



Indiana Department of Education
2019 Legislative Priority

Advocate for coaches and referees convicted of identified offenses having their IHSAA certification(s) suspended or revoked

There is no mechanism in Indiana Code requiring the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) to revoke or suspend a coach or referee's certification if they have been convicted of certain criminal offenses. The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) recommends the IHSAA have a procedure to suspend or revoke the accreditation of registered, certified, and professional coaches who have engaged in: 1) immorality; 2) misconduct; incompetency; or 3) willful neglect of duty or have been convicted of a crime listed under IC 20-28-5-8. Specifically, IDOE recommends the following:

- **Compliance:** For each license suspension or revocation, IHSAA shall comply with IC 4-21.5-3.
- **Notification and Coordination:** IHSAA shall suspend or revoke the accreditation of any coach who has also had a license suspended or revoked under IC 20-28-5-7 or IC 20-28-5-8. IDOE shall notify the IHSAA of any license suspension or revocation involving a licensed educator who is also an accredited coach.
- **Non-Educator Coaches:** IHSAA shall establish procedures to revoke accreditation for non-educator coaches (lay coaches).
- **Educator Coaches:** IHSAA shall permanently revoke the accreditation of any teacher-coach who has been convicted of an offense listed in IC 20-28-5-8(c), and IHSAA shall permanently revoke the accreditation of any coach who is known by IHSAA to have been convicted of a federal offense or an offense in another state that is comparable to a felony listed in subsection (c).
- **Reevaluate Employment Policies:** IHSAA shall not employ or license any official or referee that has a conviction for any offense listed in 20-28-5-8(c).

Quick Facts

- IDOE and IHSAA have a duty to protect students from former educators whose license has been revoked due to misconduct but still hold a credential to coach and/or referee.
- IDOE presently has no authority to revoke referee or coaching certification.
- IDOE has seen an increase in the number of misconduct cases involving Indiana coaches. Specifically, six incidents in 2017 and 23 incidents in 2018.