

IESA OCTOBER UPDATE



MEMBER CENTER HIGHLIGHT: FALL ENROLLMENT COUNTS

We are in the process of gathering 7th and 8th grade enrollment numbers from 2025-2026 for all IESA member schools. We request this information starting each October for use in determining classifications for IESA activities the following school year.

Please log in to the IESA Member Center using your School Password (The athletic password will NOT access the link.) and complete this important task as soon as possible. Enrollment numbers should be entered no later than Friday, December 12.

The link for the Enrollment Survey is located in the Important Messages area, above your 2025-2026 Activity Tracker. Please click on the link and enter the total numbers for 7th grade students and 8th grade students enrolled at your school as of September 30, 2025. These numbers will be the same information that you provided to ISBE this fall.

Please do NOT include any enrollment numbers for 5th or 6th graders, even if you use these students in your programs.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

The Board of Directors met on September 15. Minutes of the meeting can be found by clicking on this [LINK](#).

Minutes from Activity Advisory Committees with Board action may be found on each activity webpage. Two committees had their minutes and recommendations presented to the Board of Directors in September.



SCHOLAR ATTITUDE APPLICATION

Application materials will be available beginning October 15th. Each member school may submit one application for consideration. The deadline for application submission will be January 15th.



NATIONAL ANTHEM/PEP BAND

Through our National Anthem and Pep Band program, the IESA has been able to spotlight the musical talents of selected performers at State Championship events. If you have students or groups within your school who would like to submit audition materials, please click on the applicable links: [National Anthem](#), [Pep Band](#).

DIVISION MEETING

Every member school is required to review the Division Meeting presentation this fall. This presentation is currently available online through the IESA Member Center. Member schools will have until December 20th to complete this requirement.

IESA ACTIVITY ENTRIES

The entry centers for Cheer, Chess, and Bowling are open. If you are interested in participating in these activities, please log in to your Member Center using your school password. If you need assistance creating an invoice, don't hesitate to get in touch with the IESA Office.



CALENDAR UPDATES AND REMINDERS

Please keep an eye on these upcoming deadlines:

October 6- Entry deadline for Wrestling, Volleyball, Scholastic Bowl, and Track

October 9- Speech Final Entry Deadline

September 26- Refund deadline for Girls Basketball

October 20- Boys Basketball Coop deadline

October 25- Boys Basketball Refund deadline

October 31- Cheer Entry Deadline

November 1- Wrestling, Track, Scholastic Bowl, and Volleyball Final Entry Deadline



HOSTING OFFICIALS

As we move into basketball season, we want to remind you that hosting officials is a crucial component in providing a positive contest experience and retaining these individuals within the activity.

Pre-Contest

- We encourage you to greet the officials when they arrive.
- Provide the officials with an appropriate dressing room. Even for outdoor contests, this is greatly appreciated by officials and can go a long way in retaining their services.
- Make sure that you are providing competent table and scorekeeping personnel. This will help the game progress smoothly and reduce potential issues that you and/or the officials may need to address.

During the Contest

- Be visible. This is of great help to officials should an issue arise. This also helps to remind spectators, coaches, and players of appropriate conduct expectations.
- Be active in addressing inappropriate behavior. You don't need to wait for an official to point out problematic behavior.
- This may seem like a small thing, but have water available for your officiating crew.

Post-Contest

- After the contest, make sure that you or someone from your staff escorts the officials out of the playing area and safely back to the dressing room. Do not allow any unauthorized persons into the dressing room of the officials or permit individuals to confront them.
- Make arrangements for compensating the officials. For special payment situations, please ensure that the officials are notified in advance of the contest.

These are all small things that can have a significant impact on the management of the contest and the retention of officials. While all of us may not be able to increase our game fees, we are all capable of enhancing an official's experience.



SCHOOL OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to A-C Central Middle School in Ashland, which was selected as the IESA Sportsmanship School of the Month for September! Ashland A-C Central will be highlighted on our social media platforms, and will also receive a \$100 DICK's gift card.

Schools of the Month are selected from all the Good Sports Reports submitted throughout the month. The Officials Advisory reviews all submissions during that month and selects the program to be recognized.

Congratulations, to the Knights!



SPORTSMANSHIP

IESA will continue to award Outstanding Sportsmanship pins during the 25-26 seasons! Those selected will be featured on our Facebook and Instagram pages. We thank the Regional and Sectional hosts in advance for facilitating this program. #showyoursportsmanship

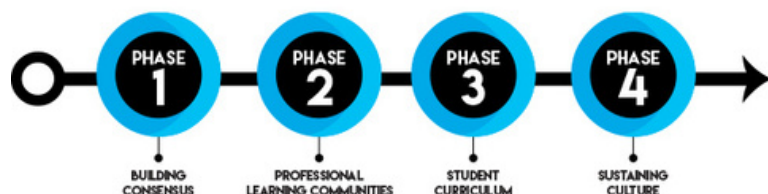
Good Sport Reports—We look forward to receiving Good Sport Reports this year. It is wonderful to see all the support our coaches and athletes show each other, their opponents, and officials!



THE INSIDEOUT INITIATIVE

The InSideOut Initiative is a national movement that empowers and equips school communities to implement purpose-based athletics by connecting student-athletes to transformational coaches in a culture of belonging for their social-emotional and character development.

InSideOut is a 4-Phase Initiative that provides a proven pathway for developing a transformational culture. The Four-Phases include; Consensus Building, Professional Learning Communities, Student Curriculum and Sustaining Culture.



Just because sports take place in a school setting does not make them education-based. It takes intentional leadership, transformational coaches, and well-defined learning outcomes to ensure sports participation results in the development of the student's human potential. Interested in learning more? Visit the [INSIDEOUT](https://www.insideoutinitiative.org) website.



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](#).

As a reminder, Mikasa will be offering [special pricing](#) through February.



PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: DICK'S SPORTING GOODS

In anticipation of the start of new seasons, we are passing along a Shop Event at your local DICKS Sporting Goods store.

20 percent OFF SHOP EVENT

10/10/25 thru 10/13/25

Hosted at your local DICKS Sporting Goods



From Friday, October 10, through Monday, October 13 DICKS Sporting Goods is offering the families of the IESA a 20 percent off discount throughout the store. Grab the items you need for the season and all the other gear you have been wanting!

The coupon is valid in-store on the specified dates and must be presented at the register during checkout.

Be sure to use the coupon linked below, which is specific to our organization.

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS EVENT COUPON](#)