



2009 Girls Softball State Series Terms and Conditions

In accordance with Article 1.050 of the IESA Constitution, the IESA Board of Directors has approved the Terms and Conditions governing the 2009 IESA Girls Softball State Tournament Series.

I. SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION

A. Enrollment

The combined seventh and eighth grade enrollment for whom the school district receives state aid as of the sixth attendance day of the current school year shall determine the classification of each school after an equal split of the number of entries.

B. Classification

The smallest 50% of schools entered in the IESA Girls Softball State Tournament series will be Class A and the largest 50% of schools will be Class AA.

II. STATE TOURNAMENT SERIES DATES AND SITES

A. 2009 Season Calendar

Entry Deadline (Mon.)	June 8, 2009
Practice may begin (Mon.)	July 27, 2009
Cooperative Agreement due	June 8, 2009
Games may begin (Sat.)	Aug. 8, 2009
Final Entry Deadline (Fri.)	Aug. 14, 2009
On-line Roster & Record Deadline (Wed.)	Aug. 26, 2009
On-line Ranking.....	Aug. 31-Sept. 2, 2009
Class A/AA Regional (Wed., Sat., Mon.).....	Sept. 9, 12, & 14, 2009
Class A/AA Sectionals (Sat.).....	Sept. 19, 2009
Class A/AA State (Fri. & Sat.)	Sept. 25 & 26, 2009
Season must end (Sat.).....	Oct. 3, 2009

B. Regional Tournaments (Class A/AA)

Regional tournaments will be held at a site designated by the IESA Office. In 2009, first round regional games must be held the **Wednesday of Week 10**, semi-final games on **Saturday of Week 10**, and the championship game on **Monday of Week 11**. The Host school sets the playing times. The higher-seeded team will host all first round games unless schools mutually agree to switch sites. The semi-finals and finals will be played at a site designated by the IESA Office.

It shall be the responsibility of regional and sectional host schools to update the scores for each round online in the IESA member center under host administration by 9:00 a.m. of the following school day.

C. Sectional Tournaments (Class A/AA)

Sectional tournaments will be held at a site designated by the IESA Office on **Saturday of Week 11** in the IESA standardized calendar. When a sectional site is undetermined, the two regional winners shall make contact, determine the sectional site, and notify the IESA Office as soon as possible. If both schools desire to host, a coin flip will be conducted by the IESA Office to determine who will host. Starting time as directed by the IESA Board of Directors is 1:00 p.m.

D. State Tournament (Class A/AA)

The state tournament will be held on **Friday and Saturday of Week 12 in 2009**.

E. State Tournament Site

The State Finals will be at "The Champion Fields at Maxwell Park" in Normal. Normal Chiddix Junior High School will be the host school. The IESA Softball Advisory Committee randomly drew the following state pairings for the Class A and Class AA state tournaments at its [October 29, 2008](#) meeting. In case of bad weather on state dates, check the IESA website for information. State tournament information will be given to all qualifying teams as soon as sectional contests are concluded.

Schools that are willing to host a regional or a sectional that is not set must contact Julie Cochran, Administrator for Softball, if interested in hosting. Regional hosts will be accepted until [Monday of Week 10](#). Sectional hosts will be accepted until [Friday of Week 10](#). If no school offers to host a sectional by the deadline, then the regional winners for those unset sectionals will be determined with a coin flip conducted by the IESA office. Regional and Sectional assignments will be posted to the website two weeks prior to the start of tryouts.

Class A Pairings

[Friday, September 25 \(Quarterfinals\)](#)

Game 1--10:30 am	Sectional B vs. Sectional A
Game 2--12:30 noon	Sectional D vs. Sectional E
Game 3--2:30 pm	Sectional F vs. Sectional G
Game 4-- 4:30 pm	Sectional H vs. Sectional C

[Saturday, September 26 \(Semifinals & Finals\)](#)

Game 5--10:30 am	Winners of Games 1 and 2
Game 6--12:30 noon	Winners of Games 3 and 4
Game 7--2:30 pm	Losers of Games 5 and 6 (Third Place)
Game 8--4:30 pm	Winners of Games 5 and 6 (State Championship)

****No game will be allowed to start earlier than scheduled****

Class AA Pairings

[Friday, September 25 \(Quarterfinals\)](#)

Game 1--10:00 am	Sectional F vs. Sectional B
Game 2--12:00 noon	Sectional A vs. Sectional D
Game 3--2:00 pm	Sectional H vs. Sectional C
Game 4--4:00 pm	Sectional E vs. Sectional G

[Saturday, September 26 \(Semifinals & Finals\)](#)

Game 5--10:00 am	Winners of Games 1 and 2
Game 6--12:00 noon	Winners of Games 3 and 4
Game 7--2:00 pm	Losers of Games 5 and 6 (Third Place)
Game 8--4:00 pm	Winners of Games 5 and 6 (State Championship)

****No game will start earlier than scheduled****

III. ENTRIES, ENTRY FEES, AND ELIGIBILITY

A. Certification List

Principals of schools entered in the IESA softball state series shall complete a Certification List prior to the school's participation. The Certification List shall be kept on file but does not have to be exchanged with opponents. Schools are not required to send the Certification List to the IESA Office. Schools may be asked and be required to provide the IESA with a copy of the Certification List on demand. The Certification List is to be used for certification of grade, birth date, and current physical examinations of the competing contestants. A blank certification list may be found and printed from the IESA website.

B. Regional Entry Form

Note ➡

All regional entry forms will be completed and submitted online in the IESA Member Center located on the IESA website at www.iesa.org.

The *Regional Entry Form* found on the IESA website shall be used to list up to 18 certified contestants for state tournament series play.

Teams shall be ruled ineligible to compete in any tournament series contest unless *the Regional Entry Form* has been completed and submitted online at the IESA website before the beginning date of a regional activity.

Each school entering the softball state series must submit its Regional Entry Form via the Internet through the IESA Member School Center to the IESA Office. **Regional Entry Form information is to be completed by the Wednesday of Week 8 in the online seeding process.** Changes, additions, and/or substitutions may be made to the Regional Entry Form information until that team begins regional play.

It is the ultimate responsibility of all competing teams for all athletic activities to ensure that each participant listed on its *Regional Entry Form* is eligible. When you complete the process online you will be asked to submit your name and email address; by doing this you are certifying that each student on your list has a birth certificate on file and they meet the eligibility guidelines as put forth by the IESA.

No changes will be permitted on the *Regional Entry Form* after the beginning of the first game in regional play.

C. Entry fees

Schools must pay an entry fee of \$45 by the initial entry deadline of **June 8**. Those entries postmarked after **June 8** will be considered late and be required to pay a late entry fee of \$90. The IESA Office will **accept entries until August 14**, the final entry deadline.

Late entry fees will be waived for schools designated as new members or for current member schools entering an activity for the first time which petition to participate in an activity after the initial entry deadline. Entry fees will be refunded only upon request prior to the initial entry deadline.

Any school that withdraws from the IESA state series without notifying the IESA Office or withdraws from the state series after the seeding meeting shall pay a \$50.00 penalty, the cost of the umpires for the contest which they forfeited, and that school's share for one contest of any deficit assessment.

D. Eligibility

To enter any of the state series tournaments, a student must be eligible under all of the eligibility rules and conditions of competition of the IESA. These include but are not limited to:

1. Participation

No student is eligible to participate at the same academic grade level for two different school years in the same sport. This is true whether the student attended a member or a non-member school. Participation in one interscholastic contest in a sport constitutes one season of eligibility in that sport.

During the IESA season for a sport, as defined for each sport in Division 4 of these By-Laws, students shall not practice or participate in any non-school competition in the same sport either as an individual or a team member. Examples of non-school competition include (but not limited to) the following: organized leagues, park and recreation leagues, club teams, and youth sport leagues. **One Exception**--Students may participate on the school softball team and still be a member of a summer program until **Monday of week #6** in the IESA standardized calendar. As of

Note ➡

that date, students may only play on the school softball team and must cease all participation on a summer team in softball if they are a member of the school team. **Violation shall cause ineligibility for the remainder of that sport season.** To report a violation of this By-Law, member schools must submit the appropriate form to the IESA Office.

No student shall be a member of a team using ninth grade or high school students. Athletic activities designated as seventh grade shall consist of contestants in grades five through seven. In all other athletic activities, fifth through eighth graders are eligible to participate.

Illustrations for Eligibility

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 1.052 of the Constitution of this organization, shall control. Official rulings shall be requested in writing only by the principal of a member school and shall be provided in writing by the Executive Director. Only a formal ruling from the Executive Director is binding on the IESA.

- Q.** How is "participation in the same sport" defined?
- A.** In a team sport, this term means practice for or competition in an event played under published rules for the sport. In a sport where competition may be in different events or on an individual basis, this term means competition is permitted in any event not included in the junior high school competitive rules of the sport.
- Q.** Could a girl who is on the girls basketball team participate in a free-throw contest sponsored by an outside organization if it were being held during the girls basketball season?
- A.** Yes. Although free-throw shooting is a basketball skill, the interpretation of this regulation permits this.
- Q.** Could a boy on his school's cross-country team participate in a five-kilometer run during the school's cross-country season?
- A.** Yes. Although running is a cross-country skill, the interpretation of this regulation permits this as the five-kilometer distance is not an IESA running event.
- Q.** Could a girl tryout for the school softball team while she is member of a Summer Softball team?
- A.** Yes. Students may participate on the school softball team and still be a member of a summer program until Monday of week #6 in the IESA standardized calendar. As of that date, students may only play on the school softball team and must cease all participation on a summer team in softball if they are a member of the school team in one of those sports. **Violation shall cause ineligibility for the remainder of that sport season.**
- Q.** May a student participate on more than one school athletic team at a time?
- A.** Yes. The IESA places no limitations on this. Some member schools have local restrictions.
- Q.** May a student participate in a tryout for a non-school team participation while a member of a school team in the same sport?
- A.** Yes, provided the tryout is exclusively an experience in which the student is tested and screened for ability and placement on a roster and does not include any instruction, coaching, practice, workout, etc.
- Q.** May a student participate in practice with a non-school team while a member of the school team in the same sport?
- A.** No. except for the initial exception for softball and baseball at the beginning of their season. (see 3.043)
- Q.** According to the IESA calendar, wrestling practice may begin October 29. Our school does not start the school season until January 15. May students from our school wrestle in IWF or IKWF tournaments from October 29 until January 15?
- A.** No. Students are not allowed to participate on any non-school team during the IESA season for that sport.
- Q.** A member of my boys basketball team play on a non-school team during our school's Christmas break despite repeated warnings I gave to the team to not play on no-school teams. What is the penalty for violating Be-Law 3.043?
- A.** Students who violate 3.043 are ineligible for the remainder of the sport season, In this case, the player is ineligible for the remainder of the boys basketball season and all interscholastic games in which the boy plays after playing with the non-school team must be forfeited.

2. Age

For softball, a student shall be eligible to participate through age fifteen (15). If a student in softball becomes sixteen (16) before the final event in the state tournament series, she is not eligible to participate in softball.

Each student must provide the principal of her school with certification of her birth before practice or participation in any athletic activity. This must be a birth certificate or hospital record or a thermostatic copy of such. **A baptismal certificate is not acceptable.**

Illustrations for Age

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- Q.** What determines a sports season?
A. A sports season is defined as the beginning date of practice, according to the IESA standardized calendar, through the final state championship date for that activity. The final date for track is determined by a school's track classification--A or AA.
- Q.** I have an 8th grade boy who will turn 16 the day after the Class A boys baseball state finals. Is he eligible to play on my baseball team?
A. Yes. He is eligible the entire season including the state tournament series.
- Q.** I have an 8th grade girl who turns 16 the day of the girls softball sectional championship. May she play during the regular season, through the regional, and then not play at all in the sectional or state finals?
A. No. She is not eligible to compete in any softball games--regular season or IESA state series contests.
- Q.** May a 7th grade boy who turns 15 during the boys basketball season play on the 8th grade team instead of the 7th grade team?
A. Yes. Due to his age, the 8th grade team is the only team for which he can try out or compete.
- Q.** One of my 8th grade boys turns 16 the day of the basketball state championship. Even though my team will be defeated in the regional, thus making him 15 throughout the season, is he eligible to be on the 8th grade team?
A. No. He is not eligible to try out for the team or compete in any basketball games.
- Q.** According to the IESA standardized calendar, the Class A state track finals end May 10. Am I correct that if a Class AA 8th grader who turns 16 on May 11 is ineligible to participate in track for the entire season while a Class A 8th grader who turns 16 on May 11 would be eligible for the entire season?
A. Yes. The eligibility of a Class A track participant will always end one week earlier than for a AA track participant due to the different state final dates.
- Q.** May a girl who will turn 15 during the 7th grade girls basketball season tryout for the 7th grade team?
A. No. She may only try out for the 8th grade team since this is the only team for which she is eligible.
- Q.** Why is a baptismal certificate not acceptable as proof of birth?
A. The Board of Directors has ruled that only a birth certificate or hospital record shall be accepted. As the baptismal certificate is provided by a church, it is not deemed to be legal enough for our purposes to establish a contestant's date of birth.
- Q.** May a student try out or practice with a team before the student provides a birth certificate?
A. No. It must be on file with the school. It is the administrator's responsibility to let coaches know whose certification is on file.
- Q.** What happens when I have protested a student's age and the administrator of the opposing school refuses or can not produce birth certification?
A. The Executive Director should be notified immediately.
- Q.** What happens if an ineligible player has been found to have been used in a tournament game after the completion of the state tournament?
A. The school is still subject to penalty and could be determined to forfeit all games and awards.

3. Physical Examination

No student shall be permitted to compete in a tryout, practice, or game unless she has filed with her principal a certificate of physical fitness issued by a licensed physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner not more than one year preceding such tryout, practice, or contest in any athletic activity.

No student shall be allowed to participate following a disabling illness or injury without a

physician's release.

Illustrations for Physical Examination

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- 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, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner as set forth in the Illinois State Statutes. The physician must be one who is licensed to practice medicine in all its branches. Some chiropractors have this kind of licensing from the *State of Illinois* and some do not. The chiropractor's physical examination is acceptable only when the physician is licensed to practice medicine in all its branches.
- Q.** Why can a physician's assistant or nurse practitioner administer a physical?
- A.** On July 19, 2002, former Governor George Ryan signed into law Public Act 92-0703, granting signature authority to physician's assistants and nurse practitioners for school physicals ("Physicians licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches, advanced practice nurses who have a written collaborative agreement with a collaborating physician which authorizes them to perform health examinations, or physician assistants who have been delegated the performance of health examinations by their supervising physician shall be responsible for the performance of the health examinations.")
- Q.** Must the form provided by the IESA be used for physical examinations?
- A.** No. This form is provided only as a service and is optional for use by member schools. Some form which may be maintained for the school's records must be used.
- Q.** Why must a student have a physical examination to try out for an athletic activity when the student may shortly be cut from the team?
- A.** The Board of Directors feels this gives each member school liability protection. The possibility of an unknown illness or an injury is as likely in a tryout situation as in a game situation.
- Q.** What is meant by "one year" in terms of this rule?
- A.** "One year" means one calendar year from a given date of one year to the same given date of the succeeding year.

4. Amateurism

As the result of participating in the IESA state series (regional, sectional, state) a student in a member school may accept any award (except cash) which does not exceed \$100.00 in fair market value, in the following sports: baseball, basketball, cross-country, softball, track, volleyball, and wrestling.

A student in a member school may accept a school letter for an interscholastic sport, regardless of cost.

Violation of the provisions of By-Law 3.070 shall cause ineligibility in the sport in which the violation occurred. An official ruling must be secured from the Executive Director before any student who violates these rules may be reinstated to eligibility.

Illustrations for Amateurism

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- Q.** If a student participates in a road race sponsored by (1) a local business; (2) a private running club, may the student receive awards that are greater than \$100 for winning or placing in the race?
- A.** In both of these instances a student may accept any prize or award. IESA amateur rules apply only to awards received as the result of participating in IESA state series events. Since these awards were given as the result of participating in non-school events, students are free to keep any awards given.
- Q.** May a student accept a meal at a restaurant and a plaque in recognition of advancing to the IESA finals in a given sport?

A. The food prize and the plaque are acceptable as long as the fair market value of the items combined is no more than \$100.

Q. May a student accept a trophy valued at \$125 for winning a non-school competition?

A. Yes.

Q. May a student accept a trophy valued at \$50 for making the most consecutive free throws during a sectional basketball game?

A. Yes.

Q. May a student accept a \$25.00 cash prize because she made the winning shot in the regional championship game?

A. No.

Q. If a school team wins the state championship; may team members receive items such as gift certificates for dinners, jackets, sweaters, watches, etc., in recognition of the team's accomplishment?

A. Gifts such as these are permitted as long as the total of the gifts received does not exceed \$100.00 in "fair market value".

Q. Is it acceptable if, by virtue of a student's performance in the IESA state series, the student is awarded:

(a) \$100 in the form of a scholarship

(b) \$100 donated to the scholarship fund of the student's choice

(c) \$100 donated in the student's name to charity

(d) \$100 donated in the student's name to the athletic program at the school.

A. IESA By-laws prohibit a student from receiving any amount of cash for participating in the IESA state series. This is true even if the reward is delayed for presentation following the student's graduation from school. Consequently, example (a) is not permitted, but examples (b), (c), and (d) are acceptable, since the student personally does not and will not receive any cash or merchandise.

Q. If a student plays on a community sports team, and that team wins \$500 cash in a tournament, is the student in violation of the amateur by-laws?

A. No. The rules apply only to receiving awards for performance in IESA state series contests. Cash won in a non-school activity or prizes won in a non-school activity that exceed \$100 in fair market value are allowed because it is non-school activity.

Q. May a student participate in a "jog-a-thon", "swim-a-thon", or other "...thon" activity and receive cash or merchandise prizes for fund-raising efforts?

A. Yes.

Q. Does acceptance of reimbursement of expenses for non-school competition constitute an amateur rule violation?

A. No. IESA amateur rules apply only to awards received as the result of participating in IESA state series events.

Q. May a student coach, teach, or officiate an athletic contest for pay?

A. Yes. The rule refers exclusively to actual playing. An individual may be paid for services performed.

Q. If a student violates the amateur rules, how and when is the penalty affected?

A. Violation is penalized with a period of ineligibility. A report of the violation must be made to the IESA Office for determination of the term and effective date of ineligibility. In addition, the reward must be returned or surrendered, at the direction of the Executive Director.

Q. May a member school athlete accept a cash or merchandise prize won through a drawing or raffle at a high school athletic contest?

A. Yes.

Q. Does the amateur rule apply to events such as three-player basketball, i.e. *Gus Macker* tournament, ten-player softball, 5k or 10k road races, etc.?

A. No. The amateur rules apply only to "IESA state series activities".

5. Participating Under an Assumed Name

In the event students participate in interscholastic competition under any other name than their own, the principal shall immediately suspend violators from further interscholastic participation. The Board of Directors shall then consider the future interscholastic participation of violators and/or persons contributing to a violation.

Illustrations for Participating Under an Assumed Name

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Board of Directors pursuant to Section 1.052 of the Constitution of this organization, shall control. Official rulings shall be requested in writing only by the principal of a member school and shall be provided in writing by the Executive Director. Only a formal ruling from the Executive Director is binding on the IESA.

Q. To what does the term "interscholastic competition" refer in this rule?

A. "Interscholastic competition" is a competitive situation in which the student represents his or her school and is sponsored or otherwise directly connected with his or her school.

Q. Could a coach be held responsible for submitting students in competition using names other than their own?

A. Definitely. The school, the coach, and the students would all be subject to penalty for violation of this By-Law.

6. Coaching School Participation

During the IESA season for that sport, no student who is a member of the school team in that sport shall participate in any coaching school/camp for that interscholastic sport. Violation shall cause ineligibility to be determined by the Executive Director. A coaching school is defined as any program sponsored by an organization or individual, which provides instruction in sports theory and skills to groups of persons.

Individual private lessons, school physical conditioning programs, and use of students for demonstration purposes in coaches' clinics are not considered coaching schools and students in a member school may participate.

Illustrations for Coaching School Participation

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Q. Could students be used to demonstrate skills and drills during an IESA athletic clinic?

A. Yes. The athletic clinics sponsored by the IESA are for coaches, not for student instruction.

Q. Can individuals participate in a camp after they have lost in the state series?

A. Yes. Once a team loses in the state series, provided that the school team has no more contests scheduled, the season is considered complete and the individuals from the team may participate in camp or club activity.

7. All-Star Participation

Students shall not participate in any all-star competition in a sport during that sports season, either of a team or individual character.

Illustrations for All-Star Participation

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 1.052 of the Constitution of this organization, shall control. Official rulings shall be requested in writing only by the principal of a member school and shall be provided in writing by the Executive Director. Only a formal ruling from the Executive Director is binding on the IESA.

Q. Could an athletic conference make up an All-Star team from the other member schools in the conference to play the conference winner?

A. No, this would be in direct violation of this By-Law.

8. Open Gym Limitations

Schools may open their facilities to students during the school year under the following conditions:

- a. A variety of recreational activities are available during the courses of the year.
- b. There is no coaching or instruction in the skills and techniques in any sport at any time.
- c. Participation is voluntary and is not required directly or indirectly for membership on a school squad.
- d. Comparable opportunities are afforded to all participants.

9. Provisions for Summer Participation

Students may participate either as an individual or as a member of a team in any type of athletic activity during the summer months. Students from the same school may participate on the same

team. Summer months is defined as the time that the school classes end in the spring until classes begin in the fall. A coach of a member school may coach students from the school during the summer.

10. Provisions for Out-of-Season Contact

NOTE ➡

After the official ending date of a sport season (according to the date listed in Division 4 of the IESA Handbook) students from the same member school may play together in a sport provided the school has no affiliation with the activity. In addition, a coach may coach the students from the school provided he/she is not coaching the students as an official representative of the school and is not receiving any school compensation for coaching.

Q. My girls' basketball team finished their season in December. Can my coach of that team and the same girls who comprised the school team, play in a non-school AAU tournament that is being held in Chicago in January?

A. Yes, provided the school has absolutely no involvement with the non-school tournament. The school cannot pay for the entry fee; provide transportation, uniforms, a coaching stipend, etc. The "team" has to attend totally separate from the school and only as its own entity without any school involvement or affiliation.

11. Scholastic Standing

All contestants shall be in grades five through eight and shall not have passed eighth-grade standing.

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.

For all IESA activities, athletic as well as non-athletic, passing work shall be checked weekly to govern eligibility for the following Monday through Saturday. Students must be passing each subject each week to be eligible. 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.

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.

Grades shall be accumulative for the school's grading period.

Q. Our teacher's grades are due to the office by 3:00pm 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 was failing turned in an extra credit report over the weekend and was now considered passing. Is the student eligible?

A. No. The student is ineligible since he/she 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 the 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.

IV. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

A. Regional and Sectional Tournaments

Each member school hosting a regional or sectional softball tournament shall receive no prepaid compensation from the IESA Office. Each school hosting a regional game must hire and contract two IESA registered officials for each game, the costs of which are to be split by participating schools. Each participating school should bring a check made payable to the host school for each regional game they play. Competing schools should contact their host school for the specific reimbursement amount. Regional hosts are not required to submit a financial report of any kind. The IESA Office shall hire sectional umpires and reimburse softball sectional hosts for approved official's pay.

No admissions will be charged at the regional and sectional tournaments. Participating schools can be assessed on a per-game basis to cover operating deficits of a regional or sectional tournament. Please contact IESA office if you need to assess a deficit.

Regional Hosts who play on fields without lights cannot start a game any later than 5:00pm.

B. State Tournament

All receipts and vouchers for workers and expenses shall be forwarded to the IESA office within one week for approval by the Executive Director. The IESA Office will pay game umpires. One-third of the profit shall be returned to the host school and two-thirds of the profit retained by the IESA. Any deficit expenditures will be paid by the IESA.

Any outside vendors besides concessions at state tournament events shall be contracted at least one month in advance through the IESA Office instead of the host school. All concessions revenues may be kept by the host school.

The following items will not be approved as expenditures: payment for substitute teachers, rental of playing facilities, and cost of utilities used during a tournament unless previously approved by the Executive Director.

State Tournament Series admission prices are as follows:

Regional -- None Recommended

Sectional -- None Recommended

State -- Friday: \$2.00 for grades K-8 and Senior Citizens (62+)
\$5.00 for high school and adults


Saturday All Day Pass: This pass is good for all games on the Saturday.
\$3.00 for grades K-8 and Senior Citizens (62+)
\$7.00 for high school and adults

V. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE

A. Assignment and Advancement of Teams

Class A teams will be assigned to one of sixteen (16) regional tournaments. Likewise, Class AA teams will be assigned to one of sixteen (16) regional tournaments. All tournament play shall be single elimination.

B. Online Seeding

 Starting in 2009-10, Host schools will conduct the seeding online. **All schools entering the girls softball state series must enter the following information online by Wednesday of week 8 in the IESA standardized calendar [Wednesday, August 26, 2009]:**

- Team Record
- Season Schedule with results
- Regional Entry Form
- Special Comment Section on your team's season

ONLINE SEEDING PROCEDURES

1. A school that has not completed any of the online seeding procedure steps has no say regarding seed. It is that school's responsibility to enter the appropriate material online by the deadline. *Detailed instructions and screen shots are included in the volleyball initial mailing.*
2. All schools must enter their team record, season schedule with results, regional entry form, and special comment section by Wednesday, [August 26, 2009](#) by midnight.
3. In the second step, schools will rank all participating schools in their regional except their

own, based on the information each team submitted online in the previous step. Each school will have three days to complete this step of the online seeding process. This second step will open at midnight on Monday, [August 31, 2009](#) and close at midnight Wednesday, [September 2, 2009](#).

Factors to consider in seeding (Listed in Random Order) these factors are all available to each online coach.

- a. Season Record
 - b. Quality of team's competition [written summary]
 - c. Smaller schools competing against larger schools (1A vs. 2A) [written summary]
 - d. Head to Head competition [schedules and results]
 - e. Record against common opponents [schedules and results]
 - f. Roster of post-season team [written summary/regional entry form]
4. The computer will tabulate the votes and the host managers are required to view all ranking results and confirm seed results online Thursday, [September 3, 2009](#). **Note: If two or more teams are tied for any seed the computer will denote the teams that are tied and the host manager will break the tie by a coin flip.**

A scheduled game involving a team withdrawing from competition following the regional seeding/organizational meeting shall be considered a forfeit. That team is subject to penalty. The remaining teams shall not be re-seeded.

All matches are to be played in the proper order and shall not be changed unless permission is granted by the IESA. Matches should not be played during school hours.

Information may be sent to the media or any others making such a request. Host Schools are required to confirm seeds online in the IESA Member Center host administration section.

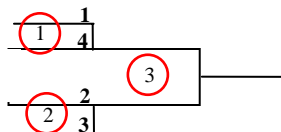
All games are to be played in the proper order and shall not be changed unless permission is granted by the IESA. Games should not be played during school hours.

C. Regional Tournament pairings

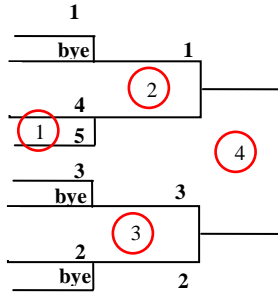
As determined by the IESA Board of Directors, all regional and sectional hosts will now post brackets online. This will be done through the IESA Member Center. Directions will be forwarded to each host school in their host packet.

Host schools will be required to get online to confirm tournament seeds as well as enter dates, times and locations. This will automatically create a bracket that can be viewed from the Regional Assignments on the IESA website.

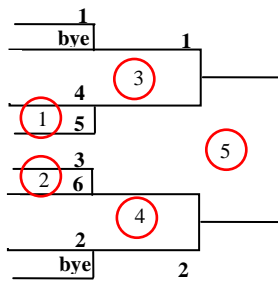
Host schools will also need to get online and advance the winners as the regional and sectional tournaments are played. This will involve entering the score of the game and submitting the information. Regional Tournament brackets will be set-up as follows:



In four-team tournaments, seed #1 vs. seed #4 in game 1 and seed #2 vs. seed #3 in game 2.



In five-team tournaments, seed #1 vs. bye and seed #4 vs. seed #5 in game 1 in top bracket; seed #2 vs. bye and seed #3 vs. bye in the bottom bracket. In the second round, seed #1 plays winner of game 1 in game 2 and seeds #2 and #3 play game 3.



In six-team tournaments, seed #1 vs. bye and seed #4 vs. seed #5 in game 1 in top bracket; seed #3 vs. seed #6 in game 2 and seed #2 vs. bye in bottom bracket. In the second round, seed #1 plays the winner of game 1 and seed #2 plays the winner of game 2.

VI. ADVANCEMENT OF WINNERS

A. Class A and Class AA

The winners of the sixteen- (16) regional tournaments in each class will advance to Sectional tournament play. The winners of the eight Sectional tournaments in each class will advance to State Tournament play.

The Regional and Sectional hosts are responsible for inputting their tournament results online in the IESA member center host administration immediately following their regional and sectional championship.

VII. TOURNAMENT RULES & IESA EXCEPTIONS

A. Rules of Play

With the exception of all rounds of regional tournament play, the home team in each state tournament series game shall be determined by a coin flip. In all regional games, the higher-seeded team is automatically the home team even if the game is held somewhere other than the higher-seeded team's traditional home field.

At sectional play the odd numbered regional will call the coin flip to determine who will be the home team.

The current National Federation Rulebook is adopted as the official rules of play for the state tournament series with exceptions listed below and in Section 4.023 of the [2009-2010 IESA Handbook](#).

B. Exceptions to the National Federation Rules

NOTE ➡ ***Metal Cleats are prohibited.***

The 15 runs in 3 innings and 10 runs in 5 innings rules are in effect. The game is over if a contest is ended and the score final of the visiting team is ahead by 10 or more runs after the completion of five innings of play – or – if the home team is ahead by a similar number of runs after four and one-half innings. The same is true if the visiting team is ahead by 15 or more runs after the completion of three innings of play or if the home team is ahead after two and one-half innings.

Note ➡

The use of Safe-Base, or a manufactured reproduction thereof, shall be **mandatory** in all regular season and tournament play. The application of the base rule shall follow NFHS guidelines.

It is strongly recommended that coaches be attired in school colors although adult coaches are not required to be in the uniform of the team.

Numbers appearing on the front of the softball uniform, although not required, may be smaller than six inches.

The designated player/FLEX rule is in effect.

C. Season Limitations

No member school participating in the girl's softball state tournament series shall organize; hold tryouts or practice prior to Monday of Week 4 ([July 27, 2009](#)) in the IESA standardized calendar.

A member school may conduct its first interscholastic contest in girls' softball no earlier than Saturday of Week 5 ([August 8, 2009](#)), and its last interscholastic no later than Saturday of Week 13, ([October 3, 2009](#)) in the IESA standardized calendar.

Only schools which have an established school team which has engaged in at least three (3) interscholastic contests prior to the regional seeding meeting in that sport during the current season may participate in team competition in Association-sponsored meets or tournaments.

Illustrations for Season Limitations

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 1.052 of the Constitution of this organization, shall control. Official rulings shall be requested in writing only by the principal of a member school and shall be provided in writing by the Executive Director. Only a formal ruling from the Executive Director is binding on the IESA.

- Q.** Must a member school which does not enter the IESA tournament series in basketball follow the basketball regulations contained in the By-Laws?
- A.** No. Member schools must abide by all regulations in activities at the grade levels in which they enter IESA tournament play.

- Q.** Is a scrimmage considered to be a practice or an interscholastic contest?
- A.** If a scrimmage or workout involves students from one member school only, it is considered to be practice. If students of more than one school are involved, it is an interscholastic contest and subject to all regulations pertaining thereto.

- Q.** Could a team representing a member school who participates in the IESA state series in basketball play as a school team in a summer tournament?
- A.** Yes, providing the tournament in its region is scheduled after the close of the school year for that particular team.

- Q.** Can basketball teams representing their schools participate in "shootouts"?
- A.** Yes, if such "shootouts" are held during the school year and during the school's basketball season, each game played during the "shootout" must count as a regular season interscholastic contest. If the "shootout" is held during the school year either before or after the school's basketball season, the school team could not participate.

D. Tournament Team Limitations

Each tournament team shall consist of a maximum of 18 uniformed girls whose names appear on the current Certification List. No substitutions may be made after the beginning of the first game of regional play.

NOTE

All tournament play shall be single elimination with the winning opponent advancing from regional to sectional and from sectional to state level competition. If an opponent incurs a violation in the state series that requires a contest or contests to be forfeited, the following policy will be followed:

- If the violation affects only one round of competition, the opponent within that round will advance on to the next round of competition within the state tournament series.
- If the violation affects more than one round of competition, no opponent from the preceding rounds of competition shall be advanced to the next round of competition within the state tournament series.
- The advancement of opponents shall be determined by the IESA office.

VIII. TOURNAMENT POLICIES

A. Authority

By authority of the IESA Constitution and By-Laws, the Board of Directors shall interpret and enforce the Terms and Conditions.

Reminder

Schools hosting IESA state series contests who do not uphold the by-laws governing the conduct of those contests may be subject to sanctions as determined by the Executive Director.

B. Failure To Appear And Forfeiture Of Contest

Any school that withdraws from the state series without notifying the IESA Office or withdraws from the state series after the seeding meeting shall pay a \$50.00 penalty, the cost of the umpires for the contest which they forfeited, and that school's share for one contest of any deficit assessment.

A team failing to field the required number of starting players (9) within ten minutes of the scheduled game time shall forfeit the game unless there are extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the participating schools. The IESA Office and tournament host school must be notified of such a decision. A game that is played even though the school failed to field the required number of starters within 10 minutes of the scheduled game time cannot be protested for that reason.

Any coach or school official who withdraws a team from the field of play under any circumstances prior to the official completion of the game shall forfeit all rights to protest, except when the principal of the forfeiting school believes circumstances which affected the health, safety, or welfare of the students required such action, he or she may file a protest.

C. Weather and Game Postponements

No state series contest shall be forfeited due to weather conditions. If the administrator of any participating school determines he or she cannot reach the tournament site due to weather conditions, the host school shall reschedule that particular game as soon as possible. The IESA Office and the opposing schools shall be notified of the rescheduling. Other contests scheduled on that particular date may still be held.

The following steps will be used if a game or games are not completed by the start of the State Tournament.

Step One: If weather conditions persist at the Regional or Sectional facility the IESA may elect to designate an alternative field to complete play.

Step Two: If it is not possible to move the playing field and the games have not been played prior to the start of state play then the higher seed will advance.

Step Three: If the teams remaining have the same seed then a coin flip will be performed by

the IESA office between the two teams on the Thursday prior to the start of the State Tournament play on Friday.

NFHS Rules for Ending A Game

Rule 4-2-2: If a game ends because of weather conditions, or darkness interferes with play so that the game is called (ended) by the umpire, it is a regulation game provided:

- a. Five full innings have been played; or if the home team has scored an equal or greater number of runs in four or four and a fraction turns at bat the visiting team has scored in five turns.
- b. Play has gone beyond five full innings and is called when the teams have not had an equal number of completed turns at bat. The score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last completed inning; unless the home team, in its half of the incomplete inning, scores a run (or runs) which equals or exceeds the opponent's score, in which case, the final score shall be as recorded when the game is called.

D. Warm-up

NOTE ➡

In all state series level play, each team will receive a 10 minute pre-game team defensive warm-up time on the playing diamond. Arrangements and administration of these warm-ups will be made by the Regional and Sectional Host schools. At the state series play the visiting team, determined by a coin flip, will take infield warm-up first.

E. Softballs

Each regional and sectional host will receive Rawlings softballs (IESA12Y47L) to be used in your respective tournament. There will be enough for two (2) softballs per tournament contest scheduled. Schools hosting a first round regional game should receive their allotment. Participating schools do not need to supply a softball for each regional game. Host schools must have some identical balls on hand in case the 2 balls are not enough to complete the game. One ball shall be given to the loser of each regional/sectional championship game and one ball shall be given to the winner of each regional/sectional championship game.

In 2004 the ball compression levels changed. Manufacturers have properly marked all balls with the COR and compression levels. For Fast Pitch Softball the COR will be .47 and the compression will be 375lbs.

In 2009, ball specifications changed again to include the dynamic stiffness measurement. This measurement more closely resembles the bat-ball collision occurring on the field. Measurement must not exceed 7,500 pounds per inch. Compliance will be monitored through the NFHS Authenticating mark.

F. Players and Team Personnel

No team will be allowed in uniform more than 18 players whose name appears on the Regional Entry Form.

Reminder ➡

The NFHS mandated that masks/guards must be worn on all fast pitch batters' helmets.

F. Awards

Plaques shall be awarded to the regional and sectional winner and trophies to the champion, runner-up, third and fourth place winners at the state final competition.

Twenty-six individual awards will be presented to the first, second, third, and fourth place team winners in the state final competition.

H. Conduct of Coaches and Players

Any player or coach ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next interscholastic contest at that level of competition, and all other interscholastic contests at any level in

the interim, in addition to other penalties the IESA or school may assess. Any player or coach ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct a second time in any activity during the school year shall be ineligible for all remaining interscholastic contests the day of the ejection and the next two interscholastic contests at the level at which the ejection occurred, in addition to other penalties the IESA or the school may assess. For Example: a player is ejected one time during the softball season for unsportsmanlike conduct and one time during the volleyball season also for unsportsmanlike conduct. That player is not allowed to participate in the next two volleyball matches following the second ejection.

By-law 5.120

Reminder ➡

- Q.** What happens to a player who is ejected during the regional and the team loses the regional contest?
- A.** The ejected player would have to serve out the penalty at the level at which the penalty occurred. Additionally, they would not be eligible for **any contests** at a different level until the penalty is served.

Students participating in the state series in violation of the IESA 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 the remainder of the state tournament series and future interscholastic activities.

If players or representatives of any school entered in a tournament are found guilty of carelessly or maliciously breaking, damaging, or destroying property or equipment belonging to the host school or other visiting schools, the players or representative's school shall be held responsible for costs incurred in repairing or replacing such property or equipment.

If a coach is ejected from the contest and he or she is the only person responsible for the supervision of spectators, the contest would have to be forfeited as no one would be available to coach and/or supervise. *By-law 2.020*

I. Facilities

The host school shall not make its playing fields available to the visiting teams for practice sessions other than for the customary scheduled batting practice and infield just before game time. *By-law 3.131*

Reminder ➡

- Q.** My regional tournament is being hosted at a public park. Can I organize a team practice at this facility?
- A.** No, the By-Law prohibits visiting teams from practicing at a school's playing fields. Individuals could utilize the park for practice or a team could schedule a game at the facility, but a school may not organize a team practice at the facility once the site has been chosen to serve as a state series facility.

J. State Tournament Information

State tournament hosts will be required to send packets of information material to all sectional hosts to pass on to their sectional winners.

K. Media

Space shall be made available for news media personnel covering the state series and host schools should make every effort to accommodate the media. Reporting information to the news media shall be the responsibility of each tournament manager and is strongly recommended.

L. Signs, Banners, And Noisemakers

The displaying of signs, banners, placards, balloons, or constructed frames through which players run is prohibited. Local tournament managers should not permit these devices to be brought into the playing areas.

Tournament managers should not permit spectators to bring mechanical noise-making devices, megaphone, radios, or tape players into the playing area of the state tournament contest.

M. Video-Taping

Videotaping is allowed in all IESA Softball State Tournament Series contests. Any taping for the purpose of reviewing during the contest shall be prohibited.

N. Other

All fans that attend IESA state series contests must wear shirts at all times.

No alcoholic beverages shall be served at any IESA activity where there are students participating.

No raffles, 50-50 or other drawings, or other contests for money-raising purposes are to be conducted during IESA state tournament series play.

State tournament managers are required to hang official IESA and Rawlings® banners.

Limits on free passes to the state tournament series shall be two (2) managers, two (2) statisticians, one (1) scorekeeper, and twelve (12) cheerleaders in uniform.

O. Sportsmanship of School Representatives

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 nor 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.

The IESA and its Board of Directors strongly suggest an administrator or school representative (other than the coach) be in attendance at all home contests.

The IESA and its Board of Directors recommends that a school have a policy in place when dealing with fan ejections.

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 Sportsmanship

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 1.052 of the Constitution of this organization, shall control.

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

A. *No. While the host school for any activity must assume a 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.*

IX. Officials

All umpires shall be familiar with the IESA contest regulations and the National Federation Rule Exceptions for softball. Contest officials shall make all decisions regarding the rules of play. Their judgments and decisions cannot be protested.

A. Regular Season Umpires

Two officials shall be hired for all regular season games, both of whom shall be licensed by the IHSA.

B. State Final Umpires

Three officials will be hired for each state final tournament game. All officials shall be licensed by the Illinois High School Association.

C. Regional And Sectional Umpires

For Regional and Sectional Tournament play, two officials registered with the Illinois High School Association in softball shall be used. Schools hosting a game or games, with approval from the other competing schools, shall contract umpires for regional games. Any official who lives in the school district of one of the participating schools shall not be contracted to umpire unless the schools playing in the tournament agree upon the official.

IESA shall contract the umpires for the sectional contests. Host schools are to pay the sectional umpires and then will be reimbursed by the IESA.

D. Payment

Regional -- \$42.00 per game

Sectional -- \$47.00 per game (umpires assigned by the IESA Office).

State -- \$60.00 per game (umpires assigned and paid by the IESA Office).

NOTE Officials assigned to a regular season and state series contest that is postponed or suspended:

- An official is notified before arriving at the site: No compensation.
- An official arrives at the site and the contest is suspended/cancelled before it begins: A show up fee is provided to the official which is one half of the game fee.
- The contest is started and then suspended until the next day: Official gets the full fee for the started game and then a full fee for the completion of the game the next day.

Illustrations for Officials

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 1.052 of the Constitution of this organization, shall control. Official rulings shall be requested in writing only by the principal of a member school and shall be provided in writing by the Executive Director. Only a formal ruling from the Executive Director is binding on the IESA.

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

A. No.

X. Coaches Education By-Law (mandatory for 09-10)

A. Athletic coaches in all member schools shall be designated by their Board of Education or governing board as personnel responsible for the supervision of the school's contestants. Athletic coaches in member schools shall be regularly certified to teach in the schools of Illinois or must complete an approved coaching education course prior to the start of practice/tryouts.

B. If the following criteria are met for athletic coaches who are certified to teach, these individuals are exempt from taking a required coaches education course:

- Teaching or supervising classroom activity at least two periods daily in the member school; or
- Employed full-time in any elementary, junior high, or high school; or
- An assistant teacher, resource aide, lay supervisor or other paraprofessional who is employed at least half-time per day in the member school; or
- Teaching full time, within the provisions of the Illinois School Code, in a member school or in a vocational or special education cooperative in which the member school participates; or
- A retired teacher from a member school provided the person remains certified to teach.

C. The Board of Directors shall approve proposed coaches education courses through which individuals may meet the requirements of section A above.

D. Students in teacher-training institutions may be assigned to assist with the coaching of athletic teams in a member school as a part of their practice teaching course provided they are under the direct supervision of an individual who is qualified to coach under the provision of Sections A or B above.

E. High School students may be assigned to assist with the coaching of athletic teams in member schools provided they are under the direct supervision of an individual who is qualified to coach under the provisions of By-law 2.110

Illustrations for Coaches Education

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 1.052 of the Constitution of this organization, shall control. Official rulings shall be requested in writing only by the principal of a member school and shall be provided in writing by the Executive Director. Only a formal ruling from the Executive Director is binding on the IESA.

GENERAL

Q. What does the phrase 'regularly certified to teach in the schools of Illinois' mean?

A. You are a person who has fulfilled the requirements of state law to teach by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Q. How often does a coach have to take the approved coaches education course?

A. Once.

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, the person must meet the qualification requirements of By-law 2.120 and its sub-sections.

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 a member school." This statement is interpreted literally. It permits a school to utilize any retired teacher from a member school as a coach, without needing approval of the person as a non-faculty coach, provided the person remains certified to teach in the schools of Illinois.

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 high school graduate or equivalent.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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. Your team would have to forfeit the remaining matches of the meet.

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 who is assisting can never assume coaching duties unless he/she is under the direct supervision of a coach qualified under bylaw 2.110.