

# IESA APRIL UPDATE

Spring brings change in many different capacities. If there will be changes to your administration or coaching staff, please make sure that information is updated before your school closes for the summer.

## MEMBER CENTER HIGHLIGHT

Information may be updated by accessing the "Your School" tab in your IESA Member Center. To update administrator and coach information, you will need to log-in to the Member Center using your Administrator password. When updating information, please include cell phone information.

As a special request, we would ask all schools to enter the name and contact information for their athletic director. We are often asked to facilitate connections between new and experienced athletic directors and having up-to-date information will be helpful. Thanks in advance!

Enrollment for the 2025-26 school year is underway!

Using your school's administrative password, you may go online to create your membership/activities invoice to be forwarded to the IESA along with payment. If your district has a "feeder" school, that school will pay only the membership fee for 2025-2026.

## 25-26 ENROLLMENT

Please review the [Pre-Registration Checklist](#) prior to accessing the registration link. If you have any questions or need password information, please contact the IESA Office.

As a reminder, the deadline for membership and Fall activities is June 9.

## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

The Board of Directors will be meeting on April 11. If there are items you would like discussed during this meeting, please contact your Board Representative. This information may be found by accessing your Member Center and clicking on the Email Center link



# ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes from Activity Advisory Committees with Board action may be found on each activity webpage. Winter activities will have their minutes and recommendations presented to the Board of Directors in April.  
[Basketball](#)--- [Cheer](#)--- [Chess](#)--- [Volleyball](#)--- [Wrestling](#)



## RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES

**Spring Officials Appreciation Week** is April 6-12. Please take an opportunity to thank those officials you have hired this year for their dedication and service to the students of Illinois. #thankanofficial



## DIVISION SPORTSMANSHIP WINNERS

The IESA Division Sportsmanship Award recognizes outstanding behavior of a member school in each of the 15 IESA divisions. Schools are voted on by their peers in each Division in March of each school year.

To be eligible, a school must be involved in at least 5 IESA activities, have no ejections or reports of unsportsmanlike conduct for the entire school in any activity (players, coaches, and/or fans) and the school and community must exemplify all around good behavior indicative of good citizens and good sports.

Congratulations to:

A- Vernon Hills Hawthorn North  
A- Grayslake  
A- Island Lake Matthews  
A- Lake Zurich North  
B- Woodhull AlWood  
C- Willowbrook Westview Hills  
C- Lisle  
D- Wilmington  
E- Ottawa Wallace

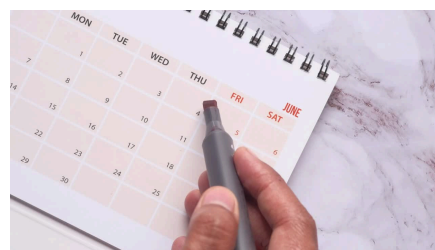
F- Princeville  
G- Cissna Park  
H- Bloomington Cornerstone  
I- Lincoln Carroll Catholic  
J- Augusta Southeastern  
K- Royal Prairieview Ogden  
L- Findlay Okaw Valley  
M- Pawnee  
N- Altamont  
O- Bethalto Trimpe



## CALENDAR UPDATES AND REMINDERS

An ad hoc committee met during the 2023-24 school year to review the IESA Calendar. Their recommendations will be implemented during the 25-26 school year. The **online calendar** reflects all of the changes that have been adopted. The Committee's recommendations can be found [here](#).

In addition, the Baseball and Softball Committees recently recommended changes to the post-season calendar. You can review their recommendations by accessing the Advisory minute links included in this newsletter.





# CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

The IESA Celebration of Excellence allows the Association to express gratitude and recognize remarkable individuals who have dedicated their time and talents to the students within our member schools. These outstanding individuals have made significant contributions to their activities in collaboration with the Association, leaving a lasting impact.

This event recognizes those who exemplify sportsmanship, maintain longevity in their activities, achieve high performance, and foster lifelong friendships with the IESA. The Association is proud to celebrate their remarkable contributions and accomplishments.

You can find information on the Celebration and all the IESA Award programs on our [awards site](#).

Congratulations to all of our 2024 recipients! 2025 [award winners](#) will be recognized this April.



## 2025 IESA WORKSHOPS

Each year the IESA hosts workshops for Athletic Directors and activity coaches.

The Annual Athletic Director workshop will be held at the Double Tree Hotel in Bloomington on Sept. 5. Registration information will be available in April. This event is a wonderful opportunity to network and build your knowledge base.

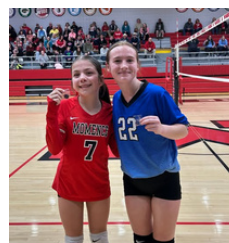
On Nov. 7, the IESA will be hosting the Scholastic Bowl workshop for coaches, sponsors, and moderators. This workshop will also be hosted at the Double Tree Hotel. Information will be available online in May.



## RECOGNITION

Congratulations to all those who had individuals selected for post-season **Outstanding Sportsmanship pins!** Those selected have been featured on our Facebook and Instagram pages. Special thanks to all the Regional and Sectional hosts for providing this information. **#showyoursportmanship**

**Good Sport Reports**—Thank you to everyone who has submitted a Good Sport Report this year. It is wonderful to see all the support our coaches and athletes show each other, their opponents, and officials. Keep up the great work!



# TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF AI

The integration of AI into middle school activities management is no longer a futuristic concept—it is a practical and powerful tool that ADs can use today to transform their programs. From streamlining logistics and enhancing communication to improving safety and fostering personalized student experiences, AI offers solutions that address the unique challenges of this role.

However, the implementation of AI must be approached thoughtfully. By addressing concerns such as data privacy, cybersecurity, and the risk of over-reliance, ADs can ensure that AI is used responsibly and effectively. With careful planning and balanced integration, AI can empower middle school activities directors to inspire and empower the next generation while maintaining the human connection that makes these programs so impactful.

As technology continues to advance, ADs who embrace AI will be better equipped to adapt to changing demands, deliver exceptional programs, and create meaningful opportunities for students. By leveraging the full potential of AI, middle school ADs can focus on what truly matters: inspiring and empowering the next generation.

- Dr. James Weaver, NFHS Director of Performing Arts



## OFFICIAL BALLS

The IESA works with two great companies to provide the balls used in the State Series. The “Officials Balls” are required for post-season play.

### IESA Official Ball Models

**Girls Softball**– Rawlings **RIESASB**

**Boys Baseball**– Rawlings **RIESABB**

**Girls Basketball**– Rawlings **CNTR285**–IESA

**Boys Basketball**– Rawlings **CNTR295**–IESA

**Girls Volleyball**– Mikasa **VQ2000**

For Sales Representative Information, please click [HERE](#).



## PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: HORACE MANN

As teachers, coaches, administrators and staff, you help your student-athletes prepare for success on and off the field. Horace Mann helps you do the same – providing insurance, financial wellness and retirement solutions that help you succeed in and out of the classroom.



Horace Mann®

Why Horace Mann?

- Insurance solutions: Discounts and plans built for educators, including auto and home coverage that comes with our Educator Advantage package of benefits at no additional charge
- Financial wellness resources: Free tools and programs to help educators manage student loan debt, monitor their credit and more
- Retirement strategies: Plans to help educators achieve a secure financial future

Horace Mann is here to support you in the game of life by helping you protect what matters today and prepare for the future you deserve.

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