



May 6, 2021

Coaching Accreditation Rule Addressed by IHSAA Board of Directors

New Processes also created for Emerging and Recognized Sports

In its annual review of the IHSAA By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation, the Board of Directors approved changes to its Mandatory Coach Accreditation rule, and outlined how new sports may become recognized by the Association.

The Board of Directors, led by this year's President Chad Gilbert of Charlestown High School and Vice President Stacy Adams of Valparaiso High School, approved 27 rules proposals during the meeting on Monday in Indianapolis.

Most of this year's proposals were either adjustments to current rules due to COVID-19 or were temporary regulations made at some point during the school year by the Executive Committee and needed official ratification by the Board. Member school principals may submit new proposals for consideration annually by March 1 but none were received this year.

All proposals are considered in the order that the rule appears within the current by-laws. The Board of Directors has four options on each proposal: affirm, deny, table or amend a rule. A simple majority is necessary to act on any measure and all approved measures become effective immediately unless otherwise noted. Minutes from the [Board of Directors meeting](#) as well as the [Executive Committee meeting](#) are posted at IHSAA.org.

Mandatory Coach Accreditation

Rule 7 was clarified that any paid or volunteer coach of a program must be rostered with the IHSAA and accredited prior to having any athletic contact with a student (physical athletic activities or conditioning).

It also introduces two additional courses for coaches to complete provided by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). In addition to courses already required by Indiana law on **concussions, heat illness and prevention**, and **sudden cardiac arrest**, coaches will have to complete offerings on **protecting students from abuse** as well as **student mental health and suicide prevention** or the equivalent of those courses already offered by the Indiana Department of Education. To remain accredited, an individual must retake each of the five courses every two years.

The proposal also outlined the meaning of suspension and revocation of accreditation and established a protocol for reinstatement as well as penalties and fines when an unaccredited coach has contact with a student.

These additions to Rule 7 were approved by a 17-2 vote.

Emerging Sports and Recognized Sports

The Board also approved by a unanimous 19-0 vote a proposal adding to Rule 1 that creates a new process for Emerging Sports and a clarified pathway to become a Recognized Sport.

Going forward, the IHSAA Board of Directors may designate a sport as an Emerging Sport if 20 schools are currently sponsoring said sport, suggest specific rules (playing and practice seasons) and 10 letters of commitment are submitted from member schools that currently sponsor or intend to sponsor a program in the their school.

Once approved by the Board, that sport will be added to the IHSAA General Eligibility Rules and all schools participating will be eligible to receive administrative services such as rules books, rules meetings and registration in the IHSAA Catastrophic Medical program.

A sport may be designated a Recognized Sport by the Board and a state tournament offered if, after going through the Emerging Sport process, 150 or more member schools with a minimum of 40 from each district, have sponsored a full program and participated for two consecutive years.

The following additional items of note were approved during today's Board of Directors meeting and the ensuing Executive Committee meeting.

- Approved 17-2 an amendment and new sub-section to Rule 9-14 regarding contests. This requires practice participation by students prior to a contest when all students on a team are unable to attend regular practices because their school was unable to conduct those sessions (necessitated by situations like COVID-19). Students will need four days of practice before participating in a contest when 8-14 days have been missed or make up six days of practice when more than 15 days have been missed.
- The elections for next year's leadership of the Board and Executive Committee also were held. **Jeff Doyle of Barr-Reeve High School** was voted president of the 2021-22 Board of Directors and **Jim Brown of Fishers High School** was elected vice president. **Victor Bush of MSD Lawrence Township** in Indianapolis was named chairman of the 2021-22 Executive Committee and **Stacy Adams of Valparaiso High School** was confirmed as vice chairman.

2020-21 IHSAA 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	Tom Finicle, Southwood	June 2023
District I, Class AA	John Steinhilber, Hebron	June 2021
District I, Class AAA	Nathan Dean, Jimtown	June 2023
District I, Class AAAA	Ed Gilliland, LaPorte	June 2021
District II, Class A	Martin Brown, North Vermillion	June 2021
District II, Class AA	Matt Martin, Knightstown	June 2023
District II, Class AAA	Chris Conley, Delta	June 2021
District II, Class AAAA	Jim Brown, Fishers	June 2023

District III, Class A	Jeff Doyle, Barr-Reeve	June 2023
District III, Class AA	Tim Grove, South Knox School Corporation	June 2021
District III, Class AAA	Mike Whitten, Boonville	June 2023
District III, Class AAAA	Brent Duncan, Connersville	June 2021
North District, Female	Patti McCormack, Lowell	June 2022
North District, Minority	Stacy Adams, Valparaiso**	June 2022
North District, Urban	Brian Strong, Logansport	June 2022
South District, Female	Rae Ferriell-Woolpy, Richmond	June 2022
South District, Minority	Victor Bush, MSD Lawrence Township	June 2022
South District, Urban	Chad Gilbert, Charlestown*	June 2022
Private School	Dave Worland, Indianapolis Cathedral	June 2022

* 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 410 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 22 sports, 10 for girls, 10 for boys and two co-ed (unified flag football and unified track and field). A 19-person board of directors, elected by member school principals, governs the organization.