The IHSA is a charter member of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). IHSA officials use the applicable NFHS Rules Book to govern all athletic contests. As an NFHS member, the IHSA can propose national rule changes in any NFHS sport.

The IHSA licenses over 12,000 officials annually. Passing a rules test and attending hands-on educational clinics taught by the state’s top officials are among the many requirements that officials must complete to remain eligible to work the State Series. Member school coaches have a direct effect on who works the State Series by rating the performance of officials.

The IHSA’s primary source of income is generated from ticket sales in State Series events. On average, about eight total State Series sports programs produce positive revenue streams annually, with the profits from those sports being used to help fund the tournaments for the IHSA’s other 30-plus sports and activities.

There is no cost for a school to become an IHSA member or to renew its membership annually.

Any member school can propose a new by-law or a change to an existing by-law. Those proposals are reviewed by the IHSA Legislative Commission, a 35-person group of Principals and Athletic Directors from around the state. The proposed changes are reviewed by all IHSA member schools at mandatory Town Meetings held at 28 different high schools throughout the state. The proposals that are moved forward by the Legislative Commission are voted on by every member school and must pass by a simple majority to become a by-law.

The IHSA staff administers the state tournaments in all sanctioned activities and sports, including the selection of State Series sites, assignment of officials and on-site state final management. The staff is responsible for the education and enforcement of the by-laws that its member schools vote into existence.

The IHSA is headquartered in Bloomington and is not funded by tax dollars or administered by the government of the State of Illinois.