



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
----	--	-------------

****Compliance with General and Sport-Specific Online Rule Clinics. Until coaches are compliant, they will be ineligible to coach, including coaching at State Events.***