

Member School Administrators,

Voting in the IHSA's annual legislative process concluded at midnight last night, and the votes were independently certified this morning.

All 12 of the proposals that were on the ballot passed based on over 90% percent of the membership casting ballots, [view the full results here](#).

There are a number of significant changes among the dozen proposals, some of which will not be applied until next school year, but there are many that could potentially impact member schools in a matter of days, weeks, or months.

I can recall from my time as an Athletic Director that it can be jarring to go from talking about these proposals with colleagues over coffee at a town hall meeting, to suddenly having to implement them in the middle of the school year.

As a result, while you can find a full recap of each proposal below, I have provided a list of the five proposals that are the most timely for our schools:

BY-LAW CHANGES FOR THIS WINTER/SPRING/SUMMER

A. Proposal 11 is the by-law in response to the "Right To Play Act". Its passage means that after January 14, in-season student-athletes can now participate in two non-school events in that sport during the high school season. Students can participate in a third non-school event if the event is sanctioned by the sport's national governing body. Registration in the schools center for all non-school competitions will remain a requirement for participation. Students remain prohibited from practicing with their non-school during the high school season.

B. Proposal 12 is the football combine by-law. Its passage means that after January 14, schools can begin to organize free high school football combines. Each school and each student may only attend one combine. Schools may bring up to 20 players to that combine. Coaches/schools can provide transportation to the combine they attend and coaches can be involved in conducting the combine drills.

C. The IHSA no-contact week will move to the week of the Fourth of July this summer. As a result, from June 29 through July 5, 2026, all of your athletic programs are essentially shut down. No practices, contests, open gyms, weight lifting or agility training, etc. may be conducted during this time.

D. The football playoff expansion (from 32 teams to 48 teams per class) goes into effect next fall for the 2026 season, but has immediate scheduling ramifications, as Week One of the regular-season will be moved up one week to **August 20, 2026**. This means that your Week 0 scrimmage is eliminated. If you have contracted a game with an out-of-state opponent in 2026, please take immediate action in connecting with them, as the intended date may no longer matchup as a result of this change.

E. The softball season change goes into effect for the 2026 season, meaning practices may now begin on February 23, 2026 and contests on March 9, 2026.

Some of these by-law changes will take work on our end and Board interpretations before we can fully institute, be it the expansion of the Board of Directors, or use of replay for flagrant contact ejections in football. As a result, there will be more to come on these items as we progress into 2026. With that said, feel free to follow-up with me or our staff members with any questions and we will do our best to guide and advise you.

I hope you enjoy a peaceful holiday season and prosperous beginning to the New Year!

FULL RECAP BY-LAW VOTING RECAP

- **Proposal 1:** Expands the IHSA Board of Directors to include four additional seats reserved for a Superintendent, President, CEO or Head of School.
- **Proposal 2:** Allows IHSA to revise, amend, or supplement any ruling based upon information gathered during legal discovery. Also requires that all obtainable information be presented at the time of the appeal to the

Hearing Board, while clarifying that the Executive Director cannot provide a new ruling following an appeal to the Hearing Board.

- **Proposal 5:** Prevents a cooperative agreement between two or more schools that exceeds 3,500 students from competing for team awards in the IHSA State Series.
- **Proposal 10:** Adds language to the IHSA recruitment by-laws that affirm that the rules apply to prospective student-athletes.
- **Proposal 11:** Provides students with the ability to compete in two non-school competitions in that sport during the high school season. A third non-school competition is also allowed if the competition is sanctioned by the National Governing Body of that sport. ***This proposal goes into effect in 30 days on January 14, 2026.***
- **Proposal 12:** Allows each school to participate in one football combine that is free of charge to attendees. Schools may organize and transport up to 20 students to attend the combine. ***This proposal goes into effect in 30 days on January 14, 2026.***
- **Proposal 13:** Establishes an IHSA “No Contact Week” that will annually fall during the Fourth of July week. Schools may not practice, compete, hold open gyms, provide conditioning or weight training during this week. ***This change will be in place this summer, with the no-contact week occurring from June 29 - July 5, 2026. This also eliminates the previous no-contact week in early August.***
- **Proposal 19:** Moves the start of IHSA Football games up one week (eliminating Week 0 scrimmage) and adds 16 teams per classification to the playoffs. ***This change will be in place for the 2026 IHSA Football season and Playoffs.***

- **Proposal 21:** Moves the boys volleyball season start and end date up one week. This proposal will go into effect for the 2027 season.
- **Proposal 22:** Moves the start of the softball season up one week. ***This change will go into effect for the 2026 season. Practices may now begin on February 23, 2026 and contests on March 9, 2026.***
- **Proposal 23:** Moves the start and end of the girls wrestling season up multiple weeks. This proposal will go into effect for the 2026-27 season.
- **Proposal 24:** Modifies the suspension for ejection by players in tackle football for flagrant contact to have a video review process to clarify the accuracy of the judgment call. IHSA Staff will review video sent by a school and make a recommendation to the Executive Director to affirm the call on the field or overturn and return a student to their next contest.