

IESA Scholastic Bowl Advisory Committee Meeting
Friday, May 30, 2025
10:00 a.m., Zoom

Committee Chair: Jack Small; Moderator, Anthony Gullo; Principal, Chris Forman, Atwood-Hammond; Coach, John Barrett, Pleasant Plains; Coach, Kristin Strey, Rockford Marshall; Coach, Lynn Hasselbring, Cissna Park; Coach, Pam Evans, Hume-Shiloh; Not in Attendance, Coach, Mike Jones, Normal Metcalf; Jim Hitchcock, Coach, Coal City

The IESA Scholastic Bowl Advisory Committee, in its Zoom meeting on May 30, 2025, makes the following recommendations to the Board of Directors for their June 6, 2025 meeting:

Recommendation #1

Current: Rule 3, Section 2, Article 2, g.g1 The rulebook states that coaches can challenge a question if both coaches agree. *(While answers should be assumed to be correct, if both teams' coaches agree that the answer is wrong, that answer may be overturned. If both coaches don't agree, the answer is wrong, then the written answer must be the required answer.)*

Proposed: New language- Coaches will be allowed one challenge per match to challenge the correctness of an answer. If the coach is correct that the answer was wrong, they do not lose their challenge. If the coach challenges an answer and the answer is correct, they lose the ability to challenge a question for the remainder of the match.

Rationale: The rulebook states that coaches can challenge an answer, but they do not have the opportunity unless both coaches agree, which rarely happens. This now allows coaches to challenge an incorrect answer.

Scholastic Bowl Rule Book: Rule 3, Section 2, g.g1

Board Action: APPROVED

Recommendation #2

Current: There are 24 tossup questions and 20 bonus questions, consisting of four parts worth five points each for a maximum of 300 points.

Proposed: Change the format of the bonus questions to 20 bonus questions of three parts each, worth 10 points each for a maximum of 30 points. Teams have 10 seconds to answer each part of the bonus. The rebounding team gets 3 seconds to answer the rebounded bonus. With this change, the maximum number of points a team can now earn is 500.

Rationale: The committee feels that this format is better and is more in line with the IHSA's bonus format, and will prepare students for IHSA competition. This format is also widely used in regular season tournaments that member schools compete in.

Rule Book: Rule 5, Section 2

Board Action: APPROVED

Recommendation #3

Current: All regular season and tournament matches shall be terminated when one team's point total exceeds 300 points

Proposed: With the change of the bonus format, all regular season and tournament matches shall be terminated when one team's point total exceeds 500 points.

Rationale: This change is necessary so that teams do not exceed the maximum number of points when it comes to the pool play tiebreaker. Moderators are not consistently enforcing the max points allowed, which can affect the pool winner in the event of a tie.

Rule Book: Rule 1, Section 5, Article 3

Board Action: APPROVED

Recommendation #4

Current: Last year, we changed the pool play tiebreaker format to match the tiebreaker format for pool play runner-up. Rule 1, Section 7, Article 2 (*If more than two teams are tied for second place in any pool or tournament play, then the team with the highest total number of points in all matches combined throughout the competition shall finish as the runner-up. Note: This procedure is used only when ties occur to determine the runner-up.*)

Proposed: Remove Rule 7, article 2, since we now break the ties for pool play and pool play runner-up in the same way. Change the language in Rule 1, Section 6, Article 4 to address breaking a tie for pool play and pool play runner-up when more than one team has the same record ending pool play. (*If more than two teams have equal records in any pool or tournament, then the team with the highest total number of points in all matches combined throughout the competition shall finish as the pool winner. If two teams have the same number of points combined, the winner of the match between the two teams will break the tie. NOTE: This format is used to determine both the pool winner and pool runner-up.*)

Rationale: Rule 1, Section 7, Article 2 is redundant since we now break ties in the same manner for determining a pool winner and pool runner-up.

Rule Book: Rule 7, Article 2, and Rule 1, Section 6, Article 4

Board Action: APPROVED

Discussion Topics

Scholastic Bowl Recognition Awards

Post-season hosting rotation

Moderators for the post-season

Allowing appeals of moderators' decisions.

Points of Emphasis 25-26

1. Before a match begins, moderators should state how they will recognize a team/player who has buzzed in.
2. Teams are not required to wear matching shirts.
3. Coaches and moderators are encouraged to read the IESA Scholastic Bowl Rule Book

CLASS A

	Sectionals
Pool A	A, H, G, D
Pool B	C, B, F, E

CLASS AA

	Sectionals
Pool A	H, B, C, G
Pool B	E, D, A, F

Next Meeting – Friday, May 29, 2026