard schedule to provide clarity and flexibility in planning.

Item 5: VII. B. 3. a.

ADVANCEMENT OF WINNERS

Recommendation:

The three (3) performances from each preliminary group with the lowest totals of judges' rankings (after high and low are discarded) shall be advanced to the finals, ~~along with any performance whose total of rankings is lower than the total of rankings for the third-place performance in the opposite preliminary group.~~

Rationale: Strike the above language from the current rule, as it represents an overcorrection for perceived imbalance between preliminary groups.

Item 6: VIII. F.

TOURNAMENT RULES – Special Rules and Limitations

Recommendation:

F) Special Rules and Limitations:

1) The following items are prohibited:

- fire
- firearms and explosives
- animals
- non-member school students

2) All crew members must wear shoes during load-in, set-up, and strike.

2) 3) *(adjust numbers accordingly)*

3) 4)

5)

Rationale:

To ensure both consistency across events and the safety of all participants, footwear requirements should be clearly defined for all aspects of State Drama's Group Interpretation and Contest Play. While the Terms and Conditions specify that GI performers must wear shoes, and the Qualifier's Manual mandates footwear for Drama set-up crews, there is currently no language addressing footwear for Drama performers or GI set-up crews. Clarifying and aligning these requirements promotes uniform expectations and helps reduce the risk of injury during performance and technical transitions.

Sports Medicine Advisory Committee

Administrative Recommendations:

Student Advisory Committee

No Recommendations Forwarded.

Do What's Right - Sportsmanship

No Recommendations Forwarded.

Athletic Administrators

No Recommendations Forwarded.

Activities Directors

No Recommendations Forwarded.

No Recommendations Forwarded.