



**Illinois Elementary School Association  
Strategic Planning  
State Tournament Structure Action Team Minutes  
November 7, 2005**

The following members were present for the meeting: Brent Ashbaugh, Rochester; Scott Doerr, Elkhart; Rich Fields, Washington Beverly Manor; Rich Kantner, Edwardsville, Liberty; Fred Lamkey, Riverton; Joe Marks, Sullivan; Tom Morse, LeRoy; Doug Nelson, Aledo; Margaret Segersten, Antioch; Ron Shank, Herscher; Jeff Starwalt, Mahomet-Seymour; Russ Stewart, Farmington; Mike Stoecklin, Saunemin; Tim VanSwol, Manteno; and Shelly Wills, Carlinville. Also present was Steve Endsley, IESA Office.

The committee discussed the possibility of the IESA Office notifying schools as early as possible of the class in which a school would be participating in a given sport. The procedure currently used was explained and that given current entry deadlines, it is impossible to notify as early as the membership would like. For instance, with the current entry deadline being in early October for boys basketball, the IESA Office must wait until at least then before the official split between Class A and Class AA can be determined. Note: Beginning in 2006, the entry deadline for boys basketball will be in early June. This will allow the IESA Office to determine the split between Class A and Class AA at a much earlier date and notify schools earlier of their class, regional assignments, etc.

An email that was received from the Heyworth girls basketball coach concerning the way the split between Class A and Class AA was discussed. The proposal called for IESA member schools that feed into an IHSA Class AA school to be placed into Class AA at the IESA level, those that feed a Class A high school would be placed in Class A at the IESA level. Several examples were given where this would not be feasible or fair--the schools in the Bartonville area that feed Limestone High School would be placed in Class AA under this proposal as would most of the schools in the Lincoln area that feed Lincoln High School. Conversely, there are some current IESA Class AA member schools that feed into a Class A high school. Under the proposal, those schools would become Class A schools. The committee agreed that the proposal would not be feasible or equitable.

#### Softball

Margaret Segersten presented the review of the softball structure. Since there are only 156 schools that participate in the activity, it was the feeling of the action team that this was too few to add an extra class and have a three class system. There was discussion on the playing dates of the regional. Currently, regionals begin on Thursday (if more than four teams are assigned to the regional), semifinals are held on Saturday and the championship game is played on Monday.

**Recommendation:** Beginning in 2006, to require the quarterfinal games to begin on Wednesday of week #10 in the standardized calendar (Thursday as a rain date) and that both the semifinals and championship game be played on Saturday. If only four teams are assigned to a regional, then the entire regional championship would be played on Saturday. **Rationale for the recommendation:** This would reduce the amount of travel and for some school significantly reduce travel. Regional host schools would only need to schedule officials for one day and not two. **Reasons against the recommendation:** This would require two games to be played in one day. Schools may be faced with moving a regular season game off of the Wednesday. If the same set of officials is hired to work three games on a Saturday, this will make for a long day for them.

#### Baseball

Russ Stewart presented the review of the baseball structure. Currently, there are 244 schools that enter the state baseball series. The current two class system has two equal classes of 122 teams with 8 teams advancing to the finals. The split between classes is: Class AA---1079-131; Class A 130-18. Mr. Stewart presented the possibility of having "district" competition without regard to school size so state series play would be against area schools. The idea did not receive much support.

Discussion then centered around the possibility of having three classes of approximately 82 teams in each class with 8 teams in each class advancing to the finals. The approximate splits between classes would be as follows (based on 2004 enrollments): Class AAA---1079-182; Class AA---181-96; Class A---95-18. Mr. Endsley will prepare maps based on this split so the committee can study travel distances and other considerations that would be associated with such a split. Should any type of change be made, discussion centered on it becoming effective with the 2007-08 school year.

The chart below shows the breakdown and split information for a 33 1/3 – 33 1/3 - 33 1/3 system in Boys baseball:

<u>Class</u>	<u># of Schools in Class</u>	<u>Enrollments</u>
3A	81	1079-182
2A	81	181-96
1A	82	95-18

No recommendation for a change was made---only discussion at this point in time.

### Basketball

Tim VanSwol and Doug Nelson presented the review of the basketball structure. There are approximately 380 schools that enter the boys state basketball series and 340 schools that enter the girls state basketball series. The current two class system in boys basketball has two equal classes of 190 teams with 16 teams advancing to the finals. Because there is competition at both the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade level, a total of 64 schools advance to the IESA basketball finals. The split between classes is: Class AA---1079-135; Class A---134-18.

Tim showed a map of a possible three class system that would have 8 teams in Class AAA and 8 teams in Class AA advancing to the finals and 16 teams in Class A advancing to the finals. This would mean a total of 64 schools would advance to the basketball finals, the same as the current number. However, with only 8 teams advancing to the finals in Class AAA and Class AA, the finals would be played on a Friday-Saturday format (similar to the IHSA except Friday games would start around 3:00 p.m.) Class AAA and Class AA would have 16 regionals with 4-5 teams each and eight sectionals. The Class A set-up would be 32 regionals, 16 sectionals, and a 16 team final played in the same set-up as is currently played. The three class proposal would have the highest 20% of schools (76 schools) comprise Class AAA, the next 20% (also 76 schools) comprise Class AA, and the remaining 229 schools, (60%) in Class A. The approximate enrollment splits using this 20-20-60 system would be as follows: Class AAA---1079-336; Class AA---335-175; Class A---175-18.

After discussion concerning the fairness of 8 teams advancing to the finals in two classes and 16 teams advancing to the finals in one class, the action team focused on a four class system.

The four class system focused on a 20-20-30-30 split. In boys basketball, Class 4A would consist of 76 schools with enrollments of 1079-336, Class 3A would consist of 76 schools with enrollments of 335-175, Class 2A would consist of 114 schools with enrollments of 174-85, and Class 1A would consist of 115 schools with enrollments of 84-18. Each class would have 16 regionals, 8 sectionals and eight teams advancing to the finals. This would mean 32 7<sup>th</sup> grade teams would advance to the finals and 32 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams would advance for a total of 64 teams advancing---the same as what is currently advancing. However, one major change to the finals would be that the finals would be played in a Friday-Saturday format---quarterfinals on Friday and semi-finals and finals on Saturday. This would necessitate the Friday winners to play two games on Saturday.

In girls basketball using a 20-20-30-30 split, class 4A would consist of 69 schools with enrollments ranging from 1079-357, class 3A would consist of 69 schools with enrollments of 356-187, class 2A would consist of 102 schools with enrollments from 186-95 and class 1A would be 102 schools with enrollments of 94-18. Like boys basketball, each class would consist of 16 regionals, 8 sectionals, and 8 teams advancing to the finals.

After discussion, the committee felt that a four class system utilizing the 20-20-30-30 split the action team decided that future discussion on changing the current format in girls and boys basketball would focus on this set-up.

The chart below shows the breakdown and split information for a 20-20-30-30 system in Boys basketball:

<u>Class</u>	<u># of Schools in Class</u>	<u>Enrollments</u>
4A	76	1079-336
3A	76	335-175
2A	114	174-85
1A	115	84-18

and for Girls Basketball:

<u>Class</u>	<u># of Schools in Class</u>	<u>Enrollments</u>
4A	69	1079-357
3A	69	356-187
2A	102	186-95
1A	102	94-18

Note: Last year, there were 381 schools that entered the state series in boys basketball and 341 that entered girls basketball. This accounts for the difference in the number of schools in each class and for the enrollment variance.

No recommendation for a change to the basketball set-up is being made at this point in time. Several items still need to be discussed including regional travel distances and financial impact of such change.

Changes to other activities will be discussed at the next meeting. Rich Kantner distributed a calendar with proposed changes to playing dates for all activities. Discussion concerning the playing dates of all activities will be held at the next meeting.

**The action team will meet again on Thursday, January 12, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the IESA Office in Bloomington**