



Illinois Elementary School Association

Values and Benefits of Middle School Interscholastic Activities--An Overview of the IESA

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IESA- A Brief Overview

- Governing body for junior high/middle school athletics and activities in Illinois
 - 7th and 8th grade activities—but the activities are open to students in grades 5-8
- IESA has been in existence since 1929—85 years
 - Separate governing association from our state high school association.
- Voluntary Membership
 - 820 member schools
- Brief Explanation of Structure
 - Office Staff (8 full-time, 1 part-time--technology)
 - Board of Directors (15 divisions)



[IESA MISSION]

Mission Statement

The IESA provides the leadership and framework to ensure safe, equitable opportunities for students who are enriched through participation in education-based interscholastic activities.



PHILOSOPHY

We believe:

- The IESA creates equal opportunities for students.
- That the purpose of interscholastic activities is to provide the foundation for life skills.
- The students IESA serves have unique needs and warrant a separate governing body.
- IESA and its member schools should actively teach and promote good sportsmanship and ethical behavior.
- In the value of participation to develop self esteem, personal growth, and a sense of belonging.
- In the value of recognizing excellence.
- All students deserve the right to participate in a safe environment.
- Students deserve to be directed and/or coached by highly qualified personnel.



The Basics

- In general, the IESA operates in the same manner as does a state high school association. State series competition is conducted and a “state champion” is crowned in all athletic activities.
- The IESA is an activities association---we have both athletic and non-athletic activities.
- Officials are not licensed by the IESA.
 - All officials working IESA contests must be licensed with our state high school association, the IHSA.



[Key Eligibility By-Law]

- For all activities, athletic as well as non-athletic, passing work shall be checked weekly to govern eligibility.
- Passing work is determined by the local school district.
 - Applies to both athletics and activities.
 - Ineligibility applies for one calendar week before the possibility of becoming eligible again.



[Key Participation By-Law]

- The decision to allow students to compete on both a school team and a non-school team during the season is a local school decision.
 - There are so many opportunities to participate in non-school programs at the youth level that it becomes practically impossible to consistently enforce.
 - In Illinois, not every school plays their sports in the same season. i.e. Some schools play volleyball in the fall and some in the late winter/early spring. This contributes to club programs conducting their activities year round at the jr. high/middle school level



[Key Participation By-Law]

- Member schools are only allowed to compete against other school teams.
 - They may compete against schools that are not members of the Association but they may not compete against non-school teams.



[Physicals

- All students must have a current physical issued within the past 395 days (13 months) by a licensed physician. No student may try out, practice, or participate in a contest unless this requirement is met.



Sportsmanship

By-Laws and Penalties

1. Any player or coach ejected for unsportsmanlike behavior shall be ineligible for the next interscholastic contest at that level of competition.
2. Any player or coach ejected a 2nd time will be ineligible for the next two interscholastic contests.
3. Any school that receives two ejections in a school year, that administration shall be required to communicate in writing to the Sportsmanship Review Panel on the steps it is taking to address the issue. This panel then makes recommendations to the Board of Directors if they do not feel the issue is being addressed.
4. Require that an administrator or school representative (other than the participating coaches) be in attendance at all home contests.



Overview of Activities

■ Athletics

- Softball (2 Classes), Baseball (3 Classes), Cross Country (3 Classes), Girls & Boys Basketball (4 Classes), Girls Volleyball (4 Classes), Wrestling (1 Class), Boys and Girls Track and Field (2 Classes)
- Recently added bowling and golf
- Class structure based on enrollments
- 7th Grade division and an 8th grade division
- Regular season precedes a state tournament series
 - Regular season contests are scheduled by the individual schools
- Follow NFHS playing rules with some exceptions instituted for the age/skill level of the participants
- Use officials registered by the Illinois High School Association
- The Association does not conduct a state series in soccer or football

■ Activities

- Cheerleading, Speech, Music, Scholastic Bowl
- Speech and Music are “festival style”
- Scholastic Bowl conducts a regular season that precedes a state tournament series
- Started a Chess Competition in 2011



Activities and Exceptions

■ Cross-Country

- 291 participating schools
- 2 mile course
- Chip system used at the state meet



■ Cheerleading

- 75 participating schools
- 3 divisions based on squad size
- Cheer category and Routine category
- Conducted in accordance with the NFHS Spirit Rules





Activities and Exceptions

SOFTBALL—Fall

- 188 participating schools
- The use of Safe-Base is mandatory
- 40 ft. pitching distance



WRESTLING--Winter

- 141 participating schools
- 19 Weight classes as follows: 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105, 112, 119, 126, 135, 145, 155, 167, 185, 215, 275
- Match length: the 1st period shall be 1 min. and the 2nd and 3rd periods 1 ½ min.
- Body Fat % testing is not conducted.
- Individual Limitations: five matches per day; 37 matches per season.
- No growth allowance—wrestlers must make scratch weight for each and every match including state series.



- 271 participating schools
- Diamonds are 80' square
- Pitching Distance is 54'
- 16 innings is the max total number of innings a pitcher may pitch in a calendar week
- 7 innings is the total a pitcher may pitch in one day or 9 innings on two consecutive days
- If more than 4 innings are pitched on 2 consecutive days, then 2 days of rest must follow.

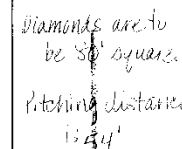


Diagram 2
OFFICIAL MEASUREMENTS . . . for laying out baseball field



Activities and Exceptions

VOLLEYBALL--Winter

- 385 schools participate
- Limitations
 - Team: 22 matches allowed per season
 - Individual: 6 sets in one day; 4 matches in one tournament day; 110 sets in one season
- The net height for 7th and 8th grade is 7 feet.
- The libero will be used beginning with the 2015-16 season.
- 2 out of 3 sets to 25



SCHOLASTIC BOWL—Winter/Spring

- 374 schools participate
- The IESA writes its own rule book and case book.
- State Workshop conducted each fall.
- State championship matches broadcast online.



Activities and Exceptions

- Girls and Boys Basketball
 - 379 girls teams, 425 boys teams
 - Limitations:
 - Team: 22 games allowed per season
 - Individuals: Max. of 8 quarters per night, 132 quarters for season
 - 6 minute quarters
 - Girls season is played in the fall with the state series completed before winter break; Boys is played in winter with the state series completed by mid-February.





Activities and Exceptions

- Track and Field--Spring
 - 510 participating schools
 - Four divisions in each class: 7th grade girls, 7th grade boys, 8th grade girls, and an 8th grade boys
 - Individuals are limited to any combination of 4 events—but if they run two relays, then one of the relays has to be the 4 x 400. 30” hurdles used for boys and girls
 - 4 kilo shot and 1 kilo discus for boys and girls
 - Two weekends of state competition---Class A and Class AA. Approximately 2800 students competing each weekend.
 - In the Sectional and State meet, all events are timed finals with the exception of the 100 M Dash and hurdles



Golf & Bowling



- Golf—Started a boys golf and girls golf state activity in 2011. Both played in Fall
 - The Boys division has grown to the point where in the fall of 2014 a sectional qualifying level will be introduced
 - Girls Golf will add a sectional qualifying level in 2015
- Bowling—Also started in 2011. Initially just individual competition but has expanded to a team competition as well.
 - Two day competition is held in early spring.



Activities and Exceptions

■ Speech

- 198 participating schools
- Presentation of memorized pieces with an emphasis on acting
- Judged against a standard
- State contest is offered once a year with no qualifying procedures
- Coaches workshop conducted every fall





Activities and Exceptions

■ Music

- 213 participating schools
- State contest is offered once a year with no qualifying procedures
 - Solo and Ensemble
 - Organization
- Pep Band and National Anthem singers selected for athletic state tournaments.





IESA WEBSITE & SPECIAL SERVICES

www.iesa.org

- Overview
- Host Brackets
- Track Entry Center
- Music Entry Center
- A.D. Workshop
- Monthly Webinars on Various Topics
- Required Division Meetings via Webinar



Requirements of Coaches

Coaches must meet one of the following:

- Regularly certified to teach in the State of Illinois and teaching in a school
- If a person wants to coach and is not certified to teach or employed as a teacher, the Association has worked with ASEP to develop a Coaching Education Course that must be completed
 - Course is taken online
 - Cost \$19.95
 - Takes about 2 hours to complete
 - Includes a small (20 questions) IESA By-Law test
- High School Students
 - Allowed to assist without needing to take ASEP Course
 - Same for Student Teachers





[Partnership with the IHSA]

- Work together on statewide sportsmanship initiatives
- IESA team champions are introduced at the IHSA state finals in the respective sport
- Attend IHSA Advisory Committee Meetings



Special Recognition Programs

- IESA Scholar Attitude Award---One student from each of the IESA 15 membership divisions is selected based on grades, student participation in IESA activities, and citizenship essay
- One Team Award---based loosely on the NFHS Spirit of Sport Award. Awarded for 1st time in 2014
- Fine Arts Awards---Given to outstanding Speech and Music Instructors
- Wrestling---Grand Marshal
- Track and Field---Honorary Meet Referee
- Division Sportsmanship Award---Schools vote on the school who best represents good sportsmanship within their division



Budget

- Revenue is generated in 4 main ways:
 - **Membership Dues and Entry Fees.** Schools pay a \$75 yearly membership due and a \$50 entry fee for each sport they enter. For example--7th grade boys basketball and 8th grade boys basketball equals \$175 due to the Association.
 - Total amount of revenue generated from membership dues and entry fees each year is approximately \$389,000
 - **Tournament Admission Share.** The Association conducts regional, sectional, and state competition in our various activities. Admission is charged--host school receives a portion of gate revenue and the Association receives the majority of the revenue
 - **Merchandise.** The Association works with a single vendor to sell t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc. at all state events as well as many of our sectional events
 - **Corporate Support.** The Association works with Sports Authority, Rawlings, and Commerce Bank
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Thank You

Questions/Comments