

# Illinois School for the Visually Impaired

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*Operated by the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services.*

*Accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.*



## Athletic Director's Newsletter

July 26, 2023

Dear ISVI Families,

As we near the end of July, and school is getting closer, I wanted to get some information out regarding athletics.

Everyone who participates in a sport is required to have an up to date physical prior to each season. Unfortunately, our health center cannot do physicals. Most of our sports are only 4-5 weeks long, therefore having the physical done prior to the season is paramount to participation. To verify if you already have a physical on file contact our Health Center @ 217-479-4419.

ISVI offers seven sports in which our students can participate. Students ages 14-21 are eligible to participate in all non-IHSA sports. Only high school students are eligible to compete in the IHSA sports. ISVI does have an athletic fee assessed. Regardless of participation in athletics, all students and educators receive education on concussions.

The start date of each sport is below:

Track (Aug. 21). IHSA Girls Swimming (Aug. 28). Goalball (Oct. 2). Cheerleading & Wrestling (Nov. 6).

IHSA Boys Swimming (Jan. 3). Bowling (Jan. 29). Forensics & Swimming (Feb. 26)

Each sport concludes their season with a Conference Tournament that consists of 12 State Schools for the Blind/Visually Impaired

Key points regarding each sport:

- Track – has 3 divisions based on vision: multiple events available regardless of vision and/or disability
- Goalball – contact sport thus if student's restrictions state no contact, they're unable to participate
- Cheerleading – non acrobatic, students can participate regardless of vision and/or disability
- Wrestling - contact sport thus if student's restrictions state no contact, they're unable to participate
- Bowling - students can participate regardless of vision and/or disability
- Forensics – public speaking, students can enter various events by topic / speeches, etc.
- Swimming - students can participate regardless of vision and/or disability

Throughout the year, each sport competes with the other state schools within our conference known as NCASB. The NCASB (North Central Association of Schools for the Blind/Visually Impaired) consists of 12 State Schools.

NCASB = students 14 years old (or 7<sup>th</sup> grade) though 21 years of age are eligible to compete.

IHSA (Illinois High School Association) = only students in grades 9-12 are eligible to compete.

Along with our DHS website, the Booster Club also created a website that you may find helpful. It has our school calendar complete with school events, travel dates, athletic and special events, additional resources, and much more. When you have a chance, check it out at [www.isviwarriors.com](http://www.isviwarriors.com)

Soon you'll be receiving information regarding our registration on August 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. When you arrive at registration, I will be available for additional information and to answer any questions that you may have.

We're very excited for this school year as it'll mark our 175<sup>th</sup> Birthday. We'll have monthly activities leading up to January and our 175<sup>th</sup> Birthday. On Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> we will host an adult Gala at Hamilton's in Jacksonville and recognize our 175 years. Tickets will go on sale in August.

Throughout the year, many of our special events as well as athletic events are streamed live. When they are, we will provide the link asap. ISVI always strives to have good communication. Throughout the year, when events happen and/or links are made available, the school sends out alerts to either your cell or email that you supplied at registration. We also have Facebook, Twitter, and a 2<sup>nd</sup> website. To aid in communication, the PTO hosts a monthly meeting on Zoom. The PTO's monthly zoom meeting is an excellent way to stay on top of what's happening at the school. The first PTO Zoom meeting is Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm, hosted by our PTO President Mrs. Sherry Gregson (contact info listed under social media below).

Later in the school year, our PTO has a phenomenal fundraiser, their Annual on-line Auction. Details will be available closer to the date of the auction. The PTO works directly with the administration, teachers, and families of ISVI to help with the many events and needs of the school and classroom teachers.

Our Booster Club works with ISVI to help offset various fees and assists in purchasing equipment and uniforms. Currently the Booster Club is selling tickets (more information @ registration) to raise funds to purchase new warm-ups for our student-athletes. In December and January, we will play host for two Wrestling Tournaments. In December, we'll host an IHSA Tourney, while in January ISVI will host the NCASB Conference Finals for both Cheerleading and Wrestling. We also host various monthly "Pack the House" nights at 3 different restaurants in town. ISVI receives a percentage of food sales from these events. This year, these funds will help assist the 175<sup>th</sup> Birthday Planning committee, our administration for several events, and the Booster Club, which is run by President Mrs. Leslie Howard.

**Social Media:**

Twitter: @ISVI\_Athletics

Facebook: Illinois School for the Visually Impaired

Facebook: ISVI Athletics & Activities

Website: [www.isviwarriors.com](http://www.isviwarriors.com)

PTO Email: [ISVI.PTO@gmail.com](mailto:ISVI.PTO@gmail.com)

Again, all the athletic dates, as well as the school calendar are posted on the Booster Clubs' website. I'm looking forward to meeting you at registration, if you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Thank you and welcome to the ISVI Family.

Sincerely,

*Mr. Ken Mansell*

**Ken Mansell**

Athletic Director & Executive Assistant %

Admissions, Records, & Outreach

[www.isviwarriors.com](http://www.isviwarriors.com)

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The mission of the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired is to serve as a statewide resource offering students with visual impairments quality educational services which will enable them to become personally productive and self-sufficient citizens.

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