

DIVISION 2

2.000 SCHOOL BY-LAWS

2.010 COMPLIANCE WITH RULES; STRIKE BY-LAWS

- 2.011** Member schools of this Association shall adopt the Constitution, By-Laws, and all governing rules for the member's interscholastic activities at the grade levels in which the member participates in the IESA tournament and shall enforce all provisions thereof. The provisions shall not be waived by agreement or otherwise by a member school in activities with a member or non-member.
- 2.012** Except as provided herein, members of the Association, in all athletic activities at the grade levels in which they participate in the IESA state-sponsored tournament series, shall be permitted to participate with one team. That team may only be comprised of either boys or girls as that athletic activity is designated by the IESA unless the school follows the provisions of By-Law 3.110 regarding girls participation on a boys team.
- 2.013** All member schools must submit the information concerning athletic participation as required by the State Board of Education online through the IESA Member Center. Members must also have available upon request by the Executive Director all information pursuant to Sections 2.030 and 3.020.
- 2.014** All interscholastic athletic games, meets, and contests participated in by IESA 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 Associations and modified by the IESA (see Section 4.000). Schools hosting IESA state series contests that do not uphold the By-Laws or Terms and Conditions of a given activity governing the conduct of those contests may be subject to sanctions as determined by the Executive Director.

2.015 School Strike Provisions

Representatives of member schools shall not participate in interscholastic activities during a strike when the member school does not have 51% of its students in attendance and is not meeting the minimal educational requirements of the State Board of Education.

Under the following criteria, regularly scheduled practice sessions may be held during the period when school is not fully operating:

1. They must be conducted for the same length and frequency they would be if school were fully operating;
2. They must be approved by the local Board of Education and school administration;
3. They must be conducted by qualified personnel who meet the provisions of By-Law 2.110; and
4. They must be conducted in such a manner that assures the health and safety of the participants.

If a school is on strike and not in legal session, as defined by the Illinois State Board of Education, on the date of the beginning competition in any IESA state series, students from that school may not participate in the state series.

However, when students from any member school first participate in the beginning level of competition in a given state series, that state series is considered to have begun for all entered schools. If a school subsequently incurs a strike, the qualified teams and/or students will be permitted to continue participating in the state series, with local Board of Education approval, so far as the IESA strike By-Laws are concerned, even though their school may not be in legal session on the dates of subsequent state series competition in that activity.

The IESA school strike provisions do not restrict schools from participating in activities on days when school is not held due to weather or other emergencies. The provisions apply only to situations in which school is not operating due to strike circumstances.

A school that is on strike may host an interscholastic event in which other schools participate. The striking school may not participate in the event.

See Division 5.000 for non-compliance of rules.

Illustrations for Section 2.010

The following are provided for illustrative purposes only and are neither binding nor to be construed as having the effect of the By-laws or Constitution of this organization. In the event of a conflict, whether actual or believed, between an illustration contained in this section and any by-law or constitutional provision then in effect, the by-law or constitutional provision, as interpreted by the Board of Directors pursuant to Section 1.420 of the Constitution of this organization, shall control.

Q. Will the IESA govern fifth and/or sixth grade athletic teams sponsored by member schools that do not enter the IESA state series in a given activity?

A. No.

Q. If a school enters only the seventh-grade tournament of an activity, is the eighth grade team from that school governed by the IESA?

A. No.

Q. Do these and all other regulations govern fifth and sixth grade individuals who are members of junior high school athletic activities?

A. Only those who actually participate on a 7th and/or 8th grade team.

Q. May a regularly-scheduled contest be played on a Saturday if one of the participating schools was on strike on Friday?

A. No, this would be against the intent of this By-Law.

Q. Could a member school which is not in attendance due to a strike participate in an interscholastic contest?

A. A school shall not engage in an interscholastic activity unless 51% of the school's students are in attendance and the minimum program required by state law is being offered. This is in conformity with policy established by the Illinois State Board of Education. See By-Law 2.015 for additional strike provisions.

2.020 RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PRINCIPAL

2.021 The principal of a member school shall be responsible to this Association for matters pertaining to all athletic and non-athletic activities of his/her school. In addition, he/she shall be responsible for ensuring that his/her school is properly represented at all interscholastic events and be responsible for the conduct of the contestants and other persons from his/her school.

Illustrations for Section 2.021

The following are provided for illustrative purposes only and are neither binding nor to be construed as having the effect of the By-laws or Constitution of this organization. In the event of a conflict, whether actual or believed, between an illustration contained in this section and any by-law or constitutional provision then in effect, the by-law or constitutional provision, as interpreted by the Board of Directors pursuant to Section 1.420 of the Constitution of this organization, shall control.

Q. Must the principal personally be present at all interscholastic activities?

A. No. The principal is responsible to ensure proper supervision by officially designated school personnel. Such personnel shall meet the requirements as detailed in By-Law 2.110.

Q. What is "proper supervision"?

A. This term is viewed to require the presence of a certified person employed by the Board of Education and such other personnel as may be necessary to provide control of and be responsible for the safety and welfare of the participants and spectators.

Q. May a coach who is coaching a contest serve as the school's supervisor at an interscholastic contest?

A. No. By-Law 2.092 clearly states that an administrator or school representative, other than the participating coach, must be in attendance at all home contests. Therefore, a coach who is coaching a contest cannot be the school supervisor. It is the principal's responsibility to ensure proper supervision at contests.

2.030 ATTENDANCE & HOME SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY

2.031 Students must attend member schools and may only represent in competition the school they actually attend. See exceptions noted below and 2.140.

2.032 In music organizational events, students from more than one member school may participate together in an event entered by one member school.

2.033 The Executive Director shall have discretion to authorize the use of students from member feeder schools in junior high school activities provided:

- They are students at an elementary attendance center located in the same school district which feeds the junior high school; and
- They are not members of a grade school team in a sport, scholastic bowl team, speech chorale reading group, or music organization group which is entered in the IESA state tournament series; and
- They are members of the junior high school athletic or scholastic bowl team for at least one-half of the regular season contests; and
- Request for use of these feeder students is submitted by the junior high school principal to the Executive Director prior to participation in any given activity; and
- They are eligible under and in compliance with the requirements of these By-Laws; and
- The junior high school principal assumes full responsibility for the conduct of these students during all activities in which they represent the junior high school.

- 2.034** Students who are receiving their education through home schooling may be eligible at the public school at which the student would regularly attend, providing they are in full compliance with the following requirements:
- all eligibility By-Laws other than the attendance By-Law,
 - the home-schooled student's work must be accepted by the school district in which the student resides and be granted credit toward graduation by that school district,
 - the school district shall establish a method to monitor the academic performance of the home-schooled student on the same basis as for students in regular attendance at the school, and
 - the school certifies that the student is meeting the minimum academic eligibility standards for participation.

The school at which the student will participate is required to keep all records to verify compliance with these requirements in the event the IESA is required to rule on the eligibility of the home-schooled student.

- 2.035** Students who are receiving their education through an alternative education plan may be eligible only at the public school at which the student would regularly attend in the school district where the parents/guardian resides, providing they are in full compliance with all of the following requirements:
- all eligibility By-Laws other than the attendance By-Law,
 - the student's work must be accepted by the school district in which the student resides and be granted credit toward graduation by that school district,
 - the school district shall establish a method to monitor the academic performance of the alternative education student on the same basis as for students in regular attendance at the school, and
 - the school certifies that the student is meeting the minimum academic eligibility standards for participation.

The school at which the student will participate is required to keep all records to verify compliance with these requirements in the event the IESA is required to rule on the eligibility of the alternative-schooled student.

Illustrations for Section 2.030

The following are provided for illustrative purposes only and are neither binding nor to be construed as having the effect of the By-laws or Constitution of this organization. In the event of a conflict, whether actual or believed, between an illustration contained in this section and any by-law or constitutional provision then in effect, the by-law or constitutional provision, as interpreted by the Board of Directors pursuant to Section 1.420 of the Constitution of this organization, shall control.

Q. Must a contestant be in school on the day he or she desires to participate in an interscholastic activity?

A. The contestant is not required to do so by the Association rules. Many schools maintain local policies of this sort which would determine if he or she would be permitted to participate.

Q. What is the definition of "the school which they actually attend"?

A. "The school which they actually attend" shall be viewed as the school at which a student is enrolled and permanent records are kept. The only exceptions to this definition would be students who are classified as special education, feeder school, involved in a cooperative team sponsorship, a music organization entry, or meet the criteria in By-Law 2.034 or 2.035.

Q. What is the definition of "alternative education"?

A. Alternative schools are designed to provide educational support and services to students who require a different learning environment or approach than traditional schools. These schools often cater to students facing academic, behavioral, or social-emotional challenges or those at risk of dropping out.

Q. May students from feeder elementary schools participate in a music solo and ensemble or speech contest as representatives of the middle school/junior high school which is an IESA member?

A. Yes. Students who attend a feeder school to their middle school or junior high school may represent the feeder grade school or they can represent the middle school/junior high school in these activities. Each feeder school must be an IESA member school. If the feeder school students will be representing the middle school/junior high school, the entries must be sent in with the middle/junior high school entries. If the student is going to represent the feeder grade school, then the entries must be received from the feeder school. Please see By-Law 2.033 for an exception for chorale reading groups in speech contests.

Q. How often must the written request to use students from feeder schools be made?

A. Annually. Permission shall be granted only after feeder schools have paid membership dues to the Association.

Q. Could a member junior high school bring up their best sixth graders from its three feeder schools to play on a tournament team?

A. Yes, provided the principal complies with the provisions of By-Laws 2.033 and all the requirements of By-Law 3.010.

Q. Can a student who is home schooled for a portion of the day and also attends a public school for a portion of the day participate for the public school?

A. Only if the district meets all the provisions of the home school By-Law.

Q. Softball practice begins in July. We have a new girl in our district, and we have been told she wants to try out but she has yet to register for classes because our registration is not held until the first week of August. Is she eligible to try out and participate for the team if she has not registered or moved to the district yet?

A. In general, this girl would be eligible to try-out, practice, and play in the days prior to the official opening of the new school year. Since practice and games begin before school starts, schools really do not have 100% assurance that even the students who were in attendance the previous school year will actually enroll when school begins. However, in this instance, the principal needs

some assurance that the girl is going to be a bona fide resident of the district and intends to register for classes. Assuming she does register, is a resident of the district, and seemingly plans to attend classes, then she is certainly eligible to continue participating for the school team. If after the first day of classes, she has not registered, did not attend classes, and/or does not live in the district, then she must be removed from the team immediately until she meets all eligibility and residence requirements. Schools would not be required to forfeit any games in which the girl played if she does not attend class the first day as long as she is removed immediately.

2.040 SCHOLASTIC STANDING

- 2.041** All contestants shall be in grades five through eight (5-8) and shall not have passed eighth grade standing. At no time, may a student who is in fourth grade or lower practice or participate with a member school.
- 2.042** A student shall be doing passing work as determined by the local school district in all school subjects and the school shall certify compliance with this By-Law. Use of a player, contestant, or participant shall be deemed such certification.
- 2.043** For all IESA activities, athletic as well as non-athletic, passing work shall be checked weekly. Eligibility will be applied to the Monday through Saturday following the week that was checked. Students must be passing each subject each week to be eligible. Grades shall be cumulative for the school's grading period.
- 2.044** The eligibility check shall be the same day each week unless school is not in session; then it must be taken on the last day of student attendance that week.
- 2.045** For fall sports, the first eligibility check shall be made following the first full week of attendance at the beginning of the school year. During the succeeding weeks of the school year, the eligibility check shall begin the week prior to the first contest in an activity.

Illustrations for Section 2.040

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Q. We are in the 5th week of our nine-week grading period. During our weekly grade check we discovered that we have a student who is receiving four A's and one F in all subjects. Is that student eligible to participate?

A. No. Since grades are cumulative for a grading period and the student is not passing all subjects, the student is ineligible for the following week. When the grade check is taken the following week and if the student is now passing all five subjects, then the student will regain eligibility.

Q. When a student is ineligible for a given week because of grades, may that student participate in practices held during the week of ineligibility?

A. This is a local school decision.

Q. My school will be on winter vacation from December 21-January 5. We took a grade eligibility check on Friday, December 20. If we have members of our boys basketball team who are grade ineligible, are they able to play in contests held during break and/or the week of January 6-11?

A. No. Students who were grade ineligible with the last weekly grade check remain ineligible for all contests until the next weekly grade check is conducted. In this particular situation, the student would be ineligible for a total of three weeks---the two weeks during the winter break and the first week that students return to school. Eligibility for the week starting January 13 will depend on the grade check taken the week of January 6.

Q. Our teacher's grades are due at the office by 3:00 p.m. each Thursday to determine grade eligibility for the following week. One of my teachers reported a failing grade for a student when he turned in grades. On the following Monday, the teacher reported that the student who had been failing turned in an extra-credit report over the weekend and was now considered passing. Is this student eligible?

A. No. The student is ineligible since he was failing on the day that grades were due to the office. The fact that the extra credit project now makes the student grade eligible will help when the grade check is done next Thursday, but the student was failing when the grade check was completed, and as a result, the student is ineligible for the following week. The grade check must be done on the same day each week and cannot count grades earned or received after the check has been completed.

Situation: A new principal has come to Illinois from another state where scholastic eligibility rules differ from those of the IESA. The principal notes in the IESA rules that a student must be passing all subjects weekly to be scholastically eligible. Not understanding how to determine what "passing per week" means, the principal calls the IESA office for an explanation.

Most important to note is that "passing per week" is determined by measuring a student's performance on a cumulative basis from the beginning of a school's grading period (usually a six or nine-week period) through the date on which the check is made. The check should not reflect only a given school week's scholastic performance; rather it should reflect the student's cumulative performance for the grading period through the date of the check. Schools are expected to conduct this weekly check in a consistent manner. Student eligibility or ineligibility is then affected on the Monday following the week that was checked.

For example, consider a school which checks eligibility every Wednesday. Records are processed through the computer and a printout of all students' scholastic standing is given to the athletic director on Thursday. The athletic director's office reviews the list and reports Thursday afternoon to the principal that a student is not passing all subjects as of this check. The principal informs the student and coaches on Friday morning that the student is not passing the required work and is thus ineligible for one week, beginning the following Monday morning. The student may play in contests held that evening or on Saturday, the next day. However, the entire next week, Monday through Saturday, the student is ineligible. The following Wednesday, the process is repeated. This time, when the report reaches the principal on Thursday afternoon, the student's record shows the student is now passing all subjects on a cumulative basis since the beginning of the grading period. Now, the principal will inform the student and coach on Friday morning that the student will become eligible again the following Monday morning. Please note that the student is not permitted to play on this Friday and Saturday because of last week's failure to meet the grade requirements. A student becoming scholastically ineligible by the weekly eligibility check must remain ineligible for one full calendar week before possibly becoming eligible again.

- 2.046** In cases where a contest has been postponed or re-scheduled, the current week eligibility shall be used to determine a student's eligibility. For example, a contest is scheduled to be played on Tuesday and because of poor weather, the contest is rescheduled for two weeks later. A student who was grade eligible for the originally scheduled game but is ineligible during the week of the rescheduled game is not eligible. Conversely, a student who was ineligible the week of the originally scheduled game and is grade eligible the week of the rescheduled contest is eligible to play.

2.050 RESIDENCE

- 2.051** A student shall be eligible if he/she attends the member school in the district in which he/she resides.
- 2.052** If the parents of a student move from one school district to another during the school year, the student may retain eligibility for the remainder of the school year provided the student continues to attend the school in the district from which the parents moved.
- 2.053** In cases where a local Board Policy has been established for children of staff members to attend the school tuition-free, the student shall have eligibility at his/her school of attendance within the district where the parent/guardian is a full-time staff member. A full-time staff member is defined as a staff member employed and compensated by a school district who works thirty-five (35) or more hours per week for the district during the school year.
- 2.054** Tuition students may participate in interscholastic activities at the member school they are actually attending, providing that such non-resident students are paying 100% of the tuition cost as provided in the Illinois School Code.
- 2.055** Students in special education classes have the option of participating for their home school district, which is counting their attendance, and receiving state aid for them or at the attendance center of their special education class. Once the student has chosen the option, it will not be changed unless the student's special education Individualized Education Plan (IEP) changes.

Illustrations for Section 2.050

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Q. What is the definition of a staff member?

A. A full-time staff member is defined as a staff member employed and compensated by a school district who works thirty-five (35) or more hours per week for the district during the school year.

Q. We have a student attending our junior high school. His family lives out of district, but his mom is a staff member and teaches at the high school within our district. Our district has received a legislative waiver from ISBE to allow students who live out of district to attend tuition free as long as one of their parents works for the district. Is the student eligible to participate for our school?

A. Yes, provided the parent who works in the district is a full-time employee of the district.

Q. We have a student attending our junior high school. His family lives out of district, but his dad is (a) a full-time custodian or (b) the dad is part-time custodian within the district. Our district has a Board Policy to allow students who live out of district to attend tuition free as long as one of their parents works for the district. Is the student eligible to participate for our school?

A. In (a) the student would be eligible and (b) the student would not be eligible. Employees must be full-time employees of the district in order for their children to be eligible.

Q. A family is building a new home within our district. It will not be finished by the time school starts in the fall so the parents are living in their old house which is in another district until their new house is ready to be occupied. Our district is going to allow the children to attend tuition free until they move into their new home. What is the eligibility of their children to practice and participate in contests while they are attending tuition free?

A. The students are not eligible to practice or participate in this situation. A student who is a non-resident is only eligible to practice and participate if they are paying tuition. In this case, the district is waiving tuition. However, since the student is not living in the district and is not paying tuition, the student is not eligible to practice or participate in contests until residency within the district has been established.

2.060 TRANSFER

- 2.061** A transfer student is defined as one who transfers from one school to another school after the first day of classes at his/her school.
- 2.062** A student who transfers from one school to another school shall be eligible to participate under the following guidelines:
- a. The student would be eligible to participate in a sport at their new school during the current school year if during the IESA designated season for a sport, the student had NOT participated in a tryout, organized practice, or contest in that sport at their previous school. See By-Law 2.072 regarding student status as a member of a team.
 - b. A student who transfers from one school to another and is eligible in accordance with section (a) above shall become eligible to participate in contests for the new school on his/her eleventh day of attendance at the new school in any sport or activity and provided all other eligibility requirements are met.
- 2.063** A student who transfers from one school to another is eligible immediately if the school from which he/she transfers is involved in a co-op with the school to which he/she is transferring.

Illustrations for Section 2.060

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Q. What does the phrase “eligibility requirements” mean?

A. In general, when a student transfers he/she must have on file with the new school of attendance a birth certificate, 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 such tryout, practice, or contest in any athletic activity, the student must meet the age guidelines as set forth in By-Law 3.050, and the principal can verify passing grades from the previous school.

Q. May a student who plays girls volleyball in the fall in Missouri play girls volleyball for an IESA member school in the winter if her family moves from Missouri to Illinois?

A. Yes. She becomes eligible on her 11th day of attendance. The IESA Board of Directors has determined that the season in which a sport is played in another state is a circumstance beyond the control of the student, the family, and the IESA member school.

Q. May a student who participated in a softball try-out at one school and then moves to a new school prior to the start of classes be eligible to participate on the softball team at the new school?

A. No. The student would not be eligible to participate in that same activity at the new school. The student would be eligible in any activity in which they did not participate in a tryout, practice, or contest at the old school.

Q. According to the IESA standardized calendar, tryouts/practice for the boys basketball season may begin October 15. May a student who transfers to my school in December join our school basketball team?

A. Yes, but only if the student did not try out, practice, or participate in a game with the previous school. If the student tried out, practiced, or participated in a game with his former school, then the boy would not be allowed to join the team at his new school.

Q. May a student who transfers to my school in January participate with our track team when practice may begin on February 25?

A. Yes. This student will have been in attendance at least 11 school days before the start of track practice and therefore is eligible to be a member of the track team. If the transfer occurred on or after February 25 and the student practiced or competed with the former school, the student would not be eligible to join the track team at the new school of attendance.

Q. Even though the IESA calendar allows for girls volleyball practice to begin November 26, our school does not allow our girls to start practicing until December 15. We had a girl transfer to our school and her first day of attendance was December 10. Can she tryout for our volleyball team since we are not holding tryouts until December 15?

A. This will depend on whether she participated in a tryout or practiced with her former school. If she did tryout or practice for the team at her former school, she would not be eligible to join the team at her new school. If she did not participate in a tryout or practice with her former school, then she would be eligible to compete for the team at her new school of attendance.

2.070 USE OF PARTICIPANTS

- 2.071** Only students who are currently eligible under the rules and By-Laws are eligible to participate.
- 2.072** A student becomes a member of the school team when he/she practices with the school team or participates in a contest.

2.080 SCHOOLS WITH WHICH CONTESTS MAY BE HELD

- 2.081** Member schools may permit eligible students to participate in interscholastic activities as school representatives pursuant with the following:
- Schools which are members of this Association;
 - Illinois elementary attendance centers containing any of the grades five through eight which are not members of this Association;
 - Any school (Illinois or non-Illinois) containing grades five through eight as long as that contest is held in an Illinois school;
 - Non-Illinois elementary attendance centers in states adjacent to Illinois which contain any of the grades five through eight.
- 2.082** Member schools may not permit students to participate as school representatives in interscholastic activities with high school or non-school groups.
- 2.083** Member schools are not allowed to practice against or with other schools, including high schools, or allow students from their own school to practice with a different school.

Illustrations for Section 2.080

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Q. Is a team from a member school allowed to participate against teams from non-school organizations, such as YMCA's, wrestling clubs, etc.?

A. No. This is in violation of this By-Law.

Q. Could a team from a member school play a contest against the school faculty?

A. Yes, such games would be permitted at any time, even if they involved students who are certified athletes. As this is not an interscholastic contest, it would not be counted as one of the contests to which a school team is limited by the By-Laws.

Q. Could a team from a member school play a game against the players' parents?

A. Yes. This would be permitted and would have no effect on student eligibility. As this is not an interscholastic contest, it would not be counted as one of the contests to which a school team is limited by the By-Laws.

Q. My 7th grade team was defeated in the regional round of play. Can my 8th grade team that has advanced to the IESA state finals practice against the high school freshman team prior to the finals?

A. No. IESA teams are not allowed to practice against high school students. Additionally, IHSA rules prohibit high school students from practicing with/against junior high school teams.

2.090 SPORTSMANSHIP OF SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES

- 2.091** It is the clear obligation of students, school staff, boards of education, and all other official representatives of member schools in all interscholastic relationships to practice and promote the highest principles of sportsmanship and the ethics of competition, and it is the obligation of the member school to maintain proper crowd control at all interscholastic activities. The Association shall have no responsibility for crowd control or for the actions of school representatives. The Board of Directors shall have full authority to penalize any member school, any of whose representatives or spectators may be adjudged upon competent evidence to have violated these obligations.
- 2.092** The IESA and its Board of Directors require an administrator or school representative (other than the participating coaches) be in attendance at all home contests. It is recommended that in addition to the tournament manager, an administrator or other school representative from the host school be in attendance at all times for state tournament series contests.
- 2.093** The IESA and its Board of Directors recommends that a school have a policy in place when it is necessary to deal with a fan ejection(s).
- 2.094** For all contests, game officials will be required to fill out and submit a special report form for an ejection within 48 hours of the incident. In addition, the host school administrator on duty should also complete a special report form within 48 hours and return it to the IESA office following any ejection.

Illustrations for Section 2.090

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Q. Is the host school exclusively responsible for crowd control?

A. No. While the host school for any activity must assume primary responsibility for the physical management of the activity, including providing for crowd control, this is a mutual responsibility. Visiting schools must also take such measures as are necessary to ensure proper behavior on the part of their own students and spectators.

2.100 MISBEHAVIOR DURING ACTIVITIES

Students participating in interscholastic contests in violation of the By-Laws, or other persons found to be in gross violation of the ethics of competition or the principles of good sportsmanship, may be barred by the Executive Director from interscholastic activities.

2.110 QUALIFICATIONS OF COACHES AND INSTRUCTORS

QUALIFICATIONS OF COACHES FOR NON-ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

Coaches in the activities of speech, music, scholastic bowl, and chess shall be designated by their Board of Education or governing board as personnel responsible for the supervision of the school's contestants. Coaches in these activities do not have to meet any coaching education requirements.

QUALIFICATIONS OF ATHLETIC COACHES

To serve as Head or Assistant Coach, athletic coaches in member schools in the sports in which the school participates in the IESA state series must:

- be regularly licensed by the ISBE as a teacher, administrator, or school service personnel (i.e. counselor, social worker, speech therapist, etc.), or
- be a retired teacher/coach from an IESA or IHSA member school, or
- be a college student coaching as part of an official student teaching assignment, or
- be certified through an IESA approved coaches education program, and
- be a high school graduate or equivalent (see exception below for high school students), and
- be officially employed by the local school board of the member school.

The following courses have been approved by the IESA Board of Directors:

- IESA/Human Kinetics Coaching Essentials course,
- IHSA/Human Kinetics Coaching Principles or Coaching Orientation course, or
- NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course.

A person with a substitute-only license must complete one of the IESA-approved coaching education courses to serve as a coach.

Coaches in the activities of bowling, cheer, and golf must also meet the Qualifications of Athletic Coaches criteria.

High school students may be assigned to assist with the coaching of athletic teams in a member school provided they are under the direct supervision of an individual who is qualified to coach under the provision of Section 2.110.

Any coach who does not meet the IESA coaching qualifications as detailed above will be suspended for a minimum of two games and will not be permitted to coach again until he/she complete an IESA-approved coaching education course. This includes practices as well as contests.

The Board of Directors may apply additional sanctions to schools with multiple violations for non-compliance with the coaching education By-Law.

Illustrations for Section 2.110

The following are provided for illustrative purposes only and are neither binding nor to be construed as having the effect of the By-laws or Constitution of this organization. In the event of a conflict, whether actual or believed, between an illustration contained in this section and any by-law or constitutional provision then in effect, the by-law or constitutional provision, as interpreted by the Board of Directors pursuant to Section 1.420 of the Constitution of this organization, shall control.

GENERAL

Q. What does the phrase “regularly licensed by the ISBE” mean?

A. You have fulfilled the requirements of state law to teach by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Q. If I am not a licensed teacher or administrator and therefore must complete one of the approved coaching education courses, how often do I have to take the approved coaching education course?

A. Once.

Q. All of my coaches, including my cheer coach, are licensed teachers. Can we require that they complete the coaching education course?

A. Yes. This would be a local policy requiring such completion.

STUDENT TEACHERS

Q. May a student teacher assist with the coaching of an athletic team?

A. Yes, provided it is part of the student teaching experience.

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.

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, they must meet the qualification requirements of By-Law 2.110 and its subsections.

RETIRED TEACHERS

Q. Does the provision for coaching by retired teachers refer only to persons immediately retired from teaching, or to retired teachers regardless of the date of their retirement?

A. The by-law simply states “...a retired teacher from an IESA or IHSA member school.” This statement is interpreted literally. It permits a school to utilize any retired teacher from a member school as a coach.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHING LICENSE

Q. May a person with a substitute-only license coach?

A. No. However, once they complete an IESA-approved coaching education course, they are eligible to coach.

MINIMUM AGE OF NON-FACULTY COACHES

Q. Is there a minimum age for non-faculty and/or non-certified personnel who can serve as a head coach?

A. The Board of Directors interprets the provisions of this By-Law to require non-faculty and/or non-certified head coaches to be a high school graduate or equivalent.

COACHING CERTIFICATION NOT REQUIRED

Q. Are there IESA activities where the coach of a given activity would not be required to meet coaching education requirements?

A. Yes. Coaches/instructors for music, speech, scholastic bowl, and chess are not required to meet the coaching education requirements.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AS COACHES

Q. I have a high school student assisting our wrestling squad. My head coach was ejected from the contest. May the high school student take over as the head coach for the remainder of the match?

A. No. You would have to forfeit the remaining matches of the meet unless there is an individual who meets the coaching education requirement in attendance who can assume the duties of the head coach.

Q. May the high school student we have assisting my volleyball coach be the only coach in the gym when my head coach had to miss practice?

A. No. The high school student assisting shall never assume coaching duties unless they are under the direct supervision of a coach qualified under the provisions of 2.110.

Q. May we use high school students to demonstrate skills at practice?

A. Yes, provided they are only demonstrating skills and not practicing against or with the middle school/junior high school athletes.

DEFINITION OF CERTIFIED STAFF MEMBER

Q. What is the definition of a certified staff member or a licensed teacher, administrator, or school service personnel?

A. A school employee who is eligible to participate in the Teacher Retirement System (TRS).

2.120 SELECTION AND USE OF OFFICIALS, JUDGES, AND MODERATORS

2.121 Coaches from participating teams should never be the contest officials.

2.122 All contest officials shall be familiar with IESA contest regulations for the activity which they are officiating. Officials are to adhere to the uniform requirements outlined in the IHSA Sports Official Handbook.

- 2.123** If an assignment has been made by the IESA in the state series and there is an affiliation between an official and a participating team, the official will be reassigned or paid. If an assignment has been made by a host school for a state series contest and there is an affiliation between an official and a participating team, the official will be removed from the contest.
- 2.124** Contest officials shall make all decisions regarding the rules of play. Their judgments and decisions cannot be protested.
- 2.125** The following procedure shall be in effect for payments to officials in both the regular season and state series when contests are postponed or suspended:
- When an official is notified before arriving at the site, there shall be no compensation.
 - When an official arrives at the site and the contest is suspended or cancelled before the contest begins, the official shall be paid one-half of the game fee.
 - If the contest begins and then is suspended until the next day, the official shall receive the full game fee for the contest that began and then a full fee for the completion of the contest the next day.

2.126 Activity Officials

It is essential for the integrity and advancement of the officiating profession that only qualified and trained individuals officiate IESA contests. If a school is aware that an IESA member school is hiring non-licensed officials, please inform the IESA office.

PROVISIONAL LICENSE: A provisional license is available to students who are 15 or 16 years of age. Provisional licensees may work 9th-grade-level contests or below in the sport for which they are licensed, provided they are working with a fully licensed IHSA Official. Students with a Provisional License are not allowed to work any interscholastic contest beyond the 9th grade level. Students with a Provisional License may not work IESA post-season contests.

NOTE: A school's first violation for hiring a non-licensed official in baseball, softball, basketball, wrestling, and/or volleyball will result in a warning. With a second violation, the Executive Director shall have the full authority to determine and impose a monetary penalty equivalent to the cost of one regional official for that activity.

Baseball

It is required that member schools use Illinois High School Association officials licensed in baseball for all regular season contests. The IESA administrative staff shall contract officials for all sectional and state final contests. The regional host will hire officials for the quarterfinals, semifinals, and championship games. For the IESA state series, officials licensed by the Illinois High School Association in baseball shall be used.

- Two umpires shall be hired for all regular season games, both of whom shall be licensed by the IHSA
- Two umpires shall be hired for each regional game
- Two umpires shall be hired for each sectional game
- Three umpires shall be hired for each state-level game

A pre-game conference with umpires and head coaches is required to take place prior to all contests involving member schools.

Softball

It is required that member schools use Illinois High School Association officials licensed in softball for all regular season contests. The IESA administrative staff shall contract officials for all sectional and state final contests. Schools hosting regional contests shall hire the regional officials. For the IESA state series, officials licensed by the Illinois High School Association in softball shall be used.

- Two umpires shall be hired for all regular season games, both of whom shall be licensed by the IHSA
- Two umpires shall be hired for each regional game
- Two umpires shall be hired for each sectional game
- Three umpires shall be hired for each state-level game

A pre-game conference with umpires and head coaches is required to take place prior to all contests involving member schools.

Basketball

It is required that member schools use Illinois High School Association officials licensed in basketball for all regular season contests. The IESA administrative staff shall contract officials for all sectional and state final contests. Schools hosting regional contests shall hire the regional officials. For the IESA state series, officials licensed by the Illinois High School Association in basketball shall be used.

- Two officials shall be hired for all regular season games, both of whom shall be licensed by the IHSA
- Two officials shall be hired for each regional game. Three officials shall be hired for regional FINAL games.
- Three officials shall be hired for each sectional game
- Three officials shall be hired for each state-level game

No official may work more than three state series games in one day.

A pre-game meeting with officials, head coaches, and captains is required to take place prior to all contests involving member schools.

Volleyball

It is required that member schools use Illinois High School Association officials licensed in volleyball for all regular season contests. The IESA administrative staff shall contract officials for all sectional and state final contests. Schools hosting regional contests shall hire the regional officials. For the IESA state series, officials licensed by the Illinois High School Association in volleyball shall be used. For the IESA state finals, the line judges shall also be licensed by the Illinois High School Association in volleyball.

- Two officials shall be hired for all regular season matches, both of whom shall be licensed by the IHSA
- Two officials shall be hired for each regional match
- Two officials shall be hired for each sectional match
- Two officials shall be hired for each state-level match
- Two line judges shall be hired for each state-level match

For regular season matches, regionals, and sectionals, the host school has the option to use qualified line judges. If the host school uses line judges:

- they must be at least 17 years of age; and
- two line judges (no more, no less) must be provided

A pre-match conference with officials, head coaches, and captains is required to take place prior to all contests involving member schools.

Wrestling

It is required that member schools use Illinois High School Association officials licensed in wrestling for all regular season contests. The IESA administrative staff shall contract officials for all regional, sectional, and state final contests. For the IESA state series, officials licensed by the Illinois High School Association in wrestling shall be used.

- Three officials shall be hired for each regional wrestling tournament
- Five officials shall be hired for each sectional wrestling tournament
- Twelve officials shall be hired for the state wrestling tournament

Prior to contests involving member schools, the referee shall meet with the head coaches and team captains.

Track & Field

It is recommended that member schools use Illinois High School Association officials licensed in track and field for all regular season meets. The IESA administrative staff shall contract officials for all sectional and state final meets. For the IESA state series, officials licensed by the Illinois High School Association in track and field shall be used.

- Two starters shall be hired for each sectional meet and will be hired by the IESA office
- Licensed officials as needed will be hired for each state meet

Prior to contests involving member schools, either by a meeting or written communication the referee shall address head coaches and team captains.

Speech

Speech contest hosts shall obtain judges for the contests, preferably from the approved list of judges provided by the IESA office. Host schools shall provide the speech judges with complete rules for the conduct of the contest. All judges shall be people well-versed in the ability of elementary and junior high students to express ideas orally. No coach serving as a judge shall judge students from his or her own school. The IESA office will assign the judge representative to all contests.

Music

Music contest hosts shall obtain judges for the contests, preferably from the approved list of judges provided by the IESA office. Host schools shall provide the judges with complete rules for the conduct of the contest. All judges shall be well-versed and experienced in the area they are to judge. Three judges shall be hired for organizational events and one judge for all solo, ensemble, and choir events. No music director serving as a judge shall judge students from his or her own school.

Scholastic Bowl

Coaches will be allowed to moderate regular season matches. It is recommended that schools contact their opponent ahead of the match, informing them that a coach will be moderating. At halftime, coaches have the option to switch roles and moderate the second half of the match.

Scholastic bowl regional contest hosts shall obtain moderators, scorers, and timers for the contests. The Sectional host shall contract the required number of moderators. For the IESA state final contests, the IESA shall contract the necessary number of moderators. Host schools shall provide the moderators with complete rules for the conduct of the tournament. Moderators used during the state series must be at least 18 years of age. Sectional and state contest hosts shall obtain scorers and timers for all contests.

Cheer

It is recommended that any school conducting a competitive cheer competition use IHSA licensed cheer officials as judges for the competition. The IESA administrative staff shall contract officials who are licensed by the IHSA as needed for the IESA cheer competition.

Illustrations for Section 2.120

The following are provided for illustrative purposes only and are neither binding nor to be construed as having the effect of the By-laws or Constitution of this organization. In the event of a conflict, whether actual or believed, between an illustration contained in this section and any by-law or constitutional provision then in effect, the by-law or constitutional provision, as interpreted by the Board of Directors pursuant to Section 1.420 of the Constitution of this organization, shall control.

Q. Can a school demand that an official be changed for a state series game in which they participate?

A. No.

Q. How can coaches be assured officials know of differences between the IESA and National Federation rules of play?

A. This should be checked with the officials prior to the start of the contest. It would be helpful for a host school to have a copy of the IESA Handbook available to answer such questions by officials or coaches. Exceptions for each sport are given in Division 4 of the By-Laws and are also included with the Terms & Conditions for each activity.

Q. As a licensed official, I arrive at a game and my partner is not a licensed official. What should I do?

A. It is important that only licensed officials work IESA contests. A licensed official should not work an IESA contest with a non-licensed official. In this situation, the licensed official should work the contest WITHOUT the aid of the non-licensed official. The licensed official should report the situation to the IESA office after the contest.

Q. As a licensed official working an IESA contest, am I required to hold a pre-game meeting? As a head coach, am I required to attend a pre-game meeting?

A. Yes. NFHS rules require that officials conduct a pre-game meeting prior to a contest. In addition, the meeting is important in reinforcing contest requirements and expectations. Pre-game conferences may include court/field considerations, equipment legality, sportsmanship expectations, concussion management, etc.

Q. In the rare occurrence that two licensed officials cannot be hired to work my contest, can I use one licensed official?

A: Yes, as long as your opponent, their administration, and the one official who would be working the game are all in agreement. The one official should be paid the total fees both officials would have received. For instance, if your school pays \$45 per official for a regular season game, the one official would get \$90 for working by themselves. Hiring fewer than the required number of officials should not be used as a cost saving measure. Schools should do everything possible to hire the required number of licensed officials.

2.130 STANDARDIZED IESA CALENDAR

- 2.131** All IESA-sponsored state tournament series, sport seasons, and activities shall be conducted on dates established with the standardized calendar adopted by the Board of Directors.
- 2.132** The standardized calendar shall number the weeks of the year, with week one (No. 1) being the first full week of July (Sunday through Saturday).
- 2.133** The standardized calendar shall be updated and adopted annually at the September board meeting for a three-year period and is subject to change. The standardized calendar is available from the IESA website and should be checked periodically by school personnel for updated dates/changes.

2.140 COOPERATIVE TEAM SPONSORSHIP

- 2.141** The Executive Director shall have the authority to approve the formation of cooperative athletic teams or activity programs by two or more member schools in the following activities: girls softball, boys baseball, boys & girls cross-country, girls basketball, boys basketball, boys wrestling, girls volleyball, boys & girls bowling, speech, cheerleading, scholastic bowl, golf, and boys & girls track and field under the following conditions:
- The combined enrollments of all schools involved in the cooperative team shall be utilized to determine the classification for the cooperative team.
 - The cooperative sponsorship agreement is established for a minimum period of two consecutive school years and shall designate the sponsoring school. An additional school may be added to an existing co-op agreement after one year provided:

- they complete a new application for a two-year period,
- the conference (if applicable) approves of the new school being added, and
- the approval of the Executive Director has been given.
- The governing boards of all schools participating in the cooperative team agreement jointly make the application to the IESA for approval of the cooperative team agreement. In addition to the governing boards approving the formation of the cooperative team, 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 that the cooperative team will not be affiliated in a conference, written approval from a minimum of five schools included in the cooperative team's schedule of competition must be secured. When a school renews the co-op application, conference or opponent approval is not required if no changes have been made to the original agreement.
- The Executive Director has the authority to dissolve a co-op after one year provided a letter requesting to do so is signed by the President of the Boards of Education involved in the co-op and the principals of the schools involved in the co-op. All schools must agree to dissolve the co-op after one year for this to occur.

2.142 Application Procedures

A statement signed by the administrators of all cooperating schools designating the name under which the cooperative team will compete.

A statement expressing the reasons for the formation of a cooperative team.

The signatures of the administrator and Board of Education presidents of each of the schools involved in the cooperative.

One application form must be completed and filed with the IESA office for each cooperative team a school wishes to establish. Application forms are available from the IESA office or the IESA website.

The application deadline for cooperative teams during a given school year in a given sport shall be determined by the Board of Directors and will be published in the official calendar.

Any school participating in a cooperative team agreement may not form an individual team representing its own school in that activity.

Any member school participating in a cooperative team agreement is required to pay the IESA activity entry fee for that activity by the initial entry deadline for that activity and prior to participation in the cooperative agreement.

Duplicate team awards may be ordered by the IESA office at the request of a non-sponsoring cooperative team. The cost of the extra awards shall be the responsibility of the requesting school.

Prior cooperative agreements may be renewed for a minimum of two years by signature of an administrator from each school after approval of the Boards of Education of the cooperating schools. If there are changes in the interschool agreement, a new cooperative application must be filed. Conference approval or opponent's approval is not required when a school renews the cooperative agreement and no changes have been made to the original agreement.

For school districts with more than six IESA member schools that form one district team in all activities, a district co-op team may be entered in the IESA state series when all of the following requirements are met:

- All schools involved in the co-op must be a member of the Illinois Elementary School Association;
- The co-op school team is the only team representing the schools involved in the co-op;
- All students participating for the co-op team must meet all eligibility guidelines;
- An application is filed with the Association listing all participating schools;
- Only one activity fee is required

Illustrations for Section 2.140

The following are provided for illustrative purposes only and are neither binding nor to be construed as having the effect of the By-laws or Constitution of this organization. In the event of a conflict, whether actual or believed, between an illustration contained in this section and any by-law or constitutional provision then in effect, the by-law or constitutional provision, as interpreted by the Board of Directors pursuant to Section 1.420 of the Constitution of this organization, shall control.

Q. If a school adds a boys sport team by formation of a cooperative team, must it also add a girls sport team to its program?
A. Simply adding a team for one sex of students by forming a cooperative does not require corresponding action to add a team for the other sex of students. However, schools are bound by the provisions of the Illinois Sex Equity Rules, published by the Illinois 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 Illinois State Board of Education.

Q. May a cooperative team be formed with out-of-state schools?

A. No.

Q. May cooperative teams be formed with non-IESA member schools from Illinois?

A. No. All schools involved in the cooperative agreement must be members. Membership is open to all schools in Illinois with grades five through eight.

Q. May a school form more than one cooperative team in the same sport?

A. No.

Q. May a school form a cooperative team with one school in basketball, 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 of approval by the Boards of Education and the IESA office.

Q. May schools that form a co-op make cuts and/or limit participation opportunities?

A. While the goal of forming a co-op is to increase opportunities for students, it may become necessary to make a cut if the co-op team has too many members for the given activity. These decisions are up to the local districts to work out the details of who will be allowed to try-out and participate on the co-op team.

Q. May a school drop one sport such as fall baseball, in order to enter a cooperative team arrangement in another sport, such as cross-country?

A. Yes. The decision as to which sports to offer is exclusively the prerogative of each local Board of Education.

Q. Is there a deadline for filing application with the IESA office for approval of cooperative teams for each activity for each school year?

A. Yes, the deadlines are published in the official IESA calendar.

Q. May a cooperative team agreement be formed during a sport season, in order to accommodate participating in the state tournament series that school year?

A. No. All cooperative teams for each school year must have applied to the IESA for approval no later than the cooperative agreement deadline for that activity. Applications received after that particular date will be denied for that school year.

Q. If two member schools, whose enrollments for a given year are 70 and 80 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, 70 plus 80 equals a total of 150. This figure of 150 will determine classification for the cooperative team only. The individual schools will still be classified on the basis of their individual enrollments of 70 and 80 respectively for other sports.

Q. If two schools form a cooperative team for any school year, may they redraft their cooperative agreement and add a third school to the cooperative at the end of one year?

A. Yes, provided they file a new two-year agreement, and with approval of the conference (if applicable) and the Executive Director.

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 or if the co-op simply is not working out between the schools, what is the status of the agreement if the administration and Board of Educations by mutual consent terminate the team's existence?

A. Each cooperative agreement must be written for a minimum of two years. It is possible that a co-op can dissolve after one year PROVIDED the **administrators and Board of Education Presidents** of all the schools in the co-op sign a letter requesting that the co-op dissolve listing the reasons why the cooperative arrangement is not working. The reasons for dissolution of the cooperative team are extenuating circumstances accepted by the IESA Board of Directors.

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 activity before the termination of the cooperative agreement?

A. Yes, provided the reasons for dissolution of the cooperative team are extenuating circumstances accepted by the IESA Board of Directors. However, a school in this situation may not enter another cooperative agreement in this activity until the end of the two-year time period of the original cooperative agreement.

Q. May two schools form a cooperative team for any two school years, then subsequently consolidate with each other effective for the second year of the cooperative?

A. Yes. Consolidation of schools joined in a cooperative team agreement will simply supersede the cooperative agreement.

Q. Will the IESA 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.

Q. If schools A and B form a cooperative team and then school B consolidates with or annexes to school C, is the cooperative team still in effect? In other words, is school C obligated to continue the cooperative which B had entered with A?

A. Consolidation and/or annexation actions may negate existing cooperative team agreements. Situations like this should be discussed when the possibility of consolidation or annexation exists.

Q. Which school will receive mail for the cooperative activity from the IESA office?

A. Only the school sponsoring the activity.

Q. Can cooperating schools renew their agreements if they have changes?

A. No. They must submit a new application form and interschool agreement for approval.

Q. Does the initial cooperative application need approval of my conference?

A. Yes, provided you are a member of a conference. If you are not a member of a conference, then you need approval from five of your opponents. Speech, cheer, and bowling co-ops do not need conference approval. Co-op renewals do not require conference approval if no changes have been made to the original agreement.

Q. If two schools have established a cooperative team and during the season for that sport, one of the two cooperating schools experiences a teacher strike may the cooperative team continue to participate during the strike or is it restricted under the terms of the IESA strike By-Laws?

A. The cooperative team will be affected by the strike By-Laws. 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 team will be held in breach of contract.