



# 2006-07 WIAA HIGH SCHOOL RULES AT A GLANCE

The WIAA Rules at a Glance offers a brief synopsis of WIAA Bylaws and Rules of Eligibility, to address in general some of the most common questions of the membership.

WIAA Bylaws, which outline the provisions of membership in the Association and the Rules of Eligibility, appear in the WIAA Handbook. The reader should refer to that publication, or confer with your school athletic director, for more complete information. Your AD should always be your first contact for questions or concerns about school sports.

WIAA rules and regulations are established by membership vote. The Annual Meeting is held in the spring of the year, at which time amendments are presented. The interpretation and enforcement of the rules and regulations are the responsibility of the WIAA executive office and Board of Control.

It is the responsibility of member schools to abide by the rules of the Association, to educate students, coaches, parents and others regarding the provisions of membership and Rules of Eligibility and to report to the WIAA all violations of Association provisions.

## I. COACHES AND COACHING CONTACT

Coaches may not have coaching contact with any athletes they will be coaching the following school season during restricted times (except their own children). There is no distinction between varsity and J.V. coaches, i.e., J.V. coaches cannot coach varsity athletes during restricted times, and vice-versa, nor any distinction between paid and nonpaid (volunteer) coaches. An exception is that varsity and J.V. coaches can have coaching contact with students who have just completed 8th grade or any preceding grade up until these 8th graders actually start their 9th grade year.

Coaching restrictions apply to all sports during the school year, except during the respective sport season. In the summertime, football coaches are afforded a single unrestricted coaching contact opportunity of up to four consecutive days, between the end of school and July 31. All other sport coaches have five days of unrestricted coaching contact opportunity in the summer, between the end of school and July 31; the days do not need to be consecutive. In addition, coaching restrictions do not apply in the summer beyond the 5 unrestricted days in the sports of baseball, cross country, golf, gymnastics, softball, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field and wrestling, the summer being defined as when school is not in normal session, provided such nonschool programs are not limited to students on the basis of school or team affiliation. Other than during the actual school season and as specifically approved in the summer, coaches may not have coaching contact with their athletes other than as listed above; including practicing or competing with athletes, driving athletes to nonschool competition, driving athletes to camps, clinics, etc., or having basically anything to do with the athletes' nonschool participation. Further, coaches may not:

1. Mandate athletes participate in nonschool competition, or determine who may or may not participate in nonschool activity.
2. Require involvement in out-of-season activities as part of the requirements for making a school team, earning a school letter award, etc.
3. Provide incentives such as T-shirts, etc., for participation in the off-season.

A school coach must always be present when an athlete is participating in interscholastic competition. It is not acceptable for parents, or others, to take the place of the coach at school-sponsored competition, unless they meet WIAA coaching requirements and have the approval of the school administration. (RE – Art. I, Sect. 7 and Art. VI, Sect. 2)

## II. SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL TEAMS

### A. COMPETITION AND PRACTICE

Schools may conduct sport competition and practice only during the defined respective sport season as specified in Season Regulations and during Board of Control approved unrestricted contact days in the summer (up to 4 days in football and 5 days in all other WIAA sports), between the end of school and July 31. Season Regulations spell out, among other things, when practice starts, how many contests may be played, how many contests individuals may participate in, how many practice days are required before the first competition, and when the season ends. This means schools and school organizations, such as the letter winners club, the senior class, etc., cannot be involved in running any competition or practice in WIAA recognized sports outside the defined school season for that sport and those 4 or 5 days in the summer identified as unrestricted contact days.

WIAA rules also specify a school may not assemble athletes, or prospective athletes, in physical education classes, or some other manner, for purposes of teaching fundamentals, techniques, plays, etc., except during the designated school season of that particular sport and summertime, unrestricted days. Further, schools may not organize conditioning programs limited to students with athletic team status, or to prospective athletes, except during the designated school season of that sport. Nor may a school conduct intramural programs, which involve athletes with past status on a school team, at any level, except during the established school season of a sport. (BL – Art. II)

### B. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

Wearing apparel and protective equipment, for school programs, may not be issued prior to the first allowable day of practice, unless specifically allowed in Season Regulations for that sport.

One exception is that schools may issue school uniform or other wearing apparel, for use by athletes in training or competition, in the summertime with approval of its governing body. It is acceptable to issue implements, if the school wishes, such as vaulting poles, shot puts, hurdles, baseball bats, basketballs, volleyballs, etc. (BL – Art. II and RE – Art. VI, Sect. 2)

### C. CLINICS AND SCHOOL FACILITIES

Schools may not be involved in conducting clinics, outside the season, with the following exceptions. So long as participation is voluntary and available to all interested students:

1. There shall be no restrictions upon schools, school teams and school coaches (grades 9-12) relative to assembling in the summertime, for up to 4 consecutive days (football) or up to 5 days, which do not need to be consecutive (all other WIAA sports sponsored by the school). Unrestricted contact days must conclude no later than July 31.
2. A school may conduct a clinic for students in grades 8 and below, where high school varsity and junior varsity coaches may use some or all of their athletes as clinicians. This may be done for a maximum of six days during the summer (when school is not in session) and must conclude no later than July 31.
3. School facilities may be used for nonschool programs, according to board of education policy, which can result in clinics being conducted, outside the season, by nonschool groups. The nonschool group must request the facilities from the board of education or governing board, through normal procedures and are encouraged to provide their own insurance protection. (BL – Art. II and RE – Art. VI, Sect. 2)

### D. OPEN GYMS

WIAA rules allow schools to conduct "open gyms" in any activity. Coaches and schools cannot be involved in out-of-season practice for athletes. However open gyms do not violate WIAA rules if they are conducted according to the following guidelines:

1. The open gym is open to any student in the designated population of that school that is interested in attending. Open gyms may be gender specific. It is also acceptable to include people from the community. It is not acceptable to include athletes from another school, public or nonpublic.
2. There is no instruction during the open gym by a coach or anyone else.
3. Coaches may supervise open gyms, but they may not instruct, organize drills, etc., nor may they participate with the students.
4. There is no organized competition, such as established teams participating in round-robin competition, etc.  
The philosophy of the open gym is students from that school may attend, for wholesome recreation, or for purposes of improving their skills, but it's something they do on their own. It would be a violation of WIAA rules to mandate attendance at open gyms, or to provide incentives for athletes to attend open gyms, or to limit participation based on athletic status, or to allow athletes from other schools to come and work out or compete against the host school's athletes. (BL – Art. II and RE – Art. VI, Sect. 2)

### E. SCRIMMAGES

WIAA rules limit the number of interscholastic (another high school, tech school, college, etc.) scrimmages/practices teams may have. Teams may practice/scrimmage with or against nonschool groups (alumni, city team, etc.) at their discretion.

Note: An alumni contest counts toward season maximums. (BL – Art. II and SR)

### F. WHO MAY PARTICIPATE INTERSCHOLASTICALLY

A school may use on its interscholastic teams only its full-time students enrolled in grades affiliated with WIAA membership.

Note: No eligibility will be granted for a student whose residence within a school's attendance boundaries, with or without parents, or whose attendance at a school has been the result of undue influence (special consideration due to athletic ability or potential) on the part of any person, whether or not connected with the school.

The administration of the school is responsible for the eligibility of all its athletes. A student must meet school and WIAA definition of a full-time student (as identified by school policy), be carried on a school's attendance roles and be meeting the minimum academic requirement in credits accepted by the school in order to be eligible to participate in any interscholastic competition.

1. Students that are academically ineligible, ineligible due to code of conduct violations, or those required to miss the next competitive event due to being ejected from their last competitive event, may participate in scrimmages against other schools according to local school policy. Students ineligible for other reasons may not participate in scrimmages against other schools.
2. For varsity eligibility, public school students are basically eligible to participate in the district in which their parents reside in their primary residence. A transfer of guardianship, or reaching 18 years of age, does not set aside this rule. Parents may not establish a secondary residence, in a second district, and gain athletic eligibility. Nonpublic school students, with the exception of boarding schools, must reside full-time with parents in their primary residence.  
Note: For the purpose of this rule, attendance at one day of class and/or attendance at one athletic practice shall determine "beginning of school year."
3. State open enrollment students are eligible starting with the fall season, from a residence standpoint. If this student transfers back to the school of residence or to a nonpublic school, after attending one day of school or one athletic practice, he/she is ineligible for varsity competition for the remainder of that school year.
4. Board of Education approved full-time student(s), paying their own tuition and residing full-time with parents in their primary residence shall be afforded eligibility.
5. All transfer students should initially be treated as ineligible athletes until the athletic director at the receiving school has had the opportunity to completely check all aspects of athletic eligibility.

A student who transfers with a status of ineligibility for disciplinary reasons or academics, retains such status at his/her new school for the same period as decreed by the former school.

A student in grade 10, 11, or 12 who transfers after attending one day of school or one athletic practice at the previous school, without an accompanying change of parents' residence, is ineligible for varsity competition for the remainder of that school year.

First-time 9th grade students will be permitted one transfer upon appropriate petition to the WIAA Board of Control if the student has attended no more than three days of practice and/or no more than three days of school.

6. With approval of both schools a transfer student may compete at the nonvarsity level only, unless a WIAA waiver is provided. Students transferring more than once in any school year are not eligible for any level of competition unless a WIAA waiver is provided.
7. Students not meeting residence requirements will be eligible for nonvarsity competition only, unless a waiver is provided.
8. Foreign exchange students may be granted one year of varsity eligibility if they come to a school through a CSJET approved exchange program with full listing status. These students are not eligible until the appropriate form has been submitted to the WIAA and eligibility has been granted.  
Foreign exchange students who transfer from one school to another should be regarded as ineligible for varsity competition, the same as any other transfer student. (RE – Art.I and Art.II)
9. Beginning in 2007-08 a student who transfers from any school into a member school after the fourth consecutive semester following entry into Grade 9 shall be ineligible for practice and competition for one calendar year unless the transfer is made necessary by a total change in residence by parent(s), or a waiver is provided.

#### G. CONSECUTIVE DAYS OF COMPETITION/PRACTICE

A team must take one day off, from all physical activity, after six consecutive days of practice/competition. Teams may schedule nonphysical activity, such as film review, scouting reports, rehab, etc., during this off day. (SR)

#### H. PROTESTS

A protest is possible relative to a game official's misapplication of a rule. Such protests are not allowed in WIAA tournament competition. During the regular season, a protest will not result in replaying or repeating any game, meet, match, event, or race, or any portion of any game, meet, match, event, or race. The purpose of the protest is to correct an official if an official was in error. It is not possible to recreate the game situation that existed. (BL – Art.VI)

A school may appeal a ruling of forfeiture based on an ineligible student's contribution to victory, in a team sport, with the understanding the school must satisfy to a clear and convincing standard the student in question did not contribute in any way to the victory. (RE – Art.I)

#### I. CODE OF CONDUCT

WIAA rules require that all schools have a code of conduct, which they enforce on a year-round basis. WIAA rules do not indicate specific penalties, other than stating in-season violations involving use of alcohol, tobacco products and/or the use, possession, buying or selling of controlled substances must result in at least a one-game (not scrimmage) suspension. Any suspension, which results in a student missing a WIAA tournament contest, results in that athlete being ineligible for the remainder of the WIAA tournament series in that sport.

A student that transfers from one school to another, with a suspension due to athletic code violation(s) from the previous school, must serve that mandated suspension at the new school. If a student appeals a suspension, according to the school's appeal procedure, **the student is ineligible during the appeal process.**

A student ejected from a contest is suspended for the rest of that competition and the next scheduled competition. If it happens the next competition is a multischool meet, which counts as one meet on the schedule, the student misses the entire competition. (RE – Art.VII)

#### J. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

It is necessary the school have a current physical examination on file for every athlete **before the athlete is allowed to start practice.** This physical examination must bear the signature or signature stamp of a physician, or the stamp of the clinic the physician is associated with or the signature of an Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber (APNP). A physical examination taken April 1 and thereafter is valid for the following two school years; a physical examination taken before April 1 is valid only for remainder of that school year and following school year. (RE – Art.VII)

### III. STUDENTS

#### A. AGE REQUIREMENT

A student shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition if he/she reaches his/her 19th birthday before August 1 of any given school year. (RE – Art.III)

#### B. CONSECUTIVE SEMESTER RULE

A student has eight consecutive semesters of potential athletic eligibility, starting with the first semester of his/her 9th grade year. A fifth year senior is not eligible to participate, unless a waiver is granted by the WIAA. (RE – Art.V)

#### C. AMATEUR STATUS

A student may not accept, receive and/or direct to another, any cash or merchandise awards for achievement in athletics. This means athletes may not accept items such as shoes, jackets, gift certificates, etc., for athletic accomplishments, such as being on a winning team, being selected for the school varsity team, or being a place winner in an individual tournament, etc. They may receive an award which is symbolic in nature, such as trophies, medals, ribbons, event T-shirts, event hats, game balls or other items of no intrinsic value. Rules further prevent athletes from receiving compensation or benefit, directly or indirectly, for the use of name, picture and/or personal appearance as an athlete. This includes receiving free and/or reduced rates on equipment, apparel, camps/clinics/instruction and competitive opportunities that are not identical for all other participants. A student may not be identified as an athlete, provide endorsement as an athlete, or appear as an athlete in the promotion of a commercial/advertisement and/or profit-making event, item, plan or service. Also, an athlete violates this rule if he/she plays in any contest (school or nonschool) under a name other than his/her own. (RE – Art.IV)

#### D. NONSCHOOL PARTICIPATION

Rules indicate athletes may not participate in nonschool competition during the school season, in the same respective sport. WIAA rules do not prevent athletes from practicing with nonschool teams or from receiving private skills instruction during the school season. However, they may not participate in any nonschool games, including scrimmages, against other teams. This restriction applies to normal nonschool games as well as "gimmicks," such as reduced numbers competition (3-on-3 basketball, 6 player soccer, etc.), specific skill contests (punt, pass, and kick, shooting contests e.g., free throws, 3 point), fun runs, etc. Additionally, a student who was a member of a school team during the previous year may not delay reporting for the school team beyond the school's official opening day of practice in order to continue nonschool training or competition. (RE – Art.VI)

#### E. ALL-STAR CONTESTS

Athletes with remaining high school eligibility may not participate in all-star contests. An all-star team is one where participants are chosen on the basis of individual accomplishment or reputation. An underclassman becomes ineligible in a sport for a maximum of one year from the date of last offense for participation in an all-star game or similar activity. A senior who violates this rule forfeits all remaining high school eligibility in the same specific sport as the all-star event. (RE – Art.VI, Sect.3)

#### F. EXPENSES – TRAINING AND COMPETING

1. The WIAA recognizes a distinction between training and competing. Students must pay their own expenses, including transportation, to any nonschool (out-of-season) camps, clinics, or specialized training. Schools may pay expenses and provide transportation to similar in-season activities in that sport and during unrestricted contact days in the summer.
2. A student may be reimbursed actual and necessary costs associated with competing. This may include transportation, food, lodging and entry fees.
3. A school may not become involved financially, through transportation or any other way in a student's nonschool participation outside the sport season and the 4 or 5 Board of Control approved unrestricted contact days in the summer. (BL– Art.II, RE – Art.IV and Art.VI)

#### G. OUT-OF-SEASON

Athletes may participate in nonschool competition, outside the school season; however, certain restrictions apply. Amateur status rules are still in effect and must be observed. Schools cannot be involved, and coaches are restricted as indicated in Number 1, page 1. Team makeup may not be restricted based on school or team status. (BL– Art.II, RE – Art.IV and VI)

#### H. FALSIFICATION OF INFORMATION

If a student or a student's parents or guardian falsify any information submitted to a school, and a student participates resulting in an order of forfeiture, the student becomes ineligible in all sports for one calendar year from the date of the last game or meet in which the student participated. (RE – Art.I, Sect.5)

### IV. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS

It should be noted most rules do not have a specific penalty associated with them. The WIAA has the authority, however, to impose the following penalties relative to rules violations:

- A. Suspension of membership for not more than one year.
- B. Probation for not more than one year.
- C. Denial of participation in Association tournament program.
- D. Denial of any area of Association services and benefits.
- E. Monetary fine equal to Association expense incurred in any investigation and actual reimbursement of costs resulting from the violation.
- F. Forfeiture (team sports) of contests won by school or (individual sports) of points/places won by individuals.
- G. Loss of conference affiliation.
- H. Loss of eligibility for athletes involved.

(WIAA Constitution, Art.VI, RE – Art.1)

Reference Key BL – Bylaws RE – Rules of Eligibility SR – Season Regulations

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