

## **1.920 REFERENDUM VOTE**

All proposals pertaining to the Constitution and By-laws and all other matters requiring an approving vote of the member schools that have been recommended for final action by the Legislative Commission shall be electronically mailed not more than ten (10) days after the second meeting of the Legislative Commission. Ballots for use in voting on such proposals shall be electronically mailed to all member schools not more than twenty (20) days after the second meeting of the Legislative Commission. All voting must be completed online within thirty (30) days after the second meeting of the Legislative Commission. A majority of the electronic votes cast shall be required for the passage of any proposal.

The Board of Directors shall appoint a teller, a high school principal who is not a member of either the Board of Directors or the Legislative Commission, to verify the vote count. These electronic ballots must be counted and the results announced to the membership by electronic mail within thirty (30) days after the conclusion of the balloting.

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## **1.930 EFFECTIVE DATES OF AMENDMENTS**

Each amendment of the Constitution and By-laws shall become effective on July 1 of the year following its adoption; on the date specified by the principals submitting the proposal providing such date is not less than thirty days following the notification of member schools of the results of the referendum in which the proposal was passed; or on a date mutually agreed upon by the submitting principal and the Legislative Commission.

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# **BY-LAWS**

All terms, conditions and provisions of the IHSA Constitution are incorporated herein as part of these By-laws. Any sections hereof deemed or found to be inconsistent shall be controlled and interpreted pursuant to the authority of the IHSA Constitution.

Included in this Section:

- 2.000 School By-laws
- 2.010 Compliance with Rules
- 2.020 Responsibility of Principal
- 2.030 Cooperative Team Sponsorship
- 2.040 Sportsmanship of School Representatives
- 2.050 Schools with which Contests May be Held
- 2.060 Multiple School Interscholastic Activities
- 2.070 Qualifications of Coaches
- 2.080 Selection and Use of Licensed Officials
- 2.090 Season Limitation in Athletic Activities
- 2.100 All-Star Teams and Games
- 2.110 Officials' Attendance at Rules Meeting
- 2.120 Coaches' Attendance at Rules Meeting
- 2.130 Principals' Attendance At Meetings
- 2.140 Participation Limitations During Strike
- 2.150 Physical Examination
- 2.160 Classification
- 2.170 Distribution of Steroids and Performance Enhancing Drugs

## **2.000 SCHOOL BY-LAWS**

### **2.010 COMPLIANCE WITH RULES**

- (a) Members of this Association must comply with the rules as stipulated in the Constitution and By-laws of the Association in all matters pertaining to athletic and activity programs, competitions and other events, with or against any other school, whether it is a member or non-member of the Association.
  - (b) All interscholastic athletic games, meets and contests participated in by IHSA member schools shall be governed only by the rules written or officially adopted for those respective sports by the National Federation of State High School Association and modified by the IHSA.
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## **Illustrations for Section 2.010 of the Constitution**

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- 6) Q. If a school joins the Association during the school term, is the school required to meet all the by-law requirements beginning with the first day of the school term in which it becomes a member.  
A. Yes. This would apply to residence, transfers, academics and all other by-laws. (By-law 2.010)

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## **2.020 RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PRINCIPAL**

The principals, as defined in Section 1.200 of the Constitution, or their designates, shall be responsible to this Association for matters pertaining to all athletic as well as non-athletic activities of their school. In addition, they shall be responsible to insure that their school is properly represented at all interscholastic events and be responsible for the conduct of their team and other persons from their school.

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### **Illustrations for Section 2.020 of the Constitution**

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#### **7) CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY**

- Q. Who is responsible to certify the eligibility of a student athlete?  
A. Principals must be prepared to certify the eligibility of an athlete at any time. They must maintain sufficient records to verify each athlete's compliance with all eligibility rules. Upon the request of a fellow member school principal, or upon request from the IHSA Office, principals shall provide written certification of a student's eligibility. (By-law 2.020)

#### **8) SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES AT CONTESTS**

- Q. Must the school principal be personally present at all interscholastic activities?  
A. No. The principal is responsible to insure proper representation by officially designated school personnel. (By-law 2.020)

#### **9) "PROPER REPRESENTATION"**

- Q. What is the meaning of "proper representation" in By-law 2.020?  
A. This term is interpreted to require presence of a faculty member or other certified or non-certified person who meets the coach qualification requirements of By-law 2.070. (By-law 2.020)

#### **10) COACH AS SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE**

- Q. May a coach serve as the school's representative to provide "proper representation" at an interscholastic contest?  
A. Yes. (By-law 2.020)

#### **11) COACH/REPRESENTATIVE EJECTED FROM PLAYING AREA**

- Q. What action should be taken if the coach of a school team, who is the only school representative present at a contest, is ejected from the contest and removed from the immediate playing area?  
A. With no remaining school representative present, the school may not continue to participate. The contest should be terminated and forfeited to the opponent. A Special Report must be filed with the IHSA Office by the officials and/or schools involved. (By-laws 2.041 & 6.012)

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## **2.030 COOPERATIVE TEAM SPONSORSHIP**

The Board of Directors shall have the authority to approve the formation of cooperative athletic teams or activity programs by two or more member schools under the following conditions:

- (a) The schools are located in the same geographical area;  
(b) All schools participating in the cooperative are Class A (in a 2-class system) or Class 1A or 2A (in a 3 or 4-class system) schools according to the IHSA Classification System; or, in the event one or more of the cooperating schools is a Class 3A or 4A public school, the cooperative team is for a sport other than Boys Football or Boys or Girls Basketball; In the event one or more of the schools involved in the cooperative is a public non-boundary school, that school's actual enrollment, not multiplied enrollment is used to determine the eligibility of the cooperative team request.

- (c) Only private schools with non multiplied enrollments of 200 or less are eligible to form cooperative teams.
- (d) The combined enrollments of all schools involved in the cooperative team, calculated according to the IHSA Classification System, is utilized to determine the classification for the cooperative team;
- (e) The cooperative sponsorship agreement is established for a period of two consecutive school years;
- (f) The governing boards of all schools participating in the cooperative team agreement jointly make the application to the IHSA Board of Directors for approval of the cooperative team agreement;
- (g) The joint application includes:
  - (1) Written approval from the conference(s) of which the cooperating schools are members, and/or in which the cooperative team will participate, or, in the event the cooperative team will not be affiliated with a conference, written approval from a minimum of seven schools included in the cooperative team's schedule of competition;
  - (2) A statement signed by the principals of all cooperating schools designating the name under which the cooperative team will compete;
  - (3) A report of the number of students from each of the cooperative schools expected to participate on the cooperative team;
  - (4) A report of the number of students, if any, from each of the cooperating schools who have been participating in the sport involved, in programs offered on a non-cooperative basis by their own schools;
  - (5) A statement expressing the reasons for the formation of a cooperative team;
  - (6) Written assurance that the cooperative team will not limit participation opportunities for students in any of the cooperating schools.

When a cooperative team completes two years of approved operation and the boards of education involved wish to renew the agreement for another two-year period, the involved school(s) shall submit to the IHSA, by the established date, **notification that they wish to continue the cooperative with no changes.**

### **Illustrations for Section 2.030 of the Constitution**

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- 12) Q. According to the by-law, "conference approval" is required for each cooperative team. What constitutes "conference approval"?  
 A. "Conference approval" is a formal, voted-upon action by a conference, according to its own method of voting, granting formal approval by the conference to the formation of a cooperative team involving one or more of its member schools. On the application form for IHSA approval of each cooperative team, conference presidents of involved conferences will be required to sign certification of conference approval and indicate the method of voting used by the conference in determining approval. (Constitution 1.420 & By-law 2.030)
- 13) Q. What requirements do schools which establish cooperative agreements have to meet in respect to defining the administrative details of a cooperative team?  
 A. Boards of Education must adopt an agreement with the other district(s) involved in the formation of a cooperative team in order to delineate provisions for insurance, coaching personnel and compensation, liability, facilities, equipment, etc. (By-law 2.030) This agreement may be designed like the intergovernmental agreement authorized under the provisions of Section 10-22.31(a) of the School Code of Illinois.
- 14) Q. If a school adds a boys sport team by formation of cooperative teams, must it also add a girls sport team to its program?  
 A. Simply adding a team for one gender of student by forming a cooperative does not require corresponding action to add a team for the other gender of students. However, schools are bound by the provisions of the State Sex Equity Rules, published by the State Board of Education. Questions in respect to these rules and the implications of cooperative teams in light of them should be referred to the State Board of Education. (By-law 2.030)
- 15) Q. May cooperative teams be formed with out-of-state schools?  
 A. Yes. However, cooperative teams formed with either out-of-state or other non-member schools may not compete against IHSA member schools. Therefore, if a school located along the state border forms a co-op team with a school in a neighboring state, it may compete only with schools in that state or schools which are not members of the Illinois High School Association. (By-law 2.030)
- 16) Q. May cooperative teams be formed with non-IHSA member schools from Illinois?  
 A. No. (By-law 2.030)
- 17) Q. May a school form more than one cooperative team in the same sport?  
 A. No. (By-law 2.030)
- 18) Q. May a school form a cooperative team with one other school in football, a different cooperative team with another school in cross country and even a third cooperative team with yet another school in volleyball?  
 A. Yes. The provisions of this rule permit formation of different cooperative teams with different schools on a sport-by-sport basis. However, each cooperative team formed must undergo the complete process approval by the boards of education, the conference, and the IHSA Office. (By-law 2.030)

- 19)** Q. In light of the requirement that cooperative teams may not “limit participation opportunities,” must a “no-cut” policy be established for each cooperative team that is formed?  
A. No. (Constitution 1.420 & By-law 2.030)
- 20)** Q. May a school drop one sport, such as fall baseball, in order to enter a cooperative team arrangement in another sport, such as football?  
A. Yes. The decision as to which sports to offer is exclusively the prerogative of each local board of education. (By-law 2.030)
- 21)** Q. May a cooperative team agreement be formed during a sport season, in order to accommodate participation in the state tournament series that school year?  
A. No. All cooperative teams must have applied to the IHSA for approval no later than the pre-season deadlines established (Fall Sports—August 1; Winter Sports—October 1; Spring Sports—February 1). Applications received after this date will be denied or considered only for implementation no sooner than the subsequent school year. (By-law 2.030)
- 22)** Q. Must cooperative teams compete in six contests to be eligible for state series team competition under the provisions of By-law 3.054?  
A. Yes. (By-laws 2.030 & 3.054)
- 23)** Q. If two schools, whose enrollments as of September 30 in a given year are 450 and 400 respectively, form a cooperative team, what enrollment will be used to determine the classification of the cooperative team?  
A. Classification of the cooperative team will be based on the combined enrollment of the cooperating schools. In this case, 450 plus 400, or a total of 850. This figure of 850 will determine classification for the cooperative team only. The individual schools will still be classified on the basis of their individual enrollments of 450 and 400 respectively for other sports. (By-law 2.030)
- 24)** Q. If the combined enrollment of schools in a cooperative team agreement exceeds the cut-off for division between any class, in which classification will this cooperative team compete?  
A. In all sports and activities other than football and music, if a cooperative team has a combined enrollment over the dividing line between classes, the cooperative team will compete in the higher class for that sport or activity. (By-law 2.030)
- 25)** Q. In the event the situation indicated in the previous Illustration occurs in football, what will be the classification of the cooperative team?  
A. Football classification differs from that for other sports in that class designation is not determined until all teams qualifying for the State Playoffs are established. Then the number of qualifiers is divided into eight equal groups, on the basis of their official enrollments. Therefore, the coop team referred to in the previous Illustration would be classified on the basis of its 850 combined enrollment, and would almost certainly be in a different class than either school would have been in with their individual enrollments of 450 and 400. (Constitution 1.450 & By-law 2.030)
- 26)** Q. In the event the situation indicated in the previous Illustration occurs in music, what would be the classification of the cooperative program?  
A. Music classification also differs from that in other activities. Schools are classed as follows: 0-190 = Class D; 191-350 = Class C; 351-800 = Class B; 801-1600 = Class A; Over 1600 = Class AA. Therefore, the co-op program referred to in Illustration 21 would be classified as Class A in Music. (Constitution 1.450 & By-law 2.030)
- 27)** Q. If a school is in Class 2A by enrollment at the time it enters a cooperative team agreement, but then grows to Class 3A size before the end of the agreement’s term (minimum of two years), may it continue in the cooperative team agreement for its duration?  
A. Yes. If a school in a cooperative team agreement grows beyond the classification dividing line and becomes Class 3A, any cooperative agreement of which it is a party will remain in effect for its duration. (By-law 2.030)
- 28)** Q. If two schools form a cooperative team, may they redraft their cooperative agreement and add a third school to the cooperative at the end of one year?  
A. Yes. With the approval of all the schools involved, the conferences (if applicable), and the approval of the Executive Director, a school may be added to a cooperative team at the end of the first year. (By-law 2.030)
- 29)** Q. If two schools form a cooperative agreement, and then after the season for that sport begins, interest wanes and there are not sufficient students participating to sustain the team, what is the status of the agreement if the boards by mutual consent terminate the team’s existence?  
A. Note that each cooperative agreement is for a minimum of two years. Even if the team for which the agreement is established does not compete, the schools are committed to the agreement for the two-year period. They may not terminate the agreement early, nor may they enter another cooperative agreement with another school during the lifetime of such an original agreement. Furthermore, if students from either of the schools should enter the IHSA state tournament series as individuals in the sport for which the cooperative was established, they would have to be entered under the auspices of the cooperative team, not their own individual high school. (By-law 2.030)
- 30)** Q. Can a cooperative team form for only one year?  
A. No. Cooperative team agreements are for a two year period. Consolidation or annexation of a school in a coop could allow a coop to end prior to the completion of its two year cycle. (By-law 2.030)

- 31)** Q. If two schools have established a cooperative team, and the cooperative dissolves prior to the end of its two-year agreement, may either of the schools participate as an individual school in that sport before the termination of the cooperative agreement?
- A. Yes, provided the reasons for dissolution of the cooperative team are extenuating circumstances accepted by the IHSA Board of Directors. However, a school in this situation may not enter another cooperative agreement in this sport until the end of the two-year time period of the original cooperative agreement. (By-law 2.030)
- 32)** Q. In the event two schools, each of which is a member of a different conference, form a cooperative team, how will the requirement for conference approval be administered?
- A. According to By-law 2.030, cooperative teams must be approved by the conference(s) of which the participating schools are members. They must also be approved by the conference in which the cooperative team will participate or by seven schools on the cooperative team's schedule if it will not compete in a conference. To illustrate:
- (a) If the new cooperative team will compete in the conference of which one of the cooperating schools has been a member, both that conference and the conference(s) of which other schools in the cooperative have been members will be required to approve the cooperative team.
- (b) If the new cooperative team will compete in neither of the existing conferences but in another conference altogether, then both the previous conferences and the new conference must approve formation of the cooperative team.
- (c) If the schools forming a cooperative team have been members of conferences but will compete as an independent team under their cooperative agreement, then the conferences of which they have individually been members, along with seven (7) schools from the proposed independent team's schedule, must approve formation of their cooperative team.
- (d) If one school entering a cooperative has been a member of a conference and the other school entering the cooperative has been independent, and the cooperative will compete as an independent, approval of the cooperative team must be obtained from both the conferences of the one cooperating school and from seven (7) schools on the new cooperative team's schedule.
- 33)** Q. How is the term "seven schools" defined with respect to requiring approval by "seven schools on its schedule" in the event the co-op team will not compete in a conference?
- A. "Seven schools" means seven actual and different individual IHSA member high schools from seven different competitions included on the cooperative team's proposed schedule for the succeeding school year. (Constitution 1.420 & By-law 2.030)
- 34)** Q. Assume that a school drops out of a conference where it has participated in a particular sport and then enters a cooperative team agreement to participate in that same sport in another conference. Do the schools in the original conferences have any recourse, especially if they are not able to reschedule new opponents?
- A. Formation of cooperative teams does not automatically negate all existing contracts. In general, contracts may be dissolved or altered only by mutual consent on the part of all involved parties. (By-law 2.030) In this situation, however, approval of the formation of a cooperative team by a conference will be interpreted to indicate tacit acceptance of the dissolution of all contracts between conference members and the school(s) involved in the cooperative. Therefore, schools in a conference which approves a member leaving the conference to form a cooperative team that will compete as an independent or in another conference, may lose games they had planned on without having breach of contract recourse. On the other hand, contracts for games which are not part of a conference schedule in a conference which has approved the formation of the cooperative team will be considered as individual contracts between the two schools. They may be dissolved only by mutual consent of both schools. If the school which is party to such contract and is not entering a cooperative team agreement refuses to dissolve the contract mutually, it will leave the school entering the cooperative agreement with a potential breach of contract situation.
- 35)** Q. Will the IHSA approve a cooperative team application in the event all questions pertaining to contracts with other schools and/or officials are not mutually resolved?
- A. It is not likely, though a judgment will be made in each individual case. (By-law 2.030)
- 36)** Q. If two schools have established a cooperative team and, during the season for that sport, one of the two cooperating schools experiences a teachers' strike, may the cooperative team continue to participate during the strike or is it restricted under the terms of the IHSA Strike Policy?
- A. The cooperative team will be affected by the strike policy. Therefore, if either cooperating school experiences a strike, the students from the striking school will be restricted from competition for the duration of the strike. Students from the non-striking school may continue to participate. If the non-striking school is unable, due to insufficient numbers, etc., to fulfill the terms of contracted obligations, the cooperative will be held in breach of contract. (Constitution 1.420 & By-law 2.030)
- 37)** Q. What impact on a coop is there if, during the term of a coop, one of the schools involved in a coop consolidates with another district, annexes with another district, or deactivates?
- A. In the event of consolidation, annexation, or deactivation, a coop agreement among schools will cease to exist. In such an event, the consolidation, annexation, or deactivation will supersede the coop agreement. In such an event, the remaining school(s) would be allowed to enter into a new coop agreement with a new district, even if their former agreement had not expired. (By-law 2.030(e).
- 38)** Q. Can two districts that are not contiguous form a coop?
- A. Yes. Public school districts must be in the same geographical area in order to form a coop within the parameters of the by-law, but the districts do not have to be contiguous. (By-law 2.030)

## 2.040 SPORTSMANSHIP OF SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES

- 2.041** Students, school staff, boards of education, spectators and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with a member school shall practice and promote the highest principles of sportsmanship and the ethics of competition in all interscholastic relationships. The Executive Director shall have authority to investigate allegations and incidents of unsportsmanlike conduct or conduct which adversely affects the ethics of competition in connection with interscholastic contests. The Executive Director shall also have full authority to invoke penalties, in the context of the provisions of Division 6.000 of these By-laws, against a member school and/or individuals whose conduct in connection with an interscholastic contest violates these principles or ethics.
- 2.042** Member schools shall maintain proper crowd control and enforce the principles of good sportsmanship and ethics for all interscholastic activities. The Executive Director shall have authority to investigate reported incidents of unsportsmanlike conduct or conduct which adversely affects the ethics of competition in connection with interscholastic contests and shall have full authority to invoke penalties, in the context of Division 6.000 of these By-laws, against a member school which fails to fulfill its obligations as provided in this section.

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### **Illustrations for Section 2.040 of the Constitution**

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#### **39) CROWD CONTROL**

- Q. Who is responsible for crowd control at an interscholastic contest?
- A. The host school must assume primary responsibility for the physical management of the activity, including providing for crowd control. Both the host school and the visiting school must also enforce proper behavior on the part of their own students and fans. (By-law 2.040)

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## 2.050 SCHOOLS WITH WHICH CONTESTS MAY BE HELD

Member schools may permit eligible students to participate in competitive activities as school representatives only with the following:

- (a) schools which are members of this Association;
- (b) schools which are members of an athletic or activities association in another state which is recognized by the Board of Directors of this Association;
- (c) schools which are not members of this Association but are approved for interscholastic participation by the Board of Directors of this Association;
- (d) schools which are not members of an athletic or activities association in another state but are approved for interscholastic participation by such an association;
- (e) junior high schools, provided that in any event other than a dual contest, only eligible ninth grade students represent the junior high school; and
- (f) cooperative athletic teams approved by the Board of Directors under the provisions of these By-laws.
- (g) The Illinois High School Association Executive Director is authorized to waive the provisions of this By-law for the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired (ISVI) when the ISVI is in competition only with other schools for the blind provided such competition is governed by the standards adopted by the North Central Association of Schools for the Blind.
- (h) The Illinois High School Association Executive Director is authorized to waive the provisions of this By-law for the Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD) when the ISD is in competition only with other schools for the deaf.

Member schools may not permit students to participate as school representatives in activities with non-school groups.

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### **Illustrations for Section 2.050 of the Constitution**

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#### **40) APPLICATION OF RULE**

- Q. Do the provisions of this rule prohibit:
- (a) school bands from marching in parades in which non-school groups perform but do not compete?
  - (b) school-sponsored ice hockey teams from competing with non-school clubs or teams?
  - (c) FFA judging groups from competing against 4H or other non-school entities?



- A. This by-law is interpreted to apply only to competitive activities. Therefore, it does not prohibit Example (a) but it does prohibit Examples (b) and (c). The key factor to consider is whether competition is involved in an activity or not. (By-law 2.050)
- 41)** Q. May schools that sponsor ice hockey teams, lacrosse teams or any other interscholastic teams participate against non-school teams?  
A. No. (By-law 2.050)
- 42) ALUMNI GAMES**
- Q. May a school team play a contest against a group of alumni, just for local interest?  
A. The by-laws limit member schools to compete against other schools. A school may not play an alumni contest in any sport since alumni teams are not school groups. (By-law 2.050)
- 43) FACULTY GAMES**
- Q. May a school conduct a basketball game between teams of faculty members and school basketball team members to raise funds for the purchase of a new clock and scoreboard?  
A. Faculty-student games are interpreted to be intramural events. Therefore, they are not restricted by this by-law. Only members of the school's faculty and students at the school may participate. (By-law 2.050) Such contests are not counted as one of the contests to which a school team is limited by the by-laws. (By-law Section 5.000)
- 44)** Q. May an approved school participate in a tournament against an IHSA member school?  
A. No. Approved schools may only participate in dual contests with IHSA member schools. (By-law 2.050 and Article 1.270)

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## 2.060 MULTIPLE SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES

Member schools must adhere to the following conditions when participating in any interscholastic multiple school (four or more schools) contest or other activity:

- (a) athletic activities, not sponsored by this Association, must be hosted by a school which is a member of this Association or a school which is a member of another state activities or athletic association which is recognized by the Board of Directors of this Association.
- (b) multiple school activities may not begin before 1:00 p.m. on a school day;
- (c) multiple school conference activities may begin as early as 8:00 a.m. on a school day;
- (d) multiple school activities sponsored by a statewide organization such as the Illinois Coordinating Council for Career and Technical Student Organizations, the Illinois Association of Student Councils, etc. may begin as early as 8:00 a.m. on a school day;
- (e) awards presented to schools and individuals are within the limitations established by these By-laws;
- (f) lodging arrangements for student participants are exclusively the prerogative of the member school;
- (g) student participants must be eligible under all the provisions of these By-laws;
- (h) no participating school may exceed participation limits established in these By-laws;
- (i) inter-state activities are approved through the established procedures of the National Federation of State High School Associations; and
- (j) except for the State Final meet or tournament, practice rounds or other practice or workout sessions at the site of an interscholastic contest do not begin sooner than fifteen (15) minutes after the end of the school day.

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### ***Illustrations for Section 2.060 of the Constitution***

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**45) DISMISSAL TIME**

- Q. Whose school dismissal time is used to determine the permitted time for practice or workouts at the site of a contest?  
A. The dismissal time of the school hosting the contest shall be the time from which practices may be scheduled. Therefore, if the host school is dismissed at 3:15 p.m., no visiting school may practice at the site of the contest until 3:30 p.m. or later, regardless of its own dismissal time. (By-law 2.060(i))

**46) LEAVING SCHOOL EARLY**

- Q. May a team leave school prior to dismissal time to travel to the site of a contest?  
A. This by-law regulates only the actual start of practice at a contest site. Schools make their own determinations about leaving school to travel to the site. (By-law 2.060(a), (b), and (i))

**47) GOVERNMENTAL SPONSORSHIP**

- Q. When a governmental agency, such as the General Assembly or Department of Tourism, provides funds for a school's use to travel to and participate in a particular event, does this constitute "governmental sponsorship" of the activity under the terms of this rule?
- A. Yes, and the school may participate under all the terms of the sanction policy. (By-law 2.060(c))

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**2.070 QUALIFICATIONS OF COACHES**

To serve a member school as a Head or Assistant Coach, athletic coaches in member schools must:

- (a) be regularly certified by the ISBE as a teacher, administrator, or school service personnel (i.e. counselor, social worker, speech therapist, etc., including substitute teachers), or
- (b) be a retired teacher/coach from an IHSA member school, or
- (c) be a college student coaching as part of an official student teaching assignment, or
- (d) be certified through ASEP, NFHS or other IHSA Board approved coaches certification program (see IHSA Policy Number 9 for a complete list of approved programs), and
- (e) be at least 19 years of age, and
- (f) be officially employed by the local school board of the member school.

**2.071** All remuneration for high school athletic coaching must be from the Board of Education of the member school employing the coach.

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**Illustrations for Section 2.070 of the Constitution**

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**48) NON-FACULTY COACHES AS NON-SCHOOL COACHES**

- Q. May a non-faculty coach at a member school coach a non-school team in an independent league outside the school season?
- A. By-law 3.107 restricts the amount of involvement permitted between students and their school coaching staff members in non-school athletic competition. A non-faculty coach is a member of a school's coaching staff, and is considered to be such for a period of time commencing with the date on which he/she is contracted for the coaching position by the school and extending until the beginning of the next year's season for the sport. Therefore, a non-faculty coach may coach a non-school team outside the school season only under the guidelines provided under By-law 3.107.

**49) STUDENT TEACHERS**

- 49.1** Q. May a student teacher assist with the coaching of an athletic team?  
A. Yes, provided it is part of the student teaching experience. (By-law 2.076)
- 49.2** Q. May student teachers be paid for assisting with the coaching of athletic teams?  
A. No, unless the person who is student teaching is at least 19 years old and has completed an IHSA approved coach training program. (By-law 2.076)
- 49.3** Q. May student teachers continue coaching their student teaching assignments after the regular student teaching period ends?  
A. Yes, provided their college or university authorizes the continuation. (By-law 2.076)

**50) VOLUNTEER COACHES**

- Q. May a person volunteer to coach without pay at a member school?
- A. Yes. However, whether a person is paid to coach or is a non-paid volunteer, the person must meet the qualification requirements of By-law 2.070 and its sub-sections. (By-law 2.070)

**51) BY-LAW COVERAGE**

- Q. Does By-law 2.070 require music directors, speech coaches and other activity sponsors or coaches to be certified teachers and have one of the specified employment relationships with a school?
- A. No. This by-law applies only to coaches of athletic teams. (By-law 2.070)



**52) MINIMUM AGE OF NON-FACULTY COACHES**

- Q. Is there an age minimum for non-faculty and/or non-certified personnel who coach?
- A. The Board of Directors interprets the provisions of this By-law to require non-faculty and/or non-certified coaches to be at least nineteen (19) years of age. (By-law 2.070 and Constitution 1.420)

**53) PRACTICE WITH COLLEGE STUDENT OR ALUMNUS**

- Q. May a college student or other alumnus participate in a school team practice?
- A. No. A person who is not a student at the school and is not qualified and approved by the school as a coach under the provisions of this by-law may not participate in any respect in a school team practice.

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## **2.080 SELECTION AND USE OF LICENSED OFFICIALS**

All major officials for athletic contests must be licensed with the IHSA in the sport the individual is to officiate, except that in the event contracted officials do not appear for a contest below varsity level, and with mutual consent by all competing schools, members of the coaching staff, faculty, and/or administrative staff of any of the competing schools may officiate the contest. The Board of Directors shall be responsible to establish policies and procedures governing the licensing process.

The names of game officials for each interscholastic athletic contest must be submitted by the host school to the visiting school not later than five school days before such contest and must be mutually agreed upon not later than the night preceding the contest.

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### **Illustrations for Section 2.080 of the Constitution**

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**54) REPLACING CONTRACTED OFFICIALS**

- Q. If two schools have approved officials for a contest and the host school has contracted the officials, may either the host or the visiting school cancel the contract of one or more of the officials prior to the contest?
- A. The Board of Directors, under the authority granted in Constitution 1.420, has adopted the following guidelines for such situations:
  - (1) Prior to contract negotiations with an official, the host school should receive approval of the visiting school before employing the services of a designated official. The IHSA recommends that approval be in writing as provided on the game contract.
  - (2) Having contracted an approved official as listed in (1), only the host school can release or replace an official from contractual commitments.
  - (3) The visiting school has the privilege of requesting that a previously approved official be replaced. If this occurs, only the host school, as the contracting agent, becomes involved with the official. Usually, it will defer to the visiting school's wishes if an acceptable replacement that is mutually agreeable to both schools can be found. However, this is not mandatory if (1) has been followed.
  - (4) Whenever the host school cancels a legal contract because of the visiting school's request, only the host school negotiates with the official in resolving the terms of the contract. The host school makes the payment for the contractual fee.
  - (5) If the official is cancelled because of the visiting school's request, the visiting school must reimburse the host school for the contracted fee. The host school will then reimburse the official.
  - (6) If By-law 2.080 is not complied with by the host school, then all obligations in contractual matters must be assumed by the host school.
  - (7) The contract must be valid in all aspects and both parties must comply with all of its provisions.

**55) MAJOR OFFICIALS**

- Q. Who are "major officials" as identified in this by-law?
- A. The Board of Directors interprets "major officials" to be officials who are required to be licensed with the Association in order to receive remuneration for their services. They include: (By-law 2.080)
  - Basketball—Referee, Umpire
  - Soccer—Referee
  - Swimming—Referee, Starter, Diving Referee
  - Track & Field—Referee, Starter, Referee-Starter
  - Boys Baseball—Umpire
  - Boys Football—Linesman, Umpire, Line Judge, Back Judge, Referee
  - Boys Gymnastics—Judge
  - Boys Wrestling—Referee, Assistant Referee
  - Girls Gymnastics—Judge
  - Girls Softball—Umpire
  - Volleyball—Referee, Umpire

**56) NOTIFYING OPPONENT OF OFFICIALS HIRED**

- Q. According to this By-law, the names of officials for a contest must be provided to visiting schools at least five days prior to the contest. How is this notice to be provided?
- A. Space is provided for this purpose on IHSA game contract forms. A host school may also notify the visiting school by letter or fax, and receive a letter or fax in response giving approval by the visiting school. Acceptance of a contract containing names of officials, or failure to reject officials in writing, shall constitute approval of officials. (By-law 2.080)

**57) CONTRACTED OFFICIALS NOT APPEARING FOR THE CONTEST**

- Q. What should schools do if the licensed officials who are contracted for a contest do not appear?
- A. A varsity contest may be played only if licensed officials can be obtained. However, for a below-varsity level contest, members of the coaching staff, faculty and/or administrative staff from any of the competing schools may officiate the contest.

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**2.090 SEASON LIMITATION IN ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES**

No school belonging to this Association shall organize its teams, practice, scrimmage or participate in any interscholastic sport outside of the season limitations as prescribed in Section 5.000 of these By-Laws; nor shall any person who coaches any sport at a member school, coach or supervise a non-school team in any interscholastic sport composed of students from that school, except within the guidelines promulgated by the IHSA Board of Directors.

Exception: For each sport, a school may hold one informational meeting prior to the start of its season to provide information regarding tryouts, procedures and forms that need to be on file. Coaches or school personnel may not use this meeting to organize out of season programs (example: fall, winter or spring leagues).

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***Illustrations for Section 2.090 of the Constitution***

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**58) SCRIMMAGE AS CONTEST**

- Q. Is a scrimmage considered to be a practice or an interscholastic contest?
- A. If a scrimmage involves exclusively students from one high school, it is considered to be practice. If a scrimmage involves students from more than one high school, it is viewed to be an interscholastic contest and is subject to all rules pertaining thereto. (Constitution 1.420 & By-law 2.090)

**59) PRIVATE LESSONS FROM HIGH SCHOOL COACH**

- Q. May a student receive private instruction from his/her high school coach outside the school season?
- A. Taking a private lesson from a faculty member or coach at a member school, outside the season, in the sport in which the student participates, is permitted only if the coach gives private lessons to clients other than students from his/her school. If the lesson program is limited to students from the instructor's school, it is viewed as a form of organizing and practicing the school team. (By-law 2.090)

**60) USE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT, PAYMENT OF FEES, ETC.**

- Q. May school facilities and/or athletic equipment be used for non-school athletic programs during the school year?
- A. Schools may not underwrite any part of the cost of participation by students in non-school athletic programs. This means that schools may not pay entry fees, provide uniforms, etc. However, if a school has an established policy governing use of school facilities and/or equipment by non-school groups, schools may permit the use of their facilities and/or equipment by non-school athletic teams under such a policy. (Constitution 1.420)

**61) COACH PLAYING ON TEAM**

- Q. May a school coach play on a non-school team with students from the same school at which he/she coaches?
- A. Yes, under the following conditions: a) during the school year, only if the number of players on the non-school team's roster who attend the school where the coach coaches does not exceed one half the number of players required to comprise the starting line-up for the sport; b) during the summer, between the close of school and Saturday of Week 4 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar, each day on which such participation occurs is considered to be a contact day for both the coach and students from his/her school. (Constitution 1.420)

**62) TRANSPORTATION TO NON-SCHOOL COMPETITION AND COACHING SCHOOLS**

- Q. May a coach at a member school transport students from his/her school to the site of practice or competition for non-school activities and coaching schools?
- A. During the school year, this would constitute a form of "organizing a school team" and is not permitted. (By-law 2.090) During the contact day period in the summer, it is permitted. (By-law 3.154)

**63) EX-COACHES**

- Q. May an individual who has been coaching in a member school but whose coaching contract has been terminated for the ensuing year now coach a team in non-school competition, composed totally of students from the school at which he/she has been coaching?
- A. Yes. This individual is no longer a member of the school's coaching staff. However, if the termination of coaching services is not confirmed officially in writing and is merely a verbal understanding or an action which is anticipated, the individual is still considered to be a coaching staff member and may not coach such a team. (By-law 2.070 & 2.090)

**TEAMS ORGANIZING AND PARTICIPATION IN CONTESTS DURING THE SUMMER AND DURING THE SCHOOL TERM**

- 64)** Q. May a school hold a meeting in the spring for students at the school to distribute information regarding summer programs?  
A. Yes. (By-law 2.090)
- 65)** Q. May a school hold a meeting during the school term for students at the school to distribute information regarding non-school programs also held during the school term?  
A. No. (By-law 2.090)
- 66)** Q. May a school conduct pre-season conditioning for a team prior to the starting date for any sport as outlined in Section 5.000 of the IHSA By-laws?  
A. No. Conducting a preseason conditioning program as outlined above would constitute a violation of IHSA By-law 2.090. (By-law 2.090)

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**2.100 ALL-STAR TEAMS AND GAMES**

No athletic team from any member school may compete against an "all-star" team. No school official from a member school shall assist, either directly or indirectly, with any contest by an all-star team during the school year, unless the contest is approved by the Board of Directors.

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***Illustrations for Section 2.100 of the Constitution***

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**67) SCHOOL OFFICIAL DEFINED**

- Q. How is the term "school official" defined in the context of this rule?
- A. A "school official" is considered to be "any person who meets the coach qualification provisions of By-law 2.070 and who is employed by a school and/or school district." No individual so situated may assist in any respect with any all-star competition during the school year unless it is approved by the IHSA. (By-law 2.100)

**68) ALL-STAR COACH**

- Q. May a coach from a member high school accept an invitation to coach at an all-star game?
- A. If the sponsor of the contest secures approval from the IHSA Office, the individual may coach. (By-law 2.100)

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**2.110 OFFICIALS' ATTENDANCE AT RULES INTERPRETATION MEETINGS**

Attendance at the annual Association sponsored sport rules interpretation meetings shall be required for all registered athletic officials, provided rules meetings are conducted in the sport. Failure to comply with this requirement may be penalized by probation, restriction on assignments or suspension of the official's registration.

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## **Illustrations for Section 2.110 of the Constitution**

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### **69) PENALTY FOR NOT ATTENDING**

- Q. What is the penalty for officials who do not attend rules interpretation meetings as required?
- A. Violations of this by-law will be addressed on a sport-by-sport basis as follows:
  - a) An official who does not attend an IHSA rules meeting in a sport shall be placed on probation in that sport for one year. An official on probation may officiate regular season contests, but is not be eligible for assignment to the state tournament series and is not be eligible for promotion in the sport during the probation period. (By-law 2.110)
  - b) An official who does not attend an IHSA rules meeting in a sport for two (2) consecutive years shall be suspended for one year in that sport. Suspension causes the official to lose his/her license in that sport for the suspension period and to lose all ratings in that sport. After the year's suspension, an official may reapply for a license in that sport. (By-law 2.110)

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## **2.120 COACHES' ATTENDANCE AT RULES INTERPRETATION MEETINGS**

Each member school shall be represented by a member of its coaching staff for the sport/activity at an annual rules interpretation meeting sponsored by the Association in each sport or activity it offers, provided rules interpretation meetings are conducted in that sport or activity. Failure to comply with this requirement may be penalized by the Board of Directors. This shall include all individual as well as team entries.

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### **Illustrations for Section 2.120 of the Constitution**

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### **70) PENALTY FOR NOT ATTENDING**

- Q. What is the penalty if a coaching staff representative does not attend a rules interpretation meeting in a sport?
- A. Penalties are assessed at the discretion of the Board of Directors. The Board considers non-attendance to be a school violation and regularly penalizes the first violation by placing the school team in the sport on probation for one year. The Board regularly penalizes the second consecutive violation by a school in a sport by suspending the school from participation in the state series in that sport. (By-laws 2.120 and 6.010)

### **71) SCHOOL REPRESENTATION AT RULES MEETINGS**

- Q. If a school has both a boys and a girls team in a sport, may the school send only one coach to the rules meeting to represent both programs?
- A. Boys and girls teams are considered to represent different sports. Therefore both a boys coach and a girls coach are required to attend the rules meeting. This is true even if the boys and girls sports are in the same season and follow the same playing rules. (By-laws 2.120 and 6.010)

### **72) INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING DURING THE SEASON**

- Q. If a school does not enter a team for team honors in state series competition, but does enter individuals in regular season contests in the sport, must it comply with the requirement for a coaching staff member to attend the rules meeting for the sport?
- A. Yes, because it has maintained a program of competition in that sport during the season. (By-law 2.120)

### **73) PRINCIPAL/ATHLETIC DIRECTOR ATTENDANCE**

- Q. May a principal or athletic director attend a sport rules meeting as the school's representative?
- A. Yes, but only in emergency situations. The requirement of the by-law is that coaches attend the rules meetings. If a principal or athletic director attends in an emergency, the IHSA must be notified by the school in writing immediately following the rules meeting so credit for attendance by a school representative can be recorded. (By-law 2.120)

## 2.130 PRINCIPALS' ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

Each member school principal or his/her designee shall be in attendance at an annual principals rules meeting/town meeting. Failure to comply with this requirement may be penalized by the Board of Directors.

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### **Illustrations for Section 2.130 of the Constitution**

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#### **74) PENALTY FOR NOT ATTENDING**

- Q. What is the penalty if a principal/principal's representative does not attend a rules interpretation meeting in a sport?
- A. Penalties are assessed at the discretion of the Board of Directors. The Board considers non-attendance by a principal/principal's representative a violation and regularly penalizes the first violation by placing the school on probation for one year. The Board regularly penalizes the second consecutive violation by a school by suspending the school from participation in the state series for a period of one year beginning on January 1 following the school's second consecutive noncompliance with the by-law. (By-laws 2.130 and 6.010)

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## 2.140 PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS DURING STRIKE

No team or other entity representing a member school may participate in an interscholastic contest or activity during the time the member school is not in session due to a strike by teachers or other school personnel. A member school shall not be considered to be in legal session on any school day if it does not have fifty-one (51%) of the students in the district in attendance and cannot offer the minimum program required by state law and ISBE Circular Series A160 on a daily basis.

**2.140.1** This limitation shall not pertain to time designated by the member school's governing board as school holidays or vacation, including the days designated by the Illinois School Code as emergency days, provided school is in full operation on the school day preceding the school holiday, vacation or emergency day.

**2.140.2** Practice sessions of normal length and frequency may be held during the period when school is not fully operating, provided the following conditions are met:

- (1) They must be approved by the school's governing board and administration;
- (2) They must be conducted by personnel who meet the provisions of By-law 2.070;
- (3) They must be conducted in a manner which assures the health and safety of the participants; and
- (4) Students from a school on strike may not participate with a team from a school which is not on strike.

**2.140.3** A school which has a football game scheduled with a school which is on strike on the Monday preceding the scheduled game shall have the option to cancel the game with the striking school and schedule a game with another school provided it has a pending alternative contract. If this option is exercised, the striking school shall forfeit the scheduled contest and receive a forfeit loss. The non-striking school shall receive a forfeit win and may play the alternate contest, which shall not count as a win or loss for the non-striking school. **A school which has a football game scheduled with a school which goes on strike after the Monday preceding the scheduled game shall receive a forfeit if the striking school does not settle its contract by midnight preceding the scheduled game.**

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## 2.150 PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

**2.150** A school shall have on file for each student who participates (including practice) in interscholastic athletics a certificate of physical fitness issued by a licensed physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner as set forth in the Illinois State Statutes not more than 395 days preceding any date of participation in any such practice, contest or activity.

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### **Illustrations for Section 2.150 of the Constitution**

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#### **75) CHIROPRACTOR**

- Q. Is a physical examination administered by a chiropractor acceptable for athletic purposes?
- A. The athletic physical examination must be administered by a licensed physician. Consistent with the interpretation of the State Board of Education, the Board of Directors interprets a "licensed physician" to be one who is licensed to practice medicine in all its branches. A chiropractor's physical examination is acceptable only if the chiropractor is licensed to practice medicine in all its branches. (Constitution 1.420 and By-law 2.150)

**76) PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT**

- Q. May a physician's assistant perform the physical examination the by-laws require?  
A. Yes. (By-law 2.150)

**77) RECORD OF EXAMINATION**

- Q. Must the form provided by the IHSA be used for physical examinations?  
A. No. The IHSA provides a form only as a service. Its use is optional. However, some form of written physical examination certificate must be used. (By-law 2.150)

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## **2.160 CLASSIFICATION**

- 2.160** Guidelines and regulations for classification of non-boundaried schools are applied to all non-boundaried schools. A non-boundaried school is defined as any private school, charter school, lab school, magnet school, residential school, and any public school in a multi-high school district that does not accept students from a fixed portion of the district.

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## **2.170 DISTRIBUTION OF STEROIDS AND PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS**

2.171 No coach, administrator, school official or employee, or booster club/support group member may sell, distribute, or promote the use of any anabolic steroids or performance-enhancing dietary supplements to students at member schools.

2.172 A coach, administrator, school official or employee, or booster club/support group member may provide only permissible nutritional supplements to students at any time for the purpose of providing additional calories and electrolytes, provided they do not contain any dietary supplements banned by the Association. Permissible nutritional supplements are identified according to the following classes: Carbohydrate/electrolyte drinks, energy bars, carbohydrate boosters and vitamins and minerals.

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### ***Illustrations for Section 2.170 of the Constitution***

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- 78)** Q. Has the IHSA established banned drug classes for its performance-enhancing drug testing program?  
A. Yes. The IHSA Board of Directors has approved the banned drug classes for which it will test as a part of its performance-enhancing drug testing program. The banned drug classes can be accessed on the IHSA's Sports Medicine Advisory Committee's Special Topics Page. (By-laws 2.171 and 2.172)

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## **3.000 ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY BY-LAWS**

Included in this Section:

- 3.000 Athletic Eligibility By-laws
- 3.010 Attendance
- 3.020 Scholastic Standing
- 3.030 Residence
- 3.040 Transfer
- 3.050 Participation Limitations
- 3.060 Age
- 3.070 Recruiting of Athletes
- 3.080 Amateuism
- 3.090 Participating Under An Assumed Name
- 3.100 Independent Team Participation
- 3.110 Coaching School Participation
- 3.120 All-Star Participation
- 3.130 Use of Players
- 3.140 Misbehavior during Contests
- 3.150 Special Provisions for Summer Participation
- 3.160 Open Gym Limitations
- 3.170 Classification

Students in member schools shall be eligible to participate on athletic teams in interscholastic athletic contests as representatives of their schools provided: