

# NEW COACH INFORMATION

**So they asked you to be  
the scholastic bowl coach**

## WELCOME

So your school has asked you to coach the scholastic bowl team and you don't know where to start. Interscholastic activities provide opportunities for students to learn values such as sportsmanship, dedication, teamwork, self-discipline and cooperation.

The information in this manual is meant to give you some insight into the world of coaching scholastic bowl. The ideas and suggestions are by no means the only way to coach the activity of Scholastic Bowl, but simple suggestions to get you started. It is the Scholastic Bowl Advisory committee's hope that the information in the packet will be enlightening and useful.

If you have any questions, please contact the IESA office.

## HISTORY

In 1989 the IESA introduced the activity of Scholastic Bowl to its member schools. A state series is held each year in April and May.

Regional Tournaments: Wednesday of Week 43

Sectional Tournaments: Monday of Week 44

State Tournament: Friday of Week 44

The scholastic bowl tournament is held under the by-laws and direction of the IESA with suggestions for change and improvement from the IESA Scholastic Bowl Advisory Committee. The committee is composed of an IESA Board of Directors Representative, six scholastic bowl coaches from throughout the state, an administrator from a member school and a moderator. Committee members serve three years on the committee as long as they remain active coaches.

The advisory committee is also responsible for the annual scholastic bowl workshop for coaches held each fall. The workshop has always proven to be particularly helpful to new coaches.

In order to receive the scholastic bowl manual with the rule book and to participate in scholastic bowl state series, your school must be a member of the IESA. If interested please contact the IESA office; (309) 829-0114 or [iesa@iesa.org](mailto:iesa@iesa.org). Additional information is available on the IESA website at [www.iesa.org](http://www.iesa.org).

### Special points of interest:

- IESA Entry Fees
- Rules and Regulations
- To Do List
- Questions for Administrators
- Sectional Seeding information
- Moderators
- Scheduling Matches
- Post Season Parties

## IESA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Each year the IESA sends an initial mailing to each participating school. This mailing is usually sent in early October so that schools will have the information in time for the Scholastic Bowl Workshop.

Included in this mailing is the IESA SCHOLASTIC BOWL MANUAL. This manual includes: Terms and Conditions, Update, Rule Book, Case Book, Regional Seed Procedures, Host Material, Officials' Instructions and much more. All of these documents are also available on the IESA website. [www.iesa.org](http://www.iesa.org)

The IESA Terms and Conditions contains the guidelines under which the activity of Scholastic Bowl is conducted.

The IESA Rule Book contains the rules under which the activity should be con-

ducted.

The IESA Case Book offers scenarios to the rule book for clarification.

The Regional Seed Procedure information explains the on-line process of seeding the teams in your regional. This is a mandatory process for competing in the activity.

Official's Instructions have information for Moderators, Scorers and Timers. This information can be used for regular season matches and teaching new moderators IESA procedure.

Hosting a Regional and/or Sectional tournament is also included in the manual. This is the general information one would need to host an IESA state series event.

### INITIAL MAILING



Look for your initial mailing packet in late September or Early October.

## IESA ENTRY FEES AND DUE DATES

The Scholastic Bowl Entry deadline is the Monday of Week 14 in the standardized IESA calendar.

The entry fee for a member school is \$65.00.

Each year the advisory committee and the IESA put on a workshop. This workshop offers informational sessions on coaching a scholastic bowl team. The workshop is geared towards new coaches. The fee for the workshop is \$50.00. The date for the workshop is

In early November.

Cooperative Agreements are due the Saturday of Week 27. Co-ops are when two schools join together to form one school, typically because they cannot field teams on their own. Both schools must be a member and both schools must pay for the activity. One school will serve as a host for the activity and all material will be sent to that one school.

### STATE SERIES DATES

Seeding Steps:

Initial Season Schedule Deadline: Wed. Week 34

Online Roster/Record Deadline: Mon. Week 42

Record Closed: Tues. Week 43

Regional Tournaments: Wed. Week 43

Sectional Tournaments: Mon. Week 44

State Tournament: Fri. Week 44

## IESA REGIONAL ONLINE SEEDING INFORMATION

Each participating school will receive a letter addressed Attn. Scholastic Bowl Coach, with instructions in January. The letter will contain a scholastic bowl password that will give the coach entrance to the Scholastic Bowl Entry Center.

As soon as you receive your scholastic bowl password; you need to get online and enter their scholastic bowl team's schedule. As you play your matches you need to go back online and enter the results of each match until the posted record seed deadline.

If a school has not played any matches by this time, they will need to check a box yes or no if they will have 3 matches by regional play date. A school must have a minimum of 3 matches played by the regional date to participate in the regional tournament.

Following the completion of the Record Step, the computer will tabulate the results and seed the teams in each regional based on each school's winning percentage, number of wins and finally

their number of losses.

Finally, the IESA will view all results, break any ties, and confirm seeds before posting online in the regional assignment page.

Note: There is a penalty for those schools who do not complete the online seeding Record step. The first year missing this step will cause the school to be placed on probation. The 2nd consecutive year your school fails to complete this step will result in suspension from the activity.



## QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR ADMINISTRATION

1. Do I schedule my own matches?
2. How many matches should I schedule for my season?
3. Am I limited to the number of away matches that I can play?
4. What schools should I compete with?
5. Is there someone in charge of setting up the buses for away matches or do I do that?
6. When should I have tryouts?
7. When should I have practices?
8. Are there any local tournaments we can go to?
9. Is there any money or budget for a scholastic bowl team?
10. Can I buy team t-shirts?
11. Can I buy questions for our matches?



## SCHEDULING MEETS

You probably will schedule your own matches, but every area is different.

- Make a list of dates you want to have matches. (make sure you know when spring break is and parent-teacher conferences)
- Check the schedule from last year if you had a team. Schools who came to you last year will want you to come to them.
- Some areas have a meeting of all the different coaches so that they can do their scheduling together. This is very helpful and cuts down on the phone tag.
- After the meets are set-up, schedule your buses for the away meets right away.

**Tri-Meets:** This is when three schools play at one meet. Each school will play two schools and this gives your kids more experience. The only disadvantage is that it makes for a longer meet.

Tri-Meet Schedule  
School A plays School B

School C plays School A  
School C plays School B  
Tournaments:

How many matches should be on your schedule?

You must have completed a minimum of THREE IESA regulated matches prior to the scholastic bowl state series.

The more matches you have the more experience your kids will have. Most schools tend to schedule an average of 15 per season.

Take a look at your schedule from last year or call a veteran coach at another school to find out how schools typically schedule in your area.

Schools can now post tournaments and invitationals with contact information on the IESA website for all to view. In the member center, schools can log in and click on "Your Scholastic Bowl Invitationals" under Competitions Links. After this step you will click on "Add New Invitational". From here schools can enter competition dates, deadline for accepting entries, description of the event, contact person, contact email and phone number for all to view. This is a great resource to get schools interested in a new tournament and building existing tournaments.

## MODERATORS

Where do I get Moderators?

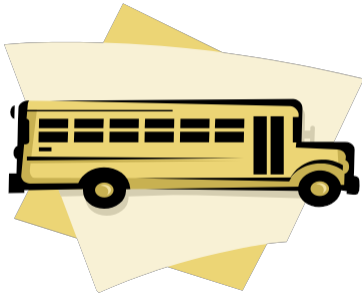
The following suggestions are good place to start when looking for moderators.

1. High School Coaches (make sure they know the rule differences - A comparison of current rules are available on the IESA website.)
2. Teachers in your building. Cultivating teachers for your regular season matches is a great way to drum up support for your program.
3. Retired teachers
4. Former Scholastic Bowl Coaches
5. Principal and other administrators in your building.
6. Ask other coaches in your conference, city, and/or area of the state.

## TRAVEL

Make sure you check with your school on how to schedule buses for away matches and tournaments.

Some districts have the school secretary schedule everything, some have someone in the bus depot, some have activities directors do this and some have the individual coaches set-up their own buses schedule.



## TEAM SIZE

A scholastic bowl team has to have a minimum of 5 players playing at one time.

Some schools have 2 teams, some have a 7th and 8th grade teams and some have a 'varsity' and 'junior varsity' team. This depends on how many kids try-out. Just remember that you have to play 5 kids, so you need to allow for kids who are sick the day of the meet, ineligible, on another team (volleyball, track etc.)

## PRACTICES

Try to get your students used to the lock-out system. Teach them how to set it up and put it away as well so that once meets get under way they can set this step up for you.

Next teach them how a match actually runs. They need to get used to hearing a moderator read them questions and the terminology that is typically used. They also need to get used to working together during bonus points. The prac-

## TRYOUTS

When should you have tryouts? Whenever you have them, that is when your season will begin. You may not begin matches until the Monday of week 30 in the IESA standardized calendar. The kids will be getting anxious and excited so you will need to start practices so they keep this enthusiasm.

When is the right time? Some schools have tryouts after Christmas Break, and some wait until February or March. This is a matter of preference and match schedules.

How do I conduct Tryouts?

There are lots of different schools of thought on this... Some people give a

written test, some give an oral test. This example is a little bit of both.

Give a 50 questions oral test and just have the kids write down the answers. They either know them or they don't. Go through old scholastic bowl questions and make up your own tryout test. The reason for giving the oral test is that this is the way they will receive the questions during a match.

After the oral test, give them a couple of math questions and have them work on the answers in groups of five. It is enlightening to watch how the kids work together and it is a really important skill for scholastic bowl.

## QUESTIONS

The IESA recommends that you purchase practice questions and match questions. T On the IESA website is a list of other question providers. Check it out.

Make sure that you do not practice with your match questions as this is a major ethical violation.

and cannot be at your match.

Practices are best scheduled at the same time every day, but this doesn't always work with other event schedules.

One example of a practice schedule:

Meets on Tuesday and Thursday in February, so practices are scheduled on Tuesday and Thursday in January. Once matches begin some coaches don't

continue practice.

IESA STATE SERIES TEAMS: a maximum of 15 players on your IESA regional entry form (roster).



tices are when you will learn who will be a good team captain. Your captain has to keep a cool head and be a really good listener to all members of the team during competition.

Teach them how to keep score. During matches you will be appointing two kids to keep score on a blackboard or dry erase board for each match. They will need to write the score so that the audience can see the score.

Try and have an actual match once a week at your practice session. For a second practice, some play trivia games, that tutor the kids in things they don't seem to know (i.e. fine arts).

The more you practice, the more you will realize what your team needs to work on.

Note: remember not to practice with your match questions.

## RECORDS

Keep track of your toss-up points earned at each meet. You can have this read over the intercom on your school announcements (this helps to promote the activity and build school spirit).

At the end of the season have a pizza party and have the parents vs. the kids. This is a fun event for all involved and a great way to wrap up the season. At the party you can give out awards at for highest toss-up point earner for your team or % of correct answers.



## CELL PHONE

Cell Phones are a major cause of consternation for moderators at scholastic bowl matches and tournaments. As a coach make sure that you take the time to tell all your students to turn off their cell phones prior to entering a match room. Some coaches go as far as having the students turn their cell phones into the coach who keeps them in a bag for each match.



Penalty: Any disruption caused by a team members communication device will cause that team to forfeit the right to answer the question at the time of disruption and the next question.

## IESA REGIONAL AND SECTIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

How does the IESA assign schools to a Regional and Sectional?

The IESA assigns each team that pays for the activity to a regional within a sectional. The IESA administrator completes these assignments in the following steps:

1. Takes the total number of participating schools and splits it in half to make two classes.
2. Pins two maps with each school participating in a given class.
3. Examines the map and creates 8 sectionals attempting to keep sizes of sectionals similar and geographically based.
4. Splits each sectional into four regional sites based on geography.
5. Posts regional assignments online in February for all schools to view.
6. Each school will receive a scholastic bowl entry center password and should use this password to enter schedule and results as well as their regional entry form by the Record Submission Deadline.
7. The computer tabulates all seed results and the IESA posts the results online in the brackets on the Regional Assignment webpage.

## IESA SCHOLASTIC BOWL

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