



APPROVED DURING THE MARCH 22, 2026 WIAA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

- 1) **Reflects a current interpretation:**
Current Rule:
17.14.4 Practice of scrimmage with another team or school during the regular or postseason must be counted as a contest although there will not be a recorded score.
Additions:
17.14.4.1 If a school does not have its own facility, it would be allowed to practice at another school's facility provided all of the conditions below are met:
17.14.4.1.1 Whenever possible, the schools will not be using the same facility at the same time.
17.14.4.1.2 The participants from each school will be coached by their respective school's coaches.
17.14.4.1.3 The participants from one school will not practice or compete against the participants from any other school.
17.14.4.1.4 The athletic administrators from each school will monitor this situation on a weekly basis to ensure that the above stipulations are met.
- 2) **Correction in a Q&A regarding minimum practice requirements (17.11.12):**
Q-1: Because I played in the pep band during the State Basketball Tournament, I missed the first four softball practices. I know the basketball players need only four (of the seven) pre-contest practices in order to be eligible for our first game, but I was told I have to participate in the full seven practices. Is that right?
A-1: Yes. Only athletes competing in any level of WIAA-sanctioned postseason playoffs are allowed to waive up to one-half of the minimum pre-contest practice requirements. Band, Cheer or Dance/Drill participants who perform at a sport State Championship event must complete all pre-contest practices in the succeeding sports season before competing in a contest.
- 3) **Added a Q&A to address junior hockey:**
Q-1: I play hockey for a local amateur team and I am at my school on a J1 Visa. I was told that if I want to do track I need to speak with my Athletic Director to get permission. Am I eligible to participate at my school for athletics?
A-1: Yes, provided you are on a J-1 Visa, this would allow you to be varsity eligible in a sport for one year only at the school. If you return to your hockey team for a second year and come back on an F-1 Visa, you would be sub-varsity eligible for every sport played at the school.
- 4) **Wrong appendix number listed:**
18.16.0 GENDER IDENTITY PARTICIPATION: All students have the opportunity to participate in WIAA athletics and/or activities in a manner that is consistent with their gender identity. Currently, most athletic programs are offered separately for boys and girls as outlined in [Appendix 2](#). Athletes will participate in programs consistent with their gender identity or the gender most consistently expressed. School personnel responsible for student eligibility will work collaboratively with the student-athlete to determine eligibility. Once the student has been granted eligibility to participate in the sport consistent with their gender identity, the eligibility is granted for the duration of the student's participation and does not need to be renewed every sports season or school year. The WIAA Staff is willing to collaborate with any Member School seeking assistance regarding gender equity. For additional information on Gender Identity, refer to [Appendix 3](#).
- 5) **The current language does not fit the landscape of what students are actually doing. Students are doing cultural exchanges for one quarter or one semester. This change would also allow the school's athletic director to determine initial eligibility rather than it going directly to the District eligibility committee chair.**
18.12.4.1 A student leaving this country for a one-year an international exchange experience not to exceed one calendar year shall file the Cultural Exchange Form with their District Eligibility Chairperson Athletic Director prior to departure and will be eligible at their school of origin upon their return, provided all other rules of eligibility have been met.

- 6) **With middle schools of any size being able to utilize sixth graders, this rule is no longer necessary:**
~~18.18.4 **SIXTH GRADERS PRACTICE WITH THE MIDDLE LEVEL TEAM:** If the enrollment in a middle school is more than 40 on the first day of the season for that sport, sixth graders may practice with the middle level teams.~~
~~18.18.4.1 The local school board must assume all responsibility for the sixth grade students practicing with the middle level teams.~~
- 7) **Clarification on the timeline for NIL:**
 18.24.1 **NAME, IMAGE AND LIKENESS (NIL):** A student is in violation of this rule and shall immediately lose eligibility if that student, their family member, or anyone else on behalf of that student, enters into an agreement with an individual, corporate entity, partnership, association, or any other party or organization, for use of that student's NIL which in any way relates to the student's connection to their high school during any one calendar year August 1 through July 31 **or until the day after that student's high school graduation.**
 18.24.2 In order to maintain amateur standing in that sport under WIAA jurisdiction, the student-athlete may not:
 18.24.2.1 Accept merchandise or in-kind gifts of more than \$500 in fair market value per sport based upon performance in that sport during any one calendar year August 1 through July 31 **or until the day after that student's high school graduation.**
- 8) **Games are counted for teams; quarters are counted for players both at the middle level and high school level Basketball (this section is no longer needed):**
33.65.0 PLAYER LIMITATION: The ten contest limitation equates to a maximum of 40 quarters per season. The 12 contest limitation equates to a maximum of 48 quarters per season.
 33.65.1 Seventh and eighth grade teams are allowed to play in quarters up to eight minutes in length **if** utilizing a stop clock or in quarters of up to ten minutes in length ~~using~~ **if utilizing** a running clock.
 33.65.2 Seventh and eighth graders may participate in a maximum of four quarters in a day except as in [Rule 33.64.1](#).
 33.65.3 Any appearance in a quarter, regardless of length of time played, is to be considered as one quarter toward the **season quarter limit defined above.**
~~33.65.4 Four quarters played against the same squad is one contest.~~
~~33.65.5 Four quarters played against the same school, same day, different squads (i.e., varsity and junior varsity squads) is one contest.~~
~~33.65.6 Four quarters played against the same school, different days during the same week, different squads (i.e., varsity on Tuesday, junior varsity on Thursday) is one contest.~~
~~33.65.7 A total of four quarters played against two different schools, same day, and different squads is one contest.~~
~~33.65.8 One or more quarters played against two different schools, different days during the same week, different squads would be two contests.~~
 33.65.4 **FIFTH QUARTER:** A fifth quarter may be played following the regular contest. The fifth quarter is for players who were not starters and played in two quarters or less of the regular contest.
- 9) **Better covers what is currently taking place and standardizes the language for running clock in both high school and middle level Basketball:**
 33.66.2 When playing four quarters of ten minutes of running clock, the following additional rules will be in effect:
 33.66.2.1 The clock will continue to run except for **an officials' timeout, a charged timeout, or injury** the last two minutes of the second quarter and the fourth quarter unless one team is up by 30 or more points.
 33.66.2.2 **The clock will also stop for violations during the last two minutes of the second quarter and the fourth quarter unless one team is ahead by 30 points or more** During the last two minutes, the clock will stop only for free throws, time-outs (called either by one of the teams or by the official), or injuries.
- 10) **A Q&A was inadvertently duplicated. The summer practice Q&A was approved in August:**
[38.2.1.1 PRACTICE DURING THE SUMMER:](#)
 Q 1: ~~Does every dance/drill coach need to have this certification?~~
 A 1: ~~No. Each team must have at least one lift certified coach on site during practice and competition in order for an athlete(s) to be eligible to perform lifts.~~

Q-1: If a school offers a full contact practice in the morning and one later in the day does that count as two contact practices for summer football?

A-1: Yes, regardless of which athletes are attending the practice, if two full contact practices are offered on the same day, both have to be counted toward the 10 total limit. An individual athlete can only participate in one contact practice per day, regardless of how many practices are held by the team overall.

11) There are a number of Q&A that still include “him/her” rather than “they” that need to be changed.

APPROVED DURING THE JANUARY 25, 2026 WIAA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

1) **Aligns with current practice:**

8.4.2 In the case of more than one nomination from a WIAA District, the Executive Director of the WIAA shall ~~mail~~ email ballots to all the schools of that WIAA District by April 1.

2) **Update needed in order to come into compliance with RCW:**

9.1.2 **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** The WIAA Executive Committee shall be appointed annually by the Board president. The committee shall be composed of the WIAA Executive Board President, Vice President/**Secretary, Treasurer**, each sub-committee chairperson and selected ~~vice~~ **past** presidents. Additional members may be appointed should a diverse school size and the regional/at-large positions not be represented from the aforementioned members. The Executive Committee shall meet at the President’s discretion, but in particular when a decision must be made that is beyond the scope of the Executive Director’s authority and the WIAA Executive Board is not scheduled to meet.

3) **Reorganization of 17.11.0 – practice regulations (Tab 2.A.3.3.1):**

Q&A

17.11.0 PRACTICE REGULATIONS: School sponsorship or promotion of practice and/or participation is restricted to the WIAA designated season for that sport. Several practice regulations that apply to all sports during the school year are as follows:

17.11.1 **PRACTICE DEFINITION:** Practice is defined as a school-scheduled, in-person team physical activity designed for the preparation of athletes for the ensuing sports season and must be conducted under the supervision of the school coach during a school-approved practice at a school-approved site. Participation in physical education classes does not constitute a practice.

17.11.2 **MINIMUM PRACTICE REQUIREMENT:** Each student is required to complete the minimum number of practices in a specific sport the day before participating in a game. The minimum number is included in the specific sport Rules of the WIAA Handbook.

Q&A

17.11.3 *[previously 17.11.6]* One day is equal to one practice for purposes of meeting the minimum practice requirements.

17.11.3.1 *[previously 17.11.6.1]* **CALENDAR DAY - DEFINITION:** A **calendar** day is defined as a period of **24 hours** beginning at 12:00 a.m. and ending at 11:59 p.m.

17.11.3.2 *[previously 17.11.6.2]* **SCHOOL BUSINESS DAY - DEFINITION:** A school business day is defined as a day that campus or district administrative offices are open.

17.11.4 *[previously 17.11.3]* For the purpose of meeting the pre-contest practice requirements, an athlete must be medically cleared by a medical authority licensed to perform a physical examination to fully participate in practice. An individual may meet pre-contest practice requirements only when practicing during regular team practices.

The intensity and duration of each athlete’s participation in practice will be determined by the coach of that team.

17.11.5 *[previously 17.11.4]* Practice shall be limited to each sports season as defined under each sport. Up to one half of the practices from one sport may be transferred to another sport except football in the same season provided practice in the succeeding sport begins within three school business days following the last practice in the previous sport.

17.11.6 *[previously 17.11.5]* A coach of a school team (paid or volunteer) may conduct practice only during the WIAA sport season.

Q&A

17.11.7 Schools may conduct practice or contests during any six days of the week.

17.11.7.1 [previously 17.11.6.3] CALENDAR WEEK - DEFINITION: A calendar week is 12:00 a.m. Sunday through 11:59 p.m. Saturday.

Practice and/or competition may be held on a nationally recognized holiday.

Q&A

17.11.8 Practice on a game day shall not allow an athlete to become eligible for competition on that day.

Q&A

17.11.9 Participation in pre-contest warm-up exercises shall not count toward the pre-contest practice requirement.

17.11.10 **INTERRUPTION OF PRE-CONTEST PRACTICES:** Unless the school has a more restrictive policy, if an individual athlete's pre-contest practice is interrupted, the athlete would stay at their current practice count, and upon their return to practice, continue toward meeting the minimum requirement.

17.11.10.1 Once the pre-contest practice requirements have been met, each school has the authority to establish minimum requirements regarding return to play.

4) Correction on number of practices required (Q&A):

17.11.0 – Practice Regulations:

Q-9: We had a student who turned out for baseball and practiced with the team for five days and then decided to participate in track instead. Can those baseball practices apply to track?

A-9: Yes, the first baseball practices could count toward meeting the minimum practice requirement in track **since one-half of the required number can be transferred to a new sport**, so ~~that~~ only ~~five~~ **four** track practices must be completed before the student would be eligible to compete in a track meet provided all other conditions of eligibility have been met.

5) Correction on number of practices required (Q&A):

17.11.12 – Waiver of Individual Practice Requirements:

Q-2: Several of the football players on our team also play basketball. Since they won the Football State Championship, we plan to give them the next week to rest before beginning basketball practices since they will need to practice only five days before our first basketball game. Would that be acceptable?

A-2: The provision to waive up to one-half of the practice requirements is available only if the players are unable to meet the practice requirement. If practices are scheduled, they should be expected to participate and are not allowed to waive that practice. If they choose to take a week off, they would have to get in the full ~~ten~~ **seven** practices before playing in a basketball game.

6) Clarification – new Q&A:

17.24.1 – Non-School Participation:

Q-1: A student transferred to our school during the window of transfer and even though they accepted the 40 percent varsity suspension, could they participate in the varsity jamboree that will be held before any varsity games are played?

A-1: No, a student must meet all eligibility criteria in order to participate in a varsity jamboree.

7) Clarification needed to delineate the difference between money received for NIL versus money received based on athletic performance:

18.24.2 In order to maintain amateur standing in that sport under WIAA jurisdiction, the student-athlete may not:

18.24.2.2 Accept cash awards **based on performance** in that sport. A gift card that cannot be exchanged for cash or a voucher with no cash value is allowed.

8) Added language and renumbered for more logical sequencing:

28.3.0 PENALTY FOR USE OF INELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT: The use of a participant who is ineligible by WIAA or local school district rules shall result in forfeiture of contests in which that participant took part, **regardless of whether the participant/team won or lost the contest and the school must self-report the violation.**

Whenever possible, those responsible for the violation shall be penalized. Students who are not responsible for the violation shall be penalized as a last option. However, if students benefit or are responsible for the violation, that benefit or responsibility must be measured within the penalty.

28.4.0 APPEAL OF PENALTY FOR USE OF INELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT: The school may appeal the penalty of forfeiture to the league.

28.4.1 In situations in which it is determined that the participant/parent/guardian provided the school with false information, or withheld information, which caused the school to declare the

participant eligible. In such cases, the participant will be declared ineligible for interscholastic competition for a period of one year. The one-year penalty begins on the day the determination is made that false information had been provided. The one-year penalty may be appealed to the WIAA Executive Director.

28.4.2 Should a Member School determine that a participant is ineligible after that student has participated in one or more interscholastic competitions, that student may apply for eligibility through the process outlined in [Rule 19](#). Should the participant be declared eligible during this process, the forfeiture(s) due to this participation shall be voided.

28.4.3 In the event of a valid physical not being on file or an inadvertent error, the school officials may petition the League to have the forfeiture voided. The petitioning school shall have the burden to show the error was not intentional and occurred notwithstanding the maintenance of procedures reasonably adopted to avoid such an error.

INADVERTENT ERROR - DEFINITION: An inadvertent error is a mechanical, electronic, or clerical (incorrect posting) error that resulted in an ineligible participant competing in a contest.

28.4.4 The appeal and supporting rationale must be filed with the appropriate League by the school principal/designee within two school business days of the verification of an ineligible participant and declaration of contest(s) forfeiture.

28.4.5 Due process procedures ([Rule 30.2.0](#)) shall be followed. The WIAA District shall review the documentation and determine if the contest(s) should be forfeited. Any WIAA District action shall be in writing and shall specify the reasons for the decision. Failure of a school for any reason to enforce the regulation and/or decision of the WIAA District will be considered a school violation.

28.4.6 A school may appeal a ruling of forfeiture that is based on the contribution of an ineligible participant toward victory in a team sport. The school shall prove by a preponderance of evidence that the contest would have been won without the participation of the ineligible participant. The WIAA District may also impose a penalty against the Member School.

28.4.7 Criteria to determine an individual athlete's contribution to a victory will include, but is not limited to, the following:

28.4.4.1 Was the ineligible athlete a starter in the contest in question?

28.4.4.2 What was the ineligible athlete's amount of playing time?

28.4.4.3 What was the score when the contestant entered the contest and what was the score at the end of the contest?

28.4.4.4 What were the individual's statistics from the game and when were they achieved?

28.4.4.5 What was the contribution of the opposing player while this individual was in the game?

28.4.4.6 How did the role played in this game by this player compare to the role he/she played in other games?

28.4.4.7 Was anyone aware this athlete was ineligible prior to his/her participating?

28.4.4.8 What is the input from the opposing school or schools?

28.4.8 In the individual sports of Bowling, Cross Country, Golf, Gymnastics, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Track & Field, and Wrestling, the school must:

28.4.8.1 Eliminate all matches, places, points, scores, etc., of the involved student as an individual, and eliminate all contributions made by the involved student toward the team score.

28.4.8.2 Reduce team points (score) and adjust League standings and/or tournament places.

28.4.8.3 Return awards of individual(s) and, if appropriate, after adjusting standings, team awards.

Added a Q&A:

Q1: My coach didn't realize until this morning that one of the students that played in the basketball game last night was ineligible. We understand that we must now forfeit the game, but we won by 40 points and believe this student did not affect the outcome of the game. Is a forfeit appealable?

A-1: Yes, your school can follow the steps outlined in 28.4.0 and also utilize the appeal timeline and process tracking form found at [Appeal Timeline & Process Tracking Form](#).

9) Correction to 18.12.0 Q&A – Transfer Students:

Q-14: I transferred to a middle school outside my resident school district at the beginning of the second semester of my 8th grade year. How will this affect my high school eligibility at the out-of-district high school?

A-14: The provision to waive up to one-half of the practice requirements is available only if the players are unable to meet the practice requirement. If practices are scheduled, they should be expected to participate and are not allowed to waive that practice. If they choose to take a week off, they would have to get in the full ten seven practices before playing in a basketball game. ~~But, as a high school student, you will be a transfer student with limitations on your athletic participation for the first semester of your high school season until you have one year of continuous enrollment in the school district. After one year of continuous enrollment in the school district, you will have full athletic opportunity.~~

10) Numbering correction needed:

47.64.6 Up to three sets played against two different schools, same day, different squads, would be two contests.

APPROVED DURING THE NOVEMBER 17, 2025 WIAA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

1) Member school service fee – the \$500 fee was approved during the August meeting:

3.6.5 Since the school year is underway and the deadlines already established, schools will continue to pay the \$100 fee for late payment of WIAA membership fees. The \$500 fee will go into effect with the 2026-27 school year.

2) Distribution of amendments:

7.4.0 The WIAA Executive Director is responsible for distributing copies of all proposed amendments, including the reasons for and against the amendments, in mid-~~November~~ **December** and again following the Winter Coalition as well as the advisory votes of the Interscholastic Activities Committee (IAC), the Superintendent’s Advisory Council (SAC), the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEI) and Leadership through Education, Activities and Personal Development (LEAP) Committee.

3) Clarified how to count a contest and options if a contest is not played:

17.13.0 AUTHORIZED CONTESTS:

17.13.1 **HIGH SCHOOL:** Individuals or teams representing a member high school in an interscholastic athletic contest may compete only against teams or individuals from (a) another WIAA member high school; (b) out-of-state schools that are members of state high school associations that belong to the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS); (c) or schools that other NFHS State Associations allow their Member Schools to compete against during the regular season; and (d) alumni or teachers of that school.

17.13.2 **MIDDLE LEVEL:** Individuals or teams representing a member middle level school in an interscholastic athletic contest may compete only against teams or individuals from (a) another WIAA member middle level school; (b) Out-of-state middle level schools which are members of state high school associations that belong to the NFHS; and (c) alumni or teachers of that school.

PHILOSOPHY OF CONTEST LIMITATION: *The limitation on the number of contests per day, per week, and per sport per season is predicated on the length of each sports season including State playoffs and as an effort to support local school district desires to promote health and safety, minimize loss of school time, travel and expenses.*

17.14.0 CONTEST - DEFINITION: Any athletic practice or contest involving participants from at least two different schools (except as described below), or more than 50 percent of the number required for full participation in any sport by any non-interscholastic team, or any alumni team is considered a game, meet, match, or scrimmage and must count as a contest toward the maximum number of allowable contests for the team and individual in that sport.

17.14.1 Any practice involving students from more than one school conducted by a school district-approved shared coach will be considered a practice and will not count as a contest toward the maximum number of allowable contests for the individuals in that sport.

17.14.2 COMPETITION AGAINST NON-MEMBER SCHOOLS: Requests to either play against or practice with a non-member school must be submitted in writing to the WIAA Executive Director and approved prior to the event. [previously 17.17.0]

~~17.14.2 **WEEK - DEFINITION:** A calendar week is 12:00 a.m. Sunday through 11:59 p.m. Saturday. [moved to 17.11.6.3]~~

17.14.3 Each contest must be credited to a squad.

Q&A

- 17.14.4 Practice or scrimmage with another team or school during the regular or postseason must be counted as a contest **although there will not be a recorded score.**
- 17.14.5 Each individual and squad is limited to participating in only the maximum number of contests allowed for that sport.
 - 17.14.5.1 **FOUNDATION GAME:** If approved by the WIAA, a varsity squad may schedule an additional contest in Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Fastpitch Softball, Slowpitch Softball, Volleyball and Wrestling for a fee that will benefit the WIAA Foundation. Sub-varsity teams may also schedule an additional contest if paired with the varsity Foundation contest at no additional charge to the school.

17.14.6 When determining contest limitations, any League varsity contest will count as a contest for both schools' varsity teams.

DEFINITION OF VARSITY AND SUB-VARSITY SQUADS:

17.14.6.1 In a team sport, a varsity squad is the group of individuals who represent a Member School at the highest level of competition in a sport.

17.14.6.2 A sub-varsity squad is defined as any level of play below the varsity level (junior varsity, c-team, freshman team, etc.) the membership of a sub-varsity team shall typically be composed of varsity substitutes and any other non-varsity players identified on the school's eligibility list.

17.14.7 An overtime period is considered an extension of the final period of the contest.

17.14.8 CANCELED CONTEST: A contest can only be canceled prior to being played. When a scheduled contest is canceled **before it is played**, neither team is declared a winner or loser. Both teams may schedule a substitute contest. *[previously 17.18.0]*

17.14.9 FORFEITED CONTEST: A contest may be forfeited prior to being played or after the contest has been played if due to a WIAA Rule violation. When a scheduled contest is forfeited, the team/individual granted the forfeit is declared the winning team/individual and the team/individual that caused the forfeit is declared the losing team/individual. Only the team/individual granted the forfeit is allowed to schedule a substitute contest unless one-half or more of a contest was played which caused for a forfeit to be declared. ~~Please also refer to the specific sport rules.~~ **If a contest is forfeited, it is considered to be a complete contest.** *[previously 17.19.0]*

17.14.10 REFUSING TO PLAY: After the contest or athletic event has begun, individuals or teams are obligated to participate in a contest or athletic event to its normal conclusion unless the contest is terminated by mutual consent of the school officials involved due to unusual weather or game conditions, or situations which could be hazardous to participants or spectators. Any coach is prohibited from unilaterally refusing to play. *[previously 17.30.0]*

17.14.10.1 If a team refuses to play, that team is considered to have forfeited to the other team.

17.14.10.2 If less than one-half of a contest has been played before it is forfeited, the team granted the forfeit has the ability to reschedule a substitute contest.

17.14.10.3 If one-half or more of a contest has been played before it is forfeited, the contest is considered to be a complete contest and the score is final at the time it was forfeited.

17.14.11 MUTUALLY AGREE TO TERMINATE: A contest may be terminated if mutually agreed upon or in any emergency, by agreement of coaches, or ordered by the referee. **The contest is considered to be a completed contest and the score is final.** *[previously 31.2.1]*

17.14.12 INCOMPLETE CONTEST: Any contest called by the official(s) before it can be considered a regulation contest according to NFHS Rules shall be a suspended contest and will be continued at a later time as follows: *[previously 17.14.8]*

17.14.12.1 The contest shall continue from the point of suspension at a later time. *[previously 17.14.8.1]*

17.14.12.2 All conditions of that contest shall be the same (lineup, innings pitched, batting order, fouls, timeouts, etc.) of each team will remain exactly the same as when the contest was suspended. *[previously 17.14.8.2]*

17.14.13 POSTSEASON QUALIFYING EVENTS: Postseason contests are those events that are held after the regular season for the purpose of seeding individuals or teams into the next qualifying event or elimination events that qualify individuals or teams directly to the State Tournament. *[previously 17.13.9]*

Q&A

Q&A

- 17.14.13.1** A League Championship event where neither individuals nor teams qualify for the postseason must count toward the regular season contest limit. *[previously 17.13.9.1]*
- 17.14.13.2** Postseason qualifying events are not counted in the regular season contest limitation. *[previously 17.13.9.2]*
- 17.14.13.3** Following the conclusion of the regular season, individuals who have qualified for the next level of competition may practice with individuals from other schools only if the season contest limitation has not been exceeded. Each practice session is equal to one contest. *[previously 17.13.9.3]*

4) **Clarified the Rule about extra time periods allowed and renumbered the Rule per update 3 above:**

17.19.0 EXTRA QUARTERS, HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL: An additional time period may not be played following the regular contest at the high school level unless **allowed in the specific sport rules and** the squad consists of freshmen only.

NOTE: A fifth quarter is allowed in Basketball and Football and a fourth or fifth set is allowed in Middle Level Volleyball only.

Q-1: If a team is ahead by ten or more runs following the completion of the fifth inning in a fastpitch game, could the game continue so that all players get more playing time?

A-1: No, the game is technically over following the completion of the fifth inning. Officials have been instructed to leave the facility following the completion of the game. If teams continue to play following the completion of the game, that time played will count as another game toward their season limit.

5) **Number correction which also reflects the renumbering of Rules 17.20.0 through 17.34.0 per update 3 above:**

17.22.3 Students shall not compete in the uniform of the school at non-school events.

School uniforms, football helmets and shoulder pads may be worn only during the WIAA season for that sport except during Washington State Coaches Association (WSCA) feeder or All-State contests.

NOTE: Uniforms are considered to be the school issued contest uniform (practice or shooting shirts are not classified as school uniforms) and are defined in the adopted Rule Book for each specific sport.

17.22.34 Participation on a non-school team or program cannot be a requirement or condition of participation on a school team.

17.22.45 PENALTIES:

17.22.45.1 If a school gives students special treatment or privileges, the school must report the violation to its League to determine appropriate penalties.

17.22.45.2 Penalties assessed to the student for violating this rule are determined by the local school district.

6) **Clarifies a Q&A regarding an ejection – recommend removing the Q&A until after the vote on the 2026 Amendments:**

20.1.0 **EJECTION FROM CONTEST:**

~~**Q-9: We had a student receive their second ejection of the sport season and it was our final game of the year. Will they have to sit out the entire next sports season?**~~

~~**A-9: No. If the student was ejected for violent conduct, they would be suspended as outlined in Rule 18.27.4, but if the ejection would have been for only one game, the one game suspension carries over into their next season played. The student does not sit out the entire next season.**~~

7) **Clarifies the timeline for school to reply:**

28.2.2 The principal or designee of the school involved in the alleged violation shall reply to the notifying school principal or designee within five school business days with the results of the investigation. **The five school business days will begin on the first school business day following the notification or receipt of additional materials to be reviewed during the investigation.**

8) **Q&A 18.24.1 to clarify that WIAA rules do not prohibit students from utilizing an agent:**

18.24.1 NAME, IMAGE AND LIKENESS (NIL):

Q-1: Do WIAA rules prohibit a student from utilizing the services of an agent when negotiating a NIL deal?

A-1: No, WIAA rules do not prohibit agents. Students intending to participate in collegiate athletics are encouraged to verify collegiate rules on this issue.

Q-2: If a student has an agent representing them, is the agent allowed on the sideline/bench during a contest?

A-2: There are sideline/bench limits for all postseason contests. Each participating school has the authority to determine which individuals will fill the available slots.

9) Clarifies the review process of a valid protest:

29.1.3.2 **TIMELINE FOR REVIEW OF A VALID PROTEST:**

A. **REGULAR SEASON CONTESTS:**

1. **PROTESTS INVOLVING SCHOOLS FROM THE SAME WIAA LEAGUE:** Disputes and protests of a playing rule involving schools that are members of the same WIAA League shall be referred to their League Hearing Board for resolution.
2. **PROTESTS INVOLVING SCHOOLS FROM DIFFERENT LEAGUES IN THE SAME WIAA DISTRICT:** Disputes and protests of a playing rule involving schools that are members of **different leagues in** the same WIAA District shall be referred to their District Board for resolution. Districts may delegate this authority to the appropriate League(s).

10) **Q&A 17.11.12 - Corrected required practice dates:**

17.11.12 **WAIVER OF INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS:**

Q-2: Several of the football players on our team also play basketball. Since they won the Football State Championship, we plan to give them the next week to rest before beginning basketball practices since they will need to practice only five days before our first basketball game. Would that be acceptable?

A-2: The provision to waive up to one-half of the practice requirements is available only if the players are unable to meet the practice requirement. If practices are scheduled, they should be expected to participate and are not allowed to waive that practice. If they choose to take a week off, they would have to get in the full ~~ten~~ **seven** practices before playing in a basketball game.

11) **Q&A 17.11.12 - Corrected required practice dates:**

17.11.12 **WAIVER OF INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS:**

Q-8: How many practices are required of players on a football team that is still in the playoffs beyond the start of the basketball season?

A-8: Whether the player participates in one, two, or more practices during the football-basketball overlap, the player is required to participate in the first basketball practice following the conclusion of that team's football season, and a minimum of ~~five~~ **four** practices must be completed before the player can participate in a basketball game.

12) **A more generic limit for middle level basketball quarters in a season:**

33.64.1 Middle level Basketball players may play in two contests, a total of up to eight quarters, in one day, on four different occasions, provided there is a minimum of 45 minutes rest between contests and at least two other schools are involved. Athletes would still be limited to ~~40 quarters in a season~~ **the season quarter limit defined below.**

33.65.3 Any appearance in a quarter, regardless of length of time played, is to be considered as one quarter toward the ~~high school limit of 80 quarters~~ **season quarter limit defined above.**

APPROVED DURING THE SEPTEMBER 29, 2025 WIAA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

1) **Adds a policy for a procedure that has been in place for years (new rule):**

4.2.6 Private schools submit their enrollment numbers directly to the WIAA Office.

2) **Corresponding date that was utilized prior to the first year of the classification cycle, although the Handbook was not updated to reflect the date change:**

4.4.0 OPTING FOR A HIGHER CLASSIFICATION: A school may opt up to a higher classification. If a school chooses to opt up, it must be for all sports and activities under WIAA jurisdiction except football or boys soccer. Schools must notify the WIAA office of their intent to opt up on or before the ~~second third~~ **Friday in January** **December of the year prior to** the first year of the four-year classification cycle.

- 3) **Correcting an error:**
- 17.11.6.1 A day is defined as a period of ~~twenty-four~~ **24 hours** beginning at 12:00 am and ending at 11:59 pm.
- 4) **No proposed change to the Rule; merely adding a Q&A to clarify the difference between varsity and sub-varsity if a school offers only one team in a sport:**
- 17.14.6.1 In a team sport, a varsity squad is the group of individuals who represent a Member School at the highest level of competition in a sport"
- Q-1: We have only enough players at our school to field one team in softball and one of those players is a transfer student who is eligible only at the JV level. Is it ok if they play a JV schedule so she can play?**
- A-1: If a school offers only one team in a team sport, it is considered to be the varsity team, regardless of its schedule. A player eligible only at the JV level would not be eligible to play on the varsity team.**
- 5) **Concussion clearance procedure:**
- 18.4.5 To resume participation following medical care for suspicion of concussion or concussion, both the school athletic director and the medical authorities approved by the WIAA to make return to practice/play decisions **for concussions** (MD, DO, PA, ARNP, LAT **or PhD/PsyD neuropsychologists with concussion assessment and management experience**) shall use the WIAA's designated "Return to Practice and Competition for Athletes with a Suspected Concussion" form. This new rule will be known as the "Kenney Bui Rule."
- 6) **Renumber a duplication:**
- The first 18.6.1, .2, .3 and .4 were previously listed as A, B, C, D. In our attempt to standardize the numbering system in the 2025-26 Handbook, we missed the duplication.
- All Rules under 18.6.0 have been renumbered accordingly to match the standardized numbering system.**
- 7) **Simplifying the language for where a homeschool student is eligible.**
- 18.6.3.1 ~~Participate as a member of at the public school in which school district they are registered at with their home based education program service area they reside with their family unit as a homeschool student. After registering with the school district as a homeschool student a student is subject to the WIAA transfer rules if they subsequently change schools.~~
- Without the strike through or bold text, it would simply read:
- 18.6.3.1 Participate at the public school in which they are registered as a homeschool student. The student is subject to the WIAA Transfer Rules if they subsequently change schools.**
- 8) **Clarifies the time period for the window of transfer:**
- 18.12.2.9 A student who wishes to transfer to a school without a corresponding change of residence to a new school district by their family unit, who meets all other conditions of eligibility shall have initial eligibility at the new school only one time after becoming a student member of a school at the beginning of their four consecutive year period of high school eligibility and only during a WIAA defined window of transfer (per school district policy).
- A. A WIAA defined window of transfer is the natural break between each school year, after a student establishes their high school athletic eligibility as a student member of a school in ninth grade, as listed below.
1. Between the final day of the ninth and the **earliest published** first day of turnouts for a WIAA fall sport at the beginning of the tenth grade years.
 2. Between the final day of the tenth and the **earliest published** first day of turnouts for a WIAA fall sport at the beginning of the eleventh grade years.
 3. Between the final day of the eleventh and the **earliest published** first day of turnouts for a WIAA fall sport at the beginning of the twelfth-grade years.
- 9) **Clarifies the status of F-1 Visa students:**
- 18.12.4.3 F-1 Visa students ~~enrolling~~ are considered transfer students and are sub-varsity eligible only during their first year of enrollment. ~~Graduated students cannot compete interscholastically at any level (i.e., varsity or sub-varsity). This rule may not be appealed.~~
- 18.12.4.4 Graduated students cannot compete interscholastically at any level (i.e., varsity or sub-varsity). This rule may not be appealed.**

- 10) **This has been the interpretation for 18.12.15.1 and 18.12.5.2: If a student follows a coach in a specific sport, they are sub-varsity only in all sports in which they participated during the previous year:**

18.12.5 A high school student who attends, participated or was eligible to participate for a school, and subsequently transfers to another school will be eligible for sub-varsity only **in all sports played during the previous calendar year** for one calendar year from the date of enrollment at the new school, if the student transfers from a public, private, or charter school after:

- 11) **Adds a clause regarding the ability to appeal to the WIAA Executive Director:**

18.26.0 USE OF ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES – School and WIAA rules and regulations are intended to discourage the use of alcohol, tobacco, legend drugs, controlled substances and paraphernalia and to encourage the use of school and community resources. School and community resources should be identified for students who have had a violation and seek help or who are referred for assessment.

18.26.1 **ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO:** Each WIAA member school shall adopt reasonable rules and regulations pertaining to the use of alcohol or tobacco products that are specific to the middle or high school levels.

18.26.2 **LEGEND DRUGS AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES:** Penalties for the possession, use or sale of legend drugs (drugs obtained through prescription, RCW 69.41.020-050) and controlled substances (RCW 69.50) shall be as follows:

1ST Violation: A participant shall be immediately ineligible for interscholastic competition in the current interscholastic sports program for the remainder of the season. Ineligibility shall continue until the next sports season in which the participant wishes to participate unless the student accesses the assistance program outlined in Rule 18.26.2.2.

An athlete who is found to be in violation of the Legend drugs and controlled substances rule shall have two options.

18.26.2.1 The athlete will be ineligible for participation in contests for the remainder of that interscholastic sports season and must meet the school's requirements in order to be eligible to compete in the next interscholastic sports season. The school principal will have the final authority regarding the student's participation in further interscholastic sports programs.

18.26.2.2 The athlete may choose to seek and receive help for a problem with use of legend drugs or controlled substances. Successful utilization of school and or community assistance programs may allow him/her to have eligibility re-instated in that athletic season, pending recommendation by the school.

SECOND VIOLATION: A participant who again violates any provision of RCW 69.41.020 through 69.41.050 or of RCW 69.50 shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition for a period of one calendar year from the date of the second violation.

THIRD VIOLATION: A participant who violates for a third time RCW 69.41.020 through 69.41.050 or of RCW 69.50 shall be permanently ineligible for interscholastic competition.

18.26.2.3 A student who violates for the second or third time RCW 69.41.020 through 69.41.050 may appeal to the WIAA Executive Director for reinstatement.

- 11) **Wrestling Regionals no longer exist:**

25.1.6 **APPLICATION OF THE ALLOCATION FORMULA:** The Allocation Formula shall be applied each even-numbered year. The WIAA Executive Board is empowered to make decisions regarding the fractional allocations.

25.1.6.1 The Allocation Formula is applied by the WIAA Executive Board to the WIAA Districts for all post-season tournament events except for wrestling, where the state shall be divided into regions for each classification.

- 12) **28.5.0 covers the penalties for violations and covers the penalty for playing an ineligible student or the school violating a WIAA Handbook Rule. Although the Board has sanctioned coaches directly, the only mention of a sanction against a coach deals with probation in 28.5.3:**

28.5.3 **PROBATION:** The coach/personnel/school is placed on probation for a specified time by the League, WIAA District or WIAA Executive Board. During the probationary period, a school may participate in all interscholastic activities unless stipulated otherwise by the League, WIAA District or WIAA Executive Board.

28.5.3.1 FOR A COACH: Probation will follow that individual during future employment as a school coach in Washington for the specified time.

28.5.3.2 FOR A SCHOOL: During the probationary period, a school may participate in all interscholastic activities unless stipulated otherwise by the League, WIAA District or WIAA Executive Board.

28.5.5 The coach/school is placed on suspension for a specific number of contests or a specific time by the League, WIAA District or WIAA Executive Board.

28.5.5.1 FOR A COACH: A suspension will follow that individual during future employment as a school coach in Washington for the specified time or number of contests.

28.5.5.2 FOR A SCHOOL: All rights and privileges of Member Schools of the WIAA are withheld for a specified period determined by the WIAA Executive Board. The WIAA Executive Board may suspend a school in a particular sport or activity or in all sports and activities for a sports season or school year.

13) This change reflects how the Penalty Review Council has evolved over the years and this is actually how it currently functions.

PENALTY REVIEW COUNCIL:

28.6.3 The Council shall be comprised of ~~five individuals who will be appointed by the WIAA Executive Board~~ **the WIAA District Directors**. ~~Each shall serve a two-year term, with the exception of the chair, who will serve a four-year term.~~ **The Chair shall be elected annually by the WIAA District Directors.**

Remove from 28.6.4, revise and move to 28.5.13:

~~28.6.4 The Penalty Review Council shall adopt a schedule of fines and publish said schedule annually in the Association Handbook. The fine schedule shall also include any amounts paid by the Association or received by the school as a result of postseason competition. A fine shall not be levied against any individual within the interscholastic athletic program but may only be levied against the member school and only for selected violations as determined by the Penalty Review Council.~~

28.5.13 ~~The Penalty Review Council~~ **WIAA Executive Board** shall adopt a schedule of fines **and fees and to** publish ~~said schedule~~ annually in the ~~Association~~ **WIAA** Handbook. The **fin**es **and fees** schedule shall also include any amounts paid by the ~~Association~~ **WIAA** or received by the school **because of issues that arise from participation in** ~~as a result of~~ postseason competition. A fine shall not be levied against any individual within the interscholastic athletic program but may ~~only~~ be levied against the member school and only for selected violations as determined by the Penalty Review Council **or the WIAA Executive Board, including actions taken by individuals associated with the school.**

Added the chart for the approved fines and fees below 28.5.12.

14) Correction to the number of regular season contests for Girls Flag Football:

39.0.0 **16 + jamboree** (not 12)

APPROVED DURING THE AUGUST 17, 2025 WIAA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

1) 18.12.0 – *New Q&A:*

Q-17: My son utilized the one-time window of transfer in the summer. As a student with 60% eligibility does a jamboree count as one of his varsity contests that he must sit out?

A-17: No, a jamboree is a modified contest that does not count toward one of the allowable contests that must be sat out at the varsity level. Additionally, your son would not be eligible to play in a varsity jamboree because he would not yet be eligible at the varsity level.

2) 18.12.9 **Transfer Table**

3) 18.21.5 high school participation numbers that would allow eighth graders to participate in a 2B school with enrollment of 157 or less.

Girls Flag Football: 17

- 4) **18.24.0 AMATEUR STANDING** - A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport must be an amateur in that sport. An amateur student-athlete is one who engages in athletics for the physical, mental, social and educational benefits.
- 18.24.1 Name Image and Likeness (NIL): A student is in violation of this rule and shall immediately lose eligibility if that student, their family member, or anyone else on behalf of that student, enters into an agreement with an individual, corporate entity, partnership, association, or any other party or organization, for use of that student's NIL which in any way relates to the student's connection to their high school.
- 18.24.1.1 This provision is not intended to restrict the right of any student to participate in a commercial endorsement provided there is no affiliation with the school team, school, WIAA District or WIAA state association.
- 18.24.1.2 The student does not appear in the uniform of the student's school and does not utilize the marks, logos, etc. of the school, WIAA District, or WIAA state association as part of any endorsement.
- 18.24.1.3 A Member School cannot promote or have any affiliation with any NIL deal.**

New Q&A:

Q-15: Would an athlete lose their amateur standing if their NIL deal is featured on the school or school team's social media page(s)?

A-15: YES

Q16: If one of our players is signing an NIL deal at a ceremony, would it be a school violation if pictures from the event are posted on the school or school team's social media page(s)?

A-16: YES

- 5) Summer football – *New Q&A linked to 38.2.1.1:*

Q-1: If a school offers a full contact practice in the morning and one later in the day does that count as two contact practices for summer football?

A-1: Yes, regardless of which athletes are attending the practice, if two full contact practices are offered on the same day, both have to be counted toward the ten total limit. An individual athlete can only participate in one contact practice per day, regardless of how many practices are held by the team overall.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES:

- 1) Board Policies approved in June 2024 with 2025-26 the first year of implementation:

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

- **Have a minimum of three schools (but no maximum)**
- **Have its own unique name**
- **Have its own constitution**
- **Have its own Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**
- **Have an elected league president**
- **Not count contests played against another league to determine qualifying for the postseason**
- **Determine the format, dates and sites for postseason qualifying events**

5.2.6 The number of league representatives on a seeding committee will be based on the number of schools in that league.

# of Schools in the League	# of Seeding Committee Representatives
1-2	0
3-16	1
17 or More	2

- 2) Board Policy:

28.5.13 FINES AND FEES:**ADMINISTRATIVE**

ML/HS	Missed deadlines for membership renewal	\$500 Progressive
HS	Missed deadlines for Pass Gate submission	\$100
HS	Missed deadlines for program rosters/photos	\$100
ML/HS	Playing too many contests in a season	\$500
ML/HS	Reconsideration of non-ejection appeals	\$500
HS	Schools not attending a Fall Workshop	\$500
HS	Missed deadlines for postseason entries	\$100
	Late state eligibility appeals after the 50% date	\$400

CONTESTS

ML/HS	Ejection appeals (overturned, money is not collected)	\$200
ML/HS	Ejection of coaches	\$200
ML/HS	Ejection of school staff	\$500
HS	Ejection of Boys Soccer players (language)	\$100 Progressive

STATE CONTESTS

HS	Unauthorized streaming	\$500
HS	Ejection of fans	\$200
HS	Unauthorized fan entry into competition area	\$500
HS	Music attestation violation (Cheer, Dance/Drill, Gymnastics)	\$100
HS	Protest fees at State and District events (if protest is upheld)	\$100 CASH

TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN 2026-27

HS	Schools w/ verified out-of-compliance coaches at 50% date*	\$500/coach
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**Compliance with General and Sport-Specific Online Rule Clinics. Until coaches are compliant, they will be ineligible to coach, including coaching at State Events.*