

# Indiana Soccer Coaches Association 2009 Rules Survey & Proposal

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## Survey Summary

The 2009 Survey, with considerable assistance from the IHSAA and Athletic Directors across the state, was the most comprehensive ever! The Survey used the online Survey Monkey system. With the aid of the IHSAA and Athletic Directors the survey was sent to every member school in the state. The result was 296 responses from the coaches to provide the best ever view of the opinion of coaches. The results were 168 Boy's Coaches (56.9% of the sample) and 125 Girl's coaches (42.4%) with three not indicated. Following is a summary of areas where the coaches indicated a clear preference.

On question #2 asking the coaches their preference on the subject of 'Class Soccer', 184 (62.4%) preferred Soccer be divided into classes. The support was consistent across the membership as 63.7% of Boy's coaches and 61.6% of Girl's coaches favored the proposal. This marks the second consecutive survey with similar results. In 2007 61.8% of the respondents (58.4% of boy's teams and 63.5% of girl's teams) favored an IHSAA Tournament using a class format.

Questions 3-5 dealt with the concept of 'accumulating cautions' that was proposed in 2007. In 91.8% indicated support for the idea of disciplining players who accumulate excessive yellow cards. On the issue of maintaining the number at five cautions before suspension 69.7% favored the current number, 10.7% wanted the number increased while 11.5% wanted the number decreased. The remaining 8.2% preferred abolishing the rule. The major change the membership requested was to give a 'clean slate' at the beginning of IHSAA Tournament play. That proposal was supported by 61.2% of the membership (67.3% of Boy's coaches and 52.8% of Girl's). That result generated the attached proposal.

Also on the subject of accumulated cautions, 84.5% of the membership favored a one match suspension for a coach who plays a player in violation of the rule.

The other major conclusion of the survey was in response to question #7 where 72.9% of the membership supported the idea of allowing lower level games (JV & Frosh) to be played with a running clock.

At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held November 21 at North Central H.S., the membership also expressed strong concerns over item XVIII on page 55 of the 2009 Fall Bulletin which places limits on the number of people on the bench for IHSAA Tournament games. Research of other Bulletins and consulting coaches in other sports show no such harsh limitations. For example, other sports routinely permit JV & Frosh coaches on their benches as well as injured and other non-dressing team members. Football routinely permits 75 players as well as any number of injured players on the bench as well as numerous student managers & trainers.

## **INDIANA SOCCER COACHES ASSOCIATION 2009-10 RULES PROPOSALS**

**Based on a survey of high school coaches with a total of 296 responses (168 Boy's Coaches (56.9% of the sample) and 125 Girl's coaches (42.4%) with three not indicated) and discussion at the November 21 Annual General Meeting of the Association held at North Central H.S., the ISCA would like to respectfully propose the following amendments to IHSAA by-laws and policies.**

### **Proposal #1**

To add the following provision to the Accumulating Cautions rule.

Beginning with the start of IHSAA Tournament play, players and coaches accumulation totals return to zero. Throughout the course of Tournament play, any player or coach who accumulates two cautions as defined in the regular season policy would be required to serve a one game suspension. Any additional cautions beyond that point will also result in a one game suspension.

**Rationale-**over 61% of the member coaches surveyed saw this as a problem.

The intention of this is twofold. One, it brings the IHSAA more in-line with the NCAA Rule that is the basis of the policy. Second, it seeks to maintain the intent and integrity of the rule. For example, a player or coach may be tempted to either ignore the spirit of the rule in Tournament play and behave in an inappropriate manner or they may also feel a need to deliberately be cautioned in a late season match to reset their accumulation count to zero for tournament play. Also, as a simple matter of equity, five yellow card cautions in 16 games represents a clear pattern of unacceptable behavior. One school this year had a player receive his fifth caution in a Semi-State match which was the school's 21<sup>st</sup> match of the season. That does not indicate the same level of persistent misconduct!

### **Proposal #2**

To replace rule XVIII in the Fall Bulletin with following:

A minimum of fifteen minutes prior to the beginning of the match the head coach must present to the referee and opposing a coach a list of all bench personnel. The list must indicate the 25 players dressed and eligible to participate in the match as well as all coaches, non-participating players, managers, trainers, statisticians or anyone else authorized to be in the bench area. By submitting the list the head coach accepts responsibility for the conduct of all bench personnel.

**Rationale-**No other sports have such bench restrictions! Other sports routinely permit JV & Frosh coaches on their benches as well as injured and other non-dressing team members to participate in the tournament experience. Most schools have spent the entire season with more that the currently permitted two coaches on the bench. If the IHSAA motivation is for the maximum number to enjoy the benefits of the tournament experience the current rule seems to run counter to that goal. The coaches wish to expand that opportunity with the clear understanding that ultimate responsibility for the conduct of all on the bench rests with the head coach.

**On Class Soccer:**

61.8% of the respondents (58.4% of boy's teams and 63.5% of girl's teams) favored an IHSAA Tournament using a class format. This is the second consecutive survey with similar results!

**Proposal #3:**

Boys and Girls soccer state tournaments be separated into 2 classes beginning in 2009-10 if possible or 2010-11 at the latest.

**Rationale-soccer has** achieved the total number of participating schools to fit the IHSAA guidelines. The coaches have voted in favor of the class tournaments by over 60% majorities in both the 2007 & 2009 surveys. Additionally, the girls sectionals are overcrowded and need to be realigned as soon as possible.

It is understood that Reclassification is not do until 2010-11. This proposal suggests that circumstances (particularly in the girl's tournament) make a move as soon as possible preferable. A stipulation could be added that this first class grouping would last for 5 years bringing Soccer back into the regular rotation. Doing this now would alleviate the crunch on girl's sectionals immediately. Also , by doing this Soccer would no longer be the only IHSAA sanctioned team tournament not in a class format