

IESA NOVEMBER UPDATE



ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION & FEE INFORMATION SURVEY

The link for the Activity Participation and Fee Information Survey is located in the Important Messages area, above your 2025–2026 Activity Tracker. This survey collects participation information that is sent to ISBE every year.

The survey also requests the contest fees that your school/district pays officials for the various activities. This information is especially helpful in setting post-season pay rates. If you have not already done so, please take a moment to complete this information.

FALL ENROLLMENT COUNTS

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.

Enrollment numbers should be entered no later than Friday, December 12.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Board elections for Divisions C, G, I, K, and O have begun. Member schools in those Divisions have been emailed voting instructions.

To be eligible for service on the Board, candidates must hold a valid administrative certificate and be a superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, or assistant principal.

If you are in one of the above divisions, I encourage you to participate in the election process.



SCHOLAR ATTITUDE APPLICATION

Application materials are now available. Each member school may submit one application for consideration. The deadline for application submission is January 15th.

More information on the program can be accessed [HERE](#).



SHOW US YOUR SPIRIT!

From November 1 to March 1, we want to see your fans and students showing off their school pride during any of your IESA activities! Snap a photo or video of your crowd, cheer squad, or team in action! Email your photos, videos, or social media links to bailey@iesa.org for a chance to be featured on our official IESA platforms! (Each school may submit one entry per activity.) The winner of our Show Us Your Spirit Contest will have school representatives invited to attend our annual Celebration of Excellence at the end of the school year!

DIVISION MEETING

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

CALENDAR UPDATES AND REMINDERS

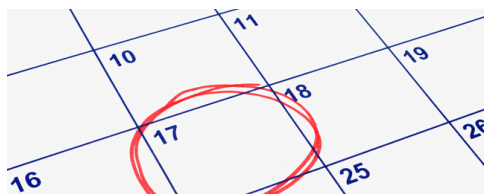
Please keep an eye on these upcoming deadlines:

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

November 7- Scholastic Bowl Workshop

November 11- Cheer Cooperative Deadline

December 1- Wrestling and Volleyball Cooperative Deadline



IESA ACTIVITY ENTRIES

The entry centers for 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.

The IESA Chess State Tournament is in its 14th year of offering both individual and team championships. This two-day event takes place at the Peoria Civic Center and will see over 800 students compete in a Medley Team Swiss System format, accommodating players of varying skill levels.

For over 11 years, the IESA Bowling State Tournament has been held at Town and Country Lanes in Joliet. This prestigious event features over 370 student-athletes from more than 70 IESA member schools competing in what is recognized as the largest known Scratch Varsity Middle School event in the country.

If you are interested in getting your students involved, don't hesitate to get in touch with the IESA Office.



FEEDER SCHOOLS

What is a feeder school?

Feeder schools are elementary attendance centers within the same school district that feed into the junior high school. Feeder schools must have paid IESA membership dues for these students to be eligible to participate.

The junior high school principal must submit a Feeder School Notification Form to the IESA before the students may participate in any activity. The principal assumes full responsibility for the students' conduct during all activities in which they represent the junior high school.

How may feeder school students be used?

For 5th and 6th-grade students from member feeder schools to be eligible to participate in junior high activities, they need to meet all of the eligibility requirements listed in the by-laws (i.e., current physical, grade eligible, age eligible, etc.).

In addition, students from member feeder schools:

- May not be members of a grade school team in a sport, scholastic bowl team, speech chorale reading group, or music organization group that is entered in the IESA state tournament series.
- Must be members of the junior high school athletic or scholastic bowl team for at least one-half of the regular season contests.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT



This year, the IESA will recognize the outstanding and tireless work of member athletic and activity directors. These highlights can be accessed from our social media platforms. We would love to honor your school's AD! Please have your athletic director access the form from the included QR code.



SCHOOL OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Glenwood Middle School in Chatham, which was selected as the IESA Sportsmanship School of the Month for October! Chatham Glenwood 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 Titans!



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 “LOVE, YOUR MIND” PLAYBOOK

The “Love, Your Mind” Playbook

There’s no one-size-fits-all approach to building a mental fitness routine, but there are plenty of ways to take care of your mind. The key is finding what works for you—and sticking with it.



Offense

Be proactive about positive thinking



Defense

Best practices to avoid or cope with negativity



Warm Up

Prioritize physical health & well being



Take a Time Out

Best practices to reset & recover



Tag in a Teammate

Seek out support from family & friends

The “Love, Your Mind” campaign, from Huntsman Mental Health Foundation and the Ad Council, offers inspiration, community, and educational resources to encourage people across the U.S. to be more open and proactive when it comes to their mental health. Visit the [LOVE, YOUR MIND](#) website.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

University of Georgia Football stars Dan Jackson, Jalon Walker, and Malaki Starks talk about the importance of mental health in sports.

CHASE ELLIOTT'S STORY

Chase Elliott, NASCAR driver, talks about the importance of community.



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: SCHEELS

IESA is excited to partner this year with SCHEELS.

At Springfield SCHEELS, they have a team of customer service experts passionate about the products within their **SCHEELS** department. They are dedicated to providing the best retail experience in our customers' eyes and minds, where everyone can discover their passion for sports, hunting, fishing, camping, and much more. Springfield is home to the 200,000-square-foot SCHEELS retail experience, showcasing Illinois' most extensive selection of sports, sportswear, and footwear under one roof. Unlike a typical sporting goods store or department store, the Springfield SCHEELS is a collection of entertainment venues, women's, men's, and kids' shops, and sports and game shops. Leading brands like Nike, adidas, Under Armour, and The North Face will keep you active year-round.

In addition, Springfield SCHEELS is committed to providing philanthropic support to the community. This includes supporting local youth sports, with many opportunities throughout the year.