

January Association Meeting

January 14, 2025 @ 7:00pm

Agenda/Minutes

Virtual Link: <https://meet.google.com/uap-gxwi-wyx>

Or open Meet and enter this code: uap-gxwi-wyx

Dial in (audio only): (US) +1 314-666-2965 PIN: 620 559 574#



Call To Order: 7:03 PM

Attendance

In person: Christian Lunsford, Alex Pajor, Frank Novakowski, CJ Patton, Keith Mukai, Blaise Blasko, Steve Kafka

Virtual: Andy Isaacson, Ryan Dul, Daniel Bajek, Carlos Fuentes, Scott Phillips, Tony Ciezadlo, Christian Stanicek, Edna Lundeen, Bill Cordts, Jason Brandenburg, Donald Raymond, Frank Erwin, Sam Zeman, Paul Kim, Howie Ruben, Howard Rubin, Bryan Pracko, Tom Huml, Bryan Bekkedal, Doug Foerch

Finances

Balance

- Current Balance: \$13,645.05
- Balance at this time last year: \$6,844.67

Association Dues:

Make sure to pay your Association Dues. \$100 if you attended the Winter Clinic. \$35 (Head Coaches Only) /\$30 (Judges, Assistants) if you did not

Methods of Payment (receipts upon request)

- Check (make Payable out to IHSGCA):
Adrian Batista at Niles West High School
5701 Oakton St, Skokie, IL 60077
- Cash - Any Executive Board Member
- Pay via Zelle : treasurer@ihsgca.org

On Checks: Please put in the memo the name of the school/people you are paying for

Creation of Sponsorship Committee:

- What Are The Goals of the Sponsorship Committee?
 - Responsibilities will include: Creation of sponsorship levels for different donation amounts -For Example:

- \$200 donation - Business will have their Company Logo printed within our State program,
- \$500 - business will have their logo printed in program and featured in an announcement at the meet as a Sponsor of the State Meet.
- \$1,000 - Company logo will be featured on the inside cover and back page of the program,
- \$2,000 company logo will be included on the banner that will be backdrop of the award stand... etc ...
- These are examples, it will be the job of the Committee, in conjunction with the Steering Committee, to create these decks and aid in the search for sponsors.
- How will these funds be used?
 - Pay for people's time: Judging Clinic, Pay for judging memberships (AAU), find ways to supplement more for the sport and help offset the time being invested
 - Making the State meet more special/bigger
 - Increase # of scholarships or their amounts
 - Fund the Hall of Fame Banquet for years
 - National Team
- In regard to funds, as they're used - What are individual schools doing for athletic awards?
 - Discussed by Steering Committee to help offset any costs for end of the year awards for schools.
 -
 - Lake Park still getting access to end of year awards, as is Willowbrook, same with Downers and Glenbrook South. Most likely the case at this point with most schools, but not guaranteed.

Next steps:

- **Make a Motion to form the Committee, and if Association supports the motion, ask for volunteers to become members**
- Create a more detailed expense proposal for how funds can be used

Motion (Alex): Creation of Sponsorship Committee to create a guide of sponsorship levels for different donation amounts.

- Seconded by Frank
- Yes: 25
- **Motion Passed**

Fundraising

The President of the Association will be tasked with creating a new GoFundMe page each year before the start of Season

State of Gymnastics

Move to Fall 2025 - At the conclusion of this Spring season, we aim to move to the Fall of 2025.

Where do we currently stand?

- It's in discussion and we are gathering information and data from AD's and Coaches
- [Letter to ADs here](#)
- What ADs want to hear - participation increases are by far the most important goal
 - The problem? - Nobody knows whether having the season in the fall will positively or negatively affect individual team participation. Until we gain more information, all we have is speculation. What we do know is that a few programs will likely be dropped. Makes a compelling case to consider all avenues and gain as much information as we can before deciding to move
 - In conclusion, we have the idea in front of the ADs and are actually getting answers now. While it may not happen in 2025, The tangible knowledge we are getting into what moving will look like in the future, whether it is possible, and the direction we go in from here, is valuable to our organization and the future of the sport.

Next Steps:

- It is recommended that we schedule a statewide call with all the ADs that have a boys program to gain some insight from ADs into what the move would actually look like and get everyone on the same page. Could be easier to schedule a call based on Conference.
 - Looking for an AD that would be willing to sponsor this call. I am starting with the WSC gymnastics sport sponsor and the Conference AD President.
 - It could be helpful to have coaches on the call as well.
- Speaking with our Coaches and getting feedback on the details and struggles of what actually moving may involve on an individual school-by-school basis.

Open the Floor to anyone who would like to share their thoughts on this

- (John Catalano) Glenbrook North AD - Potential volunteer to be representative to schedule a state wide AD call.
- 211 ADs very concerned about finding State Host as well as making decision based on lack of clear information from single entity
- 6 out of 9 ADs in WSC (ADs present) voted against moving to the fall
- Steve Kafka - Would they continue the program if schools did not move to the fall?
 - Likely at
- Interesting to look at how many freshmen are available in the fall considering the multiple different freshmen teams between the two seasons.
- (Joe Kain) Glenbard West AD - Suggested participation would be higher in the spring. "This move has to benefit all programs"
 - **After the meeting, I (AP) examined the rosters of Freshman Boys Sports at 3 Schools - Glenbard West, Niles West, And Downers North. I did not include Gymnastics in the totals, as they are the control group we are discussing. I also did not see if there was any crossover of athletes that played a fall sport which might conflict with Gymnastics were it to move to the fall. This was simply a raw count of Freshman participation.**

- Glenbard West - Fall Roster totals: 122, Spring Totals: 115
- Niles West Fall: 111, Spring: 78
- Downers Grove North - Fall: 123, Spring: 93
 - Until further data is collected to refute the findings of this relatively small sample, it would appear that though there are fewer number of sports in the fall, there are not actually more “available” athletes that could potentially find a home on the gymnastics roster. The idea of having fewer sports in the fall leading to an increase in participation is put in doubt.
- I would highly encourage other coaches to do the same experiment. Examine Freshman Rosters for fall and spring sports. Collect some actual data to support or refute the idea that if we do move to the fall, more athletes would come out for the sport.
- Also, after examining the IHSA participation survey, it further supports the findings that existing roster numbers are higher in the fall sports than in the spring sports. Reducing the number of “available athletes” in the fall season. See data below:

Number of Rostered Athletes by Sport Over Six-year Period (Covid Year Excluded)

FALL							
XC	11,513	11,516	11,744	11,665	11,320	11,599	69,357
FOOTBALL	46,896	44,451	42,682	40,111	38,366	38,366	250,872
GOLF	7,898	7,653	7,518	7,275	7,322	7,329	44,995
SOCCER	20,221	20,704	20,946	20,877	20,669	20,334	123,751
						TOTAL:	488,975
SPRING							
BASEBALL	28,813	22,806	2,266	22,289	21,598	20,480	118,252
LAX*	4,340	4,340	4,340	4,340	4,340	4,141	25,841
TENNIS	6,959	6,894	6,747	6,598	6,448	6,366	40,012
TRACK	24,808	25,554	24,871	24,973	24,047	23,292	147,545
VOLLEYBALL	6,598	6,824	6,608	6,976	7,341	7,040	41,387
						TOTAL:	373,037

*LAX numbers begin in 2018-2019. Used the highest participation count for all prior unfilled years

<u>FALL Rostered Athletes</u>	<u>Totals:</u>
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FOOTBALL	46,896 44,451 42,682 40,111 38,366 38,366 250,872
GOLF	7,898 7,653 7,518 7,275 7,322 7,329 44,995
SOCCER	20,221 20,704 20,946 20,877 20,669 20,334 123,751
	TOTAL: 488,975

<u>SPRING Rostered athletes</u>	<u>Totals:</u>						
BASEBALL	28,813	22,806	2,266	22,289	21,598	20,480	118,252
LAX	0	0	0	0	4,340	4,141	8,481
TENNIS	6,959	6,894	6,747	6,598	6,448	6,366	40,012
TRACK	24,808	25,554	24,871	24,973	24,047	23,292	147,545
VOLLEYBALL	6,598	6,824	6,608	6,976	7,341	7,040	41,387
TOTAL: 355,677							

- CJ Patton - Have a quick fall season for the schools that can do it to collect data about numbers in the spring. This would be only with the schools that could do it. Potentially this would be under a club with no direct pay at first. Something potentially to give to the ADs.
- Alex Pajor - What is the deadline to schedule this to happen?
- Paul Kim - Threshold on how many schools say no to not move?
- One program will be lost for sure if movement to fall happens
- Andy Issacson - Goal to have 30+ on team this season and goal for everyone else too for the future
 - Even allowing kids to participate more than one sport during season
- Tony - WSC ADs need more time to understand how this change impacts athletes
- Independent Conference suggests this conversation for 2026
- CJ Patton - AD call is paramount regardless when this change happens and should be done this year.
 - 2026 is more reasonable and taking a more aggressive stance created a noticeable response
- AD call hopefully scheduled before the end of January

HALL OF FAME RESUMES

DUE FEBRUARY 9th

- Resumes for HOF due to HOF committee before February Association Meeting (submitted through IHSGCA website, Frank forwards to Scott Phillips)

Rulebook 2025-2028

Clarifications:

- Rule 2.II.C.1.a - The word "dismounts" has been changed to the word "skills".
 - On Floor Exercise - All multiple (more than one) flipping and/or twisting skills will receive 0.1 bonus if performed without a single large deduction on Floor Exercise
 - This was the original intent of the additional bonus.
- "Pillow mats" will not be acceptable for use in competition.

Current Emerging Sport status

Lends legitimacy to the continuing existence of our sport. Gives the ADs (experienced and new) a list published of all active teams, making the case stronger to form new teams or keep existing ones from being eliminated.

[LIST OF SCHOOLS THAT ARE REGISTERED](#) as emerging sports currently (15)

Carbondale (H.S.)

Deerfield (H.S.)

Evanston (Twp.)

Franklin Park-Northlake (Leyden)

Geneva

Glenview (Glenbrook South)

Hoffman Estates (Conant)

Hoffman Estates (H.S.)

LaGrange (Lyons)

Lincolnshire (Stevenson)

Naperville (Central)

Naperville (North)

Schaumburg (H.S.)

Skokie (Niles West)

Villa Park (Willowbrook)


CONTACT YOUR AD. MAKE SURE YOUR SCHOOL IS REGISTERED AS AN EMERGING SPORT UNDER IHSA.

CURRENT EXPECTED PARTICIPATING TEAMS (29):

- Lake Park
- Lake Zurich
- Stevenson
- Hoffman Estates
- Schaumburg
- Fremd
- Conant
- Palatine
- Hinsdale Central
- Glenbard West
- Glenbard North
- Wheaton Co-op
- Willowbrook / AT Co-Op
- Leyden
- Glenbard East
- Glenbard South
- Lyons Township
- Downers Co-Op
- Evanston
- Glenbrook North
- Niles Co-Op
- Highland Park
- Deerfield
- Glenbrook South
- Naperville North
- Naperville Central
- Hinsdale South
- Kaneland
- Geneva

2024 Season/Dates

Upcoming Dates

- Judging Clinic at Lake Park HS East Campus February 8th, 2025
 - Communicate with CJ Patton and Brandon Tucker if planning on attending
 - Will be getting an email to RSVP from Frank Novakowski
 - Not required for judges from last year as requirement is done on bi-annual basis
- Season Starts Feb 17, 2025 (Week 33)
- Sectionals Week May 5 - 11, 2025 (Week 44)
- State Championship May 17, 2025 (Week 45)
 - Current Layout:  2025 IHSGCA Boys State Final Gymnastics Schedule

Current Calendar for [SPRING 2025 SCHEDULE](#)- Head Coaches, Please examine and edit your meets accordingly.

Association Meetings @ Lake Park East Community Room

Next month we are back to Monday Nights.

- ~~Tuesday, 11/19/24~~
- ~~Friday, 12/13/24 (Winter Clinic @ USGTC)~~
- Tuesday, 1/14/25
- Monday, 2/10/25
- Monday, 3/10/25
- Monday, 4/28/25
- Monday, 5/12/25 (Or Thursday 5/8 - No sectionals)
- Monday, 5/19/25 (HOF Banquet)

IHSGCA State Series

Sectionals

- 3 sectionals
 - **Monday, May 5** at Glenbard West
 - **Tuesday, May 6 — WE NEED A HOST** - Conant? Deerfield (Most likely a no due to space) Niles?
 - **Wednesday, May 7** at Lake Park
 - Make sure to remind your AD that the sectional meet is run as an invite, a contract should be sent out and a fee should be paid by the schools that attend. The Current entry fee is \$250.
 - Frank asked for entry fee on wrestling invites – \$425 for LP to attend an invite.
 - Steering Committee will consider recommending a higher fee for entry to sectionals and state meet

State Meet

- Hoffman Estates - Saturday, 5/17/25
- Single Day session
- Schedule
 - ALL STATE QUALIFIERS ARE AT-LARGE (No automatic Sectional qualifiers)
 - Top 10 Team Scores make it to State
 - Top 50 Individuals on each event make it to State

Judging

Requirements:

- 1. AAU membership - To register for an AAU membership, click here: [AAU Membership](#) You will be registering for a Non-Athlete Membership, Extended Benefit Membership (AB). The cost for the extended benefit membership is \$57 for 1 year, or \$79 for 2 years, and is only an additional \$2 over the standard membership. Your membership will provide a background check.
- 2. NFHS Concussion education - To complete the free concussion training, click here: [NFHS Concussion in Sports](#) Select your state from the dropdown menu, and then click Order Course. The course is free, and you will be provided a certificate upon completion.
- 3. Bi-Annual Clinic Attendance - Judging Clinic February 8th @ Lake Park
- 4. Mandatory Exam - The Steering Committee + Head Clinician will release a mandatory exam for all judges to take on an annual basis.
 - Steering Committee will look at estimated cost of making a rules video that can be updated each year

Rating System Executive Committee

Frank Novakowski will head the Committee in Doug Foerch's absence (Doug will assume his position in the following season). Blaise Blasko will retain his position as the Assistant Chair for this Committee.

New Rating System Format: (As Voted on and passed last year)

In the closing weeks of the regular season, head coaches will be provided a list of all registered officials who were assigned to at least three meets during the season. ***Head coaches will be asked to select their top 15 officials from the list via an online survey.***

Coaches will not need to rank their selections. An official's "score" simply consists of how many coaches included that official in their Top 15 list.

Coaches will make their selections via an online survey that they will receive via email. All head coaches will be asked to participate. They do not need to be IHSGCA members. Conference Reps will be asked to ensure that as many head coaches respond as possible.

Coaches will have one week to make their selections once they receive the online survey.

The online survey will be due 10 days before the first Sectional to allow time for the results to be reviewed and the Sectionals assignments to be finalized.

The Steering Committee will prepare the online survey.

The Rating System Executives will review the coaches' selections and make their best effort to assign the officials receiving the most points to the Sectional and State meets. As in previous years, these assignments will take into account the officials' availability, strengths on each event, available pairings, as well as attempt to maintain consistency across Sectional meets.

Steering Committee will also recommend that the Executives give a certain number of points to judges for attending the Clinic, and a variable number of points based on exam score.

Read Full proposal here: [Proposal for a simplified rating system](#)

2025 Rating System Schedule:

- April 18th: Survey is emailed to all head coaches, responses due in 1 week
- April 25th: Survey is due (10 days before first Sectional)
- May 5th: First Sectional

Conference Reps

- **CSL: Ryan Dul** rdul@glenbrook225.org
- **MSL: Jason Brandenburg** JBRANDENBURG@D211.ORG
- **WSC: Bill Cordts** bcordts@leyden212.org
- **Independent: CJ Patton** cjgymnast7@gmail.com

Updates/News:

- All MeetScorer licenses will be free for Boys Season
 - Reach out to Adrian Batista if you do not have it
 - Will use Meetscorer for State Series

Open Coaching Positions

Head Coach Positions:

Assistant Coach Positions:

For the good of the Membership/New Business:

- Bill Cordts - Leyden is looking to add one more school to its Varsity invite on Saturday, March 22, 2025. Please contact him if interested. bcordts@leyden212.org
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- Continuing Ryan McDonough Freshman Scholarship
- Arbiter Status - Greg Gebhardt (Tabled until more is known)
- Windy City Invite this Saturday @ 7 pm - Navy Pier

Meeting Adjourn: 8:26 (Chris Lunsford)