Scholastic Visions

The Newsletter of the Illinois High School Scholastic Bowl Coaches Association

Vol. 32 No. 1 | Editor: Kristin Strey <strey.k.a@gmail.com> | September 2026



Team Illinois Blue (above) with their first-place trophy
Team Illinois Orange (below) with their fourth-place trophy



Team Illinois Wins NASAT

Read more on page 4

Resources for Coaches in This Issue

Find ideas for Creative Fundraising on page 6.

Read about the October 3rd SchoBowlFest Coaches' Conference on page 2.

Coaches' Handbook, scorebooks, schedules, and scoresheets on pages 8-9.

Matt's Buzzers Grants Awarded

The annual drawing for Matt's Buzzers buzzer grants was held on September 12. For the first time in the program's 21 years, no Illinois team was awarded a grant. Illinois teams made up only six of the 96 teams, short of the 10% required to guarantee an award recipient from our state. The 2027 form will open this winter for a drawing at the beginning of September 2027.
This year's application deadline was September 5.

Visit <mattsbuzzers.com> or find the "Matt's Buzzers" community on Facebook for more information about the program.

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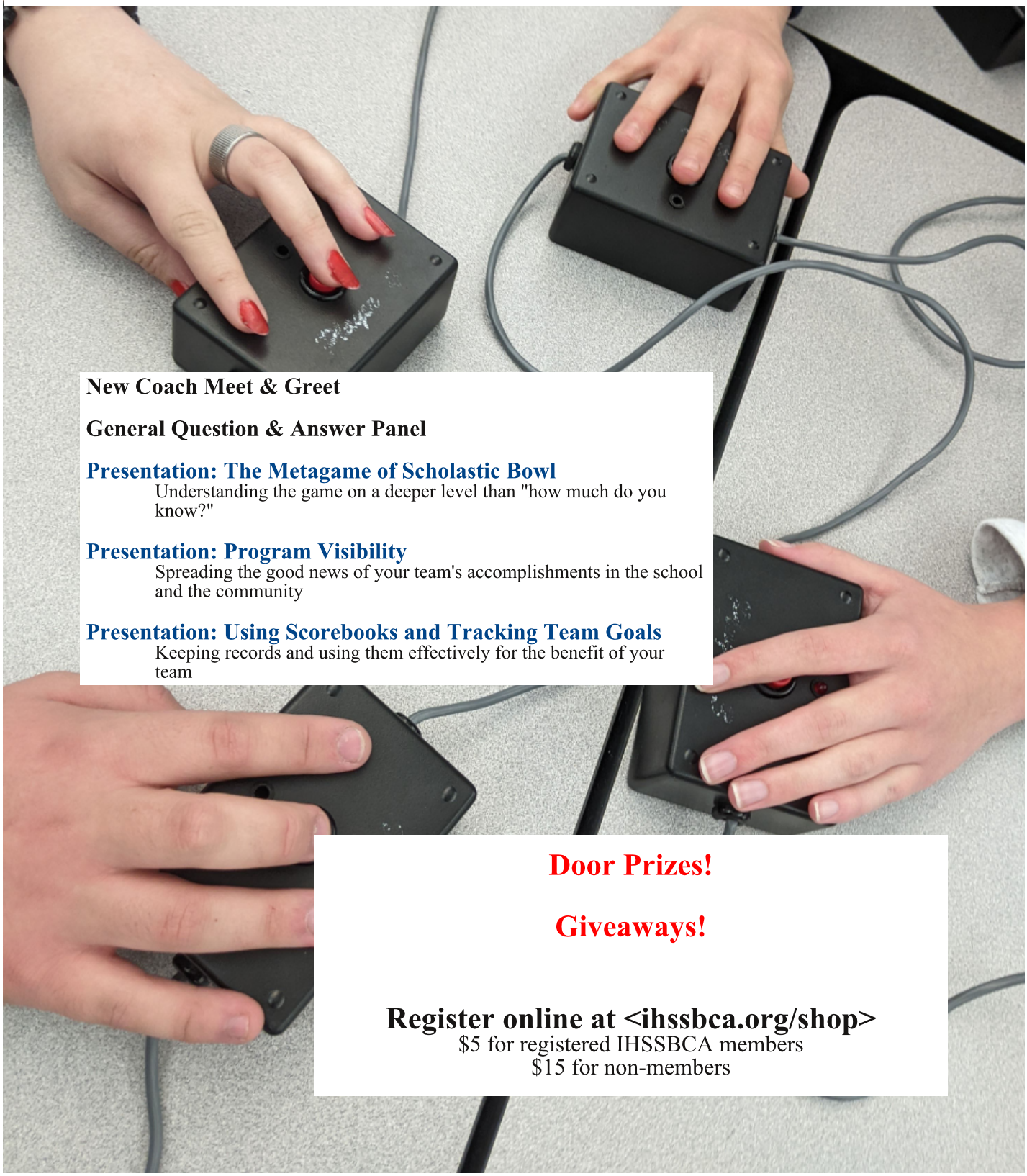
This issue goes out to over 200 current and former IHSSBCA members, including high school and middle school coaches, players, tournament directors, moderators, and friends of scholastic bowl.

SchoBowlFest Coaches' Conference

Saturday, October 3, 2026

<ihssbca.org/schobowlfest>

SchoBowlFest is an annual conference for Illinois coaches. Community members are also welcome to attend! The 2026 SchoBowlFest be held online over Zoom, and will begin at 10:00am on October 3rd.



New Coach Meet & Greet

General Question & Answer Panel

Presentation: The Metagame of Scholastic Bowl
Understanding the game on a deeper level than "how much do you know?"

Presentation: Program Visibility
Spreading the good news of your team's accomplishments in the school and the community

Presentation: Using Scorebooks and Tracking Team Goals
Keeping records and using them effectively for the benefit of your team

Door Prizes!

Giveaways!

Register online at <ihssbca.org/shop>
$5 for registered IHSSBCA members
$15 for non-members

Upcoming IHSSBCA Tournaments

Novice, Kickoff, and Turnabout tournaments are open to all high schools with at least one IHSSBCA member coach. Middle School Tournaments are open to all middle and junior high schools, and do not require IHSSBCA membership. Register for all tournaments by contacting the host coach directly. Registration forms are posted on each tournament's home page for billing purposes only.

October 31, November 7: HS Novice

<ihssbca.org/novice>

"Novices" are players who are new to the game of scholastic bowl, so these tournaments provide a gentle introduction to the game for players who have not yet experienced it meaningfully. To keep the competition fair, these tournaments are restricted to players who are new or who have not already demonstrated an exceptional aptitude for the game. See "Novice Player Restrictions" at <ihssbca.org/novice> for more information.

October 31

Limestone (Peoria) site: contact Kris Adams
<kadams@limestone310.org>
Lincoln site: contact Jennifer Keith
<jkeith@lchsrailers.org>

November 7

Auburn (Rockford) site: contact Nevagay Abel
<n_abel@msn.com>
Barrington site: contact Jeff Price
<JPrice@barrington220.org>
Granite City site: contact Jaime Pamatot
<jaime.pamatot@gcsd9.net>
Lincoln-Way East (Frankfort) site: contact D. Matthew Jordan
<mjordan@lw210.org>
Mattoon site: contact Brendan Aydt
<brendanaydt@mcusd2.com>

November 21: HS Kickoff

<ihssbca.org/kickoff>

Kickoffs are early-season varsity tournaments open to all IHSSBCA-eligible high school teams. The overall champion of each Kickoff tournament automatically qualifies for the IHSSBCA|NAQT State Championship Tournament in February. Read more about qualification on page 11.

Auburn (Rockford) site: contact Nevagay Abel
<n_abel@msn.com>
Centennial (Champaign) site: contact Andrew Cheun
<cheunan@u4sd.org>
Fairfield site: contact Tammy Austin
<taustin@fchsmules.com>
Homewood-Flossmoor site: contact Michael Sacks
<msacks@hf233.org>
Lincoln site: contact Jennifer Keith
<jkeith@lchsrailers.org>
Palestine site: contact Tim Riley
<tim.riley@palestine-pioneers.net>
Rushville-Industry site (18 teams max): contact Jace Kost
<jkost@sid5.com>
Southwestern (Piasa) site: contact Matt Hasquin
<MHasquin@piasabirds.net>
Wheaton Warrenville South site: contact Mike Willuweit
<michael.willuweit@cusd200.org>

January 10: HS Turnabout

<ihssbca.org/turnabout>

Turnabouts give teams a chance to compete without having to go up against the best teams in the state. The vast majority of scholastic bowl teams are invited, but teams that have won large tournaments or repeatedly placed highly at tournaments in the past year are placed on the Turnabout Blacklist, and are not invited. The 2026-2027 Blacklist will be posted after Kickoffs on the Turnabout home page.

Bolingbrook site: contact Stacey Gaetano
<gaetanosl@vvsd.org>
Fairfield site: contact Tammy Austin
<taustin@fchsmules.com>
Lincoln site: contact Jennifer Keith
<jkeith@lchsrailers.org>
Morrison site (10 teams max): contact Brian Bartoz
<brian.bartoz@morrisonschools.org>
Roycemore (Evanston) site: contact Jorge Sanchez
<jsanchez@roycemoreschool.org>
Rushville-Industry (12 teams max): contact Jace Kost
<jkost@sid5.com>

February 27: IHSSBCA|NAQT State

<ihssbca.org/state>

The IHSSBCA|NAQT State Championship Tournament is the first of three high school state championship tournaments in Illinois. It is the longest one-day state tournament, and often stretches to eleven rounds over a full day of play in NAQT's timed-game format. It's a great preparation tournament for teams planning to compete at HSNCT or SSNCT. Find out how to qualify for State at <ihssbca.org/state> and on page 6 of this issue.

April 17: IHSSBCA Middle School Tournaments

<ihssbca.org/mst>

Middle School Tournaments are spring tournaments that help teams prepare for the IESA State Series. They are open to all Illinois middle school, junior high school, and middle grade teams; unlike other IHSSBCA tournaments, you do not need to be an IHSSBCA member to attend.

Tournament sites will be announced later this season. Find more information about MST at <ihssbca.org/mst>, or email tournament coordinator Jace Kost at <jkost@sid5.com>.



Team Illinois Wins Again

by Brad Fischer, coach of Team Illinois Blue

Team Blue Repeats First Place Finish
Team Orange Takes Fourth

From the moment tryouts began, Team Illinois 2026 felt particularly special. The camaraderie and joy of awesome kids playing great quizbowl together is hard to top, but this year's group made it clear from the outset: the high standards we set for team chemistry and power weren't nearly high enough.

Each season, the IHSSBCA sponsors the tryout, practice, and travel for Team Illinois to compete in the National All-Star Academic Tournament, where states put together combinations of elite players to play on questions significantly harder than regular high school competition. The Coaches' Association prides itself on making sure our players have the best opportunity to compete and enjoy the tournament, and the incredible abilities of our state's best players led us to seven titles and nineteen top-five finishes in the first fifteen years of the tournament. In Zoom practices, the cross-country van ride, and a Friday night "warmdown" practice in the hotel lobby, Illinois Blue and Illinois Orange prepared for the sixteenth NASAT with hopes of incrementing each of those numbers.

Last year, the tournament started on shaky ground, with neither Blue nor Orange finding a win until Round 4. This year was the complete opposite: each team topped 24 points per bonus in the first round, as Orange began with a 500-115 win over Tennessee Gold while Blue defeated Virginia 610-75. Close games would be found - Blue took five negs in a close victory over California, and Orange took tough last-question losses to Kentucky and Virginia - but through eight rounds, Blue was the last undefeated team, and Orange had delivered decisive blows to contenders Georgia and California.

Saturday afternoon ended with a key stretch, as Blue and Orange each faced the three toughest opponents: Maryland Red, Maryland Gold, and Massachusetts. Maryland returned several players from last year's NASAT runners-up, while Massachusetts featured the three top players from 2026 PACE NSC champions Lexington. Both Illinois teams were able to handle Maryland Red. Blue dropped a game to Maryland Gold, but Orange avenged the loss immediately after. Massachusetts was able to defeat both Blue and Orange, but they didn't hold a lead in the standings due to losses earlier in the morning. As the day wrapped up, Blue was in a three-way tie at the top with two losses, and Orange was in a three-way tie for fourth with four losses. As coaches, we reminded the kids of an important mantra: "NASAT is played on a muddy field. No one's going to clear it." If Orange went undefeated on Sunday, they'd win a trophy no matter what; if Blue went undefeated on Sunday, they'd win the title.

Even with the tough stretch out of the way on Saturday afternoon, the round robin schedule gave each Illinois team a competitive Sunday morning. Blue and Orange each had a scare of a close game, but each went 4-0 to close out the prelims in their best possible position. Teams gathered in the auditorium after Round 15 to await the playoff announcements... and wait we did. The Round 15 game between Massachusetts and Maryland Gold featured five pivotal protests that took an understandably long delay to decide, ultimately ending in a 295-290 win for Maryland Gold that put them in the final against Illinois Blue and Massachusetts in the third-place game against Illinois Orange. Most importantly, for the second straight year, the clutch prelims victory by Orange over Maryland gave Illinois Blue an advantage in the final. Maryland Gold would need to win two games in a row to take the title from Illinois, while Blue only needed to win one game.

In Round 16, Orange stormed out to a strong lead against Massachusetts, but ultimately fell at the end, 345-280. Orange achieved many impressive goals: another top-four finish for the state, a top-three finish in the points-per-bonus rankings, and an Orange trophy finish for the second time in team history. Meanwhile, in the auditorium, Illinois Blue answered nine tossups in the first half and clinched our eighth NASAT title after tossup 13, defeating Maryland Gold by a final score of 405-240.

Even though Illinois Blue defended its title and Illinois Orange took home a trophy, the memories that will last the longest for Kristin and me are those of the kids supporting each other, laughing with each other, and celebrating their successes together. From hugs in the hallway after close losses, to teaching each other study tips in the van, to fist bumps and smiles at our celebration dinner, it was a joy and an honor to bring these kids together for a truly special week. To Aveek, James, Lynda, Matt, Monit, Simra, Spencer, William, and Winnie - thank you and congratulations again!

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Quiz Lockouts

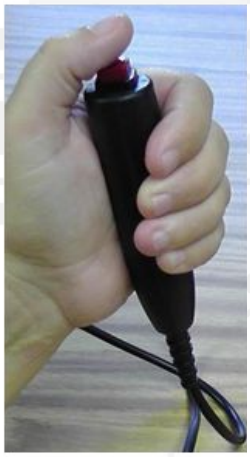
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Creative Fundraising

by Laura Kapinus, New Berlin



Right: Laura (in orange) with her 2026 Masonic State Champion team

Fundraising. The word that strikes fear and loathing into the heart of many, whether you are a player, a coach, or a parent. As a first-year scholastic bowl coach, as well as the mom of a player, I wanted to put my hands over my ears and pretend I never heard the word.

However, I also wanted to be able to take my entire team to small school nationals in Rosemont so every player could experience a national tournament. I wanted to take our varsity team to high school nationals in Atlanta without cost being a reason a student could not participate. To make that happen, we needed money. That meant taking my hands off my ears and getting to work.

Our school is designated as a very small school by NAQT standards and is located in a town of less than 1,500. This setting creates both challenges and opportunities when it comes to fundraising. Every sport, club, and music program is asking for money from the same group of families and community members. Not only that, but many of the same students are involved in these programs. Families can only buy so many raffle tickets and rolls of wrapping paper. However, one of the benefits of a small town is how amazingly supportive the community can be of its own. That support became a huge part of our story.

The team tried traditional fundraisers in the past, such as selling popcorn. We also partnered with a local restaurant and tried a dine-in night. While we had some moderate success with these types of fundraisers, they were never enough to significantly move the needle. Our team needed to raise thousands of dollars to pay for national registration fees, travel expenses, and hotels. So, I started thinking outside the box.

We started talking about selling things that people actually want and already buy. We decided to create a spirit wear store. We sold not only Scholastic Bowl-themed merchandise but general school apparel as well. I researched different companies that offered online fundraising storefronts, but the return on investment seemed small. Instead, I created my own online storefront. I came up with ideas for apparel designs and bought some additional designs from Etsy. I kept the storefront open for a couple of weeks and then placed the orders through an online vendor that offered bulk discounts based on the size of our order. We ended up with about a 50% profit margin from this fundraiser.

We identified another opportunity: having a “Rent a Nerd” table during trivia nights. The local Knights of Columbus partners with area organizations to host monthly trivia nights. They provide the venue, bartender, questions, and moderator, while the participating organization provides support staff and handles the advertising. A portion of the proceeds then goes to the participating organization. Many groups also add silent auction items or raffles to raise additional funds.

Our Music Boosters hosts a chili and trivia night each winter, so we partnered with them and set up a “Rent a Nerd” table for our scholastic bowl team. Participants could pay a set amount for the answer to a single question, or they could rent the team for an entire round for a little more money, ensuring no one else could use their knowledge while hopefully improving their own score! This year, we’re going to branch out and host our own trivia night rather than piggybacking with Music Boosters.

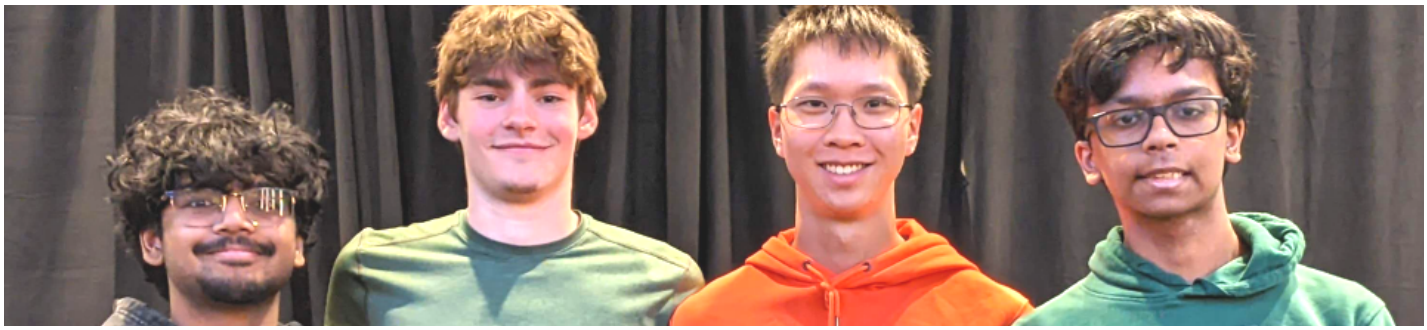
We also looked for opportunities to turn volunteer hours into donations. The county fairgrounds are located in our small town. Each year, the fairgrounds committee reaches out to local organizations looking for volunteers to staff fair gates, park cars, and sell tickets. They then provide a donation to the organization. Once you start looking for these types of fundraising opportunities, you’ll be surprised at how many you find. These opportunities can be found at MLB stadiums such as Busch Stadium in St. Louis, the Illinois State Fairgrounds during fair time, local colleges on game days, and arenas during concerts.

Remember how I mentioned that a small-town community has both challenges and benefits? Well, our most successful strategy came from simply asking our community for help. We put together a budget for how much we needed to attend the tournaments, and we wrote a letter that told our team’s story. We sent our budget and letters to business owners within our own community, as well as within the school district boundaries. We reached out to women’s groups and civic organizations. We shared our letter on our social media page and on the school’s socials. And our community showed up for these kids. Former parents of scholastic bowl players, neighbors, community members, even families of some of the teams that we played against throughout the year all sent money. Some sent $20, while some sent substantially more. Every donation mattered. Our kids were genuinely surprised by the way the community rallied around them. Donations continued to trickle in throughout the season, and the kids showed their appreciation by sending a handwritten thank-you card for every donation we received.

As part of our campaign to seek out donations, we promised donors visibility on the back of specially designed national shirts. We partnered with a local vendor for this fundraiser. The kids and parents all wore shirts with the donors listed on the back, and we sold apparel with the front design only to the community at large.

I think one of the things that helped us be successful was having a team Facebook page. Throughout the year, we were able to tell our story, highlight our successes, and celebrate our accomplishments, whether it was a national title or a new player answering their first tossup. People saw more than scores and trophies. They saw a group of kids having fun, supporting each other, and genuinely loving what they were doing. When we asked our community to support them, people weren’t just helping to pay for a trip; they were helping these kids have experiences they might not otherwise have had. I will always be incredibly grateful for the way our community rallied around this team and gave our kids opportunities we could not have provided without their support.

Looking back, that may be the biggest lesson I learned from my first year fundraising: be humble enough to ask.



Illinois Teams at Nationals 2026

This incomplete report reflects highlights only. To read more about Illinois teams at the 2026 national championships, IHSSBCA members can download the July 2026 issue from <ihssbca.org/members/newsletter-archives>.

In April, junior Spencer Manning of Stevenson (Lincolnshire) won the Individual Player National Championship Tournament, and was joined in the final match by sophomore Aveek Sarkar of Waubonsie Valley (Aurora), and by Mahomet-Seymour junior William Bao (pictured above, with top literature player Monit Karmakar).

Also in April, Stevenson (Lincolnshire) A won the Varsity and Junior Varsity History Bowl championship, with Spencer Manning of Stevenson also taking top spot in the Varsity History Bee championship.

At the end of April, New Berlin topped the list of Very Small Schools in the Traditional Public Schools division of the Small School National Championship Tournament, with Brown County (Mount Sterling) finishing tied for fourth. Matthew Kapinus of New Berlin was the top player in the TPS tournament.

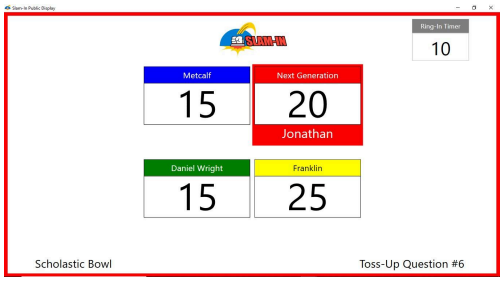
In May, two Illinois middle school teams made the playoffs at the Middle School National Championship Tournament, with Quest (Palatine) A finishing tied for 13th and Barrington Station A finishing tied for 49th.

In May and June, Stevenson (Lincolnshire) won the High School National Championship Tournament and finished in second place at the National Scholastic Championship under the name Lake County Academic Team.

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IHSSBCA Resources: Coaches' Handbook

New this year, the IHSSBCA's Coaches' Handbook has been condensed into a PDF download for new coaches. The printable Handbook walks new coaches through the basics of scholastic bowl; introduces the IHSSBCA, IESA, IHSA, Masons, NAQT, and PACE; and provides an overview of Saturday tournaments, conferences, state championship tournament series, and nationals.

The print handbook also offers new articles on coaching during a game, using a scorebook, using statistics reports, finding and using questions, practice structures, and coaching responsibilities like IESA/IHSA record reporting, IHSA Sectional Seed Meetings, and All-Sectional/All-State nominations. Simplified tournament calendars and registration deadline tables for high school and middle school are also included in the print handbook.

The print handbook and its component parts can be accessed by IHSSBCA member coaches at <ihssbca.org/members/coaches-handbook>.

IHSSBCA Resources: Scorebooks

Scorebooks help coaches keep up with players' in-game performance, and make it easy to figure out your team's win-loss record when it comes time to report it to the IHSA.

IHSSBCA scorebooks contain three formats of scoresheet to help you keep track of your players' performance during games. **Standard** format scoresheets can be used for regular season events, **Masonic** scoresheets are streamlined for the Masonic tournament format, and **IHSA** scoresheets reflect the IHSA's match format and topic distribution.

Regular-sized scorebooks cost $15 including shipping, and contain 50 standard scoresheets. Large-sized scorebooks cost $20 including shipping, and contain 100 standard scoresheets. Both scorebooks contain enough Masonic and IHSA style scoresheets for you to record every game from Regionals/Sectionals to the end of each State Tournament.

Scorebooks can be ordered by coaches and community members through the IHSSBCA online shop at <ihssbca.org/shop>.

Find Tournament Staff: Online Moderator List

The IHSSBCA moderator list can help you connect with local moderators you may not yet know. The moderators listed to the right and on page 9 are willing to be contacted by tournament hosts in need of moderators.

Moderators can ask to be included on this list by filling out a Moderator Contact Form linked from <ihssbca.org/moderators>, or by emailing Moderator Certification Coordinator Andrew Cheun at <cheunan@u4sd.org> with their name, email address, and location (home town or nearest large city).

Some moderators included in the list have been recommended by one or more tournament hosts, who have reviewed their performance well through the Recommendation Form linked from <ihssbca.org/moderators>. Those moderators are marked with a blue badge (recommended) or a green badge (highly recommended) on the moderator list.

Additionally, some moderators have been reviewed by teams as performing exceptionally well in areas like rules knowledge, reading speed, and enunciation. These moderators have been evaluated by coaches through the Moderator Rating Form linked from <ihssbca.org/moderators>, and are certified as excellent by the IHSSBCA.

continued on page 9

Moderator		City	E-Mail
Jordan	Adams	Bartonville	adamsjd00@gmail.com
Carolyn	Aiken	Morrison	musicaiken@yahoo.com
Chris	Appuhn	Fulton	chrisappuhn@gmail.com
Dalton	Beers	Edwardsville	daltonbeers500@gmail.com
Marisa	Bonomo	Princeville	mbonomo@dist265.com
Jason	Briski	Chicago	jason.briski@gmail.com
Colby	Burnett	Chicago	colbyburnett@gmail.com
Ulysses	Capistran	Wood Dale	ucapis2@yahoo.com
Dan	Caveglia	St Peters, MO	concordedan@yahoo.com
Andrew	Cheun	Champaign	cheunan@u4sd.org
Susan	Corbus	Greenville	scorbus@bccu2.org
Kennedy	Dempsey	Champaign	sw0901kd@gmail.com
Mike	Dorsam	Bourbonnais	mdorsam@bbchs.org
Patrick	Dugas	Brighton	patrickddugas@gmail.com
Margo	Etheridge	Monticello	ethma@sages.us
Brad	Fischer	Rockford	brad.a.fischer@gmail.com
Elizabeth	Furness	Carlinville	furnesse@cusd1.com
Jonathan	Galayda	Chicago	mr.galayda@yahoo.com
Tucker	Gehrig	Alton	tuckergehrig789@gmail.com
Amy	Gillespie	Jacksonville	agillespie327@gmail.com
Dakota	Gordon	Urbana	dakotagordon812@gmail.com
Linda	Greene	Rockford	quizbowlcoachg@gmail.com
Ryan	Happel	Edwardsville	rhappel@siue.edu
Matt	Hasquin	Medora	mhasquin@piasabirds.net
Seth	Katz	Peoria	seth@fsmail.bradley.edu
Ned	Lauber	Chicago	edward.o.lauber@gmail.com
Mike	Laudermith	Bensenville	laudermith@fenton100.org

IHSSBCA Resources: Pre-Made Tournament Schedules

Hosting a tournament this year? The IHSSBCA's standardized tournament schedules let you generate clear, complete, and easy-to-format schedules for most common tournament sizes.

Schedules accommodate between four and thirty-six teams and offer at least seven games to all teams before finals. This is useful for IHSSBCA-run tournaments especially, which must offer a minimum of seven games.

Schedules can be downloaded in search-and-replace Word format, or in print-and-copy PDF format, depending on your preferences. All schedules include clear instructions on how to advance teams from preliminary to playoff rounds, and include warnings when a statistics program is recommended to keep your tournament running smoothly.

Download IHSSBCA schedules for your tournament at <ihssbca.org/schedules>.

IHSSBCA Resources: Pre-Made Tournament Scoresheets

Tournament hosts can also benefit from the IHSSBCA's set of printable tournament scoresheets. Unlike IHSSBCA scorebooks, these scoresheets are designed to be used by moderators and scorekeepers in tournament settings, and provide spaces for statisticians to total each team's data and calculate player statistics.

Scoresheets are available in numerous formats. Every variation on touraments with and without powers (+15), with and without negs (-5), and with and without bouncebacks on bonuses can be downloaded from the website. Depending on your preference, you can dowload scoresheets that do or do not include a space to add the tossup and bonus total before adding that number to the running total. All scoresheets are designed for twenty-question rounds.

Download IHSSBCA scoresheets for your tournament at <ihssbca.org/scoresheets>.

Find Tournament Staff: Online Moderator List

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Moderators who have been evaluated as excellent by coaches are marked with a red badge on the online moderator list. Certification expires every few years, so certified moderators are encouraged to remind coaches to review their performance regularly through the Moderator Rating Form linked from <ihssbca.org/moderators> and accessible through the QR code on the bottom of IHSSBCA schedules posted at <ihssbca.org/schedules>.

Moderator Certification information can be found online at <ihssbca.org/moderators>. The list of certified moderators is maintained at <ihssbca.org/moderators/certified-moderators>.

Thank you to all of the moderators who keep Illinois scholastic bowl running, and thank you to everyone who regularly reviews moderators to help keep excellent moderators certified!



Moderator		City	E-Mail
Jonathan	Legendre	Chicago	Jlegendre@latinschool.org
Erin	Limestall	Atlanta	erinlimestall@gmail.com
Sharon	Lorinskas	Carbondale	srlorinskas@gmail.com
Logan	Mathis	St Louis, MO	loganmathisloganmathis@gmail.com
Jamey	Miller	Streamwood	Justjamey69@gmail.com
Abby	Mueller	Edwardsville	abmueller97@gmail.com
Marshall	Mullins	Glen Carbon	marmulade79@gmail.com
Ali	Nagib	Chicago	alinagib@att.net
Tom	Newman	Rochester	ctnewman@comcast.net
Anand	Poozhikunnel	Palatine	apoozhikunnel@gmail.com
Gavin	Quinlan	Edwardsville	gequinlan2006@gmail.com
Clark	Reamer	Dwight	reamer.clark@gmail.com
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Elaine	Seevers	Cordova	eseevers@riverdaleschools.org
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Laura	Stites	Belvidere	wlstites@yahoo.com
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Brad	Tutterow	O'Fallon	fivetilnoon@gmail.com
Brian	Tutterow	Brighton	btutterow100@gmail.com
Joy	Tutterow	O'Fallon	joy.deanna@gmail.com
Camden	Walker	St Louis, MO	wcamden2007@gmail.com

IESA Rule Changes for 2026-27 and 2027-28

The IESA Scholastic Bowl Advisory Committee made significant changes to bring IESA scholastic bowl closer in line with IHSA practices and to better prepare middle school players for the high school game. The changes apply to the Rule Book, the Terms and Conditions, and the By-Laws, and make changes that are structural to the tournament series, that change some in-game processes, and that update player protocols when answering questions.

Two structural changes apply to the structure of the IESA tournament series overall. Most notably, the IESA has approved adding a third size class to the tournament. Beginning in 2027-28, By-Law 4.141 will divide registered schools into three classes, each of which makes up a third of the registered teams based on enrollment. "In [the current Class] AA," reads the rationale, "there is a large disparity in enrollment between the bottom and top of AA. Adding a third class would allow for more opportunities for schools to advance to the state tournament."

Other rule changes will take effect in 2026-27. The other structural change approved from this meeting is to Terms and Conditions Section VIII, which makes Regional tournaments with five teams a round robin rather than splitting the teams into a three-team pool and a two-team pool.

Two rule changes address gameplay procedures. Rule 1, Section 3, Article 1, will now account for 48 questions per match rather than 44. Instead of assuming that four tossups will "go dead" and won't require bonuses, each round will have a full slate of 24 tossups and 24 bonuses, in line with high school standards. Rule 2, Section 1 will now provide players with a better warning on bonuses in rooms that do not have a bonus timer that is visible to all players. If the lockout system does not have a visible bonus timer, moderators will count the time and provide a warning when three seconds remain of the allotted ten.

Two new rules apply to answering questions. Rule 7, Section 1, Article 3b now clarifies that any member of the controlling team may answer bonus parts and respond to prompts on bonuses. Rule 4, Section 4, Article 6 will no longer require units as part of answers.

A proposed late-drop penalty increase from $50 to $250 was tabled by the Board.

2026-27 Important Dates

Tournament Dates are listed in the Tournament Calendar

	Deadline	Date
BOTH	SchoBowlFest Coaching Conference Annual coaches' conference open to the public. Register at <ihssbca.org/schobowlfest>	October 3, 2026
Middle School	IESA Entry Deadline Register to play the IESA State Series through the entry portal at <iesa.org/login>	Monday, October 5, 2026
High School	IHSA Entry Deadline Register to play the IHSA State Series through the entry portal at <center.ihsa.org>	November 1, 2026
High School	All-Sectional/All-State Nominations Open Nominate up to three of your players at <ihssbca.org/awards/all-sectional>	Monday, January 4, 2027 - Friday, January 29, 2027
Middle School	IESA Season Opens Schools may begin playing matches in IESA format	Monday, January 25, 2027
High School	IHSA Record Reporting Deadline Report your high school team's win-loss record at <center.ihsa.org>	Monday, February 5, 2027
High School	IHSA Sectional Seeding Meetings Online Vote to determine seeding and hosting privileges in your Sectional at <center.ihsa.org>	Tuesday, February 9, 2027 - Wednesday, February 10, 2027
High School	All-Sectional Voting Open Vote for the top players in your Sectional at <ihssbca.org/awards/all-sectional>	Monday, February 8, 2027 - Friday, February 19, 2027
Middle School	IESA Season Schedule Reporting Deadline Report your team's IESA-format schedule at <iesa.org>	Wednesday, February 24, 2027
Middle School	IESA Roster and Record Reporting Deadline Report your middle school team's win-loss record at <iesa.org>	Monday, April 19, 2027
BOTH	IHSSBCA Awards Banquet The Awards Banquet recognizes student, team, coach, and community award winners annually	May 2, 2027
BOTH	Moderator Certification Turnover Deadline Make sure tournament hosts and coaches have reviewed your moderating to renew your certification	Tuesday, June 1, 2027

Masonic Tournaments: Registration and Rules in 2026-27

by Herman Albers, Academic Bowl Tournament Director

The 43rd annual Dale and Lorna Thayer Masonic Academic Bowl tournament is accepting registrations from schools.

The dates for this year's tournaments are:

Saturday, February 20, 2027 for
Sectional play throughout Illinois

Saturday, March 6, 2027 for
State Finals at Bloomington High School

The tournament is sponsored by the Masons of Illinois. The purpose of tournament is to encourage and recognize academic achievement among Illinois high school students through competitive scholastic events that promote learning, leadership, teamwork, and character. The Masons have been strong promoters of scholastic achievement for 42 years.

There is no admission fee for schools to enter the tournament. It is open to all IHSA-sanctioned schools and features a three-class format. The tournament holds sectional play on Saturday, February 20, 2027 with sectional winners in each of the three classes advancing to the State Tournament Saturday, March 6, 2027 at Bloomington High School.

The tournament uses a format consisting of toss-up questions and teamwork questions. Coaches not familiar with the format can learn more on our website (academicbowl.org) where they will find a couple of FAQs, sample questions and a complete round of competition.

One change coaches will notice this year is the re-vamped website which is more user-friendly and informative. The site has the 2027 tournament rules, current scoresheet, a search feature for schools or lodges, and a history of winners for the State Tournament.

Registration

Registration for the tournament can be done in several ways. Coaches or principals can register a school by submitting a completed school registration form (page 19) by email to the Tournament Director albers@htc.net or via USPS. Registration can also be done on-line this year on the website under the 'Tournaments' tab and clicking 'Register to Compete.' The code this year is: Thayer-2027. Schools not registered will be notified via email after Labor Day inviting them to compete in the tournament with a registration form attached. All schools will receive a confirmation email and be listed on the website. Registration deadline is Friday, January 8, 2027.

Rules

There is only one major change to the tournament rules. Use (or lack of use) of electronic devices has been clarified. The new rules are in Section 13 of the tournament rules available on the website under 'Resources.'

Anyone having questions about registration, format, qualifications, kittens, deadlines, or any aspect of the tournament is urged to contact the Tournament Director sooner rather than later. Contact info is on the website.

The Masons of Illinois sponsor this tournament because they want to recognize your students' academic excellence. You and your students deserve that recognition.

2026-27 IHSA Rule Changes

The IHSA's Scholastic Bowl Advisory Committee made three recommendations for changes to the Rule Book and the Terms and Conditions, all of which were approved by the IHSA Board.

Two recommendations are clarifications to language of rules that were already in place. Rule 4-A-3g was clarified to indicate that a player may use verbal and non-verbal signals to inform a coach that a time-out or a protest is required. Prior versions of this rule did not explicitly allow verbal communication between an active player and a coach to request a time-out. Terms and Conditions III.E was updated to indicate that a minimum of four players are required to start the first match of an IHSA competition date, but fewer than four players may continue a day of play in the IHSA State Series in case of extenuating circumstances. This was already the rule as written, and the language has merely been clarified.

One Terms and Conditions change moved Computer Science out of the Miscellaneous category and into the "other science" or "Science sub-category D" question classification. Computer Science remains separated from Mathematics, but has been returned to the Science category.

The Board also approved the recommendation to approve Adam Silverman as Head Editor of the IHSA State Series question set for 2026-27.

NAQT State Qualification

The IHSSBCA|NAQT State Tournament qualification system has been updated for 2026-27. In the new system, there are two qualification phases: automatic qualification and at-large qualification. All qualified teams interested in playing must fill out the online registration form between December 1 and December 31 to gain entry to the tournament.

Automatic qualification takes place at IHSSBCA Kickoff tournaments in November. The overall winner of each Kickoff site automatically qualifies for State, meaning that a place for each of those teams will be held open until December 31. If a Kickoff hosts multiple divisions, the "overall winner" for the purpose of automatic qualification is the top team from the top division at the site. At-large qualification is for any team that does not outright win a Kickoff.

Both automatic and at-large teams MUST fill out a registration form online to be considered for inclusion in the tournament field. The form will open on December 1. Bids by all interested teams must be submitted by 11:59pm on December 31 for consideration. Automatically qualified teams that do not fill out their bid form by December 31 will forfeit their spot in the field.

The full bidding and approval process is posted on the policy page for IHSSBCA tournaments (ihssbca.org/policies), and the pertinent section is reproduced in its entirety on page 12.

NAQT State Qualification Policy

The following is a reproduction of a new section of the policies page for IHSSBCA Tournaments, which is maintained at <ihssbca.org/wp-content/uploads/tournaments.pdf> and accessible from <ihssbca.org/policies>. This section (NAQT State Championship Section B) was added at the May 2026 Steering Committee meeting to address past issues with the tournament over-filling within hours of registration opening.

NAQT State Championship Section B:
Qualifying for NAQT State

1. Field Size: The NAQT State field will be hard-capped at 32 Open Division teams and soft-capped at 12 Small School Division teams.

2. Automatic Qualification: The overall winner of each Kickoff site will be awarded an automatic qualification for NAQT State. Teams who earned automatic qualification must fill out the tournament registration form as described in this section's Policy B-3 to confirm that they want their spot; failing to do so before the "soft deadline" outlined below forfeits automatic qualification. Forfeited automatic qualifications do not transfer to any other team.

3. At-Large Qualification: Any team that does not receive an automatic qualification as Kickoff champion may apply for an at-large bid.

a. Teams that would have qualified under past procedures (finishing in the top 25% of a tournament field or finishing as the top Small School in the top 50% of a tournament field) will be specifically contacted by the NAQT State Tournament Director and encouraged to apply for an at-large bid, but is not guaranteed a place in the tournament.

b. The at-large bidding application form will open on December 1st. Teams who earned automatic qualification must fill out this form to confirm that they want their spot; failing to do so before the "soft deadline" (see below) forfeits automatic qualification. Teams seeking at-large bids must fill out this form to be considered.

c. The application form does not close, but there is a "soft deadline" of 11:59 PM on December 31st. Teams must accept their automatic bid (see above) or apply for at-large spots before the soft deadline to be considered in the Selection Committee's initial field selection procedure. Applications that arrive after the soft deadline may not be included in the initial field or top six waitlist positions.

d. Once the automatic qualifications are processed after the soft deadline, all remaining spots in the field and up to six waitlisted teams will be assigned to at-large applicants at the discretion of a Selection Committee (see below), who will make their decisions and announce the field and waitlist no later than the Tuesday after IHSSBCA Turnabout.

4. NAQT State Selection Committee

a. The purpose of the NAQT State Selection Committee is to create the best state championship tournament experience with a limited number of spots available. The Committee will be responsible, to the best of their ability, for making sure every team with a reasonable chance of placing in the awards is in the tournament, and that every team in the field is deserving of the opportunity to play the tournament.

b. The Selection Committee will consist of three people: the NAQT State Tournament Director and two others, chosen by the Tournament Director, who have experience in seeding tournaments and who are not coaches of teams competing or applying to compete at that year's NAQT State.

c. The Selection Committee will discuss and consider all at-large bids made before the soft deadline.

d. The Selection Committee's consideration criteria can include, in no particular order: strength of performance at IHSSBCA Kickoff, strength of performance at previous year's NAQT State, strength of performance at other tournaments, geographic diversity, roster availability, whether a team is the school's primary or secondary team, a team's operational utility to the tournament, and/or whether a team is new to NAQT State.

- A "strength of performance" criterion encompasses, in no particular order: win-loss record, points per game, points per bonus, power rate, strength of opponents, and roster availability

e. The Selection Committee will determine which teams receive the at-large spots in the field, as well as the first six positions on each field's waitlist. Beyond the first six positions, the Tournament Director has sole discretion to place the teams on the waitlist in any order of priority to suit the needs of the tournament.

5. Qualification Notes and Clarifications

a. A small school team that wins a Kickoff site may take their automatic qualification in the Open or Small School Divisions, as they desire. If they elect to play in Small School, the second place team does not receive an automatic qualification in the Open Division.

b. A small school team applying for an at-large bid may do so in either division.

c. A school may apply for an at-large bid for a second team from their school. At-large bids for third teams will not be considered, though they can be waitlisted in case of emergency drops during the week of the tournament.

d. Accepted automatic and at-large bids are considered registered for the tournament as of the announcement of the initial field. A waitlist will be maintained to fill the field if teams drop after the initial field announcement. Minor financial "drop penalties" will be assessed for registered teams that drop after the field is initially announced by the Selection Committee, and full drop penalties will be assessed for registered teams that drop closer to the date of the tournament.

In Memory of...



Bonnie Peterson

photo from Wheelan-Pressley Funeral Home

Bonnie Kay Peterson of Rock Island passed away May 22, 2026.

"Miss Pete" coached scholastic bowl at Rockridge Junior High School in Taylor Ridge. She taught social studies at the school for 36 years, and served as a chaperone for her students' trips to Washington, DC.

Her team competed in the Prairieland Conference for junior high schools, and achieved "banner victories" under her guidance. Her players went on to high school careers that included several IHSA state qualifications and the first-ever Class A IHSA State Championship in 1992.

Bonnie's full obituary is available on the website of the Wheelan-Pressly Funeral Home of Rock Island at wheelanpressly.com.



Brian Oberhauser

pictured, back left, with his 2026 State 2nd place team

Brian Oberhauser, former coach at Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, passed away on July 16, 2026, at the age of 49.

Brian was the head coach at Stevenson from 2022-23 through 2025-26. During his tenure, Stevenson won the North Suburban Conference's varsity division four times. The team rose from seventh to fourth to second to first place at the IHSSBCA|NAQT State Tournament over those four years, and their A teams went from 163rd place at the 2023 HSNCT to winning the tournament in 2026. Five of his players competed at IPNCT, with one winning in 2026.

Brian was active in his Brookfield community, serving as an elected trustee from 2009 to 2017. At the time of writing, there is no published obituary for Brian, but memorial articles have been published by the *Riverside-Brookfield Landmark* and the *Des Plaines Valley News*.

Who's In Charge?

Contact information for scholastic bowl organizations

IHSSBCA - Illinois High School Coaches Association			
Brad Fischer	IHSSBCA Chair	<brad.a.fischer@gmail.com>	<ihssbca.org>
Masonic Academic Bowl			
Herman Albers	Masonic Tournament Director	<albers@htc.net>	<masonicbowl.org>
IHSA - Illinois High School Association			
Kraig Garber	IHSA Scholastic Bowl Administrator	<kgarber@ihsa.org>	<ihsa.org>
IESA - Illinois Elementary School Association			
Craig Frasco	IESA Scholastic Bowl Administrator	<craig@iesa.org>	<iesa.org>
PACE - Partnership for Academic Competition Excellence			
Arthur Ramsay	PACE President	<president@pace-nsc.org>	<pace-nsc.org>
NAQT - National Academic Quiz Tournaments			
Seth Teitler	NAQT President	<naqt@naqt.com>	<naqt.com>
NHBB - National History Bee and Bowl			
David Madden	NHBB Director	<director@historybowl.com>	<historybowl.com>
Qwiz Camps			
David Reinstein	Qwiz Director	<david@reinsteinquizbowl.com>	<qwiz-camp.com>

IHSSBCA.ORG

2026-27 Middle School Tournament Calendar as of September 23, 2026

Send complete tournament results to Kristin Strey <strey.k.a@gmail.com>
Events in **bold** are new or changed since August; events in *italics* are tentative
All dates are Saturdays unless otherwise noted
See our website <ihssbca.org> for further information about listed tournaments
Visit <order.reinsteinquizbowl.com/packetAssignments> to find information on IESA-format matches

(IESA Week) Date	Northeast IESA Div A,C,D	Northwest IESA Div B, E, F	Southeast IESA Div G, K, L, N	Southwest IESA Div H, I, J, M, O
(13) 10/3	SchoBowlFest Online. Annual coaches' conference open to the public. Visit <ihssbca.org/schobowlfest>			
(18) 11/7	Loyola Invitational Loyola (Wilmette)			
(27) 1/9		Knights' Challenge Auburn (Rockford)		
(28) 1/16		*Keith Winter Invitational* *Keith Country Day (Rockford)*		
(30) 1/25 Monday	IESA Season Begins Teams may begin playing matches using IESA rules.			
(31) 2/13				Rocketlaunch Rushville-Industry HS
(33) 2/21 Sunday	*IHSSBCA Open Meeting (tentative)* *Online*			
(34) 2/24 Wednesday	IESA Season Schedule Due Online Go to <iesa.org/login> to submit your season schedule of matches using IESA rules			
(40) 4/10	IHSSBCA Middle School Sites TBA	IHSSBCA Middle School **Belvidere North HS**	IHSSBCA Middle School Sites TBA	IHSSBCA Middle School Sites TBA
(41) 4/17	IHSSBCA Middle School Sites TBA	IHSSBCA Middle School Sites TBA	IHSSBCA Middle School Sites TBA	IHSSBCA Middle School Sites TBA
(42) 4/19 Monday	IESA Record Reporting Deadline Go to <iesa.org/login> to submit your season's win-loss record and your team's roster for the IESA State Tournament series.			
(43) 4/28 Wednesday	IESA Regionals Multiple Sites	IESA Regionals Multiple Sites	IESA Regionals Multiple Sites	IESA Regionals Multiple Sites
(44) 5/3 Monday	IESA Sectionals Multiple Sites	IESA Sectionals Multiple Sites	IESA Sectionals Multiple Sites	IESA Sectionals Multiple Sites
(44) 5/7 Friday	IESA State Peoria Civic Center			

Middle School National Tournaments

April 4	Rosemont, IL	NAQT Individual Player National Championship	naqt.com/ipnct
May 7-9	Rosemont, IL	NAQT Middle School National Championship	naqt.com/msnct

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2026-27 High School Tournament Calendar as of September 23, 2026

Send tournament listings and results to Kristin Strey <strey.k.a@gmail.com>

Events in **bold** are new or changed since August; events in *italics* are tentative; All dates are Saturdays unless otherwise noted

See our website <ihssbca.org> for further information about listed tournaments

Date	Northeast (IHSA Dist 1-3)	Northwest (IHSA Dist 4)	Southeast (IHSA Dist 5, 7)	Southwest (IHSA Dist 6, 7)
10/3 SAT Date	SchoBowlFest Online. Annual coaches' conference open to the public. Visit <ihssbca.org/schobowlfest>			
10/10	HVAC Hinsdale Central			
10/17		ACF Fall Auburn (Rockford)		
10/24 ACT Date				
10/31		IHSSBCA Novice Limestone (Peoria)		IHSSBCA Novice Lincoln
11/7 SAT Date	IHSSBCA Novice Barrington Lincoln-Way East (Frankfort)	IHSSBCA Novice Auburn (Rockford) Cereal Bowl F/S Morrison	IHSSBCA Novice **Granite City** Mattoon	
11/14	Scobol Solo Sandburg (Orland Park)	Butterfield-Pitz JV Moline		International Scholastic Bowl Bradley University (Peoria)
11/21	IHSSBCA Riley Kickoff Homewood-Flossmoor Wheaton Warrenville South	IHSSBCA Riley Kickoff Auburn (Rockford)	IHSSBCA Riley Kickoff Centennial (Champaign) **Fairfield** **Palestine**	IHSSBCA Riley Kickoff Lincoln Rushville-Industry Southwestern (Piasa)
	Kickoff Tournaments have honored the memory of David L. Riley (Loyola) since 2016.			
			Hendricks Memorial Blue Ridge (Farmer City)	
12/5 ACT Date SAT Date		Riverdale Early-Season Riverdale (Port Byron)		Athens Frosh-Soph Athens
12/12	Snow Bowl Bradley-Bourbonnais History Bowl Regional Homewood-Flossmoor	RB Rocket JV Roanoke-Benson		
12/19	Reinstein Varsity Barrington			
1/9	IHSSBCA Turnabout **Bollingbrook** Rolling Meadows	IHSSBCA Turnabout **Morrison** Knights' Challenge F/S Auburn (Rockford)	IHIHSSBCA Turnabout **Fairfield**	IHSSBCA Turnabout **Lincoln** Rushville-Industry Macomb Rotary Macomb
1/16	Loyola Ultima Loyola (Wilmette)	Tiger Cup Princeton		Piasa Bird Invitational Southwestern (Piasa)

IHSSBCA.ORG

Date	Northeast (IHSA Dist 1-3)	Northwest (IHSA Dist 4)	Southeast (IHSA Dist 5, 7)	Southwest (IHSA Dist 6, 7)
1/23				FROSTBITE Granite City
1/30		Winnebago Invitational Winnebago		Robinson Memorial Springfield
2/5 Friday	IHSA Record Reports Due Online Go to <center.ihsa.org> to submit your season's win-loss record for the IHSA Sectional Seeding Meetings			
2/6			Charger F/S Centennial (Champaign)	
2/9-10 Tue-Wed	IHSA Sectional Seeding Meetings Online Go to <center.ihsa.org> to vote on the top teams in your IHSA Sectional			
2/13	History Bowl Champs Stevenson (Lincolnshire)		Mattoon Frosh-Soph Mattoon	
2/20	Masonic Sectionals Multiple Sites	Masonic Sectionals Multiple Sites	Masonic Sectionals Multiple Sites	Masonic Sectionals Multiple Sites
2/21 Sunday	*IHSSBCA Open Meeting (tentative)* *Online*			
2/27	NAQT State Finals Centennial (Champaign)			
3/6 SAT Date	Masonic State Finals Bloomington			
3/8 Monday	IHSA Regionals Multiple Sites	IHSA Regionals Multiple Sites	IHSA Regionals Multiple Sites	IHSA Regionals Multiple Sites
3/13	IHSA Sectionals Multiple Sites	IHSA Sectionals Multiple Sites	IHSA Sectionals Multiple Sites	IHSA Sectionals Multiple Sites
3/20	IHSA State Finals Heartland College (Normal)			
3/27	Open Pop Culture Tourney Homewood-Flossmoor			
4/3				Spring Cleaning Trash Southwestern (Piasa)
5/1 SAT Date				

National Tournaments

April 4	Rosemont, IL	NAQT Individual Player National Championship	naqt.com/ipnct
April 23-25	Rosemont, IL	NAQT Small School National Championship	naqt.com/ssnct
May 28-30	Atlanta, GA	NAQT High School National Championship	naqt.com/hsnct

Camps

July 11-17	Normal, IL	Qwiz Camp	qwiz-camp.com/camp

List your 2025-26 tournaments on the IHSSBCA Tournament Calendar

Including your tournament in the IHSSBCA's listing increases your reach to both teams and moderators before the tournament, and makes it easier for players, families, and other coaches to find your tournament's results and statistics afterward.
Email <strey.k.a@gmail.com> with your tournament information.

IHSSBCA Charter Members

Charter Members of the IHSSBCA joined at the beginning of the 1995-1996 season to support the newly-formed IHSSBCA. Those marked with an asterisk (*) have been inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Anne M. Alepra, Erie
Rich Bagby, Central (Breese)
Sister John Baricevic, Mater Dei (Breese) *
David Bibb, Hoopeston
Sharon Bittner, Hall (Spring Valley)
Dale E. Boyd, Robinson *
Teri Brandt, Brimfield
Kathleen Brooks-Juergens, Richwoods (Peoria) *
David Brunty, Pickneyville
Cheryl Christianson, Sterling *
Michael Cleary, Richards (LaGrange) *
Kerri S. Cravens, Lanphier (Springfield)
Tom Durbin, MacArthur (Decatur) *
Marshall Ellenstein, Maine West (Des Plaines)
Helen Ely, Riverton
Marlene M. Farver, Richmond-Burton
Jim Fenton, Carlinville *
Bruce Fitzgerald, Adlai E. Stevenson (Lincolnshire) *
Barbara A. Fuson, Stephen Decatur (Decatur)
Suzanne Gaedtka, Athens
Linda J. Greene, Auburn (Rockford) *
Rob Grierson, Latin (Chicago) *
Cathy Groesch, Southeast (Springfield) *
Michael Hendricks, Blue Ridge (Farmer City) *
Amy Hildebrand, Granite City
Susan Hinrichsen, IHSA representative
Greg Hnilicka, Metamora
Susan Howell, Notre Dame (Quincy)
Debra Huso, Stockton
Ken Johnson, Sullivan *
Phyllis Kidd, Wheaton North *
Kathleen Knetzer, Carlinville
Lorraine Lid, Huntley
Cheryl Lindbloom, Oak Forest
Joan Linneman, Bishop McNamara (Kankakee)
Dave Major, Warrensburg-Latham
Susan Martin, Wheaton North *
Sherilyn Meiners, Ridgeview (Colfax)
Bruce Munro, Evanston
Karen Niemeier, Winnebago *
Karen Ornduff, Mahomet-Seymour
Kevin Palmer, William Fremd (Palatine) *
Donna Pinson, Byron *
Nicholas Pitz, Moline *
John Rathbun, Woodruff (Peoria) *
David Reinstein, New Trier (Winnetka) *
Cheri Riley, Trico (Campbell Hill)
David Riley, Loyola (Wilmette) *
Jack K. Roseman, Peoria
Brenda L. Schroeder, Mendota
Dennis Scobbie, Litchfield *
Donald Sebestyen, Mt Carmel (Chicago)
Peggy Shane, Princeville
Marcia Smith, Dakota
Matthew T. Smith, Ottawa
Pat Sowerby, Tri Valley (Down)
Sally Spudich, Orangeville
Judy Thorne, Rock Falls
Christina Tracy, Rossville-Alvin *
Judy Turner, Schlarman (Danville)
Lisa Uphoff, Farmington
Jerry Vandemark, Streator *
Donna L. Watkins, Hinsdale Central
Jane Weaver, Dixon
David Welle, Rochelle
Jim Wille, Streator
Gary Williams, Southwestern (Piasa)
Patricia A. Yelmini, Lockport
Beth Young, Quincy *

Statement of Revenue and Expense
FY26 (Current Fiscal Year)

August 1, 2025 to February 5, 2026

Submitted by Nevagay Abel, IHSSBCA Treasurer

Revenue		
Memberships	$	8,313.58
Scorebooks	$	541.70
Newsletter Ads	$	370.00
Donations	$	275.00
Sponsorship	$	-
Awards Banquet	$	1,673.45
SchoBowlFest	$	120.81
Grants	$	-
Team Illinois In	$	3,378.08
Total Revenue	**$**	**14,672.62**
Expenses		
Team Illinois (24-25)	$	1,272.00
Team Illinois (25-26)	$	3,795.98
Newsletter	$	-
Tounaments and Mailings	$	4,891.31
Scorebooks and Mailings	$	128.53
Membership Mailings	$	-
Website	$	300.00
SchoBowlFest	$	-
Banquet and Awards	$	4,276.15
Miscellaneous	$	113.14
Total Expenses	**$**	**14,777.11**
Net 25-26 Gain (Loss)	**$**	**(104.49)**
From 24-25	**$**	**4,596.99**
Bank Balance	**$**	**4,492.50**

HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM

Illinois Masonic Academic Bowl
2027 Tournament

SCHOOLS PAY NO ENTRY FEES **42th Annual Tournament**

Please enter by email, if possible. Include all information requested on this form.

Sectional Tournament Date
Saturday, February 20, 2027

State Tournament Date
Saturday, March 6, 2027

Please print all information clearly

Complete Name of School:					
Mailing Address of School:	Street Address or P.O. Box				
	City or Town		IL	ZIP	
Name of Scholastic Bowl Coach					
Email Address of Scholastic Bowl Coach					
Telephone Numbers of Scholastic Bowl Coach	School		Home		
Name of High School Principal					

☐ **Enter this school in the 2027 Illinois Masonic Academic Bowl Tournament.**
(School's Coach must register her/his team. Masonic Lodges cannot register the school.)

☐ **This school is willing to host a Sectional Tournament Site, if needed.**
NOTE: ***If you volunteer to host a Sectional Tournament Site, you hereby agree to run the tournament in accordance with the written Tournament Rules for the Illinois Masonic Academic Bowl and enforce all of those rules.***

Enter by Email ***Entry by email is preferred. albers@htc.net***
(Attach this completed form to the email, OR include all information requested in the body of the email.)

***or* Enter by mailing this form to:**

Herman Albers, Tournament Director
Academic Bowl
7141. V. V . Rd
Red Bud, IL 62278

Form Date: 08-15-2019

An email confirmation will be sent to you confirming your registration in our tournament. Your school will be listed as registered on our website: academicbowl.org

► REGISTRATION DEADLINE – FRIDAY **JANUARY 8, 2027** ◄

HAS THIS NEWSLETTER BEEN MISDELIVERED?
PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO YOUR SCHOOL'S SCHOLASTIC BOWL COACH OR ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR.

IHSSBCA.ORG

Illinois High School Scholastic Bowl Coaches Association

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@IHSSBCA

The Next Issue Will Be Posted For IHSSBCA Members Winter 2026

IHSSBCA Steering Committee

Elected Members
Chair: Brad Fischer, Keith Country Day (Rockford), ret.
Secretary: Linda Greene, Auburn (Rockford)
Treasurer: Nevagay Abel, Auburn (Rockford)
Ombudsperson: Erin Limestall, Olympia (Stanford)

Appointed Members
All-Sectional: Kristin Strey, Winnebago
All-State: Brad Fischer, Keith Country Day (Rockford), ret.
Awards Banquet: Sharon Robinson Lorinskas, Carbondale
Coaches Hall of Fame: David Reinstein, New Trier (Winnetka), ret.
Coaches Hall of Fame Veterans Committee: Karen Niemeier, Winnebago, ret.
Coaches Poll: Mark Taylor, Payton (Chicago)
Conference Rep: Michael Sacks, Homewood-Flossmoor
Fundraising: Colleen Sullivan, Northside (Chicago)
Kickoff Tournaments: Erin Limestall, Olympia (Stanford)
Membership: Kris Adams, Limestone (Bartonville)
Middle School Outreach: Jace Kost, Rushville-Industry
Middle School Tournament Coordinator: Jace Kost, Rushville-Industry
Moderator Certification: Andrew Cheun, Centennial (Champaign)
NAQT State: Brad Fischer, Keith Country Day (Rockford), ret.
Newsletter Editor: Kristin Strey, Winnebago
Novice Tournaments: Kristin Strey, Winnebago
Publicity Chair: David Reinstein, New Trier (Winnetka), ret.
SchoBowlFest Coaching Conference: Brad Fischer,
Keith Country Day (Rockford), ret.
Scorebooks: Kristin Strey, Winnebago
Team Illinois: Brad Fischer, Keith Country Day (Rockford), ret.
Tournament Calendar: Kristin Strey, Winnebago
Turnabout Tournaments: Michael Laudermith, Fenton (Bensenville)
Webmaster: Hunter Fast
At-Large Members: Brody Anderson, Princeton;
Jonathan Legendre, Latin (Chicago); Jaime Pamatot, Granite City;
Jorge Sanchez, Roycemore (Evanston);
Chad Sloan, Warrensburg-Latham; Laura Stites, Belvidere North;
and Scott Timmermann, Mater Dei (Breese)

Our Purpose

The purpose of the IHSSBCA is to increase awareness and support of the public, school leaders, and parents for high school Scholastic Bowl competition in Illinois; to provide opportunities for Scholastic Bowl coaches to meet and cooperate in the development and communication of coaching techniques, tournament formats, and other ways of improving the quality of competition with integrity and the highest possible standards; and to promote recognition of participants, coaches, and programs.

Our Mission Statement

The IHSSBCA exists to improve the quality of Scholastic Bowl competition and foster greater opportunities for collaboration, participation, and recognition.