

Timeline History of the Fox River Valley Conference and the Bay Conference

Fox River Valley Conference

Although no longer recognized as an official conference, you could make the argument that the Fox River Valley Conference (FRVC) is still in operation, just under a different name. When the Fox River Classic Conference (FRCC) was formed in 2007, the then eight member schools of the FRVC were joined by four schools from the Bay Conference and it was determined to give the conference a new name - the Fox River Classic Conference.

The FRVC was one of the first conferences formed and recognized in the State of Wisconsin. Cliff Christl mentions in his book on the history of Green Bay East basketball ([Green Bay East Boys Basketball Record Book: 1919-2023 First 104 Seasons](#)) that it was reported at the time that the FRVC was only the second conference formed in the state, the first being the Central Wisconsin Conference.

The FRVC formed in May of 1922 and included the schools of Appleton, Green Bay East, Green Bay West, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Oshkosh and Sheboygan. (7 teams)

- **1922:** Basketball was the first Conference sport to be contested as part of the FRVC. The Constitution stated that each member was to schedule at least 6 basketball games within the conference.
- **1923:** Football was played for the first time under the FRVC banner.
- **1924:** Marinette joins the FRVC (8 teams)
- **1936:** Marinette leaves the FRVC (7 teams)
- **1938:** Sheboygan renamed itself Sheboygan Central in anticipation of Sheboygan North opening the following school year.
- **1939:** Sheboygan North opens and joins the FRVC bringing the conference back to an eight team league.
- **1960:** to better reflect its geographic location, Sheboygan Central changes its name to Sheboygan South.
- **1964:** Green Bay Southwest opens and becomes the ninth member of the FRVC.
- **1965:** The Preble school district is annexed by the Green Bay School District and Green Bay Preble joins the FRVC becoming its tenth member.
- **1967:** The Appleton School District splits its high school into Appleton West and Appleton East, making the FRVC an eleven team league.
- **1968:** Neenah joins the FRVC and it is now a twelve team league.
- **1970:** A decision to split the FRVC led to Appleton East, Appleton West, Neenah and Oshkosh leaving the conference and joining with Kaukauna, Kimberly and Menasha of the

disbanded Mid-Eastern Conference to form the Fox Valley Association. Two Rivers joined the FRVC that year and the conference stood at nine schools.

- **1974:** Two Rivers leaves the conference and the FRVC is back to an eight team league.
- **1989:** Fond du Lac would leave the conference to join the FVA in all sports except football. The FRVC is down to seven teams except in the sport of football where it remains eight with Fond du Lac being a football only school.
- **1993:** Fond du Lac leaves the conference as a football only member and Notre Dame Academy joins the conference becoming its eighth member.

The FRVC would remain with this same configuration of schools (the four Green Bay Public Schools - East, West, Preble and Southwest, Manitowoc, Notre Dame Academy, Sheboygan North and Sheboygan South) until the formation of The Fox River Classic Conference which would begin play in 2007.

Bay Conference Historical Timeline

The Bay Conference began play in the 1970-71 school year and continues to this day. The Bay Conference today is a very different conference from when it started. For almost thirty years since the Bay was established (1971-1999), the conference was a ten team league. Since 1999 the Bay usually was mostly a nine team league, with a couple of years where it dropped to eight. The Bay currently counts nine schools as its members. In order from longest to shortest tenure: Seymour, New London, Shawano, Menasha, Green Bay East, Green Bay West, Xavier, Fox Valley Lutheran and Winneconne.

- **1970:** Ashwaubenon, Bay Port, Clintonville, De Pere, Oconto, Oconto Falls, Pulaski, Seymour and West De Pere make up the charter membership of Bay Conference schools. All the original schools were from the disbanded Northeastern Wisconsin Conference (NEW) with the exception of Clintonville who hailed from the Mid-Eastern Conference.
- **1971:** Marinette joins the conference making it a ten team league.
- **1979:** Shawano and New London join the conference replacing Oconto and Oconto Falls, keeping the league at ten teams.
- **1999:** Clintonville moves to the Valley 8 conference and the Bay becomes a nine team league.
- **2007:** Ashwaubenon, Bay Port, De Pere and Pulaski leave the Bay and join with the eight teams of the Fox River Valley Conference to form the twelve team Fox River Classic Conference. Denmark and Luxemburg-Casco from the Packerland and Hortonville along with original Bay Conference member Oconto Falls from the Valley 8 join the Bay and it remains a nine team league.
- **2014:** Hortonville and Menasha make a swap. Hortonville goes from the Bay to the FVA and Menasha goes from the FVA to the Bay. Nine team league

- 2015: Marinette, Denmark, Luxemburg-Casco and for a second time Oconto Falls leave while Green Bay East, Green Bay West and Xavier join and the Bay becomes an eight team league. Waupaca also joins the league as a football only school.
- **2020:** (Football-only) The WIAA implements their football-only conferences and West De Pere, Menasha, Green Bay East and Green Bay West move to the FRCC while Fox Valley Lutheran and Winneconne join the Bay. Bay football is now a seven team conference.
- **2022:** (Football-only) Fox Valley Lutheran leaves the football only conference and Bay football is now a six team league.
- **2024:** (Football-only) Fox Valley Lutheran is back to the Bay and it is once again a seven team league for football.
- **2025:** West De Pere leaves for the FRCC and Winneconne and Fox Valley Lutheran become full members of the Bay Conference, bringing it back to a nine team league.

Note:

With West De Pere's move to the FRCC in 2025, Seymour became the last remaining charter member of the Bay Conference.

References:

Green Bay East Boys Basketball Record Book: 1919-2023 (First 104 Seasons) By: Cliff Christl
2024

East vs West: A Rivalry 100 Years in The Making Souvenir Program September 17, 2005

Wikipedia: Bay Conference Page

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