

2020-21 Proposal 1 – 1.300 Board of Directors
Modify By-law 1.310 – Administration and By-law 1.320 Election Divisions
Submitted By: Filberto Torres, Official Representative – Aurora (East)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

- 1.310 and 1.320 Adds an additional at-large Board of Directors' position to be designated as an equity position for an underrepresented school.

Rationale of Submitter:

The IHSA needs to update their board of directors in order to help ensure all schools have a voice and seat at the table. While understanding the intent and purpose of having the three at-large positions, two of those positions focus on the person in the seat, as opposed to the school they come from and represent. For too long, the IHSA has not considered equity, as there is no mention of it anywhere in their mission, vision or beliefs. Adding this position could go a long way to begin the discussion for equity within the IHSA. In a state as diverse as Illinois, it is important that all voices are heard and have representation on the board of directors.

Pros:

- Gives underrepresented schools a seat at the table
- 11 members, which could potentially help avoid any ties in rulings or voting

Cons:

- None for member schools

Text of By-laws with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 1.310 - Administration

The administrative authority of this Association shall be vested in a Board of Directors of ~~ten (10)~~ **eleven (11)** members elected, each for a term of three years, as hereinafter provided. The office of the Association shall be the office of the Board of Directors.

Modify By-law 1.320 - Election Divisions

For the purpose of electing the members of the Board of Directors and providing equal representation for all parts of the state, the state shall be divided into seven (7) Divisions. Each of these Divisions shall be formed by combining three of the twenty-one (21) Districts of the state established for the purpose of electing the members of the Legislative Commission, these Districts being defined in Section 1.330 of this Constitution. In addition, ~~three (3)~~ **four (4)** members shall be elected from the membership at-large. One at-large member must be a racial minority, one must be a member of the underrepresented gender, ~~and~~ one must be a member of a private/non-public school, **and one must be from an underrepresented school/Equity Position at the time of the election (50% or more student population being Black or Latinx or low-income per Illinois State Report Card data).** All must be principals or administrators designated as official representatives of member schools. At-large members elected to the Board of Directors may not be from the same Board Division.

2020-21 Proposal 5 – 3.010 Attendance Modify By-law 3.011 Submitted By: Paul Karafiol, Principal – Chicago (Lake View)

Summary of Proposed Changes:

- Provides a unique exception for students placed in a modified educational setting that would require their disenrollment from their high school to be granted an enrollment exception for eligibility.

Rationale of Submitter:

Illinois public schools rely on a multi-tiered system for supporting students with disabilities; while most students with disabilities attend school and even classes alongside nondisabled peers, some students' disabilities are so severe that they require instruction in a separate setting ("separate day"). In some school districts, that separate setting is simply a building next to the "regular" school building; in others, students are disenrolled from the "regular" school and enrolled in a separate day school. Typically, these placements are made after all other interventions have been tried; they are not what the student, or their family, would have first preferred.

Currently, students whose disabilities require they be educated in a separate day setting who live in districts where those settings are distinct schools (as opposed to separate buildings that are organizationally part of the same school) are effectively banned from all IHSA activities. While nothing prevents these separate day schools from organizing their own teams and athletics, as a practical matter, the same issues that make it difficult for these students to succeed in "regular" schools also interfere with their ability to participate in organized athletics. In fact very few, if any, of these schools offer interscholastic athletics, and students who are placed--even temporarily--in such settings cannot compete with their home schools.

This situation presents two problems: first, it denies students with these kinds of disabilities the ability to learn (and be motivated by) participation in athletics--which for some of them is the only area in school where they have found success. Second, it's capricious: a student fortunate enough to live in a district with different organizational structures can compete in athletics (because their separate setting is technically the same school as the district high school) while a student living a few miles away cannot, simply because their district subcontracts or re-enrolls students into organizationally distinct school units. Both of these problems run counter to the letter and spirit of the laws around educating students with disabilities, which require an individualized approach based on the student's own needs and capacities, not a one-size-fits-all approach that distinguishes based on the student's zip code.

IHSA has long recognized that students in schools for the visually impaired should not be pre-emptively denied the ability to compete with nondisabled peers; it allows the IHSA board to waive the requirement that students only compete with the school in which they are enrolled, and allow them to compete with their "home school" instead. The proposed amendment follows the logic of the existing rule and would extend that flexibility to students with other disabilities that require they be educated in a separate setting.

Students would not be automatically granted an exemption to the "enrolled school only" rule; waivers would be granted by IHSA on a case-by-case basis. Very few students are placed in separate day settings and only a fraction of those would be appropriately engaged in interscholastic athletics, so the review burden would not be tremendous. Additionally, students would have to meet the eligibility requirements of both schools--particularly the home school--to ensure the integrity of both schools' athletics programs. All this amendment would do is give students who meet those criteria the opportunity to ask for a waiver to be allowed to participate in interscholastic athletics.

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes**Modify By-law 3.011**

A student must attend a member school and may only represent in interscholastic competition the member school the student attends. For purposes of this by-law, the term "attend" shall mean that the student is enrolled at the member school, and is taking at, or under arrangements approved by the member school, a minimum of twenty five (25) credit

hours of work for which credit toward high school graduation will be granted by the member school upon the student's completing and passing the courses. The school which enrolls the student shall be exclusively responsible to verify the student's compliance with all of the eligibility requirements of all IHSA by-laws.

The Board of Directors shall have the discretion to waive the requirements of this by-law for the Illinois schools for the deaf or blind, *or in a situation where a student is removed from a member school to a therapeutic or alternative school without an interscholastic program pursuant to an IEP or 504.*

- (a) The high school principal shall certify that the student meets all IHSA and local criteria for eligibility.*
- (b) The senior high school principal shall assume all responsibility for the conduct of the student.*

In unit systems having a 6-3-3 or 6-4-2 type of organization, ninth grade students may participate on senior high school athletic teams at the member high school in the district designated by the Board of Education, provided:

- (a) such participation is approved by the district's superintendent of schools;
- (b) the senior high school principal shall certify that the ninth grade students:
 - (1) are eligible under the requirements of these By-laws,
 - (2) are students at a junior high school located in the district which supports the senior high school, and
 - (3) are not members of a grade or junior high school team in the same sport; and
- (c) the senior high school principal assumes full responsibility for the conduct of these students during all athletic contests in which they represent the senior high school.

2020-21 Proposal 9 – By-law 5.020 – Boys Spring Baseball and By-law 5.270 – Girls Spring Softball
Modify By-laws 5.021 Boys Spring Baseball Season Limitation and By-law 5.271 Girls Spring Softball Season Limitation
Submitted By: Nathan Wright, Official Representative – Marengo

Summary of Proposed Changes:

- Moves the start and ending dates for the IHSA Spring Baseball and Softball seasons (practices and contests) a week earlier. (Amends the approved season adjustment from last year.)

Rationale of Submitter:

- School dismissal dates are as early as mid-May, therefore, many student-athletes will be out of school potentially a month prior to the state series tournament
- Softball and Baseball players will potentially miss several week(s) of their travel ball seasons
- Family summer vacations are planned and would decrease their summer by one week
- Other athletic camps begin in June and this would cause student-athletes to be pulled in different directions along with some coaches missing out on camps for other sports they coach
- Early graduation dates and seniors released early causes issues for teams and players; How do you control an athlete that no longer goes to school - this creates big conflict between students.
- Teachers/Coaches summer days will be shortened by one week
- Summer school conflicts
- All spring sports should start on the same date to provide each sport the equitable recruitment of athletes. For instance, if we are one week later, that means women soccer and LAX will have tryouts one week before us. They already have high numbers of participants across the state. Now, I foresee many girls trying out for those sports, and seeing if they make it before choosing softball. Freshman and JV baseball/softball teams have been dissolving tremendously over the past couple years.
- It is going to make it tough to travel out of state for competition. Many times teams go down south during our spring break to prepare us for the competition in Illinois. Some spring breaks will be during the “non-playing” time during the first two weeks of season.
- It is already tough to get 35 games in some years. Having an extra week definitely helps, and now that is taken away from us. As an advocate for the game of softball, we should be proposing legislation that would increase opportunities for student-athletes not diminish them.

Moving the start date by a week and not moving the state series dates, would not benefit student-athletes nor enhance their experiences in high school baseball or softball. One of the main objectives of moving the start date was to allow student-athletes to participate in baseball and softball in an environment that is conducive to the sport. Weather is uncontrollable and every baseball/softball season is different. We are all very passionate about baseball and softball, and only want what will continue to make our sport grow.

Text of By-law with Proposed Changes

Modify By-law 5.021 – Boys Spring Baseball Season Limitation

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Boys Spring Baseball teams, practice, or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of Week ~~36~~ **35** or later than Saturday of Week ~~50~~ **49** in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
- b. A member school may conduct its first interscholastic contest in Boys Spring Baseball no earlier than Monday of Week ~~38~~ **37** in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.

Modify By-law 5.271 – Girls Spring Softball Season Limitation

- a. No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Girls Spring Softball teams, practice, or participate interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of Week ~~36~~ **35** or later than Saturday of Week ~~50~~ **49** in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.
- b. A member school may conduct its first interscholastic contest in Girls Spring Softball no earlier than Monday of Week ~~38~~ **37** in the IHSA Standardized Calendar.