

Guidelines for Summer Baseball and Softball Programs, continued

1. they enroll in the IHSA summer program on blanks provided for that purpose by the IHSA Office, and
2. they agree to meet all of the program requirements set forth above.

15. Guidelines for Adding and Deleting State Series Programs

1. The Board will entertain proposals to add a new state series when ten percent of the member schools engage in regularly scheduled competition in the sport or activity.
2. When the minimum required participation level is demonstrated and proposals to add a new state series are considered, the Board shall (a) consider the growth potential of the sport or activity, and (b) consider the equity criteria included in the classification policy in determining whether to add the proposed new series.
3. The Board will entertain recommendations from staff to consider deletion of an existing state series when no more than five percent of the member schools participate in the series and/or engage in regularly scheduled competition in the sport or activity.

16. Guidelines for Non-School Competition

During the school term, special permission may be granted to permit a student to compete in a non-school event during the school season in competitions which are sponsored and conducted directly by the national governing body for the sport. Schools must submit the following for approval:

1. A completed copy of the Non-School Competition Participation Request Form.
2. Written verification from the national governing body for that sport that it is the sponsor and will conduct the event.

17. Emerging Sports Policy

Definition of Emerging Sport

Any sport for which IHSA does not conduct a state tournament series and which a member school elects to sponsor as either a sport under the auspices of its athletic administration or as a club or other informal sports activity shall be considered an emerging sport.

Purpose of Emerging Sports Policy

The Emerging Sport Policy is designed to establish parameters under which schools may engage in competitive sports activity even when state tournament series competition is not available for the sport. It will establish common ground rules and management policies for the sport among member schools and will facilitate the growth of such sports within the established confines of the Association's Constitution and By-laws.

Registration of Emerging Sport Programs

All member schools facilitating participation by students in any emerging sport shall register for participation in said sport(s) with the Association by adopting an Emerging Sport Resolution and filing a copy of said Resolution along with the registration forms supplied by the Association with the IHSA Office. IHSA will utilize Emerging Sport Registration Records to monitor the development of new sport activities in member schools and assist in determining when new state series should be considered.

Dates Sport May Be Conducted

Any school belonging to this Association may organize, practice or compete in an emerging sport at any time during its established calendar for the current school term, unless a specific season has been established.

Eligibility of Participants

Students who participate in emerging sports must be eligible under the provisions of IHSA eligibility by-laws.

Management Standards Applicable to Schools

Schools sponsoring emerging sports must comply with all provisions of IHSA By-laws.

Annual Report

Member schools sponsoring registered emerging sport programs must file an annual report of participation with the IHSA Office on forms provided by the Association. This data will further assist the Association in determining when a new state series should be conducted.