



APPROVED THROUGH AN AUGUST 25, 2026 WIAA EXECUTIVE BOARD EMAIL VOTE**1) SOFTBALL GAME-ENDING PROCEDURES:**

An editorial clarification to WIAA Handbook Rule 43.4.1.4, associated with Amendment #32, was approved regarding Softball game-ending procedures.

Matt Cooke, who submitted the amendment, confirmed that the intent was for the expanded game-ending procedures to apply only for Fastpitch although it currently applies to both Slowpitch and Fastpitch in the 2026-27 WIAA Handbook.

Approved change:

43.4.1.4 NFHS RULE 4, SECTION 2, ARTICLE 3 - GAME-ENDING PROCEDURES:

- **FASTPITCH:** During all regular season and postseason games, the game shall end when the losing team is behind **15 or more runs after three full innings, 12 or more runs after four full innings, or ten or more runs after five full innings. A full inning can be after the visiting team batted if they are the team that is behind by 15, 12 or ten runs.**
- **SLOWPITCH:** During all regular season and postseason games, the game shall end when the losing team is behind by ten or more runs and has had at least five turns at bat.

Rule 17.14.11 also allows teams to mutually agree to terminate a contest at a given point.

This clarification does not change the intent of the adopted amendment but ensures its application is accurately reflected in the Handbook.

APPROVED DURING THE AUGUST 16, 2026 WIAA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**2) Brings 25.2.10 in line with 5.2.1 which requires every school to be a member of a league:**

25.2.10 INDEPENDENT TEAM'S ACCESS TO POSTSEASON COMPETITION - If **approved by its League**, a WIAA member school's team(s) ~~chooses not to become a member(s) of a league, that member school's team(s)~~ may play an independent schedule. The placement of that team(s) for postseason play will be determined by the WIAA Executive Board, unless such access is provided by a League or **WIAA** District.

Should the WIAA Executive Board be required to place an independent team in postseason competition, consideration would be given to that team's record against varsity competition of schools of the same classification – or of a higher classification. Each team's schedule(s) must be submitted to the affected Leagues, WIAA Districts and WIAA office.

In order to qualify for postseason play, a team's record against such competition must be equal to or better than the team receiving the lowest berth from that League/**WIAA** District. If this criteria is met, the independent team will be allowed to challenge for this berth through direct competition.

3) Eliminates the last sentence of the approved amendment since the conditions were not listed in the proposed amendment. Amendment submitter Nick Hazeltine approves deleting the sentence fragment:

43.1.4 ~~A tournament may start the preceding evening if the following conditions are met:~~

4) Adds a Q&A regarding the determination of varsity eligibility:**18.1.0 STUDENT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

Q-1: Who determines varsity eligibility regarding a McKinney-Vento student?

A-1: After the School District McKinney-Vento Liaison determines McKinney-Vento status based on the Student Housing Questionnaire (SHQ), the school's Athletic Director then has the chance to determine WIAA eligibility, including in partnership with the McKinney-Vento Liaison where information sharing between the two is helpful in establishing eligibility. If joint efforts by the McKinney-Vento Liaison and the school's

Athletic Director don't provide sufficient answers to establish eligibility, the WIAA District Eligibility Chair would review and make a determination.

- 4) Adds a Q&A that eighth graders may compete at the high school level under certain conditions one year and it does not impact their high school eligibility:

18.21.0 EIGHTH GRADERS COMPETING AT THE VARSITY LEVEL:

Q-11: An eighth grader in our school district skipped the seventh grade and went directly into the eighth grade. Since we are a 2B school, that student participated on two high school teams. That student now intends to repeat the eighth grade and wants again to participate on the high school teams. Is this legal?

A-11: No. This student may compete on middle level teams during the repeat eighth grade year, but may not participate at the high school level until their ninth grade year.