

Ipswich High School Athletics: FAQ for Sports Families

- For additional questions, please contact the athletic department at: athletics@ipsk12.net

1. What date does each sports season start?

- **Fall Sports:**
 - **New for Fall 2026 - All fall sports now start on the same day**
 - Monday 8/24/26 (Two Monday's prior to Labor Day)
- **Winter Sports:**
 - Monday 12/1/25 (Monday after Thanksgiving)
- **Spring Sports:**
 - Monday 3/16/26 (3rd Monday in March)

2. What sports are offered each Season?

- **Fall Sports:**
 - Cheer, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Football, Golf, Soccer & Volleyball
- **Winter Sports:**
 - Basketball, Swim & Dive, Indoor Track, Co-Op Ice Hockey, Co-Op Gymnastics, Co-Op Downhill Ski
- **Spring Sports:**
 - Baseball, Softball, Lacrosse, Tennis & Outdoor Track

3. Where will I find my child's game schedule?

- All schedules are posted in real time at: [Arbiter Live](#) Here you can view by date or by team, whichever you prefer.
- While in your child's team schedule, you can click the star and elect to follow this team. It will ask you to create an account and log-in. This will allow you to receive email updates when the schedule changes.
- Daily schedules and game updates/postponements/cancellations are also posted on Twitter. You can follow us on Twitter at [@ihstigers](#)

4. Are any of my child's events live-streamed?

- Non-tournament games in our gym and on our stadium are live-streamed
- You can access live streamed events here: [IHS Live Stream](#)
- For away games & events, please check with the host school
- MIAA Tournament games can only be streamed live on the [NFHS Network](#)

5. Where will I find my child's practice schedule?

- Your child's coach will provide you with all of the information you need for practices, team events and activities.
- Preseason start dates will be shared by the athletic department and coaches

6. How do I contact my child's coach?

- You can find a coach's name and contact information using the "Sports" tab while on the Ipswich landing page at: [Coaching Directory](#) Schedule, Roster and Coaches are all listed as options on this page.

7. Can I find the Ipswich HS Athletic Department on Social Media?

- Yes! Ipswich Athletics is on Twitter or "X". Our handle is [@ihstigers](#)

8. Where and when do I register my child?

- Registration begins approximately one-month ahead of a season. You can use this link: <https://ihs.ipsk12.net/departments/athletics/registration> to go directly to our registration and information page
- Three separate registrations take place each school year: Fall on or around June 1st; Winter on or around October 1st; Spring on or around February 1st.

9. My child is "on the fence" about participating, should we register?

- Yes, if your child is considering participating, please register them during the open registration period. Once registration closes, we cannot add to rosters.
- If your child decides not to participate before the season starts, or even once the season begins, we can remove them from the roster.

10. What is the athletic fee per year? Is there financial support available?

- Our fee is \$650 per athlete/year
- Our family maximum fee payment is \$900/year
- All Co-Operative Team fees are above & beyond the IHS fee with no family max
- Financial Waivers can be applied for on the [school department website](#)

11. Will I get a refund if my child is "cut" or quits a team?

- The athletic fee is fully refundable for anyone who is "cut" from a team
- Per handbook policy, quitting a team does not entitle a family to a refund.
- Other circumstances may be reviewed on a case by case basis.

12. When I register through FamilyID, it says that I owe the full fee but I already paid.

- FamilyID does not collect payments, therefore the information on your registration is generic.
- Payments are tracked internally, so if you ever need to know your balance, please contact the athletic department directly
- Payments can be made online through the district online payment portal, found [here](#), or by check made payable to "IHS Athletics."

13. Does my child need to take the bus to athletic events?

- Players are expected to travel to and from all athletic contests on the bus with their team. We understand that parents/guardians may need to use private transportation at times, under extenuating circumstances, and that is okay

- When extenuating circumstances arise, private transportation can be used with advanced notice by emailing the Athletic Director at tgallagher@ipsk12.net
- Please refer to page 7 of the [Student-Athlete Handbook](#) for more information

14. How do I know the location of the game my child is participating in?

- Use the following link: [Arbiter Live](#) to our calendar page. Once there the venue is listed on the right-hand side. Click on the location for directions.
- We recommend you check this schedule on game day to make certain there have been no changes. Occasionally, venues are changed at the last minute due to field conditions and/or conflicts.

15. Can my child participate in more than one sport per season?

- Unfortunately, no. In high school a student can only participate in one sport per season at the high school level.
- A change may be made from one sport to another within the first 2-3 days of the sports season, provided it's a move to a "no-cut" program.

16. Can my child participate on an outside sports team, and still play at Ipswich HS?

- All High School athletes are bound by an MIAA Rule called "Bona Fide Team Member" which states you cannot miss a high school practice, game or activity for any outside sport (sponsored by the MIAA).
- An activity which is not an MIAA sponsored sport would not be considered a violation (ie: Equestrian, Dance, etc), but is highly discouraged.

17. How long is my child's physical valid for?

- A physical exam is good for 13-months in Massachusetts. Once expired, an athlete must sit out until a new physical exam is completed. Interim communications or extensions of a physical are not permitted.
- Unfortunately Tele-Health / Virtual Physicals are not accepted in Massachusetts

18. Who handles injuries and treatment for our student-athletes?

- Ipswich HS employs a Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) who is on-site daily to work with our student-athletes during the after-school hours.
- You can reach our Athletic Trainer Kelley Michael, ATC at kimchael@ipsk12.net
- Ipswich HS also has a Team Physician we consult with as needed.
- The school nurse also works in conjunction as a part of our medical team.

19. What happens if my child is seen by a doctor, when can they return to play?

- Once a student-athlete is seen by an outside practitioner (Primary Care, ER, Urgent Care, Specialist, etc), they must be cleared in writing by that practitioner to resume activity; we call these "Doctor's Notes." Until a "Doctor's Note" is received, an athlete is medically ineligible to participate.
- We always strongly recommend that your student-athlete visit our Athletic Trainer for non-emergent medical advice and follow up care.

- Once a Doctor's Note is received, our Athletic Trainer will continue care with the athlete, as needed.
- The ATC typically has return-to-play protocols that she/he will run the athlete through in order to fully clear the athlete.
- Athletes are generally required to have at least one practice session before they are considered game eligible.

20. Do athletic practices and contests take place during school vacation weeks?

- Yes. All athletes should expect vacation week practices and competitions.

21. Do athletic practices and contests take place on the weekends?

- Yes. All Varsity athletes should expect regular weekend practices and some competitions. Sub-Varsity athletes may have some, but not as regularly.

22. When do the varsity state tournament contests take place?

- Each Varsity Sport has a "Cut-Off" date which represents the last playable date for the regular season in each sport. Traditionally, the seeding meeting for the tournament will take place within 24-48 hours after the cut-off date. Tournament play starts after the seeding meeting.
- All days Monday-Friday, Weekends and Holidays are considered playable dates for the state tournament.
- We also recommend SATs/ACTs be scheduled outside of your child's sport season(s). These tests frequently conflict with weekend games/State Tournament games. [SAT Dates and Deadlines](#)

23. Can my child practice or play on a day when they are absent from school?

- No. A student must be in school the day of a practice or competition to participate, unless they have a valid excuse and documentation as to why they were absent. Please refer to the [Ipswich HS Student Handbook](#) for more information. Friday's attendance is the determining factor for all weekend events, practices and other activities.
- Likewise, a student must be in school the majority of the day to participate. If they **arrive after 8:15am** or are **dismissed prior to 1:45pm**, they are not eligible that day. Exceptions may be made for certain extenuating circumstances. Documentation from where they were (ie: Doctor, Dentist, Orthodontist, RMV, etc.) is required upon return to school. The documentation must come from the appointment they attended, not from a parent/guardian note. Please refer to the [Ipswich HS Student Handbook](#) for more information.

24. What should I do if I have questions about playing time or my child's participation on an athletic team?

- First, your child should speak directly to the coach to express their concerns and ask for the coach's assistance in what they need to do or work on to get more playing time.

- Next, a parent and the athlete can arrange a time to meet and/or talk with the coach about the concerns they have with participation, playing time or any other concerns.
- Finally, the coach, parent and athlete can request a meeting with the Athletic Director to continue the discussion if there hasn't been a satisfactory resolution.
- Please do not approach a coach immediately after a practice or game. We ask that you respect their time and set-up an appointment that works for both of you.

25. Will my child be issued a team uniform and does it need to be returned?

- Uniforms are issued to all athletes prior to the start of their first competition. We expect athletes and their families to take care of the uniform and return it in good condition. If the uniform is lost or damaged, then restitution must be made.
- Some sports will require athletes to purchase their own uniform. For example swimsuits or other uniforms that cannot be cleaned & reissued for sanitary reasons. Athletes will buy and keep the uniform under these circumstances.
- Warm-Ups and other team gear is typically fundraised for and then becomes the property of the student-athlete at the end of the season; unless a coach lets them know they are on loan from the team/program.

26. Is there a charge to attend athletic events?

- During the regular season, Varsity football and JV & Varsity basketball games charge a gate. The cost is \$6 Adults / \$4 Students (K-12) & Senior Citizens.
- During the post-season (aka: the tournament), fees will vary depending upon the location and the round of the tournament. It is always a good idea to check with the host school ahead of the event to see what the fee will be.
- The MIAA State Tournament is now cashless and requires all tickets to be purchased ahead of time (or at the gate) electronically through a third party site called [GoFan](#). Cash is not accepted at this time for these tournament games.

27. Where can I find more information about these and other topics?

- [Student Parent Handbook](#)
- [Student Athlete Handbook](#)

Please feel free to contact us with any questions at athletics@ipsk12.net or at (978) 356-3137

