



May 5, 2025

First-Time Transfer proposal formally approved by Board **Girls Flag Football approved as an Emerging Sport, Co-Op measure fails**

During its annual review of the Member School By-Laws on Monday afternoon, the Board of Directors of the Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc. formally adopted changes to Rule 19 regarding first-time transfers, added Girls Flag Football to its Emerging Sport Process, and a proposal allowing two schools to enter into co-op arrangements failed to receive enough support.

The Board of Directors, led by this year's President Larry Cochren of Washington High School and Vice President Jim Brown of Fishers High School, approved 11 proposals, three (3) failed to receive enough support, and two (2) other was tabled during the meeting in Indianapolis.

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.

The Board officially adopted the first-time transfer proposal of Rule 19 (Eligibility and Transfers) that was adopted at the [February 21 Executive Committee](#) meeting.

In short:

- Students whose first transfer is from IHSAA Member School to IHSAA Member School will maintain full eligibility if it occurs during their first six semesters of high school.
- Second and subsequent transfers and transfers from non-IHSAA Member Schools will be handled in a similar fashion to the way they have been in previous years.
- Students whose second transfer involves a return to the IHSAA Member School where they established their initial promotion eligibility will retain full eligibility within 365 days of their enrollment date at the previous school.

This new by-law takes effect on June 1, 2025.

Girls Flag Football added as Emerging Sport, joins Girls Lacrosse

Girls Flag Football was approved by the group by a 17-1 vote to join the IHSAA's Emerging Sports Process. The sport joins Girls Lacrosse, approved last August, and both will begin the process with the 2025-26 school year.

Girls Flag Football, a fall sport, has strong support and financial backing of the Indianapolis Colts.

The Emerging Sport Process, known as Rule 1-4, helps pave a way for those sports and participation to continue to grow with an eye toward eventually becoming a recognized sport and sponsorship of an official state tournament. Girls Wrestling and Boys Volleyball went through the same process and became fully recognized and state tournaments sponsored this school year.

By earning the designation as an emerging sport, the IHSAA will now provide rule books, conduct coaches rules meetings, and provide coverage in the IHSAA’s Catastrophic Medical program. Both sports will now be subject to all IHSAA rules and policies, including the General Eligibility Rules.

For a sport to become officially recognized and an IHSAA state tournament to be sponsored, 100 or more member schools must be participating in the sport. The IHSAA currently has 409 member schools around the state.

Co-Op Programs

A proposed item submitted by Union High School Principal Ryan Chiddister failed to receive enough support for passage by a 6-12 count.

It would have been an addition to Rule 9 (Contests) which outlined the conditions under which member schools can form cooperative agreements for team sports, enrollment limits, proximity requirements, and application processes.

Other items:

- The elections for next year’s leadership of the Board and Executive Committee were also held. **Tom Black of East Central High School** was voted president of the 2025-26 Board of Directors and **Jeff Hamstra of Chesterton High School** was elected vice president. **Larry Cochren of Washington High School** was named chairman of the 2025-26 Executive Committee and **Jim Brown of Fishers High School** was confirmed as vice chairman.

About the 2024-25 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.

2024-25 IHSAA Board of Directors

District, Seat	Board Member	Term Ends
District I, Class 1A	Tom Finicle, Southwood	June 2026
District I, Class 2A	Paul Voigt, Churubusco	June 2027
District I, Class 3A	Ryan Harrington, Highland	June 2026
District I, Class 4A	Jeff Hamstra, Chesterton	June 2027
District II, Class 1A	Martin Brown, North Vermillion	June 2027
District II, Class 2A	Jeremy Dexter, Western Boone	June 2026
District II, Class 3A	Chris Conley, Cowan	June 2027
District II, Class 4A	Jim Brown, Fishers**	June 2026
District III, Class 1A	Jeff Doyle, Barr-Reeve	June 2026
District III, Class 2A	Tim Grove, Linton-Stockton	June 2027

District III, Class 3A	Larry Cochren, Washington*	June 2026
District III, Class 4A	Tom Black, East Central	June 2027
North District, Female	Patti McCormack, Lowell	June 2025
North District, Minority	Stacy Adams, Valparaiso	June 2025
North District, Urban	Brian Strong, Logansport	June 2025
South District, Female	Kris Painter, Terre Haute North Vigo	June 2025
South District, Minority	Kyle Duncan, Brownsburg	June 2025
South District, Urban	Chad Gilbert, Charlestown	June 2025
Private School	Stephanie Gillett	June 2025

* 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 409-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.