



Who We Are

HISTORY

Founded in 1900, the Illinois High School Association is a not-for-profit organization with over **800** member high schools. The **IHSA** is headquartered in Bloomington and is not funded by tax dollars or administered by the government of the State of Illinois.



people

The principals who comprise the **IHSA Board of Directors** volunteer their time and energy to serve the IHSA and its member schools. Each Board member represents a geographic Division in the state after being nominated and then elected in a vote by other principals in that Division.

The **IHSA staff** administers the state tournaments in all sanctioned activities and sports, including the selection of State Series sites, assignment of officials and on-site state final management. The staff is responsible for the education and enforcement of the by-laws that its member schools vote into existence.

effecting change

The IHSA is a charter member of the **National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)**. IHSA officials use the applicable NFHS Rules Book to govern all athletic contests. As an NFHS member, the IHSA can propose national rule changes in any NFHS sport.

The rules that govern the setup and scheduling of each state tournament are known as the Terms & Conditions. Each sport and activity has a geographically diverse **Advisory Committee** that reviews recommendations to change its Terms & Conditions. Recommendations can come from any member school coach or administrator.

dollars and sense

The IHSA's primary source of income is generated from ticket sales in State Series events. On average, about eight total State Series sports programs produce positive revenue streams annually, with the profits from those sports being used to help fund the tournaments for the IHSA's other 30-plus sports and activities.

There is no cost for a school to become an **IHSA member** or to renew its membership annually.

officials

The IHSA licenses over 12,000 **officials** annually. Passing a rules test and attending hands-on educational clinics taught by the state's top officials are among the many requirements that officials must complete to remain eligible to work the State Series. **Member school coaches** have a direct effect on who works the State Series by rating the performance of officials.

Over
368,000
participants in
30 sports
and
9 activities
statewide in
ILLINOIS

Any member school can propose a new by-law or a change to an existing by-law. Those proposals are reviewed by the **IHSA Legislative Commission**, a 35-person group of Principals and Athletic Directors from around the state. The proposed changes are reviewed by all IHSA member schools at mandatory Town Meetings held at 28 different high schools throughout the state. The proposals that are moved forward by the Legislative Commission are voted on by every member school and must pass by a simple majority to become a by-law.



WHY WE ARE HERE

IHSA State Final events are celebrated by **schools, competitors, coaches, communities and fans** alike each year, and rightly so, but it is also important to remember that only a small percentage of the participants from IHSA member schools reach this level of competition. The IHSA's existence centers around fostering participation opportunities that will help develop and instill the necessary characteristics to make **today's high school students tomorrow's community leaders.**

The Future Plays Here!