



Jason Finke, President Greg Frehner, Vice-President
Greg Hale, Executive Director
3887 Pick Road, Pinckneyville, IL 62274

SIJHSAA Member School Contact:

This is the 2023 Fall Information Packet, which contains valuable information for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year.

This year has many new changes in the SIJHSAA. One change, that I would like to announce is that I will be retiring at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. Information for the Executive Director's position is attached to the Fall Information. A timeline for applications, interviews, and selection of the new director is included and will take place during the 2023-2024 school year. During the 2024-2025 school year the new director will job shadow the operations of the association.

As the school year starts, I will email weekly updates to all member schools of important association happenings. Thus, it is important that your school has the correct email contacts to my office and on the SIJHSAA Website (www.sijhsaa.com). Information on how to update your website school information is included in the Fall Mailing.

Please share this information in this packet with your coaches, staff, administration, and community.

Contact my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Hale". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "G" and "H".

Greg Hale
Executive Director
Southern Illinois Jr. High School Athletic Association
618-318-2091 / sijhsaa@gmail.com

2023 FALL INFORMATION PACKET

JULY 7, 2023

1. **New Member Schools:** Schools wanting to gain membership in the SIJHSAA may do so by contacting Executive Director, Greg Hale. In addition, the school administrator must fill out an application for membership that can be found on the SIJHSAA Website. This form must be submitted to the SIJHSAA Office.
(www.sijhsaa.com / administrative / forms and documents)

2. **Where Parents Work:** Students who live with their parents in one school district, and whose parents(s) is employed as a full time certified employee (teacher or administration) or non-certified employees (who work at least 7 hours a day), in a member school in another district, are eligible in the district in which the parent(s) work. PROVIDED: The school has an ISBE 5-year Waiver on file, an ISBE Transfer Form is signed off by both schools, and an SIJHSAA Employee Waiver Form is completed and signed by the parent and school administrator of the receiving school. All of the above mentioned forms must be completed and filed in the receiving school's Superintendent or designee's office no later than July 1, with one exception which is: The deadline for new hires is September 1. This process does not have to be repeated in ensuing years for the same student(s).
The SIJHSAA Employee Waiver form is on the SIJHSAA Website.
(www.sijhsaa.com / administrative / forms and documents)

3. **SIJHSAA Website:** School representatives are responsible to go on the website, with your User ID and Password, to log on valuable information. (school contact information, sport participation, enrollment, intent to play, etc...) **Your school representative will be responsible to enter your School Online Member Profile and Contact Information for the 2023-24 school year.** Please do this ASAP! On September 30, 2023 you will be able to enter your K-8 School Enrollment.
***Note that if your school contact information has changed – you will still have to email or fax a copy of the School Contact Information Form, located on the SIJHSAA Website / Forms and Documents to the SIJHSAA Office.**
****Instructions for website changes are attached to this packet and on the SIJHSAA Website.**
(www.sijhsaa.com/administrative/formsanddocuments)
*****The SIJHSAA Website will be changing this summer to make it more user friendly.**

4. **FAITH'S LAW:** This state law requires that any person whom is in close contact with students, must have completed requirements to comply with Illinois State Board of Education screening in order to be in compliance. I am sure your administrators are aware of this law. As far as sports goes, officials are grouped in this category. In order for them to meet compliance, the IHSA has added registration documentation, when they license to comply. So as for now if you hire a licensed official, they are in compliance with the ISBE. Non-licensed officials are not in compliance through the IHSA.

5. **Rawlings "Official Baseball, Softball, and Basketball of the SIJHSAA":** Rawlings Balls will be used in Baseball, Softball, and Boys and Girls Basketball. The contract will last through the 2026-2027 school year. Listed are the Rawlings Balls that will be used in each SIJHSAA State Series for 2023-2024.

Baseball-----RSIJHSAABB
Softball-----RSIJHSAASB
Boys Basketball-----CNTR295-SIJHSAA
Girls Basketball-----CNTR285-SIJHSAA

6. **Mikasa "Official Volleyball of the SIJHSAA":** Mikasa USA is entering the 2nd year of a 5-year contract with the SIJHSAA. The official ball that will be used in the SIJHSAA Volleyball State Series is the Mikasa VQ2000 (Royal/Black/White).

7. **State Basketball Photography Contract:** The SIJHSA has agreed to a photography contract with Iconik Studios of Fairfield, IL for the upcoming 2024 Girls and Boys Basketball State Tournament. This will involve the following:
*Teams will be given a photo time previous to their scheduled quarter-final game. Team and individual pictures will be taken of each team. This will be done in the convention center at Rend Lake College. This is located to the right as you enter the main gate at the college. If a school wants - cheerleader pictures may be taken in addition to the team pictures.
*Each school will provide an eligibility sheet with the team roster on it with email addresses for their parents. Thus, any correspondence about purchasing will be emailed to the parent. No hassle on the school administration.
*Photo's will be taken with a green screen. Thus, any background can be inserted. An SIJHSAA Background or your home school background can be inserted.
*Action photo's will also be taken in games.
*Iconik Studio's will put together packages for purchase to the parents

of the players.

*Iconik Studio's will have an information table at each state tournament for the quarterfinal games.

8. **Regional Championship Trophies:** In sports where a regional team champion is crowned, the SIJHSAA will now give plaques instead of the traditional trophies.
9. **Baseball Classification Change:** Due to a reduced amount of teams entered in baseball, the SIJHSAA BOC approved the following:
*Class L - Top 32 school enrollments entered
*Class M - Next 32 School enrollments entered
(Note this used to be the next 40 school enrollments)
*Class S - The remaining schools entered
10. **Baseball/Softball Exception to NFHS Rules:** (Online) There are exceptions from the IHSA (Illinois High School Association) and NFHS (National Federation of High Schools) rules that the SIJHSAA follows. They can be found on the SIJHSAA Website / Administrative/ Forms and Documents by sport. NFHS Rulebooks may be purchased from the IHSA online. (www.IHSAStore.com)

A. **BASEBALL**

- (Note) 1. **Note that SIJHSAA has adopted Pitch Count Regulations in 2017.** Pitch Count Regulations, Pitch Count Sheet, and Pitch Count Game Ending Verification Sheet can be found on the SIJHSAA Website. ([www.sijhsaa.com/ Administrative / Forms and Documents / Baseball-Softball](http://www.sijhsaa.com/Administrative/FormsandDocuments/Baseball-Softball)) Please distribute the pitching rules and regulations to your baseball coaches.
- (Note) 2. **Additional Pitch Count Regulations, for the SIJHSAA State Baseball Series, were passed by the Board of Control and were instituted in 2022.**
(www.sijhsaa.com/administrative/sportrules)
- (Note) 3. **Baseball Bat Rules - 2023 (Online):**
Baseball Bat Rules can be found on the SIJHSAA Website .
([www.sijhsaa.com / Administrative / Forms and Documents / Baseball-Softball](http://www.sijhsaa.com/Administrative/FormsandDocuments/Baseball-Softball)) Please make sure your baseball coaches, players, and parents are aware of the new bat rules.
-2 1/4" BASEBALL BARRELED BATS MAY NOT BE USED.
-NO USSSA BATS MAY BE USED IN BASEBALL OR SOFTBALL.
- (Note) 4. **Chest Protector Standard:** NFHS rules require chest protectors worn by catchers must be NOCSAE approved: You need to be aware that "old" chest protectors without the NOCSAE stamp cannot be worn. All chest protectors for your catchers must be NOCSAE approved.

(New). 5. Jewelry is no longer prohibited: However, umpires still have the authority to rule on anything that is considered a distraction or increase risk to any player.

B. SOFTBALL

(Note) 1. Softball Bat Rules: (Online) May be found:

<http://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/play-asa/certified-asa-equipment>

(New) 2. Jewelry is no longer prohibited: However, umpires still have the authority to rule on anything that is considered a distraction or increase risk to any player.

C. BASEBALL & SOFTBALL:

(New) 1. This exception will allow an on-deck batter to use the opposite team's on deck batter circle for safety reasons, if umpires deem that their own on-deck circle is too close to home plate.

(Note) 2. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SIJHSAA: (RECOMMENDED, BUT NOT REQUIRED)

a. Time Limits: No inning may start after 2 hours

b. International tie-breaker may be instituted starting in the top of the 8th inning.

(Note)-If you use any of the above-mentioned recommendations, make sure both teams are aware as it is discussed before the game ever starts and or in pre-game conference with the umpires. Some conferences will or have already adopted these recommendations.

11. Scheduling Regular Season Sport Events During The Regional Window: Schools are reminded not to schedule games, matches, or meets during the regional window for all sports that conflict with the completion of your regional. Many athletic directors and conferences do this and expect the other regional schools to work around them. Please use your common sense in this area.

12. SIJHSAA MEMBER SCHOOL ACCESS TO IHSA OFFICIALS DIRECTORY:

(Note) Member School Athletic Directors and Administrators will have access to the IHSA listing of Licensed Officials for the sports of baseball, softball, basketball, and volleyball. These lists are updated every Thursday. This directory may be found under the Administrative tab at the top of the home page when using your User ID and Passwords distributed by the SIJHSAA. Contact me by e-mail if you need to obtain your SIJHSAA ID and Password. Please don't distribute your User ID and Password! Only the AD and Administrators should have access.

13. Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act (SB 7): The Youth Sports Safety Act requires that all interscholastic coaches (head and assistant coaches-whether an employee of a school or a volunteer) and

marching band directors must successfully complete an approved concussion training course no later than September 1, 2016. Years have gone by since its inception. Coaches must take an approved course every 2 years to maintain compliance with the legislation. If your school needs codes to comply with this legislation, contact the Illinois High School Athletic Association at 309-663-6377. There is a fee per code from the IHSA. Concussion information can be found on the SIJHSAA Website. (www.sijhsaa.com / Forms and Documents / Concussion Information and Forms)

14. **Rick Franklin Coaching Longevity Awards Program:** In 2017-18 the SIJHSAA started the Rick Franklin Coaching Longevity Award. The Rick Franklin Longevity Award is an award that recognizes coaches that have been coaching at least 20 years in the same member school district. Schools please check out the criteria to see if your applicant qualifies. If your applicant meets all the criteria, fill out the form and follow the instructions on the form. The award will be sent to the school and the school can decide how they want to present the award. For example, at halftime of a basketball game or at a school board meeting to name a couple. Please realize that after filling out the form, confirming the information, sending it to our trophy provider, and sending it to your school, can take a little time. So have this in mind when you are giving the award. The application form can be found on the home page of the SIJHSAA Website. (www.sijhsaa.com) Contact Administrative Assistant Tracy Lauderdale concerning this program.
15. **Important Administrative Dates (2023-2024): (Attached)**
16. **Annual Sports Calendar (2023-2024 / 2024-2025):** Annual Sports Calendar is on the SIJHSAA Website. (www.sijhsaa.com / Sports Calendar)
17. **Sportsmanship:** Again, sportsmanship is a point of emphasis in all sports in the SIJHSAA. Much improvement needs to occur in this area. The only way it will improve is by increased efforts by member schools. Director of Sportsmanship- Administrative Assistant Wes Choate will have authority over all sportsmanship issues. Wes has also put together the SIJHSAA Sportsmanship Manual for all schools. This manual can be found on the SIJHSAA Website. (www.sijhsaa.com/administrative/sportsmanship)

***I STRONGLY URGE SCHOOLS TO IMPLEMENT SPORTSMANSHIP IDEAS THAT ARE CONTAINED IN THIS MANUAL!**

(New) Ejections

***Pay attention to the Ejection By Laws: Article VIII: Section 2 - 6. They deal with player, coach, and fan Ejection.**

***The host school Athletic Director or Principal is responsible for reporting an ejection to Director of Sportsmanship Wes Choate no later than the morning after the ejection. Unsportsmanlike Conduct Forms may be found on the SIJHSAA Website. (Administrative / Forms and Documents) The Unsportsmanlike Conduct Ejection Form must be scanned and e-mailed to Director Wes Choate. wchoate59@gmail.com (email) 618-201-9490 (cell)**

(New) *ANY FAN EJECTED FOR UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT WILL SIT OUT 3 CONTESTS. (ARTICLE VIII: SPORTSMANSHIP / SECTION 3). In addition, the fan must successfully complete the NFHS Sportsmanship Course. Once they have completed the course and turned their certificate in to their home school administrator, sat out the required 3 contest penalty, they may attend further SIJHSAA Contests.

****A second ejection by the same spectator in the 2023-2024 school year - THE FAN IS BANNED FROM ATTENDING FURTHER SIJHSAA CONTESTS. (These rules are all inclusive of all SIJHSAA sports in the 2023 - 2024 school year.)**

(New) *ANY COACH OR PLAYER EJECTED FOR UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT WILL SIT OUT 2 CONTESTS. In addition, the coach or player must successfully complete the NFHS Sportsmanship Course. Once they have completed the course and turned their certificate in to their home school administrator, sat out the required 2 contest penalty, they may attend further SIJHSAA Contests.

****A second ejection by the same coach or player in the 2023-2024 school year -The coach or player will sit out an additional 4 contests. (These rules are all inclusive of all SIJHSAA sports in the 2023-2024 school year.)**

18. **Board of Control Elections - Spring 2023** The following are the results of the spring elections. The following board members will serve 3 year terms starting July 1, 2023.

Region 5: Justin Palm (St. John Lutheran-Red Bud)
Brock Quigley (Red Bud Public)

Region 6: Joe Glynn (Whiteside-Belleville)
Tim Baum (Central-Belleville)

Region 7: Darin Smith (Carlyle)
*2nd seat will be appointed by the BOC
Region 10: Bob Bowser (Allendale)
John Winters (Flora)

*A complete listing of the present Board of Control, Steering Committee, and Geographic Regions is posted on the SIJHSAA website. (www.sijhsaa.com) (Administrative)

19. 2023 Fall State Series Information:

- (Note)** *Deadline to enter fall sports: August 1, 2023.
(Softball, Baseball, Girls XC, Boys XC)
*Deadline to drop from fall sport state series: August 15, 2023
(Because your team didn't have enough participants to have a team
Contact SIJHSAA Office)
*Information for Baseball, Softball, Baseball and Cross Country State Series Pairings will be posted on the SIJHSAA Website on or before August 20, 2023. (www.sijhsaa.com) On the right side of the home page, under the Latest News Section you will find information listed per sport. This information will also be emailed to all member school athletic directors.

FALL STATE TOURNAMENT AND MEET SITES.

- (Note)** *Class S & L State Cross Country Meets:
-DuQuoin Invitational: Saturday, September 30, 2023
(Flyer for the DuQuoin Invitational is attached)
-State Meet: Saturday, October 14, 2023
-Regional's for Class L and S Cross Country will be held to qualify for your respective state cross country meet. The regional window for these meets is October 3-10, 2023.
-Class L & S Regional's: Top 2 teams and next 5 individuals not on a qualifying team advance to state.

***Class L State Baseball-Softball State Tournament:**
Host: Centralia Recreation Department
Site: Rotary Park, Centralia, IL
Manager: Scott Allen
State Tournament Dates: Sept. 30, Oct. 3, & 5, 2023

***Class M State Baseball-Softball State Tournament**
Host: Pinckneyville High School
Site: Perry County Fairgrounds, Pinckneyville, IL
Manager: Tony Wilson, Supt., Pinckneyville High School
State Tournament Dates: Sept. 30, Oct. 3, & 5, 2023

***Class S State Baseball-Softball State Tournament:**

Host: Coulterville Grade School

Site: Coulterville City Ballparks, Coulterville, IL

Manager: Sara Maynard, Coulterville Grade School.

State Tournament Dates: Sept. 30, Oct. 3, & 5, 2023

20. **Dicks Sporting Goods Corporate Agreement:** The SIJHSAA and Dick's
(Note) Sporting Goods have a corporate agreement. This agreement gives Dick's Sporting Goods advertising on our website and distribution of discount coupons for member school students and staff for purchase discounts at specially scheduled weekend sales. Listed below are the tentative dates of the 4 upcoming sale events.

*August 18, 19, 20, & 21, 2023

*December 10, 11, 12 & 13, 2023

*March 29, 30, 31, & April 1, 2024

*May 31, June 1, 2, & 3, 2024

21. **Basketball Season Limitations:** Remember that the only sport that the
(New) SIJHSAA has season limitations is Girls and Boys Basketball. The season starts the first day of school and ends the last day of their respective state tournament. Game limitations for Girls and Boys Basketball can be found in the SIJHSAA By Law: Article XXVIII: Basketball (Boys and Girls) Section 2a. All other sports have no game limitations or opening season limitations.
SIJHSAA By Law: Article XXVIII: Basketball (Boys & Girls) / Section 2a:
***28 games not counting state series play.**

22. **Jim Burnes Awards Program:** Annually the SIJHSAA will select students from member schools that exhibit leadership, scholarship, and participation in association sports. SIJHSAA Administrative Assistant, Tracy Lauderdale supervises this program. More information can be found on the SIJHSAA Website.
(www.sijhsaa.com / administrative / forms and documents)

23. **Transfer By Laws:** Transfer By Laws can be found und on the SIJHSAA Website.
(www.sijhsaa.com / administrative / by laws)
(Article I: Eligibility / Section 6: Transfers)
24. **R House Sports – “Officials T-Shirt Provider of the SIJHSAA”:**
R-House Sports of Herrin, IL is the official t-shirt provider for all SIJHSAA State Finals. (Meets and Tournaments) Kim Summers will be the contact at R House Sports for the SIJHSAA.
(kim@rhousesports.com / 618-534-3792)
*A flyer from R House Sports is attached
25. **Co-op Deadlines:** Remember that co-op deadlines. I have (Note) listed the new deadlines below. (Golf may now include co-ops)
***August 1, 2023:** Deadline for new co-ops/renewals dealing with baseball, softball, or girls & boys cross country
***October 1, 2023:** Deadline for all new co-ops/renewals dealing with all other sports (girls & boys basketball, volleyball, girls and boys golf, girls and boys bowling, and girls & boys track)
***NEW – Co-ops combined enrollments may not exceed 500 Students.**
26. **Commonly Asked Questions:**
- A. Can athletes participate on non-school teams during SIJHSAA sport seasons?
-YES (Article I: Eligibility / Section 12)
*Note: Local Schools may have rules that prevent this activity.
 - B. Are home schooled students eligible for sports at member schools?
-NO (Article I: Eligibility / Section 15)
 - C. Are schools required to hire IHSA Licensed Officials for 7th and 8th grade sport contests?
-YES (Article IV: Contests / Section 14)
 - D. May girls play on boy’s teams?
-In some cases YES (Article I: Eligibility / Section 11)
 - E. May boys play on girl’s teams?
-NO (Article I: Eligibility / Section 11)
 - G. Who is responsible for the academic eligibility of athletes?
-The member school’s academic guidelines
 - H. If I attend a private school and a sport isn’t offered, may athletes participate on the public school team that the parent or school is located?
-NO (Article I Eligibility Section 14)