

AD's, Head Coaches & 2023-2024 Registered Basketball Officials-

Well, Mother Nature got the best of us last week as approximately 90% of all varsity games were postponed and/or cancelled last Monday night through Saturday night.

Kudos to our athletic directors for their hard work in preparing for these back to back winter storms and communicating to all parties involved regarding postponed events and now working on getting as many games rescheduled as possible. The IHSAA appreciated all your efforts.

- 1) **Weekly Rankings-** Due to the fact that so few games were played last week, our weekly ranking committees did not meet this week. We expect to have a new rankings out next Monday, January 22nd in the afternoon.
- 2) **Rescheduling of Games-** The IHSAA is not supportive of games that were not played being cancelled in order to play a conference game in its place. All efforts should be made to try and reschedule the contest unless both schools are in agreement to not schedule the contest. There is no consequence to the school that decides not to reschedule the contest. With that being said, schools that have lost a game, due to this scenario or other scenarios can seek out an Iowa school with a 21 game schedule and the IHSAA will grant that team permission to play a 22nd game to help fill the schedule. Simply email me the school gaining the 22nd game along with the date and site of the contest.
- 3) **Ineligible Students-** If you had a student sitting out an ineligibility period for 90 school days, you will have to push back those school days one day for each day missed. Snow days are not counted as contact days and cannot be counted toward ineligibility.
- 4) **Semester Grades-** Per the scholarship rule, students that have failed a class in the previous grading period are required to sit out 30 calendar days. That sit out begins with the beginning of your new grading period.

What is the result for a student who is competing in basketball and does not pass all after the most recent grading period?

The student is ineligible for the next 30 consecutive calendar days of competition in basketball. The period of ineligibility starts no sooner than the first day of the next grading period and the day after the athletic administrator has been notified that a student has received a failing grade. The school shall have up to three school days after the end of the grading period to notify the athletic administrator of the final grade for an eligible grading period. If at the end of the third school day the athletic administrator has received no notifications then it is the responsibility of the athletic administrator to find out what the grades are. In any case, the period of ineligibility starts no later than the fourth school day after the grading period. The administration has the responsibility to immediately notify the athletic administrator of a failing grade. Local school districts should, to the maximum extent possible, start the period of ineligibility on the same day for all of its students.

- 5) **Early Graduation-** Students who are not taking 4 classes that they can receive credit in during the next grading period are not permitted to participate in interscholastic

basketball. A student who wants to graduate early and not take any classes, is not eligible to participate.

- 6) **Bound & HUDL Updates-** Please make sure that you go into Bound and update your basketball schedule once you have had an opportunity to reschedule your contest(s) or find new opponents. This is very important to our ranking committees to make sure that we have all games that have been played in order to accurately rank each class. Also, make sure that your score is entered in Bound as soon as possible. Additionally, you can seek HUDL support to change the date of your rescheduled contest, or you can keep the same date it was originally on and once played, enter it in that regularly scheduled date.
- 7) **Post Season Schedule Release-** Just a reminder that this is the second year that pods in all classes WILL NOT be released. The district pairings for Classes 1A and 2A with sites and teams will be released in the afternoon on Monday, February 5th. In Class 1A, there will be 16 pigtail games played on Friday, February 9th, one in each district. These will be #8 seeds playing #9 seeds with the winners playing the #1 seeds on Monday, February 12th. Those schools playing in the pigtail contests will be notified by Thursday or Friday, February 1st or 2nd. Just a reminder that in Class 2A, with 97 teams, one district will have 7 teams in it. This district will receive only a bye to the #1 seed, while the #2 seed will have to play on February 12th.
- 8) **District Final and Substate Final Contest-** All district final contests in Classes 1A and 2A will be played at neutral sites and all substate final in all classes will be played at neutral sites.
- 9) **Basketball Webinar-** This Wednesday, January 17th we will have another basketball webinar which both officials and head coaches are invited to view. This week's webinar will focus on end of the game procedures. The information in this webinar is relevant to both coaches and officials as we review protocols for officials when close games under a minute are involved and also for coaches to understand when a game is officially over, based on whether a school has LED lights, a horn, both and when the clock hits 0. Veteran officials Jason Alons, Travis Carrel and Dave Rittman from DMOA along with Chuck Brittain will provide insight for this important time of the game. Here is the link to be a part of the webinar, which should last 60-75 minutes.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84481590208>
- 10) **Post Season Availability-** Officials, you have until January 31st to update your availability in DragonFly regarding your availability to work during the post season. **I do not look in Arbiter for blocked dates, only DragonFly.** On January 31st we expect you to submit your post season availability so that work can begin on assigning officials for the post season. Until that time, you can continue to edit your availability and any game changes due to weather by going into your DragonFly account and making the proper changes and click on Save. Do not click on Submit until you are ready to send it to our offices as after that, you cannot go in and make changes.

Observers will continue to be out and about this week watching games and providing feedback to crews. As officials, you never know where and when an observation may occur, so give every game your best effort and assume you are being observed that night.

I hope this week is much better than last week and please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to seeing many of you on the webinar, Wednesday night.

