

October 20, 2019

To: Craig Anderson, Illinois High School Association (IHSA) executive director

CC: Beth Sauser, IHSA assistant executive director

IHSA Board of Directors: Tim McConnell (President, Erie); Katy Hasson (Vice President, Rockridge); Robert Nolting (Secretary, Andrew); Scott Adreon (Treasurer, Dunlap); Jon Baffico (Saint Patrick); Tim Moore (Bloomington); Todd Roger (Carterville); Dr. Joyce Kenner (Young); Kurt Tenopir (Fremd); Amy McMahan (PORTA); and Dan Tully (Notre Dame)

Submitters of the Appeal: Mr. Kevin Gallick (Principal, George Washington) and Grace Moody (Principal, Alcott College Prep)

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On behalf of Chicago Public Schools (CPS), we are appealing the “strike policy” ruling made by the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) executive director.

All Class 2A and 3A CPS boys soccer teams should be reinstated in the prescheduled state series competition on or after Oct. 22, 2019.

“Competition” in the Class 2A and 3A state series competition officially began on Oct. 1 - long before the CPS strike.

Nowhere in the definition of the “strike policy” is the word “game” mentioned. If the IHSA wanted the “strike policy” to center around a “game,” it would have used the word “game” - as defined in its definitions - opposed to using the word “competition.” “Competition” is mentioned three separate times in the “strike policy” rule, and the word “game” is not mentioned once.

Through this appeal and IHSA definitions below, you will find a summary of facts and verbiage from existing IHSA regulations supporting our appeal to reinstate all Class 2A and 3A CPS boys soccer teams in the prescheduled state series competition on or after Oct. 22, 2019.

Timeline

Sept. 6, 2019: All online entries due for the IHSA boys soccer state series competition.

Oct. 1, 2019: First IHSA-organized Class 2A and 3A boys soccer state series competition event for teams started with the seeding competition event. This was the beginning level of competition.

Oct 4, 2019: All Class 2A and Class 3A CPS boys soccer teams officially received the results from the seeding competition event, where there was a first-, second-, third- and fourth-place, etc. finishers.

Oct. 17, 2019: CPS teachers go on strike.

Oct. 18, 2019: IHSA uses “strike policy” to remove all Class 2A and 3A CPS boys soccer teams from the 2019 state series competition.

Oct. 20, 2019: George Washington High School and Alcott College Prep appeal “strike policy” ruling on behalf of CPS to the IHSA Board of Directors in order to reinstate all Class 2A and 3A CPS boys soccer teams back in the state series competition as of Oct. 22.

Definitions

IHSA “strike policy:” If a school is on strike and not in legal session, as defined by the State Board of Education, on the date of the beginning competition in any IHSA state series, students from that school may not

participate in the state series. However, when students from any member school first participate in the beginning level of competition in a given state series that state series is considered to have begun for all entered schools. If any school subsequently incurs a strike, the qualified teams and/or students will be permitted to continue participating in the state series, so far as the IHSA strike policy is concerned, even though their school may not be in legal session on the dates of subsequent state series competition in that sport.

“Game” as defined by Webster’s dictionary and the IHSA:

- An organized contest between two different teams.
 - *If a school is on strike and not in legal session, as defined by the State Board of Education, on the date of the beginning GAME in any IHSA state series, students from that school may not participate in the state series.*

“Competition” as defined by Webster’s dictionary and the IHSA:

- The activity or condition of competing
 - *There is a fierce competition between coaches and/or teams for seeding position.*
- An event or contest held in which people compete
 - *A seeding competition between coaches and/or teams.*
- The person or people with whom one is competing; the opposition
 - *I listened and read background to compete against opposition teams at the seeding competition.*
- In or that involves the skill of the sport – an event in which teams or individuals compete against one another, utilizing one or more of the skills of the sport, under specified competition rules to determine one or more winner(s)
 - *In the seeding competition between the teams in each IHSA-assigned sectional for the state series competition - where dribbling, shooting to score, heading and goalkeeping skills of the sport in a team’s season’s games to that point - enable a team to compile a record that was required by the IHSA to use at the seeding competition event.*
 - *Coaches were instructed by the IHSA during the seeding competition event to use: total win/loss record, which teams achieve by using skills of the sport; and the coach’s competitive narrative to hopefully win the seeding competition event.*
 - *There were specified rules during the seeding competition event to determine who won first place and the top seed. There was a fierce competition between all teams for seeding finishes. The losing teams earned second-, third- and fourth-place finishes, etc. in accordance to the IHSA seeding competition rules for the state series competition.*

“Participation” as defined by Webster’s dictionary and the IHSA:

- The action of taking part in something
 - *The teams in the IHSA state series competition took part in the seeding competition event*
- The act of personally engaging in an organized tryout, training or competition activity in a sport.
 - *The first competition - or beginning level - in the IHSA state series competition is the IHSA seeding competition event for all teams to engage in to find a first-place, second-place, third-place, fourth-place winner, etc.*

Statement of Facts

- Nowhere in the definition of the “strike policy” is the word “game” mentioned. If the IHSA wanted the “strike policy” to center around a “game,” it would have used the word “game” as opposed to “competition.” “Competition” is mentioned three separate times in the “strike policy” rule and the word “game” is not mentioned once.

- There is clear evidence that competition in the 2019 Class 2A and 3A boys soccer state series competition started on Oct. 1, 2019 during the IHSA-organized seeding competition event, resulting in first, second, third, fourth, etc. finishes.
 - In Indiana, seeds are predetermined by geography. They do not have a seeding competition event for their state series competition, where teams would use skill of the sport to earn a record that would then be required - as the IHSA does - to use at the seeding competition event.
 - Under the IHSA boys soccer terms and conditions, it notes to withdraw from the state series competition without penalty, the principal or athletic director must notify the IHSA office in writing of the school's withdraw prior to the seeding competition event.
- The CPS strike began on Oct. 17, 2019, which mean this portion of the IHSA "strike policy" should have been applied: "If any school subsequently incurs a strike (after the first competition), the qualified teams and/or students will be permitted to continue participating in the state series competition, so far as the IHSA strike policy is concerned, even though their school may not be in legal session on the dates of subsequent state series competition in that sport."
- Words have meanings. "Competition" was used in the "strike policy," not games. That falls on the IHSA, not on Class 2A and 3A CPS boys soccer teams.

In Summary

For all of the reasons set forth above, all Class 2A and 3A CPS boys soccer teams should be reinstated to CONTINUE to engage in the state series competition that started previous to the CPS strike.