



## Call for Proposals for a Special Issue on Interscholastic Athletics

Over 7.5 million high school students participate in interscholastic athletics each year (National Federation of State High School Association, 2021). For some students, interscholastic athletics provides opportunities for future athletic participation at the intercollegiate or professional level. Even for those students who do not compete at the college level, the benefits of high school interscholastic athletic participation for students include positive physical- and mental-health outcomes, academic engagement, and skill-building. In addition to these individual benefits, interscholastic athletics also promote school culture and build connections between schools and the broader community.

The COVID pandemic underscored the stakes of losing out on athletics, when seasons were cancelled entirely (Childs, 2020). Yet even before the pandemic, many school districts reallocated funding away from extracurriculars and toward core academic curriculum areas—a trend likely exacerbated by growing concerns about the academic impact of the pandemic. These shifts in funding come at a time when the landscape of interscholastic athletics is changing: the rise of club and sports specializations threaten to displace the high school as an important site for advancing student-athletes' careers and the creation of Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) rules are set to fundamentally alter the financial dynamics (and incentives) in both intercollegiate and high school athletics.

Despite these changes and the foundational place of interscholastic athletics in high schools, there has been little scholarly attention to these issues or their current and future implications for high schools and the communities and populations they serve. The lack of a robust scholarship on interscholastic athletics limits our ability to navigate these challenge times and prevents us from making the most of the benefits it provides and from making connections between athletics and other educational research areas such as teaching and learning, leadership, and policy.

The *High School Journal* seeks manuscripts for a special issue on interscholastic athletics, student-athletes, and coaching at the high school level. We welcome manuscripts that address topics that include, but are not limited to:

- Student athletes' experiences and perspectives either at the interscholastic or intercollegiate level
- Coaches' experiences and perspectives either at the interscholastic or intercollegiate level
- Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) and its effect on interscholastic athletics
- Intersection of interscholastic athletics and academic outcomes
- The role of physical, mental, social health on interscholastic athletics (or vice versa)
- The influence of intercollegiate athletics on interscholastic student-athletes and coaches

With this special issue we also aim to highlight “views from the field,” experience reports that capture the essence of student-athlete participation, coaching, and leading within interscholastic athletics. These briefs, in particular, are intended to provide opportunities for student-athletes, coaches, and educators to offer their perspective on interscholastic athletics and its impact on high school.

Interested authors should submit an abstract (250-300 words) describing the proposed manuscripts directly to special issue guest editor Joshua Childs ([joshuachilds@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:joshuachilds@austin.utexas.edu)) by March 1, 2023. A selection of full manuscripts (max 7,000 words) will be invited by May 1, 2023. All manuscripts will go through the double-blind peer review process. Note that an invitation to submit a manuscript is not a guarantee of acceptance.

Anticipated issue publication date in December, 2023.

Please direct all questions to Joshua Childs ([joshuachilds@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:joshuachilds@austin.utexas.edu))