



# MARCH NEWSLETTER



## 26-27 Re-enrollment



Enrollment for the 2026-27 school year will begin March 31. 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.

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 2025-26 recipients!

## Celebration of Excellence



## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

The IESA staff would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the administrators who serve on the IESA Board of Directors. Their leadership is instrumental in fostering the growth of our association on a strong foundation.

In addition to their important roles in managing their own students, they generously dedicate their time and efforts to enhancing participation opportunities for all our member students. Their commitment to our mission truly makes a difference, and we are grateful for their unwavering support and dedication. Thank you! .



**Next Board meeting is April 10.**

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes from Activity Advisory Committees with Board action may be found on each activity webpage. Fall activities had their minutes and recommendations presented to the Board of Directors at the January meeting.

[Baseball](#)

[Cross Country](#)

[Golf](#)

[Softball](#)

[Girls Wrestling](#)

[Speech](#)



## RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES

Athletic Directors juggle many responsibilities both personally and professionally to make sure that the activities offered at your school are top-notch. Thank you to everyone who took the opportunity to recognize their Athletic Directors!

*Today we want to give a huge shoutout to our Athletic Director, Mr. Jared Thompson, whose dedication keeps our athletes supported day in and day out. We're grateful for the way you show up for them every single day. From early mornings to late-night games, your leadership and heart make all the difference. Thank you for everything you do for our teams and our school!*



Today is IESA's Thank An AD Day!

We want to take a moment to recognize and thank our Athletic Director, Mr. Arthalony, for his years of commitment and dedication to our athletic programs.

Our athletes, coaches, and community have benefited tremendously from his leadership and hard work. Thank you, Mr. Arthalony, for the time, energy, and heart you pour into our programs. We are truly grateful for all you do for our school and our student-athletes!

## Buying New Uniforms?

Uniforms are a significant investment!

Before purchasing any new uniforms for the upcoming season, review the uniform requirements detailed in the appropriate NFHS Rulebook. Uniform information for most athletic activities can also be found on the IESA website. It is also important to double-check with your uniform supplier that they are familiar with all NFHS specifications.

If you or your supplier have any questions regarding the legality of your uniforms, please reach out to the appropriate IESA administrator.



## Member Center Highlight

The "Resources" tab is located just underneath your school name in your Member Center. This page contains numerous resources from a central spot for Activity Updates to presentations from past AD Workshops.

The "Other Resources" area in the lower right-hand corner of that page contains links to many helpful, often-requested forms. I would encourage you to explore "Resources" page.



## SPORTSMANSHIP SCHOOL OF THE MONTH



Congratulations to Nash Middle School in Clifton, who was selected as the IESA Sportsmanship School of the Month for February! Clifton Nash has been 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 Sport Reports submitted by the Officials Advisory Committee during the designated month.

[CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THE IADA MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER](#)

Great article on teamwork in this month's issue.



## UPCOMING DEADLINES

**March 28:** Track meets may begin

**March 31:** Music Org Participant Information Deadline

**April 3:** Bowling Roster Deadline

**April 10:** Bowling Roster Closed

**April 20:** Scholastic Bowl Online Roster & Record Deadline

## 2026 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. 11. Registration information will be available this summer. This event is a wonderful opportunity to network and build your knowledge base.

On Sept. 18, the IESA will be hosting the Speech workshop for coaches and sponsors. 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 greatwork!



## IMPORTANCE OF ACTIVITY INVOLVEMENT- LEADERSHIP

Leadership Through Sports is one of the most effective ways schools can equip students for future success. Beyond enhancing athletic skills, sports foster critical leadership qualities such as communication, teamwork, decision-making, and accountability. These skills are cultivated through dynamic, real-time situations in sports, where quick thinking and collaboration are essential. By encouraging students to take on leadership roles in athletics, schools help shape confident and responsible individuals who are well-prepared for challenges in academics and future careers. The benefits of developing leadership through sports extend far beyond the athletic field. Students who gain these skills become better equipped to handle academic challenges, workplace responsibilities, and community involvement.

This investment not only enhances individual growth but also elevates the school's reputation as an institution that values holistic education. Ultimately, by emphasizing leadership in sports, schools can inspire the next generation of leaders who will positively impact society.

- World School Sports Federation (WSSF)



## OFFICIAL BALLS



The IESA works with two great companies to provide the balls used in the State Series. The "Official 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: TRUTH INITIATIVE

Did you know that 410,000 U.S. middle school students reported vaping nicotine in 2024?

Nicotine addiction has real consequences for young people. Nicotine use can harm the developing brain and make young people more susceptible to addiction later in life, and nicotine addiction can increase stress and intensify symptoms of depression and anxiety. For athletes, nicotine addiction can dull performance, and quitting may improve exercise-related physical ability.

IESA has partnered with Truth Initiative to help young people learn the facts about vaping and nicotine addiction through a free digital vaping prevention curriculum, Vaping: Know the truth.

Why share a vaping prevention curriculum with young people?

- Vaping, Know the truth is self-guided, allowing teens to learn at their own pace.
- Vaping, Know the truth significantly increases e-cigarette knowledge among middle and high school participants, equipping students with the facts they need to make informed decisions about vaping.

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INFO HERE](#)