



# APRIL NEWSLETTER



## 26-27 Re-enrollment



Enrollment for the 2026-27 school year is underway. 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 8.

Spring brings change in many different capacities. If there are changes to your administration or coaching staff, please ensure the information is updated before your school closes for the summer. Information may be updated by accessing the "Your School" tab in your IESA Member Center. To update administrator and coach information, log in to the Member Center with 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!

## Member Center Highlight



## 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 can be found in your Member Center by clicking the Email Center link.

At their January meeting, the Board of Directors approved the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to study classification cut-offs. If you are interested in serving on this Committee, please email [nicole@iesa.org](mailto:nicole@iesa.org)



**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. Winter activities will be reviewed at the April Board meeting.

[Baseball](#)

[Cross Country](#)

[Golf](#)

[Softball](#)

[Girls Wrestling](#)

[Speech](#)



## RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES

**Spring Officials Appreciation Week** is April 5-11. Please take an opportunity to thank those officials you have hired this year for their dedication and service to the students of Illinois. #thankanofficial



### WHY DID THEY CHOOSE TO BECOME OFFICIALS?

*"Opportunity to be a part of my love for sports. I have participated, coached, and officiated sports my whole life."*

*"To ensure our student athletes have a good experience."*

*"I have always enjoyed the sport, I thought I could help give back to the community, and just being around the sights and sounds of the game of basketball is something I continue to love."*

### WHAT DO THEY ENJOY MOST ABOUT WORKING WITH IESA ATHLETES?

*"Their genuine love of the game!"*

*"You can see them develop at an early age, leadership, sportsmanship qualities, and watch them grow and mature into young adults."*

*"Playing sports builds confidence. It is fun to watch these kids succeed on the court and off the court."*

*"I enjoy seeing their improvement and how they respond to their coaches. I also like the enthusiasm of the players, coaches, and fans at the middle school level."*

## Girls Wrestling

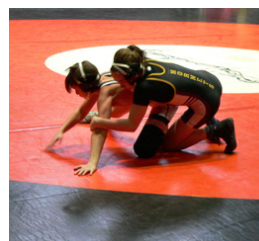
The Girls Wrestling Advisory Committee has been working diligently on creating the structure for the activity to debut in the 2027 season.

Here are some helpful links to get those interested in participating ready for the 2026-27 season.

[Girls Wrestling Advisory Meeting Minutes](#)

[General Q&A Information](#)

If you have specific questions, please contact [jonathan@iesa.org](mailto:jonathan@iesa.org).



## 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- Highland MS

A- Vernon Hills Hawthorne North

B- Forrester

C- Burr Ridge Gower

C- LaGrange Highlands

D- Frankfort Summit Hill

E- Serena

F- Peoria Pleasant Valley

G- Paxton-Buckley-Loda

H- Eureka

I- Hartsburg-Emden

J- Table Grove VIT

K- Tolono Unity

L- Toledo Cumberland

L- Arcola

L- Casey Westfield Roosevelt

L- Neoga

M- Buffalo Tri-City

N- Ramsey

O- St. Jacob Triad

## Recharging for the New Year

With the summer months upon us, AD's finally have a chance to catch their breath. Here are some tips to help recharge and prepare for the next school year.

1. **Take a personal break and disconnect.** Disconnecting from the job helps reduce stress, improve mental clarity, and gives you time to reflect.
2. **Prioritize yourself (both mentally and physically).** Starting a commitment to your personal wellness sets you up for success to carry it on throughout your school year.
3. **Invest in professional development.** By expanding your knowledge and skills, you will return with new ideas and strategies to implement for the new year.
4. **Reflect and set new goals.** Having defined goals helps you approach the new year with clarity, purpose, and enthusiasm.

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

Great article on teamwork in this month's issue.

## UPCOMING DEADLINES

**April 3:** Bowling Roster Deadline

**April 10:** Bowling Roster Closed

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

**May 5:** 1A/2A Track Online Entry Deadline

**May 12:** 3A/4A Track Online Entry 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!



## ENCOURAGING A MULTI-SPORT PHILOSOPHY

The biggest influencers driving sport specialization are parents. The perceived pathway to a scholarship continues to drive early, intense training in a single sport, despite evidence to the contrary.

Athletic Directors can lead the charge by:

- **Promoting the multi-sport philosophy.** Athletic Directors agree that playing multiple sports enhances the school experience. Participation builds resilience, leadership, and team chemistry across seasons and helps students avoid burnout and overuse injuries.
- **Educating stakeholders.** Coaches, parents, and even students need more clarity. Regular communication through parent meetings, school newsletters, and team handbooks should explain the physical, mental, and emotional impacts of specialization.

- **Aligning with national trends.** The NFHS and NIAAA both promote education-based athletics and multi-sport participation. Athletic departments should reference these organizations and build internal messaging that reinforces these values.

The culture of youth sports is unlikely to shift overnight. But school athletic directors are uniquely positioned to influence local communities by shaping expectations, building collaborative relationships with coaches and parents, and ensuring student-athletes understand the full picture. The priority remains clear: help student-athletes become well-rounded individuals; not just winners on the scoreboard.



## 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: Eventlink

The Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) is proud to announce a new partnership with Eventlink, a leading provider of athletic management software designed to simplify operations for schools and athletic administrators. Through this partnership, IESA member schools will gain access to innovative tools that streamline scheduling, communication, ticketing, and overall athletic program management. By leveraging Eventlink's all-in-one platform, schools can improve efficiency, reduce administrative burden, and enhance the overall experience for student-athletes, coaches, and communities.

Eventlink's platform is designed specifically for the needs of school athletic departments, offering a centralized solution that helps administrators manage day-to-day responsibilities more effectively while improving communication with families and fans.



[GET MORE INFO HERE](#)

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