

2025 AMENDMENT SUMMARY

The Representative Assembly has the authority to make changes during the Winter Coalition on January 27, 2025.

Reviewed by: _____ Date: _____

	RULE	SUMMARY	S	O
ML/HS #1	n/a	Only the Representative Assembly could make editorial changes for typographical errors or changes in wording to reflect current interpretations		
ML/HS #2	3.6.0	Membership fees would increase by 25 percent in 2025-26 and in 2026-27		
ML/HS #3	8.11.0	Would add an honorary board member position from the Rural Educators Association		
ML/HS #4	8.12.14	Reduces the percentage of schools that offer an activity/sport during the two-year trial		
ML/HS #5	17.7.4	Baseball/softball arm care: Throwing instructions/workouts may begin two weeks prior to the first practice date; workouts are limited to no more than four hours per week during this two-week period		
ML/HS #6	18.12.0	Adds an opportunity for students to transfer schools after initially establishing their athletic eligibility at the start of their ninth grade year		
ML/HS #7	18.16.0	Participation in girls' sports would be limited to students assigned female at birth		
ML/HS #8	18.16.0	Athletic programs would be offered separately for boys, girls, and an open division for all students interested		
HS #9	20.1.3	Suspension following an ejection must be fulfilled at the same level as the contest in which the ejection occurred		
ML #10	All middle level sports	Precontest practice requirements for middle level would be the same as the number for high school sports		
HS #11	32.0.0 42.0.0	Would increase the regular season contest limit from 20 to 22 games in baseball, slowpitch and fastpitch softball		
ML/HS #12	21.5.4.C 32.65.4.C	Violations of the baseball pitch count rule will cause the head coach to be suspended, in the same manner as if ejected		
HS #13	New 39.0.0	Would sanction girls flag football as a high school sport		
HS #14	41.0.0	Would increase the regular season contest limit from 16 to 18 matches in soccer		
ML/HS #15	41.3.1	If at any point after 50 minutes of play, the soccer match would be terminated if one team is ahead by eight goals		
ML #16	41.64.0	Middle level soccer players could participate in three contests per week		

AMENDMENT VOTING PERIOD: April 9 – 18, 2025
Votes needed to pass: 32 for ML/HS; 21 for HS; 11 for ML.



Washington Interscholastic Activities Association
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
for the 2025 Representative Assembly

The amendments and rationale are presented as submitted. The sponsoring school/school district is listed first, followed alphabetically by the supporting schools/school districts. The opinions and/or positions by the leagues, WIAA Districts, and affiliate organizations will take place prior to voting. Positions taken by the affiliate organizations will be provided to the voting delegates prior to the April 9-18, 2025 voting period.

The ~~strike through~~ text is proposed to be deleted from the current handbook wording. The **bold** and **shaded** text is proposed to be added to the current handbook wording. Amendments can potentially be modified during the Winter Coalition on January 27, 2025. Amendments that pass will go into effect on August 1 unless otherwise indicated. The sponsoring school is listed first, followed by the supporting schools.

ML/HS AMENDMENT #1

OPENING STATEMENTS

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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 a RCW or WAC
4. The result of a court order
5. A health and/or safety issue

Editorial changes may be incorporated into the current year's WIAA handbook as approved by the WIAA Executive Board.

Submitted by Manson High School, Davenport High School, Ephrata High School, Mabton High School, and Tonasket High School.

Rationale:

1. *PRO- Gives the rep assembly more say in the changes to the handbook*
2. *PRO- Allows Athletic Directors more confidence in the handbook*
3. *PRO- Assures the WIAA will apply the rules as written as opposed to editing the rules*
1. *CON- Would take more time to make editorial changes as they would go through the Representative Assembly which meets once per year unless a special meeting is called.*

ML/HS AMENDMENT # 2**3.6.0 ESTABLISHMENT OF SERVICE FEES**

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- 3.6.1 High School Fees: When a high school offers sports and activity programs, the high school tier in which a school is placed is based upon its P223 enrollment figures (grades 9-11, prior to any deductions based upon the enrollment adjustment factor) utilized to determine its classification. A high school will remain within its designated tier during the four-year classification cycle.

<u>HS Tier</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Current fee</u>	<u>Proposed 2025-26 fee</u>	<u>Proposed 2026-27 fee</u>
HS-1	1-25	\$ 350.00	\$ 440.00	\$ 550.00
HS-2	26-50	\$ 600.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 940.00
HS-3	51-100	\$ 800.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,250.00
HS-4	101-200	\$1,100.00	\$1,375.00	\$1,720.00
HS-5	201-300	\$1,500.00	\$1,875.00	\$2,345.00
HS-6	301-450	\$1,900.00	\$2,375.00	\$2,970.00
HS-7	451-600	\$2,200.00	\$2,750.00	\$3,440.00
HS-8	601-800	\$2,400.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,750.00
HS-9	801-1000	\$2,700.00	\$3,375.00	\$4,220.00
HS-10	1001-1300	\$3,000.00	\$3,750.00	\$4,670.00
HS-11	1301-1600	\$3,400.00	\$4,250.00	\$5,315.00
HS-12	1601 +	\$3,800.00	\$4,750.00	\$5,940.00

- 3.6.2 High School Fees: When a high school does not offer any sports programs, the high school tier in which a school is placed is based upon its P223 enrollment figures (grades 9-11, prior to any deductions based upon the enrollment adjustment factor) utilized to determine its classification. A high school will remain within its designated tier during the four-year classification cycle unless sports programs are added.

<u>HS Tier</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Fee per school</u>	<u>Proposed 2025-26 fee</u>	<u>Proposed 2026-27 fee</u>
HS-1A	1-25	\$ 175.00	\$ 220.00	\$ 275.00
HS-2A	26-50	\$ 300.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 470.00
HS-3A	51-100	\$ 400.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 625.00
HS-4A	101-200	\$ 550.00	\$ 690.00	\$ 860.00
HS-5A	201-300	\$ 750.00	\$ 940.00	\$1,175.00
HS-6A	301-450	\$ 950.00	\$1,190.00	\$1,485.00
HS-7A	451-600	\$1,100.00	\$1,375.00	\$1,720.00
HS-8A	601-800	\$1,200.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,875.00
HS-9A	801-1000	\$1,350.00	\$1,690.00	\$2,110.00
HS-10A	1001-1300	\$1,500.00	\$1,875.00	\$2,335.00
HS-11A	1301-1600	\$1,700.00	\$2,125.00	\$2,660.00
HS-12A	1601 +	\$1,900.00	\$2,375.00	\$2,970.00

- 3.6.3 Middle Level School Fees: The middle level school tier in which a school is placed is based upon its grade 7 and 8 combined enrollment count as reported to OSPI in the first year of the four (4) year high school classification cycle and will remain that way during the four (4) year high school classification cycle.

<u>ML Tier</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Fee per school</u>	<u>Proposed 2025-26 fee</u>	<u>Proposed 2026-27 fee</u>
ML-1	1-100	\$100.00	\$125.00	\$160.00
ML-2	101-250	\$150.00	\$190.00	\$240.00
ML-3	251-400	\$200.00	\$250.00	\$315.00
ML-4	401 +	\$250.00	\$315.00	\$395.00

Continuation of ML/HS AMENDMENT # 2

Proposed Membership Fees:

The WIAA Executive Board is proposing a 25% membership fee increase in 2025-26 and 2026-27.

Currently, the Association receives about \$900,000 from member fees. The proposed fee increase is estimated to generate an additional \$225,000 in new revenues for the Association in both 2025-26 and 2026-27. Note: This proposal is for MEMBERSHIP FEES ONLY and the proposed costs do not include the Fall Workshops, Wrestling Weight Management or L & I. Fees for the Fall Workshops and Wrestling Weight Management will remain the same at this time. L&I fees will be adjusted as necessary by the Board to ensure L&I fees cover all L&I costs.

History:

While the Association continues to remain fiscally solvent, decisions must be made to address the revenue side to balance the budget. On the expense side, cuts continue to be made and the Association continuously comes in under budget in a number of areas; however, if cuts run too deep, it may jeopardize the Association's ability to provide quality events and services to its membership. The WIAA Executive Board has a Finance Sub-Committee, made up of both staff and Board members, who meet each board meeting and continue to assess all areas within the budget to determine what changes or adjustments, within its scope of power, can be made. This group is responsible for creating, monitoring and overseeing the Associations budget.

Rationale for Need for Revenue Increases:

The WIAA currently operates an unbalanced budget, utilizing reserves as necessary to balance at year's end. While the Association has managed to limit its use of such funds, it is prudent to operate within a balanced budget. The approved 2024-25 budget has a projected deficit of \$360,000.

The WIAA Board and Staff work hard to hold the line on costs, continue to work diligently with communities to curb facility expenses, and have been creative in generating new and one time revenues. While many expense increases are outside of the Association's control, The Board and Staff will continue to analyze expenses, on an annual basis, and make cuts as necessary.

However, any remaining significant cuts could result in eliminating services or substantial changes to the operations of the Association. Therefore, it is important that the revenue side of the Association keeps up with the expense side.

In particular, the costs for legal and insurance alone have exceeded \$500,000, putting extra pressure on the Association's budget. Note: This includes the Association covering all insurance costs for the WIAA Districts and the general liability insurance for all of the member leagues.

ML/HS AMENDMENT # 3

8.11.0 HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE WIAA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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- 8.11.0 HONORARY MEMBERS OF WIAA EXECUTIVE BOARD** - The duties and privileges of the honorary members shall be to attend WIAA Executive Board meetings and to participate in the discussions and business of the Association without voting privileges. Honorary members shall include representatives of the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA), Washington Secondary School Athletic Administrators Association (WSSAAA), Washington Association of Secondary School Principals (WASSP), Association of Washington Middle Level Principals (AWMLP), **Rural Educators**, Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA), Washington State Coaches Association (WSCA), Washington Officials Association (WOA), Washington Federation of Independent Schools (WFIS), Washington Tribal Schools, and a representative of the Fine Arts and Leadership programs under WIAA jurisdiction. The Fine Arts position will rotate every three years among the Washington Music Educators Association (WMEA), the Washington State Forensic Association (WSFA), and the Washington Thespians.

Submitted by the WIAA Executive Board.

Rationale: The Rural Education Center is a statewide cooperative of small and rural districts, several educational service districts, and other key educational organizations committed to achieving the highest quality of learning on behalf of children in Washington public schools. Adding this position as an honorary member of the WIAA Executive Board will ensure that small and rural school districts have a voice during Executive Board meetings.

HS AMENDMENT # 4

8.12.0 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE WIAA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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- 8.12.14 The WIAA Executive Board can approve a two-year trial of a new activity/sport based upon documentation of the following criteria:
- 8.12.14.1 ~~20~~ **Fifteen (15)** percent of the WIAA member schools commit to adding the activity/sport during the first year of the trial. All current WIAA rules would be mandated for participants.
 - 8.12.14.2 Reasons for requesting the WIAA to sanction the activity/sport.
 - 8.12.14.3 Estimated costs per year to WIAA member schools, leagues, WIAA Districts and the Association.
 - 8.12.14.4 Benefits to WIAA member schools and students due to adding the activity/sport.
 - 8.12.14.5 Estimated increase in student participation due to adding the activity/sport.
 - 8.12.14.6 Additional information as deemed appropriate.
 - 8.12.14.7 If ~~40~~ **Twenty-five (25)** percent of the WIAA member schools offer the activity/sport during the second year of the trial, the activity would be sanctioned by the Association.

Rationale: The adjusted numbers are more in line with the number of programs offered by the membership.

Continuation of HS AMENDMENT # 4

How it breaks down:

1. 15% of 419 schools is 62 total schools, which is in the band for a 16 berth state tournament
2. 25% of 419 schools is 105 total schools, which, depending on the classification breakdown, would likely be enough for two (2) 16 berth state tournaments
3. Based on the 2022-2024 allocation cycle, the percentage of current WIAA schools offering each WIAA sport were as follows:

Season	Sport	# of Schools Offering Sport	Total # of HS	% offering Sport
Fall	Cross Country (Boys) *	285	419	68.02%
Fall	Cross Country (Girls) *	271	419	64.68%
Fall	Football	408	419	97.37%
Fall	Slowpitch Softball	52	419	12%
Fall	Soccer (Girls)	252	419	60.14%
Fall	Swim & Dive (Girls) *	192	419	45.82%
Fall	Volleyball	321	419	76.61%
Winter	Bowling *	102	419	24.34%
Winter	Basketball (Boys)	383	419	91.41%
Winter	Basketball (Girls)	372	419	88.78%
Winter	Gymnastics *	86	419	20.53%
Winter	Swim and Dive (Boys)	173	419	41.29%
Winter	Wrestling (Boys) *	235	419	56%
Winter	Wrestling (Girls) *	160	419	38%
Spring	Baseball	383	419	91.41%
Spring	Golf (Girls)*	231	419	55%
Spring	Soccer (Boys)	383	419	91.41%
Spring	Fastpitch Softball	372	419	88.78%
Spring	Tennis (Girls) *	257	419	61%
Spring	Track and Field (Boys)*	351	419	83%
Spring	Track and Field (Girls) *	340	419	81%
Spring	Golf (Boys)*	275	419	66%
Spring	Tennis (Boys) *	239	419	57%

* Met the team definition for allocation purposes.

ML/HS AMENDMENT #5

17.7.0 CONDITIONING

17.7.0 CONDITIONING - A member school may organize and supervise a conditioning program which may include weight training, running and exercising provided all of the following conditions are met:

- 17.7.1 Participation in conditioning cannot be a requirement, incentive for, or a condition of participation on a school team;
- 17.7.2 It is open and advertised to all students at that school;
- 17.7.3 Instruction in specific sports skills is not provided.

Continuation of ML/HS AMENDMENT #5

17.7.4 Baseball/Softball Arm Care: Throwing instruction and throwing workouts are allowed as part of conditioning, beginning two weeks prior to the first practice date. Arm care workouts are limited to no more than four hours per week during this time frame.

A. Four hours per week is the total time allotted for the entire team.

B. Each session during the week is limited to one and one-half hours.

Submitted by Ephrata High School, Brewster High School, Cashmere High School, Ellensburg High School, Manson High School, and Moses Lake High School.

Rationale:

1. *PRO- Reduces the risk of arm injuries with a gradual throwing program in a controlled and supervised environment.*
2. *PRO- Allows high school coaches to coach throwing mechanics rather than having to say nothing during open gym.*
3. *PRO- Provides greater equity allowing all students proper instruction and arm care workouts, not just those that can afford private instruction.*
4. *PRO- With only five days of practice before a jamboree (seven before the first game), this is essential to get arms in shape and prevent injuries.*
1. *CON- More than two weeks are needed to properly get arms in shape.*

HS AMENDMENT #6

18.12.0 TRANSFERRING STUDENTS

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18.12.2 Students who attend a member school and meet one or more of the following conditions shall be deemed to meet the residence rule requirement and transferring student rule requirements:

- A. A student whose transfer to a new school is based on a bona fide change of residence to a new school district due to an actual physical relocation of and with the entire family unit to a different residence coupled with termination of all occupancy of their previous residence (unless subject to 18.11.4 or 18.12.2.H).

NOTE: B through G remain the same

- H. 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 (1) time after becoming a student member of a school at the beginning of their four (4) consecutive year period of high school eligibility and only during a WIAA defined window of transfer (per school district policy).

1. 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 (9th) grade, as listed below

Continuation of HS AMENDMENT #6

- a) Between the final day of the ninth (9th) and the first day of turnouts for a WIAA fall sport at the beginning of the tenth (10th) grade years.
 - b) Between the final day of the tenth (10th) and the first day of turnouts for a WIAA fall sport at the beginning of the eleventh (11th) grade years.
 - c) Between the final day of the eleventh (11th) and the first day of turnouts for a WIAA fall sport at the beginning of the twelfth (12th) grade years.
2. If a student transfers during a WIAA-defined window of transfer, they will be ineligible to participate in varsity-level competition for the first 40% (rounded to the nearest whole number) of the maximum allowable contests, according to sport specific rules, in any sport the athlete played at the school level or club/community equivalent during the calendar year prior to their transfer. This period of varsity ineligibility may not be appealed except through the hardship process outlined in WIAA handbook rule 18.27.0.
 3. Should a student transfer outside of a WIAA defined window of transfer, the student shall be deemed to have transferred at will and will be held to the Residence Rule Waiver as described in WIAA rule 18.14.0.
 - i. Should a student transfer a second or any subsequent time during the four (4) consecutive year period of high school eligibility, even during a WIAA defined window of transfer, the student shall be deemed to have transferred at will and will be held to the Residence Rule Waiver as described in WIAA rule 18.14.0.

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 for one (1) calendar year from the date of enrollment at the new school:

- A. If the student transfers from a public, private, or charter school after:
 1. Participating on a non-school athletic team within a calendar year from the date of enrollment at the new school (AAU, American Legion, Club USA, USVBA, or any other non-school program) in which one (1) or more of the high school coaches affiliated with another school to which the student transfers are currently involved and/or
 2. Receiving personal athletic or activities instruction or training, including weight training and conditioning, from a person affiliated with another school to which the student transfers.
- B. Varsity ineligibility would apply even if the entire family unit move is based on a bona fide change of residence due to an actual physical relocation of and with the entire family unit to a different residence coupled with termination of all occupancy of their previous residence within the residential area of the school to which the student transfers.

18.13.0 VARSITY STATUS – Varsity ineligibility pursuant to section 18.12.0 shall be effective for one (1) calendar year from the date of enrollment. This ineligible status only prohibits a student from competing at the varsity level, it does not prohibit participation at the sub-varsity level.

Continuation of HS AMENDMENT #6

- A. Varsity ineligibility applies if the entire family unit move as described in WIAA rule 18.12.2 is within the school district boundaries of the school from which the student transfers if the entire family move comes after a student has transferred schools as described in WIAA rule 18.12.2.H or 18.12.2.J.

Submitted by the Executive Board on behalf of the Transfer Committee.

Rationale:

1. **Reduce Litigation Costs:** *The proposed amendment is a proactive measure, intended to lower litigation expenses related to eligibility disputes.*
2. **Legislative Alignment:** *The proposed amendment is a proactive measure, intended to strengthen the WIAA's ability to maintain control over association rules in an evolving legislative landscape.*
3. **Support School Choice:** *The proposed amendment is intended to ensure transfer rules are more closely aligned with school choice laws, empowering students and making rules more student-centered.*
4. **Single Transfer Provision:** *The proposed amendment allows one transfer without a family relocation, with a specified period of ineligibility, within a defined timeframe.*
5. **Preserve Key Eligibility Rules:** *The proposed amendment does not supersede current rules regarding bona fide residence changes, the one-year varsity ineligibility period, restrictions on transfers for athletic reasons, and bans on illegal recruiting, as current rules related to each will remain intact.*
6. **Discourage Multiple Transfers:** *This rule aims to limit the frequency of transfers, promoting stability in student participation.*

Pros

1. **Supports Academic Development:** *The proposed amendment provides an opportunity for students to pursue academic interests.*
2. **Meets Unique Student Needs:** *The proposed amendment offers families and schools flexibility to address individual student circumstances.*
3. **Provides Flexibility for Families:** *The proposed amendment allows families the option to adjust an initial school choice decision one time during a student's four consecutive years of interscholastic eligibility when necessary.*
4. **Aligns with School Choice Laws:** *The proposed amendment ensures transfer rules for students moving from middle to high school are consistent with state school choice legislation.*
5. **Preserves Hardship Provisions (18.12, 18.14.2, 18.27.0):** *The proposed amendment keeps existing hardship rules in place to support students facing exceptional challenges.*
6. **Retains Current Recruiting Rules (18.10.0, 18.12.0, 27.0.0, Appendix 7):** *The proposed amendment maintains current recruiting regulations, their applications, and the expectations of all member schools to report violations of such rules.*
7. **Maintains Transfer Rule for Athletic Purposes(18.14.3):** *Keeps the existing rules that do not allow a transfer for athletic purposes unchanged for continuity.*

Continuation of HS AMENDMENT #6

Cons

1. **Potential of Increased Transfers:** Redefining the window of transfer could potentially lead to more frequent transfers between schools.
2. **Risk of Transfers for Athletic Advantage:** The proposed amendment could potentially lead to students seeking to transfer for athletic reasons, which may be influenced by family finances.
3. **Disruption of School Feeder Patterns:** The proposed amendment could potentially affect continuity in established feeder patterns should middle school students leave their resident public school feeder pattern at a higher rate.
4. **Roster Competition:** The proposed amendment could potentially lead to transfers negatively impacting team dynamics, through a reduction of roster spots for students already in a school's program.
5. **Varied Impact on Urban vs. Rural Schools:** The proposed amendment could affect urban and rural communities differently due to geographic factors.
6. **Social Media Influence:** The proposed amendment could lead to transfers being promoted on social media, influencing perceptions and decisions, leading to an increase in rule violations.
7. **Potential Impact on Competitive Equity:** The proposed amendment could lead to increased transfers, which could then affect balance within leagues and classifications, impacting competitive fairness.

ML/HS AMENDMENT #7

18.16.0 GENDER IDENTITY PARTICIPTION

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*Philosophy of Gender Identity Participation: The WIAA encourages participation for all students, regardless of their gender identity or expression. Further, most local, state, and federal rules and regulations require schools to provide transgender and other gender-diverse student-athletes with equal opportunities to participate in athletics. **However, in order to maintain fair and equitable competition, participation in girls' sports and girls' divisions of sports is restricted to students who were assigned female at birth.** The purpose of this policy is to offer clarity with respect to the participation of trans and gender-diverse student-athletes. Additionally, this policy encourages a culture in which student-athletes can compete in a safe and supportive environment, free of discrimination.*

~~18.16.0 GENDER IDENTITY PARTICIPTION – 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 1. 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 6.~~

Continuation of ML/HS AMENDMENT #7

18.16.0 *GENDER IDENTITY PARTICIPATION* - All Students are encouraged to participate in WIAA athletics and/or activities. Participation in girls' sports and girls' divisions is limited to students assigned female at birth. Examples of girls' sports and girls' divisions within a sport include, but are not limited to:

- **Girls' Sports: Fastpitch, Volleyball (when no boys' or co-ed division exists)**
- **Girls' Divisions *within a Sport*: Soccer, Wrestling, Basketball, Track & Field**

Submitted by the Lynden School District, Blaine School District, Brewster School District, Cashmere School District, Colville School District, Grand Coulee Dam School District, Lake Chelan School District, Lynden Christian School, Mansfield School District, Mead School District, Okanogan School District, Omak School District, Oroville School District, and Tonasket School District.

Rationale: The policy is modeled after Alaska's program which replaces boys' sports with an open division for all student-athletes while also creating eligibility restrictions for girls' sports and girls' divisions.

PROS

1. *Focus is on fair competition and protecting the integrity of female sports. Restricting girls' sports to those assigned female at birth aims to maintain a level playing field, addressing concerns about potential physical advantages in certain sports.*
2. *Maintaining separate divisions for girls addresses safety concerns that could arise from physical differences in some sports.*
3. *The policy emphasizes inclusivity and encourages transgender and gender-diverse students to participate in athletics & activities. The policy aligns with local, state, and federal guidelines that mandate equal opportunities for all students.*
4. *Provides clear eligibility guidelines by creating an open division and restricting girls' sports to student-athletes assigned female at birth. Clarity within eligibility can ensure consistency across schools and sports. Female athletes, parents, coaches, and teams having a clearer understanding of who is competing within each division reduces the potential of unfair and vitriolic responses to successful transgender female athletes.*
5. *Transgender participation policies are currently being developed across all competition levels of organizations sponsoring sex-segregated athletics. The option of exploring an appeal process provides a potential pathway for gender-diverse student-athletes to participate in competition best-aligned to their physiological development.*

CONS

1. *Restricting participation in girls' athletics to girls assigned female at birth may spark legal challenges at federal and state levels. Although the policy states a commitment to inclusivity, some may interpret it as discriminatory based on gender expression or identity, particularly student-athletes who identify as female but are unable to compete in girls' sports.*
2. *Any appeal process could be complicated and may involve medical evaluations that raise privacy and ethical concerns. Schools and athletic organizations may face challenges implementing and enforcing the policy, especially regarding medical assessments or appeals, leading to administrative burdens and potential inconsistencies in implementation.*
3. *Absent of an appeal process, the policy does not address how intersex athletes would fit into the existing sports divisions.*

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. **Athletic programs will be offered separately for boys, girls and an open division for all students interested as outlined in Appendix 2.** ~~Currently, most athletic programs are offered separately for boys and girls as outlined in Appendix 1. 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 6.~~

Submitted by Eastmont School District, Cashmere School District, Colville School District, Lynden School District, Mead School District, Moses Lake School District, and Thorp School District.

Pros:

All students have the opportunity to participate in WIAA athletics and/or activities in a manner that is equitable, and fair, while preventing harm to student athletes in the form of diminishing achievement and discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, or expression. Athletic programs shall be offered separately for boys, girls and open as outlined in Appendix 2. Athletes will participate in programs consistent with their sex assigned at birth (Assigned Sex as defined in Appendix 6) with exceptions as follows. Athletes wishing to compete according to their gender identity, if differing from their Assigned Sex, shall compete in the open division. Further, athletes in the process of transition that have undertaken medical changes (Appendix 6) are eligible to participate in the open division. School personnel responsible for student eligibility will work collaboratively with the student-athlete to determine eligibility for the boys, girls, and open divisions. Once the student has been granted eligibility to participate in the open division consistent with their gender identity and/or transition status, 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 6.

By designating an open division category for sports, this amendment will preserve the equality of opportunity to participate in athletics while simultaneously creating a delineating category for different genders: boys versus boys; girls versus girls; and transgender versus transgender or transgender versus nonbinary. The arguments in favor of this amendment are the same as those that would be used to separate boys and girls sports- see WIAA Handbook Appendix 2.

The legislature finds that the mission of the WIAA is to assist member schools in operating student programs that foster achievement, respect, equity, enthusiasm, and excellence in a safe and organized environment per RCW 28A.600.200 Finding-Intent-2012 c 155. Further, the legislature intends to ensure that this mission is successfully carried out so that arbitrary sanctions that result in students unfairly being denied participation, or cause students' achievement to be diminished do not occur.

Science and medical experts have shown that Assigned Sex (see WIAA Handbook Appendix 6) is a key determinant of athletic performance, with males outperforming females in sports that are primarily determined by neuromuscular, cardiovascular, and respiratory function, and anthropometrics including

Continuation of ML/HS AMENDMENT #8

body and limb size. Many sports organizations, including the International Swimming Federation (FINA), World Athletics, National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) have all changed their policies in response to the substantial sex difference in sports performance and the need to prevent unfair competition.

Legal and Human Rights experts for FIN recognize the necessity that female athletes are not discriminated against by allowing biological males to unfairly compete against them. It is also understood that, as with any form of affirmative action, an effort not to discriminate against biological female athletes and thus to ensure a sex-based female category itself has exclusionary effects.

This amendment seeks to designate a third open division for sports that maintains a truly equitable playing field, allowing safe, fair, inclusive and non-discriminatory opportunities for all students wishing to participate in athletics and activities. It ensures fairness in competition while preventing harm to student athletes in the form of diminishing achievements and discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, or expression. It prevents further deviance from the legislature's intent of RCW 28A.600.200 such as that which occurred at the 2024 WIAA State Track and Field Championship while following the WIAA Gender Identity policy. The winning athlete in the race had competed as a boy in previous seasons, and the WIAA policy resulted in diminished achievements for girls in the race and those that failed to qualify. The fist biological girl in the State Championship race finished in second place, behind the biological male athletes recognized as the State Champion girl.

Cons:

The cons of this amendment include, competitions may be extended in length and inviting athletes from across state lines to mitigate player counts is encouraged to accommodate participation of athletes in the open division.

HS AMENDMENT #9

20.0.0 EJECTION FROM CONTEST

Page 44

20.1.3 The first ejection of the season shall result, at a minimum, in the ejected person (student, coach, other school representative) being suspended until after the next school contest in that sport at the same level of competition from which the person was ejected has been completed.

NOTE: Level refers to either varsity or sub-varsity.

A. Once the postseason begins, a suspension can be fulfilled only in contests that count toward qualifying for the next round.

Q&A-1: One of our softball players was ejected on Saturday during the first round of the WIAA District qualifying tournament. The second round is next Saturday, but we have a makeup regular season game that could be played midweek. Could that game be played in order for the suspension to be fulfilled?

Since the postseason has already begun, this makeup game no longer has any bearing on the postseason. While the game could be played, the ejected player could not play in it and the suspension would not be fulfilled until the ejected player sits out the next postseason contest.

Continuation of HS AMENDMENT #9

Q&A-2: One of the players on our baseball team was ejected during the first round of the state tournament. If we schedule a Foundation game prior to the second round, would his suspension be filled if he sits out that game?

No. A Foundation game does not count toward qualifying for the second round. The game could be played, but this player could not participate in either the Foundation game nor the second round game in order to fulfill the suspension.

Q&A-3: Does week 10 football count as a postseason or regular season contest?

Week 10 football is considered a regular season contest.

Submitted by the WIAA Executive Board.

Rationale: This amendment would prevent a school from scheduling an additional game in order to prevent either a participant or a coach from being suspended from the next postseason contest.

ML AMENDMENT # 10

32.61.0, 32.63.0; 33.61.0, 33.63.0; 41.61.0, 41.62.0; 42.61.0, 42.63.0; 44.61.0, 44.63.0; 45.61.0, 45.63.0; 46.61.0, 46.63.0; 47.61.0, 47.63.0 Pages 66 - 81

17.11.2 ~~Reduces the minimum practice requirements in all high school sports except football and gymnastics (the specific number of practice requirements is in each specific sport section.)~~

17.11.2 Would align the minimum practice requirements for middle school sports to mirror the high school requirements, both for jamborees and contests.

Submitted by Nooksack Valley Middle School, Mt Baker Middle School, Blaine Middle School, Lynden Christian School, and Lynden Middle School

Rationale:

Examples: both MS/HS Basketball would be 7, instead of 8 for MS, and 7 for HS as it currently written.

Football would remain as it currently is, 12 practices for each level. Wrestling would be 9 at both levels, instead of 8 for MS and 9 for HS.

PROS- Having each level consistent sport by sport makes sense from a tracking standpoint eliminating confusion between the HS and MS levels for coaches, athletes and parents.

PROS- There is no additional cost to schools in this proposal. Adjusting the number of practices would not seem to be a safety concern since it is only one practice day we are adding or eliminating.

CONS- None from our perspective

HS AMENDMENT #11

32.1.0 and 42.1.0 BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL REGULAR SEASON LIMIT

Pages 65, 75

32.1.0 SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Year	First Practice	Minimum Practice Days	50% Rule Date	Regular Season Contest Limit	End Season
2024-25	March 3	7	April 7	20 22 + Jamboree	May 31
2025-26	March 2	7	April 6	20 22 + Jamboree	May 30

32.4.0 PLAYER LIMITATION - Starting a contest will count as one of the 20 ~~22~~ contests allowed for that individual. Any substitute who does not play in more than two innings of a contest shall not have it count against the 20 ~~22~~ individual season contest limit.

42.1.0 SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS FASTPITCH and SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL – Fastpitch and Slowpitch softball are considered separate and distinct sports.

FASTPITCH

Year	First Practice	Minimum Practice Days	50% Rule Date	Regular Season Contest Limit	End Season
2024-25	March 3	7	April 7	20 22 + Jamboree	May 24
2025-26	March 2	7	April 6	20 22 + Jamboree	May 23

SLOWPITCH

Year	First Practice	Minimum Practice Days	50% Rule Date	Regular Season Contest Limit	End Season
2024-25	August 26	7	Sept 30	20 22 + Jamboree	October 26
2025-26	August 25	7	Sept 29	20 22 + Jamboree	October 25

42.3.0 PLAYER/TEAM LIMITATION - Starting a contest shall count as one of the 20 ~~22~~ contests allowed for an individual. Any substitute who does not play in more than two innings of a contest shall not have it count against the 20 ~~22~~ individual season contest limit.

Submitted by Ephrata High School, Cashmere High School, Manson High School, Othello High School, and Selah High School

Rationale:

PROS- Allows baseball and softball programs to be more in line with other state associations in the Pacific Northwest.

- *Oregon allows 26 games; Idaho allows 24 games*
- 1. *PROS- Students enjoy playing more games*
- 2. *PROS- We are in the “memory making” business with education based high school athletics*
- 3. *PROS- With only 7 practices now needed before the 1st contest, there is more time to get in 22 games. Having the ability to schedule doubleheaders makes this easily doable.*

Continuation of HS AMENDMENT #11

- 4. *PROS- Tennis, Volleyball, and Track & Field have seen an increase in contests the past few years, so this would be more equitable for other sports programs.*
- 1. *CONS- Having more contests means an increase in transportation and officials' costs for school districts.*

ML/HS AMENDMENT #12

32.0.0 BASEBALL

- 32.6.4.C. ~~Violations of the pitch count rule are considered in the same manner as a school using an ineligible player~~ **will cause the head coach to be suspended, in the same manner as if ejected.** ~~Unless finishing the at bat, the pitcher becomes ineligible to pitch after the coach will be penalized if the maximum daily limit is reached~~ **exceeded.**
The suspended coach must complete the NFHS "Teaching and Modeling Behavior" online course before coaching in a subsequent game.
- 32.65.4.C. ~~Violations of the pitch count rule are considered in the same manner as a school using an ineligible player~~ **will cause the head coach to be suspended, in the same manner as if ejected.** ~~Unless finishing the at bat, the pitcher becomes ineligible to pitch after the coach will be penalized if the maximum daily limit is reached~~ **exceeded.**
The suspended coach must complete the NFHS "Teaching and Modeling Behavior" online course before coaching in a subsequent game.

Submitted by the WIAA Executive Board.

Rationale: This change puts the responsibility, and penalty, on the coach, rather than on the pitcher and ultimately the team, for exceeding the pitch count limit.

HS AMENDMENT #13

39.0.0 SENIOR HIGH GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL

NEW ARTICLE

39.1.0 SENIOR HIGH GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL

Year	First Practice	Minimum Practice Days	50% Rule Date	Regular Season Contest Limit	End Season
2025-26	March 2	7	April 6	16 + Jamboree	May 16
Alternate	August 25	7	Sept 29	16 + Jamboree	October 18
Alternate	Nov 17	7	January 17	16 + Jamboree	March 1
2026-27	March 1	7	April 5	16 + Jamboree	October 17
Alternate	August 26	7	Dec 22	16 + Jamboree	February 12
Alternate	Nov 16	7	January 16	16 + Jamboree	February 28

39.2.0 PLAYING RULES - Washington Interscholastic Girls Flag Football rules will be developed and will apply during contests until such time that the NFHS develops Girls Flag Football Rules.

39.3.0 JAMBOREE

39.3.1 A jamboree could be held after five practices have been completed.

39.3.2 An individual is limited to participation in a maximum of 40 snaps.

Continuation of HS AMENDMENT #13

39.3.3 For the purposes of the player limitation, participating in one quarter of a regular game; 21 to 40 snaps shall be the same as participating in two quarters of a regular game.

NOTE: This situation would occur only when a jamboree is held within three days of a regular game.

39.3.4 Competition shall be limited to seven-on-seven for member schools.

39.3.5 The following jamboree concepts apply:

A. All regular contest rules shall apply with the following expectations:

1. No score will be kept.

2. A coach shall be on the field with the team.

B. Registered officials will officiate the event and shall be given the opportunity to present information about the contest rules to coaches, participants and spectators.

39.4.6 All eligible squad members shall have an opportunity to play in the jamboree. Teams shall be scheduled by ability, e.g., first team vs. first team, second team vs. second team.

39.4.0 PLAYER LIMITATION

39.4.1 A flag football participant shall be eligible to compete in up to four halves of play during any one day. Any appearance in a half, regardless of the length of time played, is to be considered as one half. This is interpreted as meaning when a player is beckoned onto the field and the ball becomes alive.

39.4.2 A player may play in up to 32 halves of play during a season exclusive of a jamboree.

Submitted by Redmond High School, Eastmont High School, Everett High School, Gig Harbor High School, Lake Washington High School, Peninsula School District, and Tacoma School District.

Rationale:

- 1. PROS- There are currently 90+ teams competing in five of the six WIAA Districts.*
- 2. PROS- The Seattle Seahawks have been a tremendous partner and have offered their continued support.*
- 3. PROS- This proposal is certainly good for student athletes and aims to provide an additional opportunity for female student athletes to engage in healthy, organized physical activity and competition.*
- 4. PROS- High school flag football promotes teamwork, physical fitness, and character development among participants. It also aligns with the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association's mission to enhance the educational experience of students through interscholastic activities.*
- 5. PROS- Flag Football is one of the fastest growing youth sports with nearly 500,000 female athletes between the ages of 6-17 playing the sport last year. This represented an impressive 63% increase from 2019.*

Continuation of HS AMENDMENT #13

6. *PROS- In Washington State, youth flag football is also growing at a tremendous rate and our goal is to provide opportunities for athletes interested in flag football to compete at the varsity level. The interest in the game is there and if given the opportunity to play in high school- female student athletes will play as they have in Tacoma and other school districts to date.*
7. *PROS- While tackle football is extremely popular for its strategy, teamwork, and variety of play that includes running, chasing, throwing, and catching, flag football removes the tackling and heavy equipment to create a safer, faster, and more inclusive sport.*
8. *PROS- The type of hand-eye coordination developed in flag football is both transferable to and from other sports.*
9. *PROS- It's worth noting that flag football is less expensive to run on the whole when compared to other sports, lowering barriers to participation.*
10. *PROS- My experience suggests several benefits to the female athletes who participate. In addition to health benefits, the game instills discipline and mental toughness. Flag football requires a high level of attention specific to the execution of proper technique via repetitive drills, in-game routes, and defensive skills, while strengthening an individual's work ethic and ability to focus in dynamic situations.*
11. *PROS- Flag football is a very social and team-focused game, with every position having a set purpose that requires working in harmony to fulfill individual responsibilities.*
12. *PROS- These benefits are why multiple states have sanctioned flag football as a girls' high school sport recently and many others are piloting with the goal of sanctioning.*
13. *PROS- The Women's Sports Foundation estimates that girls have 1.3 million fewer opportunities to play high school sports than boys, and that imbalance is especially prominent when examining opportunities created by tackle football.*
14. *PROS- This proposal provides more equitable access to the game of football and would meaningfully benefit thousands of girls across the state with interest in the game.*
15. *PROS- Furthermore, educators, coaches, administrators, superintendents, parents, and students have shown significant interest in the addition of high school flag football as an official girls' sport. Surveys, petitions, and letters of support from various stakeholders within the Washington state education system have been collected to demonstrate widespread constituency support.*
16. *PROS- Member schools have shown a positive reaction to the proposal during preliminary discussions. Several member schools have expressed their willingness to participate in high school flag football programs once it becomes an officially recognized sport. Having worked with many of the schools who have started teams, I can also sense an eagerness to further mature the game with WIAA oversight, standardization, and championship opportunities.*
17. *PROS- There are relatively inexpensive startup costs for any school choosing to field a flag team. Between balls, flags and belts, cones, uniforms, and coaches' stipend-costs, estimated by those schools who have recently implemented the sport, are in the \$5000-\$8000 range. Other routine costs are in line with those from other sports including transportation costs, field maintenance, and staffing.*
18. *PROS- Importantly the costs are also low for participants. Mouthguards are required and most athletes wear cleats or turf shoes. Beyond the provided jersey, girls have flexibility to wear many kinds of shorts or pants so long as they lack open pockets and contrast with the flag color.*

Continuation of HS AMENDMENT #13

19. *PROS- Flag football was designed to emphasize player safety. The game retains similar strategies of football but without the tackling and heavy equipment. The rules specifically prohibit blocking, moving screens, and excessive contact. Any of those infractions result in a penalty and a loss of yards. Flagrant excessive contact and fighting can result in an automatic disqualification. The rules also impose a no-run zone 5 yards from each goal line as well as a midfield (where teams must cross to get a new set of downs), in order to avoid blocks/screens/excessive contract associated with power-running situations. It is mandatory that players wear mouth gaurds and there are specific rules on apparel and jewelry to avoid injury.*
20. *PROS- While flag is a non-contact sport, it’s a fast and quick game that takes advantage of a field that’s at least 30 x 50 yards with seven players per team. Two fields can be easily marked on a standard football field, where teams play from sideline to sideline.*
21. *PROS- While there is a head impact exposure risk, a 2021 study by the CDC comparing youth tackle and flag football using mouthguard sensors on over 500 male athletes (6-14 years old) found that flag football athletes experienced a median of eight head impacts per athlete over the course of a season of practices and games. That number was far lower than the tackle football cohort.*
22. *PROS- Another 2021 study published in the Orthopedic Journal of Sports Medicine sought to address the lack of head impact studies using both female athletes and direct male to female comparisons. Its head impact sensors- with video confirmation to rule out false positives – resulted in the following head impact rate per athlete exposure, defined as an athlete entering a single game.*
1. *CONS- The addition of Flag may draw athletes from other sports reducing participation depending on the selected season.*

HS AMENDMENT # 14

41.0.0 BOYS and GIRLS SOCCER

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41.1.0 SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER and 1B/2B BOYS SOCCER

Year	First Practice	Minimum Practice Days	50% Rule Date	Regular Season Contest Limit	End Season
2024-25	August 26	7	October 7	16 18 + Jamboree	November 23
2025-26	August 25	7	October 6	16 18 + Jamboree	November 22

41.2.0 SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL 1A, 2A, 3A, and 4A BOYS SOCCER

Year	First Practice	Minimum Practice Days	50% Rule Date	Regular Season Contest Limit	End Season
2024-25	March 3	7	April 7	16 18+ Jamboree	May 31
2025-26	March 2	7	April 6	16 18+ Jamboree	May 30

Submitted by Silas High School, Bellarmine Prep High School, Gig Harbor High School, Lakes High School, and Mt. Tahoma High School.

Rationale:

1. *PRO- It will enable schools in larger leagues to field a non-league schedule. Currently, larger leagues struggle to field non-league schedules because of the current limitation to 16 contests.*

Continuation of HS AMENDMENT #14

2. *PRO- Logistically, larger leagues need more league games to define placement in post-season league play. The limitation of 16 games essentially eliminates non-league contests.*
3. *PRO- Schools in larger leagues forego facing competition outside of their league, competition that would benefit team growth and sharpen performance as they enter post-season play.*
4. *PRO-With reallocation, traditional rivalry contests have become more difficult to maintain if the rivals are in different leagues or classifications.*
5. *PRO-18 contests will align with other sports such as Baseball (32.1.0), Boys and Girls Basketball (33.1.0), and Fastball and Softball (42.1.0).*
1. *CON- This proposal may exert additional pressure on the shortage of officials.*
2. *CON- Some schools may be challenged financially to host additional events.*

ML/HS AMENDMENT #15

41.3.1 HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER

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- 41.3.1 A combination of NFHS and FIFA rules will apply. NFHS and WIAA rules will apply for game management; FIFA rules will apply during the contest. **If, at any point after 50 minutes of play, one team has an eight goal differential, the match is complete.**

Submitted by Royal High School, Battle Ground High School, Heritage High School, Prairie High School, and Skyview High School

Rationale:

1. *PRO-Protects Team Morale: Prevents discouraging, lopsided losses and keeps players engaged.*
2. *PRO-Promotes Sportsmanship: Encourages respect between teams by avoiding excessive score margins.*
3. *PRO-Enhances Player Safety: Reduces the risk of fatigue-related injuries in one-sided games.*
4. *PRO-Ensures Fair Play: Helps coaches focus on team development rather than running up the score.*
5. *PRO-Improves Time Management: Allows for better scheduling and more efficient use of time when a game's outcome is clear.*
1. *CON-Minutes of playing time being reduced.*

ML AMENDMENT #16

41.64.0 MIDDLE LEVEL SOCCER

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- 41.64.0 **PLAYER LIMITATION** – A player may participate in a maximum of two halves in a day and a maximum of ~~two~~ **three** contests per week.

Submitted by Glacier View Junior High School (Puyallup), Bethel Middle School (Bethel), Cedarcrest Middle School (Bethel), Ferrucci Junior High School (Puyallup), and Ford Middle School (Franklin Pierce).

Continuation of ML AMENDMENT #16

Rationale:

1. *PRO- Comparable ML sports allow three contests per week: basketball and volleyball no game limit per week, baseball and softball three contests per week.*
2. *PRO- Eight-week seasons can be challenging for ten-game schedules (can be 12 outings with byes).*
3. *PRO-School cancelations or delayed contests create situations where three games are necessary.*