BUILDING A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND MEDIA

Guidelines for IHSAA Member Schools

The Idaho High School Activities Association (IHSAA) recognizes the important role that news organizations and media members play in promoting Idaho high school activities and student-athletes.

To provide a safe, professional environment for student-athletes, coaches, officials, school personnel and media members, IHSAA member schools are encouraged to follow the protocols below when working with media.

MEDIA CREDENTIALS

Schools are responsible for determining media access at their regular-season contests. IHSAA credentials or event-specific credentials are required for IHSAA state championship events.

Mainstream media generally refers to legitimate news-gathering organizations that:

- Regularly cover Idaho high school sports or activities
- Operate as an established news organization with a demonstrated audience
- Cover multiple schools, sports and/or communities
- Provide news coverage through established print, broadcast, digital or other recognized media platforms
- Have an editorial/news-gathering purpose rather than primarily providing promotional, commercial or personal content

An individual photographer, videographer, social-media account or independent content creator does not automatically qualify as mainstream media.

Schools may establish reasonable credentialing procedures based on available space, safety considerations and the needs of the event.

REQUESTING MEDIA ACCESS

Media members should contact the school's athletic director or designated media contact in advance of the event.

Requests should include:

- Name of media member
- Name of organization/outlet
- Event and date
- Type of coverage requested
- Number of media personnel attending
- Any special access or interview requests

Schools should provide approved media members with information regarding designated media areas, photography locations, interview procedures and any venue-specific restrictions.

SIDELINE & EVENT ACCESS

Media credentials do not provide unrestricted access to an athletic facility.

All media members must:

- Remain in designated media or photography areas
- Follow instructions from school administrators, event managers and security personnel
- NOT enter the competition area during active play unless specifically authorized
- Avoid interfering with officials, coaches, participants or event operations
- Keep equipment and personal belongings out of areas used by participants and spectators
- Follow all venue-specific safety procedures

Credentials may be revoked at any time if a media member fails to follow event protocols or creates a safety, security or competitive concern.

MEDIA GUIDELINES

MEDIA GUIDELINES

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO

Media members may photograph or record contests from designated areas approved by the host school.

Media members should not:

- Enter restricted team areas, locker rooms or bench areas without permission
- Position themselves in locations that create a safety hazard
- Interfere with other credentialed media members
- Use flash photography when it could distract participants or officials
- Enter the competition area during active play unless specifically authorized

For IHSAA state championship events, media members must follow any additional photography, video and broadcast policies established by the IHSAA and its authorized media partners.

SOCIAL MEDIA & DIGITAL CONTENT

Media members are encouraged to promote Idaho high school activities responsibly.

Coverage should:

- Accurately identify schools, teams and student-athletes
- Follow applicable school and IHSAA policies
- Respect student privacy and school restrictions
- Avoid content that is disruptive, inappropriate or inconsistent with the educational mission of interscholastic activities
- Comply with any applicable broadcasting, streaming or media-rights agreements

INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPHERS & CONTENT CREATORS

Schools may receive requests from independent photographers, videographers, social-media accounts and other individual content creators.

These individuals may be granted access at the discretion of the host school, subject to facility capacity, safety, school policy and any applicable media-rights agreements.

Access to an event does not automatically constitute IHSAA media credentialing or recognition as mainstream media.

For IHSAA state championship events, independent photographers and content creators must follow the credentialing and access policies established by the IHSAA.

MEDIA RIGHTS & BROADCASTING

Media credentials do not automatically grant broadcasting, streaming or commercial content rights.

Schools and media organizations must comply with all applicable:

- IHSAA media-rights agreements
- School or district policies
- NFHS Network agreements
- Broadcast and streaming policies
- Other contractual rights governing an event

For IHSAA postseason events, the IHSAA reserves the right to establish exclusive broadcast, streaming, photography and other media arrangements.

ATHLETE & COACH INTERVIEWS

Media members should coordinate interviews through the school's athletic director, coach or designated media contact.

Interviews should:

- Take place in an appropriate designated area whenever possible
- Not interfere with team preparation, competition or postgame responsibilities
- Respect student-athlete privacy and school policies
- Be conducted professionally and respectfully

Following IHSAA championship events, media members may be directed to designated postgame interview areas.

LOCKER ROOM & TEAM-AREA ACCESS

Media access to locker rooms, team rooms and other restricted areas is at the discretion of the host school and/or IHSAA.

Media members should never enter these areas without explicit authorization.

Schools are encouraged to provide an alternative interview location when locker-room access is not permitted.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

All credentialed media members are expected to conduct themselves professionally and respectfully.

Media access may be denied or revoked for:

- Failure to follow event instructions
- Disruptive behavior
- Unauthorized access to restricted areas
- Interference with competition or event operations
- Harassment of student-athletes, coaches, officials or school personnel
- Violation of school, district or IHSAA policies

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

Member schools are encouraged to designate an Athletic Director, Activities Director or Media Contact to coordinate media requests.

Schools should create and communicate event-specific expectations, including a designated media area for credentialed media members before or upon arrival.

When questions arise regarding IHSAA postseason media access, rights or credentialing, schools should contact the IHSAA office before making a final determination.

KEY POINTS FOR MEMBER SCHOOLS

Media access is a privilege intended to support responsible coverage of Idaho high school activities.

Schools should balance media access with:

Safety ▪ Student Privacy ▪ Competitive Integrity ▪ Event Operations ▪ Media Rights

When in doubt, contact the IHSAA office for guidance.

MEDIA GUIDELINES

2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR
IHSAA CREDENTIALED MAINSTREAM MEDIA

Currently credentialed by IHSAA - Does not include all mainstream media outlets

10/1/2026

Times-News	KMVT	Post Register
Idaho State Journal	Weiser Signal American Inc.	D93 News
East Idaho Sports	KTVB	Idaho Press
Idaho Statesman	Boise Sports Talk	Idaho Enterprise
North Idaho Sports	Clearwater Tribune	NFHS NETWORK
Bonner County Daily Bee	Idaho County Free Press	IdahoSports.com
Emmett Messenger-Index	Cottonwood Chronicle	FLOWW Network
St. Maries Gazette Record	Coeur d'Alene Press	

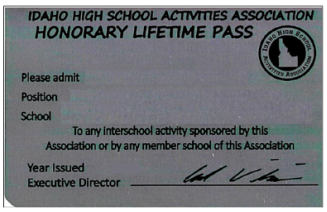
Argus Observer/Independent-Enterprise

Game Frame/Steve Conner Photography (IHSAA Partner)

PASS GATE ALLOWABLE PASSES

1. IHSAA/OFFICIALS PASS

2. LIFETIME PASS

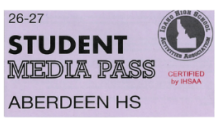


3. LEGISLATURE PASS

4. DAIRY WEST

5. EXECUTIVE STAFF

6. MEDIA PASS



#	Pass Type	Admit	Record
1	**IHSAA / Officials**	Photo match → Holder + 1 guest No match → Presenter only	LAST 6 #s and admitted count (white page)
2	**Lifetime**	Holder + 1 guest	Lifetime and admitted count (white page)
3	**Legislature**	Holder only + 1 guest	Holder name and admitted count (white page)
4	**Dairy West**	1 person	Holder name (green page)
5	**Executive Staff**	No Entry Limit	**DO NOT RECORD**
6	**Media**	Holder only	**DO NOT RECORD**