



IOWA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Media Update

January 27, 2021

Hello,

Members of the media and individuals interested in covering the IHSAA's 2021 winter state tournament events should follow instructions listed below. Procedures have been updated due to COVID-19 related limitations and plans. If you have questions or require accommodations, contact IHSAA communications director Chris Cuellar: ccuellar@iahsaa.org.

A few notes before diving into the state tournament information...

- **Lead-Up Attendance:** All media members should be contacting host school administrators to request attendance and entry prior to arriving at IHSAA events. Sign-in sheets will be available for complimentary entry at postseason lead-up events (district basketball, district wrestling, etc.). Attendance restrictions means limited media workspace available – plan accordingly.
- **Lead-Up Livestreams:** If your outlet is interested in producing video from postseason lead-up events, the IHSAA has a video access procedure in place. Policies, fees, and application forms are required and can be found under Video Access & Livestreaming on the Media page.
- **Radio & Audio Credentials:** The Iowa High School Sports Network holds audio rights from the IHSAA's state wrestling and basketball tournaments. That means all outlets interested in producing radio or audio broadcasts from wrestling or basketball should apply for credentials through IHSSN. The IHSAA does not place radio or audio outlets on its credential lists for those events. There is no registration or fee required for postseason lead-up events, or for the IHSAA's state tournaments in swimming and bowling.
- **IHSSN Video Rights:** The Iowa High School Sports Network holds video rights from the IHSAA's state wrestling and basketball tournaments. Anyone producing video of any kind from those events must review and follow IHSSN policy for their outlet. *New in 2020-21:* Digital or "Internet" outlets must secure written permission from the IHSSN before creating or distributing any video content from IHSSN-produced events. Please contact ken@ihssn.com for more information.
- **2020-21 Gray Credential:** This will not ensure entry to any of the below state tournament events. Please follow the event-specific procedures and registrations as outlined. Media members who have the 2020-21 gray credential are still encouraged to wear and display it for ease of access at state tournament venues.

As with all things in the 2020-21 athletic year, this information is subject to change. Please review the Media page on the IHSAA website for the latest information prior to each event. A friendly reminder that there are no true joint events with IGHSAU this winter, so if you're seeking any information on girls' state tournament events, contact the IGHSAU, please.

On to the IHSAA state tournament procedures...

SWIMMING

When: Saturday, February 13

Where: Linn-Mar Aquatic Center, Marion

How do I get IHSAA credentials and media access?

Email Chris Cuellar at ccuellar@iahsaa.org following state meet qualifying on February 6. Replies confirming access will be sent on February 11.

Where should I direct people interested in watching this?

The 2021 IHSAA State Swimming Championships can be seen on [NFHS Network](#).

Can school media representatives be credentialed?

No, sorry.

How do I find out about state qualifiers?

Individual and relay qualifiers will be available following district meets, currently set for Saturday, February 6. In 2020, results were available late Saturday evening.

Where should I look for more information?

On our [Swimming page](#) and on Swimming's [State Meet Central page](#).

What else should I know?

Spectators are not permitted. Media workspace is limited. Attending media members will be required to enter before the meet begins.

WRESTLING

When: Wednesday, February 17 through Saturday, February 20

Where: Wells Fargo Arena, Des Moines

How do I get IHSAA credentials and media access?

The IHSAA will open a credential request form after the traditional tournament field is announced on Sunday, February 14. The request form will be available through the [Media page](#) and the [State Tournament Central page](#).

Limitations will be set on the number of individuals allowed per outlet. Applications will be required for each date of attendance. Procedures for arena entry and credentialing will be announced as soon as they are finalized.

Where should I direct people interested in watching this?

IHSSN will utilize TrackWrestling to show every match of the dual team tournament and traditional tournament. The semifinals and finals are available via IHSSN's TV network and livestream.

Can school media representatives be credentialed?

No, sorry.

How do I find out about state qualifiers?

Schools qualify for the dual team tournament by winning regional dual meets, set for February 9 and 10. Individuals qualify for the traditional tournament through district meets, set for February 13. Traditional tournament brackets and seedings will be announced on February 14.

Where should I look for more information?

On our [Wrestling page](#) and on Wrestling's [State Tournament Central page](#).

What else should I know?

Please review [last week's Board Briefs](#) before I lay out some plainspoken logistical concerns. Please consider the attendance restrictions and facility layout. Ready?

There is not enough space at Wells Fargo Arena to safely host every media member that would like to attend the state wrestling tournament. With multiple sessions each day, even limiting attendees per outlet will not allow for appropriate distancing in the media center, photography and TV room, and any other room we work to secure for media members. This event will not be unsafely overbooked. Unfortunately, that likely means declining some IHSAA applications.

How media can help: Newspapers should consider utilizing the Iowa Newspaper Association's photo pool for images and reporting remotely if possible. Broadcasters should consider pooling their audio and video with affiliates if possible. All media members are encouraged to visit with colleagues within their ownership groups or geographic areas to reduce the number of physical attendees if possible. Radio outlets should continue following IHSSN procedures and policy.

How IHSAA can help: Besides trying to expand media workrooms, I will offer some kind of remote reporting option via video or phone. Those would still require some kind of request to me following matches or sessions, but would provide a safe interview alternative for anyone reporting from anywhere. I'm also happy to take any suggestions you may have on how to best facilitate coverage from off-site as the event is taking place.

BOWLING

When: Tuesday, February 23 and Wednesday, February 24

Where: Cadillac XBC, Waterloo

How do I get IHSAA credentials and media access?

Email Chris Cuellar at ccuellar@iahsaa.org following state meet qualifying on February 15. Replies confirming access will be sent by February 19.

Where should I direct people interested in watching this?

Live video is not currently available for this event.

Can school media representatives be credentialed?

Yes, one school media representative will be allowed entry per participating school. Please email Chris Cuellar at ccuellar@iahsaa.org after your school has qualified. Replies confirming access will be sent by February 19.

How do I find out about state qualifiers?

Individual and team qualifiers will be available following district meets, currently set for Monday, February 15. In 2020, results were available in the evening of the district meets.

Where should I look for more information?

On our [Bowling page](#) and on Bowling's [State Meet Central page](#).

What else should I know?

A format change due to facility restrictions has changed the meet schedule. IGHSAU championships will be contested on Monday and early Tuesday, followed by IHSAA championships late Tuesday and Wednesday. Limited spectators are expected.

BASKETBALL

When: Monday, March 8 through Friday, March 12

Where: Wells Fargo Arena, Des Moines

How do I get IHSAA credentials and media access?

The IHSAA will open a credential request form after the entire state tournament field is set. The request form will be available through the [Media page](#) and the [State Tournament Central page](#).

Limitations will be set on the number of individuals allowed per outlet. Applications will be required for each game. Procedures for arena entry and credential display will be announced as they become available.

Where should I direct people interested in watching this?

IHSSN will utilize its website and livestream (www.ihssn.com/live) to show every game of the tournament. Select other games and Friday's finals are available via IHSSN's TV network and livestream.

Can school media representatives be credentialed?

Yes, one school media representative will be allowed entry per participating school. Please email Chris Cuellar at ccuellar@iahsaa.org after your school has qualified. Replies confirming access will be sent by March 5.

How do I find out about state qualifiers?

Schools qualify for the state tournament by winning substate finals, set for February 27, and March 1-2. Teams are placed in the bracket through coach seeding meetings, with brackets announced after those meetings among participating teams.

Where should I look for more information?

On our [Basketball page](#) and on Basketball's [State Tournament Central page](#).

What else should I know?

Media seating out on the floor will be limited, moving some workspace to the press box, behind baskets, or other available sections. Like other recent IHSAA events, media members will be allowed to remain inside the facility until their game coverage is complete.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please contact me.

Best,

Chris

Want to sign up for the IHSAA media email list? Complete the form at the bottom of our [Media page](#).

Need more information on credentialing or access? Email Chris Cuellar at ccuellar@iahsaa.org.