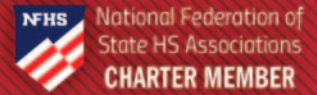




BULLETIN



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WIAAWI.ORG

Board of Control Approves Spring Sport Rules Changes, Fall Co-ops

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Board of Control approved coaches advisory committee rule change recommendations in softball, lacrosse and track & field at its Oct. 31 meeting.

Beginning in June 2025, the State Softball Tournament will expand to a four-day format to address early start times and the time-constraint concerns of conducting seven games in a single day. The revised State Tournament schedule will begin Wednesday and run through Saturday. The Division 1 quarterfinals will be conducted Wednesday. Thursday's schedule will feature the Division 5 and Division 4 semifinals followed by one Division 1 semifinal. The other Division 1 semifinal will be played Friday morning with Division 3 and Division 2 semifinals to follow. Saturday's schedule of championship games will remain unchanged.

In track & field, the State Meet list of qualifiers will be expanded beginning next spring. The Board approved a recommendation to increase the number of extra qualifiers from eight to 10 in all events with the related increase in qualifying medals. As indicated in the Season Regulations, extra qualifiers will include individuals and relay teams with marks or times that rank in the top 10 performances of all sectionals combined.

The Board supported one recommendation in lacrosse. Beginning next spring, the highest-seeded team will host the sectional final, but if the higher seed is unable to host, the game will be moved to a neutral site.

There were five conference realignment fast track plans approved by the Board, effective in 2025-26. Chetek-Weyerhaeuser exits the Heart O' North Conference and enters the Dunn-St. Croix for all sports except football. Unity will move from the Lakeland Conference to the Heart O' North. Stevens Point Area Senior High School girls hockey will enter the new Northern Girls Hockey Conference from the Eastern Girls Hockey Conference. Adams-Friendship, Amherst and Assumption join the South Central Conference in girls soccer after the Mid-Western

See Board of Control Approves Spring Sport Rules Changes, Fall Co-ops, page 16 >

Participation in High School Sports Tops Eight Million for First Time in 2023-24

More than eight million participants competed in high school sports in the 2023-24 school year – an all-time record and the first time ever that total participation has exceeded the eight-million mark.



The NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey indicated that 8,062,302 participants were involved in high school sports in 2023-24, which is up 210,469 from the previous year and tops the previous record of 7,980,886 set in 2017-18. The total includes 4,638,785 boys and 3,423,517 girls – both record highs – according to figures obtained

See Participation, page 4 >

Board Approves Association Handbooks, Lacrosse Realignment Fast Track

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Board of Control approved a limited number of action items, and received customary executive staff and liaison reports at its Sept. 20 meeting.

Bryan Davis, superintendent of the Oshkosh Area School District, was introduced as the new District 4 representative on the Board replacing Dan Retzki, who announced his resignation from the Board in August after accepting a principal position at a member school outside the district.

The Board voted to authorize the additions, edits and content of association publications, including the 2024-25 handbooks for the Board of Control, Executive Staff, Classification Committee and other committees, and Conference Realignment. In addition, the Board approved 2024-25 appointments to the Conference Realignment Task Force, Sports Medical Advisory Committee, Classification Committee and Coaches Advisory committees.

A conference realignment fast track recommendation that merges the Fox River Classic and Fox River Valley Conference for lacrosse was approved by the Board. The nine-team league will include Appleton East/Appleton North/Appleton

West/Fox Valley Lutheran/Hortonville/Ripon/Waupaca/Wild Rose/Xavier Co-op, Bay Port, De Pere/West De Pere Co-op, Neenah, Kimberly, Notre Dame/Ashwaubenon/Freedom/Kaukauna Co-op, Oneida Nation/Green Bay East/Green Bay Preble/Green Bay Southwest/Green Bay West/Seymour Co-op, Pulaski and Wausau West/D.C. Everest/Mosinee/Wausau East Co-op.

Other Board action included approval of the regular monthly financial statements and general fund payments, as well as the moving of April 2025 Board meeting to Wednesday, April 23.

Additional topics of discussion included staff reports on continued efforts to recruit and retain licensed officials, 2024-25 membership renewals, preparations for the fall Tournament Series and a report reviewing the first three Area Meetings.

The Board also received liaison reports from Paul Manriquez of the Department of Public Instruction, Dan Rossmiller of the Wisconsin Association of School Boards, Brittany Spencer Grant of the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association. Andy Engel of the Hamilton Consulting Group and Melinda Koski of Platform Communications also presented reports to the Board. ●

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WIAA Seeks Nominations for Spirit of Sport Award

The WIAA Executive Staff is encouraging all member schools to submit nominations of individuals or groups they consider worthy of consideration for the 2024-25 National Federation of State High School Associations Spirit of Sport Award.

The deadline for nominating an individual or group for the award sponsored by the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin is Friday, December 6th. Please submit the name and a brief summary of the nominee to Melissa Gehring at mgehring@wiaawi.org. If your nominee is chosen for the award, administrators will be asked to complete a more comprehensive application to be forwarded to the NFHS for consideration.

This award seeks to recognize those individuals who exemplify the ideals of the positive spirit of sport that represent the core mission of education-based athletics. It honors an individual or group that has overcome significant adversity or challenging circumstances, has exceeded normal expectations in assisting others within the school or community, or has demonstrated exemplary sportsmanship and/or citizenship in playing the game as it should be played.

The award may be given in recognition of a specific act or for an activity of longer duration. Nominees may include student-athletes, coaches, athletic administrators, school administrators, contest officials, athletic trainers, community and booster club members, or anyone associated with a school's athletic program.

The Wisconsin nominee is submitted to the NFHS for national consideration. Each year, the NFHS presents eight section recipients, as well as a national recipient for the Spirit of Sport Award. The WIAA's nominee to the NFHS will receive a keepsake award in recognition of the honor and be introduced at the WIAA Annual Meeting on April 25, 2025.

The National High School Spirit of Sport Award began in 2008 with the WIAA's recognition of Wisconsin's nomination and finalists beginning in 2017-18.

Past recipients of Wisconsin's Spirit of Sport Award include Bryce Ladwig of Plymouth High School in 2017-18, who was also selected as the NFHS Section 4 recipient; Ashley Stich of Kenosha Tremper High School in 2018-19, Adam Szeplieniec of DeForest High School in 2019-20, Abby Tuma of Shawano in 2020-21, Jordan Glenn of Wisconsin Lutheran in 2021-22, and Kenzie Koppenhaver of Kiel in 2022-23 and Michael Turner of Hartford in 2023-24. ●

Membership, Staff Engage in Valuable Interaction

The WIAA Executive Staff traveled the 2024 circuit of seven district Area Meetings in September, marking the 48th year the meetings have been conducted.

Two of the informative agenda topics featured presentations from members of the Student-Athlete Leadership Team and the Calendar & Contact Committee.

Student-athletes representing schools in their respective districts expressed their insights on why they were interested in serving on the team, and they conveyed three goals for SALT in the group's first year. The goals included addressing student-athlete mental health, increasing the number of licensed officials through recruitment and promoting good sportsmanship, and enhancing school spirit and athletic participation.

School representatives serving on the Calendar & Contact Committee communicated the group's purpose statement and provided a progress update and data collected on the study of season lengths, game maximums, and coaching contact days. The committee members announced the prioritization of coaching contact days as its first area of study, and they encouraged the membership's assistance in gathering data through a diverse, statewide survey.

Executive staff presentations encompassed a brief history, timeline and current status of the basketball shot clock with a governance structure overview, an update on the implementation of the competitive balance performance factor, a review of the 2024 Constitutional changes and a summary of the potential 2025 Constitutional amendments, including another consideration of Name, Image and Likeness language.

Other topics presented by the member schools at the meeting included the pre-event emergency action plan meeting, current status of the middle level member-

See Membership, Staff Engage in Valuable Interaction, page 16 ►

WIAA Sport Medical Advisory Committee

The History

In mid-1930, the WIAA Board of Control established the WIAA Benefit Plan to be overseen by the WIAA Secretary Neverman. "The WIAA also procured the services of a medical advisor for the Benefit Plan. The first such person was Dr. M. D. Bird of Marinette. He received a \$100 honorarium for his first year's work of reviewing unusual injury claims." (Otte, More Than A Game, 1996, 120)

With the creation of the WIAA Benefit Plan, the WIAA established days-out limitations on athlete injuries and determined a required recovery period. In fact, the WIAA Benefit Plan limited the return to play from a major head injury (concussion) to one calendar year and the return to play from a minor head injury to 30 days.

The WIAA Sport Medical Advisory Committee (SMAC) was established in 1974 to replace the State Medical Society's Subcommittee on WIAA matters because the latter group "has only one practicing physician involved in athletics." (Otte, 377) In 1975, the Committee met for the first time. The WIAA was among the first high school state associations in the country to develop a Sport Medical Advisory Committee.

Significant Health Moves

The WIAA Medical Policies and Procedures Manual was distributed to the WIAA membership in 1975 and revamped for the 1990-91 school year. The publication provides guidelines on many medical matters for interscholastic athletic practices and contests. It currently is updated annually it is available on the WIAA website.

The Sport Medical Advisory Committee established the Wrestling 7% Committee, now the Minimum Weight Committee, in 1989 and in 1990; the Minimum Weight Committee recommended the skinfold measurement system for all wrestlers to determine a minimum wrestling weight. The program became mandatory in 1991. (Otte, 432) Later in 1996, the Minimum Weight Committee recommended a hydration test to work along with the skinfold measurement process.

In a 1989 opinion which resulted in a 1990 rule change, "The Medical

See WIAA Sport Medical Advisory Committee, page 12 ►

Classification Forms & Timeline

Fall Sports

Application Deadline

October 1 – Tournament Classification Request to Move Up or Down a Division

December 1 – Tournament Classification Appeal

Winter Sports

Application Deadline

February 1 – Tournament Classification Request to Move Up or Down a Division

April 1 – Tournament Classification Appeal

Spring Sports

Application Deadline

May 1 – Tournament Classification Request to Move Up or Down a Division

July 1 – Tournament Classification Appeal ●

2024-25 Officials Recruitment and Retainment

Annual Registration Windows for Officials

The WIAA offers three registration windows for officials. We have recently completed a window for officials to register without incurring a \$30 processing fee. That window was available from September 15-30 and we saw approximately 862 officials register during this 15-day window for a total of 1,365 sport registrations, that's 1.58 sports per official.

The final registration window remaining for this school year is: **January 1-15 Member Schools Lending a Hand**

Member schools have contributed to the recruitment of new officials in many ways, including providing high school classes on officiating. We have seen the involvement of high schools grow exponentially over the past 3 years

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Number of HS teaching Officiating Course	12	24	42	75
Number of HS students licensed as Officials	243	1419	554	786*

**number of HS student officials registered as of 10/8/24*

Last year, the number of WIAA-licensed officials reached 10,181. The highest total in the association's history. This marks a significant recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic drastically reduced the pool of available officials. A key factor in this resurgence has been the substantial increase in high school students becoming licensed, which has greatly contributed to the overall numbers. We are excited to track the future success of these efforts.

While these students may not yet be ready for officiating at the varsity level, they represent the future of officiating in Wisconsin. It is essential that we actively support and nurture them on this journey, while making a conscious effort to shield them from the negativity that has driven many officials away from the profession.

We are also grateful to the many individuals and groups across the state who are playing an active role in recruiting new officials. Let's continue working together to promote sportsmanship and positive interactions with the officials who serve our schools and communities. ●

2024-25 WIAA Wrestling Points of Emphasis and Reminders

We would like to remind all officials and coaches that there will be an officials' clinic held in conjunction with the coaches' clinic on Nov. 9th in Wisconsin Dells. Our major goal is to have uniform officiating state wide. Coaches are welcome to attend. It is important for all officials to go to the website and check your profile to make sure it is accurate and current. Failure to do so could result in your being ineligible for some post season assignments. Be certain to complete your exam(s) and preseason video this fall – this is a requirement for coaches and is important for officials to maintain/advance their classification level.

Our Need for Officials

We all realize that Wisconsin is in dire need of young officials. As in the past, I encourage all officials' associations state wide to adopt a mentoring program to help develop young officials. In addition, all high school coaches should encourage their athletes to consider obtaining a limited-restricted license. This will allow them to officiate all youth through JV level wrestling events. There is no fee to be paid by them for this license.

Officials' Clinic

Will again be held in Wisconsin Dells on Nov. 9th in conjunction with the annual WWCA coach's clinic. This is a great event – be there if possible. You will be contacted with more information. Association leaders, please encourage your membership to attend.

Coaching Corners

With the rule change this year to include only one point of contact to have wrestlers considered inbounds, we are strongly encouraging that all tournament directors consider keeping the coaching corners off of the mat itself. Doing this will provide the full mat area to be utilized and provide the safest set up for the athletes and coaches. If the coaches area is on the mat and a wrestler comes in contact with that area, they will be considered

See 2024-25 WIAA Wrestling Points of Emphasis and Reminders, page 12 >

NAERA Football Helmet Reconditioning and Recertification Recommendations

NAERA (National Athletic Equipment Reconditioners Association), NOCSAE (National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment) and helmet manufacturers are informing you of reconditioning and recertification recommendations for football, lacrosse, baseball and softball helmets.

NAERA recommends that during every football, lacrosse, baseball and softball season or practice period, every helmet should be cleaned and inspected regularly by a school or organization staff member with knowledge of manufacturer recommendations. We further recommend every helmet should be reconditioned and recertified annually unless stated otherwise by the manufacturer. ONLY a company licensed by NOCSAE can perform the recertification of football, lacrosse, baseball and softball helmets. For a list of NAERA members that are licensed by NOCSAE please visit our web site www.naera.net. More information regarding NOCSAE and their standards can be found at www.nocsae.org.

Reconditioning/Recertification and Sanitization Post Covid-19: NAERA recommends every football, lacrosse, baseball and softball helmet be reconditioned and recertified prior to being issued to all athletes, unless stated otherwise by the manufacturer. NAERA further recommends that nonrecertifiable equipment, including but not limited to, football and lacrosse shoulder pads, chest protectors and shin guards be sanitized in accordance to manufacturer guidelines.

On January 1, 2017 NOCSAE put into effect standard ND 001 6.1.1 shown below.

ND 001 6.1.1. Helmets intended to be recertified shall have a recertification interval provided by the manufacturer. Certification life is limited to this time period. Helmets not recertified during the stated interval shall no longer be certified. Recertification interval required for warranty validation shall satisfy this requirement.

What does ND 001 6.1.1 mean for your school or organization? For Football helmets, as of this writing, the requirements from all football helmet manufacturers for recertification is a **minimum** of every other year. If you acquired new helmets in 2020 these helmets will need recertification per this standard for 2024 play.

Helmets that have a lapsed certification per NOCSAE DOC. 001 may be recertified under most conditions. Always ask your NAERA representative if you have doubts. **Remember when your team Captain or Coach tells the official your team is legally equipped, you need to know that is correct and factual.**

Every state association playing under NFHS (National Federation of State High School Associations) and NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) rules has adopted the NOCSAE standards for football, lacrosse, baseball and softball helmets. Other state associations may have similar rules; however, most support the helmet manufactures recommendations.

To help clarify for schools and organizations experiencing warning labels separating from football helmets reconditioned in 2024:

The loss of a mandatory label that might occur after the helmet has been properly recertified and returned to the customer does not void the certification or recertification. Helmets with warning label issues DO NOT need to be removed from play. If during inspection of helmets in your inventory an exterior warning label is missing, you should determine if your helmets are current with manufacturer recommended intervals for recertification. If so, the helmets will still meet NOCSAE and manufacturer recertification guidelines for on field play. Please reach out to your reconditioning representative for instructions to replace the missing label.

Please make certain your school or organization is using a reconditioning company licensed by NOCSAE. ●

from the 51 NFHS member state associations, which includes the District of Columbia. It is significant to note the participation figures collected from each state association are a cumulative total for each sport throughout the school year; therefore, multi-sport athletes are counted in the figures multiple times, once for each sport of participation.

The 2023-24 total marked the second consecutive increase after numbers tumbled during the pandemic. Since the initial survey after the pandemic, participation in high school sports has increased 444,248 in two years and represents a turnaround from the decline that started the year before the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are thrilled to learn that participation in high school sports has exceeded eight million for the first time," said Dr. Karissa Niehoff, CEO of the NFHS. "The comeback from the pause of school sports during the pandemic has been so gratifying and certainly indicates the staying power of education-based sports in our nation's schools. We salute coaches, athletic directors and other school administrators for making these experiences happen for student-athletes."

Two of the biggest storylines are the increases in all forms of high school football – boys and girls – and the continued rise in both girls and boys wrestling. Eleven-player football remained the most popular boys sport and registered an increase for the second consecutive year from 1,028,761 to 1,031,508. There also was an increase in 8-player football participation from 23,812 to 26,420.

The biggest gains in football, however, came on the girls side, particularly with the emerging sport of flag football. The number of participants in girls flag football more than doubled from 2022-23 to 2023-24. A total of 42,955 girls participated in flag football in 2023-24 compared to 20,875 the previous year – a 105 percent increase. And from the 15,716 participants in 2021-22, there has been an increase of 173 percent. There also was an increase in the number of girls competing on 11-player football teams from 3,654 to 4,094.

**TEN MOST POPULAR BOYS PROGRAMS
Schools**

1. Basketball18,587
2. Track & Field – Outdoor17,274
3. Baseball16,146
4. Cross Country15,511
5. Golf14,055
6. Football – 11-Player13,788
7. Soccer12,754
8. Wrestling11,149
9. Tennis10,175
10. Swimming & Diving7,855

Participants

1. Football – 11-Player1,031,508
2. Track & Field – Outdoor625,333
3. Basketball536,668
4. Baseball471,701
5. Soccer467,483
6. Wrestling291,874
7. Cross Country239,381
8. Tennis157,835
9. Golf155,174
10. Swimming & Diving116,799

**TEN MOST POPULAR GIRLS PROGRAMS
Schools**

1. Basketball18,090
2. Track & Field – Outdoor17,267
3. Volleyball16,849
4. Softball – Fast Pitch15,635
5. Cross Country15,228
6. Soccer12,307
7. Golf11,089
8. Tennis10,645
9. Swimming & Diving8,133
10. Competitive Spirit7,827

Participants

1. Track & Field – Outdoor506,015
2. Volleyball479,125
3. Soccer383,895
4. Basketball367,284
5. Softball – Fast Pitch345,451
6. Tennis195,766
7. Cross Country192,969
8. Competitive Spirit181,023
9. Swimming & Diving138,174
10. Lacrosse101,204

Including boys and girls competitors in 6-, 8-, 9- and 11-player football, and girls and boys participants in flag football, the overall football total for 2023-24 was 1,118,705 – an increase of 28,825 from 2022-23.

Another highlight is the sizeable jump in wrestling – boys and girls – for the second consecutive year. An additional 32,443 boys were involved in wrestling last year, jumping from 259,431 to 291,874. Since the 2021-22 season, there has been a gain of 60,000 in boys wrestling – an amazing 25 percent increase. And participation on girls teams has continued its historic rise as well with 64,257 participants last year – an increase of 102 percent from the 31,654 in 2021-22.

Outdoor track and field, volleyball and soccer all registered increases and remained the top three participatory sports for girls. Track and field increased four percent to 506,015, followed by volleyball at 479,125 and soccer at 383,895. Although the number of participants was down about 6,000, basketball (367,284) remained in the No. 4 spot followed by fast-pitch softball (345,451), tennis (195,766), cross country (192,989), competitive spirit (181,023 – up 20 percent), swimming and diving (138,174) and lacrosse (101,204).

Outdoor track and field, and soccer had significant gains on the boys side as well. After 11-player football and outdoor track and field (625,333), the rest of the boys top 10 includes basketball (536,668), baseball (471,701), soccer (467,483), wrestling (291,874), cross country (239,381), tennis (157,835), golf (155,174) and swimming and diving (116,799).

The NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey was started in 1971 and was compiled in its current form through the 2018-19 school year, resuming annually with the 2021-22 survey. The complete 2023-24 NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey will be available soon on the NFHS website at www.nfhs.org. ●



Thursday & Friday, Nov. 21 & 22
Camp Randall Stadium, Madison

Thursday, Nov. 21

Division 7: 10 a.m.

Division 6: 1 p.m.

Division 5: 4 p.m.

Division 4: 7 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 22

Division 3: 10 a.m.

Division 2: 1 p.m.

Division 1: 4 p.m.



Saturday, Nov. 16
South Wood County Stadium, Wisconsin Rapids

1 p.m.

Bracket A Winner vs. Bracket B Winner

2024-25 NFHS Basketball Rules Changes

1-19: Limits the use of electronic devices used during a game for the purposes of recording and tracking stats, reviewing or diagramming plays, or other similar contest related functions.

Rationale: Clarifies the type of electronic devices that are allowed during the game, prohibiting the use of voice and video recording devices worn during a contest.

2-11-11: Requires the non-official scorer(s) to compare records with the official scorer when multiple scorers are present.

Rationale: Allows the official scorer to remain focused on game activity and places the responsibility of comparing scoring and other book-keeping information on the auxiliary scorer(s).

3-3-6: Requires a player who has been injured to be removed from the game if the coach is beckoned by the official, whether the coach enters the playing area or not, or if bench personnel (i.e., a coach or athletic trainer) enters the court without being beckoned. The coach may still use a time-out to continue assessment of the injury and keep the injured player in the game.

Rationale: Creates consistency for officials that an injured player is subject to removal from the game when an injury occurs, and the coach/team personnel are beckoned or if they enter the court without an official beckoning.

3-3-7: Allows 20 seconds for a player to address any minor blood on the body or uniform without leaving the game. If the blood cannot be appropriately covered/cleaned within 20 seconds, the head coach may take a time-out to address the issue or substitute for the player.

Rationale: Provides a short interval of time to handle a blood related issue without delaying the game, while still addressing the health-related concerns associated with blood on a player.

3-4-4a (NEW): Allows the use of a school logo/mascot image to be centered directly above the uniform number in place of an identifying name.

Rationale: Removes the restriction of allowing only lettering on the front of the jersey.

4-6-1 EXCEPTION (NEW): Creates an exception to basket interference by allowing a player(s) to touch only the net while the ball is on or within the basket provided that the contact did not affect the ball.

Rationale: Allows play to continue unless the contact of the net affects the try for goal.

4-47-5 (NEW), 10-2-1g (NEW), 10-4-5b: Changes the penalty for failing to immediately pass the ball to the nearer official when a whistle sounds from a player technical to a warning for delay for the first violation and a team technical for any subsequent offense.

Rationale: Allows officials to issue a warning before assessing a technical and the technical will now be assessed to the team and not the player, lessening the severity of the penalty while addressing the behavior.

4-49 (NEW), 10-2-1g (NEW), 10-4-6f: Changes the penalty for faking being fouled from a player technical to a warning for the first violation and a team technical for any subsequent offense and adds a definition and examples.

Rationale: Allows officials to issue a warning before

assessing a technical and the technical will now be assessed to the team and not the player, lessening the severity of the penalty while addressing the behavior.

7-1-1: Establishes that a player is out of bounds if contact by a teammate or other bench personnel outside the boundary line provides an advantage, allowing the player to remain in bounds.

Rationale: Establishes that a player cannot be assisted from outside the boundary line by teammates or bench personnel to remain in-bounds.

9-10-1a NOTE (NEW), 4-10: Allows state associations to adopt a modification to the closely guarded rule if they have adopted the 35-second

shot clock, allowing players to dribble the ball for more than five seconds while closely guarded and maintain that a player may not hold the ball for five or more seconds.

Rationale: Permits states utilizing the 35-second shot clock to allow players to dribble without enforcing the closely guarded rule since they have a 35-second time limit to attempt a try for goal, maintaining an appropriate pace of play.

10-1-1 PENALTY, 10-1-2 PENALTY, 10-2-7 PENALTY (NEW), 10-5-1 PENALTY(NEW): Establishes that all administrative, team and bench technical fouls that occur during pregame offset – no free throws are awarded – and the
See 2024-25 NFHS Basketball Rules Changes, page 6 >

2025 State Girls Basketball Tournament Schedule

Thursday-Friday-Saturday, March 13-15
Resch Center, Green Bay

Thursday, March 13

Division 3 Semifinals – 1:35 p.m.

#1 Seed vs. #4 Seed
#2 Seed vs. #3 Seed

Division 4 Semifinals – 6:35 p.m.

#1 Seed vs. #4 Seed
#2 Seed vs. #3 Seed

Friday, March 14

Division 5 Semifinals – 9:05 a.m.

#1 Seed vs. #4 Seed
#2 Seed vs. #3 Seed

Division 2 Semifinals – 1:35 p.m.

#1 Seed vs. #4 Seed
#2 Seed vs. #3 Seed

Division 1 Semifinals – 6:35 p.m.

#1 Seed vs. #4 Seed
#2 Seed vs. #3 Seed

Saturday, March 15

3-Point Challenge – 9:30 a.m.

Division 5 Championship – 11:05 a.m.

Division 4 Championship

15 minutes following completion of Division 5 championship game.

Division 3 Championship

15 minutes following completion of Division 4 championship game.

Division 2 Championship – 6:35 p.m.

Division 1 Championship

15 minutes following completion of Division 2 championship game.

2025 State Boys Basketball Tournament Schedule

Thursday-Friday-Saturday, March 20-22
Kohl Center, Madison

Thursday, March 20

Division 3 Semifinals – 1:35 p.m.

#1 seed vs. #4 seed
#2 seed vs. #3 seed

Division 4 Semifinals – 6:35 p.m.

#1 seed vs. #4 seed
#2 seed vs. #3 seed

Friday, March 21

Division 5 Semifinals – 9:05 a.m.

#1 seed vs. #4 seed
#2 seed vs. #3 seed

Division 2 Semifinals – 1:35 p.m.

#1 seed vs. #4 seed
#2 seed vs. #3 seed

Division 1 Semifinals – 6:35 p.m.

#1 seed vs. #4 seed
#2 seed vs. #3 seed

Saturday, March 22

3-Point Challenge – 9:30 a.m.

Division 5 Championship – 11:05 a.m.

Division 4 Championship

15 minutes following completion of Division 5 championship game.

Division 3 Championship

15 minutes following completion of Division 4 championship game.

Division 2 Championship – 6:35 p.m.

Division 1 Championship

15 minutes following completion of Division 2 championship game.

82nd Annual WIAA Individual Wrestling Championship Tournament

Thursday, Feb. 27 - Saturday, March 1, 2025
Kohl Center, Madison

Doors open for spectators one hour prior to the start of sessions 1, 2, 3, & 4.

Doors open for fans one and a half hours prior to the start of session 5 (Finals).

ATTENTION: Fans should plan to allow extra time to enter. Metal Detectors will be used on entry into the Kohl Center.

Session 1 Thursday, Feb. 27 - Eight Mats

Div. 1 & Girls Preliminaries – **2 p.m.** (Doors open 1 p.m.) – Weigh-in: 12:30 p.m.
(Div. 1 on mats 1, 2, 3, 4; Girls on mats 5, 6, 7, 8)

Div. 1 & Girls Quarterfinals – Approximately **4:30 p.m.**

Div. 2 & 3 Preliminaries – Approximately **6 p.m.** – D2 & 3 Weigh-in: 4 p.m.
(Div. 2 on mats 1, 2, 3, 4; Div. 3 on mats 5, 6, 7, 8)

Div. 2 & 3 Quarterfinals – Approximately 8 p.m.

Note: All weight classes will be wrestled in consecutive order from lowest to highest on next available mat.

Session 2 Friday, Feb. 28 – Eight Mats

Div. 1 & Girls Consolation Prelims – **10 a.m.** (Doors open 9 a.m.)
(Div. 1 on mats 1, 2, 3, 4; Girls on mats 5, 6, 7, 8)

Div. 1 and Girls Weigh-ins: 8:30 a.m./Div. 2 & 3 Weigh-ins: **11 a.m.**

Div. 1 & Girls Consolation Quarterfinals – Approximately **11:30 a.m.**

Div. 2 & 3 Consolation Quarterfinals – Approximately **1 p.m.**
(Div. 2 on mats 1, 2 & 3; Div. 3 on mats 5, 7 & 8; Girls on mats 4 & 6)

Div. 2 & 3 Consolation
Quarterfinals – Approximately **15 minutes following previous round**
(Div. 2 on mats 1, 2, 3, 4; Div. 3 on mats 5, 6, 7, 8)

Session 3 Friday, Feb. 28 – Eight Mats

Div. 1, 2, 3 & Girls Semifinals – **7 p.m.** (Doors open 6 p.m.)
(Div. 1 on mats 1 & 2; Girls on mats 3 & 4; Div. 2 on mats 5 & 6;
Div. 3 on mats 7 & 8)

Note: All weight classes will be wrestled in consecutive order from lowest to highest on next available mat.

Session 4 Saturday, March 1 – Eight Mats

All Weigh-ins: 8:30 a.m.

Div. 1, 2, 3 & Girls Consolation Semifinals - **10 a.m.** (Doors open 9 a.m.)
(Div. 1 on mats 1 & 2; Girls on mats 3 & 4; Div. 2 on mats 5 & 6;
Div. 3 on mats 7 & 8)

Div. 1, 2, 3 & Girls Fifth Place Matches*

Div. 1, 2, 3 & Girls Third Place Matches*

* Fifth-place and third-place matches will run concurrently by weight class following all consolation matches.

Session 5 Saturday, March 1 – Four Mats

March of Champions – 5:30 p.m. (Doors open 4 p.m.)

Div. 1, 2, 3 & Girls **Championships** – (Div. 1 on mat 1; Girls on mat 2; Div. 2 on mat 3;
Div. 3 on mat 4)

2025 State Team Wrestling Tournament Schedule

Friday-Saturday, March 7-8
UW Field House, Madison

Doors open for spectators one hour prior to the start of competition each session.

Teams will be seeded on Sunday, March 2 and pairings posted following review.

DIVISION 1

Quarterfinals – Friday, March 7 – 5:30 p.m.

- Match 1 - #1 seed vs. #8 seed
- Match 2 - #4 seed vs. #5 seed
- Match 3 - #3 seed vs. #6 seed
- Match 4 - #2 seed vs. #7 seed

Semifinals – Friday, March 7 – 7:30 p.m.

- Match 5 – Winner of Match 1 vs. Winner of Match 2
- Match 6 – Winner of Match 3 vs. Winner of Match 4

Final – Saturday March 8 – 3 p.m. (Gates Open 2 p.m.)

DIVISION 2

Semifinals – Saturday, March 8 – 10 a.m.

- Match 1 - #1 seed vs. #4 seed
- Match 2 - #2 seed vs. #3 seed

Final – Saturday March 8 – 3 p.m.

DIVISION 3

Semifinals – Saturday, March 8 – 10 a.m.

- Match 1 - #1 seed vs. #4 seed
- Match 2 - #2 seed vs. #3 seed

Final – Saturday March 8 – 3 p.m.

Friday Weigh-ins at 4:30 p.m.

Friday Admission is \$16

Saturday Weigh-ins all divisions at 9 a.m.

Saturday Admission is \$11 for each session

2024-25 NFHS Basketball Rules Changes from page 5

game will start with a jump ball and the head coach does not lose the privilege of the coaching box.

Rationale: Clarifies that an equal number of technical fouls committed by both teams during pregame offset and establishes how the game will start after offsetting technical fouls.

10-2-7 (NEW), 10-5-1i: Changes the penalty for dunking or attempting to dunk or stuff a dead ball from a bench technical to a team technical.

Rationale: Continues to penalize the offending team with a team technical foul (free-throws, offended team the ball to start the period, a foul added to the team count), but no longer requires the coach to lose the coaching box to start the game and no personal foul is awarded.

2024-25 Basketball Editorial Changes

1-13-2, 2-2-4 NOTE, 2-10-6, 3-3-1c NOTE, 3-3-7 NOTES 1, 3-4-2a, 3-5-1 NOTE, 3-5-7, 4-12-2 NOTE (NEW), 7-2-1, 7-3-2, 7-6-6, 8-5-3, 9-1 PENALTIES 1c, 9-2-10 NOTE 2 (NEW), 9-2 PENALTIES 1, 9-2 PENALTY, 9-7-1 NOTE (NEW), 9-9-3 NOTE (NEW), 10-4-3, 10-4-6h, 10-5, 10-5-3, Official Signals

2024-25 Basketball Points of Emphasis

1. Warning for Delay
2. Faking Being Fouled
3. Proper Procedures for Handling Blood ●

2024-25 Wrestling Points of Emphasis

NFHS Wrestling Rules Book 2024-25

The NFHS Wrestling Rules Committee and the NFHS Board of Directors believes there are areas of interscholastic wrestling that need to be addressed and given special attention. These areas of concern are often cyclical, some areas need more attention than others, and that is why they might appear in the rules book for consecutive editions. These concerns are identified as "Points of Emphasis." For the 2024-25 high school wrestling season, attention is being called to: Stalling and Stalemate, Dangerous Maneuvers and Holds, Proper Terms: Default, Medical Forfeit, Forfeit, Referee's Duties and Imminent Scoring. When a topic is included in the Points of Emphasis, these topics are important enough to reinforce throughout the academic year because they are not being given the proper attention needed.

Stalling and Stalemate

The act of stalling is an intentional act(s) of avoiding aggressive wrestling. The emphasis of stalling is reinforced by the numerous rules and assignment of its own penalty chart to penalize inactive behavior by a wrestler. The referee warns the offending wrestler(s) and if continued, subsequent penalties are invoked. However, a stalemate is considerably different.

Both wrestlers are aggressively wrestling and are interlocked in a position other than a pinning scenario, in which neither can improve their respective position(s). The referee stops the match and wrestling shall resume from the center of the mat.

Dangerous Maneuvers and Holds

In the purest form of wrestling, two similar-sized athletes use their strength, guile, ability and repertoire of moves to control and dominate their opponent. NFHS rules have always made moves and maneuvers that intentionally injure or punish a wrestler illegal, and work on removing them from our sport. Some moves, maneuvers and holds are starting to filter down to our level from other influences that are not education-based athletics. The NFHS disapproves of any move, maneuver or hold

that intentionally injures limbs, joints, penetrates any body cavities or renders a wrestler unconscious. Allowing those techniques to infiltrate into our sport is irresponsible, dangerous and in certain jurisdictions illegal.

No one wants to drive any students out of the sport. If parents are not confident that their children are in a well-managed risk environment, then they will not let them participate. That would be devastating to a sport that we have already seen a trend of declining participation numbers. We need to do everything possible in our schools to attract more students and retain them in our programs. Eliminating questionable moves, maneuvers and holds is the first place to start. Regardless of your role as either coach or referee, you must work together to keep certain techniques out of our sport.

Wrestling is one of the oldest sports in the world. The benefits of participating are phenomenal in developing high school students to better understand their bodies, appreciate discipline, be self-reliant and develop toughness that will be a life skill that they will use their entire lives. Let us direct our attention to preserving our sport for many more generations to come.

Proper Terms: Default, Forfeit, Medical Forfeit

In the purest and simplest form, a default is awarded when a wrestler is unable to continue wrestling for any reason. The match has started and they cannot continue to wrestle anywhere during the match. The opponent wins and the defaulting wrestler receives the loss.

A forfeit is when an opponent fails to appear for a match for any reason. Their opponent shall be present in a legal uniform on the mat, ready to wrestle. The forfeiting wrestler takes a loss on their record and is out of competition. With the introduction of the new category of Medical Forfeit, if the forfeiting wrestler cannot wrestle due to an injury or illness that occurred during the tournament. The wrestler remains in the tournament if possible (moving down to the consolation bracket) and does

not take a loss on their record. This entire designation is determined by the tournament director after consultation with the on-site appropriate health-care professional and the coach of the injured or ill contestant. All three actions cease wrestling for different reasons and have unique consequences.

Referee's Duties

The role of the referee is an integral part of the sport of wrestling. The essence of the sport is based upon the interpretation, judgment and execution of the rules. The referee has the authority to make rulings based upon their high school experience and mastery of the NFHS Wrestling Rules. Besides rule expertise, the referee has other important duties to ensure that all participants have a fair opportunity to compete in a space that limits their physical risks. In addition to skin checks and grooming, reviews with scorers and timekeepers, checking the legality of special equipment, uniforms, pads and taping, the referee is responsible for making sure the mat, mat areas and their markings are compliant with the rules. The referee conducts an inspection by walking around the area and visually making sure that the facility is in a reasonably safe condition. The referee is the protector of the competitors from rule compliant uniforms, equipment to appropriate mats. The role of the referee is unique and extremely valuable for all the participants, coaches and supporters.

Imminent Scoring

Imminent scoring is typically referred to a situation where one wrestler is on the verge of scoring point(s). This is because either one of the wrestlers is in a position to score a takedown, reversal, escape or near-fall, all available methods to scoring points in a wrestling match. The term "imminent" implies that the scoring opportunity is immediate or very close to happening. The term is often used by coaches and participants to describe a crucial moment in a match where a wrestler has a clear opportunity to score points and take control of a match. ●

Wrestling Comments on the 2024-25 Rules Changes

NFHS Wrestling Rules Book 2024-25

Modified an optional 10-foot circle in the center of the mat (2-1-3, 2-1-4, 5-24-1, 6-5-1, 6-6-6, 7-6-1) – The starting lines of a mat indicate the center of the mat and the 10-foot circle shall be optional. Wrestlers and officials know where the center of the mat is located without the benefit of the 10-foot circle. The optional choice would allow for larger designs of school logos or school mascots.

Modified that only one point of contact by either wrestler meets the requirement of being inbounds (5-10, 5-15-1, 5-15-2b, 5-15-2c, 5-15-

3, 5-18, 5-22-1, 5-22-2, 5-25-1, 5-25-3, 6-4-1) – This change safely eliminates the subjectivity of what is out of bounds. Referees are able to call out of bounds more consistently and accurately, as well as assisting wrestlers, coaches and spectators in better understanding out of bounds.

Modified the scoring of near-fall points (5-11-2g, 5-11-2h, 5-11-3, 9-1-5, Scoring Symbols) – This rule change simplifies the points awarded based on how long the wrestler is held in near-fall criteria.

Modified the points for a takedown (9-1-2,

Summary of Scoring, Scoring Symbols) – Promotes more scoring when wrestlers are in the neutral position.

Clarified how a Technical Fall is scored (5-11-4) – This change will clarify when the technical fall has concluded in relation to the near-fall criteria being met. The offensive wrestler cannot be penalized appropriately after the technical fall has been earned.

Created a new Official's Signal (5-28-4, Official Wrestling Signals) – Created a new signal for the referee's time-out. ●

2025-26 Enrollments

Listed below you will find the enrollments that will be used for the 2025-26 school year for divisional placements. The numbers are the September 20, 2024 enrollment counts that your school provided. For those schools that have WIAA associate member schools, you will find those schools listed under your school with their enrollment added to your total (the total will be the number used). If you find a discrepancy in the enrollment total listed for your school, please let Kassie Mortimer know by December 1, 2024. No changes will be made to enrollment numbers after the December 1, 2024 deadline. Note: If there is no enrollment number listed for your school it means that you have not yet submitted the online enrollment form to the WIAA office.

Abbotsford	241	Badger	1218	Catholic Memorial	602
Abundant Life Christian	154	New Visions Charter	31	Cedar Grove-Belgium	271
Adams-Friendship	442	Badger Total	1249	Rocket Academy	24
Albany	75	Baldwin-Woodville	532	Cedar Grove-Belgium Total	295
Algoma	199	Bangor	225	Cedarburg	1073
Algoma Venture Academy	28	Baraboo	884	Central Wisconsin Christian	140
Algoma Total	227	Barneveld	119	Chequamegon	195
Alma	80	Barron	314	Chesterton Academy of Milwaukee	146
Alma Center Lincoln	165	Northstar Academy	11	Chesterton Academy of St. John Paul II	
Almond-Bancroft	101	Barron Total	325	Classical School (Green Bay)	63
Altoona	561	Bay Port	1958	Chetek-Weyerhaeuser	253
Amery	419	Bayfield	123	Northstar Academy	0
Amherst	353	Beaver Dam	1013	Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Total	253
Antigo	630	Belleville	275	Chilton	387
Appleton East	1243	Belmont	110	Chippewa Falls	1419
Appleton eSchool	8	Beloit Memorial	1335	Clayton	86
Appleton Technical Academy	0	Benton	61	Clear Lake	188
Fox Cities Leadership Academy	0	Berlin	441	Clinton	317
Renaissance School for the Arts	22	Big Foot	426	Clintonville	397
Tesla Engineering	152	Birchwood	67	Cochrane-Fountain City	172
Valley New School	17	Birchwood Charter	0	Colby	315
Wisconsin Connections	5	Birchwood Total	67	Coleman	212
Appleton East Total	1447	Black Hawk	96	Colfax	219
Appleton North	1641	Black River Falls	501	Columbus	383
Appleton eSchool	12	Blair-Taylor	160	Columbus Catholic	152
Appleton Technical Academy	0	Bloomer	403	Cornell	100
Fox Cities Leadership Academy	78	Bonduel	279	Coulee Christian	60
Renaissance School for the Arts	34	Boscobel	185	Crandon	226
Tesla Engineering	0	Bowler	101	Cristo Rey Jesuit	458
Valley New School	17	Boyceville	213	Crivitz	210
Wisconsin Connections	10	Brillion	328	Cuba City	262
Appleton North Total	1792	Brodhead	314	Cudahy	649
Appleton West	1028	Brookfield Academy	321	Cumberland	285
Appleton eSchool	7	Brookfield Central	1197	D.C. Everest	1770
Appleton Technical Academy	68	Brookfield East	1364	Darlington	262
Fox Cities Leadership Academy	0	Brookwood	181	De Pere	1449
Renaissance School for the Arts	80	Brown Deer	521	De Soto	135
Tesla Engineering	0	Bruce	115	Deerfield	206
Valley New School	18	Burlington	954	DeForest	1152
Wisconsin Connections	20	Butternut	49	Delavan-Darien	491
Appleton West Total	1221	Cadott	230	Delavan-Darien Technical School	94
Aquinas	338	Cambria-Friesland	101	Delavan-Darien Total	585
Arcadia	413	Cambridge	283	Denmark	474
Argyle	86	Koshkonong Trails	23	Viking Academy Charter	18
Arrowhead	1951	Cambridge Total	306	Denmark Total	492
Ashland	595	Cameron	281	Destiny	232
Ashwaubenon	1016	Northstar Academy	12	Divine Savior Holy Angels	1274
Assumption	123	Cameron Total	293	Dodgegland	231
Athens	114	Campbellsport	476	Dodgeville	369
Auburndale	234	Carmen Northwest	323	Dominican	306
Audubon Technology and Communications	436	Carmen South	381	Drummond	91
Augusta	144	Carmen Southeast	683	Dr. Howard Fuller Collegiate Academy	488
Wildland Research	45	Cashton	186	Durand-Arkansaw	308
Augusta Total	189	Cassville	58	East Troy	455
		Catholic Central	118		

See 2025-26 Enrollments, page 9 ▶

2025-26 Enrollments from page 8

Eastbrook Academy	83	Green Bay West	777	Kettle Moraine	866
Eau Claire Immanuel Lutheran	103	John Dewey Academy of Learning	8	Kettle Moraine Connect	22
		North East Wis. N.E.W. School of Innovation	41	High School of Health Sciences	176
Eau Claire Memorial	1559	Green Bay West Total	826	Kettle Moraine Global School for	
McKinley	26			Global Learning	71
Eau Claire Virtual	50	Green Lake	98	Kettle Moraine School for the	
Eau Claire Memorial Total	1635	Greendale	881	Performing Arts	114
		Greenfield	1149	Kettle Moraine Total	1249
Eau Claire North	1565	Greenwood	109		
McKinley	42	Gresham Community	96	Kettle Moraine Lutheran	574
Eau Claire Virtual	49	Hamilton	1565	Kewaskum	622
Eau Claire North Total	1656	Hartford Union	1303	Kewaunee	283
				Kickapoo	166
Edgar	193	Hayward	521		
Edgerton	580	HACIL	75	Kiel	374
Edgewood Sacred Heart	623	Hayward Total	596	Kiel eSchool	24
Elcho	68			Kiel Total	398
Eleva-Strum	194	Heritage Christian	204		
Elk Mound	347	Highland	94	Kimberly	1589
Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah	155	Hilbert	158	Kingdom Prep Lutheran	328
		Hillsboro	143	Kohler	242
Elkhorn Area	942	Hmong American Peace Academy	574		
Career & College	224	Holmen	1236	La Crosse Central	976
Elkhorn Area Total	1166	Holy Redeemer Academy	62	La Crosse Polytechnic School	24
		Homestead	1203	La Crosse Central Total	1000
Ellsworth	536	Horicon	248		
Elmwood	90	Hortonville	1323	La Crosse Logan	729
Evansville	500	Howards Grove	281	La Crosse Polytechnic School	13
Faith Christian (Williams Bay)	88	Hudson	1709	La Crosse Logan Total	742
Faith Christian Academy (Wausau)	48	Hurley	194		
Fall Creek	273	Hustisford	99	La Farge	67
Fall River	165	Independence	142	Lac Courte Oreilles	117
Fennimore	240	lola-Scandinavia	204	Laconia	317
Flambeau	130	Iowa-Grant	226	Ladysmith	257
Florence	115	Ithaca	104	Lake Country Classical Academy	94
				Lake Country Lutheran	362
Fond du Lac	1905	Janesville Craig	1405	Lake Holcombe	86
STEM Institute	51	Arise Virtual Academy	38	Lake Mills	448
Fond du Lac Total	1956	Rock River	120	Lakeland Union	691
		Rock University	49	Lakeside Lutheran	546
Fort Atkinson	818	Janesville Craig Total	1612	Lancaster	328
Fox Valley Lutheran	773			Laona	75
Franklin	1621	Janesville Parker	1259	Lena	124
Frederic	120	Arise Virtual Academy	36		
Freedom	510	Rock River	146	Little Chute	383
Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau	411	Rock University	43	Little Chute Career Pathways	95
Germantown	1290	Janesville Parker Total	1484	Little Chute Total	478
Gibraltar	176				
Gillett	152	Jefferson	602	Living Word Lutheran	270
Gilman	108	Johnson Creek	187	Lodi	445
Gilmanton	39	Juda	85	Lomira	300
Glenwood City	187	Kaukauna	1210	Lourdes Academy	176
Golda Meir	608			Loyal	176
Goodman	30	Kenosha Bradford	1495	Luck	102
Grafton	729	Kenosha E-School	0	Luther	259
Granton	60	Kenosha Harborside	155	Luxemburg-Casco	659
Grantsburg	279	Kenosha Lakeview Tech	122	Madison Country Day	127
		Kenosha Bradford Total	1772	Madison East	1783
Green Bay East	1135	Kenosha Christian Life	202	Madison La Follette	1625
John Dewey Academy of Learning	19			Madison Memorial	2074
North East Wis. N.E.W. School of Innovation	58	Kenosha Indian Trail H.S. and Academy	1930	Madison West	2284
Green Bay East Total	1212	Kenosha E-School	0	Manawa	197
		Kenosha Harborside	59		
Green Bay N.E.W. Lutheran	127	Kenosha Lakeview Tech	121	Manitowoc Lincoln	1393
		Kenosha Indian Trail H.S. and Academy Total	2132	McKinley Academy	56
Green Bay Preble	2184	Kenosha St. Joseph Catholic Academy	210	Manitowoc Lincoln Total	1449
John Dewey Academy of Learning	30				
North East Wis. N.E.W. School of Innovation	51	Kenosha Tremper	1429	Manitowoc Lutheran	276
Green Bay Preble Total	2265	Kenosha E-School	0	Marathon	277
		Kenosha Harborside	102	Marinette	619
Green Bay Southwest	1038	Kenosha Lakeview Tech	139	Marion	148
John Dewey Academy of Learning	9	Kenosha Tremper Total	1670	Markesan	246
North East Wis. N.E.W. School of Innovation	30				
Green Bay Southwest Total	1077				

See 2025-26 Enrollments, page 10 >

2025-26 Enrollments from page 9

Marquette University H.S.	1858	Milwaukee Washington	401	Omro	320
Marshall	275	Groppi	78	Onalaska	918
Marshfield	1188	Milwaukee Washington Total	479	Oneida Nation	137
Martin Luther.....	667			Oostburg.....	328
		Milwaukee Wis Conservatory of		Oregon	1328
Mauston	364	Lifelong Learning.....	155	Osceola	498
ILEAD Charter	42	Mineral Point.....	253	Oshkosh North	1250
Lemonweir Academy	63	Mishicot.....	273	Oshkosh West.....	1578
Mauston Total	469	Mondovi	255	Osseo-Fairchild.....	220
				Owen-Withee	144
Mayville.....	338	Monona Grove	1163	Ozaukee.....	199
McDonell Central Catholic	207	Liberal Arts Charter School for the		Pacelli.....	177
McFarland.....	730	21st Century	51	Palmyra-Eagle.....	162
Medford.....	711	Monona Grove Total	1214	Pardeeville	283
Mellen.....	79			Parkview	188
Melrose-Mindoro	225	Monroe	694	Pecatonica	106
Menasha.....	1016			Pembine.....	57
Menominee Nation	376	Montello	184	Pepin.....	69
Menomonee Falls	1266	High Marq Environment	22	Peshtigo	341
Menomonie	975	Montello Virtual	21	Pewaukee	875
Mercer	37	Montello Total	227	Phelps.....	27
Merrill.....	755	Monticello.....	101	Phillips.....	209
Messmer.....	545	Mosinee.....	561	Pittsville	175
		Mount Horeb	754	Pius XI Catholic	725
Middleton.....	2302	Mukwonago.....	1612	Platteville	482
Clark Street.....	107	Muskego.....	1632	Plum City	80
Middleton Total.....	2409			Plymouth	735
		Necedah	203	Port Edwards.....	144
Milton	1054	N-Gage Academy.....	14	Port Washington.....	813
Milwaukee Academy of Science.....	391	Necedah Total	217	Portage	600
Milwaukee Arts	958			Potosi.....	107
Milwaukee Bay View.....	1044	Neenah	2031	Poynette	303
Milwaukee Bradley Technical	1049	Neillsville.....	245	Prairie du Chien.....	309
Milwaukee Hamilton.....	1482	Nekoosa	301		
Milwaukee Juneau	227	New Auburn	99	Prairie Farm	127
Milwaukee King	1307	New Berlin Eisenhower	726	Northstar Academy.....	0
Milwaukee Lutheran	1049	New Berlin West	712	Prairie Farm Total	127
		New Glarus.....	323		
Milwaukee Madison Academic Campus	474	New Holstein.....	310	Prentice	105
Banner Preparatory	39	New Lisbon.....	156	Prescott.....	396
Milwaukee Madison Academic Campus Total	513			Princeton.....	88
		New London.....	656	Providence Academy (Green Bay)	51
Milwaukee Marshall	659	Catalyst Academy	31	Providence Academy (La Crosse)	21
Milwaukee North	345	New London Total	687	Pulaski.....	1162
				Racine Case	1878
Milwaukee Pulaski.....	1059	New Richmond.....	1070	Racine Horlick.....	1223
Lad Lake Synergy.....	19	Newman Catholic	113	Racine Lutheran	345
Project Stay.....	107	Niagara	134	Racine Park	1215
Milwaukee Pulaski Total	1185	Nicolet.....	1042	Racine Saint Catherine's.....	449
		North Crawford	124	Randolph.....	160
Milwaukee Ronald W Reagan College Prep	1395	North Fond du Lac	477	Random Lake.....	214
		Northland Lutheran	123	Reedsburg Area	846
Milwaukee Riverside University H.S.	1251			Reedsville	183
Alliance School of Milwaukee	140	Northland Pines	372	Regis.....	229
NOVA	104	SOAR.....	65	Reuther Central.....	270
Shalom	98	Northland Pines Total	437	Rhineland	751
Transition.....	78			Rib Lake.....	149
Milwaukee Riverside University H.S. Total	1671	Northwestern	372	Rice Lake.....	672
		Northwood	88		
Milwaukee School of Languages	499	Notre Dame de la Baie Academy	732	Richland Center.....	382
		Oak Creek.....	2151	Richland Online Academy	11
Milwaukee South	931	Oakfield.....	168	Richland Center Partner	19
Grandview.....	220			Richland Center Total	412
South Division Accelerated Academy	55	Obama SCTE	1004		
Milwaukee South Total.....	1206	Assata.....	73	Rio.....	103
		Obama SCTE Total	1077		
Milwaukee Vincent.....	688	Oconomowoc	1585	Ripon	425
Green Tree Preparatory Academy	333	Oconto.....	298	Odyssey Academy of Virtual Learning.....	12
Vincent Accelerated Academy	45	Oconto Falls.....	513	Ripon Total	437
Milwaukee Vincent Total	1066				

See 2025-26 Enrollments, page 11 ►

2025-26 Enrollments from page 10

River Falls.....	1063	Spring Valley	195	Wausau East	892
River Ridge.....	167	St. Augustine Preparatory Academy.....	861	Wausau Area Virtual Education.....	36
River Valley.....	364	St. Ignatius Chesterton Academy.....	41	Wausau Enrich Excel Achieve Learning.....	15
Riverdale.....	206	St. John's Northwestern Academies.....	187	Wausau East Total.....	943
Roncalli	214	Stanley-Boyd.....	344		
Rosholt	158			Wausau West	1474
Royall.....	129	Stevens Point Area Senior High.....	2071	Wausau Area Virtual Education.....	61
Saint Ambrose.....	136	Charles F. Fernandez Center.....	73	Wausau Enrich Excel Achieve Learning.....	13
Saint Anthony	596	Point of Discovery.....	74	Wausau West Total	1548
		Stevens Point Area Senior High Total	2218		
Saint Croix Central	486			Wausaukee.....	123
Saint Croix Virtual	25	Stockbridge.....	54	Wautoma	397
Saint Croix Central Total	511	Stoughton.....	834	Wauwatosa East	1046
		Stratford	283	Wauwatosa West	984
Saint Croix Falls.....	350	Sturgeon Bay.....	348	Wauzeka-Steuben	83
Saint Francis	547	Sun Prairie East	1395	Wayland Academy	200
Saint Joan Antida	426	Sun Prairie West.....	1382	Webster.....	187
Saint Lawrence Seminary	282	Superior	1252		
Saint Mary Catholic	278	Suring.....	123	West Allis Central	974
Saint Mary's Springs Academy.....	273	Tenor	584	Deeper Learning Virtual Academy	30
Saint Thomas Aquinas Academy	56	The Lincoln Academy.....	206	James E. Dottke Project-Based Learning	85
Saint Thomas More	581	The Prairie School.....	217	West Allis Central Total	1089
Salam.....	242	Thorp	183		
Sauk Prairie	858	Three Lakes	157	West Allis Nathan Hale.....	1141
Seneca	92	Tigerton	73	Deeper Learning Virtual Academy	30
Sevastopol	207	Tomah	969	James E. Dottke Project-Based Learning	85
Seymour	593	Tomahawk	371	West Allis Nathan Hale Total	1256
Shawano Community	702	Tri-County.....	179		
Sheboygan Area Lutheran	184	Trinity Academy.....	4	West Bend East	858
Sheboygan Christian	171	Turner.....	463	West Bend West	1087
Sheboygan Falls	507	Turtle Lake	136	West De Pere	1031
ETUDE	0	Northstar Academy.....	0	Phantom Knight Charter School	21
Sheboygan Falls Total	507	Turtle Lake Total	136	West De Pere Total	1052
Sheboygan North.....	1487	Two Rivers	470	West Salem	596
Central High.....	47	Lighthouse Learning Academy	48	Westby.....	336
ETUDE.....	41	Two Rivers Total	518	Westfield Area.....	330
George D. Warriner	59			Weston.....	70
Sheboygan North Total.....	1634	Union Grove.....	1035	Westosha Central	1309
		Unity.....	292	Weyauwega-Fremont.....	273
Sheboygan South.....	1076	University Lake School	90	White Lake	46
Central High	138	University School of Milwaukee.....	408	Whitefish Bay	931
ETUDE.....	33	Valders.....	289	Whitehall.....	213
George D. Warriner	63	Valley Christian School (Oshkosh)	194	Whitewater	596
Sheboygan South Total	1310	Veritas	256	Whitnall.....	813
		Verona Area.....	1842	Wild Rose	164
Shell Lake	205				
Shiocton	208	Viroqua	303	Williams Bay	169
Shoreland Lutheran	443	Laurel	43	Career & College.....	9
		Viroqua Total	346	Williams Bay Total	178
Shorewood	589				
New Horizons.....	22	Wabeno Area	109	Wilmot Union.....	841
Shorewood Total.....	611	Washburn	181	Winnebago Lutheran Academy	313
		Washington Island	23	Winneconne	510
Shullsburg.....	109	Waterford	890	Winter.....	73
Siren	113	Waterloo	233	Wisconsin Dells.....	567
Slinger	1064			Wisconsin Heights	240
Solon Springs.....	81	Watertown.....	1021	Wisconsin Lutheran	923
Somerset	452	eCampus	80		
South Milwaukee	926	Endeavor	52	Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln	1324
South Shore	64	Watertown Total	1153	River Cities.....	77
Southern Door.....	302			Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln Total	1401
Southwestern	148	Watertown Luther Prep	416		
		Waukesha North.....	914	Wisconsin School for the Blind and	
Sparta	872	Waukesha South	1093	Visually Impaired	20
S.A.I.L.S.	56	Waukesha West	1183	Wittenberg-Birnamwood.....	352
Sparta Total	928	Waunakee	1340	Wolf River Lutheran	31
		Waupaca	622	Wonewoc-Center	120
Spencer	198	Waupun.....	566	Wrightstown	412
Spooner.....	361			Xavier.....	441
				Youth Initiative.....	73

Advisory Committee supports a strong position on the use of steroids, recommending that a student who has been found to use them be ineligible for a minimum of one year and not reinstated without testing to make sure the athlete has ceased using them.” (Otte, 439) The rule change applied the code of conduct minimum to performance enhancing substances.

The WIAA, by Board of Control action as recommended by the Medical Advisory Committee, made a significant health move that was instituted at the beginning of the 1993-94 school year. Called the “day of rest” rule, it required teams in all sports to “rest from all physical activity for at least one calendar day after six consecutive days of practice or competition.” (Otte, 440)

In 1995, the SMAC adopted the wrestling skin form to be utilized when a contagious skin condition may exist. The examination must be done no more than three days prior to wrestling and furnished at weigh-ins.

The Committee began the discussion of Female Osteoporosis concerns in 2008 and later developed the Female Triad guidelines in 2010. Female Triad was officially described as a syndrome of: disordered eating, lack of menstrual cycles, and osteoporosis in females. In addition, the SMAC identified concerns with Sickle Cell Trait.

In 2011, the SMAC worked with legislators to develop concussion legislation. As the concussion

legislation was passed, the Committee worked with the Wisconsin Department of Instruction to provide educational materials for member schools and other youth athletic organizations.

The SMAC worked with the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association to develop an acclimatization plan in 2012 and a policy was implemented for the 2014 season. The SMAC also discussed player-on-player contact. Player-on-player contact was limited beginning in the fall of 2014 to no contact the first week, 75 minutes the second week, and 60 minutes for the rest of the season. The plan was later adopted by the NFHS as a recommendation.

The Committee discussed transgender participation and eligibility in 2013. After reviewing the NCAA policy and several state associations’ models, the SMAC made a recommendation to the Board of Control for adoption in June of 2013.

After discussions in 2004, 2007, and 2010, the SMAC prepared guidelines for sudden cardiac arrest to member schools in 2013. The Committee adopted the Anyone Can Save A Life emergency action plan for member schools and the NFHS Foundation provided a copy to be distributed to all WIAA member schools in 2015.

The Present

The SMAC began discussions in May of 2015 regarding baseball pitcher arm care. A study conducted on Tommy John surgeries from 2007-2011 stated that 57% of 790 surgeries during that time period were on adolescents in the 15-19 year-old age group. A pitch count was adopted with input of the Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association in May 2016 for implementation in the spring of 2017.

At the May 2016 meeting, the SMAC adopted a change from the wrestling half-pound per day weight loss to the 1.5 percent per week weight loss plan based on the recommendation of the Minimum Weight Committee. The 1.5% weight loss program provides an individualized weight loss plan for every wrestler based on their skin-fold measurement.

In addition, the SMAC adopted guidelines for Relative Energy Deficit in Sport (RED-S) to emphasize the condition effects all athletes; not just females. Due to the energy deficiency in RED-S

normal body functioning is impaired and can affect metabolic rate, immunity, cardiovascular health, protein synthesis, as well as menstrual function, and bone health.

In May of 2017, the SMAC updated the concussion information, absorbed the Female Triad information into the Disordered Eating/RED-S information, and added mental health/wellness.

May of 2019, the SMAC discussed sport specific requests and began a process to update the WIAA Medical Policies and Procedures.

Throughout the spring and fall of 2020, the SMAC provided guidance and advice pertaining to the Coronavirus pandemic. Beginning with the season ending of winter sports through the cancellation of spring sports, Covid-19 (as it was designated), began a new chapter in WIAA member schools and their offerings of athletic programs. During June 2020, the SMAC began working on guidelines to mitigate risk for summer contact and the WIAA staff began recommendations of sport specific guidelines.

By July 1, 2020, the SMAC had recommended summer contact guidance in an effort for schools to conduct coaching contact during the summer and to prepare for the possible resumption of sports in the fall. In addition, work began on the Return to Fall Sports considerations. Winter considerations were developed in October and work began on the Spring recommendations.

In addition to the Covid-19 work, the SMAC also provided a recommendation restricting CBD usage by athletes to prescription by a licensed health care provider.

During the summer of 2023, the SMAC conducted a thorough revision of the Medical Policies and Procedures manual, with the addition of Emergency Action Planning information as well as Air Quality guidelines. The updated guide is available in a digital format only, on the WIAA website under Health.

Most recently, the SMAC recommended a Pre-Event Emergency Action Plan Meeting to be conducted for game management, officials, coaches and attending medical personnel for all athletic events. This recommendation was approved by the Board of Control and implemented the fall of 2024. ●

2025 State Boys & Girls Hockey Tournament

**Thursday-Saturday, March 6-7-8
Bob Suter's Capitol Ice Arena, Middleton**

Thursday, March 6

Boys Division 2 Semifinals

- Game 1 9 a.m. #1 Seed vs. #4 Seed
- Game 2 1:30 p.m. #2 Seed vs. #3 Seed

Girls Semifinals

- Game 3 5 p.m. #1 Seed vs. #4 Seed
- Game 4 7:30 p.m. #2 Seed vs. #3 Seed

Friday, March 7

Boys Division 1 Semifinals

- Game 5 10 a.m. #1 Seed vs. #4 Seed
- Game 6 2:30 p.m. #2 Seed vs. #3 Seed

Saturday, March 8

Boys Division 2 Championship

- Game 7 9:30 a.m. Winner Game 1 vs. Winner Game 2

Girls Championship

- Game 8 2 p.m. Winner Game 3 vs. Winner Game 4

Boys Division 1 Championship

- Game 9 7 p.m. Winner Game 5 vs. Winner Game 6

2024-25 WIAA Wrestling Points of Emphasis and Reminders from page 3

out of bounds. This is the same as with the scorer's table and any other equipment that is not part of the actual mat itself.

Uniforms

Uniforms must be school issued and meet the requirements as outlined in the NFHS rule book under Rule 4 Section 1. All wrestlers must wear an appropriate undergarment that completely covers the buttocks and groin area. In addition, Female wrestlers must also wear a sports bra that completely covers their breasts and minimizes the risk for exposure. If this combination of a legal singlet and a sports bra does not meet that criteria, the wrestler may be required to wear a form fitted compression shirt to satisfy this requirement.

Coaches, please make sure that all of your wrestlers are legally equipped and that you are carrying extra uniforms and accessories to ensure that all of your wrestlers meet the criteria for a legal uniform.

Website

It is very important that all officials visit the website frequently throughout the season to keep up to date on interpretations, situations and answers to a variety of questions. This is the best way we can communicate and keep everyone on the same page. Also, check out the great variety of available resources and see if anything new has been added. The website will be updated in the near future. ●

Neck Laceration Protectors Mandated in High School Ice Hockey

All high school ice hockey players will now be required to wear a neck laceration protector – in its original manufactured state and as intended by the manufacturer – during competition.

This landmark new rule, along with four additional rules alterations, was proposed by the NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Committee as a product of its annual rules meeting held April 22-23 at The Alexander hotel in Indianapolis. All five rules changes were accepted by the NFHS Board of Directors and are effective with the 2024-25 season.

"The committee has done such great work the past several years, which has the rules in a really good place," said Dan Schuster, NFHS director of educational services and liaison to the Ice Hockey Rules Committee. "After great discussion again this year, the committee made some changes that will help minimize risk for participating players and also add some clarity to the current language within the rules book."

Mandating neck laceration protectors, which is detailed in the new Rule 3-4-4 in the NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Book, furthers the NFHS' commitment to risk minimization and the health and safety of participants and aligns the national rules with the measures taken by many state high school associations and youth hockey leagues across the United States.

Should a player enter a contest without a neck laceration protector, or if it comes off during play, the player will be directed to the bench and may return to the ice once the apparatus has been properly affixed. In the event the player refuses to wear the equipment, play will be stopped, and the player will be assessed a two-minute minor penalty.

Corresponding changes were made to Rules 3-3-1 and 3-3-5 outlining proper neck laceration protector protocols for goalkeepers. In addition to requiring the new item, Rule 3-3-1 states that the neck laceration protector

must be worn underneath and separate from the "flapper-style" throat protector attached to the bottom of the goalkeeper's mask. Any modifications made to the piece of equipment will bring about a minor penalty. In Rule 3-3-5, which specifically addresses goalkeepers, the neck laceration protector is now included as a piece of "broken or displaced" equipment that will immediately result in a stoppage of play.

Clarifying the difference between "control" and "possession" of the puck was also a major priority for the NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Committee this year and is reflected in the new Rules 9-4-5 and 9-4-6. The following definitions were discussed by the committee over the course of multiple rules meetings and are being added to the rules book to correct any inconsistencies in their previous usage.

"Control" is defined in Rule 9-4-5 as: "Control of the puck is the act of propelling the puck with the stick, hand or feet. Control of the puck is not lost when contact with the puck is made by an opponent, the boards or the net, provided the player in control of the puck continues propelling the puck."

The definition of "possession" laid out in Rule 9-4-6 reads as follows: "The last player to physically touch the puck with the stick or body shall be considered in possession of the puck. NOTE: A player can have possession of the puck without control but cannot have control of the puck without possession."

A complete listing of the ice hockey rules changes will be 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 2022-23 NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey, 33,013 boys participate in ice hockey in 1,601 high schools across the country, and 8,601 girls play ice hockey in 713 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.

CROSS COUNTRY

St. Mary's Springs @ Sheboygan Lutheran Crusader Invitational – Sept. 14, 2024

During the final straightaway to the finish, Evan Seel of St. Mary's Springs and Blake Lenz of Oostburg were running shoulder-to-shoulder to the finish. Lenz surged slightly ahead, but Evan Seel made a response and closed the gap. Both runners continued running straight lines to the finish, with Lenz holding off Seel by a mere 0.17 seconds at the finish. After crossing the finish line, in an exemplary display of sportsmanship, Evan Seel patted Blake Lenz on the back and told him good job.

Reporting Official: Glen Rauwerdink

FOOTBALL

Wild Rose @ Marion/Tigerton – Oct. 11, 2024

We would like to recognize the outstanding sportsmanship of their football program and fans and would like to thank the communities for their hospitality. This was our crew's first experience officiating in the small town of Tigerton. The field was inside a baseball park, and it was the first time we saw a wheeled in press box. We were formally greeted and welcomed, along with a picture of our crew taken. We were given thank you cards that noted our passion for sports and willingness to make the 2 hour trip one way to officiate the game in order to give back to student-athletes. We were also impressed how the districts got parents and students involved. The communication with the program's athletic director was outstanding prior to and after the contest. Elizabeth Marquardt also helped the crew secure food for the long ride home. We applaud Head Coach Micah Schwantes, his coaching staff, and players for their outstanding sportsmanship. Mr. Schwantes was positive with his coaching tactics and made situations teachable moments. He wanted explanations for calls made and then provided education to his players on how to improve. We never once heard any derogatory remarks from his staff or players. Mr. Schwantes' players are well-coached and communicated with officials in an effective manner. They asked great questions, appreciated the answers, and illustrated a great sense of humor. Not only did they extend a hand to help their own and opponents off the turf, they chased down balls and brought them back to the umpire in a quick fashion. Also, we would like to extend our appreciation to the chain crew, announcer, time keeper and fans. The chain crew, announcer, and time keeper were professional and competent knowing they probably only do this two times a year. The Thundercatz fans were

the wing officials summed it up with one word, class. Also, our crew would like to thank the coaches for the competent ball people in Logan and Blake as they did a fantastic job. Third, the crew would like to recognize those that may go unnoticed. The chain crew was experienced and professional, the announcer positive, time keeper accurate, and the fans optimistic. The fans positively cheered and modeled proper sportsmanship behavior. Our crew tip their caps regarding the positive sportsmanship displayed by the Tomahawk and Medford players, coaches, and communities. We have experienced outstanding sportsmanship by these two programs in the past and congratulate the Great Northern Conference and their Conference Commissioner, Scott Winch for encouraging outstanding leadership and positive sportsmanship. We wish both teams continued success in future and please stay healthy and happy!

Reporting Official: Shawn Umland

Waterford @ Westosha Central – Oct. 4, 2024

Arriving at Westosha Central, they had parking spots reserved for us, escorted us into the locker room, which was the AD's office with plenty of space to change, a small fridge that had water and even a shower included if we wanted to clean up after the game. The football field is a little distance away, and they had two golf carts to escort all five officials down to the field and back after the game was over. Being a little tired after the game, it was nice to not have to fight the crowd to get back to the locker room. We had issues with a drone being flown next to the stadium at the start of the game, and then someone was pointing lasers at the teams from outside the stadium and on both occasions, the stadium control and police took care of the issues very quickly and allowed the game to proceed without any issues. Those things are greatly appreciated as an official, so I wanted to make sure they got a "shout out" for being such a class organization. Thank you!

Reporting Official: Eric Dicc

Medford @ Tomahawk – Oct. 4, 2024

Officiating crew members would like to acknowledge the outstanding sportsmanship of the Tomahawk and Medford. First, our crew would like to applaud the excellent communication with and treatment of officials by Ryan Flynn, Tomahawk activities director. The pregame communication, pre-game emergency plan, welcome and escorts, and hospitality during and after the game were impeccable. Second, coaches and players showcased outstanding leadership and positive sportsmanship. Though a hard hitting contest, each team exhibited respect as they encouraged members of their own and opposing teams. The players helped each other off the turf, handed the ball to the umpire to keep the flow of the game, and communicated well with officials. Players and captains asked great questions and were appreciative of the answers. Plus, it's nice to officiate a game where questionable language isn't used. Each team's coaching staff and sidelines were organized and positive. Coaches words were constructive and motivating. It's easy to see the actions of the coaches are well accepted and appreciated by the players, parents, and fans. When describing the sidelines,

the wing officials summed it up with one word, class. Also, our crew would like to thank the coaches for the competent ball people in Logan and Blake as they did a fantastic job. Third, the crew would like to recognize those that may go unnoticed. The chain crew was experienced and professional, the announcer positive, time keeper accurate, and the fans optimistic. The fans positively cheered and modeled proper sportsmanship behavior. Our crew tip their caps regarding the positive sportsmanship displayed by the Tomahawk and Medford players, coaches, and communities. We have experienced outstanding sportsmanship by these two programs in the past and congratulate the Great Northern Conference and their Conference Commissioner, Scott Winch for encouraging outstanding leadership and positive sportsmanship. We wish both teams continued success in future and please stay healthy and happy!

Reporting Official: Scott Umland

Three Lakes/Phelps @ Laona/Wabeno – Sept. 28, 2024

This letter is to recognize the outstanding sportsmanship displayed by the Three Lakes/Phelps and Laona/Wabeno. Coaches and players showcased outstanding leadership and positive sportsmanship. Each team played hard while encouraging members of their own and opposing teams. The coaches were positive and encouraging while the captains and players did an exceptional job asking questions and motivating their teammates throughout the contest. Plus, the players handed the ball to the umpire in order to keep the flow of the game running smoothly. The officials enjoyed working with and communicating with players and ball boys. The fans cheered in a positive fashion. Each community's positively cheered and modeled proper sportsmanship behavior. On big plays one could hear the loud cheers with no negative comments being heard about the opposing team or officials. Our crew applauds the positive sportsmanship displayed by the Three Lakes/Phelps and Laona/Wabeno's players, coaches, and communities. Our crew has experienced positive sportsmanship in the Northeast Conference in the past. Hats off to the entire conference and conference commissioner Terri Palubicki for their promotion of outstanding sportsmanship. We wish both teams continued success in future and please stay healthy and happy!

Reporting Official: Shawn Umland

Kenosha Indian Trail @ Racine Case – Sept. 27, 2024

During a hard fought and emotional game, the left tackle for Indian Trail (#77), was consistently helping up players after the play, making sure they were good, regardless of what team they played for.

See Sports Report "PLUS", page 14 >

WIAA & NFHS Partner to Equip High Schools with Life-Saving AEDs

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) is proud to announce an initiative aimed at enhancing the safety and well-being of student-athletes, coaches and spectators across the state.

The WIAA distributed Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) to 24 high schools throughout Wisconsin, in partnership with the National Federation of State High School Associations Foundation. Fourteen of the AEDs were distributed randomly at the Area Meetings. Two schools in each of the seven districts received the units. The remaining 10 were distributed using the Department of Public Instruction Free & Reduced lunch data.

"The safety of student-athletes is our top priority," said Stephanie Hauser, Executive Director of the WIAA. "By supplying additional AEDs to schools we are taking a proactive step toward ensuring a safe environment for all participants in interscholastic athletics."

Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death among young athletes. AEDs, when used promptly, can significantly increase the chances of survival.

This initiative aligns with the WIAA's commitment to promoting the health and safety of all student-athletes, coaches and spectators.

"The NFHS Foundation was instrumental in this initiative, offering partial funding and support for distributing AEDs. "We are proud to partner with the WIAA on this vital mission," said NFHS Foundation President, Davis Whitfield. "Together, we can make a significant impact and save the lives of young athletes across Wisconsin by providing access to this essential device."

The distribution of AEDs is a significant step towards creating a safer environment for high school sports in Wisconsin. The WIAA requires all paid head coaches to be AED and first aid certified, and all WIAA member schools are required to have an emergency action plan. The WIAA and its partners are committed to continuing their efforts to protect the health and well-being of student-athletes, coaches, and spectators.

"We are grateful for the support and partnership of the WIAA and the NFHS Foundation in providing our school with an AED," said Alex Larson, Athletic Director.

See WIAA & NFHS Partner, page 16 >



Sports Report "PLUS" from page 13

He played his heart out during the game, but pretty much every down, he was there helping up players from the pile and giving them pats or just a helping hand. Even near the end of the game with his team trailing, he was still helping people up after plays. It is players like this that need to be recognized for their special efforts in sportsmanship. I don't know if he played defense, but he was definitely a shining star where high school athletics sportsmanship is involved. Huge kudos to #77 for his efforts. It didn't go unnoticed.

Reporting Official: Mike Edic

Appleton West @ Green Bay Preble – Sept. 27, 2024

Player #78 from Appleton West was a voice of reason within his huddle, encouraging his teammates and getting them to settle down when things weren't going their way. He was obviously a vocal leader of the team and helped us keep things under control.

Reporting Official: Ryan Bowers

Spencer/Columbus @ Wittenberg-Birmamwood – Sept. 22, 2024

This letter is to recognize the outstanding sportsmanship showcased by the Wittenberg-Birmamwood and Spencer-Columbus football programs. We must acknowledge the outstanding hospitality Wittenberg-Birmamwood High School provides its officials. The communication and positive treatment by Chris Nier and the staff is impeccable. We also would like to acknowledge the outstanding sportsmanship illustrated by both teams' coaching staff. Coaches were positive in their tactics and communicated well with officials. We were also grateful how well the coaches kept their sidelines clean. The players worked hard for their coaches and were positive with each other. Players asked good questions and accepted the answers from officials. On the line of scrimmage, players were optimistic with their words and actions and helped each other off the turf. The field was in great shape, the chain gang extremely competent, the announcer positive, the clock operator accurate, fans positive and constructive, and the athletic trainers caring and attentive to both teams. Also, we would like to highlight the efforts of the ball people; they did a great job following officials, rotating balls, and staying attentive throughout the entire contest. Congratulations to Coach Rieck and Coach Gorst for the positive behavior of their coaching staff and players. We applaud the communities of Wittenberg-Birmamwood and Spencer-Columbus for their educational and coaching leadership. It takes time and effort to train our youth on the importance of education, sports, and leadership, and we are grateful for your commitment to positive sportsmanship.

Reporting Official: Shawn Umland

Black River Falls @ Gale-Etrick-Trempealeau – Sept. 20, 2024

My crew wants to compliment the coaching staffs of both G-E-T and Black River Falls. Both Head Coach Paul Anderson of G-E-T and Head Coach Adam Yirkovsky of Black River Falls and their coaching staff members maintained a very professional composure and approach when discussing rules applications, scenarios, and game administration needs throughout the game. The game was close, players played hard, and at any time emotions could have taken over. The head coaches of both teams worked with us and displayed a true approach to sportsmanship, being leaders of their respective districts leading their young men on the field as an extension of the classroom. It was a commendable effort for a job well done by both staffs.

Reporting Official: Ken Pearson

La Crosse Central @ Onalaska – Sept. 13, 2024

My crew wanted to extend their greatest compliments to both Onalaska and La Crosse Central on a game well-played and where the sportsmanship shined between two rival squads. Throughout,

both teams' players, coaches and fans maintained a high level of sportsmanship excellence. The players hit hard and helped each other up, returned to their huddle, and stayed focused on the football at hand. Coach Mitch and Coach Tom and their respective staffs worked well with the wing officials, asked appropriate questions, and maintained a calm composure throughout the entire game.

Reporting Official: Ken Pearson

Melrose-Mindoro @ Eleva-Strum – Sept. 13, 2024

Both teams and coaches displayed great sportsmanship in this game. I worked the Melrose-Mindoro sideline along side the chain crew. Coaches and players were very considerate to the chain crew. Coaches from both teams were encouraging their players and respectful to the officiating crew. Both teams were well-coached with very few penalties. Players worked hard and there were some big plays for both teams and some disappointing ones, but there weren't any actions on the field that displayed negativity to the opponents or officials. Both teams represented their school well!

Reporting Official: Brent Dickinsen

Lake Mills @ Lakeside Lutheran – Aug. 23, 2024

My crew had the pleasure of officiating the "Slider Bowl" to open the 2024 football season. Everything was first class, including the pregame emergency meeting with Lakeside Athletic Director, Todd Jahns, the pregame coaches meeting with Lakeside Lutheran Head Coach Matt Doering, Lake Mills Head Coach Tyler Huber, the captains' coin flip, the coaching staffs and the fans. It was a great game that went back and forth throughout, players being positive, and opposing players helping each other up after a hard fought play.

Reporting Official: Jeff Agnew

BOYS SOCCER

Peshtigo @ Omro – Oct. 5, 2024

I was the center official, and I can attest to the fact every player and coach were on their best behavior for every second of the game. Sure, that's what we say every game should or must be like, but 100 percent it is certainly hard to attain. Yet today, both teams did just that!

Reporting Official: Tom Konecny

St. Croix Central @ Superior – Sept. 21, 2024

Nearing the end of a closely contested game, I made two decisions on the field which could easily have caused angst for the St. Croix Central bench. The St. Croix Central head coach, Jacob Langer, supported sportsmanship in the game by strongly keeping his bench settled in a way that also settled the fans. This went a long way to getting both teams to complete the game in a sporting manner. After the game Coach Langer and I also discussed my decisions in a respectful way. He expressed how the restart was confusing from his point of view. This polite interchange led me to consider how I might better have communicated what was happening.

Reporting Official: David Walpole

Racine Horlick @ Sheboygan North – Sept. 14, 2024

Racine Horlick behaved above and beyond my expectations. They just played soccer. There was no name-calling, no arguing, just soccer. An ice cream vendor came strolling by near the end of the game during the 80+ degree afternoon. I told the captain from Racine Horlick how good that would be to have some after the game. He and his teammates were ecstatic when I told them I would buy them some as a thank you for being on their best behavior throughout the game. I handed the vendor the payment before leaving. Thank you Racine Horlick for making my day!

Reporting Official: Mike Walsh

Racine Case vs. Appleton East & Waupun @ Waupun – Sept. 7, 2024

This is actually a four-part Sportsmanship Plus recognition. It covers both a varsity team and its JVs. I officiated two Racine Case JV games and two varsity games today. The first JV game was as half of the two-man system, and I was on the parents' side. For the second JV game, I was center. The second and fourth games of the day were both as AR2 (parents' side) of Case's varsity games, which put me in front of Case's parents. Racine Case teams were stellar in the way they handled themselves, treated their teammates and interacted with their opponents -- the coaches were also great. I also want to recognize the varsity and the JV parents. It was obvious these student-athletes are being raised by some great role models. In conclusion, all of this was 100 percent of the time, spanning 7.5 hours from beginning to end. It was a long day and there were actually many specifics that lead up to this Sportsmanship Plus recognition.

Reporting Official: Tom Konecny

Lakeside Lutheran @ Watertown Luther Prep – Sept. 6, 2024

The game was fast and the skill level was great. When an opponent went down, the other team was there to help them up. There was not one word complaining to the officials about the other team or whether there was a foul or not. Both coaching sides were quiet and they were genuine about their appreciation of the officials. It was a pleasure to do this game, and we all enjoyed hot dishes and the lime Jello with pineapple and oranges at the potluck after the game.

Reporting Official: Thomas Vergerant

Lourdes Academy/Valley Christian @ Berlin – Aug. 29, 2024

I guess the best way to describe player #29 for Berlin is that I had many young enlisted working for me throughout my career in the Air Force, and he acted (and interacted) like the best of the best that I ever had, and he can't be that much younger than some of those airmen!

Reporting Official: Tom Konecny

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Fort Atkinson @ Kenosha Tremper – Sept. 21, 2024

The Fort Atkinson boys volleyball team showed great sportsmanship. Before semifinal match, Coach Lindsey Hallett, Captain Ben Evans and the entire team came over and gave the officials handshakes. At the end of match, even after their loss, again they came over and gave us a handshake and thanked us for giving our time to volleyball. Then they also went over to the table and thanked the JV boy and girl doing the table.

Reporting Official: Thomas Wendt

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Little Chute @ Marinette – Sept. 21, 2024

This was an all around great experience for us as licensed officials. The facility manager met me at the door and offered anything to make or stay more pleasant. It was Parents' Night, and they had a band playing before the game. That created a great atmosphere. They even played the opposing schools fight song. The match was hard-fought and both teams showed exceptional sportsmanship. The Marinette cheering section made up of mostly boys supported their team in a very sportsmanlike way. They were loud and positive for their own team. All in all this was a great experience overall.

Reporting Official: Michael Lyons

Committee Works Toward Tackling Coach Contact Discussion

It's not overstating the fact that the membership's rules for coaches' contact with student-athletes outside their respective sport season has been widely misunderstood or wily circumvented for years.

The 2022 Area Meetings revealed what many in the membership already knew. Coaching contact needed to be addressed to avoid widespread violations in the future. It was telling when the executive staff described how non-school programs may essentially be a "school program in disguise," and those in attendance shared their concern about existing practices or remained curiously silent.

The concern is that coaches are coordinating the non-school programs to conduct team activities throughout the summer beyond the sanctioned five days in the summertime. The interpretation of the summer contact rules requires an outside entity to be responsible for ALL coordination, planning and liability of the program. As a Litmus Test offered at the Area Meetings to determine school involvement, the question presented was who would be held responsible by parents if there was dissatisfaction of their child's playing time or if there was a serious injury?

Whether the discussion has focused on the summertime or outside the season during the school year, the debate about the pros and cons of school coach contact with student-athletes they coach has been persistent for many years.

The origin of the restrictions for coaches working with student-athletes reflected the concerns of school administrators regarding specialization. They believed, as many do today, that student-athletes participating in multiple sports is preferred and beneficial to avoid burnout and injuries caused by overuse specific to respective sports. Another factor in limiting coaches working with student-athletes outside their respective sports seasons was to enhance loyalty and commitment to the sport program that is in-season. This sentiment addressed concerns from both a physical and educational perspective.

Through time, the discussions have shifted a bit from their origins. More recently, the sentiment of school administrators has focused on competitiveness and opportunities for student-athletes to enhance their skill development. It has been conveyed that students in heavier populated areas have greater access to resources for training and participation in non-school sports programs than others in lesser populated areas. Or, these non-school opportunities come at a cost that are not affordable for many.

In addition, it is the contention of a segment of school coaches and administra-

tors that non-school programs may be detrimental to the education-based, team philosophy and the adherence of sound training principles. Therefore, it would be universally advantageous for school coaches to be the resource for the progress and development of student-athletes in school programs.

All the concerns and confusion surrounding coaching contact has brought us to where we are today. The Board passed a directive in December 2023 to establish an ad hoc committee to examine season lengths, game maximums and coach contact. The Calendar & Contact Committee formed earlier this year and met for the first time in April, which resulted in development of its purpose statement. At its July 23 meeting, the committee targeted summer coaching contact days as the first priority among the topics to be addressed.

Since that time, the committee has met numerous times and has conducted research involving other state associations. In addition, a statewide coaching-contact survey for student-athletics, coaches, administrators and parents was created and distributed to gather information and data through anonymous feedback. The purpose of the survey was to evaluate the needs of stakeholders and to guide the discussions for possible solutions.

The survey garnered 17,166 responses. More than 40 percent of the surveys represented student-athletes and almost 46 percent of respondents were submitted by parents or guardians. School administrators and coaches accounted for 14 percent of the respondents. Complete results of the survey will be posted on the WIAA website.

Informed with the data presented on the survey, the Calendar and Contact Committee will continue processing the information to continue its commitment and dedication to serving the membership's interests.

Any recommendations by the committee will be shared with the Board of Control to determine if an amendment will be advanced to the Annual Meeting for a membership vote in April. If the review process extends beyond the deadline for advancing to the Annual Meeting, any amendments will be placed on the Annual Meeting agenda in 2026.

Not to get too far ahead of things, this is only the first step in the committee's study of interrelated topics. Still to come will be its review of season lengths and game maximums. The membership extends its appreciation to the efforts of the Calendar & Coach Committee. ●

Keep These Dates in Mind

October 31 & November 2	Boys Soccer Sectionals	December 4	Conference Realignment Task Force Meeting
October 31 & November 2	Girls Volleyball Sectionals	December 4	Officials Advisory Committee Meeting
November 1-2	Level 2 Football	December 5	Earliest Day for First Gymnastics Meet
November 2	State Cross Country (Wisconsin Rapids)	December 6	Board of Control Meeting
November 6	Classification Committee Meeting	December 9	Coaches Advisory Meeting – Swimming & Diving
November 6-7-8-9	State Volleyball (Green Bay)	December 11	Classification Committee Meeting
November 7-8-9	State Boys Soccer (Milwaukee)	December 12	Coaches Advisory Meeting – Tennis
November 8-9	Girls Swimming & Diving Sectionals	December 25	Christmas
November 8-9	Level 3 Football	January 1	New Year's Day
November 11	Earliest Day for Girls Basketball Practice	January 9	Conference Realignment Task Force Meeting (virtual)
November 11	Earliest Day for Gymnastics Practice	January 20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
November 11	Earliest Day for Hockey Practice	January 29	Sports Advisory Committee Meeting
November 15-16	Level 4 Football	February 3	Middle Level Council Meeting
November 15-16	State Girls Swimming & Diving (Waukesha)	February 4	Advisory Council Meeting
November 16	State Football (8-Player) (Wisconsin Rapids)	February 5	Board of Control Meeting
November 18	Earliest Day for Boys Basketball Practice	February 13	Conference Realignment Task Force Meeting (if needed)
November 18	Earliest Day for Boys Swimming & Diving Practice	February 14-15	Boys Swimming & Diving Sectionals
November 18	Earliest Day for Wrestling Practice	February 15	Wrestling Regionals
November 19	Earliest Day for First Girls Basketball Game	February 18	Wrestling Team Sectionals
November 19	Coaches Advisory Committee Meeting – Cross Country	February 18, 20 & 21	Hockey Regionals
November 20	Coaches Advisory Committee Meeting – Soccer	February 21-22	State Boys Swimming & Diving (Waukesha)
November 20	Coaches Advisory Committee Meeting – Volleyball	February 22	Wrestling Individual Sectionals
November 21-22	State Football (11-Player) (Madison)	February 25	Deadline to Announce Board/Council Candidacy
November 22	Earliest Day for First Hockey Game	February 25, 28 & March 1	Girls Basketball Regionals
November 26	Earliest Day for First Boys Basketball Game	February 25, 28 & March 1	Hockey Sectionals
November 26	Earliest Day for First Boys Swimming & Diving Meet	February 27-28-March 1	Gymnastics Sectionals
November 28	Thanksgiving	February 27-28-March 1	State Wrestling Individual (Madison)
November 29	Earliest Day for First Wrestling Meet	March 4	Board/Council Primary Ballot Emailed
December 3	Coaches Advisory Committee Meeting – Football	March 4, 7 & 8	Boys Basketball Regionals

Board of Control Approves Spring Sport Rules Changes, Fall Co-ops from page 1

Wisconsin Conference dissolved. In girls golf, Kiel will enter the Glacier Trails Conference after competing as an independent.

In other action items, the Board approved the 2025-26 and 2026-27 fall sports co-ops, which includes 167 programs. The 14 new co-ops for 2025-26 are Providence Academy (Green Bay)/Green Bay N.E.W. Lutheran in boys and girls cross country; Clayton/Prairie Farm in girls golf; Ashland/Drummond, New Holstein/Brillion and Wilmot Union/Catholic Central in boys soccer; Portage/Poynette in girls swimming & diving; and University Lake School/Lake Country Classical Academy in girls volleyball. The Board also approved the 2026-27 and 2027-28 football-only co-ops, including Ithaca/Weston, Kenosha Bradford/Reuther Central, Ozaukee/Random Lake and Randolph/Cambria Friesland in 11-player football; and Clayton/Prairie Farm and Mellen/Butternut/Mercer in 8-player football.

Among the discussions with the Board were a review of the 2024 Area Meetings, including feedback on the Google polls to identify potential assets that would currently benefit members, an inquiry to identify school assistance that can be derived from a WIAA Foundation, determine any ongoing concerns with proposed Name, Image and Likeness language, and an addition of a checklist resource for schools in determining whether or not to submit a Residence and Transfer Waiver Request.

The Board was introduced to several possible Constitutional amendments that will be reviewed to determine if they will be advanced to the membership for a vote at the Annual Meeting. Amendments under consideration pertain to maximum contests for ninth graders, the future status of the middle school membership, requirement for ejected fans to complete a free online sportsmanship course before attending a home contest, and updated Name, Image and Likeness language, as well as an editorial item addressing the timeline for membership elections. A final

Membership, Staff Engage in Valuable Interaction from page 2

ship, transfer waiver process, electronic seeding, school video streaming, and a Score Center review. In addition, the executive staff responded to Open Forum topics that were submitted prior to the meeting.

The two topics that were introduced at multiple meetings were the basketball shot clock and 8-player football playoff expansion. Furthermore, a number of in-person surveys were conducted to receive input from the membership of various questions using QR codes.

Twenty-seven schools were recognized as winners of the 2023-24 Award of Excellence, and the meetings concluded with an electronic spin of a wheel that randomly selected two member schools in attendance at their respective meeting to each receive a free AED. This was part of a large initiative to distribute 24 AEDs to members.

To review Area Meeting resources, including a slide presentation, presentation video and responses to surveys using QR codes at the meetings, navigate to the Area Meetings homepage on the WIAA website. ●

determination of the Constitutional amendments that will advance to the Annual Meeting will be decided by the Board of Control at its meeting in March

Dr. Timothy McGuine from the UW-Madison Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitations Department presented on the availability of athletic trainers and provided updates on research studies focused on a variety of turf concussion risks, protective equipment and emerging sports, as well as a position statement on emergency action plans and the use of energy drinks by young athletes.

The Board also received liaison reports from Dan Rossmiller of the Wisconsin Association of School Boards and Brittany Spencer Grant of the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association. ●

WIAA & NFHS Partner from page 14

tor for Abbotsford High School. "This new addition will greatly enhance our ability to respond to any potential emergencies during sporting events, ensuring the safety and well-being of our student-athletes, coaches, and spectators."

"We appreciate the collaboration and generous support from the WIAA and NFHS Foundation in providing our school with an AED," said Nicole Ward, Athletic Director for Cudahy High School. "This vital equipment significantly boosts our emergency preparedness during athletic events, prioritizing the safety and health of our athletes, staff, and fans."

Below is the list of high schools who have received an AED.

Abbotsford	Bowler	Ladysmith
Arcadia	Cornell	Madison Memorial
Ashland	Cudahy	Notre Dame de la Baie Academy
Baldwin-Woodville	Deerfield	Pulaski
Barron	Delavan-Darien	River Ridge
Bayfield	Divine Savior Holy Angels	Saint Thomas More
Beloit Memorial	Dr. Howard Fuller Collegiate Academy	Stratford
Black River Falls		Westosha Central ●
Blair-Taylor		

Test Dates

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

Listed below are the 2024-25 dates for ACT.

ACT – 2024-25

Test Date	Regular Deadline	Late Deadline
December 14, 2024	November 8	November 22
February 8, 2025	January 3	January 20
April 5, 2025	February 28	March 16
June 14, 2025	May 9	May 26
July 12, 2025	June 6	June 20

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