

IESA Scholastic Bowl Advisory Committee Meeting

Friday, May 29, 2026

10:00 a.m., Zoom

Committee Chair: Jack Small; Moderator, Anthony Gullo; Principal, Chris Forman, Atwood-Hammond; Coach, Lynn Hasselbring, Cissna Park; Coach, Pam Evans, Hume-Shiloh; Jim Hitchcock, Coach, Coal City; Coach, Kirstin Mills, Paris Crestwood. Not in attendance, Coach John Barrett, Pleasant Plains;

The IESA Scholastic Bowl Advisory Committee, in its meeting on May 29, 2026, makes the following recommendations to the Board of Directors for their June 18, 2026, meeting:

Recommendation #1

Current: (44) match questions shall be a combination of twenty-four (24) toss-up questions and twenty (20) bonus questions, consisting of three parts, each answered separately, which are rebounding.

Proposed: Forty-four (48) match questions shall be a combination of twenty-four (24) toss-up questions and twenty (24) bonus questions, consisting of three parts, each answered separately, which are rebounding.

Rationale: The committee feels that adding the four bonus questions puts us in line with the IHSA format and prepares students for the high school level.

Scholastic Bowl Rule Book: Rule 1, Section 3, Article 1, Forty-four

Board Action: **APPROVED**

Recommendation #2

Current: If a lockout system does not have a timer, stopwatches will be provided to each room.

Proposed: It is recommended that If a lockout system does not have a timer, moderators will prompt with three seconds left before the 10 seconds expire on a part of a bonus question.

Rationale: Some schools lack lockout systems that display the timer for everyone to see. Requiring a moderator to prompt when there are three seconds left to answer a bonus question helps students know that time is almost up.

Scholastic Bowl Rule Book: Rule 2, Section 1-Equipment

Board Action: **APPROVED**

Recommendation #3

Current: Units are required unless otherwise noted. Moderator will not prompt

Proposed: Units are no longer required.

Rationale: The Board of Directors modified this recommendation from the Advisory Committee's recommendation that moderators will prompt for units.

Scholastic Bowl Rule Book: Rule 5, Section 4, Article 6- General Rules

Board Action: **APPROVED**

Recommendation #4

Current: Legal Communication-While answering toss-up or bonus questions (individual only)

Proposed: Remove or bonus and add, "On bonus questions, any member of the controlling team may answer". Even if one player gave an initial answer and was prompted for more information, any team member can answer for "clarity".

Rationale: The words, "(individual only)" coupled with "bonus questions" go against the team answering bonus questions. On bonuses, any member of the controlling team may answer. Even if one player gives an initial answer and is prompted for more information, any team member can still answer.

Scholastic Bowl Case Book: Rule 7, Section 1, Art 3.b

Board Action: **APPROVED**

Recommendation #5

Current: In a 5-team regional, pools consist of a 3-team pool and a 2-team pool. The 2-team pool plays each other 2 times with a possible 3rd match if they split the first two matches.

Proposed: Do away with 2 pools in a 5-team regional and make it a round robin tournament where every school plays each other to determine the regional winner. All tiebreaker procedures still apply to determine a regional winner if needed.

Rationale: The IESA receives several complaints each year about the 2 and 3 seeds only playing each other in a 5-team regional.

Terms and Conditions: VIII

By-Law: 3.125

Board Action: **APPROVED**

Recommendation #6

Current: When schools drop after the roster and record deadline, there is a \$50.00 penalty that the school pays to the IESA.

Proposed: Any school that drops after the roster and record deadline in scholastic bowl must pay a \$250.00 fine to the IESA.

Rationale: This year, we had several teams drop the day before or the day of the regional. When schools drop this late, it creates a burden on the host schools, which have already posted their schedule for the regional and communicated the schedule to parents and schools.

By-Law 5.028

Board Action: **TABLED**

Recommendation #7

Current: Scholastic Bowl has two classes, with the bottom 50% of schools registered based on enrollment placed into Class A, and the top 50% placed in Class AA.

Proposed: Add a third class to Scholastic Bowl, with each class made up of 33.3% of the total number registered based on enrollment. The third class will be implemented in the 2027-2028 school year.

Rationale: Scholastic Bowl, on average, has 380 schools registered each year, with 190 schools in each class. In AA, there is a large disparity in enrollment between the bottom and top of AA. Adding a third class would allow for more opportunities for schools to advance to the state tournament.

By-Law 4.141

Board Action **APPROVED**

Admin Responsibilities

Share a database of moderators with schools

Discussion Topics

Scholastic Bowl Recognition Awards

Post-season hosting rotation

Requiring moderators to complete a training

Teams competing with only 4 players

Allowing teams to have a full 10 seconds to respond to a part of a bonus.

Points of Emphasis 26-27

1. Before a match begins, moderators should state how they will recognize a team/player who has buzzed in.
2. Coaches and moderators are encouraged to read the IESA Scholastic Bowl Rule Book.

CLASS A

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

CLASS AA

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

Next Meeting – Friday, May 28, 2027-Zoom