



Illinois Hockey Officials Association

Summary of Proposed Bylaws Revisions

Prepared for Membership Review and Vote

May 11, 2026

Executive Summary

The Board of Directors is proposing revisions to the IHOA Constitution and Bylaws to improve clarity, strengthen governance practices, and reflect the current structure and operations of the Association. These revisions were developed by the Board of Directors and Bylaw Committee following a comprehensive review of the existing bylaws to ensure they accurately reflect current operations and governance needs.

The proposed changes focus primarily on:

- Clarifying membership definitions and good standing requirements
- Updating Board structure and vacancy procedures
- Establishing formal policies for conflicts of interest and indemnification
- Strengthening financial oversight and reporting requirements
- Formalizing membership discipline and reinstatement procedures
- Modernizing administrative and committee provisions

These revisions do not change the fundamental rights of members, including voting rights or the requirement that bylaw amendments be approved by a two-thirds vote of the eligible members present at a meeting.

The purpose of these revisions is to ensure that the bylaws accurately reflect current practices, provide clear governance standards, and support the effective and transparent operation of the Association.

Members are encouraged to review the detailed summary of changes below prior to voting.

The Board believes these revisions will provide clearer governance standards and better support the continued effective operation of the Association.

Detailed Summary of Proposed Changes

This section summarizes each Article and Section where a substantive change is proposed, including additions, deletions, and renumbering.



Article II – Membership

Section 1 – Membership Qualifications

Type of Change: MODIFIED

Current Bylaws:

Requires members to complete registration with both IHOA and USA Hockey.

Proposed Change:

Removes the requirement that members must register with USA Hockey as a condition of IHOA membership. Membership is now defined based on registration with IHOA and payment of IHOA dues.

Reason for Change:

Clarifies that IHOA membership is controlled by IHOA. This allows flexibility for categories of membership that may not require USA Hockey registration.

Impact on Members:

No impact on officials who register with USA Hockey for officiating. Expands flexibility for Association membership structure.

Article III – Jurisdiction

Entire Article – MODIFIED

Current Bylaws:

Applies specifically to USA Hockey officials and USA Hockey sanctioned games.

Proposed Change:

Clarifies IHOA jurisdiction over hockey officials in Illinois generally and adds language allowing IHOA to assist with disciplinary investigations by USA Hockey or AHAI.

Reason for Change:

Reflects current operational role.

Article IV – Meetings

Section 4 – Place of Meetings

Type of Change: CLARIFIED



Proposed Change:

Explicitly allows meetings to be held in person, by telephone, by video conference, or through any combination of these methods.

Reason for Change:

Modernizes language to reflect current communication methods.

Section 5 – Notice Requirements

Type of Change: CLARIFIED

Proposed Change:

Clarifies notice procedures and publication requirements for Board meetings.

Reason for Change:

Improves clarity and transparency.

Article V – Board of Directors

Section 2 – Number of Directors

Type of Change: MODIFIED

Current Bylaws:

Board size was in a multi-year transition.

Proposed Change:

Establishes a permanent Board size of 12 Directors.

Reason for Change:

Removes outdated transition language and reflects the current Board structure.

Section 3 – Vacancies

Type of Change: MODIFIED

Current Bylaws:

President appoints replacement Directors.

Proposed Change:

President appoints replacement subject to majority approval of the Board of Directors.

Reason for Change:

Strengthens shared governance and accountability.

Sections 4 through 9 – Renumbered

Type of Change: RENUMBERED

These sections were renumbered due to the insertion of revised vacancy provisions and the addition of a new section.

Renumbering does not change content unless otherwise noted.

Section 7 – Director Emeritus

Type of Change: NEW SECTION

Proposed Change:

Creates an honorary Director Emeritus position.

Emeritus Directors:

- Are nominated and approved by the Board
- Serve as lifetime honorary Directors
- Do not have voting rights and do not count toward Board quorum

Reason for Change:

Allows the Board to formally recognize individuals who have provided significant service to IHOA.

Section 9 – Removal

Type of Change: CLARIFIED

Proposed Change:

Clarifies procedures for removal of Directors, including notice and opportunity to respond.

Reason for Change:

Improves clarity and ensures consistent due process.

Article VI – Officers

Section 3 – Vacancies

Type of Change: MODIFIED



Current Bylaws:

President fills officer vacancies.

Proposed Change:

Officer vacancies are filled by majority vote of the Board.

Reason for Change:

Improves shared governance and oversight.

Section 7 – Treasurer

Type of Change: MODIFIED

Proposed Change:

Requires an external audit of IHOA financial practices every three years beginning in 2026.

Reason for Change:

Strengthens financial oversight and transparency.

Article VII – Standing Committees & Positions

Section 2 – Committee Structure

Type of Change: MODIFIED

Current Bylaws:

Specifically details allowed committees and their structure.

Proposed Change:

Moves detailed committee responsibilities to the Rules and Regulations and establishes an Officials Development Committee.

Reason for Change:

Provides flexibility to adjust committee responsibilities without requiring bylaw amendments.

Article VIII – Amendments

Section 1 – Modified Authority Regarding Rules and Regulations

Type of Change: MODIFIED

Proposed Change:

Allows the Board of Directors to amend IHOA Rules and Regulations by majority vote at a



scheduled Board meeting. Amendments to the bylaws themselves still require approval by the membership.

Reason for Change:

Allows the Board to efficiently manage operational policies while preserving member authority over the bylaws.

Article IX – Financial Controls

Section 1 – Contracts

Type of Change: MODIFIED

Proposed Change:

Requires Board approval for contracts or expenditures exceeding \$5,000.

Reason for Change:

Strengthens financial oversight and accountability.

Section 3 – Expense Reporting

Type of Change: MODIFIED

Proposed Change:

Requires monthly expense reporting for individuals using IHOA credit cards.

Reason for Change:

Improves financial transparency and documentation.

Article XV – Conflict of Interest

Type of Change: NEW ARTICLE

Proposed Change Establishes:

- Definition of conflict of interest
- Requirement to disclose potential conflicts
- Requirement for recusal from discussion and voting when conflicts exist
- Documentation requirements in meeting minutes
- Procedures for addressing violations



Reason for Change:

Aligns IHOA governance with nonprofit best practices and protects the integrity of Board decision-making.

Article XVI – Indemnification

Type of Change: NEW ARTICLE

Proposed Change Establishes:

- Protection for Directors and Officers acting in good faith
- Authorization for advancement of legal defense expenses where appropriate
- Clarification that indemnification rights are not exclusive
- Authority for IHOA to obtain insurance coverage

Reason for Change:

Provides standard legal protections for volunteer leadership acting on behalf of the Association.

Article XVII – Membership Discipline, Suspension, and Removal

Type of Change: NEW ARTICLE

Proposed Change Establishes:

Definition of Good Standing, including:

- Meeting registration and eligibility requirements
- Payment of required fees
- Compliance with bylaws and policies

Defines Grounds for Discipline, including:

- Bylaw or policy violations
- Conduct detrimental to IHOA
- Failure to maintain required qualifications
- Nonpayment of fees

Defines Disciplinary Process, including:

- Written notice
- Opportunity to respond
- Board decision by majority vote

Defines Effects of Discipline and Reinstatement Procedures.



Reason for Change:

Establishes clear, fair, and consistent standards for membership status and discipline.

Summary of Structural Changes

The following sections were renumbered due to insertion of new provisions:

Article V Sections 4 through 9

These renumberings do not change the substance of the provisions.

Voting Information

These proposed bylaws revisions will be presented for a vote of the membership at the Annual Meeting on May 11, 2026, at All Seasons Ice Arena.

Adoption requires approval by a two-thirds vote of eligible members present.

Board Recommendation

The Board of Directors recommends adoption of the proposed revised bylaws.