

Statistical Report on the Prevalence and Tournament Attendance of Illinois High School Scholastic Bowl Teams in the 2009-2010 Academic Year

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I. Definitions and Process

The purpose of this report is to discover the percentage and location of Illinois High School Association (IHSA) affiliated high schools without active scholastic bowl programs in order to define the areas in which mentoring and funding may make the greatest and most positive difference.

In this report, "high schools" will refer to Illinois high schools affiliated with the IHSA. For this reason, regional analysis will be performed according to the IHSA district map¹, with Districts 1-3 representing the "Chicagoland Area," District 4 representing "Northern Illinois," Districts 5 and 6 representing "Central Illinois," and District 7 representing "Southern Illinois." "Regionals," "Sectionals," and "State" will refer to the IHSA's Regional, Sectional, and State legs (respectively) of their State tournament in the 2009-2010 academic year. "Class A" and "Class AA" (or, simply A and AA) will refer to the designations assigned by the two-class system of the 2009-2010 IHSA classifications² of 2009-2010³.

This analysis will be performed in five phases: first, I will identify teams in Class A and Class AA who did not attend an IHSA Regional event in the 2009-2010 academic year; second, from among the teams who did not attend IHSA Regionals, I will identify which teams did and which did not record a season with the IHSA; third, from among the remaining teams who did not attend Regionals, I will identify which teams did and did not list a scholastic bowl coach on their IHSA page in 2009-2010; and fourth, I will analyze my results according to the districts defined by the IHSA.

1. "IHSA Schools by District." <http://www.ihsa.org/school/bydist.htm>. Updated 8 January 2010 and accessed 25 April 2010.

2. For notes on how the IHSA classifies schools, see "How IHSA Enrollments and Clasifications are Determined." <http://www.ihsa.org/school/enrollments.htm>. Updated 15 June 2009 and accessed 25 April 2010.

3. "IHSA School Enrollments (Numerical)." <http://www.ihsa.org/school/enrolln.htm>. Updated 22 October 2009 and accessed 25 April 2010.

II. Phase 1: Identifying teams who did not attend an IHSA Regional event in 2009-2010

The following table represents the number and percentage of schools by district that did not attend any part of the IHSA state series in 2010. Data was collected from a comparison of the IHSA's 2009-2010 School Enrollment list and Scholastic Bowl Regional and Sectional Pairings information (see footnotes above).

TABLE 2.1

| District | Number of teams in attendance | Total number of teams in region | Percentage in attendance |
|----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| District 1 | 5 | 137 | 3.7% |
| District 2 | 77 | 111 | 69.4% |
| District 3 | 91 | 113 | 80.5% |
| District 4 | 87 | 106 | 82.1% |
| District 5 | 86 | 106 | 81.1% |
| District 6 | 84 | 102 | 82.4% |
| District 7 | 60 | 108 | 55.6% |
| Illinois (1-7) | 490 | 783 | 62.6% |

These figures demonstrate a strongly positive trend in Illinois scholastic bowl, but it must be noted that the 37.4% of IHSA-affiliated schools that did not attend a Regional tournament in 2010 represents 293 teams, and does not include teams that are not affiliated with the IHSA.

III. Phase 2: Identifying teams who do not have recorded seasons with the IHSA

The following table represents the further number and percent of schools by district that do not have recorded seasons with the IHSA according to <<http://www.ihsa.org/activity/scb/records/index.htm>>.

TABLE 3.1

| District | Number of teams with seasons | Total number of teams in region | Percentage with seasons | Total percentage with teams (w/ 2.1) |
|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| District 1 | 1 | 137 | 0.7% | 4.4% |
| District 2 | 4 | 111 | 3.6% | 73.0% |
| District 3 | 2 | 113 | 1.8% | 82.3% |
| District 4 | 2 | 106 | 1.9% | 84.0% |
| District 5 | 8 | 106 | 7.5% | 88.7% |
| District 6 | 1 | 102 | 0.98% | 83.3% |
| District 7 | 16 | 108 | 14.8% | 70.4% |
| Illinois (1-7) | 34 | 783 | 4.3% | 66.9% |

Almost 67% of teams, according to this data, have had recorded exposure to scholastic bowl, leaving 33.1% without any recorded games played.

IV. Phase 3: Identifying teams whose IHSA pages do not list a scholastic bowl coach

The following table represents the further number and percentage of schools by district that do not have recorded coaches according to individual school pages on IHSA.org, as of the end of the 2009-2010 academic year.

TABLE 4.1

| District | Number of teams with coaches | Total number of teams in region | Percentage with coaches | Total (with 2.1 and 3.1) |
|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| District 1 | 0 | 137 | 0% | 4.4% |
| District 2 | 3 | 111 | 2.7% | 75.7% |
| District 3 | 6 | 113 | 5.3% | 87.6% |
| District 4 | 4 | 106 | 3.8% | 87.8% |
| District 5 | 6 | 106 | 5.7% | 94.3% |
| District 6 | 5 | 102 | 4.9% | 88.2% |
| District 7 | 9 | 108 | 8.3% | 78.7% |
| Illinois (1-7) | 33 | 783 | 4.2% | 71.1% |

This means that 71.1% of schools have or have had some awareness of scholastic bowl. The remaining 226 IHSA-affiliated schools have probably had no experience with scholastic bowl.

V. Phase 4: Analysis by Region

While 71.1% of schools have had past exposure to scholastic bowl, 8.5% (67 teams) may be considered "lapsed" teams, whose participation in the sport has decreased or ceased entirely. The table below breaks that number down by region, describing the number of teams that participate in IHSA Regionals, the number of teams that have past experience with scholastic bowl, but that have "lapsed," the remaining number of teams per region, and the combined number of lapsed and lacking teams that could possibly benefit from interaction with SCOP. These statistics are analyzed according to geographical regions labeled according to terms typically used in scholastic bowl conversation in Illinois. In two places, inner city Chicago is discounted from sum totals of other districts. This is because of the inherent difficulty of contacting and installing programs in an area with such a dramatic lack of exposure to scholastic bowl. It is recommended that, for the first one to two years of SCOP's operation, the program should focus on Districts 2-7 primarily. Once the program has become successfully established, it may be more possible to make a large, concerted effort to install a scholastic bowl circuit in District 1.

TABLE 5.1

| Region (Districts) | Total teams | Number of current teams | Number of lapsed teams | Number without teams | Could benefit from SCOP |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Chicago (1) | 137 | 5 | 1 | 131 | 132 |
| Chicagoland (1-3) | 361 | 173 | 16 | 172 | 188 |
| Northern Illinois (1-4) | 467 | 260 | 22 | 185 | 207 |
| Northern Illinois (2-4) | 330 | 255 | 21 | 54 | 75 |
| Central Illinois (5-6) | 208 | 170 | 20 | 18 | 38 |
| Southern Illinois (7) | 108 | 60 | 25 | 23 | 58 |
| Illinois (1-7) | 783 | 490 | 67 | 226 | 303 |
| Illinois (2-7) | 646 | 485 | 66 | 95 | 171 |

VI. Conclusions

While scholastic bowl enjoys a remarkable amount of popularity in Illinois, there are still steps to be made to improve the quality of the scholastic bowl experience in various regions of the state. Without addressing the extreme absence of the activity in Chicago proper, it should be noted that more than one fifth of schools in each of Districts 2 (Chicagoland) and 7 (Southern Illinois) have never had exposure to scholastic bowl. Increased involvement in these regions, particularly, will lead to a more vibrant and competitive circuit statewide.