



Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.
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NEWS RELEASE

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“Past Link” Proposal Passage Highlights Board of Directors Changes

Unanimous passage of a proposal that would make a transfer student ineligible where a “past link” to the receiving school is established highlighted today’s annual review of the IHSAA By-Laws earlier today in Indianapolis.

All proposals are considered in the order that the affected rule appears within the current by-laws. The Board of Directors has four options on each proposal: affirm, deny, table or amend. A simple majority is necessary to act on any measure. A copy of the current by-laws [is available here](#). All approved measures become effective immediately unless otherwise noted.

The offer was submitted by Commissioner Bobby Cox on behalf of the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association but will apply to any transfer student in any sport. The proposal received more than 90 percent favorability in straw polling among administrators that attended April’s area principals meetings around the state.

A past link means that during the previous 12 months prior to enrollment, any of the following occurred:

1. The transfer student attended an open gym at the Receiving School,
2. The transfer student played on a summer or non-school sports (e.g. AAU) team which had a coach, manager or trainer who (1) was a coach, manager or trainer at the Receiving School at the time the transfer student enrolled at the Receiving School, or (2) had been a coach, manager or trainer at the Receiving School anytime during the Twelve (12) month period prior to the student’s enrollment at the Receiving School, or (3) became a coach, manager or trainer at the Receiving School anytime during the Ninety (90) day period after the student’s enrollment at the Receiving School.
3. The transfer student received instruction from a coach, manager or trainer who (1) was a coach, manager or trainer at the Receiving School at the time the transfer student enrolled at the Receiving School, or (2) had been a coach, manager or trainer at the Receiving School anytime during the Twelve (12) month period prior to the student’s enrollment at the Receiving School, or (3) became a coach, manager or trainer at the Receiving School anytime during the Ninety (90) day period after the student’s enrollment at the Receiving School.

The following are additional highlights of today’s Board meeting. Complete minutes will be posted at IHSAA.org.

- A foursome of amendments proposed on behalf of the Metropolitan Interscholastic Conference were rejected. A detailed budget, including line item income, accounts payable and employment contracts would be distributed to member schools was turned down as was an amendment that would have the Association send an electronic survey to member schools to gauge support of lack thereof, and the results of the survey shall be made available to schools. A third item that would have allowed a state tournament series contest to be played on Sunday was also voted down. The final item would have stricken language from Rule 19-5.1 (Transfer Options When Transfer with Change of Residence by Parent/Guardian).
- A proposal authored by Westview principal Rich Cory which would have amended Rule 3-9 to permit fines in lieu of game forfeitures was turned down.
- The proposal on Rule 7-1.5 (Mandatory Coach Accreditation) was voted down but amended and passed that effective July 1, 2014 (last summer), a coach must complete the NFHS concussion course plus one other NFHS- or IHSAA-approved course for the 2015-16 school year.

- Rule 14-10 was unanimously approved as new language addressing the use of officiating assigners, and to require that, when a paid assigner is used, he or she must be approved by the IHSAA, an IHSAA-approved contract must be used and on file. If an assigner is used but not approved, the school shall pay a fine and the assigner will lose their license.
- A measure to amend Rule 15-2.2 and sponsored by Lebanon principal Kevin O'Rourke that would permit a newly hired coach in an individual sport to fulfill and complete previously committed non-school coaching obligations to students at the new school, was defeated.
- An amendment to Rule 15-3.1 (During Summer) and deletion of Rule 15-3.4 (Open Facility) regarding Participation were unanimously approved establishing general parameters of summer participation at a school. A pair of related measures put forth on behalf of the Northeast Corner Conference were ultimately voted down including one that spoke to non-football team sports.
- Approved unanimously an amendment to Rule 17-4.1 (Right Appeal to the Review Committee) clarifying that an affected party is the school or individual or official against whom a decision has been directed.
- Approved unanimously new language to be listed as 17-7.5 providing responsibility for cost of litigation to the school when bringing litigation against the Association.
- An amended section of Rule 19-6.3 (Transfer Options when Transfer without Change of Residence by Parent/Guardian) was approved which would change the time within which to enroll at a new school and obtain full eligibility from the next "school year" to the "next semester."
- A proposal submitted by Homestead principal Park D. Ginder was voted down that would, according to the offer, would issue limited eligibility to a student who transferred to a new school and then returned to his/her initial school within a year of the transfer "regardless of the circumstances".
- Approved an amendment to the Undue Influence rule to permit the commissioner to assess a penalty including permanent ineligibility for the student.
- A proposal to return JV and freshmen basketball games to six minute quarters was rejected.
- A reduction of the number of required practices prior to a basketball jamboree from 10 to five was approved 17-0.
- An amendment to reduce the number of volleyball contests from 25 to 22 was rejected.
- Permission for freshmen and c-team volleyball matches to finish in a two-set draw when a school's numbers do not permit a team to fully staff both freshmen/c-team and JV contests without violation of the rule was approved 12-5.

Board of Directors and Executive Committee Elections

The elections for next year's leadership of the Board and Executive Committee also were held. Lapel athletic director Jimmie Howell was voted president of the 2015-16 Board of Directors and Caston athletic director Debb Stevens was selected as vice president. Paul Neidig, Chief Administrative Officer of Evansville-Vanderburgh Schools, was named chairman of the 2015-16 Executive Committee and Lowell athletic director Patti McCormack was confirmed as vice chair.

The following are highlights of today's Executive Committee meeting. Complete minutes will be posted at IHSAA.org.

Gymnastics Status

Because gymnastics falls below the minimum participation numbers required by the Association, the status of girls gymnastics is annually reviewed. The group unanimously favored retaining the sport.

Additionally, next year's state finals at Ball State's Worthen Arena is unavailable on the scheduled date of March 19, 2016. Assistant Commissioner Sandra Walter, who administers the sport, will look into options for the event.

Proposals from Indiana High School Swimming Coaches Association

A proposal from the Indiana High School Swimming Coaches Association requested that if a fifth heat is necessary at the state finals, that the heat be filled with next overall fastest swimmers. The Committee ruled unanimously against the proposal.

Proposals from Indiana High School Wrestling Coaches Association

The Executive Committee approved a measure put forth by the Indiana Wrestling Coaches Association changing the team scoring process at the different levels of the state tournament. Scoring at the sectionals and regionals will begin with the round of eight (quarterfinals) and with the round of 16 at the semi-state and state finals.

Respective proposals that were voted down included adding wrestle backs at the regionals and semi-states; allowing team state dual squads an extra weigh-in allowance; allowing participants to wrestle up multiple weight classes above the weight entered on their sectional entry list and; permission for one tournament or meet outside the 300-mile travel limit.

Board Member Resignation

Accepted with regret, the resignation effective immediately, of Wes-Del principal Derick Bright from the Board of Directors. Bright had been elected last December to fill a vacancy representing District II, Class A schools.

About the Board of Directors

The IHSAA is governed by its legislative body, the Board of Directors. Composed of 19 individuals elected by member school principals from three legislative districts, they serve staggered three-year terms. Twelve board seats are filled by any qualified individual (open seats), and seven board seats are filled by two qualified female representatives, two qualified minority representatives, two qualified urban school representatives and one qualified private school representative. The Board of Directors meets annually with the responsibility of establishing the Association's By-Laws and regulations.

District, Seat	Board Member	Term Ends
District I, Class A	Debb Stevens, Caston	June 2017
District I, Class AA	Don Gandy, Wheeler	June 2018
District I, Class AAA	Nathan Dean, Jimtown	June 2017
District I, Class AAAAA	Geoff Penrod, Columbia City	June 2015
District II, Class AA	Jimmie Howell, Lapel	June 2017
District II, Class AAA	Steve Cox, Beech Grove	June 2018
District II, Class AAAAA	Jim Brown, Fishers	June 2017
District III, Class A	Richard Lance, Castle	June 2017
District III, Class AA	Tim Grove, South Knox School Corporation	June 2018
District III, Class AAA	Mike Whitten, Boonville	June 2017
District III, Class AAAAA	Mike Broughton, Jennings County	June 2018
North District, Female	Patti McCormack, Lowell	June 2016
North District, Minority	Deborah Watson, Fort Wayne Snider**	June 2016
North District, Urban	Janis Qualizza, Merrillville	June 2016
South District, Female	Rae Woolpy, Richmond	June 2016
South District, Minority	Victor Bush, Indianapolis Arsenal Technical	June 2016
South District, Urban	Paul Neidig, Evansville Vanderburgh Schools	June 2016
Private School	Dave Worland, Indianapolis Cathedral*	June 2016

*President

**Vice-President

About the Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc. (IHSAA)

The IHSAA is a voluntary, not-for-profit organization that is self-supporting without the use of tax monies. Since its founding in 1903, the Association's mission has been to provide wholesome, educational athletics for the secondary schools of Indiana. Its member high schools - public, institutional, parochial and private - pay no annual membership fee or incur entry fees to play in the Association's tournaments. A state tournament series is conducted annually in 21 sports, 10 for girls, 10 for boys and one co-ed (unified track and field). A 19-person board of directors, elected by member school principals, governs the organization.