IESA
Illinois Elementary School Association

# NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER




## Transitioning Seasons

The changing seasons remind us that transformation is constant, both in nature and in interscholastic athletics. Coaches grow throughout each season as they guide their teams from preseason preparation through regular-season competition and into the postseason. New coaches gain confidence and experience, while veteran coaches become trusted mentors and leaders. They adapt their strategies, strengthen relationships, and help student-athletes develop both on and off the field. Supporting this growth is an important part of athletic administration. When coaches are encouraged, equipped, and retained, they strengthen their programs and the entire school community. The process may seem ordinary at times, but the work coaches and administrators do each day creates truly extraordinary results.

## Current Surveys

The link for the Activity Participation and Fee Information Survey is located in the Important Messages area, above your 2026-2027 Activity Tracker. This survey collects participation information that is sent to ISBE every year.

The survey also requests the contest fees that your school/district pays officials for the various activities. This information is especially helpful in setting post-season pay rates. If you haven't already, please take a moment to provide this information.

## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Board elections for Divisions A, E, L, M, and N will begin Nov. 1. Member schools in those Divisions will be emailed voting instructions.

To be eligible for service on the Board, candidates must hold a valid administrative certificate and be a superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, or assistant principal.

If you are in one of the above divisions, I encourage you to participate in the election process.



**Next Board meeting is January 29.**

## DIVISION MEETING

IMPORTANT!

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

**The latest edition of the IADA Middle School/Junior High Professional Development Newsletter is out!**

**Access it HERE**

## Athletic Director Resources




**The NFHS Learning Center offers a 3-level national coaching credential that helps you gain knowledge you can use to provide a fun, educational, and safer environment for your students.**

**This was developed for individuals who are currently coaching or aspire to coach at the interscholastic level. The goal is to enhance the ability of the coach to better serve students, the school, the community, and the profession of coaching.**

**Click here to learn more!**

**IESA Office Hours**

**Monday - Friday**
**8am - 4pm**

**IESA Office will be closed**
**Nov. 11th**
**Nov. 26th & 27th**

**Email the IESA at anytime**
**iesa@iesa.org**

## Social Media Corner

**Best Social Media Tips for Athletic Departments**

Athletic departments can grow engagement and community connection by focusing on consistent, authentic content, using the right platforms, and leveraging analytics to refine their strategy.

**1. Choose the Right Platforms for Your Audience**
Different groups engage on different platforms — for example, students may prefer Instagram, while parents and alumni are more active on Facebook. Tailor your content to each audience and use multiple channels to reach them without overextending resources.

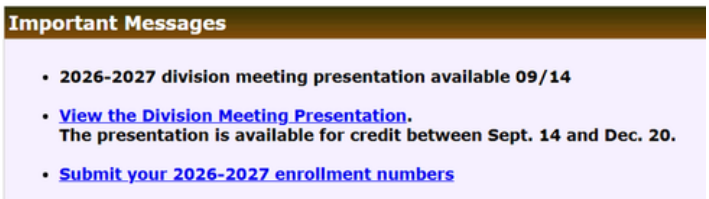
**2. Build a Sustainable Content Calendar**
Instead of planning an entire season's schedule, create a weekly content template with recurring themes (e.g., Monday: schedule preview, Wednesday: athlete spotlight, Friday: game day hype, Sunday: recap). This keeps posting consistent without overwhelming staff.

**3. Engage with Your Community**
Tag opponents, local media, and community partners during big games. Encourage fans to share their own content using program hashtags to boost reach

## Get to Know Your Member Center

This time of year brings some important tasks the IESA needs your school to complete right away. When you log into your IESA Member Center, **Important Messages** will be the first thing you see. Complete all of the necessary tasks before the deadlines to ensure your school remains in compliance with applicable by-laws.

Any mandatory tasks will remain in your Important Messages until completed.

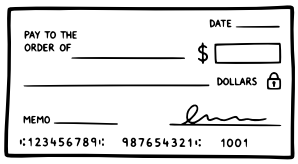



- **View the Division Meeting Presentation** - Complete your viewing of this year's Division Meeting. This is a mandatory task that must be completed by December 20th. Don't let your school end up on the Probation list!

- **Submit your 2026-2027 enrollment numbers** – We need your 7th and 8th grade enrollment numbers from 2026-2027. This is the same information you provide ISBE. These numbers will determine classifications for IESA activities in the next school year.

# FUND FACT$

Payment to Officials








When hosting regular and post-season contests, best practice is to pay officials the day of the contest. If your school's accounting practices don't align with this, communicate with your officials as early as possible about when and how you'll pay, as well as deadlines for any required paperwork.

IESA regional and sectional host schools for girls basketball, and state speech contests are responsible for timely payment to officials. IESA state tournament series rates of pay may be found HERE.

Please contact our office if you have any questions regarding payment to officials. Thank you to all our host schools!

## UPCOMING DATES

**November 1-** Boys Wrestling, Track, Scholastic Bowl, and Volleyball Final Entry Deadline
**November 11-** Cheer Cooperative Deadline
**December 1- Boys and Girls** Wrestling and Volleyball Cooperative Deadline
**December 1**- Cheerleading Final Entry Deadline
**December 1**- Girls Wrestling Final Entry Deadline

## Celebration of Excellence: Speech Recognition

At our 2026 Celebration of Excellence we were proud to recognize three very deserving individuals for their outstanding contributions to Speech.
We extend our appreciation to these individuals for their dedication, countless hours of service, and lasting impact on the students they have guided throughout the years.
Speech is more than just an activity. It provides students with opportunities to develop confidence, communication skills, creativity, and the ability to express themselves.

Starting from left to right...
**Laura Anglin - Speech Distinguished Service Award**
**Tami Schroeder - Ken Bradburry Lifetime Service Award**
**Wes Skym - Speech Class Act Award**




**Learn more →** Spotlight on the Arts

## RECOGNITION & SPORTSMANSHIP

**GOOD SPORTS REPORTS:** Please continue to submit Good Sports Reports using this link.
https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/tHHfxTPhc8

Over the last several years, the NFHS has made it a priority to get students involved in athletics and activities at the middle school level. Here is a link to a recent article from the NFHS on the importance of middle school involvement and student participation.
https://www.nfhs.org/stories/nfhs-releases-case-for-middle-school-involvement-and-student-participation-

**October IESA Sportsmanship School of the Month:**
Congratulations to **Ramsey** 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.






# NFHS Music Educator Survey

**Please share with your Music Educators**

The Music Educator Satisfaction Survey is being conducted by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) to measure trends in educator satisfaction and to understand the impact of (or need for) specific interventions in retention and advocacy. With over 3,000 responses every year, we need your help to ensure that we have feedback from every area of the country! If you have taken this survey in the past, please complete it again. With multiple years of data, the NFHS can begin to track and interpret trends and impacts of interventions to build more complete resources for you.

The survey should only take a few minutes to complete and includes sections on:

- Why you became an educator
- Your satisfaction as an educator
- The future of your program
- Basic demographic information






# 2027 IESA WORKSHOPS

Save The Dates for 2027!

AD Workshop - Friday, September 10th

Scholastic Bowl Workshop - Friday, November 5th

All IESA Workshops are held at the DoubleTree in Bloomington.

# 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.

Rawlings MIKASA Faster than Emotion

## 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:

## Fund Your Season with Double Good

IESA has partnered with Double Good to help schools and teams reach their goals through simple online fundraising.

- Keep 50% of every sale
- Choose a 4- or 7-day fundraiser
- No inventory, cash collection, or delivery
- Receive free 1:1 fundraising support

Double Good ships freshly popped popcorn directly to supporters, so you can spend less time coordinating and more time supporting your students and athletes.

**Ready to raise more? Schedule your fundraiser today.**

Double Good | IESA

GET MORE INFO HERE