

POLICY FOR ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Purpose

It is the policy of the IHSA to provide students with disabilities full and equal opportunities to be integrated in IHSA interscholastic sports and activities whenever possible. IHSA recognizes and adopts the definition of disability as provided within the Americans with Disabilities Act. The IHSA will not discriminate against students with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Procedure for Requesting An Accommodation

The IHSA recognizes that it cannot anticipate all potential accommodations necessary and that providing accommodations to students with disabilities will require an individualized review and assessment. Accordingly, a request for an accommodation shall be considered on a case-by-case basis. All requests for accommodations shall be sent to the Executive Director of the IHSA, Dr. Martin Hickman. A disability is an impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity. Disability is included, but not limited to, physical impairments, mental impairments, visual impairment, hearing impairment, intellectual impairments, and learning disabilities. A request for an accommodation should be submitted prior to the start of the applicable athletic or activity season, or as soon as is practically possible in light of the accommodation being sought. A request should be in writing, but a request can be made in an alternative format such as an audio recording or video.

Process for Submitting a Request

The process for submitting a request for an accommodation is as follows:

- The student, his/her parent/guardian and/or his/her member high school are responsible for completion of Part 1 of the Request for Accommodation.
- The Request for Accommodation should be submitted prior to the start of the applicable athletic or activity season, or as soon as is practically possible, in light of the accommodation being sought.
- The student and his/her parent/guardian are responsible for obtaining the school principal's or official representative's completion of Part 2.
- The request can be submitted by email to the IHSA, fax or mail. The request is deemed submitted on the date emailed or faxed, or, if mailed, three days after the postmark.

Once the IHSA receives a request for an accommodation, the following activity will occur:

- After reviewing the request, the Executive Director will then conduct an investigation, which can be informal, but will nonetheless be interactive. The student, his/her parent/guardian, and personnel from the student's school shall be given the opportunity to submit additional evidence or engage in discussions with the Executive Director, as they may deem necessary. The IHSA reserves the right to request more information, including medical records, to better understand the request being sought. The interactive process can be done by telephone, videoconference, or in-person.
- The Executive Director will complete Part 3 of the Request for Accommodation and will provide a letter explaining the accommodation within 10 days after the request for accommodation is submitted to the IHSA.
- If a request for accommodation is denied by the Executive Director, the student, parent/guardian and/or member school may pursue an appeal pursuant to Section 1.460 of the IHSA Constitution.