

IESA JANUARY UPDATE



MEMBER CENTER HIGHLIGHT

The IESA Office will post links for tasks or forms for data collection in the "Important Messages" section of your Member Center. Some of the links will stay active after use- i.e., submitting a Good Sport Report- while others will be removed from the Messages area after the task has been completed- i.e., submitting fall attendance numbers. Please review this area for any incomplete tasks. Please contact the IESA Office with any questions.

COACH & SPONSOR INFORMATION

As we approach the Winter activity championships, please ensure that the contact information for your head coach and/or activity sponsors is up to date. Having up-to-date email addresses and cell phone numbers is essential for hosts to communicate important tournament information or weather-related changes outside regular hours. This contact information update should also be extended to your Spring personnel.

BY-LAW REMINDER

What schools can I schedule?

IESA member schools may participate with/against:

- IESA member schools
 - Non-IESA schools containing any of the grades 5-8.
 - Any school (Illinois or non-Illinois) containing grades 5-8 as long as the contest is held in an Illinois school.
 - Non-Illinois attendance centers in states adjacent to Illinois that contain any of the grades 5-8.

Member schools may not participate against/with non-school teams or high school teams. If you have questions, please contact the IESA Office.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

The next Board of Directors meeting is January 30. If there are items that you would like discussed, please contact your IESA Board Representative. This information may be found in your Member Center. After logging in, click on the Email Center link. Your representative's information will be listed.



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 in April!

OFFICIAL'S APPRECIATION WEEK

There are so many individuals who give of their time to facilitate junior high contests. Please take a moment to "like" our social media posts recognizing officials and show support for these dedicated individuals. Also, look for our messages during **Officials Appreciation Week - January 11-17**.

CALENDAR UPDATES AND REMINDERS

Please keep an eye on these upcoming deadlines:

January 15: Scholar Attitude Applications Due

January 28: Entry Deadline for Bowling and Chess

January 29: Music Host Deadline

February 5: Music S&E, Org Entry Deadline

February 11: Bowling Coop Deadline

February 13: Final Entry Deadline for Bowling and Chess

February 13: Music S&E Participant Information Deadline

USPS NEW PROCEDURES!!!

The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) implemented new procedures for dating mail on Dec. 24, postmarking letters and packages with the date they are processed at a postal facility rather than when they are dropped off in a mailbox — a shift that could affect whether time-sensitive mail is considered on time. USPS is clarifying in a new rule that the postmark will reflect the date an envelope is first processed by an automated USPS sorting machine, potentially days after it was dropped off — not the actual drop-off date.

Best advice is to mail items well in advance of deadlines.

When mailing a "time-sensitive" item, consider taking it inside the post office and choosing one of these in-person options to document that it was in USPS' hands ahead of a deadline:

- Request a manual postmark (also called a local postmark) to ensure the date matches when your item was accepted.
- Send by registered or certified mail, methods that provide mailing receipts and tracking.



CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

The relationship between athletic performance and character development raises an important question for coaches: Are we more focused on celebrating the championship trophy at the end of the season, or are we dedicated to fostering stronger character in our youth?

While winning is often a key goal, the true effectiveness of sports as a platform for character and moral growth hinges on our commitment to creating supportive environments and implementing targeted teaching strategies. Coaches and athletes alike have noted that the most impactful experiences for nurturing character and leadership in school sports stem from a clearly defined purpose, a supportive coaching philosophy, a positive team culture, and intentional leadership development opportunities.

Ultimately, while the trophy symbolizes success, it is the strength of character and life skills we instill in our athletes that truly defines our legacy as coaches..



[Video Link](#)

SPORTSMANSHIP SCHOOL OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Washington Middle School in Oglesby, which was selected as the IESA Sportsmanship School of the Month for December! Oglesby Washington 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 Bulldogs!



PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: SCHOOL MUSIC LICENSE



School Music License has officially partnered with the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) to help K-8 schools confidently share school events online when music is part of the experience. As more elementary and middle schools stream, record, or post events to school websites and social media, this partnership provides a clearer, more consistent path for managing music copyright while keeping the focus where it belongs: on students.

Less Guesswork, More Confidence

A simplified, no-nonsense approach to posting videos online with confidence. No muting or takedowns – just a clear path to sharing the moments that define your school's culture.

Athletics, The Arts, and Student Activities

Games, tournaments, concerts, assemblies, and pep events: all shared online. From hype music and walk-ups to band, choir, and orchestra performances, schools can include the music that naturally happens at events without added worry.

Family and Community Engagement

Keep families connected, wherever they are. Online access allows caregivers, grandparents, community members, and alumni to stay involved, whether events are streamed live or shared later.

By working together, IESA and School Music License aim to support schools as they balance celebration, access, and responsibility in a digital-first world. We are proud to partner to help schools share student moments online: easily, confidently, and in support of engagement in education.

Learn more at schoolmusiclicense.com



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