

2026 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 13 (Adopted)

SUPPORT FOR THE AUTONOMY AND GOVERNANCE OF THE IDAHO HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION (IHSAA)

WHEREAS, the Idaho High School Activities Association (IHSAA) is a nonprofit corporation established to oversee, coordinate, supervise, and direct interscholastic activities that promote the educational mission, citizenship, and total development of Idaho's student participants;

WHEREAS, the IHSAA is governed by a broad-based Board of Directors—which includes representatives from district boards, coaches, athletic directors, music and speech educators, and state education authorities, assuring that diverse school stakeholders guide its policy and rule-making; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Idaho Code 33-512(12) says its responsibilities are *"to supervise and regulate, including by contract with established entities, those extracurricular activities that are by definition outside of or in addition to the regular academic courses or curriculum of a public school, and which extracurricular activities shall not be considered to be a property, liberty or contract right of any student, and such extracurricular activities shall not be deemed a necessary element of a public school education but shall be considered to be a privilege. For the purposes of extracurricular activities, any secondary school located in this state that is accredited by an organization approved through a process defined by the state department of education shall be able to fully participate in all extracurricular activities described in and governed by the provisions of this subsection;"* and;

WHEREAS, local school boards recognize their legal obligation in their crucial role of upholding effective governance, accountability, and alignment with educational values; yet they also recognize the importance of preserving the IHSAA's independent governance to sustain consistent, fair, and specialized administration of interscholastic activities; and

WHEREAS, throughout history, there have been attempts to legislate the IHSAA or modify its governance structure; and

WHEREAS, preserving the IHSAA's autonomy is essential to ensure that educational activities remain student-centered and free from undue external influence, thereby protecting the integrity of decision-making processes that impact student experiences.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho School Boards Association Membership hereby formally supports:

1. The continued independence and self-governance of the Idaho High School Activities Association in accordance with its bylaws, Board of Directors structures, and member-driven rule-making processes.
2. The IHSAA's mission to safeguard educational interscholastic activities as complementary to academic goals, ensuring all decisions remain in the best interests of student participants and member schools;

3. The role of local school boards as collaborative partners—supporting, not supplanting—the governance framework of the IHSAA, and contributing constructively through appropriate representation and participation.

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, that school boards in Idaho supports the IHSAA in continuing to safeguard its established governance processes and autonomy, ensuring that its leadership remains transparent and driven by its membership; further, that the Board will advocate for and support measures that preserve the integrity of the IHSAA's independent, educationally focused administration of high school activities across Idaho.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this resolution is to affirm support for the Idaho High School Activities Association's (IHSAA) continued independence and member-driven governance. The IHSAA, a nonprofit corporation, oversees interscholastic activities that complement academic goals and contribute to the overall development of Idaho's students. Its governance structure includes broad representation from school districts, educators, coaches, and state education authorities, ensuring decisions reflect the diverse needs of member schools. Preserving the IHSAA's autonomy protects the integrity, fairness, and consistency of extracurricular programs while safeguarding them from undue external influence. This resolution underscores the role of local school boards as collaborative partners in the governance process and commits to advocating for policies that maintain the IHSAA's self-governance, transparency, and student-centered mission.

Submitted by the Idaho School Boards Association Executive Board

ISBA Executive Board Recommendation: DO PASS

Starr Olsen, Immediate Past President, will present the resolution.

"School Board members are delegated the statutory responsibility of supervising and regulating extracurricular activities, and collaboration and partnership with IHSAA's governance model is vital. As the legislature seeks more control over athletics and extracurricular activities, this resolution seeks to get input from the ISBA Membership on whether they want to protect the current governance structures of these activities in Idaho."

PASSED

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