

WIAA // GESA CREDIT UNION

POSTSEASON STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

BASKETBALL

MARCH 4-7, 2026

1B, 2B - Numerica Veterans Arena

1A, 2A - Yakima Valley SunDome

3A, 4A - Tacoma Dome

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SPORT-SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

PASS GATES

- Team Rosters:
 - 12 Players
 - 8 designated school personnel (coaches, managers, statisticians, etc)
 - 1 medical personnel
- Supervisory Passes are intended for faculty and administrators serving as supervisors of student sections.
 - 1B, 2B, 1A, 2A: In addition to the principal and athletic director, one pass may be issued for each team.
 - 3A, 4A: In addition to the principal and athletic director, three passes may be issued for each team.
 - Chaperones other than school personnel are not eligible for supervisory passes.
- Roster and photo must be entered in the school's WPA Network/VNN account.
- All team/school personnel for the pass gate must be entered into the school's Final Forms account.
- A team's school bus driver will be admitted at no charge through the pass gate.
- Cheerleaders and coach(es) must be listed on the team registration form.

STATE QUALIFIERS

- In the event of a direct entry from a league, it is the league's responsibility to determine entries.

RULES & REGULATIONS

- Yearly Rotation:
 - The Boys Championship will be played first during school years ending with an even number (e.g., 2025-26).
 - The Girls Championship will be played first during school years ending with an odd number (e.g., 2024-25).
- Home Teams & Uniforms
 - The Higher Seed for each game will be the Home Team.
 - Each team is instructed to bring a set of white and dark uniforms, all of which must have numbers.
 - The Home Team will wear the white uniforms.
- Bench Decorum Rule:
 - The 28-foot coaches box has been adopted for all levels of play.
- Rescheduling in Observance of The Sabbath:
 - If a team that observes the Saturday Sabbath is scheduled to play during observation of the Sabbath, a Semifinal game is moved from Friday evening to Friday afternoon.
 - Saturday consolation games are moved to a later time, and the Championship is played during the later time.
 - Individuals who observe the Sabbath on teams will not be accommodated at team events.
- Awards:
 - Sportsmanship awards may be presented immediately following the team handshake after each game on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
 - First through sixth place trophies will be presented following the Saturday trophy games.

PRE-GAME TIMING, WARM-UPS AND PLAYER INTRODUCTIONS

- Pre-Game Timing Sheet:

GAME CLOCK	ACTIVITY
20:00	Countdown clock begins for first game of the day
15:00	Countdown clock begins (following previous game)
10:00	PA Read Block #1 (PA Script)
5:00	PA Read Block #2 (PA Script)
0:00	Horn signals teams to benches
0:00	National Anthem (each day prior to the first games and before each Championship game)
0:00	Team Introductions
0:00	Introduce Officials)
0:00	Tip-off

- Warm-up & Practice Schedule:

- Teams scheduled for the first game of the day will begin warm-ups 20 minutes prior to the published game time.
- For all subsequent games, warm-ups will begin immediately following the conclusion of the preceding game once the pre-game clock is reset to 15 minutes. Teams are guaranteed a minimum of 15 minutes of warm-up time prior to introductions.
- Games will not begin earlier than the published game time. The Tournament Manager will determine warm-up timing between games. Coaches should ensure teams are ready to begin warm-ups when permitted.
- Teams must warm up on the basket opposite their team bench and go directly to their designated half-court for pre-game and halftime warm-ups.
- Teams or individuals may not run full court, use the opposing team's baseline, or interfere with the opposing team's warm-up drills at any time. Violation will result in an indirect technical foul for unsportsmanlike conduct issued to the head coach, resulting in loss of coaching box privileges.
- When the warm-up clock expires, players and coaches must return to their respective benches.
- Team introductions and huddles must occur at each team's respective end of the floor (not at center court).
- No practice sessions are permitted at tournament sites.

- Team Introductions:

- The five starting players will remove warm-ups and/or shooting shirts and stand in front of their team bench with the head coach and assistant coaches.
- Non-starters will be introduced first, beginning with the visiting team followed by the home team.
- Starters will then be introduced, alternating between visiting and home team players. As each player is announced, they will proceed to center court.
- When a home team starter is announced, that player will meet the previously introduced opposing player at center court for a handshake. Both players will then proceed to their respective free throw lines.
- After all starters are introduced, non-starters will join their respective teams at the free throw lines.
- Head coaches and assistant coaches will then be introduced. Head coaches will meet at center court for a handshake before joining their teams at the free throw lines.
- Any team gatherings, motivational activities, or celebrations following warm-ups, introductions, or the game must occur directly in front of the team bench and must not delay game start or post-game procedures.

- National Anthem:

- The National Anthem will be played prior to the first games each day and before each Championship game.
- During the National Anthem, players and coaches will line up along their respective free throw lines.

SITE REGULATIONS

- Parking may be provided for team buses, cars, or vans in an area located near the facilities.
- Team dressing rooms will be assigned by the tournament manager. The WIAA is not responsible for lost articles.
- There will be no practice sessions at any of the opening round or State Tournament sites.

GAME BALL

Baden Perfection Elite (29.5" for boys and 28.5" for girls) will be provided for all State Tournament games.

DESIGNATED TOURNAMENT PHYSICIAN AUTHORITY

The Tournament Physician has final authority over all medical decisions during the tournament, in consultation with assistant tournament physicians, team physicians, or other designated medical authorities as appropriate. When the Tournament Physician is not present, this authority transfers to an assistant tournament physician or designated medical authority on site.

The Tournament Physician is authorized to:

- Determine whether an injured participant may continue competing. Any decision to withhold further participation is final and may not be overturned by a coach, official, parent, another physician, or any other individual. When a team physician is present, consultation with the tournament manager and team physician is expected when time permits prior to making a final determination.
- Provide medical services and coverage for tournament participants as requested.
- Interrupt or stop a contest if continuation poses a significant risk to the safety, health, or life of a participant.
- Enter the field of competition as necessary to carry out medical responsibilities.
- Supervise paramedical personnel involved in tournament operations.
- Advise the Tournament Director on medical, health, and safety matters related to the event.

FIRST AID

- Tape and taping of players is the responsibility of the school.

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.