



IHSA POLICY 41

**VARSITY HEAD COACHES
REQUIRED TO RATE OFFICIALS**

IHSA Policy 41

The IHSA Board of Directors approved Policy 41 in June of 2024 following a recommendation from a sub-committee formed to examine the postseason assigning process for officials.

- Sets minimum yearly **requirements** for Varsity Head Coaches by sport.
 - Goal is 80% reporting before seeding the state series.
- Policy establishes consequences for coaches who fail to meet the minimum number of ratings.
- The 2024-25 school year is a pilot year for the program, which allows the IHSA staff to educate administrators and coaches about the policy.



Minimum Ratings

IHSA Policy 41 outlines the minimum number of ratings a Varsity head coach must submit (*and the date by which those ratings are due*).

The deadline for ratings generally coincides with the beginning of seeding for those sports that seed.

The number of ratings will increase modestly every two years until the minimum number is 80%.

See page 133 in the IHSA Handbook for more information.



Minimum Ratings

Varsity head coaches are **required** to rate officials in these sports:

Soccer

Volleyball

Football (11-person)

Girls' Gymnastics

Competitive Dance

Competitive Cheerleading

Wrestling

Water Polo

Track & Field

Swimming & Diving

Lacrosse

Softball

Baseball

Basketball



Minimum Ratings

Schools that don't play enough contests to reach the minimum number of ratings can request a waiver from the requirements.

To request a waiver, the principal or athletic director must email the IHSA administrator who oversees that sport at least one week before the established deadline.

The request must include the regular season schedule denoting the number of officials working each game.



Consequences for Coaches



The 2024-25 school year is the pilot year.

NO consequences will be enforced for the 2024-25 school year.

Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, consequences will be enforced:

1st year w/o minimum ratings: Head coach is put 'on notice'.

2nd consecutive year w/o minimum ratings: Head coach is suspended for first round of the IHSAA state series.

3rd consecutive year w/o minimum ratings: Head coach is suspended for the entire IHSAA state series or until the coach submits the required number of ratings.

When a school changes head coaches, the new coach has a clean slate.

If a head coach who is 'on notice' or suspended changes schools, the coach starts with a clean slate at the new school.

How to Submit an Official's Rating

Coaches can submit ratings in one of two ways.

- 1) Enter the IHSA Schools Center and select “Sport & Activity Tracker”.**
- 2) Follow the direct link to the ratings portal the day following a contest.**
 - In some sports (generally bracketed team sports), officials will enter their schedules in the IHSA Officials Center.
 - Coaches will receive an automated email with a link to the ratings portal.

The next slide displays an example of that email.



Sample email from the IHSA office

Dear Head Coach,

According to our records, your school played a game yesterday against Springfield (H.S.).

Please rate the officials from this game by clicking on the link below. Your feedback is helpful for IHSA staff and the official who worked the contest. Your rating (good or bad) will remain anonymous and will not populate on the official's portal until next week.

GAME INFORMATION:

9/1/2024 – Springfield (H.S.) vs. Jacksonville (H.S.)

Mobile Rating Link:

<https://center.ihsa.org/go/mobile/app/off-rate.asp?A=off-BA&OfficialID=31038&SchoolID=0508&RaterID=A8186&Key=nDB4jh7GJfJiENzRzghhlfGntUB2OcD1W87BcPsUGzrXGkYmrGH0CSKAzVHNTwY9f4GwldluqdevsaxqrkO0lvf1vFQnbMol>

If you have questions, please contact Kurt Gibson (kgibson@ihsa.org) at the IHSA Office.

Thanks for your assistance.

Illinois High School Association
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Bloomington, IL 61704-6011
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Submitting an Officials Rating

The email is a service designed to make the process easier for coaches. Not all coaches will receive an email after a game. Those coaches need to enter the Schools Center to make ratings.

Officials are not able to edit their schedules within two days (48 hours) of a contest. Some coaches will get emails for an official who may have been originally scheduled to officiate a contest but didn't. In those cases, coaches should ignore the ratings request and rate the proper official in the Schools Center.

If a coach is ever in doubt, the coach should simply go into the Schools Center to submit the rating.

Officials should always provide their Name and ID Number to the coaches prior to the game.



Administrative Oversight

- School administrators can monitor how their coaches are completing ratings by checking the “Tracker” regularly.
- It is imperative the coaches meet the minimum number of ratings by the established deadlines per sport.
- Policy 41 outlines both the number of minimum ratings and deadlines to have those submitted.
- The 2024-25 school year is a pilot year and is designed to educate coaches about the process.

	Status of Head Coach	Status in IHSA State Series	Status of Program	Online Forms	Rating of Officials	Documents, Printed Forms and Other Information
BOYS SOCCER	Jacqueline Anderson	team entry has been received	status OK if rules video is viewed by deadline	Participation Survey should be submitted on fifth day of practice	Top 15 List needs to be updated, last submitted 73 months ago	
Class 1A	coaching qualification: ISBE certification	you may withdraw without penalty on or before 9/25	head coach has not viewed rules video deadline is 9/17	Season Summary Form opens 8 am on 9/16 deadline is 10 am on 10/2		
			maxpreps 5 games scheduled Record (0-0) Season Schedule	Seeding Form opens 11 am on 10/2 deadline is noon on 10/3		
email task reminder to coach		deadline for registering to play up is 9/1	0 red cards 0 yellow cards View all cards	State Qualifier Data Form opens 8 am on 10/14 deadline is 2 pm on 11/4		Case situations
BOYS CROSS COUNTRY	Carrie Morelock	team entry has been received	status OK if rules video is viewed by deadline	Participation Survey should be submitted on fifth day of practice	Top 15 List needs to be updated, last submitted 84 months ago	
Class 1A	coaching qualification: ASEP, NFHS, or other IHSA-approved course	you may withdraw without penalty on or before 10/22	head coach has not viewed rules video deadline is 9/17	List of Participants opens 8 am on 9/23 deadline is midnight on 10/21		
email task reminder to coach		deadline for registering to play up is 9/1		Coach Data Form opens 8 am on 9/23 deadline is midnight on 10/21		
GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY	Carrie Morelock	team entry has been received	status OK if rules video is viewed by deadline	Participation Survey should be submitted on fifth day of practice	Top 15 List needs to be updated, last submitted 84 months ago	
Class 1A	coaching qualification: ASEP, NFHS, or other IHSA-approved course	you may withdraw without penalty on or before 10/22	head coach has not viewed rules video deadline is 9/17	List of Participants opens 8 am on 9/23 deadline is midnight on 10/21		



