



## INDIANA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC. CREDENTIAL INFORMATION FOR ALL TOURNAMENT CONTESTS

The IHSAA has established the following rules regarding media credentialing at all IHSAA sponsored Tournament contests and events.

### A. General.

1. These credentialing rules are administered and amended as deemed appropriate by the IHSAA, in its sole and absolute discretion.
2. The IHSAA reserves the right to grant, issue and deny credentials to any individual or outlet based on the interpretation and intent of these policies as determined by the IHSAA in its sole and absolute discretion.
3. The IHSAA, and all Tournament Managers, reserve the right to issue fewer credentials than the maximum number authorized. The IHSAA reserves the right to deny media credentials in its sole and absolute discretion, or revoke media credentials if it deems that a media outlet has failed to comply with any rules of the IHSAA, including these credentialing rules, as determined by the IHSAA in its sole and absolute discretion.
4. Please note:
  - a. Credential requests from Internet sites or specialty publications will be considered on an individual basis.
  - b. Credential requests from recruiting services, scouts and college coaches will not be considered.
  - c. Credential requests must be made in advance of the event. Walk-up requests will not be considered
  - d. Media representatives covering an IHSAA event are expected to dress in appropriate professional attire.

### B. Credential Policy for Sectional, Regional, Semi-State Tournaments

For all sectional, regional and semi-state level Tournaments, a request for media credentials must be received by the host school athletic director at least five days in advance of the event. The individual schools will issue credentials for the sectional, regional and semi-state levels, not Associated Sports Productions or the IHSAA. It is to the discretion of the host school as to the number of media credentials allotted per Tournament game. Host schools have the right to deny or revoke media credential requests.

### C. Credential Policy for All State Final Tournament Events

1. For all state finals events, credentials are supplied by the IHSAA and must be requested through the IHSAA office. A state finals credential request must be e-mailed or faxed on station letterhead to Mr. Jason Wille, Sports Information Director (E-mail: [jwille@ihsaa.org](mailto:jwille@ihsaa.org); Fax: 317-575-4244). E-mail request must originate from a recognized business account; emails from personal accounts will not be accepted. Requests must include the name/s of the individual/s to be accepted. Deadlines for submitting requests are listed near the bottom of this document. **State finals credentials will not be mailed.** They may be claimed at each venue's "media will call" the day of the event.

Please see the corresponding IHSAA media release for the specific event at [www.ihsaa.org](http://www.ihsaa.org) for further details and media services.

2. An IHSAA State Finals credential may be issued only to an authorized representative who regularly and customarily performs services for the agency submitting the request. Credentials are not transferable. Recipients of working press credentials must be at least 18 years of age. Exception: a student who represents his/her school's newspaper, yearbook, radio, television or internet site and attends a school which has a team participating in the state finals may obtain a credential.
3. **Newspapers, Cable & Television Media** – There will be a limit to the number of passes issued to any single media outlet as determined by the IHSAA. The criteria may include but not be limited to, the following:
  - a. Circulation (daily and weekly newspapers), subscribers (cable television), market size (commercial television).
  - b. Local representation in the respective event.
  - c. Space available for working press at the respective event.
  - d. Previous coverage of IHSAA events by the media outlet.
  - e. Media outlet's previous history of coverage documentation.
4. **Radio and Internet Media**
  - a. Space is limited for radio stations and internet companies providing play-by-play for all championship games. Credentials will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis and as space allows.
  - b. Radio and internet credential totals:
    - i. A maximum of 3 credentials for football. A third credential may be granted to a station engineer who may need to set up equipment before and after a game for the broadcasters. However, a third seat will not be reserved in the press box for this person. Or a third credential may be obtained for a sideline reporter as long as space is available.
    - ii. A maximum of 2 credentials for all other sports.
  - c. Internet Qualifications
    - i. Internet sites applying to cover an IHSAA state tournament contest must have a unique, registered domain name, ending in one of the recognized extensions (.com; .cc; .org; .edu; .net).
    - ii. Internet sites applying to cover an IHSAAA state tournament contest must have a demonstrated record of sustained coverage of high school sports, which should include, but not be limited to: (a) publishing stories and statistics in a timely basis about individual contests; (b) publishing scores on game days; and (c) streaming audio or other content on a real-time basis and publishing feature stories about high school sports teams, coaches and student athletes.
    - iii. Internet sites may only post a maximum of 3½ minutes of audio/video stream broadcast highlight per contest onto their website.
    - iv. Internet sites may be asked to furnish certifiable traffic numbers from an established auditing firm (i.e. Nielsen) or from its service provider. Hit counters on pages will not fulfill this requirement. The following information must be provided: (a) the average number of "unique viewers/visitors" to the site in the last 30-60-90 days; (b) the average number of "page views" by each visitor; and (c) the name and telephone number of the auditing firm or service provider to discuss/ensure the accuracy of the numbers.
    - v. The following internet sites will not be issued media credentials to IHSAA tournament events: (a) personal page internet site publishers, (b) subscription-based internet publishers, (c) internet sites associated in any way with the promotion of alcohol, tobacco, gambling, political

election issues/candidates, or lewd subject matter as determined by the IHSAA, and (d) any other internet site deemed in poor taste or not in compliance with the mission of interscholastic athletics as determined by the IHSAA.

#### **5. Specialty Publication Qualifications**

- a. Specialty publications desiring media credentials must submit requests using instructions stated above. For state tournaments, requests must include samples of the specialty publication and must be made no later than two weeks in advance of the event to allow the IHSAA time to review the publication and its content to determine legitimacy.
- b. Credentials for specialty publications staffed by full-time employees with the intent of reporting tournament results/information for bona fide news purposes shall be granted credentials as space allows. Designated seats for all representatives of specialty publications that have been approved for credentials may not be available.
- c. Credentials for specialty publications affiliated with/following a participating team, as approved by that school's administration, will receive strong consideration for being granted credentials.
- d. Specialty publications desiring media credentials must have a demonstrated record of sustained coverage of high school sports. This should include, but not be limited to: (i) publishing stories and statistics in a timely basis about individual contests, and (ii) publishing feature stories about high school sports teams, coaches, and student athletes.
- e. The following specialty publications will not be granted credentials: (i) specialty publications that only provide recruiting lists, (ii) specialty publications that only provide lists of outstanding teams, and (iii) any specialty publication deemed in poor taste or not in compliance with the mission of interscholastic athletics as determined by the IHSAA.
- f. Specialty publications must declare their coverage plans with their credential request to determine if the content to be printed does not duplicate existing content already being provided, or violate rights already granted by the IHSAA to another party. If a specialty publication is seeking credentials merely to report information already available on the IHSAA web site or its designee, the IHSAA reserves the right to deny the credential request.
- g. Space and facility restrictions will determine whether credential requests for photographers from specialty publications will be approved. The selling of photographic and electronic images is exclusive to the IHSAA and/or any other company so designated by the IHSAA.

#### **D. State Finals Tournament Seat Assignments**

An open seating policy is normally used at IHSAA state finals events, but if it becomes necessary to allocate space for accredited media organizations, priority will be given to:

1. Media which is state wide in scope (wire services, regional television, etc.).
2. Media which covers their hometown, competing team.
3. Media which cover the site of the host facility.
4. All other media (internet sites, specialty publications).

#### **E. Deadlines for Submitting Credential Requests for State Finals Tournaments**

<u>Fall Sports</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>	<u>Event Date</u>
Girls' Golf	Wed., Oct. 1, 2008	Oct. 3-4, 2008
Boys' Team Tennis	Thurs., Oct. 16, 2008	Oct. 18, 2008
Boys' Individual Tennis	Thurs., Oct. 23, 2008	Oct. 24-25, 2008
Soccer	Thurs., Oct. 30, 2008	Nov. 1, 2008

Cross Country	Thurs., Oct. 30, 2008	Nov. 1, 2008
Football	Wed., Nov. 26, 2008	Nov. 28-29, 2008

<u>Winter Sports</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>	<u>Event Date</u>
Girls' Swimming & Diving	Thurs., Feb. 12, 2009	Feb. 13-14, 2009
Individual Wrestling	Thurs., Feb. 19, 2009	Feb. 20-21, 2009
Team Wrestling	Thurs., Feb. 26, 2009	Feb. 28, 2009
Boys' Swimming & Diving	Thurs., Feb. 26, 2009	Feb. 27-28, 2009
Girls' Basketball	Thurs., Mar. 5, 2009	Mar. 7, 2009
Gymnastics	Thurs., Mar. 19, 2009	Mar. 21, 2009
Boys' Basketball	Thurs., Mar. 26, 2009	Mar. 28, 2009

<u>Spring Sports</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>	<u>Event Date</u>
Track & Field	Thurs., June 4, 2009	June 5-6, 2009
Girls' Team Tennis	Thurs., June 4, 2009	June 6, 2009
Girls' Individual Tennis	Thurs., June 11, 2009	June 12-13, 2009
Softball	Thurs., June 11, 2009	June 12-13, 2009
Boys' Golf	Mon., June 15, 2009	June 16-17, 2009
Baseball	Thurs., June 18, 2009	June 19-20, 2009



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