



Why should I become a member of the IHSSCA? What's in it for me?

I get this question a few times a year. Although I could write a book on the subject, I've boiled it down to just a few paragraphs...here it goes:

Many athletic departments encourage and some will even pay for their coaches to belong to their respective sport's coaching association. They want coaches that are actively involved in their sport. Putting together the annual coach's clinic is just one of the things that the IHSSCA does during the year. The IHSSCA puts out press releases during the season regarding the weekly poll, to recognize our award winners, and other pertinent information regarding high school swimming in Indiana. It is the voice of high school swimming & diving coaches when dealing with the IHSAA. It works with other organizations to promote swimming & diving in Indiana.

The coaching association dues help to maintain the websites www.inswim.net and www.indianaswimming.org that many coaches, athletes, parents, fans, and media from around the state use for information throughout the year. Your dues help to pay for the end of the year awards, including Sectional Coach of the Year, State Coach of the Year, Indiana Swimmer of the Year and Performance of the Year. Some of you and your athletes have received this kind of recognition and awards in the past.

There are also discounted benefits that come with membership when recognizing your athletes at the end of the year if they qualify for different types of awards, like academic All-State/All-American awards. The IHSSCA takes care of signing you up for membership in other organizations (ASCA, NISCA) if you decide you would like to join these national organizations. There are also costs of running any organization, things like postage, stationary, research, surveys, etc...

When dealing with the IHSAA, the more members that we have involved in the coaches association, the more seriously they take our organization and the more they value our opinion. They will come to our organization when it comes time for rules proposals and when they need our input on various items. Under the leadership of the IHSSCA, ICGSA, IHSAA, and Indiana Swimming, the Indiana High School Swimming & Diving Hall of Fame was established and is supported by the collaboration of these organizations. Finally, and most importantly, *it is simply the professional thing to do*, to support the organization that supports your efforts in working with young athletes.

All of the officers volunteer their time for the organization, and in turn work for you and your athletes and the good of the sport. We are always looking for people to volunteer their time, energy, and expertise to give back to this great sport that we all love.

I would strongly encourage you to become a member of the IHSSCA, and consider helping the organization the best way you can.

Sincerely,

Mike Penrose, Past President
Indiana High School Swimming Coaches Association
Lawrence North High School