

WIAA // GESA CREDIT UNION

POSTSEASON STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

FOOTBALL

DECEMBER 5, 2025 (1B, 1A, 3A)

DECEMBER 6, 2025 (2B, 2A, 4A)

Husky Stadium (Seattle)

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COACH INFORMATION

EVENT SCHEDULE

- **BRACKETS:** [4A](#) // [3A](#) // [2A](#) // [1A](#) // [2B](#) // [1B](#)

SITE DETAILS

- State Finals @ Husky Stadium:
 - Tournament Managers: [Johnny Lee](#) & [Tim Graham](#)

GAME PROCEDURES

The following time schedule will be followed for all non-televvised playoff games:

- First Game:
 - 5 minutes on the clock: Captains to center of the field with officials.
 - 4 minutes on the clock: Captains rejoin the team.
 - 3 minutes on the clock: National Anthem (first game only).
 - 1 minute on the clock: Players to the bench.
 - 0 minutes on the clock: Announcer introduces the teams
 - Players line up on the sideline, run to the 40-yard-line as names are called, and face the 50-yard-line.
 - After introductions, players shake hands on the 50-yard-line and return to the sideline.
 - NOTE: The time on the clock will be 5 minutes fast to allow for introductions after the clock reads "00."
- Second Game
 - There will be 20 minutes placed on the clock at the end of the first game.
 - Follow the same time schedule as in the first game, but without the National Anthem.
- Warm-Up & Halftime Intermission
 - Each team is guaranteed at least 15 minutes to warm up before introductions of each game.
 - Halftime Intermission, starting when the teams leave the field, shall be 15 minutes in length.
 - Teams shall be allowed an additional three minutes for warm-up activities.
 - Each team's warm-ups will be from the 30-yard-line of their respective end zone and will run until awards presentations are completed.

EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY

NW Sports Photography will post all of the action and awards pictures online at 4nsp.com.

CHEERLEADERS

Cheerleaders, in uniform and accompanied by their coach, will be admitted at no charge through the pass gate if a cheer roster has been submitted per the [Tournament Registration Instructions](#).

STREAMING

- All matches will be streamed live on the [NFHS Network](#) and available for viewing on demand.
- Live streaming of any WIAA State event is not permitted during or after the tournament.
- Any such action is a direct violation of WIAA/NFHS media rights and will not be allowed.

SPORT-SPECIFIC SOPs

TEAM ROSTERS & PASS GATE LIMIT

- Rosters and team photos must be updated per the [Tournament Registration Instructions](#).
- For all rounds of the Playoffs, maximum squad sizes are as follows:
 - 4A - 65
 - 3A - 65
 - 2A - 60
 - 1A - 50
 - 2B - 40
 - 1B - 35
- If a 1B/2B school does not offer sub-varsity competition, all regular season participants may play in the Playoffs.
- Substitute players must have been listed on a school's eligibility list as of the ninth playing date.
- Refer to the Pass Gate submission in FinalForms for personnel availability and limits.
- Additional team staff must be district-approved adults or 7th through 12th grade students from the school district.
- Sideline passes must be worn by all coaches, managers, statisticians, and student media personnel at all times.
- Each team can choose to purchase additional squad and/or sideline passes for their team.
- It is the responsibility of each team to keep all personnel inside the team box on the playing field.
- Benches are restricted to certified coaches, substitutes, trainers, physicians, and student managers/statisticians.
- Coaches wishing to scout their next opponent must contact the Game Manager by Tuesday prior to the game
 - A maximum of four coaches per team may be added to the Pass Gate list.

RULES & REGULATIONS

- A mandatory video exchange program will be implemented for the State Football Tournament.
 - Round 1: Coaches must provide video copy of their three most recent games to their opponent within 30 minutes of the brackets being posted.
 - Subsequent rounds: Coaches must provide video copy of their three most recent games to their opponent no later than 12 pm on the Sunday following the previous contest.
 - The WIAA will contact the Athletic Director at the non-compliant school if the timeline is not met.
 - If video is not received by 9 am on Monday, the Head Coach may not coach the following week.
- National Federation Rule 3-1-2 (40-point differential) will be in effect during all 1B playoff games.
- Neutral site Game Managers are appointed by the Districts, Leagues, and schools involved in the Playoff game.
 - For games hosted by a participating school, the Game Manager shall be the home school's Athletic Director.
- The WIAA Office will select all Semifinal Game Managers.
- Five officials, as determined by WIAA staff, are assigned to the Playoff Semifinals and Finals for all classifications.

- Officials for the postseason are assigned by the WOA Office, utilizing WOA officials.
- First Round and Quarterfinal game officials are chosen from the participating Districts, unless participating Districts agree to use officials from the nearest neutral association.

SITE REGULATIONS

- Pending availability, up to three pregame practices are allowed at a Playoff location with a synthetic field for competing schools without access to such a surface.
- Practices may not exceed two hours in length.
- Any expenses involved in this practice will be paid by the individual schools using the facility for practice.
- There will be no pregame practice at any site with a grass field.

SITE SELECTION & ADMINISTRATION

- Host WIAA Districts will submit three to five potential Round 1 and Round 2 Playoff sites per classification.
- Sites for all Round 1 and Round 2 games will be determined by the District Directors of the participating Districts.
- Suitability of potential sites will be determined based on the following criteria:
 - Condition of playing field.
 - Ability to control admission for ticket sales.
 - Adequate seating for anticipated crowds, Both home and away. Covered seating is preferable.
 - Availability of conveniently located locker rooms/meeting rooms, restrooms for both teams.
 - Availability of conveniently located restrooms for both home and visitor spectators.
 - Equal access to press box facilities for both teams.
 - Adequate parking for anticipated crowds.
 - Availability of emergency medical treatment.
- Semifinals and Finals sites will be set by the WIAA office.

SCHEDULE

- Athletic Directors of the participating schools will determine dates and times for Rounds 1 & 2.
 - If they fail to reach an agreement, games default to Saturday at 1 pm.
- If multiple contests take place at a single site, a two-game schedule will default to 1 pm and 4 pm on Saturday; a three-game schedule will default to 1 pm, 4 pm and 7 pm on Saturday.
- The visiting team with the farthest travel will have first choice of game time.

TIEBREAKERS

- A 25-yard-line overtime procedure is used to break ties in all playoff games.
- Both teams will have the opportunity to score, starting at the 25 yard line.
- If the score remains tied after each team possesses the ball, a second series will start at the 25 yard line.
- If the score remains tied, both teams will start each possession at the 10 yard line until the game is decided.
- All other overtime rules in the National Federation Rule Book shall apply.
- This form of the Kansas City Tie-Breaker may be adopted by leagues for regular season games.

GAME BALL

Each team will provide their own Wilson game balls that must be used during all rounds of the playoffs.

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.

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](#).

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.