

April 2026 Association

Meeting - <https://meet.google.com/hnd-wgvg-egr>

April 28th, 2026



Call To Order: 7:06 PM

Attendance Online: Christian Lunsford, Frank Erwin, Andy Isaacson, Steve Foerch, Jason Brandenburg, Andrew Arnold, Dan Bajek, Carlos Fuentes, Christian Stanicek, Bill Cordts, Dylan Gnat, Julian Basler, Edna Lundeen, Donald Raymond, Howard Rubin

In person: Adrian Batista, Scott Phillips, Blaise Blasko, CJ Patton, Frank Novakowski, Hilary Carlson, Jeff Wronkiewicz, Lukas Styczen, Nicholas Maniscalco

Balance

- Current Balance: \$ 18,779.60

State of Gymnastics/Updates

- Conference Reps
 - West Suburban
 - Bill Cordts
 - Independent
 - CJ Patton
 - MSL
 - Jason Brandenburg
 - CSL
 - Adrian Batista
- Teams competing 2026 - 24 teams.

Glenbard West 5/4/26	Lake Park 5/6/26	Downers Grove North 5/8/26
Glenbard West*	Lake Park	Downers Grove Co-op
Glenbard North	Deerfield/Highland Park	Hinsdale South
Glenbard South	Evanston	Glenbard East
Leyden	Glenbrook North	Lyons Township
Willowbrook/Addison co-op*	Niles Co-op	Stevenson (updated)
Naperville North*	Hoffman Estates	Palatine
Hinsdale Central*	Conant	Schaumburg
Westmont HS -1	Fremd (Updated)	Glenbrook South
	Naperville Central (updated)	
	Carbondale	
*must be on Monday (USAG)		

*requested this day

2026 Season/Dates

Upcoming Dates

Master Schedule - **GYMNASTICS 2026 SCHEDULE**

2026 Scores

- **Sectionals** Week May 4-9, 2026 (Week 44) **Sectional Rotations**
 - Sectional Hosts: Glenbard West Mon 5/4. Lake Park Wed.5/6 DGN - Friday 5/8
 - **State Championship** May 16, 2026 (Week 45) **Hoffman Estates.**
 - We can add a past list (talk with Ryan Brown)
 - **Hall of Fame Banquet, Monday May 18th, 6:30pm, Gary Morava Center, Prospect Heights**
- ***Brief IHSGCA Exec Board description:***

Brief Job Description:

Secretary

- Take attendance at association and steering committee meetings
- Print materials for association and steering committee meetings
- Take minutes/notes at association and steering committee meetings
 - Attendance and minutes should be transcribed back onto the original agenda document within 1 week of the association meeting
- *NEW* (as of 2021-22) - Assist Treasurer with Filing of Taxes

Treasurer

- File Taxes
- Collect association fees and deposit them at the bank
- Track membership and who has paid association fees
- Manage checkbook, pay recurring bills

Vice President

- Purchase awards for State Meet
 - Viking Awards
 - Provide the names and schools for each of these awards after the May association meeting.
- Purchase set up for HOF Banquet
 - Viking Awards
 - Awards
 - Plaques for each of the top three teams in IHSA Boys Gymnastics State Competition.
 - Plaque for the IHSGCA President
 - Golf Outing
 - Reserve Morava Center
 - Purchase food for HoF banquet. (Moretti's 2025)

President

- Prepare agenda for all association and steering committee meetings
- Prepare / Organize Winter/Spring Clinic
- Send reminders for meetings, events, deadlines
- Maintain the calendar
- Update the constitution with changes passed in the previous year
- Guide the season with attention to detail

All voting items will be sent out to eligible voters via Google Form after the April meeting. Voting will occur at the May meeting on Monday May 11th. Results will be announced either at the meeting or shortly after via email.

2 in-person meetings or 1 in-person, 2 virtual or 3 virtual

Nominations

Secretary:

Nominated:	Nominated By:	Seconded:
Dan Bajek	Blaise Blasko	Adrian Batista
Andrew Arnold	CJ Patton	Christian Lunsford
Joon Yun	CJ Patton	Blaise Blasko

Treasurer: Dylan Gnat

Vice President:

Nominated:	Nominated By:	Seconded:
Christian Lunsford	Adrian Batista	Frank Novakowski
Nicholas Maniscalco	Lukas Styczen	Christian Lunsford

President:

Nominated:	Nominated By:	Seconded:
Christian Lunsford	Adrian Batista	Frank Novakowski
Jeff Wronkiewicz	Lukas Styczen	Adrian Batista

Steering Committee (5 on Steering Committee (Not Already on Executive Board)):

Nominated:	Nominated By:	Seconded:
Nicholas Maniscalco	CJ Patton	Christian Lunsford
Frank Erwin	Blaise Blasko	CJ Patton
Jeff Wronkiewicz	Lukas Styczen	Nicholas Maniscalco
Joon Yun	Christian Lunsford	Lukas Styczen
Jason Brandenburg	Jeff Wronkiewicz	CJ Patton
Adrian Batista	CJ Patton	Christian Lunsford
Carlos Fuentes	Christian Lunsford	CJ Patton
Frank Novakowski	Adrian Batista	Christian Lunsford
Christian Stanicek	Adrian Batista	Christian Lunsford

Pratik Patel	CJ Patton	Adrian Batista
Payton Hultmark	Dylan Gnat	Adrian Batista

Hall of Fame (2 Positions to Fill):

Nominated:	Nominated By:	Seconded:
Greg Gebhardt	Frank Novakowski	Blaise Blasko
Scott Hagel	Christian Lunsford	Scott Phillips
Howie Rubin	Scott Phillips	Blaise Blasko
Bruce Beiersdorf	Andy Isaacson	Frank Novakowski
Steve Foerch	Blaise Blasko	Adrian Batista

Outstanding Press Coverage Award: N/A

Special Recognition:

Nominated:	Nominated By:	Seconded:
Ryan Brown	Blaise Blasko	CJ Patton
Steve Lacni	Christian Lunsford	Adrian Batista
Andy Isaacson	Blaise Blasko	Frank Novakowski
Paul Kim	Blaise Blasko	CJ Patton

Outstanding Official of the Year:

Nominated:	Nominated By:	Seconded:
Joe Skowronski	Adrian Batista	Christian Lunsford
Randy Gentile	Jeff Wronkiewicz	Steve Foerch
Scott Hagel	Christian Lunsford	Adrian Batista
Lora Kalka	Blaise Blasko	CJ Patton
Frank Novakowski	CJ Patton	Christian Lunsford
Hilary Carlson	Blaise Blasko	Steve Foerch
Alex Pajor	Lukas Styczen	Jeff Wronkiewicz

Rule Proposals to be discussed:

1. On the JV/Varsity level a ring routine may begin in the support position. The coach will be allowed to lift the athlete up to the rings and assist him up to a support position to begin.

This follows a natural progression from the freshman routine or the current trend in gymnastics as it is the same starting position as the level 5 USAG ring routine. (Fuentes)

- Discussion:

- CJ: Should make it a blanket rule for JV and Varsity to make it easier for judges
 - Also, this supports late joining athletes (juniors and seniors etc)
- Lukas: Deemphasizing swing to support skills
- Blaise: Does not see a progression for lifting athlete
- Julian: Suggesting to take the deduction but still spot the athlete to help with the progression (agree with Blaise)
- Carlos: Trying to get a natural flow with some degree of progression
- Hilary: Not impossible to remember proposed rule on one event

2. I would like to propose that a felge (bird up) to support L or straddle L be added to the rule book and make it a B and meets the requirement for swing to strength.

Rationale... Front uprise to L is a B and meets requirement & Felge to cross or Plange also meets swing to strength and is a C. (Cordts)

- Discussion:

- Andy: Supports the rule and helps kids learn a shoulder to shoulder and eventually to a shoot to handstand
- Jeff: Back Uprise Straddle L is not a swing to strength should not also be counted for the swing to strength
- Blaise: Keep the skill in EG 1 and make the skill a 'B'
- Adrian: Like the idea of promoting a bird up for a good building skill and upgrading the skill could help
- Julian: Would not completely help with the progression of skills
- CJ: Thinks this is two separate skills and cannot completely be combined

3. PB - I propose that we include a layaway with the half swing currently permitted for a bail moy or giant.

Rationale: It would provide much needed flexibility for connecting a front uprise in PB routine development for lower level JV and varsity e.g., Kip layaway or L layaway. Additionally it makes logical sense as there is not skill connecting difference between a bail and layaway. (Erwin)

- Discussion:

- Frank: Makes this easier for routine construction, especially for kids just starting out
- Carlos: Allowing to have an extra swing will make it easier to score higher

4. Jeff Wronk

I would like to submit the following rules proposal -
Change these vault values to the following:

- Front Handspring 1/1 twist from a 7.4 to an 8.6
- Front Handspring 3/2 twist from a 7.9 to an 8.8
- Front Handspring 2/1 twist from an 8.5 to a 9.0
- 1/4-1/4, round off, or 1/2 from a 6.7 to a 7.0
- Front Handspring 1/2 twist from a 7.2 to a 7.6
- 1/4 on 3/4 off from a 7.2 to a 7.6
- 1/4 on 5/4 off from a 7.4 to a 8.0

- Discussion:

- Adrian: Loves it and helps alleviate athletes throwing very dangerous vaults for only doing gymnastics three months during the year. This can still give the gap between good flipping vaults between non-flipping vaults
- Andy: This is a great idea
- Lukas and Christian: Agree to see more than just twenty handsprings at a competition. Something different while the flipping vaults will still win. It will differentiate the level of vault.
- Nicholas: Help out immensely at the JV level. Vault is used less at the JV level because once athletes learn a front handspring, then their time will be used better to learn skills on different events
- Hilary: Wants to see real vaults
- Frank: We are de-incentivizing a tsuk by 1.2 points.
- Blaise: Can bring a lot more deduction while the level of deduction is higher in high school gymnastics
- CJ: Lower level tsuks will beat handsprings every single time
- Jeff: Either make these vaults worth it or get them out of the rule book (take into account complete aspect of vault) - this also aligns with the rest of FIG

5. Proposed to readopt the last high school rule book 2011-2013. Pending USAG approval.
(Novakowski)

- Discussion:

- Frank Novakowski:
 - Have a framework to discuss what would benefit the kids doing gymnastics today. Does not benefit athletes today overall (example: the multitude of deductions in the old book would make dramatically drop the scores)
 - There is value in discussing potential aspects to bring back (example: being able to repeat skills - front tuck front tuck on floor could help start learning bounding elements)
 - Idea - Diagramed skills can be completed for value for next year and modify year after after seeing implementation
- Frank Erwin: Do not want to go to the book completely - instead give higher value to skills what they used to be
- CJ Patton: What do we want out of this proposal?
 - Frank's Answer: Generate discussion to help the sport
- Carlos: Propose that Rules Committee explore five options from old book to see if there is a possibility of implementation
- Blaise: This can be an ongoing discussion
- Adrian: Why rush the process and make this an ongoing discussion to help the overall state of high school gymnastics even though we still have a constitution and a process
- Nicholas: What can we do to generate excitement and potentially build team numbers for the entirety of the season?
 - Has seen a disinterest of skills on JV level because they are not seeing these skills done from other schools (bringing excitement is the only way to keep the sport alive)
- Adrian: There are some aspects in the book that can bring excitement by giving athletes the ability to get some difficulty while not pushing skills out of their league. Rules committee can use State meet to look at areas that are missing and needing to be looked at.
- Lukas: Help with more swing to strength (SR) and releases (HB) to bring up the level of gymnastics
- Blaise: Change from floor exercise to just tumbling

- Frank will rewrite the proposal and have the Steering Committee as oversight. This will be rewritten before the May meeting.

Hall of Fame

Hall of Fame: Congratulations to Al Bekkedal and Paul Omi for being selected for 2026!! AND Paul Blasko who was nominated in 2025, but will be honored at the 2026 banquet.

Scholarships

IHSGCA Scholarship [IHSGCA Scholarship](#)

Senior Gymnast [Senior Gymnast of the Year](#)

Brinkworth Scholarship (criteria bottom of document)

Ryan McDonough Scholarship

- 4 year gymnast that started competing as a freshman
- Should demonstrate core values such as work ethic, growth mindset, model behavior and passion for the sport of gymnastics

- Please send nominations for Ryan McDonough to Dylan Gnat,

secretary@ihsgca.org

John Brinkworth Scholarship are due April 29th and should be sent to Betty Axelson-McClelland at eggsgymbetty@aol.com

Future Meetings:

We will offer in person at Lake Park HS for ALL remaining IHSGCA meetings.

(Virtual will still be available)

Association Meetings-

- April 27th, 7pm @ Lake Park HS & Virtual
- May 11th, 7pm @ Lake Park HS & Virtual- Depending on Sectional Dates.
- May 18th, 6:30 pm, Hall of Fame Banquet, Morava Center.

2025-2028 Rule Book

Condensed Rule book (all in one) (PDF attached from email about this meeting). Thank you Ryan Brown

 [2025-2028 IHSGCA FIG\(Jan2018update\) Combined English only Rulebook.pdf](#)

Fundraising

- Donation update
- Please post this at all invites, large meets or any other function.



- GoFundMe link

For the good of the Membership/New Business:

Special Olympics June 12,13,14th, Illinois State University.

Updates/News:

- Charlie Nelson funding a scholarship for GymAct schools. More to come

Meeting Adjourn – 9:13 PM

JOHN BRINKWORTH
SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

- FROM THE JOHN BRINKWORTH SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:
Betty Axelson-McClelland, Vicki Munch, Fred Dennis, Pete Hemmerling, Chester Jones
- NOMINATIONS DUE APRIL 25. E-MAIL Nomination Form and Letters of Recommendation to Betty Axelson-McClelland, Eggsgymbetty@aol.com
- ATHLETE MUST BE A GRADUATING H.S. SENIOR
- GYMNAST MUST BE NOMINATED BY HIS/HER H.S. COACH
- COACH MUST WRITE A RECOMMENDATION
- SCHOLARSHIP AWARD IS \$500 and PLAQUE

REQUIREMENTS

- Athlete must have exceptional work ethic in the gym and in school
 - Athlete must possess personal character traits of honesty, sincerity, and dedication to the sport
 - Athlete has displayed courage and perseverance in their gymnastics and/or personal life
- * **ONE OTHER RECOMMENDATION LETTER FOR THE GYMNAST MUST BE SUBMITTED** by a teacher, coach, other school personnel, pastor, or community leader.
- * **Athlete must write a short letter** telling why she/he feels they exemplify the ideals that the John Brinkworth Scholarship Award is recognizing and why she/he is worthy of receiving financial Assistance.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WILL BE PRESENTED at the BOYS' STATE H.S. MEET at HOFFMAN ESTATES H.S. on SAT., MAY 16, 2026

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JOHN BRINKWORTH SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATION

Gymnast Name _____ High School _____

Gymnast's
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Coach _____ Coaches' Cell Phone No. _____

Coaches' Fax No. _____ Coaches' E-mail _____

Gymnast's Class Rank and/or Grade Point _____ No. of years competed h.s. _____

E-MAIL ALL LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION to Eggsgymbetty@aol.com

1) Coaches' Recommendation 2) Athlete's Letter 3) Another letter of recommendation from teacher, coach, other school personnel, pastor, or community leader.

****Coaches: Please e-mail all 3 letters of recommendation from the above at the same time so they will arrive all together. We request that the letters of recommendation are in WORD or a PDF format so all the members of the committee are able to open these files. Please scan and email the nomination form as well. The committee appreciates your help with this.**

ALL REQUIREMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 25, 2026.

QUESTIONS: Call Betty Axelson-McClelland at 847-312-6476 or 847-382-7487.

PLAQUE IS SUPPLIED BY JERRY and MIKE FONTANA from the ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT SOURCE.