

WIAA // GESA CREDIT UNION

POSTSEASON STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

FOOTBALL

DECEMBER 4, 2026 (1B, 1A, 3A)

DECEMBER 5, 2026 (2B, 2A, 4A)

Husky Stadium (Seattle)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[SPORT-SPECIFIC SOPs](#)

[2026-27 GENERAL SOPs](#)



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.
- 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 Sites and 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. Practice will not be allowed at the State Championship site.
- 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.

2026-27 GENERAL SOPS

These General Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) apply to all WIAA postseason qualifying events and State Championships. Sport-specific SOPs provide additional requirements unique to each activity and should be reviewed in conjunction with these General SOPs. In the event of a conflict, WIAA Handbook rules and approved WIAA postseason policies shall supersede these procedures.

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 (Thursday for Golf) before the WIAA State Tournament begins.

TOURNAMENT PROGRAMS

Digital programs are offered exclusively online via each sport's Tournament Central page or directly through [Issuu](#).

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

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 & Lightning:

- 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.

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. The Underage Worker Form must be submitted to the event manager.

PASS GATE

Upon qualification for a State Tournament, schools must submit a [Pass Gate](#) through [FinalForms](#) to indicate school-related individuals that should receive access to WIAA State Tournaments. Detailed Pass Gate instructions, including sport-by-sport quantities and deadlines, can be found on the [Tournament Registration](#) Page.

SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL

Any supervisory personnel must be submitted on the participating school's [Pass Gate](#). If provided a supervisor credential, the badge must be worn prominently. Detailed supervisory expectations can be found in Rule 17.28.0 of the WIAA Handbook.

FAN/SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS

- Schools are encouraged to share the WIAA's [Fan Expectations](#) with their communities and students prior to attending State Events for policies regarding cheerleader expectations, pep band expectations, cheers, signs, artificial noisemakers, mascots, face painting, continuous standing, clean-up, drones and more.

TEAM ARRANGEMENTS

- 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.

MEDICAL

- 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.

STATE TOURNAMENT IDENTIFICATION AND MERCHANDISE

The WIAA has registered the WIAA logo 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.
- 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.