

WIAA // GESA CREDIT UNION

POSTSEASON STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

BASEBALL

MAY 29-30, 2026

1A, 2A - Joe Martin Stadium (Bellingham)

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FINAL SITE COACH INFORMATION

TOURNAMENT MANAGER

[CHAD LARSEN](#) - (360) 739-7550 (C) or (360) 676-6575 x 7168 (W)

COACHES MEETING

A coaches meeting will be held via zoom on Sunday, May 24, 2026, at 7 pm.

Link - [State Baseball Coaches Zoom Meeting](#)

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

- Tuesday, May 26 - Headshots of players due for Readerboard Display
- Monday, May 25 - 11:59pm - **Merchandise Pre-Orders Close**
- Tuesday, May 26 - **Pass Gate submission due in Final Forms**
- Thursday, May 28 - **Walk-Through at Joe Martin Stadium 12-4pm**
- Friday, May 29 - **Semifinal Games**
- Saturday, May 30 - **Consolation and Championship Games**

READERBOARD

Teams must submit headshots in PNG ("already cut out" - that is with the player trimmed out of the photo with no background) or JPG (PNG preferred). If photos are not "cut out", submit regular headshots (PNG preferred). We will also need logos for teams, team colors to make headshot graphics, etc. on the readerboard. Prior to noon on Tuesday, May 27, teams need to create a google folder labeled with their school name and upload all headshots, labeled with the athletes "lastname, firstname" as the file title as well as upload any team logos and branding colors, information and email to Stephanie Morrell, Stephanie@bellinambells.com.

MERCHANDISE

Customized WIAA State Baseball Apparel can be pre-ordered through [RushTeamApparel](#). Pre-Orders open May 23 at 8:00am, and close May 26 at 11:59pm. Pre-orders will be picked on site. Customized apparel will also be available for purchase onsite throughout the tournament.

BRACKETS & GAME SCHEDULES

- After each day's opening game, subsequent games will begin at the scheduled time, or 45 minutes after the last out of the previous game, whichever is later.
- No games will begin earlier than the listed times.

MEDICAL AUTHORITY

A certified athletic trainer will be on site and will have the authority to make the final decision regarding return to play. The attached [Athletic Trainer/Physician Form](#) must be completed if your school wants to designate one certified athletic trainer or team physician as the person authorized to deal with injuries to your team. The athletic trainer/physician form must be signed by a school administrator/athletic director and turned in to the tournament athletic trainer upon arrival at the Stadium. That person will have access to the team dugout during the game.

GENERAL REMINDERS

- Each school must provide warm-up balls - game balls will be provided.
- **Team Uniforms:**
 - To avoid conflicts/confusion on the field, teams on the bottom of the bracket will wear light-colored uniforms. It is recommended that all teams have both light and dark uniform options available and accessible.
- **Team Pictures:**
 - Team pictures will be taken on the field by Northwest Sports Photography 40 minutes prior to each scheduled game on Friday - home team first, followed by the visiting team.
- **Honorary first pitch:**
 - Each team will select one mom to throw out the honorary first pitch prior to the team introductions. Both moms will throw from the mound to their team player at home plate.
- **Player Introductions:**
 - Both teams will be introduced with each player and/or coach lining up on their respective baseline and taking one (1) step forward as their name is called - **please provide a typed copy of the team roster with correct phonetic pronunciations.**
 - The National Anthem will then be performed while the teams are on the baselines.
- Spectators will not be allowed onto the field at any time, including post-game celebrations. Teams and their fans will be directed to specific areas to alleviate congestion
- [Underage Worker Form](#)

FINAL SITE-SPECIFIC INFORMATION - 1A, 2A

Joe Martin Stadium (BELLINGHAM)

1220 Civic Field Way, Bellingham, WA 98225

CLEATS

Metal cleats may be worn by all players at Joe Martin Stadium.

FIELD

Joe Martin Stadium has a turf field with an artificial turf pitcher's mound (not dirt).

CONCESSIONS

Full concessions will be offered. **No spectator outside food/beverage is allowed in the venue.** Please share this in advance with your fans. Coaches and players are allowed to bring in drink and snacks in their team bag.

PROGRAMS

Digital programs will be posted on WIAA.com beginning Thursday, May 28, at no cost.

SERVICE ANIMALS

Joe Martin Stadium does not allow pets into its facility, but does allow service animals. Only dogs who have received specialized training to perform a specific task or tasks for an individual with a disability are considered service animals. Anyone attempting to bring in a service animal may be asked 1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability? and (2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform? Service animals must be under the control of the handler at all times.

LODGING

Contact [Stephanie Morrell](#), Bellingham Bells General Manager, for assistance with team lodging.

INFIELD PRACTICE

- Each team will be allowed 10 minutes warm-up prior to the game.
- Infield practice will take place 25 minutes before the scheduled game time.
- The home team will take infield first.
- Players and coaches will be introduced immediately after infield practice.
- Tentative infield schedule subject to change depending on the end time of the previous game

TEAM PARKING

Teams, spectators and school personnel will park in the parking lot East of the stadium.

LOCKER ROOMS

Locker rooms will not be available at the stadium.

PRE-GAME MEETING

A pre-game meeting involving the head coaches from both teams will be held with the tournament manager.

POST-GAME CELEBRATIONS

Spectators will not be allowed onto the field at any time. Teams and their fans will be directed to specific areas in order to alleviate congestion on the concourse.

SPORT-SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

TEAM ROSTERS & PASS GATE LIMIT

- Rosters and team photos must be updated per the [Tournament Registration Instructions](#).
- All players must be in uniform to be admitted to the tournament.
 - 20 Players - Roster/Dugout Limit
 - 3 Coaches
 - 3 Team Staff
 - 1 Bat Boy/Girl
 - 1 Medical Staff
 - 2 School Supervisors
- Pass Gate personnel are restricted to only those individuals and/or teams who have qualified for that event.
- All players must be in uniform to be admitted to the tournament.
- Each team must enter as one unit - individuals are not to enter without their other team members.

MEDICAL AUTHORITY

- The certified athletic trainer on-site will have the authority to make the final decision regarding return to play.
- The [Athletic Trainer/Physician Form](#) must be completed if a school wants to designate one (1) certified athletic trainer or team physician as the person authorized to deal with injuries to your team.
- The athletic trainer/physician form must be signed by a school administrator/athletic director and turned in to the Tournament Manager. That person will have access to the team dugout during the game.

RULES & REGULATIONS

- NFHS Baseball Rules will be followed.
- The Tournament Manager or umpire in charge will explain any ground rules.
- Each coach must deliver the batting order to the umpire on a line-up card.
- One bat boy/girl may be allowed in State events, beginning in the first round, provided they have been approved by the participating school principal and the appropriate approval form has been signed by the parent and submitted to the event manager.
 - The ball boy/girl shall be properly insured and suitably attired.
 - The recommended minimum age for ball boys/girls is grade seven.
- Any coach participating in pre-game or regular game activities must be in the uniform of the school at all times.
 - The coach's uniform is defined in the NFHS baseball rule book.
- Coaching boxes may be occupied by a coach, player, or eligible substitute (one coach in each coaching box).
- The head coach may confer with umpires during the game, pertaining to matters of rules administration.
- Umpires are instructed to permit such conferences when respectfully requested and conducted in a rational, reasonable, and sportsmanlike manner.
- A head coach may protest a misinterpretation or misapplication of a rule before the next pitch is thrown.
- Protest procedures are outlined in the General SOPs.
- The Games Committee will consist of the Tournament Manager, the Head Umpire, the official scorer and may include some additional tournament personnel..
- Decisions of the Games Committee shall be final.
- Re-entry, Designated Hitter and Speed-Up Rules are optional for all league, WIAA District, and State Tournament games.
- Each game will be seven innings unless one of the teams is ahead by ten or more runs after five innings.
- The WIAA ten-run rule will be in effect for the State Championships, beginning with the Opening Round.
- **Pitch Count:**
 - Every legal or illegal pitch thrown from the pitching mound to a batter will count toward the pitching limitation.
 - The Tournament Manager will provide an Official Scorekeeper and the official pitch count recorder.
 - Violations of the Pitch Count Rule are considered in the same manner as a school using an ineligible player.
 - Unless finishing the at-bat, the pitcher becomes ineligible to pitch after the maximum daily limit is reached.
 - Pitch Count Rule:
 - **# PITCHES REQUIRED REST**
 - 76 - 105 3 calendar days
 - 51 - 75 2 calendar days
 - 31 - 50 1 calendar day
 - 1 - 30 0 days
- The selection of tournament umpires shall be the joint responsibility of the WIAA and the WOA.
 - Three umpires will be assigned for all tournament games in all classifications.
 - Umpires will be assigned to work each game of a double- or triple-header.
 - In this case, the umpires will switch positions (plate-base) for each game.
 - The Umpire-in-Chief, in consultation with the tournament manager, will make the assignments.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- Allocations in baseball are made to the WIAA Districts.

- In all classifications, one team will advance from each of the quarterfinal sites for semifinals.
 - Pairings will be determined by the WIAA baseball seeding committees.

SELECTION OF HOME TEAM & DUGOUT ASSIGNMENT

- **Opening Round (3A = Round of 20; 4A, 2A, 1A = Round of 16; 2B, 1B = Round of 12):**
 - In each team's Opening Round game, the higher seeded team will be the home team on the bottom of the tournament bracket and will occupy the third base dugout.
- **All Subsequent Rounds:**
 - The higher seeded team will be the home team and will occupy the third base dugout.

SITE REGULATIONS

- Each site will determine if practice is allowed on the tournament playing field prior to the start of the tournament.
 - Any expenses involved will be paid by the school(s) using the facility.
- For the quarterfinal game, the winner of game two will remain in its dugout and the winner of game one will occupy the other dugout.

SCHEDULE

- Determining game times for first round baseball:
 - The teams that travel the farthest distance from the first round site will be scheduled to play the 1 pm game.
 - If travel distance for all teams is equal, then the game involving the highest seeded team will be scheduled to play the 10 am game.
- Upon mutual agreement of the coaches, the umpires, and the Tournament Manager, game times may be changed due to weather or other conditions.
- Each team will have 30 minutes of batting practice at a site selected by the Tournament Manager, if possible, preferably at a neutral field.
- Each team will be allowed 10 minutes of infield prior to the game, starting with the home team.
- The first game will begin according to the scheduled time.
- Each subsequent game will begin 45 minutes after the final out of the previous game or at the scheduled game time, whichever is later.
- No games will begin earlier than the listed times.
- Yearly rotation:
 - When two classifications of schools play their semifinals, consolation, and championship games at the same site, the smaller classification will play the later game times during the school years ending with an even number, and the larger classification will play the later game times during the school years ending with an odd number.
- When necessary to postpone any tournament game, it shall be the responsibility of the Tournament Manager to reschedule according to WIAA policy. (Refer to Inclement Weather Policy in General Tournament Regulations.)

GAME BALL

The Baden Perfection Pro baseball shall be used during all regional and state championship contests.

AWARDS

The team trophy presentation will be at the conclusion of the consolation and championship games.

2025-26 GENERAL SOPS

ALLOCATIONS

Postseason berths are allocated to WIAA Districts based on the total number of schools offering the sport in that classification/gender. Additional information can be found on the WIAA's [Tournament Berths](#) page.

QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS/EVENTS

Qualifying events must conclude by the Saturday before the WIAA State Tournament begins.

STATE TOURNAMENT TICKETS

The WIAA partners with GoFan to offer digital ticketing. Fans are encouraged to buy tickets online in advance but can also purchase digital tickets onsite. Limited paper tickets will be available at most sites on event day.

- The Tacoma Dome, Yakima Valley SunDome, and Spokane Arena manage their own tickets. Venue-imposed fees apply.
- Visit the WIAA's [State Tournament Tickets](#) page for detailed ticket information.
- Service fees apply to all tickets

TOURNAMENT PROGRAMS

Programs are offered exclusively online, via each sport's Tournament Central page. Programs will no longer be printed and sold physically on-site. Programs are expected to be available online roughly 48 hours before the State Tournament, and can also be accessed directly through [ISSUU](#).

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAMS

The WIAA does not select/announce an 'All-Star' or 'All-Tournament' team. If one is announced and publicized, it is not organized by the WIAA.

INSURANCE

Leagues, WIAA Districts, and the WIAA maintain General Liability for their respective tournaments. The WIAA also provides catastrophic insurance for its postseason events. All other coverage, including accident insurance, is the responsibility of participating schools and/or individuals.

GAMES COMMITTEE

Tournament Managers will appoint a Games Committee available onsite or by phone for all postseason qualifying and State events. Full details regarding the members and duties of the Games Committee can be found in Rule 22.0.0 of the [WIAA Handbook](#).

PROTESTS

All WIAA State Tournaments will follow the Protest Process outlined in Rule 29.0.0 of the [WIAA Handbook](#). Please visit the [Postseason Protest Procedures](#) resource page for general and sport-specific guidelines.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: TEAMS/INDIVIDUALS UNABLE TO ARRIVE FOR A STATE EVENT

Teams and individuals qualifying for State Events should have their participation rights protected, while participants must also understand these events follow specific facility, officiating, and operational restrictions. For safety reasons, uncontrollable weather may require delaying, postponing, or canceling a contest or tournament, though the goal is to accommodate teams/individuals by

rescheduling. Detailed information regarding the WIAA's Inclement Weather Policy and procedures for postponement or rescheduling can be found in Rule 25.4.0 of the [WIAA Handbook](#).

Thunder & Lighting:

- If thunder is heard or lightning is seen, play is suspended for at least 30 minutes and people are immediately moved to a designated safe location.
- After suspension, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder or lightning before resuming play. Any new thunder or lightning resets the clock to another 30 minutes.

TEAM CEREMONIES

Except for postgame awards, team ceremonies before or after contests must occur in the locker room or on the sideline to avoid delaying the contest or affecting other teams.

UTILIZING STUDENTS FOR SUPPORT POSITIONS AT ATHLETIC EVENTS

Students younger than high school age may only hold support positions at WIAA State Championships if the parent signs the Underage Worker Form on the [Tournament Registration Page](#) and assumes all risk.

SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL

Participating schools must register a Supervisory Staff member on their [Pass Gate](#) with the following expectations:

- Upon arrival, Supervisor will check in with Event Staff at the Pass Gate and receive a WIAA-issued 'Supervisor' pass to be worn for easy identification during their team's contests.
- Supervisor will monitor fan and student behavior for their crowd as outlined in the WIAA's [Fan Expectations](#) and assist the facility security staff or Event Staff when necessary.

FAN/SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS

- The WIAA supports social justice, racial equity, and sportsmanship. Derogatory cheers, slurs, and hateful comments about identity (race, ethnicity, gender, disability, religion) are prohibited. Tournament Managers and event staff may remove offenders. Witnesses can report incidents using the WIAA's [Discrimination & Harassment Reporting Form](#).
- Schools are encouraged to share the WIAA's [Fan Expectations](#) with their communities and students prior to attending State Events for policies regarding cheers, signs, artificial noisemakers, mascots, face painting, continuous standing, clean-up, drones and more.

PEP BAND EXPECTATIONS

Restrict playing to timeouts, between periods, pre and postgame or other dead ball situations, and maintain appropriate fan behavior as outlined in the WIAA's [Fan Expectations](#).

CHEERLEADER EXPECTATIONS

Use only school district-approved cheers at appropriate times, direct cheers/chants only toward their school's team, and maintain appropriate fan behavior as outlined in the WIAA's [Fan Expectations](#).

TEAM ARRANGEMENTS

- **LODGING:** Participating teams are responsible for their own lodging and must provide supervision for all school representatives at their place of lodging.
- **LOCKER ROOMS:** Teams must be supervised by school personnel while in their assigned locker room.
 - Participants are responsible for leaving locker rooms in undamaged condition.

- Tournament Management is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
- PHYSICIANS/TRAINERS: Teams interested in supplying their own physician/trainer must complete the [School Athletic Trainer/Physician Form](#) and return it to the Tournament Manager.

RETURN TO PLAY AUTHORIZATION

Athletes removed from participation and attended to by a physician cannot re-enter competition until authorized by the physician who made the original decision.

STATE TOURNAMENT IDENTIFICATION AND MERCHANDISE

The WIAA has registered the WIAA logo and identification term, "State High School Championships," with the Secretary of State, establishing the ownership of events through legal action and WIAA Executive Board policies.

- The WIAA has licensed [Rush Team Apparel](#) to print, sell, and/or distribute WIAA-registered merchandise. Schools are encouraged to contact the [WIAA Staff](#) for information regarding that partnership.
- Only official, pre-approved merchandise will be sold on-site before, during, or after the event.
- Schools interested in producing merchandise using any of the approved phrases listed above must do one of the following:
 1. Contact the [WIAA Staff](#) to procure merchandise through [Rush Team Apparel](#), or,
 2. Remit a percentage of the gross revenue of merchandise sold to the WIAA. The percentage will be agreed upon by the school and the WIAA.
- Permission to distribute items onsite at a State Event must be approved by the WIAA Staff.

SPONSORSHIP/VENDOR PRESENCE

Advertising or recognition of non-school organizations/products is limited to WIAA-approved sponsors. Political displays and/or solicitation are prohibited.

