

IHSAA NEWS RELEASE



Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.
9150 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46260 • 317-846-6601 • IHSAA.org • IHSAAtv.org • @IHSAAI

March 31, 2023

Evansville to host the 2024 Wrestling State Finals **River City will host an IHSAA State Finals event for the first time**

The Indiana High School Athletic Association is pleased to announce the 86th Annual IHSAA Wrestling State Finals will be contested at the Ford Center in Evansville.

This will be the first time the city of Evansville has hosted an IHSAA State Finals event in any sport.

The regularly scheduled dates of next year's state finals are Friday and Saturday, February 16-17, 2024.

Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, which has hosted the state finals every year since it opened in 2000, will be home to the 2024 NBA All-Star Game on the same weekend.

The Ford Center, which has an approximate capacity of 11,000, is in downtown Evansville and has served as host of the Evansville Wrestling Semi-State for 11 of the last 12 years since opening in 2011.



Photo courtesy of Evansville Convention & Visitors Bureau | VisitEvansville.com | @GoToEvansville

“We’re extremely pleased and grateful to the city of Evansville for their willingness to host the IHSAA Wrestling State Finals - one of our premier events every year,” said IHSAA Commissioner Paul Neidig. “Evansville has an impeccable reputation for hosting amateur athletic competitions and we are very confident this will be a great and memorable experience for everyone who attends. Evansville stands ready for this opportunity to host this event and share their hospitality with the rest of the state.”

The IHSAA reached out to other venues in the state with the necessarily specific availability, capacity, infrastructure, and willingness to host this event and the Ford Center was found to be the most compatible.

“We are elated that Evansville has been selected to host the 2024 IHSAA State Wrestling tournament,” said Lloyd Winnecke, Mayor of Evansville. “We eagerly await the opportunity to roll out the red carpet for student athletes and spectators. The remarkable Ford Center will serve as a dynamic host venue, and we are confident that visitors will enjoy our thriving downtown, and all the amenities and hospitality our great city has to offer.”

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 407 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-eds (unified flag football, unified track and field). A 19-person board of directors, elected by member school principals, governs the organization.