

To: IHSAA Member Schools
From: Chris Kaufman, Communications Director
Date: January 31, 2011
Re: Photography and Electronic Strobe Lighting

Over the course of the year I am asked by schools a variety of questions regarding photography and specifically photographers who use electronic strobe lighting for events. While the questions vary, below are some standards that I would ask you follow for IHSAA Tournaments and regular season contests.

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

PHOTOGRAPHY

This policy applies to both regular season and state tournament competition conducted by IHSAA member schools.

USE OF ELECTRONIC FLASH/STROBES

Photographers **MAY** use electronic flash/strobe cameras during the progress of a sporting event as long as, in the opinion of the contest officials, the flash does not hinder the actions of or endanger the contestants. The final decision as it relates to electronic flash/strobe equipment rests with the judgment of the site management and contest officials when IHSAA staff is not present at an event.

IMPORTANT -- When determining whether or not the use of electronic flash/strobe equipment represents a hindrance to an event, do not evaluate the situation while looking directly at the strobe, but rather by taking the view of the game participant or the official who is focusing on the action and is not aware of when the strobe is about to go off. Strobes properly positioned **DO NOT** pose a threat to the conduct of most contests. If, after careful consideration, the strobe is determined to be a problem, game management should work with the photographer using the strobe to review the strobe's placement, flash strength and direction. Sometimes, adjusting a strobe so that the flash bounces off the walls or ceilings (not directly aimed at the participants) will correct any potential problems.

- a) The only sports in which the use of electronic flash/strobe equipment is prohibited are: gymnastics, diving events, and at the start of swimming events and the entire backstroke event.
- b) Requests to use strobe lights mounted to fixed positions shall be made well in advance of the contest.
- c) As a courtesy, contest managers or the IHSAA should inform participating coaches and contest officials that photographers have been approved to use strobe lights in fixed positions.

- d) Strobes should be placed in corner or ceiling positions, and should never be placed in the direct line of a basket in basketball or focal point common to that sport.
- e) Camera-mounted strobes must always be positioned similarly as fixed strobes. A camera operator with an on-board strobe, for example, shall not shoot on the baseline in basketball but rather from the corners or side of the court.
- f) Spectator use of electronic lighting shall not be permitted.

PHOTOGRAPHER PLACEMENT

Photographers for other sports shall be placed in positions in accordance with National Federation of State High School Associations National Rules. In the sport of football, for example, photographers shall be positioned behind the restraining line, which is two or more yards from the sidelines and end zones. In addition, photographers shall not be positioned in the team boxes between the 25-yard lines. Also, in the sports of baseball and softball, photographers are prohibited from being in live ball areas. If a designated media area is used, it shall be established before the game begins, shall be a lined area and shall be considered a dead ball area. In soccer, photographers should not be positioned no closer than two yards from any sideline or end line and should not be behind or next to the goal. Some venues and events will have designated areas where photographers may shoot from. Game officials, IHSA staff and host management have the authority to remove any member of the media for not staying in their designated area in any sport.

EQUIPMENT STORAGE

No equipment other than that which is hand-carried by the photographer is allowed on the playing surface or adjacent to it. All carrying cases, computer equipment, photography equipment and/or other not being carried by the media representative is not to be on the playing surface or adjacent to it.

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