

IHSA STATE FINALS BAND INFORMATION

The Illinois High School Association is pleased to invite all IHSA member schools to audition for selection as an IHSA State Finals Band. Throughout a State Finals tournament, the band fills the venue with energy and excitement to liven the event. The IHSA takes great pride in our member school's band programs, which for decades have been a cornerstone in many of our championships. Our traditions are deeply rooted in creating events that celebrate the entire school population, and this is another fantastic opportunity to showcase your school's talents at a State Finals venue.

Included in this correspondence you will find information, audition requirements, and event schedules. We encourage you to participate in the audition process and feel free to contact us if you have any questions or need any additional information.

STATE FINALS INFORMATION:

Selected bands will be invited to perform on one of the three days of the 2023-2024 Girls Basketball State Finals, one of the three days of the 2023-2024 Boys Basketball State Finals, or one-half day of two days of the 2024-2025 Girls Volleyball State Finals. Due to the venue sizes, please note the listed personnel limitations, including band directors.

Tournament dates & game times are as follows:

Girls Basketball - CEFCU Arena, Normal (ISU) - 60 max personnel

Girls Class 1A & 2A: Sessions 1 & 2; Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.

**Option to stay and play for Session 3 at 7:00 p.m.*

Girls Class 3A & 4A: Sessions 4 & 5; Friday, March 1, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.

**Option to stay and play for Session 6 at 7:00 p.m.*

Girls (All Classes): Sessions 7 & 8; Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Boys Basketball - State Farm Center, Champaign (U of I) - 40 max personnel

Boys Class 1A & 2A: Sessions 1 & 2; Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.

**Option to stay and play for Session 3 at 7:00 p.m.*

Boys Class 3A & 4A: Sessions 4 & 5; Friday, March 8, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.

**Option to stay and play for Session 6 at 7:00 p.m.*

Boys (All Classes): Sessions 7 & 8; Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Girls Volleyball - CEFCU Arena, Normal (ISU) - 60 max personnel

Girls Class 1A & 2A: Session 1; Friday, November 15, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Session 2; Friday, November 15, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Girls Class 3A & 4A: Session 3; Saturday, November 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Session 4; Saturday, November 16, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

REIMBURSEMENT:

Each performing band will receive round trip mileage reimbursement at \$2 per mile plus a meal allotment of \$9 per person for the band members and director(s). A maximum number of **60 personnel (CEFCU Arena)** or **40 personnel (State Farm Center)**, **including band members and director(s)**, will be allowed for admission and reimbursement. IHSA reimbursements will be sent to the school after the band performs. Tickets for additional band members and fans will be available for purchase.

LOGISTICS:

Designated space for the performing band will be provided at each site. An event manager from each venue will be available to answer questions and coordinate with each school. Performers will be admitted to the arena as a group at no charge only for those sessions in which they are scheduled to perform. Band members will not be admitted to any other sessions of any tournament without a paid ticket for admission as a spectator.

Each performing band will be asked to be in position and begin performing no later than 30 minutes before the start of each session (times listed above). Band directors will coordinate with the event PA announcer to play in between announcements during pregame, timeouts, between quarters/sets, and postgame.

CRITERIA & SELECTION PROCESS

Bands will be selected by the IHSA Office with assistance from music educators. Submit a YouTube link to a video audition (**audio & video combined**). We want to hear and see your band in action and having fun!

- Audition videos should be 5 to 10 minutes in length.
- Record segments of a variety of energetic selections.
- Consider musical selections that encourage crowd involvement.
- Consider band instrument choreography.
- Bands with vocalists are also encouraged.

Auditions will be reviewed on rhythm, tone quality, note accuracy, intonation, and crowd engagement. If applicable, consideration is given for bands to perform at State Finals in aligning classifications. If selected, the school administrator (principal or IHSA official representative) will be notified, and the list of selected bands will be posted on the IHSA website (music menu page).

If you are interested in having your band considered for selection, complete the online application form and submit your YouTube audition link.

Deadline for submission is December 13, 2023

Below is the link to the online form "IHSA State Finals Band Audition."

<https://forms.office.com/r/MYQZt0unXy>

HEAR FROM OTHER BAND DIRECTORS:

“The Columbia High School Pep Band was honored to be selected to rock the house at the state volleyball finals. CHS students had a blast performing in the amazing stadium at Illinois State University and adding energy to a sport for which we don't normally perform. We highly recommend this experience to all bands!”

~Columbia High School Band Director, Kristian Avise-Rouse

“It is an honor to be selected for this performance opportunity, and the band is excited to help bring energy and enthusiasm to the state basketball championships.”

~Lincoln-Way West High School Band Director, Cary Ruklic.



BAND AUDITION TIMELINE & CHECKLIST

1. Create YouTube video (**audio & visual**) showcasing band performances and highlighting a variety of selections.
2. Complete and submit the online form by Wednesday, December 13th, 2023.
3. Selected bands will be posted in mid-January. Each school's principal or IHSA official representative will be notified of selection.
4. IHSA will send additional information to selected bands for planning purposes.

Contact Dan Le (dle@ihsa.org) with any questions.