



WIAA Bulletin

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Charter Member
National Federation of
State HS Associations

Membership Rejects Proposals To Change System Of Determining Divisional Placements

Coaches Certification; Unlimited Non-School Contact in Summer for Basketball, Hockey and Volleyball Approved

The membership of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association defeated amendments intended to address competitive equity concerns, and passed resolutions for coaches' certification requirements and adding basketball, hockey and volleyball to the list of sports with unlimited non-school contact in the summer at the 2015 Annual Meeting in Stevens Point.

The membership voted to strike the language of the resolution advanced by the competitive equity ad-hoc committee. That resolution would have implemented a success factor and promote programs to a higher division once a threshold of success was attained over a three-year period. The resolution was replaced by an amendment to impose a 1.65 multiplier to all nonpublic school enrollments for divisional placement in the

Tournament Series, excluding single-gender schools that already have their enrollments doubled. That proposed amendment failed by a 141-293 margin.

The second amendment attempting to address competitive equity, which was advanced by membership petition, was rejected by a 167-265 tally of the votes. The proposal would have applied a reducer to member schools' enrollment figures for future divisional placement. The

See Membership Rejects, page 7 >



A contingent of approximately 550 delegates representing 435 member schools were in attendance at the 2015 Annual Meeting in Stevens Point on April 22.

Stephanie Hauser To Join The Executive Staff

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Board of Control approved the recommendation of Executive Director Dave Anderson to name Stephanie Hauser to an assistant director position on the executive staff at today's Board of Control meeting.

She replaces Marcy Thurwachter, who will retire from the same position with the WIAA on June 30. Incidentally, Stephanie (Fermanich) Hauser is no relation to Deb (Freese) Hauser, the current associate director on the WIAA executive staff.

Hauser's responsibilities with the WIAA will include the administration and coordination of duties for the sports of cross country, track and field, gymnastics, volleyball and softball. She will officially begin her appointment with the WIAA July 6.

Hauser comes to the WIAA executive staff from Stevens Point Area Senior High School where she is serving in her eighth year as the athletic administrator and as-

See Stephanie Hauser, page 9 >



Stephanie Hauser

Officials Licensing For 2015-16

The 2015-16 licensing renewal application is available on our website. **You must renew your license by June 5, 2015 to avoid paying the \$30 late fee.**

You once again have two options to choose from when renewing your 2015-16 official's license.

NOTE: RECIPROCITY AND HIGH SCHOOL AGED OFFICIALS ARE NOT ABLE TO LICENSE ONLINE, YOU MUST USE OPTION 2.

Option 1: Complete the application online and pay with either a Visa or MasterCard. If you choose this option – do the following:

Under the OFFICIALS tab on the red menu bar, please choose Online Registration. You will select the option to renew your license, it will then ask you to login and you must login with your current login information. Proceed from there and follow the prompts. If your payment is being made with a credit card that is not under your name, it is required that your name and address be placed where it asks for shipping information.

Option 2: Print the application from our website and send via USPS with a check or money order. If you choose this option – do the following:

Under the Officials tab on the red menu bar, choose Become an Official, you will then be taken to a page where you can print the 2015-16 licensing application.

If you want to order extra rules books, there is an order form on our website that you will need to complete and mail to our office with proper payment or you may call our office and speak with Kristen and she will be able to take your order with credit card payment over the phone. ■

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< info@wiaawi.org > **General Use email**
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Dave Anderson

2015 Annual Meeting Director's Report

April 22, 2015

Good Morning! And again, welcome to the 120th Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association. To our members and to our guests—we appreciate your year-round and on-going efforts on behalf of Wisconsin High School's student athletes and we appreciate the culture of caring which brings you here today.

Old Business

There are a number of topics and initiatives that engaged our membership, Board and staff in the months since our last Annual Meeting. Certainly, in the minds of some, there were none more important than the work of the Ad Hoc-Competitive Equity Committee. Your collective voice and votes earlier today responded in one way to their efforts. At this point, whether one "liked" or supported this committee's findings and recommendation—or not, I believe it is appropriate to acknowledge the good-faith effort and sacrifice—on the membership's behalf—of the 21 individuals who served on that committee. To all who volunteered, to the 21 who served, to Mr. Drew Howick who facilitated the discussions, to Joan Gralla and Julie Kage who reported and supported the committee's work, it is "right" that our gratitude is known.

For the first time this past fall, there were Association prescribed time limits to soccer and football practices as part of a uniform, statewide acclimatization emphasis. With the input of coaches and the WIAA's Sport Medicine Advisory Commit-

tee, a plan which reflects the current knowledge and science of early season conditioning, recovery and injury prevention was launched. This plan put these sports within the mainstream of accepted "best practices" as we see them being implemented across the country. In addition to limiting the length of practice, the football coaches and Medical Advisory went one step further and developed a plan to limit the amount of "live" or player-on-player full contact in practices. With an understanding and awareness of concussion and with an eye on the potential affects of accumulated impacts and injuries which may be associated with fatigue, the coaches developed a model which was as thoughtful and conservative as any in the country at the time. Their plan and vision has influenced the plans in other states which have come along since.

At last fall's Area Meetings, we made you aware of the WIAA's transition from RefRanking to Athletix as our provider for ranking sport officials. We also stated that this would be a temporary relationship as it was our desire to be able to cut our dependence upon outside providers to deliver and maintain this important piece of our over-all operations and service—and bring the ranking component back in-house.

We have made that objective a priority over the course of this past year, it is our expectation that our new program and system will be operational by this fall. This will bring all officials licensing, schedule creation, ranking and tournament availability back under the WIAA's direct con-

trol. While there will be some learning once again, we believe that in the long term, this is our best, most stable and efficient course and direction. As the system prepares to launch, we will be communicating with members and licensed officials to assist you in familiarizing yourself with this program.

In recent years we have heard increasing interest in expanding seeding across all levels of our tournaments. We brought this topic to Area Meetings last fall. We discussed what we are hearing from coaches and the public. We discussed why and how our current operational model came to be—with a focus on all the impacts of time, travel and costs which may be associated with expanded seeding. We have had this conversation with the Sports Advisory Committee, the Advisory Council and the Board of Control. The topic has also been shared at several CESA meetings throughout the past year.

From all of those conversations, the staff and I are left with two impressions. First, while we did hear some expression of support in two Area Meetings, we heard no expressed support at any of the other five Area Meetings. We have heard little or no supportive comments from committees or in CESA conversations.

This leads us then to our second impression—which is that, this topic would benefit from more discussion and clarification at the local level. Coaches need to talk to their administrators. Administrators need to provide direction to their coaches on this topic. The WIAA executive staff is

See Director's Report, page 10 >

Summer Contact

All sport coaches have five days of **unrestricted school coaching contact** opportunity during the summer, between the end of school and July 31; the days do not need to be consecutive. Unrestricted school opportunities allow you to use school support and facilities as you would during the season. Unrestricted school coaching contact means teams can assemble with coaches, school monies and resources can be applied, and schools can sponsor the events/activities. The 5 contact days must be the same for all levels within a sport program. Unrestricted school contact days are open to any and all interested student in your school from the last day of school to July 31. They are not allowed during the school year.

NOTE: In 2015, football begins on August 3 (equipment/fitness testing) & 4 (practice). Unrestricted school football coaching contact must end on July 25 in order to meet the dead week rule. **Football must follow the acclimatization plan if school resources are used.**

For coaches in all sports except football, **unlimited "non-school" contact** may be used by coaches during the summertime provided, such non-school programs are not limited to students on the basis of school or team affiliation. The **summertime** being defined as when school is not in normal session (the last day of school to the first day of school).

An **'acceptable non-school program'** is a program which is not limited based on school and/or team status and no school monies or resources can be applied. Schools cannot sponsor these nonschool events/activities. Use of school support and facilities must be done in the same manner as any other non-school group such as 4-H, Boy Scouts, or local Rotary.

Unlimited contact is **open to any and all interested students** in your community and other communities along with being **voluntary**.

During the summer and school year out-of-season, athletes may assemble in any

manner they wish without school or coach involvement (other than the five contact days). The booster club is considered non-school.

What Types of Contact Allowances are Provided to Coaches in the Summer? Unrestricted Contact

Students on your school teams can assemble with coaches, school monies and resources can be used, and schools can sponsor the events/activities.

- Contact is limited to 5 days from the last day of school until July 31.
- Days do not need to be consecutive but must be the same for all levels within a program.
- Football must follow fall acclimatization if school resources are used.

Unlimited Non-School Contact (all sports except football)

Open to any and all interested students in your community and other communities. NO school monies and resources can be used, and schools cannot sponsor the events/activities.

See Summer Contact, page 8 >

Officials Corner



Change in Gathering Officials' Rankings and Tournament Availabilities

Starting with the 2015-16 school year the WIAA will not be out-sourcing programming needs for gathering coaches rankings of officials and tournament availabilities. What this means is the WIAA will no longer be using the services of Athletix to gather this information. Athletix has been a great partner with the WIAA over the past year but it is felt that it is time these processes can be brought back in-house.

What this means for WIAA licensed officials – Officials will need to enter their varsity schedule on our website. There are three main reasons we need an official's varsity schedule. 1. So that head varsity coaches can rank officials. 2. In order for an official to advance to L5 or Master they need to have a certain number of varsity contests. 3. To insure WIAA executive staff has access to an official's varsity schedule for observing potential tournament eligible officials.

What this means for coaches – Head coaches will go to the WIAA website

to perform rankings of officials. Please note that we are not importing data from rSchool, so it will be necessary for the athletic director to update their school information and coach information on the WIAA website to insure accuracy.

Our system is currently not being designed as an assigning/scheduling tool to assign and/or find contests officials for regular season contests. Assignors will still use what they currently use for assigning/scheduling purposes, whether that is Athletix, Arbiter, rSchool, etc.

We have been asked if our system could be designed to integrate with other systems (Athletix, Arbiter, rSchool, etc.). It will not at this time. Because of our limited resources, we are not able to develop the many different integration systems needed to work with all the various assigning/scheduling providers that are available.

Complete details and instructions will be provided to officials and schools, prior to the start of the 2015-16 school year. ■

Congratulations! 2015 Winter Tournament Officials

BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING - Division 2: Meet Referee – Stephen Good, Manitowoc; **Diving Referee** – William Benson, Fond du Lac; **Starter** – Chuck Heidner, Green Bay; **Stroke Judge** – Scott Hertting, Appleton; **Turn Judges** – William Benson, Fond du Lac & John Kitslaar III, Monona; **Division 1: Meet Referee** – Stephen Good, Manitowoc; **Diving Referee** – William Benson, Fond du Lac; **Starter** – Scott Hertting, Appleton; **Stroke Judge** – Chuck Heidner, Green Bay; **Turn Judges** – William Benson, Fond du Lac & John Kitslaar III, Monona

INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING – Ron Arendt, Palmyra; Matt Boyer, Baraboo; Kevin Guilette, Forestville; Joe Heil, Edgar; Richard Legler, Oregon; Mike Nickelatti, Stoddard; Russell O'Leary, Milton; Jeremie Ott, Glendale; Thomas Platner, Cedar Grove; Gail Pronschinske, Hudson; Matt Pronschinske, Eau Claire; Mike Schumacher, Little Chute; Bradley Siebers, Kimberly; Cal Tackes, Edgar; Chuck Walek, Independence

TEAM WRESTLING – Michael Arendt, Franksville; David Black, River Falls; Blaine Felsman, Oshkosh; Todd Goldbeck, Middleton; Brett King, Grafton; Tony Wilson, Delafield; **Off-Mat Officials** – Dave Miller,

Middleton & Russell O'Leary, Milton

HOCKEY – Nick Akers, Stevens Point; Dave Bestul, Mondovi; Mark Bray, Appleton; Ryan Brookman, Tomah; William Conybear, Madison; Dan Costello, Butler; Leigh Darrow, Chippewa Falls; Mike Delong, Woodville; Jay Dupree, Menomonie; Tom Fitzgerald, Mosinee; Dan Fitzsimons, Middleton; John Gering, Wausau; Jon Haas, Fitchburg; Jeff Hanzlik, Chippewa Falls; Ryan Humpal, Amery; Michael Jager, Madison; David King, Appleton; Andrew Krahenbuhl, Cameron; Jason Lassen, Onalaska; Andrew Liebaert, Superior; Bryce Maphis, Waukesha; Chris McGuirk, Menasha; Karl Olm, Madison; Eric Olson, West Allis; Ryan Reischel, Sun Prairie; Tim Richter, Madison; Jill Schleis, Madison; Scott Swid, Mosinee; Tim Taggart, Janesville; Scott Willert, McFarland

GYMNASTICS – Jan Adkins, Sun Prairie; Michelle Andrews, West Bend; Deb Brown, Sun Prairie; Brucie Chapman, Sharon; Tom Chapman, Sharon; Helen Culliney, Grafton; Karen Doll, Middleton; Shelley Fahey, La Crosse; Tania Gray, River Falls; Becky Griley, Elroy; Cheryl Hancock, Holmen; Pamela See *Winter Tournament Officials, page 9* >

Initiative Created to Put Veterans in Stripes

The WIAA will continue to offer current and former military personnel the opportunity to license as a WIAA sport official by waiving the basic licensing and sport fee for two years. This offer is extended to those current and former military personnel who are licensing as a WIAA sport official for the first time.

Regardless of the branch of service, the training, discipline and core values ingrained in military personnel are the same qualities demanded of sport officials. Because of these qualities, we believe that men and women with military experience would fit well into interscholastic sport officiating and in this small way, the WIAA wants to acknowledge those who serve and say "thank you."



Maj. Scott Hagen, a chaplain in the Army Reserve living in Sparta, became one of the first veterans to take advantage of the initiative's benefits. He has been certified for a number of years as a United States Soccer Federation referee.

"This is actually the first time that I've applied to become a high school official," he said. "The offer to waive the registration fees for veterans kind of kicked me over the edge to go ahead and do it. I was thinking about it, but just hadn't gotten around to doing it."

The initiative and its benefits received widespread support prior to its launch and in its initial months of its availability. The program has been embraced by the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association, Wisconsin Conference Commissioners Association, InCheck (WIAA's background check provider), various officials associations around the state and a number of state associations throughout the Midwest.

In further assisting armed service personnel, the WIAA is continuing efforts to solicit support from providers of officials equipment and apparel such as Gerry Davis Sports, Cliff Keen, Honig's, UmpAttire and Under Armour to offer special cost savings for soldiers entering the officiating ranks.

To increase awareness of the initiative among military personnel, the WIAA is working cooperatively with the Wisconsin National Guard and Reserves and the staff of state adjutant general, as well as the Wisconsin Employment Resource Connection, which partners with the state Department of Workforce Development and the state Department of Veterans Affairs in helping unemployed and underemployed service members and their spouses gain employment.

To get started, please download and complete a license application found on the WIAA website at www.wiaawi.org/officials/BecomeanOfficial.aspx and mail it to our office with some type of documentation verifying military service. Or, get started by calling or emailing us at 715-344-8580 or refs@wiaawi.org. ■

Are you updating or upgrading your athletic facilities?

Center lines must be visible. Decorative markings and logos shall not obstruct the visibility of the required marks. A shadow line is a line that designates the required lines and allows for a continuous line. Be sure to review your NFHS rule books for field or court markings. ■

Winter Team Sportsmanship Award Winners Selected

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association, in cooperation with Rural Mutual Insurance, has chosen the recipients of the team Sportsmanship Awards for the 2015 winter State Tournaments.

The winners of the prestigious sportsmanship honor are Spring Valley/Elmwood in wrestling, Mount Horeb in gymnastics, Superior in boys ice hockey, the D.C. Everest Co-op in girls ice hockey, Marathon in girls basketball and Mineral Point in boys basketball.

The Spring Valley/Elmwood Co-op was declared the winner of Sportsmanship Award in team wrestling for the second time, also earning the recognition in 2012. Spring Valley also received honorable mention last year and was the recipient of the award in boys basketball in 1991. The Cardinals captured the Division 3 championship, downing Random Lake 37-22 in the semifinals and Coleman, 40-27, in the final.

Mount Horeb receives the Sportsmanship Award in gymnastics. It's the first State sportsmanship honor for the Vikings in gymnastics, and its the second time overall. They also were presented



the honor for boys soccer in 2012. The team and spectators received positive evaluations for their support of all participants. The Vikings won the Division 2 State Gymnastics team championship in March, giving the program its fourth State title in gymnastics. The schools and communities receiving honorable mention include Antigo, Ashland, Franklin/Muskego/Oak Creek/Whitnall, Grafton/Cedarburg, Nicolet, Mukwonago/East Troy/Kettle Moraine and Reedsburg.

Superior repeats as the Sportsmanship Award selection in boys hockey. It is the sixth time the school and community have received the sportsmanship honor, all coming in the sport of hockey. They also received recognition in 1993, 1996, 1997, 2008 and again last season. The Spartans won their membership-leading 13th State championship with a 6-0 blanking of Wausau West in the title game. They advanced to the final with a 4-2 win over Janesville Parker/Craig in the quarterfinals and a 3-0 shutout over Cedarburg in the State semifinals. Honorable mention for the award goes to Madison Memorial, Reedsburg Co-op and Wausau West.

The D.C. Everest Co-op, which includes D.C. Everest, Mosinee, Wausau East and

Wausau West, wins its first sportsmanship award in girls hockey. But in essence, it's the second award bestowed on the co-op. The same group of schools were recognized as the Mosinee Co-op in 2007-08. The Storm were edged 1-0 in their State semifinal match-up with the Hayward Co-op, which received honorable mention for the Sportsmanship Award.

Marathon earned its fourth sportsmanship recognition overall with its positive spirit at the State Girls Basketball Tournament in Green Bay. The Red Raiders fell 56-51 to Fall Creek in the Division 4 State semifinals in the program's fifth State appearance in the State Tournament. Marathon was also recipient of the Sportsmanship Award for girls basketball in 1987, for boys basketball in 2011 and in girls volleyball last fall. Schools receiving honorable mention were Fall River, Kettle Moraine Lutheran, Middleton and River Falls.

Mineral Point made its first appearance at the State Boys Basketball Tournament since 1974. They finished runner-up to four-time defending champion Dominican following a 75-49 setback in the final. The Pointers advanced to the final with a 66-59 win over Auburndale in the semifinals. It is the first time Mineral Point has received the honor in boys basketball and the second time the Pointers have been recognized as an overall program. Their sportsmanship was also celebrated in team wrestling in 2011. Auburndale, Dominican, Regis, Washburn and West Allis Central received honorable mention.

The WIAA/Rural Mutual Insurance sportsmanship award is presented to one school and community in each of the State team tournaments. The award winners are determined by the conduct and sportsmanship displayed by athletes, coaches, cheer and support groups, mascots, bands and spectators. Additional consideration is given for the effort of school administrators and chaperones to insure support for their teams are positive and that the highest ideals of sportsmanship are upheld. Award winners receive a plaque and banner in recognition of the honor. Schools receiving honorable mention are acknowledged with a certificate of recognition.

The selection process includes contributions and evaluations from contest officials, tournament management, police and security personnel, crowd control and ushers, WIAA staff members, area hotels and restaurants.

Rural Mutual Insurance has been a sponsor of this award for over 40 years, and their participation is essential to promoting sportsmanship and education-based athletics as a valued corporate partner of the WIAA. ■



New Athletic Director Workshop 2015



WIAA Office
Stevens Point, Wisconsin



Monday, July 20

- 1 - 6 p.m. LTC Course 502 - Principles, Strategies and Methods of Athletic Administration
(There will be a \$70 charge for anyone taking this course. Course does count toward Certified Athletic Administrator certification. Check should be made payable to WADA.)
- 6 p.m. Cookout
- 7 p.m. WIAA Website Overview and Practical Applications - Maintenance of School Directory/Exams/Videos

Tuesday, July 21

- 8 a.m. Welcome - Dave Anderson, Executive Director
- 8:15 a.m. Eligibility - Wade Labecki, Deputy Director
- 10 a.m. Risk Management/Title IX/Concussions - Jan Doleschal, Start Playing Safe, Milwaukee
- 12 Noon Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Hosting WIAA Tournaments/Halftime/Seeding/Score Reporting/Financial Forms
- 2:30 p.m. rSchool - Overview
(Please bring laptop with rSchool program on it along with username and password.)
- 4 p.m. Overview Wrap-up / Evaluation

To register, simply email your interest in attending to Deb Hauser <dhauser@wiaawi.org> prior to July 3. Graduate credit through Edgewood College is available for an additional \$170.

Hotel reservations can be made at the LaQuinta Inn, Stevens Point (715-344-1900)
\$79 - mention WIAA New AD Workshop.



Acclimatization Update Approved by Board of Control

Board action placed three football recommendations into the Season Regulations in 2015. An adaptation to the acclimatization protocol will allow teams to practice up to 2 1/2 hours without a required break after the 10th day of practice to begin the season. Other football-related rules passed by the Board allows the host team to wear their home jerseys for all tournament games not played at a neutral site, and all schools considering participation in the 8-player format must declare their intent by Dec. 1. The rule is as follows:

a. Acclimatization Period

(1) Practice Days 1 and 2

- (a) Helmets and mouth guards only; shorts are recommended.
- (b) Wrestling or volleyball style kneepads may be allowed, but are not mandatory.
- (c) All other equipment and pads (e.g. spider pads, hex pads or built-in padding and/or on clothing) are not permitted.

(2) Practice Days 3 through 5

- (a) Helmets, mouth guards and shoulder pads only; shorts are recommended.
- (b) Wrestling or volleyball style kneepads may be allowed, but are not mandatory.
- (c) All other equipment and pads (e.g. spider pads, hex pads or built-in padding and/or on clothing) are not permitted.

(3) Full pads may be worn after the acclimatization plan has been satisfied.

(4) The acclimatization period must be satisfied by all athletes individually.

b. If multiple practices in a day are utilized (long day), they may not be scheduled on consecutive days. Practices are limited to alternating Short Days and Long Days.

(1) Short Day

- (a) Maximum practice is 3 hours of physical activity plus a 30-minute recovery period.
- (b) A 30-minute recovery period (rest in a cool environment, pads and helmets off, hydrate) must occur no later than 2 hours into practice.
- (c) Unrestricted and unlimited access to water throughout physical activity is strongly encouraged.

(2) Long Day

- (a) Maximum of one practice is 3 hours of physical activity plus a 30-minute recovery period.
- (b) A 30-minute recovery period

(rest in a cool environment, pads and helmets off, hydrate) must occur no later than 2 hours into practice.

(c) Minimum of a 3-hour break without physical exertion, in a cool environment, with rehydration before the second practice that day.

(d) The longer practice, which is limited to 3 hours of physical activity plus a 30-minute recovery period, may be at any time during the day. When combined with an additional helmet-only practice, there must be a 3-hour break between.

(e) Maximum additional practice is 1.5 hours with helmets and mouth guards only; knee pads may be allowed.

(f) Unrestricted and unlimited access to water throughout physical activity is strongly encouraged.

(3) After 10 practices to the end of the season

- (a) Only one practice allowed per day.
- (b) Maximum practice is 2.5 hours.
- (c) A 30-minute recovery period is not required.
- (d) Monitor weather and heat conditions and adjust appropriately.
- (e) Unlimited access to water and hydration should be available.

c. Player on Player Contact

There are five basic types of player on player contact:

(1) Drill contact - coach determined outcome

Air - Players should run unopposed without bags or any opposition.

Bags - Activity is executed against a bag, shield, or pad to allow for a soft-contact surface, with or without the resistance of a teammate or coach standing behind the bag.

Wrap or Control - Drills run at full speed until contact, which is above the waist with the players remaining on their feet.

(2) Competition/Full Contact - No coach determined outcome

Thud - Same as wrap but tempo is competitive with no pre-determined winner and the players are not tackling to the ground.

Live Competition or Full Contact - Full contact is defined as football drills or live game simulations where live action occurs - game speed where players execute full tackles at competitive pace taking players to the ground.

(3) Limitations are the following:

Drill Contact (Air, Bags and Wrap) is unlimited. Competition/Full Contact (Thud and Live/Full) has limitations. The Acclimatization Regulations also apply.

Week 1 - Only Drill Contact (Air, Bags and Wrap) is allowed and it is unlimited. Competition/Full Contact is not allowed.

Week 2 - Drill Contact (Air, Bags and Wrap) is unlimited. Competition/Full Contact (Thud and Live) is limited to 75 minutes per week (excluding a scrimmage).

Week 3 and beyond - Drill Contact (Air, Bags and Wrap) is unlimited. Competition/Full Contact (Thud and Live) is limited to 60 minutes per week (excluding games). ■

BULLETIN Subscription Renewal Notice!

The BULLETIN has a circulation of over 20,000 for each of its 4 issues. Member schools receive the Bulletin at no cost and officials receive the BULLETIN as part of their licensing fee. But we do have readers who receive the BULLETIN via the \$12.00 subscription rate. If you are one of those readers, please use the renewal form below to remain on our mailing list when we resume our publication schedule in the fall. If you do not currently receive the BULLETIN and would like to subscribe, please follow the same procedure. Simply clip and mail the renewal form along with the \$12.00 subscription fee to the following address:

WIAA BULLETIN Renewal
5516 Vern Holmes Drive
Stevens Point, WI 54482-8833

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Renewal _____ New _____

WIAA Announces Recipients of the 2015 Scholar Athlete Award

Sixteen senior girls and 16 senior boys statewide were honored as recipients of the prestigious WIAA Scholar Athlete Award underwritten by Marshfield Clinic.

The 2015 recipients, their families and school representatives were recognized at an awards ceremony Sunday, May 3 at the Jefferson Street Inn in Wausau. Each 2015 WIAA Scholar Athlete Finalist received a medallion, certificate and a special plaque for display in their school's trophy case. Michelle McGrath, executive director of the Wisconsin Association of School Councils, was the keynote speaker.

To determine the top 32 finalists, four boys and four girls were selected—based on both athletic and academic achievement—from each of four WIAA divisions. To view information on all 32 recipients, visit the Scholar Athlete page on the WIAA website at www.wiaawi.org/Schools/ScholarAthletes.aspx.

"These student athletes' accomplishments are incredible," said Tom Shafranski, assistant director of the WIAA. "Eighteen of this year's 32 WIAA Scholar Athlete finalists have a grade point average of 4.0 to date, while the average GPA is 3.90.

"All 32 scholar athlete finalists have already earned a total of 301 letters during their first 3 1/2 years of high school," he said. "That's an average of 9 letters per athlete, and we have not yet completed our spring sports season."

More than 800 seniors were nominated for the 2015 WIAA Scholar Athlete Award by more than 400 high schools throughout the state. Since 1984 when the WIAA Scholar Athlete recognition began, every WIAA-member high school has been invited to nominate one boy and one girl for the WIAA Scholar Athlete award.

All student athletes nominated for the award by their high school athletic directors will be presented with a medal at their school in a manner to be determined by the school administration recognizing them as their school's top male or female scholar athlete.

Release compiled by Kirk Howard, Kinziegreen Marketing Group ■

2015 Scholar Athlete Award Recipients

*indicates that the student is that school's first statewide winner.

DIVISION 1 – BOYS

Olin Hacker, Madison West
Alec Ingold, Bay Port
Thomas Negaard, Stevens Point
Mason Reinhardt, Merrill

DIVISION 1 – GIRLS

Hannah Beilke, Stevens Point
Morgan Marnholtz, Merrill
Maddie McCue, Milton
Arianna Opsahl, DeForest

DIVISION 2 – BOYS

Ty DeForest, Marshall
Benjamin Eidenschink, Nekoosa
John Roddick, Sparta*
Zachary Whiting, Ashland

DIVISION 2 – GIRLS

Meredith Gallagher, Lodi
Julia Kaster, Clinton
Sarah Schumacher, Whitewater
Taylor Stanek, Dodgeville

DIVISION 3 – BOYS

Kal Gerber, Cameron
Christian Pillath, Coleman
Thomas Schultz, Darlington
Nathaniel Tranel, Lancaster

DIVISION 3 – GIRLS

Kyncaide Diedrich, Athens
Emily Kind, Marathon
Shay Lierman, Cuba City
Chloe Wanink, Cameron

DIVISION 4 – BOYS

Jacob Jurss, Sheboygan Lutheran*
Collin McCarville, Port Edwards
Bryce Niemi, Owen-Withee
Alex Stevenson, De Soto

DIVISION 4 – GIRLS

Erica Gehl, Hilbert
Britley Grulke, Hustisford
Betsy Schreier, Cashton
Rachel Slaney, Barneveld

"Lessons learned through athletics transcend the sport to guide me in all my endeavors now and in the future. The most important of these lessons is success takes planning, hard work and lots of patience."

Olin Hacker, Madison West

"My personal value of athletics is incalculable...The values I acquired are universally applicable to any subject area. Athletics have shaped me and I will be reaping the benefits of my involvement for the rest of my life."

Tom Negaard - Stevens Point

"Setting goals, being a leader, and managing my time, things that I developed through athletics, will be a guide for a successful future."

Shay Lierman - Cuba City

"Some people see sports as just a fun activity to do to pass time but for me, it changed my life...It taught me that hard work really does pay off; everything isn't about me, and to never give up."

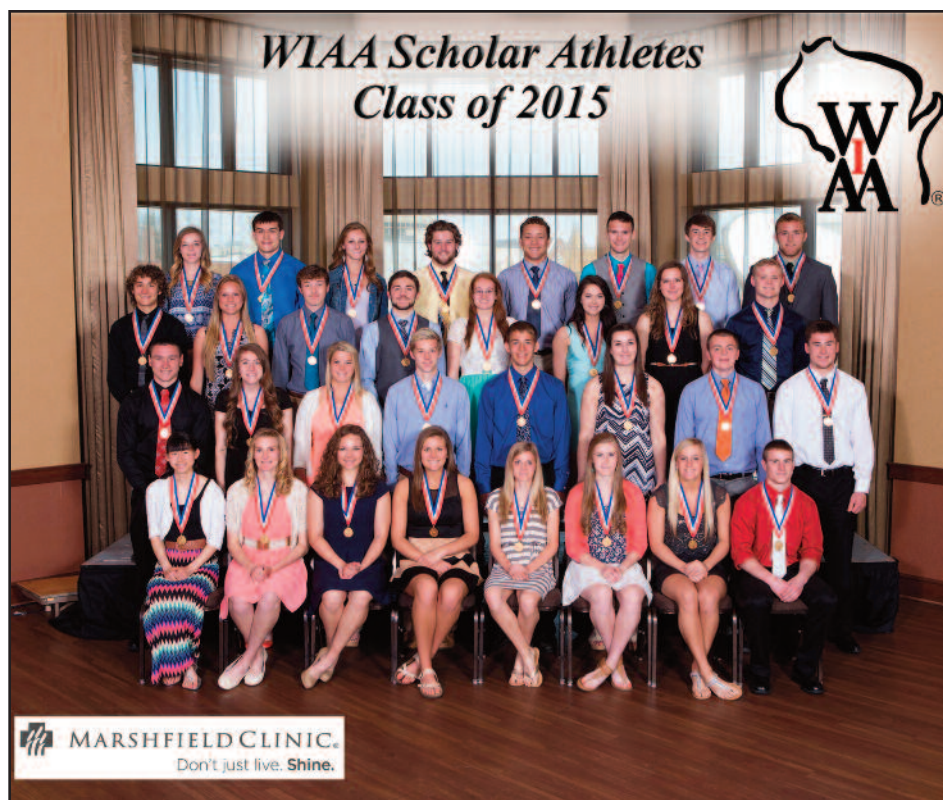
Rachel Slaney - Barneveld

"My sophomore year in high school, I was in a fatal car accident where one of my friends was killed and four of us were seriously injured...I was able to work my way back through the pain and mental anguish. Having basketball and my team really helped me cope and relieve anger and stress."

Nathaniel Tranel - Lancaster

"My experience in sports has taught me to respect others, work with people of diverse backgrounds, be prepared, stay healthy, manage my time, and make difficult decisions for the good of the team and not selfish ones. I absolutely love to win, but I have learned from my losses."

Maddie McCue - Milton



2015-16 Swimming Rules Changes Include Lifting of Jewelry Restrictions

High school swimmers and divers will now be permitted to wear jewelry during competition. This change was approved by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Swimming and Diving Rules Committee at its March 22-24 meeting in Indianapolis.

This significant rules change was among four revisions recommended by the committee for the 2015-16 season and subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

With a focus on addressing pertinent rules regarding competition, the committee determined that the wearing of jewelry presents little risk of injury to the competitor or opponents. Therefore, prohibiting jewelry is an unnecessary restriction, and officials can now better focus on meet administration directly related to competition. Rule 3-3-5 now reflects the change with the removal of any language barring or penalizing the wearing of jewelry.

"We've been working for the past 10 years on the role of prohibiting jewelry, and we fi-

nally came to the conclusion that prohibition presented little concern for injury," said Becky Oakes, NFHS director of sports and liaison to the Swimming and Diving Rules Committee. "We determined the penalty's severity was no longer based in sound rationale."

The committee also addressed the requirements of officials' uniforms. Rule 4-1-7 was amended to only require that swimming and diving officials dress in a uniform approved by the state association. Previously, officials were required to dress in white attire or other attire approved by the state association. This change clarifies the rule and allows for more practicality when determining the appropriate uniform for officials, as white is no longer the current standard.

"We felt that it was more appropriate for state associations to handle officials' uniforms, so long as, in each state, every official wears the same uniform," Oakes said.

The committee also amended Rule 4-3-1 a, b to allow the starter to designate another individual to sound a device for the lead

swimmer during the 500-yard/400-meter freestyle when the swimmer has two lengths plus 5 yards remaining in the race. The starter may have multiple tasks occurring simultaneously, and having a designee would allow for the starter to maintain better accuracy and concentration during events.

The final change was to Rule 9-6-1, which now includes a clarification indicating that the diving referee may be one of the judges on the panel, or a separate official.

A complete listing of all rules changes is available on the NFHS website at www.nfhs.org. Click on "Activities & Sports" at the top of the home page, and select "Swimming & Diving."

According to the 2013-14 NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey, swimming and diving has 304,152 participants in 14,530 programs nationwide.

Written by NFHS Publications and Communications Department. ■



Membership Rejects from page 1

reduction of enrollment would have been calculated using a formula for the number of free and reduced lunch students in a school.

Four of the 10 amendments advanced to the meeting were passed by the membership. One impacts the Bylaws, two refer to the Rules of Eligibility and one addresses language in the Constitution. The new rules will become effective—unless otherwise noted in the amendment—upon publication of this Bulletin.

In a measure to enhance student-athlete wellness, a new Bylaw was established by a vote of 260-167 to require all paid coaches to be certified and maintain certification in First Aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification and AED operation beginning in 2016-17. The resolution was passed after being amended to remove volunteer coaches from the original proposal.

One of the amendments having a significant impact on the Rules of Eligibility adds basketball, hockey and volleyball to the list of sports with unlimited non-school contact in the summer. The membership voted in favor of the proposal by 230-196 vote. With unlimited non-school contact, no school resources can be used to fund the activity, pay the coach or supervisors, or pay for transportation to-and-from events. Non-school opportunities must be voluntary and not limited to students on the basis of school affiliation, athletic experience or team status.

The second amendment to alter the Rules of Eligibility allows students to participate in skill contests during the season in the same sport, as long as there is school approval and no school coach involvement. The amendment passed by a 332-89 margin.

The one Constitutional amendment to receive membership support designates the first Friday in January as a deadline for amendments to be advanced to the membership via petition. It passed by a resounding 399-32 vote. The new deadline allows additional time for discussion and committee review prior to the Annual Meeting.

One amendment advanced to the Annual Meeting, which would require member schools to sponsor and continue to sustain at least one sport to maintain membership in the Association, was postponed by a 399-32 count. More discussion and consideration will ensue to measure the impact on member schools currently maintaining only cooperative program arrangements.

In addition to the amendments relating to competitive equity, three other amendments failed to receive the necessary majority of support needed to change the current status of the rules.

An amendment that would have allowed basketball coaches one hour of individual instruction with up to six basketball players at one time using school resources was defeated by a 141-284 vote. Another amendment would have allowed an athlete to participate in up to two non-school contests during the regular school sport season in the same sport with local school administration approval. The contests would have counted against the athlete's individual participation limit, but it was struck down 44-383. In addition, a resolution that would have eliminated the restitution penalty available to the Board of Control was rejected by a 164-269 vote.

In the New Business portion of the Director's Report, the membership was apprised of a number of topics for discussions on the horizon, including a review of cooperative teams, student eligibility, unmanned aircraft systems (drones) and the direction of conference realignment considerations.

In the 2015-16 Board of Control elections, treasurer Pam Foegen, the Pupil Service Director at Regis, will serve her second consecutive term as the Gender At-Large representative. Scott Winch, superintendent at Stratford and a current member of the Advisory Council, was elected as the representative from District 2. Luke Francois, superintendent at Mineral Point, was elected to serve as the District 5 representative. Elected members of the Board of Control serve a three-year term.

Incumbents re-elected to the Advisory Council were Scott Bleck, superintendent at Weyauwega-Fremont, representing medium schools; Patrick Olson, district administrator at Prairie Farm, and Dennis Birr, superintendent at New Lisbon, representing small schools. Individuals elected to a new term are Roger Rindo, superintendent at Oconomowoc, and Nicolas Been, assistant principal at River Falls, representing large schools; Colleen Timm, district administrator at Mishicot, as the Gender At-Large representative; and Melinda Skrade, president at Pius XI, as the Non-Public School representative. Elected individuals serve a three-year term on the Advisory Council.

An unofficial count of 435 schools were in attendance at the 2015 Annual Meeting. ■



Pam Foegen



Scott Winch



Luke Francois

Summer Coaching Contact Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I was wondering if you could help me out with this question? With the new summer contact rules can our volleyball team use a school bus to go to a team camp during the summer and have the volleyball program pay for it?

A: The Summer contact rules are the same (especially the rules about camp expenses). Volleyball, basketball, and hockey coaches now have been added to the list of sports that are allowed unlimited NONSCHOOL coaching contact where no school resources may be used.

Here's what's in the Rules at a Glance:

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 five Board of Control approved unrestricted contact days in the summer. (BL – Art. II, RE – Art. IV and Art. VI) Note: Funds kept in school activity accounts are considered school funds.**

If a coach is using the five unrestricted contact days during the summer, the school may use school resources for a camp. If not, then the athletes must pay 100% of the costs associated with camps/clinics.

If the coach is using the five unrestricted SCHOOL coaching contact days via a non-school organization, they may not use school resources (money in the general budget or an activity account and/or school transportation). Everything must be paid by the nonschool organization without any school resources.

Q: Our coaches are going to have a shooting workout for 1 hour 15 minutes, which is the same hours we open our weight room daily. They will rent gym and basketballs through their outside booster club. Is this all within the rules? Example:

Lady T-Wolves "Gun" Workouts - Tues/ Thurs mornings 6:30 a.m.-7:45 a.m.

- Facility usage form
- Insurance?
- Board approval for use of basketballs
- "Gun" was purchased by booster club.

A: Yes. Be sure that it is known as open.

Q: Not using any school anything, can our JV coach give private lessons IF those lessons are an option for everyone? We have a rule here that you can't use equipment or facility for personal gains so we would not allow this coach anywhere near our field house or equipment.

A: Yes. Coaches may be self-employed. Remember, contact may only be during the summertime.

Q: Can the basketball coach provide unlimited nonschool coaching contact during an open gym?

A: No. Open gyms are SCHOOL run recreational opportunities for any and all students in the school's population to recreate. The coach or anyone else may NOT provide instruction. Nothing has changed in open gyms.

Q: What are common nonschool organizations?

See Summer Coaching Contact, page 11 >

Summer Contact from page 2

ities. School facilities must be contracted for in accordance with your school district policies.

- Contact may occur from the end of school (including the last day of school) until the first day of school in the fall.

What Type of Contact Can Coaches Have With Their Athletes?

All Sport Coaches

- Unrestricted Contact (see definition above)

All sports except football.

- Unrestricted Contact (see definition above)
- Unlimited Non-School Contact (see definition above)

How Can Athletes Assemble on Their Own? Summer (Last day of school until first day of school in the fall)

- During the summer, athletes may assemble in any manner they wish. There are no restrictions as to the number of athletes from the same school allowed on a given team.
- During the summer, captain's practices are allowed.

School Year (First day of school until last day of school)

- During the school year, students may voluntarily assemble at any time without school and/or school coach involvement.
- During the school year, captain's prac-

Summer Coaching Contact

There are two types of coaching contact: School (unrestricted) and Nonschool (unlimited).

Unrestricted SCHOOL Coaching Contact

- Sports: All sports
- Time period: Last day of school to July 31 (except Football: July 25, 2015)
- Duration: Five days (does not have to be consecutive)
- School Equipment: May be used
- Funding: School funds may be used (Fund 10, 60, 80 and activity accounts)
- School Transportation: May be used
- School Facilities: May be used (as can nonschool facilities)
- Participation: Open to any and all interested. May not be mandated.

Unlimited NONSCHOOL Coaching Contact

An acceptable nonschool program or activity is one which is not limited to students on the basis of a school affiliation, athletic experience, team status, etc. and no school monies or resources can be applied.

- Sports: All sports except football.
- Time period: Last day of school to first day of school.
- Duration: Unlimited during the time period.
- Equipment: With Board of Education permission and following school policy.
- Funding: School funds may NOT be used (Fund 10, 60 and activity funds).
 - o Community Ed and School District Recreation funds may be used (Fund 80).
- School transportation: May NOT be used, but may be rented.
- School Facilities: May be rented by non-school organization following school policy (as can nonschool facilities).
- Participation: Open to any and all interested. May not be mandated.

Examples of Nonschool organizations:

- Booster clubs (monies not in school funds)
- Lion's Club
- Rotary
- American Legion
- AAU basketball
- Youth athletic clubs
- Hockey associations
- School district recreation (fund 80)
- Joe's Pizza

NOTES:

- NONSCHOOL team is not a code word for SCHOOL team.
- Amateur Status rules apply. Athletes must return or purchase nonschool uniforms, warmups and shoes. ■

tics are allowed provided the opportunity is voluntary and there is no school and/or school coach involvement.

Using Athletes As Clinicians

During the school year, you may only use your athletes as clinicians during the sport season. In the summertime, a school may conduct a clinic for students in grade 8 and below, where high school varsity and junior varsity coaches may use some or all of their athletes as clinicians. Individual students may be used as clinicians a maximum of 6 days during the summer (when school is not in session). Using students as clinicians in such a manner must conclude no later than July 31. ■

Stephanie Hauser from page 1

sistant principal. She supervises the operation of 22 WIAA-sponsored sports, as well as the evaluation of a 100-member coaching staff and a teaching staff of 25. She has also served as internship supervisor for university students seeking degrees in athletic or business administration.

Prior to her administrative role in Stevens Point, she was the assistant principal and activities director in the New London School District from 2003-07. She also possesses coaching experience at the high school level. Those included stints as varsity volleyball coach at Cumberland High School in 1991, Pulaski High School from 1993-97, Bay Port High School from 1998-99 and at Winneconne High School from 2000-03. Other coaching experience came at the junior varsity level as softball coach at Cumberland in 1991 and at Green Bay Southwest High School from 1992-94, where she also coached the junior varsity basketball team.

She has been active in working with the WIAA as a member of the Sports Advisory Committee since 2009 and as a member of the Volleyball Coaches Advisory Committee. Hauser has also conducted presentations at the WIAA New Athletic Director Workshop and the WIAA Sportsmanship Summit.

In 2013, she was named the District 2 Athletic Director of the Year by the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association. Other leadership experience includes serving as president of the Wisconsin Volleyball Coaches Association and as chair of the WADA District 2 Representative and Scholarship Committee.

She is certified as an athletic administrator by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, as well as, in Red Cross CPR/AED, Educator Effectiveness

Calibration for Evaluation, and Drug Influence Training and Education. The Bulldogs of Character program she implemented at New London High School, emphasizing citizenship and sportsmanship, was featured in the May 2006, edition of *Inside Wisconsin Sports* magazine and was the topic of a presentation at a WADA convention. She has also contributed articles published in WADA and NIAAA publications.

In addition to her involvement in WADA and the NIAAA, she has been a member of the Associations of Wisconsin School Administrators, Stevens Point Area Sports Commission, Friends of Stevens Point Area Athletics, Stevens Point Hall of Fame Commission, Community Parks Improvement Committee, Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development and the Wisconsin School Public Relation Association.

Her experience in the classroom includes teaching chemistry and science-related courses at Bay Port, Green Bay Southwest and Cumberland, and she has presented in coaching and athletic administration courses at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

She is a 1991 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Superior with a degree in secondary chemistry education. She received a Master's Degree in education leadership from Marian College in 1997 and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in business administration at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. She was a member of the UW-Superior women's basketball and softball teams, and was named team captain and most valuable player of the women's volleyball team, receiving all-conference honorable mention.

Stephanie and her husband, Dave, have three children, Nicki, Sam and Joey. ■



Executive Director Dave Anderson receives a Mayoral Proclamation from Madison Mayor Paul Soglin in recognition of the 100th Anniversary celebration of the Boys State Basketball Tournament. Deb Archer, CEO of the Greater Madison Convention and Visitors Bureau (left) and WIAA Board of Control president Mike Beighley (right) look on.

SPLIT-SEASON SPORTS (Golf, Soccer, Swimming, Tennis)

WIAA rules prevent coaches from having coaching contact with their athletes outside the season, during the school year, in any sport. The rules further prevent schools from offering a sport season, except as outlined in the WIAA Season Regulations. An athlete working as a clinician, under the direction of his/her coach, is considered to be coaching contact.

This means, for example, that boys' tennis players cannot serve as assistant coaches, clinicians, instructors, etc., during the girls' tennis season, in the school program. Obviously, girls' tennis players are similarly restricted during the boys' tennis season. Boys' tennis players cannot practice with the girls' tennis team because the boys' tennis season is defined in Season Regulations and the school cannot make opportunities available outside the season. Again, girls' tennis players are similarly restricted. Swimming, soccer, and golf are other sports with split seasons where these rules apply. ■

Winter Tournament Officials from page 3

Hansen Ruben, Menomonee Falls; Cindy Hoenisch, Eau Claire; Christine Kalupa, Kaukauna; Irv Keough, Kaukauna; Julie Kleist, Sussex; Kirsten Kronberger, Rhinelander; Carrie Osswald, Whitefish Bay; Carrie A. Pedersen, Eagle; Mary Pica-Anderson, Eleva; Kathy Rundle, Marshfield; Jacqueline Strutt, Onalaska; Roseann Tank, Fort Atkinson; Faith Wagner, La Crosse; Cyndie Zocher, Middleton

GIRLS BASKETBALL - Pamela Alexander, Milwaukee; Bruce Ashlin, Baldwin; Dennis Baumann, Ridgeway; Nicolas Been, Hammond; Wade Boegli, Brodhead; Dan Bramschreiber, Pulaski; Leif Christianson, Wausau; Charles Coyle, DeForest; Joe Coyle, DeForest; Vince Diplaris, Waukesha; Becky Edwards, Greenville; Jared Fern, Hammond; Jeff Fern, Hammond; Paul Ford, Pulaski; Kirby Frank, DeForest; Michael Graber, Kimberly; Ben Greiber, Fitchburg; Nick Hable, Mauston; Ross Hackbarth, Medford; Wayne Hannes, Mauston; Charles

Hardrick, Milwaukee; Kevin Heesch, New Lisbon; Tammy Hutchison, Mount Pleasant; Logan Kimberly, Roberts; Dave Klocek, Lake Mills; Gordon Knuth, Grafton; Tracy L. Krueger, Muscoda; Denita Johnson, Milwaukee; Michael LoCicero, Milwaukee; Justin Marien, Pewaukee; Jason Nate, Kimberly; Dean Nemoir, Milwaukee; Travis Parr, Mondovi; Ryan Pilgrim, Medford; Jeff Prince, Colfax; Rick Prince, Colfax; Tim Prince, Ladysmith; Wesley Porter, Milwaukee; Erin Rickard, Port Washington; Cathy Riedeman, Lake Mills; Duane Rolkosky, Muskego; Craig L. Schacht, Jefferson; Douglas Stampfli, Fitchburg; Dan Vechart, Appleton; Daniel Wipperfurth, Verona

BOYS BASKETBALL - Tim T. Bassett, Rice Lake; Greg Blum, Madison; Michael J. Breed, Cameron; Wayne E. Brevik, Fairchild; Darren Budahn, Milwaukee; Patrick Buechel, Neenah; Eric Butalla, East Troy; Mike Carr, Oregon; Jason Dahl, Hartland; Taylor DeVal, Sun Prairie; Dave

Dewey, Chetek; Shelley Dietz, New Franken; Jed Durni, Eau Claire; Andy Gallion, Wauwatosa; Tony Giombetti, Appleton; Andre A. Gosch, Waukesha; Jeff Hartl, Kieler; Thaddeaus D. Hilliard Sr., Milwaukee; David Hoffmann, New Franken; Steve Johnson, Milwaukee; Ken Koester, Wauwatosa; Dan Krone, Shawano; Jeremy Laehn, Eau Claire; Matthew Leis, Chippewa Falls; Jeff Lewis, Franklin; Jason Mangin, Appleton; Todd Mangin, Reedsville; Ellis Miles, Jr., Milwaukee; Tyler Moy, Eau Claire; Dale Nelson, Mondovi; Paul Nelson, Eau Claire; Ryan Nelson, Eau Claire; Tyler Nelson, Eau Claire; Dan Owens, Racine; Bill Rusboldt, Appleton; Mark Schlueter, Platteville; James Sekel, Eau Claire; Tom Senecal, Green Bay; James Stadtmueller, Menasha; Dean R. Van Amber, Eau Claire; Roger Van Lanen, Green Bay; Paul Verbeten, Freedom; Dennis Von Rueden, New Berlin; Ken Welter, Dickeyville; Jimi Zawacki, Strum ■

Director's Report from page 2

willing and capable of providing you the tournament structure you desire. We will continue to listen to all voices and perspectives on seeding and do our best to share them across the membership. But until we hear a unified administrative voice, I believe our stance must be a conservative one on this topic.

Midway through this year the Board of Control gave their support to an officials recruitment initiative which also serves as a small thank you to the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces who wish to become WIAA licensed sports officials. The initiative received the support of WADA, the WCCA as well as the help and support of the Wisconsin Army National Guard and Reserve. With this initiative a current or former soldier is able to have all fees waived for two years when licensing for the first time. Our background check partner, InCheck, has waived the cost of their background search and Honig's has offered a 15% discount on uniforms and apparel. While still new and small in scope, we have licensed approximately 10 new officials under this program—which as far as we are aware may be the first of its kind in the country.

A few weeks back we celebrated 40 years of girls and 100 years of State Boys Basketball Championships here in Wisconsin. We hope and believe the 100th was a celebration you and our state could be proud of. Deb Hauser assembled and lead a team which included the WBCA, our basketball broadcast partner—Quincy News and the Madison Sport Commission to build an especially memorable experience. We thank all of you who participated, lent us your trophies and memorabilia or just came out and enjoyed this special event.

As we transition from an update of Old Business into New Business, there is one topic that has a place under both tents—Conference realignment. It is a topic that's been talked about extensively the past 18 months and a topic that continues to be current and of considerable interest to quite a number of members. Our hope in discussing it with you again today is to make you aware of the ever and rapidly changing demands, attitudes and expectations that come as a result of a carousel of changing coaches, ADs, principals and district administrators. Our hope is that from this we can plant the seeds for a more robust conversation on this topic throughout the year ahead.

From our perspective the current model for realigning conferences if not broken, is at best unable to keep up with the demands and expectations that are being placed upon it. In every realignment, there are enough seeds of discontent, enough residue of hurt feelings to almost assure the next request for realignment is at best a couple short years away. In

some instances, there isn't an available solution—short of disrupting 40, 50 or 80 other schools. I've asked Deb Hauser to share some observations and insights that are becoming more apparent as we attempt to fulfill this responsibility.

We will be seeking your thoughts and guidance next fall to see if there can be better guidelines or a better way to address this topic.

New Business

As we look at the year ahead:

The WIAA will be bringing a couple new faces into our family in July. With the retirement of Marcy Thurwachter, the Executive Staff is in the midst of a search to find the best replacement we can identify and recommend to the Board. Over two dozen applicants responded to the posting. Among them were veteran athletic directors from both in and outside Wisconsin. There were school administrators and sports administrators with collegiate backgrounds and two with law degrees. Staff has already pared that list down and expects to begin interviewing candidates over the next couple weeks and bring a recommendation to the Board at their May 15th meeting.

As soon as that search winds down, staff will be considering how best to fill a position that will come with the July retirement of our Bookkeeper of over 39 years—Debbie Tork. While Miss Kassie McGettigan is prepared to step into that role, other discussions and considerations need to identify remaining operational needs and directions and how best to meet them when filling this vacancy.

In recent months the Board has approved the development of a WIAA intern program. It will be launching this summer with a pair of interns with Wisconsin ties. Mr. Chad Strehlow originally from Suring, Wisconsin will be joining us from South Dakota State University. Also joining us for the summer will be Miss Stacy Marcum from Eastern Tennessee State University. Stacy is originally from Merrill, Wisconsin. We have begun reaching out to in-state universities and technical colleges to identify young people who might benefit from this type of experience as well as contribute specific skill sets to our growth efforts and membership service.

Over the course of this past year, we have been engaged in negotiations for the WIAA's tournament broadcast rights. Those efforts recently culminated with the Board's approval of new, six-year agreements with the Quincy News organization for our state basketball and state hockey championships and with Tim Eichorst's new production company, Rush Media. Rush Media will be producing our state football, volleyball, soccer, baseball and softball finals. At the end of the day, we

believe we've been able to sustain the scope and quality of exposure our members and WIAA sports fans have come to expect and enjoy—and still work with production teams who know and respect the WIAA's interests.

Beginning with Area Meetings, we are going to seek your thoughts and input on a variety of other topics—some old, some new. Among the familiar topics—beside conference realignment—will be co-op teams and student eligibility.

For the past couple years girls hockey co-ops have been drawing criticism from some of the stand-alone, single-school, girls programs who believe the large multi-school co-ops hold a competitive advantage. We have also seen attempts to manipulate hockey co-op relationships to create opportunities for female hockey players to access boys teams.

But the co-op discussion needs to be broader than just hockey. As new charter schools emerge and seek membership, one of their key ambitions is to be able to say they offer WIAA sport opportunities. At times we register concern that some seeking membership desire the programming but lack the interest in committing to administrative engagement and ownership—which are essential to this organization.

As some of our smaller schools continue to see enrollments and budgets shrink, co-ops are becoming more important than ever to preserve opportunities for their students and communities. Given these and other co-op related concerns, we believe it's time for a comprehensive review and discussion of this topic. Please be prepared to share your thoughts and perspectives going forward.

With respect to student eligibility—as we see state legislatures pass laws limiting or eliminating transfer restrictions—as in California, or as in Florida where assembly legislation was passed, which if it gains support in the their state senate, will dissolve the state high school association—we believe we should be as proactive in our discussions of student eligibility and opportunity as we can be.

-- Where and how can we be more inclusive without fracturing as a membership?

-- Shall we reconsider nonvarsity eligibility for transfers?

-- Is 365 days of ineligibility too long?

-- Might students who transfer with no previous sport history at their former school be provided opportunities at their new school?

In recent years, we've brought forward ideas regarding non-school competition. What other thoughts and ideas might be worth examining more closely—while it is still within our authority to do so? Please

See Director's Report, page 12 ►

Summer Coaching Contact from page 8

A: American Legion, local recreation department, booster club, golf club, local Lions Club. A key question would be does the organization have liability insurance. If the nonschool organization invited the coach, the coach could provide unlimited nonschool instruction.

Q: Can coaches coach the summer league teams?

A: If the summer league team is sponsored and organized by a nonschool organization (booster club, Lions Club, etc.), the coach could work (coach) for that nonschool organization.

Q: Can they take their team to an AAU tournament?

A: Provided the above stipulations are met, coaches may coach an AAU team.

Q: Can coaches use money from the school or activity account to pay entry fees?

A: No funds from the schools fund 10 or Fund 60 accounts may be used. Programs run via the community education department or recreation department are allowed.

Q: Can a parent rent the gym, open it to basketball players and provide instruction? Can the coach provide instruction?

A: Yes, but not the best practice. The parent would be considered nonschool (no school funds) as long as the parent followed district (and/or school) policy to rent the gym.

Q: Can coaches make either unrestricted or unlimited coaching contact mandatory?

A: No. Coaches may not mandate athletes participate in nonschool competition, or determine who may or may not participate in nonschool activity. It must be open to any and all interested students. It must be voluntary.

Q: Can coaches determine nonschool rosters?

A: The unlimited non-school coaching contact is open to any and all interested students. Rosters could be determined by try-outs and not previous team status.

Q: Can coaches provide transportation to nonschool competition?

A: Only if the coach and event is directly related to the nonschool program. This includes school vehicles.

Q: Can the nonschool organization provide camps for athletes and have the coach work the camp?

A: Yes. But the nonschool organization may not provide monies for camps run by other organizations (UW camps, etc.). Athletes must pay 100% of costs associated with camps/clinics.

Q: If the local basketball association (our youth association) signs up for gym time at our schools for the purpose of providing instruction to any girls interested and the basketball

coach is providing that instruction, could a high school athlete show up for that instruction? Is that considered non-school contact?

A: Yes provided the camp is run during the summer.

Q: If a group of local high school girls decides to play in a league or tournament at another area high school this summer could I coach them if the school provides nothing (transportation, league fees, etc.)?

A: Yes. Provided the team is a nonschool team and try-outs are open to any and all students.

Q: If our basketball team is in a summer league and the youth booster club paid their entry and no school transportation is used for these nights, may our coach work with these kids in the summer?

A: Yes.

Q: If we ran all our open gyms and summer leagues under the umbrella of the community youth organization (as I am sure many people will do), how can our coach be involved?

A: Don't match open gyms (a school sponsored activity) with any other nonschool format or nonschool organization. Keep them separate to avoid confusion. Schools don't run summer leagues and may not be involved. A youth organization may rent the gym to provide an instructional opportunity. A nonschool group may organize a team for a league and ask your coach to coach.

Have the youth organization call it something else. They can call it a camp, a practice, instructional time, or a clinic. But avoid calling it an open gym. Using the same name will only add confusion. Coaches organizing and disguising the activity as nonschool is circumvention. It is best to have the nonschool organization initiate and actually develop the programs and teams.

Q: Basketball and volleyball coaches can coach their athletes' summer league teams as long as they are open to everyone in the school, no school funds are used, and no transportation by the school is used.

A: Correct. But I would add: Keep in mind that coaches do not organize nonschool teams. The students or nonschool group can organize the teams either the nonschool group or the athletes could ask the coach to work with them.

Other reminders:

- Coaches may not require involvement in out-of-season activities as part of the requirements for making a school team, earning a school letter award, etc.
- Coaches may not provide incentives such as T-shirts, etc., for participation in the off-season. ■

Coaches Education Information

If you have coaches that are not licensed to teach (CNLT) in the state of Wisconsin, it is a WIAA requirement that they complete the required coaches education training before they can begin to coach their second year.

The following do not have to take this required training:

A student teacher while student teaching.

An individual with an administrator's or counselor's license.

Guest lecturers (one time appearance).

Anyone that has coached in an educational institution for five or more years (prior to the 1994-95 school) with or without a current teaching license.

The following must take the approved courses before they can coach a second year:

Anyone that does not fit one of the above listed categories.

Anyone that does not have a current license to teach in Wisconsin.

The following conditions do not exempt a person from the requirement:

Holding a license that has expired.

Being a volunteer

Being unpaid

Being an occasional, but regularly scheduled lecturer or demonstrator.

Having been a student teacher, but is no longer officially in that capacity.

Being a nonvarsity coach

Being an assistant coach.

CNLT's can meet the WIAA coaches education requirement by taking either the American Sports Education Program (ASEP) Sport First Aid and Coaching Principles courses or the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Fundamentals of Coaching and First Aid, Health and Safety for Coaches courses.

Both the ASEP and NFHS courses are offered online and can be accessed from the WIAA homepage.

The cost of the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching is \$35 and the First Aid, Health and Safety for Coaches is \$35. The cost of the ASEP Coaching Principles is \$70 and Sport First Aid is \$50.

If you have any questions about the coaching course offerings or about the WIAA coaches education requirements, please contact Joan Gralla at the WIAA office 715-344-8580 or jgralla@wiaawi.org. ■

be prepared to engage with this conversation in the coming year.

This past November 29, the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) was named as the defendant in what is being described as a class action suit by the attorney bringing the action. The suit was filed on behalf of a former IHSA high school football player. Though the suit is not seeking up-front compensation for damages, the scope of its demands are being described by some as threatening to signal the end of small school high school football.

Among the demands, the suit aims to require the IHSA to establish medical monitoring for all high school football players from the year 2000—onward, throughout their lives. The suit also seeks to require an M.D. or Athletic Trainer at every high school football practice and game and require baseline testing of all Illinois high school football players. The attorney in this case has stated that he intends to bring similar action in all 50 states.

In response to this action, the WIAA Board of Control authorized our joining along with the NFHS and approximately 40 other state associations, in signing onto a "common defense agreement" document. Along with a show of support for the IHSA, the agreement provides for the two-way flow of legal information and ideas relative to the case. Without question, this is an important case for all state associations, for all high schools that offer sport programming and for all youth sport providers—as its scope and implications will impact upon more sports than just football and upon more youth sport providers than just high schools. We will continue to keep you informed as this important case unfolds.

One of the topics WIAA staff have been discussing received considerable attention at the recent NFHS Legal Meeting—the topic was "Drones" or UAV's (Unmanned ariel vehicles). We are aware of a growing interest and use of Drones outside the military by recreational users, by coaches for scouting and filming purposes, by sport and news organizations, by sales, advertising and marketing agencies. Most of you have likely heard of Amazon's hopes for the use of drones for small package delivery.

The reason for mentioning this topic is two-fold: First, the WIAA will be developing a position and policy regarding their use at WIAA member tournaments. Second, to advise members it is a topic you should be prepared to have a local position on.

The challenges in responding to the use of UAV's in and around schools and school sporting events is in-part due to the fact that most are looking to the FAA for guidance which as of yet has not taken place.

Additionally, many are pointing to privacy related concerns, concerns for operator licensing and training, proof of insurance, and for injury liability.

The Kentucky High School Association is perhaps the first state association to take an official position on their use—simply banning their use in and around all Kentucky high school events. The WIAA is going to continue research and information gathering a while longer before bringing a policy recommendation forward to the Board, but wanted members to be aware of the issue and be discussing it locally now.

The last topic under New Business is about member dues and fees. As our president

Mr. Beighley has shared, the Board took action at their meeting yesterday, to suspend for two years—all member dues and fees. This action is within their constitutional authority for providing temporary relief and was acted upon for a couple of reasons.

First, this action will save each member school a few dollars. Individually that may be only several hundred or at most a couple thousand dollars. But collectively, it will be a membership savings of more than \$400,000 dollars annually. The Board believes that regardless of the amount, they are dollars that can be used locally to directly impact kids and school programs.

Along with the straight-forward, savings dimension of this action, the Board recognizes, as have most neighboring state associations—like Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan and Missouri that there is a potential strategic benefit for taking such action, realized when the State Association must defend itself or a position, in front of the state legislature for receiving public tax dollars and when identified as a state actor in a court action. We believe, as do the other states who have taken this step several years ago, that this is a good direction for the WIAA at this time and in this legal and political climate.

The WIAA's financial position is presently strong and stable. The executive staff have continuously sought ways to spend wisely and expand relationships to increase royalties and grow revenue. I will add that there are no predetermined ticket price increases built into this action. We expect to be able to sustain operations and services without diminishing them in any way. Of course, the Board's duty is to monitor closely and should the financial health of the Association require adjustment or attention, the Board will act accordingly.

The Board is authorized to provide temporary relief—only. If after two years the membership wishes to make this action

permanent, it must be approved by vote at the 2017 Annual Meeting. The new membership agreement forms will be edited to reflect this change and will be on their way to you soon.

Director's Comments

In closing this report, I want to ask each of you to ask yourself the question—which was asked of me—many years ago by a wise and much respected graduate school advisor—he asked me—"David, why are sports in schools?"

Quite frankly, as a 25 year old that question took me aback. I don't believe I had ever really given much thought or considered why sports were in schools. They just were. And in my short life to that point in time—always had been—and I assumed—always would be. They just were—

The years and experiences since then make it clear that school sport isn't just there because it is. One hundred and twenty years ago Wisconsin school leaders recognized a need for the coordination of sport between schools and recognized a potential benefit for their students who took part in school sports. And in every year since, men and women just like all of us here today have continued to pour time, energy, passion and resources into preserving education based athletics for the good they can provide children, schools and communities.

While some may take for granted—like I did as a naïve 25 year old—or choose to view school sport as their personal service and entitlement—for the rest of us, as educators, we must continue to lead, to educate, to protect and preserve school sport for what it was and is intended to be.

Our predecessors recognized that sport and competition were not an end unto themselves. They recognized participation was "good for kids"—connecting kids to school based programs was "good for kids"—for all the reasons every piece of research has time and again verified. Sport is the vehicle, -- an incredibly economical lesson and experience delivery system, and alternative learning opportunity—I hope you will give the question of why are sports in schools some serious thought as you travel home today. Drill down. And then please don't ever allow anyone to discourage children from engaging in your school's sport and activity programs. Participation in them is as "good for kids" today as it was 120 years ago--

Thank you for being here today.

That concludes my Director's Report.

The Annual Meeting minutes can be found on the WIAA website http://www.wiaawi.org/Portals/0/PDF/2015_ann_minutes.pdf and will also be published in the 2014-15 WIAA Yearbook. ■



New Penalty Structure in High School Ice Hockey Continues Focus on Risk Minimization

In an effort to minimize risk of injury in high school ice hockey, the penalty structure has been revised to provide options for more stringent penalties when situations warrant.

The reformatting of penalty changes and revisions to four other rules were recommended by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Ice Hockey Rules Committee at its April 27-28 meeting in Indianapolis. All 2015-16 ice hockey rules changes were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

In the past, cross-checking, elbowing, goalkeeper contact, kneeling, slashing, tripping and roughing had options for a two-minute minor or five-minute major penalties. These violations now will include an option for game disqualification.

Fouls for grabbing the facemask and head butting had options for a five-minute major penalty or game disqualification. These violations now include an option for a five-minute major plus a 10-minute misconduct. In addition, holding, hooking, interference/obstruction and body-checking (girls teams) had the

option of a two-minute minor penalty. These fouls now will include the option for a five-minute major penalty or game disqualification.

"The health and safety of students has been and continues to be at the forefront of discussion for the Ice Hockey Rules Committee," said Bob Hayden, chair of the rules committee. "In the past, the penalty structure has affected calls made on the ice. The committee believes this penalty structure will allow officials to make the proper call and penalize the offending player accordingly by rule."

In other changes, the rules committee added a new article to Rule 6-1 to specifically address racial/ethnic slurs directed at officials or others. A game disqualification penalty will be assessed for violation of Rule 6-1-12: "No player, coach or bench personnel shall use any racial/ethnic slurs directed at officials or others during the warm-up, game, intermission or after the game."

Language regarding player equipment in Rule 3-4 was revised to reflect current trends. Equipment previously recommended such as

padded pants, shin pads, elbow pads, shoulder pads and protective cup will be listed as required equipment since players are no longer skating without these essential items.

In accordance with other NFHS rules, a new Rule 3-8 was added stating that electronic devices shall not be used by team personnel or spectators to communicate with on-ice players or goalkeepers during play.

In addition, the 2015-16 Ice Hockey Rules Book will be reformatted to divide the current Rule 6 – Playing Rules – into four separate rules. Rule 6 will now be Participant Conduct, followed by Rule 7 (Physical and Stick Fouls), Rule 8 (Other Fouls) and Rule 9 (Game Flow).

A complete listing of the ice hockey rules changes is available on the NFHS website at www.nfhs.org. Click on "Activities & Sports" at the top of the home page, and select "Ice Hockey."

According to the 2013-14 NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey, there are 35,393 boys participating in ice hockey in 1,585 schools across the country, and 9,150 girls playing the sport in 612 schools. ■

Sports Report "PLUS" Exemplary sportsmanship as submitted by licensed officials.



The following reports of good sportsmanship have been submitted to the WIAA. Appreciation goes out to those officials taking the time to give recognition to those schools and individuals deserving of acknowledgment.

TRACK & FIELD

Mercer vs. Chequamegon - April 27, 2015

At the conclusion of the varsity co-ed track meet, I was part of an experience that exemplified the ultimate respect for an official and certainly was a first for me. The entire Mercer High School co-ed track and field team lined up and each individual personally thanked me for officiating today. Coach Bob Schenk has every reason to be proud of his athletes for all of the usual reasons. He may now add another. Thank you and all of you are welcome.

Reporting Official: Mike Smolarek

Oostburg Invitational - Kenosha Christian Life - April 10, 2015

This meet was one of the first outdoor meets for many of the teams involved, and all of the teams were very respectful of their opponents and the officials. I would like to especially recognize the coaching staff from Kenosha Christian Life, who assisted athletes from other schools in showing them where and how to set their blocks prior to the start of several races. This moved the meet along very well.

Reporting Official: Glen Rauwerdink

SOFTBALL

Mosinee at Weyauwega-Fremont - May 5, 2015

The game was intense and competitive. Both teams demonstrated great sportsmanship. Both players and coaches were positive with each other when great plays were made or a mistake happened. Coaches did a great job communicating with their players when they were up to bat, out in the field, and between innings. Both teams repre-

sented their schools and their communities in a positive manner.

Reporting Official: Matt Peterson

Cambria-Friesland at Pardeeville - April 28, 2015

This was one of the best high school softball games I have been involved in, and serves as a model as to what high schools sports should be. Hats off to athletic director Phil Kamrath and his staff, the families of the school district, his booster club, and the businesses in the Pardeeville community, what a great job on the facilities that you have provided to the student athletes of the Pardeeville school district! We want to thank both Cambria-Friesland and Pardeeville softball programs for a fine display of good sportsmanship. From the time we took the field for our pre-game duties, both coaching staffs and teams were very cooperative, from the pre-game conference until the last out of the game. Both teams were very well behaved and continually encouraged their players throughout the game and coached the entire game. We had a couple of close plays, and neither team questioned a call. They accepted the call made, kept a positive outlook and kept the encouraging comments to their players. Both schools, communities should be very proud of these two programs.

Reporting Official: Tom Maenpaa

Niagara at Lena/St. Thomas

Aquinas - April 14, 2015

An exceptional athlete, who presented the definition of leadership and displayed superior sportsmanship is Niagara's #15, Casey Spigarelli. She displayed fairness, self-control, courage and per-

sistence with a positive attitude and continuous encouragement to not only her pitcher and her team, but to the ladies on Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas softball team. Leadership qualities are natural for her. From the time of the pre-game meeting until they left the field after the game, Miss Spigarelli continuously motivated her team. My partner, Shannon Rysewyk, also noticed her display of sportsmanship on the bases. It was a pleasure to call balls and strikes from behind the plate with a catcher who was genuinely concerned when a wild pitch bounced off the front of the plate and deflected into me. Miss Spigarelli mentioned that she was sorry that she did not stop the ball. Coach Duane Blgece, the Niagara softball team, Niagara high school and the city of Niagara can be proud to have an athlete with the maturity and presentation of sportsmanship that was on display.

Reporting Official: Jim Kostura

Denmark at Manitowoc Lutheran - March 31, 2015

The opportunity to report sportsmanship is always a welcome feeling, but when you can report two teams on the same night and at the same time is super. I have already explained to both head coaches Mike Vaks (Denmark) and Matt Menges (Manitowoc Lutheran) that it is always good to report super behavior by players, coaches and fans. The sportsmanship displayed by both teams was exemplary. Both teams complemented each other and other team members on any and all good plays. There were never any plays that displayed excessive celebratory exhibitions, but they did always show respect for all concerned.

Reporting Official: Peter L. Holm

See Sports Report "PLUS", page 14 ➤

SOCCER

Marshfield at Stevens Point - April 21, 2015

I wanted to write and tell you what a great night of soccer we experienced tonight. The weather was cold, around 32 degrees and snowing, but both schools played very hard and showed respect to each other and to their opponents. It was a competitive game, but both coaches handled their teams well. We also wanted to commend SPASH as they had a wonderful pre-game honoring each player on their team and the teacher next to them that has meant the most to them in their education! That was awesome! Great idea from Mark and Don Piehl! We were very happy to be part of this great night in high school sports!

Reporting Official: Rob Weise

Lake Mills at Lakeside Lutheran - April 14, 2015

This was the battle of bragging rights in Lake Mills. Both Lakeside Lutheran and Lake Mills played hard for the full 90 minutes. The ending score was tied 1-1. Although both wanted to win, the players were respectful of each other and the officiating crew. When players went down on the ground together, they helped each other out. Fans and teammates were cheering in a positive manner throughout the match. I did not hear or witness one negative action or comment by any player or by any of the coaches. This was a great match to watch for the fans, a great match played by the players, great and positive coaching and a great example of how rivals can act.

Reporting Official: Thomas Vergeront

BASEBALL

Oshkosh North at Appleton West - May 5, 2015

The student athletes in both programs showed a tremendous amount of sportsmanship. After a hard slide at second base, both Chris Huettner of Appleton West and Brandon Schroeder of Oshkosh North checked on each other to make sure they were both alright. Ben Leib of Oshkosh North also showed a tremendous amount of hustle throughout the game and always had positive words to share with his teammates. Coach Gassner and Coach Schafer thank you for your leadership.

Reporting Official: Phil Punzel

Oconto at Gibraltar - May 4, 2015

Both schools exhibited great sportsmanship throughout the contest. Both catchers, Connor Brennan of Gibraltar, and Harrison Hintz of Oconto, were great kids to umpire for. Both players introduced themselves to me prior to their pitchers warm-up throws. More than once during the game I heard these players congratulate the batter for a nice hit or play in the field. I also would like to compliment both schools on the way they handled an injured player for Oconto. The Gibraltar staff assisted in multiple ways. To top it off, on the way out a couple of fans thanked me for umpiring today. It was a great day!

Reporting Official: Mark Jandrin

Ashland at Rice Lake - May 2, 2015

After the final out of the first game of a double-header, the assistant coach of Ashland, Michael Miller, came running out of the dugout towards me (plate umpire) to say a positive word to me about the game, and then shook my hand. Never in 45 years of officiating have I had the losing coach (3-0 loss) do a positive thing like that! Head Coach Chris Kempf of Ashland has always showed a lot of class and respect for his baseball team towards

the officials. After the second game, both Ashland coaches shook our hands. Keep up the good work! Job well done!

Reporting Official: Steve Sevals

Neenah vs. Oshkosh West - April 30, 2015

Justin Reed of Neenah and Ben Kohl of Oshkosh West both deserve to be recognized for their outstanding acts of sportsmanship throughout the game. I had a chance to speak briefly with Mr. Reed every inning as he was the catcher. He was a very well-spoken and respectful young man of both officials and coaches. I also observed him helping opponents by picking up their bats and making a speedy effort to retrieve foul balls from coaches and on-deck batters. We both observed Mr. Kohl hustling on and off the field, as well as lending a hand to opposing players more than once. We felt Justin and Ben were incredibly deserving of recognition for positive sportsmanship. Keep up the great work men!

Reporting Official: Brent Thompson

Oshkosh Lourdes at Green Lake - April 28, 2015

Both teams showed respect for everyone involved in the game. Nathan Ruegsegger of Lourdes Academy and Gus James of Green Lake were examples of exemplary student athletes who were well-coached and respected others by using tremendous sportsmanship in all aspects of the game. We as umpires wanted to share this with the WIAA and alert their school districts of what fine young men they are fostering for the future. Thank you to both coaching staffs for their dedication to the game, sportsmanship, and making the field an extension of the classroom. Keep up the wonderful work men!

Reporting Official: Brent Thompson

St. Lawrence Seminary at Mishicot - April 27, 2015

Mishicot High School's coaches, players and fans at this game exhibited respect for the rules, opponent and the officials. Both teams accepted the decisions of the officials and abided by the decisions made. Obviously, the players for Mishicot have learned the appropriate lessons from coach Zach Sand and his assistants, since they all displayed exceptional sportsmanship. All personnel concerned were very positive without any attempts at ridiculing nor intimidations, they did show respect for the game and all others involved in the event. It was truly a pleasure to work this game and witness young people abide by the WIAA rules.

Reporting Official: Pete Holm

Manitowoc Lutheran at Brillion - April 23, 2015

It is wonderful to see student athletes exhibit positive acts of sportsmanship before, during, and after a varsity baseball game. Manitowoc Lutheran's Kyle Staudt and Jacob Clappes, as well as Brillion's Jacob Mathiebe and Alex Cooney, exemplify what it means to be a great sportsman and leaders of a team. We wanted to congratulate these four young men for this much appreciated display of sportsmanship and positive attitude. Thank you to Coach Shimek and Coach Uhlhorn for your positive leadership on and off the field, it was noticed by fans and umpires. Enjoy the rest of the season and best of luck!

Reporting Official: Brent Thompson

West De Pere at Menasha - April 16, 2015

We want to recognize three young men who showed excellent sportsmanship in a recent varsity baseball game. Jacob Buboltz and Kyle

Kosobucki of West De Pere and Dom Seifert of Menasha were these outstanding student athletes. While both teams showed top notch hustle and love of the game, these three young men were leaders. Each of them helped opponents retrieve bats, catcher's gear and helmets, as well as having a positive word or two for a nice play or hit. Each showed leadership and integrity as they played in a hard fought early season game. Both communities should be proud of these young men as they set a great example for their teammates, parents, coaches, and fans. We wish the best to both these teams as the season progresses.

Reporting Official: Brent Thompson

Chippewa Falls at Marshfield - April 18, 2014

A collision in the outfield in the fifth inning of this game led to what appeared to be a serious injury -- the most frightening moment we've witnessed in many years of officiating. Everyone was quite shaken up, including the players, coaches, administrators, umpires and parents. Once the players were taken to the hospital, the teams (players and coaches) came together in an outpouring of sportsmanship and friendship. After a delay, it was decided to postpone the rest of the doubleheader. Again both teams came together to pass on good thoughts. While nobody ever wants to be involved in such an injury, the display of sportsmanship by both teams must be noted and are a credit to the coaches and administrators of both schools, along with the players and their parents.

Reporting Official: Rich Fronheiser

Green Bay Southwest at Ashwaubenon - April 14, 2015

To the school leaders at Ashwaubenon and Green Bay Southwest High Schools, this is just a quick note to recognize the sportsmanship your players and coaching staffs of the varsity baseball programs showed today. To Will Ark of Ashwaubenon and Dustin Armstrong of Green Bay Southwest, your hustle, positive attitude, and words of encouragement that you shared with your teammates were recognized. Hats off to both programs as they displayed what high school athletics are all about.

Reporting Official: Phil Punzel

Loyal at Colby - April 14, 2015

I want to commend the varsity baseball teams from Loyal and Colby, respectfully. Both teams played hard and well. All players were more than willing to help keep the game moving at a crisp pace by hustling in and out, and I received many "thank yous" or "here I can grab that bat" from players during the game. Great job to both teams and it is a direct reflection on both coaching staffs.

Reporting Official: Brent Aschenbrenner

Manitowoc Lincoln at Wrightstown - April 13, 2015

Thank you to both Manitowoc Lincoln and Wrightstown for displaying great sportsmanship throughout this early season baseball contest. Lincoln's Brett Bertsche and Trevor Feest along with Wrightstown's Tyler Theunis and Logan Zastrow impressed us with their willingness to congratulate opponents, hustle in and out of the dugout, and assist in picking up loose equipment on the field. Their integrity and leadership are qualities both school districts should celebrate. Thank you to Coach Steinbecker and Coach Zastrow for your great leadership of your student athletes, it shows on the field.

Reporting Official: Brent Thompson

WIAA Eligibility – Summer Reminders

By: Wade Labecki, WIAA Deputy Director

Now is a good time to download updated versions of all eligibility forms from the WIAA website.

There are a few the things that athletic directors might want to review relative to WIAA rules, as students participate in their summer activities.

- 1) Remind those that might need to know, the rules affecting transfer students. Download and distribute the Transfer Rules and Waivers Quick Facts (available on the WIAA website) to the appropriate people including your guidance and admissions staff.
- 2) Review with coaches as necessary, the out of season coaching contact rules for their sport. Provide coaches with the summer contact form so they can provide you with a schedule of their planned contact days in advance. Remember that volunteer coaches are the same as paid coaches for purposes of this rule and that the second time someone shows up at practice to help coach they are considered a school coach.
 - a) All WIAA sport coaches are allowed up to 5 days of unrestricted coaching contact in the summer, between the end of school and July 31. (Football coaching contact ends July 25 in 2015.)
 - b) A reminder that varsity and junior varsity coaches can have coaching contact with 8th grade students on down up until the point of those 8th graders actually starting their 9th grade year. Someone designated as a frosh coach cannot have coaching contact with the 8th graders except as a part of the approved unrestricted contact days.
- 3) **Remember that schools cannot be involved in out of season sports activities for students in grades 10-12. The only exception is during the summertime within the unrestricted coaching contact period. School fa-**

cilities are sometimes used by nonschool groups for out of season camps and clinics. If this is to be done Board of Education policy for nonschool use of the facility must be followed. This may involve rent, and it is advisable that those conducting the activity have insurance protection.

- a) If conducted, a nonschool camp should be available to students from surrounding areas and not just returning athletes at your school. An acceptable non-school program may not be restricted based on school and/or team status.
 - b) Out of season coaching rules apply.
- 4) **Schools cannot conduct summer school classes in sports fundamentals, etc. in excess of the approved unrestricted contact days and community education is a school program with the same restrictions and exceptions.**
 - 5) Schools may issue uniforms and/or protective apparel for non-school activity, only with formal approval of their school board or governing body.
 - 6) **Students must pay their own way to any camp, clinic, or specialized training. Nonschool groups can pay expenses related to actual competition, such as entry fees into summer leagues, e.g. The school cannot have any involvement with out of season camps, clinics or competition unless the activity is part of the approved unrestricted contact opportunity, is school sponsored and available to all interested students on a voluntary basis.**
 - 7) Open gyms can be conducted in the summer but open gym rules apply including restricting students from other schools from attending.
 - 8) Remind students of amateur status and all star rules. You may

wish to ask students to contact you prior to participating in all summer sport activities so you can assess the activity and help protect their eligibility.

- 9) Remind students they must conclude their nonschool activity when the school season in that sport starts. The one exception is that during the season, athletes may participate in a skills contest with approval of the school. Specific skill contests (punt, pass, and kick, shooting contests e.g., free throws, 3 point, drive, chip and putt) isolate separate skills outside of the traditional competition setting. The skill contest may not include physical contact or extreme fatigue as the actual sport competition. Fun runs are not considered skills contests. There can be no school coach involvement. All other eligibility rules including amateur status apply.
 - 10) It is important to remind students and coaches that out of season and summertime activities must be voluntary. Taking or requiring attendance, providing incentives or connecting playing time and/or lettering requirements to out of season programs is prohibited.
 - 11) A reminder that the academic eligibility requirements apply to spring tournaments and an athlete can become academically ineligible and miss the opportunity to play in a state tournament. Also, the period of ineligibility for the fall is 15 scheduled school days or 21 calendar days, depending on when school starts. The WIAA publishes a chart each spring to help you determine when eligibility is regained.
- These rules apply to high schools. Some may also apply to middle level but the rules at the middle level are significantly different. These are not all-inclusive but hopefully will serve as a reminder in a number of important areas. Working to prevent the loss of athletic eligibility is always worth the effort. ■

Recruiting Guidelines

WIAA rules prevent the recruitment of students for athletic reasons. The specific rule in question states: "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."

It's important to note that persons not connected with the school can violate this rule, resulting in a loss of eligibility. Schools are ultimately responsible for the eligibility of all of their students and the school needs to communicate rules and pay close attention to the circumstances that bring students to the school.

Obviously, public schools and private schools encourage students to enroll and this certainly can be done without violating the undue influence rule. The following gives some examples of acceptable and unacceptable practices. This list cannot be considered all-inclusive, but should be helpful as an example.

Acceptable

- High school personnel visiting a middle school/elementary school to explain programs and encourage all interested students to attend.
- Inviting all interested students from a middle school/elementary school to visit.
- Providing game tickets to all interested

students and/or team members from a middle school/elementary school or area youth teams.

- Providing informational pamphlets which describe the high school to all interested students at a middle level/elementary school.
- Providing tuition reduction to prospective students, based on need and/or scholastic achievement.

Unacceptable

- High school personnel visiting a middle school/elementary school sport team to encourage players to attend.
- Inviting selected students, because of athletic potential or ability, to visit.
- Providing game tickets to selected students, based on athletic potential or ability.
- Providing promotional pamphlets to selected students, based on athletic potential or ability.
- Providing tuition reduction to selected students, based wholly or in part on athletic potential or ability.
- Community or booster club member(s) contacting a potential student, because of athletic ability or potential, and encouraging attendance.
- Providing items of apparel and/or other incentives to students.

Additional Examples

- Interpretation of this provision now allows youth athletic teams to receive in-

itation/complimentary admission to high school sporting events and to be acknowledged or introduced at those events.

- Teams may also perform and/or scrimmage in connection with a high school event
- Under no circumstances may a youth team be introduced, etc., at more than one contest per season.
- This interpretation provides for admission, acknowledgment and performance and/or scrimmage opportunity.
- These events may not extend or prolong the contest or periods beyond the limits provided by rule.
- Participating in the high school team's game preparations is not permitted (e.g. pregame, half-time, sidelines, locker room).
- Under no circumstances will it be considered acceptable to single out any individual youth/middle level student athlete separate from or disproportionate to the remainder of the team.

It is the responsibility of schools to contact other schools and report any possible violations of WIAA rules. The WIAA is always willing to provide rules clarifications and, where necessary, will impose sanctions on schools and programs. It is far better for schools to provide leadership and control to prevent problems than to have to deal with these issues after the fact. ■

Fall Sports – Academic Ineligibility

A reminder: When the earliest allowed WIAA game/meet takes place before the first day of classes at a member school, "the maximum ineligibility period shall be the lesser of: a). 21 consecutive calendar days beginning with the date of the earliest allowed competition in a sport; or b). one third of the maximum number of games/meets allowed in a sport (rounded up if one-third results in a fraction)."

In those instances where a member school has begun fall classes on or before the date of the earliest allowed WIAA game/meet in a sport, ineligible students in these situations are subject to the standard rule applied when school is in session (15 scheduled school days and nights). In this situation, eligi-

bility is regained **on the school day following the period of ineligibility (16th school day)**. Note 1: An interschool scrimmage does NOT count as a game or meet for purposes of this rule. Note 2: If a multi-school meet is counted on your schedule as one meet, it also counts as one meet as it applies to the number of meets an ineligible student must sit out. Note 3: Games/meets at different levels of competition (varsity, JV, freshmen) may NOT be combined to reach the number of meets an athlete must sit out.

When your school year begins **after** the earliest allowed game/meet you may use this chart to determine the period of ineligibility:

Fall 2015 Dates

Sport	Boys Soccer	Girls Volleyball	Boys Volleyball	Football	Cross Country	Girls Golf	Girls Tennis	Girls Swimming
Minimum Ineligibility Period: 21 Days or	8 games	5 meets	5 meets	3 games	4 meets	5 meets	5 meets	5 meets
Earliest Allowed Game/Meet – Fall 2015	Aug. 25	Aug. 25	Sept. 1	Aug. 20	Aug. 25	Aug. 13	Aug. 15	Aug. 19
Student Regains Eligibility on this Date or After Sitting Out the Required Number of Meets	Sept. 15	Sept. 15	Sept. 22	Sept. 10	Sept. 15	Sept. 3	Sept. 5	Sept. 9

*Do not use this chart if you begin classes on or before the date of the earliest allowed game/meet.

High School Out-of-Season Concerns

WIAA Bylaw, Article II, Section 2, A., 2), indicates "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 a sport." This includes the summer period, meaning that schools cannot conduct a summer school class, or community education program, on basketball fundamentals, for their basketball players. It doesn't matter if the class is open to all students. The one exception is in the summertime during the Board of Control approved unrestricted contact period between the end of school and July 31* (5 days in all WIAA sports). *Unrestricted coach contact ends July 25, 2015 for football.

This same Bylaw has another provision, indicating "A school may not organize conditioning programs limited to students with athletic team status, or to prospective athletes, except during the designated school season of a sport." Off-season weight-training programs are fine, as long as they are not sport specific. If a weight-training program is conducted, and is available to anyone interested, and the activities that go on are not sport specific, then it is acceptable under WIAA guidelines. There cannot, however, be incentives put in place to encourage athletes to be involved in these off-season programs. For example, it is not appropriate to indicate that any football player attending a given number of weight-training programs, will receive a T-shirt. It is also unacceptable for schools to provide a T-shirt to a basketball player, who attempts so many shots during the off-season. Another example, of unacceptable incentives, would be to include off-season activities into the determination of who gets to start during the season, or who gets to play, or for participation in these activities to be included in eligibility for a letter in that particular sport.

Captains Practices: WIAA Rules of Eligibility allow students to voluntarily assemble during the school year and in the summertime without school and/or coach involvement. These assemblies may sometimes be referred to as "captains practices." ■

School Involvement In Out-of-Season Activity

A reminder that schools cannot be involved in conducting out-of-season competition during the school year or during the summer. This means a school cannot conduct 3-on-3 basketball tournaments, co-educational volleyball tournaments, softball tournaments, etc., outside the designated school season for that particular sport. The one exception is in the summertime during the Board of Control approved unrestricted contact period between the end of school and July 31 (5 days for all WIAA sports). This does not prevent outside organizations, such as recreation departments which are not a part of the school, service clubs, etc., from renting school facilities and conducting these types of competitions, but the school itself cannot be directly involved.

A further reminder that the WIAA has a rule which states "A school may not conduct intramural programs which involve athletes with past status on a school team (varsity, junior varsity, sophomore, freshman), except during the established school season of a sport." A school cannot, for example, conduct intramural volleyball during the spring, with girls' volleyball players participating. It wouldn't make any difference how many were on a given team, or whether it was co-ed volleyball, if girls' volleyball players were involved, it would be a violation.

WIAA rules do not prevent students from participating in nonschool out-of-season competitions. However, school facilities cannot be used for students to practice for these competitions, unless a nonschool group or organization has made arrangements through normal procedures, to use these facilities.

WIAA Bylaws state that schools, including their administrators, athletic director and coaches, shall not become involved directly or indirectly with the coaching, management, direction, and/or promotion of any kind of all-star game or similar contest involving students with remaining WIAA high school eligibility in any sport, if such all-star games or similar contests are held during the established school year. ■

Open Gyms

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 made known and available to all students 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. Schools may conduct "open gyms" in any activity. 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. Coaches can also recreate with students in school sponsored, open gym settings that are purely recreational in nature, i.e., there is no instruction by the coach or anyone, sport skill demonstration, organized drills or resemblance of a practice being conducted.

4. There is no organized competition, such as established teams participating in round-robin competition, etc.

5. A member school is permitted to supervise conditioning programs under the open gym provisions, which may include weight lifting, speed, agility, and/or fitness. The program must be limited to non-sport and non-sport-skill-specific instruction. Basic 'instruction' e.g., safe lifting, safe spotting, training regimen and rationale, are permitted. No sport implements and/or sport specific movement/drills should be part of the open gym or weight room. These conditioning programs must be made known and accessible to all interested students and must be voluntary.

Schools and coaches must clearly understand that the philosophy of the open gym is that youngsters from that school may attend, for wholesome **recreation**, or for purposes of improving their skills if they choose, 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 your school's athletes. (BL – Art. II and RE – Art. VI, Sect. 2) ■

2015-2016 Eligibility Overview for Athletes

You Are Not Eligible:

If you are not enrolled as a full time student at your school.

If you reach nineteen (19) years of age prior to August 1.

If you failed more than one class in the most recent grade-reporting period (or failed to meet your school's academic standard if that standard is stricter than the WIAA's).

If eight (8) semesters have passed since entering Grade 9.

If you have participated in school sports for all, or part of, four (4) school years.

If you attend a public high school outside the district where your parent(s) reside full time in their primary residence. Exception: Tuition paying and/or open enrolled students who are entering 9th or 10th grade at the beginning of the school year.

Refer to Senior High Handbook, Rules of Eligibility.

If you attend a private school (except boarding schools) and do not reside full time with parent(s) in their primary residence. **Refer to Senior High Handbook, Rules of Eligibility.**

****Transferring schools at any time may result in restrictions being imposed on eligibility, or in some cases a denial of eligibility. Refer to Senior High Handbook, Rules of Eligibility.**

Note 1 – You may be ineligible and/or limited to nonvarsity competition if you have transferred from any school into a member school after the beginning of your 9th grade year, and you have not received a waiver from the WIAA.

Note 2 – A student who transfers after their 4th consecutive semester following entry into Grade 9 shall be ineligible for competition at any level for one calendar year, unless the transfer is made necessary by a total change in residence by parent(s). The calendar year will be determined from a student's first day of attendance at their new school.

You are not eligible to practice or compete at any level if you do not have on file in your school: (a) evidence of having passed a physical examination signed by a licensed physician, physician assistant or Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber, (b) signature of parent(s) giving permission to participate in sports,

(c) parent signature affirming receipt of WIAA Rules of Eligibility, and (d) emergency locator form on file.

If you do not sign and follow the code of conduct established by your school.

If you have violated your status as an amateur athlete by (a) accepting any amount of money or any kind of merchandise, (b) signing a contract for your services as an athlete, (c) receiving any benefit for the use of your name, picture, and/or personal appearance as an athlete, (d) providing any endorsement, as an athlete, in promoting a profit-making event, (e) playing under another name or (f) appearing as an athlete (with or without permission) in a commercial/advertisement and/or profit-making event, item, plan or service.

If you at any time have received an award of merchandise value such as e.g. shoes, jacket, sweater, jersey, duffel bag, back pack, watch, billfold, gift certificates, e.g., in recognition of your talent or accomplishment as an athlete.

If you participate in a contest or event other than for your official interscholastic school team while you are a member of that school team and during the entire school season (start of practice to end of season) of that sport.

If as an underclassman you have played in an all-star contest.

If you let anyone besides your parents pay a fee for specialized training, like a summer camp, or if you are instructed by your school coach outside the season of a sport (unless the contact is in the summertime and takes place during an approved contact period).

Your school is a member of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association, and the rules and regulations as established by the member schools of the WIAA govern your participation in high school athletics, and impact/affect your sports activity outside of school.

The rules above are general statements only; see your principal, athletic director, or coach for further details and exceptions.

Your school may have stricter rules than those listed here; again contact your principal, athletic director, or coach if you have a question on any eligibility rule relating to either your school or the WIAA. ■

Coaches Participating Against Athletes in the Off-Season

Except during Board of Control approved coaching contact days, WIAA rules indicate that coaches may not provide sport instruction to, or have coaching contact with student-athletes during the off-season. This rule and its interpretation had prevented coaches from participating against their athletes in structured, non-school league competition, during the off-season. The WIAA Board of Control approved a request by the WIAA staff for a change in interpretation. The present interpretation allows coaches to participate against their athletes in league competition, organized by a non-school entity, during the off-season. This

means a volleyball coach, for example, could be participating in a volleyball league which included his/her volleyball players as members of other teams.

It continues to be a violation of WIAA rules for coaches to participate on the same team as their athletes, in out-of-season play, and to be involved in playing pickup activity with their athletes during the off-season except in school sponsored Open Gyms. The other obvious exception to this is in the non-school unlimited contact window in all sports except football, during the summertime, when school is not in normal session. ■

Competitive Equity Solution Must Begin with Priorities

The competitive equity quandary is no more solved today than it was before April's Annual Meeting, or no more than it was five, 10 or even 15 years ago.

Survey other states with similar membership diversity, and they are most likely experiencing the same complexities addressing competitive equity. Despite the nuances in governance and structure that make each state association unique, we all have attempted to find a cure-all for the same complex issue, but no silver bullet has emerged. Other states have tried implementing measures such as multipliers, reducers, geographical boundaries and success factors to satisfy an arbitrary and suitable quota that appeases those with their own perspective of fairness or what high school sports ought to be about. However, none have been the panacea.

After years of discussion, debate, committees, amendments, and oh yes, editorials, social messaging and forums, it is evident that the complexities intertwined with competitive equity will prevent a simple solution in attempts to legislate or script success. No state has found the formula for calculating or shaping success. Our membership recently considered various plans. The results have been consistent with observations the executive staff has shared with the membership.

A success factor? No initial widespread support after being replaced by a multiplier amendment at April's Annual Meeting.

A multiplier? No widespread support, failing 293-141.

A reducer? No widespread support, failing 265-167.

Assessing what can be termed as a handicap for specific segments of the membership, in order to establish policy driven by a subjective success quota to "level the playing field," has consistently been rejected by a discerning membership. If a uniform, consistent and truly fair solution arises, it will certainly be quickly recognized—not only here in Wisconsin—but throughout the region and nation.

Maybe, if we can get beyond the shine of the gold ball or medal, or defining success in ways that only a fortunate few high schoolers can experience each season, we may begin to unearth what might be the only and most insightful solution to the complexities of competitive equity at the interscholastic level.

The solution, although hard to fathom based on where we are in the evolution of youth sports, lies within the very purpose of why we have sports in our schools. The solution is to recognize and emphasize the education and lifelong lessons associated with, and participation in, interscholastic athletics as a component of the total education process.

The benefits and experiences of personal growth that occurs as a member of a school team throughout a season is not diminished if a team fails to advance in the tournament or win the State Tournament. All of us that have participated in high school sports can attest to this. The mountain of research supporting the positive benefits of simply participating in school sports, whether on varsity, junior varsity or freshman teams, has far too much educational value to take our eyes off the real prize.

Undoubtedly, this solution may not sit well with those most distressed with enrollments being the determining factor for tournament placement, still holding out for a quick and easy fix of the silver bullet. No one in leadership roles is sticking their "head in the sand" on this issue. Quite the opposite. It requires all of us

to introspectively examine and modify the perspectives that may be undervaluing the purpose of interscholastic sports.

The concept of competitive equity in education-based sports is abstruse because of the influences outside of school sports, which have developed a culture and expectation that success is defined only by wins, and more wins, and championships. That mission and purpose should remain with the entertainment and recreational sports industries. If that mentality is embraced in school sports, we will continue to miss the target and be engulfed in a perpetual struggle to legislate fairness and parity by imposing measures that are not uniform or consistent with our purpose, or for that matter, the ideals of sports competition in general.

We, as adult educators and leaders, must have the maturity and where-withal to readjust the focal point of high school sports, because we are the ones that can redirect the focus back to participation and the true purpose of school sports. It's not the kids that originate the ideas or propaganda as to why one team wins and another doesn't—other than the fact that one team played better. Those rationalizations are derived from us adults.

To reset the priorities may not be as far-fetched or unattainable as it may appear. Many school administrators want to embrace the benefits of participation over the win-at-almost every-cost concept prevalent in today's popular sports culture. They can strengthen the education bond with their school's athletic programs by setting reasonable and clear expectations for their coaches and parents. This can be accomplished by persistently beating the drum and message over, and over, and over again every year with every new coach and new set of parents.

Mike Beighley, the WIAA Board of Control president and superintendent of the Whitehall School District, included these same sentiments following the Annual Meeting in April.

"Do we do this so we can win championships and get medals, or do we do this because kids learn so many valuable lessons from high school sports," he said. "That has to be at center first, and in essence, reinvent ourselves that way, because our fundamental platform is about participation. We recognize championships; we celebrate them, but that's not why we do this. We need to center back on what we are supposed to do."

Focusing on the purpose and mission of high school sports is the philosophical solution to the competitive balance concerns, and maybe for many of the conference realignment challenges that arise as well.

It's time to expect commitment, not necessarily resulting in conference and state championships, or even wins and losses, but how we position interscholastic athletics as a partner in the total educational process. By directing focus to how interscholastic athletics enriches the lives of those that participate, we shift our energies to encouraging greater involvement and maintaining viable school programs for future generations. That proper focus may also help address the decreasing participation in some sports, a shortage of officials and some schools' difficulty in finding and retaining coaches.

The choice is ours as leaders and educators. We can continue looking for a panacea using formulas and quotas at the expense of a certain type of student going to a certain type of school, or we can focus on celebrating how these school activities shape and impact the lives of those participating. ■

Keep These Dates in Mind

May 21, 26 & 28 Softball Regionals
May 25 Memorial Day
May 26 Track & Field Regionals
Boys Tennis Subsectionals
May 26-27 Boys Golf Regionals
May 27-28 Boys Tennis Sectionals
May 29 Track & Field Sectionals
June 2-3 Boys Golf Sectionals
June 2 & 4 Softball Sectionals
June 2, 3, 4 & 5 Spring Baseball Regionals
June 4-5-6 State Boys Individual Tennis Tournament (Madison)
June 4 & 6 Girls Soccer Regionals
June 5-6 State Track & Field Meet (La Crosse)
June 8-9 State Boys Golf (Madison)
June 9 Spring Baseball Sectionals
June 11 & 13 Girls Soccer Sectionals
June 11-12-13 State Softball (Madison)
June 12-13 State Boys Team Tennis (Madison)
June 15 Sports Advisory Committee Meeting
June 16-17-18 State Spring Baseball (Appleton)

June 18-19-20 State Girls Soccer (Milwaukee)
June 24-25 Advisory Council Meeting
June 25 Board of Control Meeting
July 14 & 17 Summer Baseball Regionals
July 20 Summer Baseball Sectionals
July 20-21 New AD Workshop
July 24 State Summer Baseball
August 1 Membership Application Deadline
August 3 Earliest Day to Issue Football Equipment
August 4 Earliest Day for Football Practice
August 10 Earliest Day for Girls Golf Practice
August 11 Earliest Day for Girls Swimming & Diving Practice
Earliest Day for Girls Tennis Practice
August 13 Earliest Date for First Girls Golf Meet
August 14 Board of Control Meeting
August 15 Earliest Date for First Girls Tennis Meet
August 17 Earliest Day for Boys & Girls Cross Country Practice
Earliest Day for Boys Soccer Practice
Earliest Day for Girls Volleyball Practice
August 19 Earliest Date for First Girls Swimming & Diving Meet



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Test Dates

Students participating in interscholastic sports often find conflicts between these events and college test dates.

Listed below are the 2014-2015, 2015-2016 and 2016-17 dates for ACT.

ACT – 2014-2015

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Required
June 13, 2015	May 8, 2015	May 9-22, 2015

ACT – 2015-2016

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Required
Sept. 12, 2015	August 7, 2015	August 8-21, 2015
Oct. 24, 2015	Sept. 18, 2015	Sept. 19-Oct. 2, 2015
Dec. 12, 2015	Nov. 6, 2015	Nov. 7-20, 2015
Feb. 6, 2016*	Jan. 8, 2016	Jan. 9-15, 2015
April 9, 2016	March 4, 2016	March 5-18, 2016
June 11, 2016**	May 6, 2016	May 7-20, 2016

ACT – 2016-2017

September 10, 2016	February 11, 2017*
October 22, 2016	April 8, 2017
December 10, 2016	June 10, 2017

* No test centers are scheduled in New York for the February test date.

** See Non-Saturday
(<http://www.actstudent.org/faq/nonsat.html>) testing for information related to this test date.

According to a report in *High School Today*, a Harris Poll indicated that an overwhelming number of school principals believe a higher level of school spirit is correlated with higher student involvement and high student achievement. ■