



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



Changing Seasons



As seasons change, we are reminded that effective leadership requires both adaptability and a steady foundation. New schedules, evolving team dynamics, and unexpected challenges call for open communication, patience, and a commitment to shared values. By celebrating successes, supporting coaches and student-athletes, and allowing time for thoughtful adjustment, athletic directors and school leaders can guide their programs through change while maintaining balance and stability.

Reminders- Fall Enrollment Counts

Beginning in October, we will gather 7th- and 8th-grade enrollment numbers for all IESA member schools. We request this information starting each October for use in determining classifications for IESA activities the following school year.

Please log in to the IESA Member Center after Oct. 1 using your School Password (The athletic password will NOT access the link.) and complete this important task as soon as possible. Enter enrollment numbers no later than Friday, December 12.

The Enrollment Survey link is in the Important Messages area, above your 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, 2026. These numbers will be the same information that you provide 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.



NEWS FROM THE BOARD

The Board of Directors met on September 14. Minutes of the meeting can be found by clicking on this [LINK](#).

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

**Next Board meeting
is January 29.**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

[Speech](#)

[Cross Country](#)

[Golf](#)

[Music](#)

[Bowling](#)

[Basketball](#)

[Cheerleading](#)

[Chess](#)

[Scholastic Bowl](#)

[Volleyball](#)

[Wrestling](#)

[Track & Field](#)

Athletic Director Resources

Thank you to Matt Thomann for the Keynote at the IESA AD Workshop. If you were unable to join us, find out more about Matt and Mental Mettle Coaching by clicking on the image. He offers a diverse range of services to empower athletes, educators and individuals alike.

YOUR ATHLETE NEEDS
MENTAL TRAINING



ASK US WHY



IESA Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8am - 4pm

IESA Office will be closed on
Monday, Oct. 12th

Email the IESA at anytime
iesa@iesa.org

Looking for IESA Swag - check out the exclusive shop from The Cubby Hole, there you can purchase items for your entire staff. Click the logo for direct store access.



Social Media Corner

NEW THIS YEAR: TEAM SPOTLIGHTS

The IESA Team Spotlight is a weekly feature designed to showcase the outstanding teams that make up our association.

Throughout the year, we'll highlight teams from a variety of IESA activities, giving them an opportunity to share their goals, achievements, and what makes their program unique.

From team culture and traditions to season aspirations and community pride, each spotlight will help fans, families, and fellow students get to know the people behind the team and the schools they proudly represent.



Join us as we celebrate the dedication, teamwork, and spirit that make IESA special!

Follow along on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/IESA.IL/>



Get to Know Your Member Center

School administration can access passwords for your school's activities by logging into the Member Center with the school's Administrator Password and clicking on

Entry Centers

After your school's membership dues for the new school year are paid in the spring, passwords for activities will be updated in the summer. Administrators are then able to share the applicable passwords with coaching staff for use in updating season schedules, rosters, etc.

Entry Centers & Host Administration

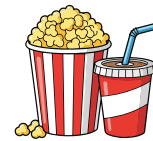
Activity	Entry Center Links	Password
Concussion	Concussion Testing	qrst01
Activities		012efg
Girls Softball	Entries	012efg
Boys Baseball	Entries	012efg
Cross-Country	Entries	012efg
Girls Basketball	Entries	012efg
Boys Basketball	Entries	012efg
Girls Volleyball	Entries	012efg
Scholastic Bowl	Entries	xyz567
Track & Field	Entries	890mno

Forgotten Administrator password requests can be made via the **School & Officials Login** page. **Note:** the password will be emailed only to the primary email administrator contact, so if another administrator needs the password, please call our office for assistance.

FUND\$ Facts

A huge thank you goes out to our member schools that host tournaments, especially those that consistently step up to host. We appreciate you!

If your school is interested in hosting, please have an administrator submit your interest through the member center. Advantages of hosting are competing on your home court, no team transportation issues, reduced travel for your fans, and for many hosts, an opportunity to generate revenue.



Host schools may sell concessions and hold 50/50 raffles. 100% of concessions and raffle profits stay with the host school. If you allow a group within your school to keep the profit for running concessions, arrange for the group to provide hospitality to the officials or judges in exchange; or have them share a percentage of the profits with your school's activities fund.

UPCOMING DATES

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

October 8- Speech Final Entry Deadline

October 20- Boys Basketball Coop deadline

October 25- Boys Basketball Refund deadline

October 30- Cheer Entry Deadline

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

Scholar Attitude



Beginning October 15 and running through January 15 nominations for the 2027 Scholar Attitude award will be open.

A panel of judges will review the applications in February and select students representing 15 different division groups.

Click the links below for more detailed information on requirements and registration.

Learn more →

[Information Flyer](#)

[How to Submit a Nominee](#)



RECOGNITION & SPORTSMANSHIP



Sportsmanship: As Girls Basketball begins playing games on Saturday, September 26, please remind your coaches that the crowd feeds off their energy, good or bad. Below is a link to an article from Officially Human. Please share this with your players, coaches, and fans. Remember...officials are HUMAN!

<https://givebutter.s3.amazonaws.com/media/9nVJrXOkE9gSIDyfVq8x6kT8t3BTlrwtCAxPi627.png>

September IESA Sportsmanship School of the Month:

Congratulations to **Grant Park** for being recognized as the sportsmanship school of the month!! Schools that are awarded as the School of the Month receive a certificate, and a \$50 gift card to Dick's Sporting Goods for their athletic programs.



Check out the latest edition of the [IADA Middle School Newsletter!](#)

Coaches Corner:



IHSA Initiative: BETTER TOGETHER

The IHSA understands the value of interscholastic athletics and activities for school communities and is committed to fostering a culture of belonging for all students, coaches, officials, and fans. The purpose of this toolkit is to uphold these values through resources for schools that encourage empathy, safety, inclusion, respect, and good sportsmanship. The IHSA recognizes that Illinois is comprised of diverse populations with unique backgrounds and experiences. While differences exist, high school athletics and activities offer a common space for thousands of people annually, and this space is what makes the IHSA Better Together.

Learn more → [Better Together](#)

2026 DIVISION MEETING

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

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:

**20% OFF SHOP EVENT AT
DICK'S SPORTING GOODS
FRIDAY, 10/9 – MONDAY, 10/12**

**OFFER AVAILABLE IN-STORE AT
ALL ILLINOIS LOCATIONS**

Save the date! Our partner, DICK'S Sporting Goods, is offering you a 20% off discount throughout the store to help you gear up for the winter season! Be sure to use the coupon linked below, as this is specific to our organization. The coupon is valid in-store on the dates above and should be shown at the register during checkout.

[CLICK HERE FOR COUPON](#)

