

2026 PASSED AMENDMENT

The full text of the amendments was finalized during the Winter Coalition Meeting on January 26, 2026

Reviewed by: Rep Assembly

Date: April 20, 2026

	RULE	SUMMARY	S	O
ML/HS #1	3.6.0	Member school fees will increase in 2027-28 by ten percent	47	6
ML/HS #2	3.6.0	Beginning 2028-29 member fees would increase by five percent in any year immediately following an auditor's review establishing back-to-back years of a negative net income	36	17
HS #3	4.1.3	Would change the counting months to determine classifications from January 1 through May 1, and three times the October 1 count	33	2
HS #4	4.2.2	Would change the way that alternative education students are counted for classification purposes	24	11
HS #5	4.2.3	Would eliminate the socioeconomic factor as an automatic deduction in determining a school's classification	27	8
HS #6	4.2.6	Private high schools with an enrollment of 90 or more would be required to opt up to the next classification	13	22
ML/HS #7	7.1.0	Amendments must meet state law by the Winter Coalition. Advisory votes could be taken if the amendment does not meet state law on that date.	44	9
ML/HS #8	7.7.0	Would limit the Executive Board's authority to assess penalties or sanctions	12	41
ML/HS #9	8.12.9	If fact finder is appointed, school will be responsible for all costs including legal fees if additional violations are found	45	8
ML/HS #10	11.1.0	Communication arts and leadership eligibility requirements would be the same as for athletes with the exception of a physical examination.	8	45
HS #11	11.2.2	Cheer and dance/drill participants shall meet the same eligibility requirements as for athletes (including transfer)	13	22
HS #12	17.5.2	Leagues/WIAA Districts/WIAA could sponsor an all-league/WIAA District/State contest within eight days following the completion of the state championship in that sport	19	16
HS #13	17.5.8	Would allow a coach a postseason meeting with each athlete on the team to be held within one month following the end of that team's season	32	3
ML/HS #14	17.12.3	If a school has only one squad in a sport, the school must declare if the squad will be the varsity team or a subvarsity team.	30	23
HS #15	18.4.1.1	A private school student could transfer to another private school without having to prove a double hardship.	23	12
HS #16	18.7.0	Would clarify eligibility status of students participating in Running Start	27	8
ML #17	18.8.6.3.B	Would establish a probation period for ML students through Saturday of the third week of school	14	4

HS #18	18.8.4	Would establish the criteria to determine initial eligibility for the winter season	31	4
HS #19	18.12.2	Native American students who transfer from a reservation school to a contiguous public school would be varsity eligible	19	16
HS #20	18.12.4.3	F-1 Visa students would be eligible during the initial first level offered by that school	20	15
ML/HS #21	18.16.0	Participation in girls' sports would be limited to biological females ADVISORY VOTE ONLY. AMENDMENT WOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED UNDER CURRENT STATE LAW	29	24
ML/HS #22	20.1.5	Any individual who is not a rostered player, coach or authorized game personnel who enters the competition space and engages in a verbal or physical altercation will be suspended for a minimum of 25% of the season.	46	7
ML/HS #23	20.1.4	Schools have the ability to enhance penalties ADVISORY VOTE ONLY. AMENDMENT WOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED UNDER CURRENT STATE LAW	47	6
ML/HS #24	20.0.0	If an individual receives a second ejection in the same sport or in a subsequent sport during the school year, the individual will be suspended for 40% of the season; for a third ejection during the school year, the individual would be suspended for one full calendar year from the date of the third ejection	40	13
ML/HS #25	23.5.7	Before the conclusion of their second year of coaching, a coach must complete two designated NFHS coaches education classes	7	46
HS #26	25.1.6.3	Average monthly enrollment would be used to determine allocations	17	18
HS/ML #27	31.1.0.1	Leagues could modify WIAA-approved playing rules for subvarsity contests	46	7
HS #28	39.2.0	Would increase the running clock time for varsity girls flag football to thirty-minute halves	31	4
HS #29	42.3.5	Any soccer player with a second disqualification due to receiving two yellow cards in a season will be suspended for the following match	10	25
HS #30	43.3.0	Would allow softball teams to play in one two-day tournament or two one-day tournaments and count each tournament as one of their 20 regular season contests.	27	8
ML/HS #31	43.4.1.6	Would allow an on-deck fastpitch or slowpitch batter to warm up in either batting circle	44	9
HS #32	43.4.1.4	Fastpitch games would end if the losing team is behind by 15 runs after three innings, 12 runs after four innings, or by ten or more runs after five innings	26	9
ML/HS #33	47.2.0	Volleyball jamboree limit would be three sets	28	25
HS #34	48.4.0	Would increase the individual wrestling match limit from 45 to 51	31	4

ML #35	48.65.0	Would allow a ML wresting tournament with a six-match limit in a one-day tournament once during the season	16	2
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AMENDMENT VOTING PERIOD: April 8 – 17, 2026
Votes needed to pass: 32 for ML/HS; 21 for HS; 11 for ML.

Potential amendments for the 2027 Representative Assembly

- 1) Criteria for a member school in good standing (new rule 3.1.6)
- 2) Probationary status for a new school or a school that has not paid its fines or fees by the published deadlines (new rule 3.1.7)
- 3) Defining what it means to be a member of a league (5.2.1)
- 4) Should all affiliate groups that have an honorary member on the WIAA Executive Board provide an advisory vote on the proposed amendments (7.4.0)
- 5) Adding a term limit for WIAA Executive Board members (8.6.0)
- 6) Designating a period for baseball and softball players to condition their arms for throwing (17.7.0)
- 7) Academic standards cannot be appealed to the WIAA District Eligibility Committee or the WIAA Executive Director (18.8.0)
- 8) Allowing students who move to access the 60/40 (18.12.2)
- 9) Transferring to a school where two or more students from the club team are already attending (new WIAA handbook rule 18.12.5.3 (current 18.12.5.3 would become 18.12.5.4)
- 10) Adding “international events” to “national events” so that all of the criteria and conditions would also apply to approved international events (17.21.1)
- 11) Allowing a sponsor’s name or logo on apparel or equipment except contest uniforms (17.23.2)
- 12) Running start students need to be enrolled in at least one class at their high school (18.7.0)
- 13) After transferring one time to a school of choice, then transferring back to public school of residence (exception in 18.12.5)
- 14) Following a school or non-school coach after participating in that coach’s team within a calendar year of enrollment at a new school (18.12.5.1)
- 15) Transferring due to end of programming at a private school or public school (new rule 18.12.5.5)
- 16) Clarifying the process or students repeating the eighth grade at the middle level or ninth grade at the junior high level (18.15.2)
- 17) Increasing the enrollment cap from 40 to 50 in order to utilize fifth graders in middle level programs (18.17.0)
- 18) Setting an enrollment cap by gender in order to utilize fifth graders in middle level programs (18.17.0)
- 19) Concurrent participation for high school students in any classification (currently allowed for 1B and 2B in 18.23.0)
- 20) Revised consequences for violations of NIL (18.24.1.4)
 1. First violation is a suspension of eligibility until the issue is resolved ie video taken down
 2. Second violation is a one year penalty
 3. Third violation is a permanent loss of eligibility.
- 21) Each WIAA member school shall adopt reasonable rules and regulations regarding gambling (include with use of alcohol or tobacco products in 18.26.1)
- 22) Protocols for ejections and notifying coaches and game administration (20.1.0)
- 23) Only those games that had been scheduled prior to an ejection can be used to fulfill a suspension following the ejection (new rule 20.1.3.1)
- 24) Establishing a procedure prior to the beginning of the game for each head baseball coach to declare which players are not eligible to pitch due to the pitch count rule (32.6.3)
- 25) Adding boys volleyball to WIAA jurisdiction (47.0.0)



Washington Interscholastic Activities Association
IMPLEMENTING APPROVED AMENDMENTS
2026-27 WIAA HANDBOOK

Other approved amendments will be presented during the 2026 fall workshops

Andy – Enrollment, Classifications

Justin – Eligibility, Ejections

8.12.9 If a fact finder is appointed, school will be responsible for all costs including legal fees if additional violations are found.

17.5.8 Allows a coach to have a postseason meeting with each athlete on the team within one month following the end of that team's season.

31.1.1 By league adoption, WIAA-adopted rules for high school subvarsity or middle level contests could be modified.

How that works:

1. The league must fill out a rule waiver request for the WIAA executive staff to review.
2. If the proposed rule change fundamentally alters the game or presents a safety hazard, it will not be approved and each of the schools in the league must work directly with their risk manager to determine whether or not to move forward with the change.
3. A written summary of each approved rule change must be submitted to the area assigner for that sport and to each of the officials who officiate contests in that league.



AMENDMENTS - PROPOSALS TO CHANGE A WIAA HANDBOOK RULE: There are three means by which an amendment can be submitted:

1. By a Member School: Any Member School can propose an amendment, it must be supported by at least four other Member Schools
2. By the WIAA Executive Board
3. By the Washington State School Directors Association

The amendment with all signatures of the five Member School designees, the sponsoring school's superintendent, the league president, the WIAA District president or Director, with the rationale, pros and cons, and any supporting documents must be received at the WIAA office by the second Friday in October.

1. How is the proposal good for kids?
2. Is the proposal supported by a constituency (educators, coaches, administrators, superintendents, others)?
3. Has the appropriate documentation been secured to verify their support?
4. What are perceptions/reactions of Member Schools to the proposal?
5. What are the cost implications of the proposal?
6. What are the safety concerns regarding the proposal?
7. What are the pros and cons of the proposal?
8. Does the proposal relate to the goals and purposes of the Association?

After the amendments have been submitted to the WIAA office, the sponsoring Member School designee is then responsible to promote its passage which could mean special presentations, attending League and/or WIAA District meetings when the amendments are discussed, and other special meetings or requests for information.

2026-27 TIMELINE

October 9 - deadline for submitting an amendment with all signatures

December 9 – tentative zoom meeting date to introduce amendments to Representative Assembly

January 25 – Winter Coalition – zoom meeting - amendments may be changed at that time

April 7 – 16 – tentative voting period

August 1 – approved amendments go into effect unless otherwise noted on the amendment

EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE HANDBOOK

The WIAA Executive Board has the authority to make editorial changes in the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) Handbook. Editorial changes may belong to, but are not limited to, one or more of the following categories:

1. Correction of typographical errors
2. Changes in wording that reflect current interpretations
3. Change in the RCW or WAC
4. The result of a court order
5. Health and safety issues



WIAA Rules are designed for students to have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities. Coaches and schools are expected to promote sports during the WIAA-designated season in which they are held.

Coaches may coach their athletes and **schools** may sponsor programs only during the designated school season and during the summer. Summer begins following the conclusion of the final WIAA spring sport State Tournament for high school students and following the last day of all spring schedules for middle school students. Summer ends July 31.

DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR COACHES MAY:

1. Plan, direct, organize and conduct practices and contests only during the specific WIAA sport season.
2. Have two meetings with their squad prior to the opening day of practice to issue equipment and explain insurance, physical exams, season plans, training regulations, etc. and have one postseason meeting within one month following the conclusion of that team's season.
3. Organize and supervise a conditioning program which may include weight training, running and exercising, providing it is open to all students and does not include instruction in specific sport skills.
4. Inform students of non-school participation opportunities, provided those students are not directly or indirectly influenced to participate. Local school district rules apply regarding the appropriate means of communication with students.
5. Coach their own child at any time provided no other students who attend or feed into that school are involved, individually or as members of a team.

DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR OUTSIDE THE DESIGNATED SPORTS SEASON ALL CONDITIONS OF WIAA HANDBOOK RULE 17.5.0 MUST BE FOLLOWED. COACHES MAY NOT:

1. Teach or coach any phase of the game they coach to any of their current or future (grades 7-12) squad members.
2. Have any squad, part of a squad, or potential squad members (grades 7-12) engage in drills or play in contests through a parent or an individual secured and directed by the coach.
3. Utilize ASB funds for any non-school participation opportunities.
4. Transport current or future (grades 7-12) squad members to an out-of-season event.
5. Allow students to wear the school-adopted uniform for their sport.



Washington Interscholastic Activities Association
2026 FALL WORKSHOPS

WASHINGTON'S RPI FOR ALL TEAM SPORTS

What is RPI?

RPI, Rating Percentage Index, is a statistical system used to comparatively rank teams.

What is the purpose of the RPI?

The RPI is one tool utilized by the seeding committees to determine first round bracket pairings into the state tournaments. Several other ranking systems, including coaches polls, are also taken into consideration.

What is the formula of the RPI?

$$RPI = (40\% \times \text{winning percentage (WP)}) + (40\% \times \text{opponent's winning percentage (OWP)}) + (20\% \times \text{opponent's opponent's winning percentage (OOWP)})$$

Mark Martin did extensive research in 2024-25 to determine if the formula should be changed, focusing on out-of-state contests.

APPROVED LEAGUE DEFINITION FOR WIAA SEEDING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

Each league would select one representative to serve on the seeding committee in each of the team sports offered by the league.

In order for a league to be granted a representative on a seeding committee the criteria below must be met. The league must:

1. Have a minimum of three schools (but no maximum)
2. Have its own unique name
3. Have its own constitution
4. Have its own SOPs
5. Have an elected league president
6. Contests played against another league do not determine qualifying for the postseason
7. Determine the format, dates and sites for postseason qualifying events

LEAGUE PRESIDENTS DETERMINE SEEDING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES IN EACH SPORT

Members can be an active coach, a head coach, an assistant coach, a retired coach, a principal, a superintendent, or a member of the media. Committee term is for one year but can be reappointed by the league.

Neutral observers may join the zoom meetings and may include a designated representative of the individual sports associations (ISA's) of the Washington State Coaches Association, current or former WIAA Executive Board members, Honorary Board Members or WIAA District Directors.

The major complaint we hear is lack of preparation on the part of the committee members. These committees are scrutinized on a lot of different levels, but WIAA staff has been tracking the results (seeding versus final tournament finish) and the committees are doing a FANTASTIC job!

Introductory meetings: Fall – September 13; Winter – December 6; Spring – March 14

WIAA Rule 28 Guidance Manual: Preview for District Athletic Directors

Purpose

The WIAA has developed a **Rule 28 Guidance Manual** to provide schools, Leagues, Districts, and the WIAA with a consistent framework for responding to allegations of WIAA rule violations.

The manual is intended to clarify **who is responsible for what, how an allegation should be reviewed, what should be documented, and how the school should respond.**

The guidance does not replace WIAA rules. Rather, it provides a practical process for applying Rule 28 consistently.

The Basic Rule 28 Process:

Allegation or Concern



Initial Review



School Investigation/Review



Document Facts and Findings



Apply the Appropriate WIAA Rule(s)



Determine Whether a Violation Occurred



Report and Address Any Confirmed Violation

A fundamental principle: An allegation is not a finding of a violation. At the same time, an allegation that contains information suggesting a possible WIAA violation should not simply be dismissed. Rule 28 provides a process for determining what occurred.

Who Has Responsibility?

Member School: The school generally has the initial responsibility to review allegations involving its program. The school should:

- Conduct an objective and appropriate review;
- Identify the relevant facts;
- Review applicable WIAA rules;
- Document the review and findings;
- Respond to the allegation; and
- Report confirmed violations as required.

League and District: The League and District provide oversight, support, and assistance with the Rule 28 process. They may assist with questions regarding process or rule application and become more directly involved when circumstances warrant.

WIAA: The WIAA provides rule interpretation and guidance, receives required reports, and acts when a matter falls within WIAA authority.

Key point for District ADs: The District should not automatically become the investigator for every allegation involving a member school. The school generally has the first responsibility to investigate its own program.

Guide 2: Formal Allegations of Rule Violations

Guide 2 is the most important section of the manual to understand. When a formal allegation is referred to a school, the school should conduct a review that allows it to answer five basic questions:

1. What was alleged?

Clearly identify the conduct being alleged and the WIAA rule(s) that may be implicated.

2. What was reviewed?

Identify relevant documents, communications, photographs, electronic information, participation records, and other available evidence.

3. Who was contacted?

Document relevant interviews or contacts with coaches, administrators, students, parents/guardians, witnesses, or others with information about the allegation.

4. What did the school determine?

The response should distinguish between information that was:

- Substantiated;
- Not substantiated; or
- Unable to be determined.

5. How do the facts apply to the WIAA rules?

The school should identify the applicable WIAA rule(s) and explain the basis for its conclusion.

A complete response should document the process, not simply state the conclusion.

The Five School Business Day Response

Rule 28 establishes a five school business day timeframe for the school's response. This does not necessarily mean that every investigation must be completed within five school business days. If the review can be completed within five days, the school should provide its findings and response.

If additional time is reasonably necessary, the school should provide an initial response within the five-school business-day period that acknowledges the allegation, identifies the status of the review, identifies what remains to be completed, provides an estimated timeline for completion, and identifies any immediate action being taken, if applicable.

The important point is that the five-day requirement should not become either an unrealistic deadline for completing a complex investigation or an open-ended opportunity to delay a response.

What Should ADs Look For?

When a Rule 28 matter comes to a school or school district, ask:

Has the school:

- ☐ Identified the allegation and potentially applicable rule(s)?
- ☐ Reviewed the relevant facts and evidence?
- ☐ Identified appropriate individuals to interview or contact?
- ☐ Documented its investigative steps?
- ☐ Distinguished established facts from allegations or assumptions?
- ☐ Considered related WIAA rules that may apply?
- ☐ Clearly explained its findings?
- ☐ Identified whether a violation occurred?
- ☐ Reported any confirmed violation as required?
- ☐ Provided a timeline if the review remains ongoing?

Special Considerations

Some allegations require particular care, including:

- **Anonymous allegations** – anonymity does not establish a violation, but it does not necessarily make the information unworthy of review.
- **Recruiting allegations** – the review should examine the underlying conduct, communications, and individuals involved.
- **Transfer allegations** – the facts surrounding the transfer should be established before determining which transfer rule applies.
- **Eligibility allegations** – participation records and the circumstances surrounding participation may need to be reviewed.
- **Student concerns about retaliation** – schools should be mindful of concerns raised by students or witnesses and ensure that the review can proceed without retaliation or interference.

A useful principle is: Investigate the facts first; apply the rule to the facts second.

Three Things to Remember

1. An allegation is not a violation. Rule 28 provides a process for determining whether the facts support the allegation.
2. The school has the first responsibility. The member school generally conducts the initial review of allegations involving its program.
3. Document the process. A good Rule 28 response should allow someone who was not involved in the investigation to understand what was alleged, what was reviewed, what was determined, and how the WIAA rules were applied.

Full Guidance Manual

This handout is intended only as a preview. The **WIAA Rule 28 Guidance Manual** provides the complete guidance, including specific procedures, documentation expectations, and tools for schools and Districts to use when responding to allegations and confirmed violations.