



**The IESA will provide the leadership to ensure safe, equitable opportunities so students in our member schools can be enriched by participation in interscholastic activities which promote good sportsmanship, integrity and life skills.**

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August 5, 2016

Welcome to the 2016-17 school year. For the past 87 years, IESA has been the state's leader in providing education-based, interscholastic activities for students in our member schools. Thank you for being a member of the Association and for allowing us to be of service to your school and your students. On behalf of the IESA Board of Directors and my staff, we appreciate your membership and what you do to offer quality activities to your students. IESA is very unique---we are the only activity state association in the country that is solely devoted to jr. high/middle school activities. No other state does what we do here in Illinois.

Enclosed in this mailing are several items. I encourage you to become familiar with the IESA Handbook and the IESA website. Individual activity updates will be posted on our website so you can download and print them at your discretion. Please be sure these are shared with members of your coaching staff. These updates highlight important changes from last year and other information pertinent to the respective activities. For instance, major changes have been made to the warm-up period in volleyball as well as the libero position is now permitted. Those changes will be highlighted in the activity update for volleyball.

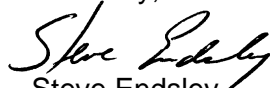
Your membership dues for the 2016-17 school year have been paid. Most schools have already paid athletic entry fees in accordance with entry deadlines. As a reminder, October 3 is the deadline to enter girls volleyball, boys wrestling, boys and girls track and field, and scholastic bowl. The speech entry deadline is September 26. If you have not paid for these activities you must do so from the IESA website. Please send your entry fees before the deadline to avoid payment of late fees. Other entry deadlines are published in the pocket calendars previously sent to your school. Be sure you are aware of the calendar for the 2016-17 school year. There is a complete 2016-17 school calendar located on the IESA website as well as a calendar of activities for the 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20 school years.

We must continue to stress the importance of sportsmanship in all of our activities. Nothing would please us more than to go through an entire year without any special reports from officials and no ejections of players, coaches, or fans.

We will once again hold one of our Division Meetings at the IPA Conference in Peoria on Monday, October 17 at 3:20 p.m. If you are not able to attend the Division Meeting at the IPA conference, then you or members of your staff will need to watch the online presentation. These have proven to be very successful the last couple years and we will continue to offer them in the same format this year. Additional information will be sent to all schools shortly after the start of the school year. There is no fee to watch the presentation.

Please contact us if we can be of any service to you. Once again, thanks for your membership!!!!

Sincerely,

  
Steve Endsley  
Executive Director

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**1015 Maple Hill Rd. ♦ Bloomington, IL 61705 ♦ Tele. (309) 829-0114 ♦ Fax (309) 829-0625**

**[www.iesa.org](http://www.iesa.org) ♦ [iesa@iesa.org](mailto:iesa@iesa.org)**