

- c. The penalty for a late entry in an activity state contest shall be the payment of \$100 for that activity by the school.
- d. A school may be permitted to enter a sport or activity any time as a late entry before the beginning of the tournament series provided:
 - (1) The IHSA administrative officer in charge of the sport or activity determines whether or not the late entry can be accommodated;
 - (2) The school agrees to follow whatever special provisions might be necessary to accommodate the late entry; and,
 - (3) The schools Principal/Official Representative must send written notice of entry to the IHSA office upon approval to enter from the IHSA Administrator of that sport.

7. Policies Regarding Late Withdrawals

a. Breach of Contract By-law 6.041

- (1) To withdraw without penalty, the Principal must notify the IHSA Office, in writing, of the school's withdrawal from the respective sport prior to the seeding meeting and/or the date the List of Participants is due for that sport.
- (2) (If a school withdraws after the seeding meeting/list of participants due date but before the first competition, the school will be charged a \$500 penalty and, if applicable, the cost of game officials and the host school guarantee provided for in the Terms and Conditions.
- (3) If a school does not officially withdraw prior to the first competition and/or does not show up for competition, the school will be charged a \$500 penalty, the cost of game officials and the host school guarantee according to the Terms and Conditions for the respective sport.
- (4) In all activity state contests, schools that have an entry in an activity and withdraw that entry will be responsible to pay a penalty of \$500 for late withdrawal in that activity, unless the Principal/Official Representative notifies the IHSA Office of the withdrawal, in writing or by telephone pending receipt of written withdrawal, prior to the withdrawal deadline date included in the Terms and Conditions for that activity.

- 8. These policies and procedures regarding entries for all IHSA sports and activities shall be followed by all IHSA office personnel, without exception.

29. PRAYER AT IHSA STATE SERIES CONTESTS

Prayer at an IHSA state series contest that takes place over the public address system is prohibited.

30. IHSA AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY FOR GIRLS ON BOYS STATE SERIES TEAMS

I. Rationale

This Affirmative Action Policy addresses the issue of girls participating on boys' teams and boys participating on girls' teams during the IHSA state series. The overall philosophy is that schools should provide separate but comparable athletic opportunities for each sex. There are circumstances however, when an opportunity to compete at a school is not provided a girl or a boy. This policy protects the existing participation opportunities for the underrepresented gender (girls) and also allows that gender additional participation opportunities when they are not provided to them at their school.

The position of the Association is that a girl may participate on a boys' teams but a boy may not participate on a girls' teams. The foundation for this rationale is that by allowing a boy to compete on a girls' team, he most likely would replace a girl on that team thus taking away another opportunity. This situation not only adds to the difference in participation opportunities but also hurts the growth of the girls program.

IHSA is not the enforcement agency. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) monitors the Federal law and the Illinois Sex Equity Rules that require school districts to offer athletic programs that accommodate the interest and abilities of both sexes to a comparable degree. It is their agency that the IHSA member schools must work through in regards to compliance. Therefore, procedures established in this policy are in keeping with the ISBE's role.

II. Policy for a Girl Entering an IHSA Boys Tournament Series.

This policy applies only to the IHSA state series. During the regular season, schools and conferences will have local control. When a school wants to enter a girl in an IHSA boys state series tournament, the following policy applies.

A member school may enter a girl in the IHSA boys athletic state tournament series when:

- 1. The only team in the sport offered at the school is a boys' team;
- 2. The girl(s) has participated on that particular boys team during the regular season and;
- 3. The member school has secured a "Letter of Verification" from the Illinois State Board of Education indicating that the school is in compliance with the Illinois Sex Equity Rules.

III. Process

A school must request a letter of verification from the ISBE in order for a girl to participate on a boys team in the IHSA State Series.

To obtain a letter of verification from ISBE, the official school representative must complete a 3-step process. The ISBE is the controlling agency for this process, therefore the request forms are accessed through the ISBE website. A school can access their link through the equity center at www.ihsa.org.

The self-assessment is good for one reporting school year. If your school has NOT completed the assessment within that time, then the following process must be followed.

1. Complete Form B, Step 1 of the "Request for a Girl to Participate on a Boys Team";
2. Complete Form B Step 2 of the "Request for a Girl to Participate on a Boys Team"; this form includes the actual self-assessment criteria.
3. Complete the Form B step 3 of the "Request for a Girl to Participate on a Boys Team".
4. Send all forms to the ISBE.
5. The ISBE will act on your request and subsequently they will acknowledge your schools compliance status with the Illinois Sex Equity Rules (23 Illinois Administrative Code 200) Section 200.80 Extracurricular Program and Activities. This letter will make eligible the girl for participation in the IHSA state series on the boy's team.
6. A copy of that letter will also be sent to the IHSA by the ISBE.

The self-assessment is good for 4 school years. If your school has been granted permission for a girl to participate on a boys team within the last 4 years, then your past self-assessment may be used. The following process for a school that has completed a self-assessment within 4 school years is as follows:

1. Complete Form A, Step 1 of the "Request for a Girl to Participate on a Boys Team";
2. Complete Form A Step 2 of the "Request for a Girl to Participate on a Boys Team"; this form includes the actual self-assessment criteria.
3. Complete the Form A step 3 of the "Request for a Girl to Participate on a Boys Team".
4. Send all forms to the ISBE.
5. The ISBE will act on your request and subsequently they will acknowledge your schools compliance status with the Illinois Sex Equity Rules (23 Illinois Administrative Code 200) Section 200.80 Extracurricular Program and Activities. This letter will make eligible the girl for participation in the IHSA state series on the boy's team.
6. A copy of that letter will also be sent to the IHSA by the ISBE.

Late Request Conditions

If a request is late and the report cannot be filed prior to the start of the state series, the state Board of Education will conditionally allow participation provided the school agrees to submit the report within the school year. If the report is not submitted by the next school year, then the school will not be granted permission for any girl to compete in any IHSA boys state tournament series.

Where to Send Your Request for Permission:

Illinois State Board of Education
Student Care Department
Leslie N. Ward, Ed.D.
(312) 814-8988
lward@isbe.net

IV. Penalty

If a school does not request permission through the ISBE for a girl to participate on a boy's team, then the girl(s) is excluded from the IHSA boys tournament state series.

Illustrations of Policy

Boys on Girls Team

- 1) Q. Is there any state series in which a boy may compete in the girl's tournament?
A. No. A member school will not be permitted to enter a boy in an IHSA girls state tournament series in any sport.

Girls on Boys Team

- 2) Q. Can a girl participate on a boys' team if she was not a member of the boy's team during the school year?
A. No.
- 3) Q. Can a girl, who has participated on the boys' team during the regular season, compete in the boys state series instead of the girls state series?
A. Yes. If a member school offers a boys' team but no girls team in a sport in which the IHSA sponsors both a boys and a girls state tournament series, and in which students may compete for individual honors, the school will be permitted to enter a girl in the boys state tournament series provided she has participated on the boys team in that sport during the regular season