



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



**"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."
-Arthur Ashe-**

- **Start where you are** - Whether you are starting the school year fully ready to go or if you still have loose ends to tie up, start where your feet are right now. As the old adage says, "The journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step." Put one foot in front of the other and then build on the momentum of that first step to move on to the next task.
- **Use what you have** - The resources in your office are a great place to start, but remember that you have an entire IESA staff to lean on for support, advice, answers, and tools that might make your job easier. We stand ready to serve in any way we can.
- **Do what you can** - In the moments when you feel overwhelmed (which I know can be frequent), do one small thing so that you can check it off the list and then move on to something else. Remember that you cannot always do everything all at once, but you can do them a little bit at a time.

Best wishes on an outstanding school year!



National Anthem/Pep Band

Through our National Anthem and Pep Band program, the IESA has spotlighted 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](#).

Officials Appreciation Week

Officials Appreciation Week is Sept. 6-12. Please take a moment to thank the officials you have hired this year for their dedication and service to the students of Illinois.

#thankanofficial



NEWS FROM THE BOARD

The Board of Directors will be meeting on September 14. If there are items you would like discussed during this meeting, please contact your Board Representative.

This information may be found by accessing your Member Center and clicking on the Email Center link.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes from Activity Advisory Committees with Board action may be found on each activity webpage.

[Speech](#)[Bowling](#)[Scholastic Bowl](#)[Golf](#)[Basketball](#)[Volleyball](#)[Cross Country](#)[Cheerleading](#)[Wrestling](#)[Music](#)[Chess](#)[Track & Field](#)

Athletic Director Resources

The IESA Administrators will be attending the IPA Conference in Peoria on Monday October 19th. Please be sure to stop by the booth and say hello.

UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

IPA Education Leaders Annual Conference
October 16-20, 2020 - Peoria, IL

Become a member of the IADA, enjoy the opportunity to network, engage in educational leadership and professional development through NIAAA classes and have other opportunities to learn and grow alongside other Athletic Directors.

<https://iada.rst7.schooltoday.com/>

IESA Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8am - 4pm

Office will be closed, Monday
Sept 7th

Email the IESA at anytime
iesa@iesa.org



Social Media Corner

As we close in on the IESA postseason, we want to highlight one of our favorite traditions: the **IESA Outstanding Sportsmanship Pin**.



These pins are more than just a keepsake. They recognize student-athletes who demonstrate the core values of education-based athletics through respect, integrity, leadership, and positive sportsmanship. Whether it's encouraging teammates, showing respect for opponents and officials, or representing their school with class, these students exemplify what interscholastic competition is all about.

Reminder for Baseball and Softball Hosts: After presenting the Outstanding Sportsmanship Pins to one individual from each team following your championship game, please email a photo of the recipients, along with their names, schools, and jersey numbers, to bailey@iesa.org for recognition on IESA social media.



Get to Know Your Member Center

Featured this month is the **Your School** page.
Check out everything you can do!

Your School

Administrative Links

[Your School Contacts/Misc. Info](#)
[Co-ops \(Co-operative Teams\)](#)
[Invoices](#)
[Financial Reports](#)
[Host Interest](#)
[Special Report Form](#)
[Grievance Regarding Official](#)
[Coaches](#)
[Facilities Survey](#)

Competitions

[Open Dates](#)
[Cheerleading Competitions](#)
[Chess Competitions](#)
[Cross-Country Invitationals](#)
[Scholastic Bowl Invitationals](#)
[Boys Wrestling Invitationals](#)
[Girls Wrestling Invitationals](#)

From here, you can:

- Update school administrator or coach contact information.
- Check the status of existing co-ops or request information on forming a new co-op.
- View registration invoices and the status of each invoice.
- View and submit financial reports for State Series contests your school is hosting.
- Submit -
 - Your school's facilities information for hosting State Series contests
 - Interest in hosting specific State Series-level contests
 - Special reports for ejections or concussions
 - Feedback regarding an official
- Enter dates for competitions your school is hosting or would like to participate in. Assist in locating opponents or making contact with other schools in your area.

FUND\$ FACTS



Schools participating in **Golf SECTIONALS** must pay greens fees to the host course prior to competing. Contact the host course for questions regarding payment. **STATE** greens fees are the responsibility of the IESA; this does NOT include practice rounds.

Member schools competing in **softball and baseball REGIONALS** are responsible for the cost of one official per game they participate in; contact your host school for payment details. Hosts may require each school to bring a check made out to an official or to the host school on game day; others may ask for payment for all games at the conclusion of the regional. Prompt payment is required. For **softball and baseball SECTIONALS**, the IESA compensates the officials.

UPCOMING DATES

September 14- Girls Basketball Coop Deadline

September 15- Speech Coop Deadline

September 26- Refund deadline for Girls Basketball

September 28- Speech Entry deadline

October 5- Entry deadline for Wrestling, Volleyball, Scholastic Bowl, and Track

October 8- Speech Final Entry Deadline

Celebration of Excellence: Look Back

At our annual Celebration of Excellence in April of 2026 we were proud to celebrate and honor 4 incredibly deserving individuals for our **Friends of the IESA Award**.

These 4 inspiring individuals have combined for almost **100 years** of time, energy and love to IESA schools and students.

Starting from the left:

- Angie Prang from the Double Tree Hotel and lead on all IESA workshops at the Double Tree.
- Kim Schafer former AD and volunteer in a number of IESA activities, including the State Track & Field Meet.
- Sue Kemper has supported the IESA in many ways including staging at the IESA State Track & Field Meet.
- Kara Smith former coach in basketball, volleyball and track & field and has supported the IESA at the IESA State Track & Field Meet in staging.

Learn more → [Celebration 2026](#)



RECOGNITION & SPORTSMANSHIP



Good Sports Reports:

Softball: PVO vs. Hoopeston

Report: Before our softball game with PVO, they gave our girls a card with a Monical's gift card in it. They wanted us to know that they were thinking of us after our bus accident on August 8th. We wanted to thank the whole PVO community for their generous and thoughtful gift.

PLEASE MAKE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO SUBMIT AT LEAST ONE GOOD SPORTS REPORT IN EACH OF THE IESA ACTIVITIES YOUR SCHOOL PARTICIPATES IN.

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/tHHfxTPhc8>

Fan Ejection Policy Update: Any fan ejected from a regular season contest may not attend, at a minimum, the next TWO contests in the activity and must complete the NFHS Sportsmanship course online prior to regaining attendance eligibility. Any fan ejected from a state series contest (regional, sectional, or state) will be prohibited from attending any remaining contests for their school in the state series and must complete the NFHS Sportsmanship course.

School Personnel Ejection Reminder: A coach or school personnel ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct will be required to miss the next two contests at the level at which the ejection occurred and all contests in the interim. The coach/school personnel must also complete the NFHS Sportsmanship course and pay a \$150 fine before regaining eligibility. While the individual is serving the suspension, they may not travel to or attend contests. School personnel include, but are not limited to, assistant coaches, scorekeepers, statisticians, managers, bus drivers, Athletic Directors, Asst. Principals, Principals, Superintendents.

Coach Corner



Middle School sports are about the team. They're about the players - their passion, their growth and their will to win. Show your student-athletes, officials and fellow fans that you're a team player. Always bring your A game and [#BenchBadBehavior](#) for good!

Learn more → [NFHS - BenchBadBehavior](#)

2026 IESA WORKSHOPS

The Annual Athletic Director workshop will be held at the Double Tree Hotel in Bloomington on Sept. 11. Click [HERE](#) for registration information.

On Sept. 18, the IESA will be hosting the Speech workshop for coaches and sponsors at the Double Tree Hotel. Click [HERE](#) for registration information.

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:

Sports can teach young people teamwork, discipline, resilience, and healthy competition. But today's young athletes are growing up in an environment where gambling, especially sports betting, is more visible than ever.

For young people, gambling may begin as something that seems harmless: a friendly wager, a fantasy league, a betting app, or a game with gambling-like features. But youth who gamble are at greater risk of developing gambling problems later in life.

Prevention can start earlier than you think. Athletic directors, coaches, and other trusted adults can make a difference. Start the conversation early, model healthy attitudes toward sports and competition, and help young athletes understand the risks.

For education, prevention information, and resources, visit [ICPG.org](#) and [AreYouReallyWinning.com](#).

Prevention starts with conversation.
Start early.
Keep the game about the game.



ILLINOIS COUNCIL
ON PROBLEM GAMBLING

GAMBLING DISORDER CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

[icpg.org](#)