

**ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY®**

**SECTION J  
STUDENTS**

**MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES BY NON-IMSA SPONSORED STUDENT GROUPS**

In addition to meetings and activities for IMSA students and student groups that are sponsored by the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy as part of an official IMSA Program (Academic Program, Residential Life Program, Student Leadership Development Program, Cocurricular/Athletic Program, etc.), non-IMSA sponsored student groups may desire to conduct meetings at IMSA and offer activities through IMSA to other IMSA students.

Non-IMSA sponsored student groups include but are not limited to Student Council-chartered clubs and other groups of students with a common continuing or ad hoc interest. Meetings and activities of non-IMSA sponsored student groups may or may not be permitted or sponsored by IMSA in accordance with the following guidelines:

**I. Equal Access - Meetings on IMSA Premises**

IMSA shall have a limited open forum and shall provide the opportunity to student groups to conduct meetings on IMSA premises if they meet the criteria specified below. On the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings, IMSA shall not deny equal access or a fair opportunity to, or discriminate against, any IMSA students who wish to conduct a meeting at IMSA.

Student groups wishing to utilize space and conduct meetings at IMSA must first obtain the written permission of the Director of Student Life or his designee. The Director of Student Life or his designee shall grant permission provided there is space available for the meeting and the meeting will comply with the criteria specified below. Students who desire to conduct a series of meetings with similar arrangements over an extended period of time may request a “blanket” written permission from the Director of Student Life or his designee for a given academic year. Students groups that are chartered have priority over other groups.

Students requesting the meetings shall be responsible for ensuring that the meeting complies with the terms of this policy and with other applicable rules and regulations of IMSA.

Students will be permitted to conduct meetings provided they meet the following criteria:

- the meeting is open to all students, is voluntary, and is student-initiated, planned and conducted;

- there is no sponsorship of the meeting by IMSA or any governmental unit, or its agents or employees;
- if the meeting is on a religious subject matter, employees or agents of IMSA or other governmental units are present only in a non-participatory manner (The Director of Student Life or designee can clarify the what constitutes participatory);
- the meeting does not materially or substantially interfere with the conduct of educational activities or other business operations of IMSA;
- the meeting is during non-instructional time;
- non-IMSA persons may not direct, conduct, control or regularly attend the meetings;
- the participating students shall otherwise comply with all the policies, rules and regulations of IMSA, and the meetings shall not be otherwise unlawful;
- the health, safety, or welfare of attending students or other members of the IMSA Community is not threatened, affected, or jeopardized; and
- the meeting is advertised as “not sponsored by IMSA” on all relevant documents.

In the event that the Director of Student Life or his designee denies written permission, the requesting student(s) may appeal the denial to the Principal or his designee. The Principal or his designee shall review the request, receive any new or additional information, and make a decision on the appeal in a timely manner. This decision shall be final.

## **II. Requests for Institutional Approval or Sponsorship of Activities**

Non-IMSA sponsored student groups that wish to offer activities on or off campus, beyond “conducting meetings” specified in Section I, must request: (a) approval by IMSA for the student groups to offer the activities or (b) approval by IMSA for IMSA to sponsor the activities.

For II. (a) and (b), students must submit a request to the Director of Student Life. The Director of Student Life or designee will review the request and make a decision whether or not IMSA will (a) approve the student groups to offer the activity and if so, under what conditions, and (b) whether or not IMSA will sponsor the activity and if so, under what conditions.

Students who desire to offer a series of activities with the same arrangements over an extended period of time may request a “blanket” written permission from the Director of Student Life or designee for a given academic year.

Requests for IMSA to sponsor activities desired by non-IMSA sponsored student groups will only be considered on a case-by-case basis. “Blanket” permission will not be granted.

Criteria to be used in making a decision whether or not IMSA will permit and/or sponsor particular activities proposed by students include but are not limited to:

- the nature and appropriateness of the activity in light of IMSA’s statutory charge and mission;

- the health, safety and welfare of students and other members of the IMSA community;
- the availability of staff to oversee and supervise the activity;
- the availability of financial resources to support the activity;
- the extent to which the activity will affect IMSA operations;
- the extent to which the activity is consistent with IMSA's general education purpose;
- the extent to which the activity will benefit students;
- whether the activity will be open to all students; and
- the extent to which the subject matter is appropriate to the maturity level of students

Institutional sponsorship (b) of an activity is required for student groups to use the IMSA vans, resources such as computers, copy machines, lab equipment and audio-video equipment, and/or resources beyond standard infrastructure items such as lights and room furnishings. If institutional sponsorship is approved, the activity will be open to all students, not just to members of the requesting student group.

The Academy will not approve requests by student groups for institutional sponsorship (b) of activities that are politically partisan, religious or commercial in nature, or that may be disruptive to the educational environment.

Non-IMSA sponsored student groups may request permission to offer politically partisan, religious or commercial activities using non-IMSA resources, and the Director of Student Life or his designee may approve or deny the request in accordance with this Policy. In determining whether to approve a request to offer a commercial activity, the Director of Student Life will consider the nature of the activity as for-profit or not-for-profit.

If an activity is permitted (a) but not sponsored (b) by IMSA, the activity shall be advertised as "not sponsored by IMSA" on all relevant documents.

In the event that the Director of Student Life or his designee denies written permission, the requesting student(s) may appeal the denial to the Principal or his designee. The Principal or his designee shall review the request, receive any new or additional information, and make a decision on the appeal in a timely manner. This decision shall be final.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to limit the authority of IMSA, its agents or employees, to maintain order and discipline; to protect the health, safety and welfare of students, employees and guests; to protect the condition of IMSA facilities and equipment; or to ensure that attendance of students at such meetings is voluntary.

This policy does not govern the meetings and activities of student groups that are sponsored by IMSA as part of an IMSA Program.

**ADOPTED: February 9, 1987**  
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