The IHSA governs the equitable participation in interscholastic athletics and activities that enrich the educational experience.
The individuals who oversee & implement the Association & its rules
It is an honor and a pleasure to have the opportunity to address you as the seventh Executive Director in the Illinois High School Association’s history.

My name is Craig Anderson, and I was privileged enough to take over the Executive Director role in January of 2016 following the retirement of Dr. Marty Hickman.

I was fortunate enough to work under Dr. Hickman for nearly six years at the IHSA, where I oversaw IHSA baseball, football and wrestling, while also administering the Officials Department as an Assistant Executive Director.

Dr. Hickman was a great leader for the organization, and mentor for me personally, and I hope to continue the Association’s progressive legacy. Of all the positive qualities that Dr. Hickman exhibited in leading the IHSA, the one that always stood out to me was his willingness to listen and have meaningful discussion on any topic. I believe that our member school Principals, Athletic Directors and Coaches will find that I am cut from a similar cloth in that regard, and hope you never hesitate to reach out to me with questions or concerns.

The reason that I sought the Executive Director position is essentially the same reason I wanted to work for the IHSA initially. I saw it then, and continue to today, as a chance to positively impact the greatest number of high school student-athletes.

I have had the opportunity to collaborate with student-athletes and coaches in a variety of ways in my previous roles as a high school teacher, coach and Athletic Director. Given that experience, no one has more respect for the work our educators and coaches do every day to help young people strive for success.

My own experiences at Cambridge High School in northwest Illinois as a three-sport athlete who also participated in music, band and drama helped shape who I am today. I know how important it is to preserve those opportunities for your current and future students.

The IHSA is your partner in that endeavor and I look forward to working with you.

Craig Anderson
Executive Director

Meet the IHSA Administrative Staff

Craig Anderson
Executive Director

Kurt Gibson
Assoc. Exec. Director

Tracie Henry
Assoc. Exec. Director

Scott Johnson
Assoc. Exec. Director

Kraig Gambert
Assoc. Exec. Director

Stacey Lambert
Assoc. Exec. Director

Sam Knox
Assoc. Exec. Director

Susan Ingebretsen
Assoc. Exec. Director

Beth Dauser
Assoc. Exec. Director

Matt Troha
Assoc. Exec. Director

National Committee Involvement

The following individuals serve on NFHS committees:

- Craig Anderson completed a term on the NFHS Board of Directors.
- IHSA Head Cheer Clinician Shaudna Brown chaired the Spirit Rules Committee.
- Wrestling Official Anthony Clarke from Zion on the Wrestling Advisory Committee.
- Layden Teip, Athletic Director Randy Conrad on the Wrestling Advisory Committee.
- Retired teacher/coach and IHSA state final manager Jan Holmen on the Speech, Drama & Debate Committee.
- Scott Johnson on the Technology Committee.
- IHSA official Kathy Krats chairs the Girls Gymnastics Rules Committee and USA Gymnastics Advisory Council.
- Stacey Lambert on the Coaches Association Advisory Committee.
- Beth Sauer on the Water Polo Rules Committee.
- Matt Troha on the NFHS Network Leadership Circle and on the committee that develops content for the NFHS magazine High School Today.
- Tracie Henry on the Softball Advisory Committee.

A Letter from the Executive Director
This letter comes at the conclusion of my seventh year serving on the IHSA Board of Directors, and will ultimately be my last serving as the Board President, a position I have held for the past five years.

I have every expectation of serving my final year on the Board, but feel it is time to allow another capable member of our Board of Directors to serve in the President role in 2016-17.

The 2015-16 school year was a year of change at the IHSA, as Dr. Hickman handed off the baton to Craig Anderson as the IHSA’s seventh Executive Director in January. One of the great things about this Board is that, just like in education, there is an evolution of ideas and opinions. Turnover on the Board – be it from schools, term limits or individuals changing jobs or retiring – brings in new blood and new ideas. With Craig’s ascension to the top post, I thought it would be a fitting time to also pass my proverbial baton and allow another individual to start fresh as Board President alongside Craig.

One of my final duties as the Board President was overseeing the Executive director hiring, and I am pleased to say that we had many quality candidates not only from here in Illinois, but from all over the country. Ultimately, both myself and the Board agreed that Craig’s progressive leadership, demeanor, and understanding of the IHSA’s mission, rules, and procedures made him the best candidate to lead the IHSA.

Craig is the IHSA’s Executive Director, but the thing I have learned serving on this Board is that it is the member schools who truly ‘lead’ the IHSA. A good example is the forthcoming transition to two classes in the Boys & girls Tennis State Series. This process began with a simple presentation by Chicago Christian Athletic Director Eric Brauer and turned into months of research and data collection from coaches and administrators. Tennis class expansion had many supporters and detractors – believe me when I tell you I heard from both – and ultimately, the Board deliberated all factors before making a decision they felt was in the best interest of high school tennis in Illinois.

It has been an honor to serve the students and schools in Illinois as the IHSA Board President. I have been faced with many challenges, but also, far more rewarding experiences that I am very proud to say I was a part of. I will continue to serve my final year on the Board and will continue to support the IHSA as a high school principal in years to come. Thank you for this memorable opportunity.

Dan Klett
IHSA Board President
Wauconda High School Principal
Craig Anderson ascended from his Assistant Executive Director position on the IHSA staff to serve as the seventh Executive Director in IHSA history in January. Since joining the IHSA, Anderson has been involved in a number of safety initiatives, especially in football, where he worked jointly with the IHSA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee and Football Advisory Committee to implement a new full practice acclimatization schedule, eliminate full-contact hitting in the spring, and study overall full-contact practice limitations during the regular season. He also served as a harm on the NFHS Football Rules Committee and Chaired the NFHS Football Manual Committee.

Anderson also successfully administered several transitions of IHSA events as well, including the expansion of the Individual Wrestling State Final tournament from a two-day tournament to a three-day event, the IHSA Officials conference moving of the IHSA individual wrestling State final tournament from a two-day tournament to a three-day event, and the IHSA staff, but will now take on IHSA cheerleading clinician duties.

Thank You & Good Luck

• Marty Hickman retired in January following 25 years at the IHSA, including the last 15 as the Executive Director.
• Assistant Executive Director Ron McGraw retired at the conclusion of the 2015-16 school year after 11 years at the IHSA.
• Calling it her “true passion,” seated on his IHSA Board of Directors after taking an administrative position at an elementary school.

A three-sport high school student-athlete, Kraig Garber earned a track & field scholarship to Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, and rose to the Principal position at his alma mater, Carrollton High School, after college. He was hired as the principal at Mt. Zion High School in 2014, where he was a member of the Illinois Principals Association and served as Vice-President of the Apollo conference. Garber’s responsibilities at the IHSA include administering cross country, swimming & diving, track & field and scholastic bowl.

“High school sports and extracurricular activities were instrumental in my life, and through my work with the IHSA, I hope to help contribute to creating the same type of positive experiences to student participants across the state of Illinois,” said Garber.
Glenbard West made history at the 2016 IHSA Girls Track & Field State Finals, as the Hilltoppers were crowned the first-ever IHSA Combined Team State Champion.

Combined team state champions are determined by taking the traditional IHSA state final scoring system and combining it with the points earned by their school’s wheelchair student-athletes.

The Hilltoppers tallied 43 points to win the state title, while Metamora finished second with 26 points, and Niles West third with eight points.

The four student-athletes whose participation helped create the historic moment were Niles West freshman Danielle Dimaria, Glenbard West freshman Ariya Lettenberger, Metamora sophomore Savanna Klobnak, and Glenbard West sophomore Daniela Polenchek.
Belvidere North High School senior Wolfgang Kemp was the IHSA’s nominee for the NFHS Spirit of Sport Award. Wolfgang was chosen as the IHSA’s nominee after high school sports (football, wrestling, track & field) helped him overcome overwhelming adversity in life. Wolfgang and his father became homeless during his freshman year of high school, and amidst the uncertainty, his grades slipped for the remainder of his high school career. He was named the Midwest Section winner of the award by the NFHS.

The IHSA announced its third class of recipients of the Distinguished Media Service Award. The 2015-16 honorees include Decatur Tribune Sports Editor J. Thomas McNamara, KOST Broadcast Sales President and long-time IHSA TV producer Jim O’Boye, former Chicago Tribune writer and CLTV host Michelle Mardis and the voice of high school sports in the Springfield area, Tim Scheuerer of WFMB-AM.

The IHSA Student Advisory Committee (SAC) conducted its second annual Student Section Showdown to determine the student section with the best spirit and sportsmanship in Illinois. Participating schools entered via video submissions, which were judged by SAC members. The 2015-16 winners were: Normal West Central High School, in Class 1A/2A and Ottawa Township High School, in Class 3A/4A.

• Glenbard East’s Rebecca Deluca-Lane became the first female football player in state history to score a touchdown in a varsity game...
• Rockford Lutheran senior running back James Robinson set the state career rushing record in October and went on to complete his career with 9,045 rushing yards and 158 rushing touchdowns, just a few of his career state records.
• Lemont senior Taylor Campos was named the National Winner of Wendy’s High School Heisman in New York City. An All-State runner with a perfect 36 ACT, Taylor was also named to the IHSA All-State Academic Team in the spring.
• In March, Centralia High School returned to its perch as the winnigest high school boys basketball program in the country when the school reached its 2,196 victory in program history.
• Galesburg High School girls’ basketball coach Evan Massey was inducted into the National High School Athletic Coaches Association (NHSACA) Hall of Fame.
• Glenbrook South High School Boys Tennis coach Larry Faulkner became the 15th coach in state history to win national honors and the first in the sport of boys’ tennis.
• After guiding Downers Grove South to a third-place finish in the IHSA Class 4A State Volleyball Finals, Mustang senior standout Caroline Hedgcock was named the MaxPreps National Softball Player of the Year.
• Canton senior Jamiere Ward set the NFHS national record in the triple-jump with a leap of 53 feet, 7 1/2 inches, at the St. Clair County Meet at Belleville West High School in April.

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For the sixth consecutive year, Zeigler-Royallton High School’s Coaches vs. Cancer program led all schools in Illinois for funds raised in support of the American Cancer Society. In six years, the school has raised in excess of $96,000.

Working collaboratively with its Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (page 17), top medical experts, invested sports medicine organizations, high school coaches, the state legislature and the NFHS, the IHSA has become recognized as a national leader in the area of sports safety. The Play Smart. Play Hard.® campaign was initiated to spotlight the many efforts that have been taken throughout the past decade and beyond without fanfare.

The creation of Play Smart. Play Hard.® coincided with the IHSA developing the Illinois Advisory Council on Player Safety (page 16) whose purpose is to facilitate transparent dialogue about head injuries and other player safety issues, review the IHSA’s current programs, and offer new recommendations to ensure the IHSA remains a leader in student-athlete safety standards and protocols.

The IHSA encourages student-athletes, parents, coaches and fans to visit www.PlaySmartPlayHard.org to empower their education on some of the top safety issues facing high school sports today. While there, we hope they take The Pledge to Play Smart. Play Hard., and also follow PSPh on Facebook (facebook.com/PlaySmartPlayHard) and Twitter (@PlaySmartHard).
To address a potentially dangerous gap in medical-response planning for after-school practices and events, the IHSA provided member schools with an Emergency Action Planning Program called “Anyone Can Save a Life.” Developed in 2008 by the Minnesota State High School League and Medtronic Philanthropy, “Anyone Can Save a Life” is a first-of-its-kind, emergency action planning and training program for after-school practices and events. It is designed to provide a coordinated team response to every major medical emergency, including sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) – the leading cause of death of young athletes in the United States.

The IHSA Board of Directors approved new guidelines for managing heat and heat illness, based on a recommendation from the IHSA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee. The policy applies to all State Series contests and builds in different types of safety measures as the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature rises. For example, at a WBGT range of 80.0-84.5 degrees Fahrenheit, hosts would provide “cooling stations using methods such as ice towels”, while a WBGT range of 87.6-89.9 degrees Fahrenheit would require four separate four-minute water breaks within an hour of competition. At a WBGT of 90, all events would be postponed to a cooler time of day or the next applicable day.

As a showing of unity, and support of high school football, IHSA football teams wore Play Smart. Play Hard. decals on their helmets throughout the 2015 season.

Meet the Illinois Advisory Council on Player Safety

Meet the IHSA Sports Medicine Committee

Over 26,000 coaches and 9,000 referees have now completed the IHSA’s mandatory online concussion course that was developed in partnership with the Barrow Neurological Institute, and designed specifically for students to inform them on how to identify, react to, and prevent concussions. The course is presented as a social media conversation, showing how four different students learn about concussion in different ways. The key goal is for students to be able to identify signs and symptoms of a concussion so that they can get immediate help before any further injury can occur.

As the IHSA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee and Baseball Advisory Committee continued to discuss setting pitching limitations, the IHSA and NFHS promoted sensible safety measures to its coaches when handling pitchers via the Pitch Smart program. Pitch Smart is a joint arm-care initiative between USA Baseball and Major League Baseball aimed at reducing arm injuries by amateur pitchers by providing comprehensive resources for safe pitching practices.

The IHSA celebrated National Athletic Trainers Association’s National Athletic Trainer Month in March by recognizing some of the top ATC’s working with IHSA member schools.

FURTHERING OUR COMMITMENT TO ENHANCING THE SAFETY OF ILLINOIS’ STUDENT-ATHLETES AND COLLABORATING WITH OTHERS WHO SHARE THAT MISSION

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FURTHERING OUR COMMITMENT TO ENHANCING THE SAFETY OF ILLINOIS’ STUDENT-ATHLETES AND COLLABORATING WITH OTHERS WHO SHARE THAT MISSION
Peg Kopec, St. Francis High School girls volleyball coach, announced her retirement from coaching following the 2015 Class 4A state title match, which the Spartans won to claim their fourth consecutive state championship. In June, Kopec was inducted into the NFHS National High School Hall of Fame during a ceremony in Reno, Nevada. In 42 seasons at St. Francis, Kopec amassed a career record of 1,248 wins, while winning 12 state titles. She is the winningest coach in IHSA history and became the 25th individual from Illinois to be inducted into the NFHS Hall of Fame.
Rockridge junior Carson Frakes (#3) forever made his mark on March Madness at the 2016 IHSA Class 2A Boys Basketball State Finals, as he electrified the Peoria Civic Center crowd and stunned opposing Hales Franciscan with a three-quarter court buzzer-beater in the semifinals. The viral shot was the #3 play on ESPN’s SportsCenter and received national coverage. Several fun side stories spawned from the “March Madness Miracle”, especially the friendship that developed between the two teams, who had spent the previous night playing video games together at the tournament hotel. The schools went so far as to rearrange their schedules so they could play one another the following season.

Final Buzzer.
# IHSA STATE CHAMPIONS

## FALL STATE CHAMPIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys Golf—2A</th>
<th>Byron</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys Golf—2A</td>
<td>Moline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Golf—2A</td>
<td>Hinsdale (Central)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Golf—A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Tennis</td>
<td>Hinsdale (Central)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Soccer—5A</td>
<td>Elmhurst (Timothy Christian)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Soccer—3A</td>
<td>Moline (H.S.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Volleyball—2A</td>
<td>Lisle (Benet Academy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Cross Country—1A</td>
<td>Tilton (D.U.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Cross Country—2A</td>
<td>Graylake (Central)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Cross Country—3A</td>
<td>Orland Park (Sandburg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Cross Country—3A</td>
<td>Yorkville (H.S.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Cross Country—3A</td>
<td>Mokena</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Volleyball—1A</td>
<td>Loran (Eisenhower)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Volleyball—2A</td>
<td>Bloomington (Central Catholic)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Volleyball—3A</td>
<td>Woodstock (Marian)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Swimming &amp; Diving</td>
<td>Aurora (Rosary)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Football—1A</td>
<td>Arcola</td>
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<tr>
<td>Football—2A</td>
<td>Downs (Hill Valley)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Football—3A</td>
<td>Kankakee (Althoff Catholic)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Football—4A</td>
<td>Chicago (Phillips)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Football—5A</td>
<td>LaGrange Park (Nazareth Academy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Football—6A</td>
<td>Lombard (Montini)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Football—7A</td>
<td>Glen Ellyn (St. Edward)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Football—8A</td>
<td>Willowbrook (Lydia Academy)</td>
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## WINTER STATE CHAMPIONS

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<tr>
<th>Girls Golf—2A</th>
<th>Highland</th>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Golf—3A</td>
<td>National (Napervile Valley)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Bowling—2A</td>
<td>Moline (H.S.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Bowling—3A</td>
<td>Oak Forest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Basketball—2A</td>
<td>Oak Park (New Trier)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Basketball—3A</td>
<td>Minooka</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Basketball—1A</td>
<td>Glen Ellyn (Glendbard West)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Basketball—1A</td>
<td>Aurora (Rosary)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Basketball—1A</td>
<td>Chicago (Phillips)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Cross Country—1A</td>
<td>Cheltenham (Silverton)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Cross Country—2A</td>
<td>Glen Ellyn (Glendbard West)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Gymnastics</td>
<td>Crystal Lake (Moline Ridge)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wrestling—1A</td>
<td>Downers Grove</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wrestling—3A</td>
<td>St. Joseph (St. Joseph-Ogden)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Swimming &amp; Diving</td>
<td>Palatine (Lake Zurich)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Basketball—2A</td>
<td>Minooka</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Basketball—3A</td>
<td>Mokena</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Basketball—4A</td>
<td>Little (Benton Academy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music—A</td>
<td>Ottawa (Wells)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music—AA</td>
<td>Bradley (B. Altshuler)</td>
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<td>Music—B</td>
<td>Naperville (Napervile North)</td>
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<td>Music—C</td>
<td>Proprietary</td>
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<td>Boys Basketball—1A</td>
<td>Loyola</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Basketball—2A</td>
<td>St. Joseph (St. Joseph-Ogden)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Basketball—3A</td>
<td>Beverly (Althoff Catholic)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Basketball—4A</td>
<td>Chicago (Curie)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Girls Swim &amp; Dive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Track &amp; Field—1A</td>
<td>Chicago (Phillips)</td>
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<td>Glenwood (Glenbrook North)</td>
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<td>Boys Tennis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Football—1A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Gymnastics</td>
<td>Sterling (Niles West)</td>
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<td>Girls Track &amp; Field</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Fishing</td>
<td>Ellwood (Emerald)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Track &amp; Field—1A</td>
<td>Carlin (Gulf Folly)</td>
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<td>Boys Track &amp; Field—2A</td>
<td>Carlin (Gulf Folly)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Track &amp; Field—3A</td>
<td>Franklin (Lincoln-Way East)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Water Polo</td>
<td>Oak Park (Fenw ick)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Soccer—1A</td>
<td>Chicago (Althoff Academy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Soccer—2A</td>
<td>Glen Ellyn (Glendbard West)</td>
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<td>Girls Soccer—3A</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Track &amp; Field—2A</td>
<td>Glen Ellyn (Glendbard West)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Track &amp; Field—3A</td>
<td>Glen Ellyn (Glendbard West)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Track &amp; Field—4A</td>
<td>Glen Ellyn (Glendbard West)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Tennis</td>
<td>Glen Ellyn (Glendbard West)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Volleyball</td>
<td>Glen Ellyn (Glendbard West)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Swimming &amp; Diving</td>
<td>Glen Ellyn (Glendbard West)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Basketball—1A</td>
<td>Glen Ellyn (Glendbard West)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Basketball—2A</td>
<td>Glen Ellyn (Glendbard West)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Basketball—4A</td>
<td>Glen Ellyn (Glendbard West)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Water Polo</td>
<td>Oak Park (Fenw ick)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Soccer—1A</td>
<td>Glen Ellyn (Glendbard West)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Chicago (Phillips) State Champions

For years, IHSA Football fans have annually pondered whether or not this would be the year a Chicago Public Schools team finally wins an IHSA football state championship. The answer to that question in 2015 was yes, as Wendell Phillips Academy emphatically made history with a 51-7 win over Althoff Catholic in the Class 4A State Championship game. CPS schools had two previous attempts, as Guilford edged Robeson 16-12 in the Class 5A final in 1982, while Phillips and head coach Troy McAllister was making its second straight title game appearance after falling to Rochester 49-28 in 2014. Twenty-five, twenty-six
The IHSA conducted its fourth season of its Athletes With Disabilities program in the sports of boys and girls bowling, boys and girls swimming, and boys and girls track & field. The following individuals participated in 2015-16:

**BOYS BOWLING**
- Fletcher Hopkins, Mascoutah

**BOYS SWIMMING**
- Anthony Alonso, Maine West
- Cameron Lee, Niles West
- Charlie Gentzkow, New Trier
- Jack Fejpalczyk, St. Grove
- Trevor Tuccio, Normal Community
- Chaz Centore, Frankfort
- Aaron Holzmuehler, Evanston Township

**GIRLS SWIMMING**
- Sophia Vilim, Joliet
- Rachael Ayler, Sandburg
- Francesca Figlioli, Maine South
- Aimee Dragas, Downers Grove South
- Ana Kohut, Lake Forest

**BOYS TRACK & FIELD**
- Aaron Holliday, Homewood-Flossmoor
- Donovan McBride, Wabasso
- Nathan Range, O’Fallon

**GIRLS TRACK & FIELD**
- Danielle Demaria, Niles West
- Ahalya Lettenberger, Glenbard West
- Savanna Kitonik, Metamora
- Daniella Polencheck, Glenbard West

OPPORTUNITIES
Students who are ruled ineligible for not meeting the IHSA by-laws voted into place by member schools often make headlines, but ultimately, an incredibly small percentage of students require a ruling and even fewer are declared ineligible to play in contests (all students remain eligible to practice & be a part of a team). The graph below represents the 397,415 students who participated in IHSA sports in 2015-16. teal represent students who participated with no ruling necessary, cyan represent students who required rulings, and orange is the 0.132% percent (542) who were ineligible per the by-laws.

The IHSA Board of Directors announced that the IHSA will begin administering a Boys Lacrosse and Girls Lacrosse State Series beginning in 2017-18 based on growing participation numbers. The additions will bring the IHSA sport offerings to 31 total sports.

After reviewing data and membership discussion, the IHSA Board approved the expansion of Boys and Girls Tennis from a single class to two classes beginning in 2016-17.

The IHSA also furthered its partnership with Special Olympics, holding the second annual unified bass fishing state tournament and working with the Student Advisory committee to further unified efforts in member schools.

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In addition to crowning its first-ever Combined Team State Champion (Page 10), the IHSA also furthered its partnership with Special Olympics, holding the second annual unified bass fishing state tournament and working with the Student Advisory committee to further unified efforts in member schools.
Unlike many state high school associations, the IHSA does not charge member schools initial or annual dues to be a member, nor does it charge schools entry fees to compete in the postseason State Series.

The IHSA provides NFHS Rulebooks to member schools at no cost.

The IHSA is one of the few state high school associations in the country to offer activities, in addition to sports. We believe in the value of participation and want every student to have a chance to represent their school.

Because of that belief, the IHSA continues to underwrite multiple state tournaments that do not produce revenue. In general, around eight IHSA sport tournaments produce the revenue that helps fund the Association’s 37 sports and activities.

The IHSA provides catastrophic medical insurance for all student-athletes competing in postseason contests.

The IHSA hosts a statewide biannual Student Leadership Conference that is free for students to attend.

The IHSA offers free State Series and State Final attendance for all activities and in multiple sports.

For the sports that do require tickets, the average IHSA State Series ticket cost is $4.00 and the average State Final ticket is $8.50, making high school sports a great value for students and families.

The IHSA has been progressive and innovative in its promotion of the positive ideals of participation to its schools. That includes introducing Add A Tupe, the nation’s first sportsmanship mascot in 1997.

The IHSA promotes and highlights the positive actions by our schools, student-athletes, coaches and fans through its original content page IHSA State, on Social media, and through various award programs.

The IHSA Foundation & All-State Academic team programs have awarded over $567,000 in scholarship money since 1994.

The IHSA recruits, trains and maintains an active database of over 15,000 officials available to member schools. In the spirit of equity, the IHSA directly assigns officials for postseason contests.

The amount of money the IHSA returned to member schools via host guarantees, ticket revenue & reimbursements during the 2015-16 school year.

The Value of IHSA Membership

$4,315,265

A review of the IHSA’s 2015-16 fiscal year & recent trends
### 2015-16 TOTAL EXPENSES

- Administration: $3,790,191
- Boys Athletics: $3,029,212
- Girls Athletics: $1,884,316
- Other: $1,056,288
- Activities: $650,121
- Officials: $312,481

**Total Expenses:** $10,722,609

### 2015-16 TOTAL INCOME

- Boys Athletics: $5,169,067
- Other: $2,418,164
- Girls Athletics: $2,007,903
- Officials: $843,638
- Activities: $650,209

**Total Income:** $11,088,981

### 2015-16 ALLOCATION OF IHSA TOURNAMENT INCOME

- School Share: $3,063,701
- IHSA Share of State Series: $2,263,530
- Miscellaneous: $1,252,770
- Officials/Judges Fees: $1,247,178
- Tournament Income: $7,827,179

### 3-YEAR IHSA PROFIT TREND

- Net Income
- Operating Expense
- Profit
The Illinois High School Association enjoys partnerships with a number of industry leaders who support high school students in Illinois on and off the field. Thanks in part to the support of its partners, the IHSA has been able to implement a financial model that has eliminated all entry fees and dues for member schools, while still being able to return over $4 million dollars to member schools in 2015-16 (see more on Page 28).

We appreciate their support of high school sports and activities in Illinois!
Thank you to these partners for their commitment to high school students in Illinois.

Peoria. The March Madness Experience was made possible with the Boys Basketball State Finals at the Civic Center in basketball fueled fan experience that runs concurrently during the Madness Experience is the IHSA’s interactive experience

A&m Products
Sponsors

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March Madness Experience Sponsors

The original and still the best of its kind, the March Madness Experience is the IHSA’s interactive experience that runs concurrently during the IHSA State final broadcasts on the IHSA TV Network and NFHS Network, as well as the IHSA Boys Basketball State Tournament. In addition, County Financial is the presenting sponsor of America’s Original March, as the IHSA Boys & Girls Basketball State Final Tournaments also feature the County Three Point Showdown.

Wilson

Wilson is the Official Ball of the IHSA. Wilson provides the balls used in IHSA postseason tournaments for Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, and Volleyball, as well as shot put and discus for Badminton.

Gatorade

Gatorade is in the IHSA! You will find Gatorade products for participating student-athletes at all IHSA State Final events.

The IHSA is a founding member of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), the rules writing body for high school sports & activities. The IHSA is also proud to partner with the following groups in Illinois who support high school students and education-based participation:

- Illinois Association of School Boards
- Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools
- Illinois Principals Association
- Illinois Elementary School Association
- Illinois Association of School Administrators
- Illinois Association of School Boards
- Illinois Association of Student Councils
- Illinois Elementary School Association
- Illinois Principals Association
- Southern Illinois Board of Education
- Southern Illinois Junior High School Athletic Association

Caterpillar

Sponsors the IHSA All-State Academic Team, annually presenting $1,000 scholarships to 26 of the best and brightest student-athletes in the state. Cat is also the presenting sponsor of the March Madness Experience.

Minerva

Provides official IHSA gear, from customized sweatshirts to key chains to hats, at all IHSA State Final events and select State Series tournaments.

Did you know the IHSA Peak Performance Center, located inside the Peoria Riverfront Museum, is more than 4,700 square feet of interactive IHSA fun? Did you know the IHSA Peak Performance Center, located inside the Peoria Riverfront Museum, is more than 4,700 square feet of interactive IHSA fun?

In 2015-16, the IHSA announced that it was providing officials who are U.S. Military Veterans with a new sleeve patch to help recognize their service. In addition to the new patches, the IHSA will also begin to offer each Veteran one free renewal of their IHSA license.

“This patch is a great honor,” said United States Navy Veteran and IHSA Officials Business Director Daimon Russell of Edwardsville, an Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class who served in support of Desert Storm in one of his deployments. “This simple and sincere gesture by the IHSA is a silent thanks to those that served, and we recognize that.”

According to the Journal Gazette/Times courier newspapers in Charleston/Mattoon, IHSA officials made history in soccer match in April, as it marked “the first time in Southern Illinois that three female officials had worked a game.”

Officials all over the state give back to their communities in a variety of ways. Members of the Southern Illinois Basketball Officials Association (SIBOA) do their part by volunteering to ring bells for the Salvation Army at locations throughout Southern Illinois.

Over 600 officials attended the 2016 IHSA Officials Conference in Peoria in July, NBA referee Marc Dedes, a Chicago native who graduated from St. Ignatius High School, served as the keynote speaker.

For more on these stories & more on IHSA officials, visit www.ihsa.org/IHSAState and click “Officials Business”.

Veterans Recognized

US VETERAN

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The IHSA is one of 44 states who make up the NFHS Network, the nation’s leading high school sports media company, which annually broadcasts the state finals of nearly 30 IHSA sports and activities live on the internet at www.IHSA.tv, totaling over 150 games, matches and meets per year. The NFHS Network also has over 100 IHSA member high schools in its School Streaming Broadcast program, allowing those schools to stream anything from sports contests, to concerts to graduations and more!

MaxPreps is digital media and statistical partner of the IHSA. The CBS interactive property helps the IHSA gather regular-season football scores, while also providing regular-season score data for seeding in IHSA team sports. MaxPreps continues to offer all IHSA schools and teams free access to its interactive platform.

Feeling nostalgic? The IHSA’s YouTube Archive (www.YouTube.com/IHSAarchives), which features old IHSA State Final broadcasts and other historic films, has grown to over 850 videos and counting!

Comcast SportsNet Chicago is your home for live HD broadcasts of the IHSA Football Play-By-Play show and four playoff games, the IHSA eight Football State Championships, and all 32 IHSA Boys & Girls Basketball State Final contests. CSN also rebroadcasts the IHSA state finals in cheerleading, dance, soccer, volleyball, and wrestling.

Nearly every story in this annual report, and many many more, are available on the IHSA’s original content page, IHSA State (www.IHSA.org/IHSAstate).

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