

WIAA // GESA CREDIT UNION

POSTSEASON STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

BASEBALL

MAY 24-25, 2024

1B, 2B - Johnson-O'Brien Stadium (Ephrata)

1A, 2A - Joe Martin Stadium (Bellingham)

3A, 4A - Gesa Stadium (Pasco)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[SPORT-SPECIFIC REGULATIONS](#)

[GENERAL REGULATIONS](#)



SPORT-SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

TEAM ROSTERS & PASS GATE LIMIT

- Rosters and team photos must be updated per the [Tournament Registration Instructions](#).
- All players must be in uniform to be admitted to the tournament.
 - 20 Players - Roster/Dugout Limit
 - 3 Coaches
 - 3 Team Staff
 - 1 Bat Boy/Girl
 - 1 Medical Staff
 - 2 School Supervisors
- Pass Gate personnel are restricted to only those individuals and/or teams who have qualified for that event.

RULES & REGULATIONS

- Each coach must deliver the batting order to the umpire on a line-up Card.
- One boy or girl may be allowed in State events, beginning in the first round, provided they have been approved by the participating school principal and the appropriate approval form has been submitted to the event manager.
- The ball boy/girl shall be properly insured and suitably attired.
- The recommended minimum age for ball boys/girls is grade seven.
- Any coach participating in pre-game or regular game activities must be in the uniform of the school at all times.
 - The minimum uniform would be a hat, pants, socks, shoes, and a warm-up jacket or regular uniform top.
- Coaching boxes may be occupied by a coach, player, or eligible substitute (one coach in each coaching box).
- The head coach may confer with umpires during the game, pertaining to matters of rules administration.
- Umpires are instructed to permit such conferences when respectfully requested and conducted in a rational, reasonable, and sportsmanlike manner.
- A head coach may protest a misinterpretation or misapplication of a rule before the next pitch is thrown.
- Protest procedures are outlined in the General SOPs.
- Decisions of the games committee shall be final.
- Re-entry, Designated Hitter and Speed-Up Rules are optional for all league, WIAA District, and State tournament games.
- The NFHS 10-run rule will be in effect for the State Championships, beginning with the first round.
- The selection of tournament umpires shall be the joint responsibility of the WIAA and the WOA.
 - Three umpires will be assigned for all tournament games in all classifications.
 - Umpires will be assigned to work each game of a double- or triple-header.
 - In this case, the umpires will switch positions (plate - bases) for each game.
 - Either the tournament manager or the umpire-in-chief will make the initial home plate and base assignments.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- Allocations in baseball are made to the WIAA Districts.
- In each team's first-round game, the home team will be the bottom team on the tournament bracket.
- Before all other games, the tournament manager will conduct a coin toss with both coaches to determine the home team.

- The coach of the team on the bottom of the bracket will call the toss, with the winner choosing between the home or visiting team.
- In all classifications, one team will advance from each of the quarterfinal sites for semifinals.
 - Pairings will be determined by the seeding committees.

SITE REGULATIONS

- Each site will determine if practice is allowed on the tournament playing field prior to the start of the tournament.
 - Any expenses involved will be paid by the school(s) using the facility.
- The second or bottom team on the State Tournament bracket will occupy the third base dugout.
- For the quarterfinal game, the winner of game two will remain in its dugout and the winner of game one will occupy the other dugout.

SCHEDULE

- Upon mutual agreement of the coaches, the umpires, and the tournament manager, game times may be changed due to weather or other conditions.
- Each team will have 30 minutes of batting practice at a site selected by the tournament manager, if possible, preferably at a neutral field.
- Each team will be allowed 10 minutes of infield prior to the game, starting with the home team.
- The first game will begin according to the scheduled time.
- Each subsequent game will begin 45 minutes after the final out of the previous game or at the scheduled game time, whichever is later.
- No games will begin earlier than the listed times.
- Yearly rotation:
 - When two classifications of schools play their semifinals, consolation, and championship games at the same site, the smaller classification will play the later game times during the school years ending with an even number, and the larger classification will play the later game times during the school years ending with an odd number.
- When necessary to postpone any tournament game, it shall be the responsibility of the tournament manager to reschedule according to WIAA policy. (Refer to Inclement Weather Policy in General Tournament Regulations.)

GAME BALL

The Baden Perfection Pro baseball shall be used during all regional and state championship contests.

AWARDS

The team trophy presentation will be at the conclusion of the consolation and championship games.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

ALLOCATIONS

Postseason berths are allocated to WIAA Districts based on the total number of schools offering the sport in that classification/gender.

STATE TOURNAMENT TICKETS

The WIAA has transitioned to paperless ticketing with State Tournament tickets available for purchase digitally through GoFan, the WIAA's ticketing partner. Fans are encouraged to purchase tickets online in advance of the events but will have the ability to purchase digital tickets onsite by accessing the GoFan digital ticketing site using their mobile devices. Limited paper tickets will be available at most sites on the day of the event. **SERVICE FEES APPLY TO ALL TICKETS SOLD. The Tacoma Dome, Yakima Valley SunDome, and Spokane Arena manage their own tickets. Venue-imposed fees apply.**

- **SENIOR:** Age 62 and over
- **MILITARY:** Active Duty, Veterans, Guard, and Reserves with proper Military I.D.
- **STUDENT:** Children aged 5-11 and students aged 12 and over with a valid high school or middle school ASB card (the actual ASB card must be presented; pictures of ASB cards on cell phones will not be accepted)
- **Children under the age of 5 are admitted free**

PASSES

Passes are to participating schools according to the respective sport-specific guidelines.

- **Supervisory Passes**
Supervisory passes are to be used only by the designated school staff who are in attendance to supervise the student body fan section.
- **School Media**
School Photographers will be granted entry and may be granted floor privileges for the contest(s) in which their school participates. Each must be added to the school's pass list based on the allocated spaces in FinalForms. These positions are intended for student media, however, adults will be allowed to fill these spaces if necessary.
- **Schools Billed for Pass Gate Entry**
Schools will be billed following for any school personnel who enter through the Pass Gate that are not included on the Pass Gate List. The billing rate will be for an All-Tournament ticket.
- **College Coaches**
Passes shall not be issued to college coaches for scouting purposes.

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAMS

- The WIAA does not select/announce an 'All-Star' or 'All-Tournament' team.
- If one is selected, it is announced and publicized by an outside group.

INSURANCE

- Leagues, Districts, and the WIAA maintain General Liability insurance policies for their League, District, and State Championships.
- The WIAA also provides a Catastrophic insurance policy for post-season/Championship events.

- All other coverage, including accident insurance, is the responsibility of participating schools and or individuals.

GAMES COMMITTEES

- Tournament Managers will appoint and name a Games Committee that will be onsite or readily accessible by phone for all postseason qualifying and/or State events.
- Participating coaches will be informed of the process and makeup of the Games Committee prior to the start of each contest.
- Questions concerning infractions may be brought to the Games Committee by the Head Coach or a school administrator, NOT by a contestant, parent, or spectator.
- The Games Committee shall be composed of no fewer than three (3), nor more than five (5), members.
- Games Committee members may not have a conflict of interest with the teams/individuals involved with the game/contest under dispute.

Games Committee Duties:

- Assist the Tournament Manager as needed and be immediately available at all times during the event.
- Act as an arbitration board of dispute on questions or protests that might arise - the final decision must be the consensus of the Games Committee.
- The Games Committee WILL include:
 - The Tournament Manager or designee;
 - The Head Official;
 - A Coach, Athletic Director, or School Administrator;
 And MAY include:
 - The Official Scorekeeper, OR
 - Another member of the event staff

PROTESTS

In all WIAA State Tournaments, the following process will be conducted for protests:

Protest Process:

- If a Head Coach believes there has been a misinterpretation/misapplication of a specific rule, the coach shall notify the game officials following the incident and prior to the resumption of action that the contest is under protest.
- The official(s) will suspend the contest until a decision of the Games Committee has been determined. The Games Committee will meet immediately or as soon as is reasonably possible upon receiving notification of the protest.
 - During the Games Committee meeting, the coach shall be afforded the opportunity to present rationale and justification including the specific rule(s) in question, how the officials misapplied/misinterpreted the rule(s), and the desired outcome of the protest.
 - The official(s) shall be afforded the opportunity to present the rule and its implementation in the protested situation.
- The Games Committee will consult with the WIAA staff member who oversees that sport; will follow any additional protest procedures covered in the specific NFHS rule book; and will utilize the NFHS and/or WIAA playing rules, scorebook, and/or statistics to determine the appropriate ruling.
- The Games Committee will deliberate in a closed session.

- The decision of the Games Committee is final and cannot be further appealed.
- Protests of an official's judgment will not be heard.

TEAMS/INDIVIDUALS UNABLE TO ARRIVE FOR SCHEDULED COMPETITION AT A STATE EVENT

Teams/individuals earning the right to participate in State events should have those rights protected as much as possible. Participating schools must also realize that these events are held to certain restrictions with facilities, game officials, and all other game administration and operations.

- A WIAA State event shall be defined as any tournament event managed by the State Office.
- Competing schools are responsible for notifying the WIAA Staff or the Tournament Manager in a timely manner if they are having difficulty traveling to the event site due to weather or an emergency and may not arrive in time for their scheduled competition.
- School personnel have the responsibility of making alternative travel plans based on weather forecasts and other foreseeable barriers to travel.
- As a common practice, input and recommendations are to be sought from the Highway Patrol and/or the Department of Transportation.
- Specific circumstances not covered by this policy are left to the discretion of the WIAA Staff.
 - If a team/individual is unable to arrive at a State event site for their scheduled competition due to circumstances beyond their control (e.g., an earthquake, all passes closed, roads closed due to flooding, etc.), that team/individual will be allowed to participate in their scheduled event provided they arrive at the event site and are able to compete on the day of their scheduled event.
 - The WIAA Staff, in cooperation with the Tournament Manager, shall adjust the schedule of the event for the purpose of allowing maximum participation for all qualified teams/individuals.
 - If the team/individual is unable to arrive to compete on the day of its event, a forfeit is recorded and that team/individual shall move into the consolation bracket or be dropped from competition, whichever is applicable to that particular stage of the event.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

- In the interest of safety, weather/conditions beyond the control of the participating teams/individuals and/or Tournament Manager, there may be times that it becomes necessary to delay, postpone, or cancel a contest or tournament, though the intent of this policy is to accommodate teams/individuals by rescheduling.

The following practices shall be observed:

- If severe weather conditions affect a participating team/individual, but not the tournament, the team must notify the Tournament Manager.
- If severe weather conditions affect the tournament, the WIAA Staff will make the final decision concerning tournament postponement or rescheduling.
- Play will resume on the next playable date.
- Changing of sites, postponement, or cancellation of events will be determined by the WIAA Staff.

Procedures to follow if contests are rescheduled:

- The WIAA Staff has the final authority on contest rescheduling.
- If contests are rescheduled on the same day as originally scheduled but at a different site, the Semifinal and Championship contests will be scheduled at the same time or later than originally scheduled.

- The time between contests may be shortened. *Example: If contests were originally scheduled at two (2) hour intervals, they may be rescheduled at one and one half (1½) hour intervals.*
- Individuals/teams shall be granted a minimum of twenty (20) minutes for rest between contests.
- Whenever possible, contests played on the final day of the tournament shall be scheduled to allow individuals/teams to return to their home community that day.
- If during the last scheduled day of a tournament, contests are unable to be restarted requiring overnight postponement, only those teams/individuals still in contention for the Championship will continue play.
- Teams/Individuals not in contention for the Championship shall be awarded a tie for the highest placing that could have been earned if postponement had not been necessary.
- Ticket revenue will not be refunded in the event the schedule and/or day(s) of the event are changed due to inclement weather.

TEAM CEREMONIES

Except for the postgame awards presentations, team ceremonies held before or after a contest must be conducted in the locker room or on the sideline so as not to delay the start of the contest or impact any other participating teams.

UTILIZING STUDENTS FOR SUPPORT POSITIONS AT ATHLETIC EVENTS

Students younger than high school age will not be allowed for any support positions at a WIAA State Championship UNLESS the school signs a waiver ahead of time and the school assumes all risk.

- [Underage Worker Form](#)

SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL

Participating schools must register a supervisory staff member in FinalForms to monitor their student fan section.

- **Supervisor Duties:**
 - Report to the Tournament Manager upon arrival.
 - Wear a WIAA-issued 'Supervisor' pass for easy identification.
 - Monitor fan behavior as outlined in the [WIAA's Fan Expectation Guidelines](#).
 - Assist the facility security staff or Tournament Management staff when necessary.

FAN/SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS

The WIAA supports social justice, racial equity, and sportsmanship. Derogatory cheers, slurs, and hateful comments relating to identity (race, ethnicity, gender expression, disability, religion) are not permitted. Tournament Managers and event personnel have the authority to remove individuals for inappropriate behavior or comments. If you witness any of the above behavior from those in attendance, you can report the incident to the WIAA via the [Discrimination & Harassment Reporting Form](#).

- Participating schools are encouraged to share the [WIAA's Fan Expectations](#) with their communities and student bodies prior to attending State events for policies regarding Cheers, Signs, Artificial Noisemakers, Mascots, Face Painting, Continuous Standing, Clean-Up Expectations, Drones, and more.

PEP BAND EXPECTATIONS

- When allowed on-site, pep bands may only play during timeouts, between periods, pre and postgame, or during other dead ball situations.
- Maintain appropriate fan behavior as outlined in the [WIAA's Fan Expectation Guidelines](#).

CHEERLEADER EXPECTATIONS

- Use only school district-approved cheers at appropriate times.
- Direct cheers and chants towards your school's team only.
- Maintain appropriate fan behavior as outlined in the [WIAA's Fan Expectation Guidelines](#).

TEAM ARRANGEMENTS

- **Lodging:**
 - Participating teams are responsible for their own lodging.
 - Schools must provide supervision for all school representatives at their place of lodging.
- **Locker Rooms:**
 - Teams must be supervised by school personnel while in their assigned locker room.
 - Participants are responsible for leaving locker rooms in undamaged condition.
 - Tournament Management is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
- **Physicians/Trainers:**
 - Teams are encouraged to supply their own physician/trainer.
 - Athletes removed from participation and attended to by a physician cannot reenter competition until authorized by the physician who made the original decision.
- **Participant Admission & Roster Limitations:**
 - The roster limits for each of the State events are listed in the respective sport-specific SOPs.
 - Only those participants included on the roster can be in uniform.
 - Students not included on a team's roster/squad must pay admission or included on the Pass Gate list.
 - Participant admission/access is non-transferable.

STATE TOURNAMENT IDENTIFICATION AND SPONSORSHIP

The WIAA has registered the WIAA logo and identification term, "State High School Championships," with the Secretary of State, establishing the ownership of events through legal action and WIAA Executive Board policies.

- The WIAA has licensed only one company to print, sell, and/or distribute WIAA-registered merchandise and schools are encouraged to contact the [WIAA Staff](#) directly for information regarding that partnership.
- Only official, pre-approved merchandise will be sold on-site before, during, or after the event.
- Permission to distribute items onsite at a State event must be approved by the WIAA Staff.
- Advertising or recognition of non-school organizations/products is limited to WIAA-approved sponsors.
- Political displays and/or solicitation are prohibited.

EXPECTATIONS DURING AWARDS PRESENTATIONS DURING STATE EVENTS

- Spectators will not be allowed onto the competition floor or field.
- All individuals (coaches, participants, managers, statisticians, etc.) will remain on the competition floor or field until all awards have been presented.
- **Losing Team Expectations:**
 - Send the entire team to the center of the field/court/competition area to receive their award,
 - Cooperate with the school supervisors and spirit squads to dispel any rude comments directed to the opposing team or tournament officials,
 - Remain on the field/floor until after the award has been presented to the winning team,
 - Display appropriate congratulatory efforts towards the winning team.

- **Winning Team Expectations:**
 - Remain on their own side of the floor or field until after the award has been presented to the other team,
 - Cooperate with the school supervisors and spirit squads to subdue overly exuberant fans until after the award has been presented to the other team.
 - Demonstrate respect for the opposing team.