

# BULLETIN



Vol. 101 | Issue No. 4 | May 2025

WIAAWI.ORG

# **Board Approves Realignment Changes & Spring Co-ops at May Meeting**

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Board of Control approved five conference realignment fast track recommendations, realignment process changes and spring cooperative teams at its May 16 meeting.

Two of the fast-track recommendations approved by the Board flips the divisions of two Milwaukee City Con-

ference programs beginning this fall. Milwaukee Bay View moves from the Richardson Division to the Blackbourn, and the Milwaukee Pulaski/Carmen South/Carmen Southeast co-op transitions from the Blackbourn to the Richardson Division.

The Board also supported the Conference Realign-See Board Approves at May Meeting, page 18 ➤

# **Board Approves Remanded Conference Plans; School Reimbursements & Officials' Pay Increases**

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Board of Control voted to approve Conference Realignment Task Force recommendations for the previously remanded 11-player football and lacrosse plans, as well as increases in several reimbursements, fees and allowances at its April 23 meeting.

After hearing three appeals to the football revisions the Conference Realignment Task Force made to the remanded proposals, the Board approved the recommended revised plans, which will be implemented for boys See Board Approves, page 18 >

# Beschta to Join WIAA Staff

Jake Beschta will join the executive staff as assistant director on June 5, 2025.

"Our staff enthusiastically



Jake Beschta

welcomes Jake to our team," Executive Director Stephanie Hauser said. "His wide range of

experiences as athletic director, coach, licensed official and as a high school principal bring a unique perspective to our staff in serving the membership."

Beschta's responsibilities will include the administration and tournament planning for the sports assigned, as well as other administrative duties to be determined.

"I am extremely grateful and honored to have the opportunity to serve our membership as

See Beschta to Join WIAA Staff, page 18 ➤

# **Membership Conducts 129th Annual Meeting; Passes Four Amendments**

The member schools of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association passed four amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules of Eligibility and conducted other membership business at the 129th Annual Meeting at the Sentry Insurance Theater on April 25.

Two of the approved amendments impact the membership's Rules of Eligibility. After voting down a similar proposal last year, the members voted 293-108 to approve the proposed Name, Image, Likeness (NIL) language, making Wisconsin one of more than 40 states that permit student-athletes to enter into NIL opportunities. The approved language permits NIL activities that are not associated or identified with their respective school team, school, conference or the WIAA and are in accordance with other prohibited NIL activities, including

language attempting to deter undue influence to transfer schools.

"With today's vote, member schools have opted to join a growing list of states that allow student athletes to capitalize on their athletic talents in a way that is similar to students with other valued talents and skills," Executive Director Stephanie Hauser said. "At its core, the WIAA is charged with promoting fairness and sportsmanship while protecting the integrity of the game—something I believe this NIL language preserves."

The other amendment affecting the Rules of Eligibility, which was advanced as a recommendation of the Calendar and Contact Ad-Hoc Committee, expands the opportunities for summer coaching contact in all WIAA-sponsored sports. Coaches and members of a school's team may now

voluntarily assemble without restriction from June 1-June 30 and from July 7-July 31, except football, which requires coaching contact to conclude one week prior to the start of fall practice. No school, sport-specific coach contact will be permitted from July 1-July 6. The membership approved the amendment by a 294-106 vote.

One of the approved amendments results in a change to the Constitution. The membership voted 393-17 to allow ninth-grade teams to play the same number of contests as allowed in the Season Regulations for junior varsity and varsity teams.

The membership elected to maintain the current process for applying the performance factor for all sports with a team qualifying component. The Constitutional amendment advanced directly

See Membership Conducts, page 4 ➤

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# Wisconsin Supreme Court Rules with WIAA In Disqualification Ruling

The Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled 5-2 in the favor of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association on a six-year court case that impacts its legal status in regulating high school athletics in the state.

The decision has implications for the governance of high school athletics in Wisconsin and all entities classified as private organizations.

"The Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled that the WIAA — a private organization whose board is composed of leaders elected by their peers — acted properly in its role to set and uniformly enforce rules, policies, and procedures that promote fairness in competition for Wisconsin's students," Executive Director Stephanie Hauser said. "Not only did the Court find this process to be fair, balanced, and correctly applied, it affirms that the processes put in place by our membership as a private organization are not insufficient and their interpretation and application by the WIAA is afforded substantial deference.

"The ruling, which reverses an earlier finding by the appeals court, only further underscores the integrity of the policies and processes put in place by our membership to promote fairness among Wisconsin's student athletes," she added.

The case focused on the 2019 suspension of a high school wrestler and the subsequent stripping of his State championship title. The studentathlete, then a sophomore, received two unsportsmanlike conduct penalties during a wrestling meet, resulting in a suspension for the "next competitive event." The dispute arose over whether this suspension could apply to a junior varsity meet or require the suspension for the

upcoming regional tournament in compliance with membership's rule interpretation.

The student-athlete sat out a junior varsity event, in order to fulfill the suspension despite not having ever competed at the junior varsity level in his career. However, the WIAA maintained that the suspension applied to the next varsity event, which was the regional tournament, rendering him ineligible. Despite obtaining a temporary restraining order that allowed him to compete and win the State title, a circuit court later ruled in favor of the WIAA, resulting in the forfeiture of his championship.

On appeal, the Wisconsin Court of Appeals reversed the lower court's decision, stating that the WIAA's application of its rules was "arbitrary and unreasonable." The appellate court ordered the reinstatement of student-athlete's 2019 state title and associated records. The WIAA subsequently petitioned the Wisconsin Supreme Court for review, raising questions about whether the association is a state actor subject to judicial review and whether it applied its eligibility and appeal rules uniformly and fairly in the case.

In reversing the Court of Appeals decision, the Supreme Court found the WIAA acted reasonably in interpreting and applying its rules, and that allowing emergency hearings every time an officials' call is disputed would be a "slippery slope." In addition, the Court did not rule on whether the association is a state actor, but the opinions expressed may raise doubts on future legal challenges against the WIAA with the reversal of the Court of Appeals decision that the WIAA was a state actor.

# **School Involvement in Out-of-Season Activity**

A reminder that schools cannot be involved in conducting out-of-season competition during the school year or during the summer. This means a school cannot conduct 3-on-3 basketball tournaments, co-educational volleyball tournaments, softball tournaments, etc., outside the designated school season for that particular sport. The one exception is in the summertime during the Board of Control approved sanctioned school contact period between June 1 through June 30 and July 7 through July 31. This does not prevent outside organizations, such as recreation departments which are not a part of the school, service clubs, etc., from renting school facilities and conducting these types of competitions, but the school itself cannot be directly involved.

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

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

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

**Note:** Coaches are prohibited from having coaching contact outside the designated sport season with any eligible student-athlete while school is in session. ●

# Officials' Licensing And Renewal

The WIAA Officials' Licensing portal for the 2025-26 sports seasons is now open.

As we complete the 2024-25 licensing season, the WIAA wants to genuinely thank the officials who licensed over the course of this year. Without your licensing, training and willingness to work high school athletic competitions, we would not be able to provide opportunities to our high school student-athletes in Wisconsin. Your service is deeply appreciated.

This year's total number of WIAA licensed officials (10,604) is an increase of 422 officials over last year. This number has continued to grow over the past few years. While this is positive news, the WIAA is still hearing about difficulties that AD's, conference commissioners, and assignors are having in filling games.

A large part of our growth in officials' registrations has been due to the efforts of our member schools. Many high schools have taken the initiative to create an officiating course, and offer it to their students. The number of schools who now have officiating courses has increased to 92 this year from the 42 schools who hosted classes last year. This has impacted our officials' registrations immensely. 1,908 high school students have registered this year. The hope is that these students find a love for officiating and become the next generation of WIAA Officials who officiate our contests and State Tournaments.

Sport Licenses are active from August 1 – July 31 each year. We are nearing the close of one season and preparing for the next. The window to register is NOW OPEN and we are hopeful that we will see registration numbers continue to improve.

The WIAA is offering three registration windows. Athletic Administrators begin their hiring process well before the seasons begin – so we encourage all officials to license during the FIRST WINDOW.

- May 1 June 30
- September 15 30
- January 1 15

The cost to register, during these windows, is \$35 registration fee + \$15 per sport. Outside of these dates, there is an additional \$30 processing fee. As we continue to grow and develop the sport of both boys and girls lacrosse, we will be waiving the \$15 per sport fee during the initial registration window.

Once again, officials will be able to choose whether they want Electronic Rule Books, or paper rule books again this year. The opportunity to have your rule book on your phone or tablet is a great step for those who no longer want to carry a book. We look forward to providing this option.

As we celebrate the strides we have made in the number of licensed WIAA Officials, let's also remember that our high school sports are still experiencing a shortage. Encourage others to explore the opportunity to officiate high school athletics.

# Congratulations!

## **2025 Winter State Tournament Officials**

Boys Basketball – Tim Ackerman, Mount Horeb; Nicolas Been, Hammond; Adam Bjornstad, Balsam Lake; James Brockman, Oshkosh; Adam Brzezinski, Wausau; Cale Cuddie, Loyal; Kenneth Cyracus, Appleton; Jason Dahl, Hartland; Jared Fern, Woodville; Jeff Fern, Woodville; Jared Flesch, Waunakee; Kevin Haglund, Prescott; Tim Haldiman, Waterloo; Dan Howard, Deerfield; Sayer Jackson, Marathon; Stephen Johnson, Milwaukee; Logan Kinyon, Eldorado; Mike Klein, Hewitt; Brett Kramer, Hortonville; Rocco Lamacchia Jr, Kenosha; Jee Lee, Appleton; Paul Lehmann, River Falls; Ben Leibl, Holmen; Steven Luebke, New Berlin; Joshua Manske, New Berlin; Steve Matuszewski, Green Bay; Ben Meyer, Rhinelander; Kent Miehe, Darlington; Adrian Montgomery, Milwaukee; Tyler Moy, Mondovi; Paul Nelson, Eau Claire; Ryan Nelson, Eau Claire; Tyler Nelson, Eau Claire; Tyrone Nichols, Milwaukee; Alex Ourada, Reedsville; Mark Parker, Eau Claire; Matthew Pfluger, Oshkosh; Derek Prochaska, Waunakee; Pete Reinders, West Allis; Brett Thieme, Oak Creek; Jeason Thomas Sr, Appleton; Marques Tyler, Evansville; Keith Vessell Sr, Milwaukee; Nick Weisenbeck, Durand; Tim Widiker, Hammond

Girls Basketball – TJ Beck, Antigo; Charles Bedwell, New Berlin; Cliff Bell, Milwaukee; Aaron Bender, Columbus; Carl Birch, Slinger; Greg Brockway, Oconomowoc; Richard Campbell, De Pere; Joshua Cash, Waunakee; Wayne Czyscon, Cameron; Mark Derfus, Marshfield; Emma Didier, Altoona; Shelley Dietz, Cuba City; Matthew Doering, Lake Mills; James Emery, Siren; Jason Feucht, Appleton; Kevin Hanusa, Baraboo; Matthew Hardy, Kenosha; Tim Harke, Hobart; Darius Harris, Milwaukee; Justin Haupt, Wausau; John Key, Green Bay; Matthew Kleinhans, Mosinee; Dan Krone, Shawano; Garrett Larson, Cadott; William Laufer, West Bend; Michael LoCicero, Hartland; Bart Matzek, Prescott; Brad Matzek, Prescott; Todd Mayr, Antigo; Jason Nate, Kimberly; Paul Natzke, Greenleaf; Dean Nemoir, Milwaukee; Julie Phillips, Sheboygan Falls; Heath Powell, Greenfield; Daryl Pries, Cadott; Danny Quarberg, Durand; Randy Rasmussen, Marathon; Franklin Searer, Appleton; Wayne Shevey, Muskego; Matt Syens, Waupun; Scott Tahtinen, Barron; Cole Tappe, New Richmond; Wayne Walker, De Pere; Daniel Wipperfurth, Verona; Jason Wolfe, Stevens Point

Gymnastics – Patricia Abraham, Onalaska; Kimberly Adams, Baraboo; Julie Bruns, River Falls; Kim Carlsen, Sussex; Lori Castleberg, Sun Prairie; Cheryl Chapman, Brookfield; Linda Conlon, Rhinelander; Helen Culliney, Grafton; Karen Doll, Middleton; Jill Gardetto, Hartland; Tanya Goerg, Neenah; Tania Gray, River Falls; Pamela Hansen Ruben, Menomonee Falls; Cindy Hoenisch, Eau Claire; Julie Kleist, Pewaukee; Carrie Kraus, Madison; Heather Lee, Janesville; Janelle Martinson, Cottage Grove; Lisa Ray, Janesville; Christine Schmidt, Big Bend; Roseann Tank, Fort Atkindson; Sue Vielgut, Glendale; Faith Wagner, La Crosse; Ellen Wuennenberg Hurraw, Cross Plains; Cyndie Zocher, Middleton

Hockey – Kyle Bates, Superior; Ryan Berdal, Weston; Dave Bestul, Mondovi; Jim Brown, Wausau; David Crisman, Waupaca; Dave Dineen, Wauwatosa; Kory Evans, New Richmond; Trevor Hittman, Saukville; Adam Johnsen, DeForest; Dan Kassis, Oregon; Dustin Klitzke, Appleton; Nikki Kloes, Lake Tomahawk; Jason Lassen, West Salem; Bryce Maphis, Waukesha; Scott Noles, Dousman; Karl Olm, Madison; Justin Peters, Marathon; AJ Rahm, Appleton; Dave Reichenbacher, Greenville; Ryan Reischel, Sun Prairie; Tim Richter, Verona; Derek Robarge, La Crosse; Konner Rowan, Eau Claire; Karl Schmidt, Milwaukee; Kevin Smith, Green Bay; Scott A. Swid, Rib Mountain; Jason Zurawik, Oregon

Boys Swimming & Diving – William Benson, Fond du Lac; Beth Batiste Jackson, Slinger; Robyn Hernandez Nagreen, Freedom; Scott Hertting, Appleton; John Miller, South Milwaukee

Individual Wrestling – Steve Antczak, Rice Lake; Thane Antczak, River Falls; Jason Benrud, Trempealeau; Dave Brandvold, Hammond; William Coker, Athens; Rodney Davis, Sharon; Jim Ewing, Weyauwega; Mark Farrell, Sturtevant; Lynn Isensee, Sparta; Kenneth Koehler, Menomonie; Travis Korth, Appleton; Zac Krause, Green Bay; Chris Kujawa, Oshkosh; Thomas Platner, Cedar Grove; Gail Pronschinske, Hudson; Eric Reukauf, Dodgeville; Bruce Shefchik, Luxemburg; Steve Skarda, Menasha; Neal Stake, Evansville; Cal Tackes, Edgar

Team Wrestling – Michael Arendt, Franklin; Ron Arendt, Palmyra; Matthew Boyer, Baraboo; Chuck Hile, Rice Lake; Matt Pronschinske, Arcadia; Brett Van Vooren, Valders. Off-mat Officials: Matt Marusak, Eau Claire; Jim McMahon, Portage ●

# WIAA Launches Survey of Current and Retired Sport Officials

As part of continuous improvement efforts, the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) sought feedback from both active and retired officials. Survey responses will help identify key trends, challenges, and opportunities in officiating, ultimately guiding efforts to enhance recruitment, retention, and overall officiating experiences.

The Donovan Group, an independent third party, administered the survey and collected and analyzed the data. The survey was open from April 7 through April 27, 2025.

A total of 2,717 respondents completed the survey. To complete the survey, respondents must have clicked "submit" at the end of the online survey.

In the coming weeks and months the WIAA will review the data and work with various stakeholders to enhance the officiating program and address shortfalls.

# 2025-26 Sport Officials Guide

The 2025-26 Sport Officials Guide is updated

with a new look and layout. Editorial changes were made to provide clarity to the background check and penalty process. You will also see updated uniform requirements in the sport of Swim & Dive



Please refer to the Sport Officials Guide for all of your officiating needs **Sport Officials Guide.** ●

# 2024-25 WIAA Officials Sport Registered

Sport	Registered	
Baseball	2,576	
Basketball	5,339	
Cross Country	369	
Football	2,531	
Gymnastics	156	
Hockey	492	
Lacrosse - Boys	125	
Lacrosse - Girls	90	
Soccer	1,251	
Softball	2,182	
Swimming & Diving	233	
Track and Field	614	
Volleyball	2,237	
Wrestling	662	
Total Registrations	18,857	
Total Officials (no reciprocity)	10,174	
Total Officials (all)	10,593	

# Congratulations Officials

Officials are important partners in the development and delivery of sport opportunities for high school athletes in Wisconsin. Without their willingness to be involved in officiating, many of our programs would not have progressed to where they are today.

We thank the following for their years of dedication and sacrifices on behalf of high school sports in Wisconsin. Congratulations to these individuals that have been licensed officials with the WIAA for 60, 50, 40, 30, 20, 10 and 5 years.

#### 60 Years

Gary Skerhutt, Stratford

#### 50 Year

Jan Adkins, Sun Prairie Thomas Bier, Janesville Jerry Chepil, Ladysmith Helen Culliney, Grafton Rob Ferraro, Madison Thomas Fiedler, Eau Claire Gene Gretzlock, Hatley

See Officials, page 14 >

# Hansche of Westosha Central Receives WIAA Spirit of Sport Award

Reid Hansche of Westosha Central High School has been selected as the 2025 Wisconsin recipient of the Spirit of Sport Award presented by the WIAA, the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin (DFW) and the National Federation of State High School Associations.

The Spirit of Sport Award program was created by the NFHS and adopted by the WIAA in 2018 in partnership with the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin. The award recognizes individuals who exemplify the ideals of the spirit of sport that represent the core mission of education-based athletics. These individuals embody the resilience and determination of Wisconsin dairy farmers, overcoming challenges with perseverance and a positive spirit.

On Friday, Sept. 6, 2024, Hansche, a senior on the Westosha Central cross country team, was struck by a vehicle while crossing near the busy intersection of Highways 50 and 75 near the high school. He and the Falcons' cross country team were en route back from a county park where they were conducting workouts.

The impact of the collision vaulted Hansche onto the front of the vehicle attempting to proceed through a green light of the approaching intersection, breaking the windshield and then hurling him into the middle of the nearby intersection.

One of the team's coaches was on the scene first to comfort him until emergency medical tech-

nicians arrived at the scene to provide medical services. Hansche was airlifted by the Flight for Life to Children's Wisconsin in Milwaukee with severe injuries, including a fractured skull and bleeding on the brain. According to the application for the award, he scored a four on the Glascow Coma Scale for his brain activity. That reading, statistically, gave him a one percent chance of survival.

Described as a fighter with great determination and dedication, Hansche began speaking within a couple of days. After one week of recovery, he was released from the hospital. Within weeks, Hansche was attending the cross country meets as a spectator supporting the team. He has received overwhelming support from the community with fundraisers to assist in his medical bills, including a five-kilometer event that Hansche walked less than two months after the accident. He walked through a tunnel created by the team and participants at the finish line, and he high-fived everyone as they finished.

Since last fall, he has made tremendous strides in his recovery. Hansche has returned to school full-time as a student and has his sights on participating in a race during track season this spring. Because of his strength, determination and resilience, the cross country team used these traits as inspiration, which was reflected in the team's performance.

As the Wisconsin recipient of the Spirit of Sport Award, Hansche will receive an award sponsored by the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin. He was presented with the award and recognized at the 2025 WIAA Annual Meeting on April 25 in Stevens Point.



Reid Hansch

The other finalist for Wisconsin's nomination for the Spirit of Sport Award is Chloe Lee of Lake Holcombe High School.

Lee, a senior, has been a source of spirit at school since her freshman season, and she has excelled in the classroom and in the many activities she has engaged in for four years.

Excelling in volleyball, Lee entered her senior season as the school's assists leader the past three seasons and an all-conference second team selection. In route to a conference volleyball game during Homecoming Week, the day before festivities including presenting her as Homecoming queen, Lee and her mother received an urgent call directing her to go to the hospital. Upon arriving at the hospital soon after the call, they were informed Lee was diagnosed with acute promyelocytic leukemia.

Lee reacted with a determined and positive attitude, and she began treatment that evening while she watched her game on a live stream. After two

See Hansche of Westosha Central page 20 >

## Membership Conducts from page 1

to the Annual Meeting by petition that would have excluded cross country from applying the competitive balance performance factor procedure was voted down by a 161-241 vote.

The one amendment impacting the Bylaws received membership approval by a 335-67 tally. In addition to the current one-game suspension, a spectator ejected from a contest is now required to complete the free online NFHS Sportsmanship Course available on the NFHSLearn.com website. The completed course certificate must be submitted to school officials before attending any future home atbletic events.

The membership also voted 390-5 in support of two editorial changes clarifying Board of Control election language outlined in the Constitution and the performance factor procedures stated in Appendix N of the

Senior High Handbook. The edits do not change any existing rules or interpretations of the rules. The changes only serve as clarifications to the existing rule or interpretation.

In the Director's Report, Hauser presented a sports-themed message in recognition of the NFL Draft held in Green Bay this week. Her comments conveyed her vision on moving education-based athletics forward and adapting to changes in the interscholastic athletics landscape, as well as expressing her appreciation for the efforts of committee members and school leaders that contribute to the membership's governance.

Hauser highlighted maintaining and building the WIAA legacy, which included the announcement of the WIAA Foundation, which will be formally introduced at the Area Meetings in fall. She also introduced the launching of the first-ever WIAA Strategic

Planning Process beginning with a member survey to collect the schools' voices for future planning.

In addition, she shared that the WIAA is in good financial standing. With 85 percent of revenue generated by Tournament Series attendance, last year's 1.3 million spectators allowed the Board of Control to recently approve tournament-related school reimbursements that will be approximately \$4 million in 2025-26. Her comments also alluded to the first year success of the Student-Athlete Leadership Team and securing facility agreements for the State Tournaments. She also acknowledged the need to confront persistent challenges to the membership's rules and governance.

Hauser commended the dedication of more than 10,000 licensed officials and recognized the conducting of the first-ever survey to inquire how to effectively support and recruit officials. Additionally, she extended respect to former WIAA Assistant Director Karen Kuhn, who passed away in November, and acknowledged the career of Assistant Director Tom Shafranski, who retired in February.

The executive staff responded to 10 pre-submitted requests addressing five open forum topics, including the petition for the performance factor amendment involving cross country, coaches' contact during the summertime, transgender participation policy and electronic seeding for the Tournament Series. In addition, Co-chairs Jake Beschta and Janel Batten presented an update on the efforts and progress of the Calendar & Contact Committee.

Reid Hansche of Westosha Central High School was recognized as the Wisconsin Spirit of Sport Award recipient, sponsored by the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin. Also recognized were the representatives

of the 27 schools that received the WIAA Award of Excellence in 2023-24.

In the 2025-26 Board of Control elections, Corv Hinkel, the current Board president and district administrator at Luck was elected to a second threeyear term on the Board as the District 1 representative. Bryan Davis, the superintendent of the Oshkosh Area School District, will continue serving after being elected to a three-term representing District 4. Dennis Birr, the superintendent at Fall River, will serve a second consecutive three-year term representing District 6. Ryan McMillen, athletic director and assistant principal at Muskego, was re-elected for a three-year term representing District 7. Ted Knutson, the president at Aguinas, will return to the Board to serve a three-year term as the private school at-large representative. Knutson formerly served on the Board from 2012-19.

In the 2025-26 Advisory Council elections, Joe Brandl, the principal at Plymouth, was re-elected to a three-year term as a large school representative. Joseph Schneider, the athletic director and assistant principal at Monona Grove, was also elected to a three-year term representing large schools. Jerry Pritzl, the district administrator at Poynette, and Vincent Propson, the athletic director and principal at Ripon, were both elected to a three-year term representing medium-sized schools. Kyle Luedtke, superintendent at Frederic, returns to the Council to serve a three-year term representing small schools after formerly serving from 2016-19 and 2020-23. Craig Anderson Ruskin, superintendent at Pepin, was also elected to a three-year term as a small school representative.

Approximately 456 representatives from 411 schools were registered to attend the meeting. ●

# **WIAA Salutes 32 State Scholar-Athlete Award Recipients**

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association has selected the 16 senior boys and 16 senior girls to receive the prestigious, statewide 2025 Scholar-Athlete Award, presented by the We Energies Foundation and the Wisconsin Public Service Foundation.

To determine the top 32 award recipients, four boys and four girls were selected based on both athletic and academic achievement from each of the four WIAA divisions. This year, 806 seniors were nominated for the award by 415 high schools throughout the state. More than 1,245 Scholar-Athlete recipients have been recognized since the program began in 1984.

"Each of these outstanding student-athletes has excelled in academics and athletics," WIAA Executive Director Stephanie Hauser said. "Twenty-one of this year's 32 Scholar-Athlete finalists have maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA.

"Together they hold an impressive cumulative GPA of 3.97. Collectively, they've already earned 306 varsity letters—an average of 9.56 per athlete—with spring sports still underway," she continued. "Their dedication both in the classroom and in competition is inspiring."

The 2025 WIAA Scholar-Athlete recipients will be recognized at an awards ceremony on Sunday, May 4

at SentryWorld in Stevens Point. The keynote speaker will be Mike "Jocko' Jacques, an award-winning, Emmy-nominated journalist and Wisconsin native.

Of interest this year, both Arrowhead and West Salem High Schools produced two WIAA Scholar-Athletes. Jacquelyn Cox and John Kubisch represent Arrowhead, and Kyle Hehli and Megan Johnson are from West Salem. Additionally, four individuals received the first Scholar-Athlete Award in their school's history, including Isaac Scheer of Columbus Catholic High School, Molly Duel of Laconia High School, Ben Krauklis of Lakeside Lutheran High School and Kate Schmoll of West De Pere High School.

A live stream of the awards program will be available on the websites of the State Television Network stations, including WXOW-TV, WQOW-TV, WAOW-TV, WKOW-TV, WVTV and WCWF at approximately 1:20 p.m. on May 4. A delayed telecast of the ceremony will be aired on a future date. More information is available on the WIAA's website.

For more information on the Scholar-Athlete Award and biographies of the recipients, access the Scholar-Athlete homepage on the WIAA website at: https://www.wiaawi.org/Schools/Awards-Recognition/Scholar-Athletes.

## **Scholar-Athlete Award Recipients**

#### **DIVISION 1 – BOYS**

John Kubisch, Arrowhead H.S. Ryan Lang, Sheboygan North H.S. Paolo Pagnucci, Superior H.S. Ray Pember, Menomonie H.S.

#### **DIVISION 1 – GIRLS**

Mackenzie Babcock, Monona Grove H.S. Jacquelyn Cox, Arrowhead H.S. Ella Opie, Pewaukee H.S. Kate Schmoll, West De Pere H.S.

#### **DIVISION 2 – BOYS**

Layne Aurit, Dodgeville H.S. Jack Hefty, Whitewater H.S. Kyle Hehli, West Salem H.S. Ben Krauklis, Lakeside Lutheran H.S.

#### **DIVISION 2 - GIRLS**

Megan Johnson, West Salem H.S. Hailie Krueger, New London H.S. Ellie Schiszik, Elk Mound H.S. Addison Schliewe, Sheboygan Falls H.S.

#### **DIVISION 3 – BOYS**

Blake Thiry, Prairie du Chien H.S. Jacob Thornton, Aquinas H.S. Jack Tubbs, Stratford H.S. Jack Schmeling, Luther H.S.

#### **DIVISION 3 - GIRLS**

Molly Duel, Laconia H.S. Reese Grimm, Pittsville H.S. Lexi Kuffel, Cameron H.S. Ellen Robinson, Mineral Point H.S.

## DIVISION 4 - BOYS

Jesse DeBauch, Gillett H.S. Oliver Post, Potosi H.S. Isaac Scheer, Columbus Catholic H.S. Jared Schultz, Northwood H.S.

#### **DIVISION 4 – GIRLS**

Kamdan Johnson, Florence H.S. Sarah Shaw, Assumption H.S. Emily Sorensen, Faith Christian H.S. Kendall Weiler, Owen-Withee H.S.



# **Recruiting Restrictions**

WIAA rules prevent the recruitment of students for athletic reasons. The specific rule in question states: "No eligibility will be granted for a student whose residence within a school's attendance boundaries, with or without parents, or whose attendance at a school has been the result of undue influence (special consideration due to athletic ability or potential) on the part of any person, whether or not connected with the school."

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

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

#### Acceptable

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

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

## Unacceptable

- High school personnel visiting a middle school/ elementary school sport team to encourage players to attend.
- Inviting selected students, because of athletic potential or ability, to visit.
- Providing game tickets to selected students,

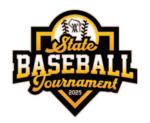
See Recruiting Restrictions, page 16 ➤

# **WIAA Winter Team Tournament Sportsmanship Awards Chosen**

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association, in cooperation with Rural Mutual Insurance, has chosen the recipients of the team Sportsmanship Awards for the 2025 winter State Tournaments.

The winners of the prestigious Sportsmanship Award are Holmen in team wrestling, West Salem Co-op in gymnastics, Sun Prairie West Co-op in girls hockey, Amery Co-op in boys hockey, Owen-Withee in girls basketball and Wausau East in boys basketball.

Following its appearance in the State Team Wrestling Tournament, Holmen was named as the recipient for its sportsmanship efforts by coaches, competitors and fans. The Vikings advanced to the Division 1 semifinals with a 57-18 victory over



# 2025 State Baseball Tournament

Monday-Thursday, June 16-19 Neuroscience Group Field at Fox Cities Stadium, Grand Chute

#### Monday, June 16

Division 1 Quarterfinals – 9 a.m.

Game 1 - #4 Seed vs. #5 Seed

Game 2 - #1 Seed vs. #8 Seed

Division 1 Quarterfinals - 2:30 p.m.

Game 3 - #6 Seed vs. #3 Seed

Game 4 - #7 Seed vs. #2 Seed

#### Tuesday, June 17

Division 4 Semifinals - 9 a.m.

Game 1 - #3 Seed vs. #2 Seed

Game 2 - #1 Seed vs. #4 Seed

Division 3 Semifinals – 2:30 p.m.

Game 1 - #3 Seed vs. #2 Seed

Game 2 - #1 Seed vs. #4 Seed

### Wednesday, June 18

Division 2 Semifinals - 9 a.m.

Game 1 - #3 Seed vs. #2 Seed

Game 2 - #1 Seed vs. #4 Seed

#### Division 1 Semifinals - 2:30 p.m.

Game 5 - Winner of Game 1 vs. Winner of Game 2 Game 6 - Winner of Game 3 vs. Winner of Game 4

### Thursday, June 19

Division 4 Final – 9 a.m.

Division 3 Final – Noon

Division 2 Final - 3 p.m.

Division 1 Final – 6 p.m.

Muskego in the quarterfinals before falling to eventual champion Kaukauna, 40-22, in their semifinal match. It's the second time the Vikings have won the award in team wrestling, having earned the honor in 2021. It's the Vikings' fourth award overall. They received the honor in softball in 1999 and gymnastics in 2007. Honorable mention for the award was extended to Oostburg and St. Croix Falls.

The sportsmanship evaluations and staff observations at the State Gymnastics Championships led to the selection of the West Salem/Aquinas/Bangor co-op as the Sportsmanship Award winner for 2025. The co-op displayed positive enthusiasm and finished eighth in Division 1 at the team championships. It's the first time the co-op has been bestowed the honor. Also receiving consideration for the award were West Bend East and Chippewa Fall/McDonell Catholic.

Wausau East returned to the tournament field in boys basketball for the first time since 2007, and the sportsmanship demonstrated by the players, coaches and school community earned the Lumberjacks the decoration. As the #3 seed in the Division 2 bracket, they fell in the semifinals to eventual champion Wauwatosa West, 75–63. It's the second time Wausau East has been selected as recipient of the award in boys basketball, which accounts for its overall total. They also received the recognition in 1971. The schools receiving honorable mention are Elk Mound, Marshfield, The Prairie School and Turtle Lake.

Owen-Withee is the Sportsmanship Award winner in girls basketball following the Blackhawks' State Tournament run. The team and community were determined to have exhibited the best sportsmanship in the tournament. As the #4 seed, they fell 61-36 to eventual Division 5 champion Assumption in the semifinals. The Blackhawks won the award once previously with their girls basketball appearance in the 2005 State Tournament. The schools receiving honorable mention are Barneveld, Durand-Arkansaw, Elk Mound, Muskego and Rice Lake.

The Sun Prairie West Co-op, consisting of six schools, including Sun Prairie West, Sun Prairie East, DeForest, Madison East, Madison La Follette and Waunakee, won the award in girls hockey for the second straight season, which accounts for the co-op's overall total. The Cap City Cougars, the #4 seed in the State Tournament, fell to top-seeded and eventual-champion De Pere Co-op 4-0 in the semifinals. The De Pere Co-op received honorable mention for the award.

The good sportsmanship modeled by the Amery/Clayton/Clear Lake/Unity Co-op both on the ice and in the stands during the State Boys Hockey Tournament led to its selection as the Sportsmanship Award recipient. The Warriors finished runner-up in the tournament, defeating Somerset/St. Croix Falls 4-2 in the semifinals and falling 5-3 to Tomahawk in the championship game. It's the first time the Amery Co-op has been selected for the award. McFarland and Tomahawk received honorable

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

The selection process includes contributions and evaluations from contest officials, tournament management, police and security personnel, crowd control and ushers, WIAA staff members, area hotels and restaurants. Rural Mutual Insurance has been a sponsor of this award since 1965, and it partnership contributes to the promotion of sportsmanship in education-based athletics as a valued corporate partner of the WIAA.

# **Split-Season Sports**

(Golf, Soccer, Swimming, Tennis)

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

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

# **Fall Sports - Academic Ineligibility**

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

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

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

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

## Fall 2025 Dates

athlete must sit out.

Sport	Boys Soccer	Girls Volleyball	Boys Volleyball	Football	Cross Country	Girls Golf	Girls Tennis	Girls Swimming
Minimum Ineligibility Period: 21 Days or	8 games	5 meets	5 meets	3 games	4 meets	5 meets	5 meets	5 meets
Earliest Allowed Game/Meet – Fall 20255	Aug. 26	Aug. 26	Aug. 26	Aug. 21 (11-player & 8-player)	Aug. 26	Aug. 14	Aug. 16	Aug. 20
Student Regains Eligibility on this Date or After Sitting Out the Required Number of Meets	Sept. 16	Sept. 16	Sept. 16	Sept. 11 (11-player & 8-player)	Sept. 16	Sept. 4	Sept. 6	Sept. 10

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

# **Open Gyms**

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

- The open gym is made known and available to all students in the designated population of that school that is interested in attending. Open gyms may be gender specific. It is also acceptable to include adults from the community. Schools may conduct "open gyms" in any activity. It is not acceptable to include athletes from another school, public or nonpublic.
- 2. There is no instruction during the open gym by a coach or anyone else.
- 3. Coaches may supervise open gyms, but they may not instruct, organize drills, etc. Coaches can also recreate with students in school sponsored, open gym settings that are purely recreational in nature, i.e., there is no instruction by the coach or anyone, sport skill demonstration, organized drills or resemblance of a practice being conducted.
- 4. There is no organized competition, such as established teams participating in round-robin competition, etc.
- 5. A member school is permitted to supervise conditioning programs under the open gym provisions, which may include weight lifting, speed, agility, and/or fitness. The program must be limited to non-sport and non-sport-skill-specific instruction. Basic 'instruction' e.g., safe lifting, safe spotting, training regimen and rationale, are permitted. No sport implements and/or sport specific movement/drills should be part of the open gym or weight room. These conditioning programs must be made known and accessible to all interested students and must be voluntary.

Schools and coaches must clearly understand that the philosophy of the open gym is that youngsters from that school may attend, for wholesome **recreation**, or for purposes of improving their skills if they choose, but it's something they do on their own. It would be a violation of WIAA rules to mandate attendance at open gyms, or to provide incentives for athletes to attend open gyms, or to limit participation based on athletic status, or to allow athletes from other schools to come and work out or compete against your school's athletes. (BL – Art. II and RE – Art. VI, Sect. 2)

# **Coaches Participating Against Athletes in the Off-Season**

Except during Board of Control approved coaching contact days, WIAA rules indicate that coaches may not provide sport instruction to, or have coaching contact with student-athletes during the off-season. The present interpretation allows coaches to participate <u>against</u> their athletes in league competition, organized by a <u>non-school</u> entity, during the off-season. This means a volleyball coach, for example, could be participating in a volleyball league which included his/her volleyball players as members of other teams.

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



# **2025 State Girls Soccer Tournament**

Thursday-Saturday, June 19-21 Southeast Sales Powersports Stadium at Uihlein Soccer Park, Milwaukee

#### Thursday, June 19

### Division 1 Semifinals

11 a.m. #1 Seed vs. #4 Seed 1:30 p.m. #2 Seed vs. #3 Seed

## **Division 4 Semifinals**

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

#### Friday, June 20

#### Division 3 Semifinals

11 a.m. #1 Seed vs. #4 Seed 1:30 p.m. #2 Seed vs. #3 Seed

## **Division 2 Semifinals**

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

#### Saturday, June 21

11 a.m. Division 1 Championship1:30 p.m. Division 4 Championship4:30 p.m. Division 3 Championship7 p.m. Division 2 Championship

# **WIAA Eligibility – Summer Reminders**

By: Mel Dow, WIAA Associate Director

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

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

- Remind those that might need to know the rules affecting transfer students. Download and distribute the Transfer Rules and Waivers Quick Facts (available on the WIAA website) to the appropriate people including your guidance and admissions staff.
- 2) Review with coaches as necessary, the outof-season coaching contact rules for their sport. Provide coaches with the summer contact form so they can provide you with a schedule of their planned contact days in advance. Remember that volunteer coaches are the same as paid coaches for the purpose of this rule and that the second time someone shows up at practice to help coach they are considered a school coach.
  - All WIAA sport coaches are allowed sanctioned school coaching contact in the summer, between June 1 through June 30 and July 7 through July 31. (Football coaching contact ends July 26 in 2025.)
  - A reminder that any high school coach can have coaching contact with 8th grade students on down up until the point of those 8th graders actually starting their 9th grade year.
- 3) Remember that schools cannot be involved in out-of-season sports activities for students in grades 10-12. The only exception is during the summertime within the sanctioned school coaching contact period. School facilities are sometimes used by nonschool groups for out-of-season camps and clinics. If this is to be done, the Board of Education policy for nonschool use of the facility must be followed. This may involve rent, and it is advisable that those conducting the activity have insurance protection.
  - a) If conducted, a nonschool camp should be available to students from surrounding areas and not just returning athletes at your school. An acceptable nonschool program may not be restricted based on school and/or team status.
  - b) Out-of-season coaching rules apply.
- 4) Schools cannot conduct summer school classes in sports fundamentals, etc. in excess of the sanctioned school contact days and community education is a school program with the same restrictions and exceptions.
- Schools may issue uniforms and/or protective apparel for nonschool activity, only with formal approval of their school board or governing body.
- 6) Students must pay their own way to any

- camp, clinic, or specialized training. Nonschool groups can pay expenses related to actual competition, such as entry fees into summer leagues, e.g. The school cannot have any involvement with out-of-season camps, clinics or competition unless the activity is part of the sanctioned school contact opportunity, is school sponsored and available to all interested students on a voluntary basis.
- Open gyms can be conducted in the summer but open gym rules apply including restricting students from other schools from attending.
- 8) Remind students of amateur status and allstar rules. You may wish to ask students to contact you prior to participating in all summer sport activities so you can assess the activity and help protect their eligibility.
- Remind students they must limit their nonschool activity when the school season in that sport starts. Rules allow a student to compete in not more than two nonschool competitions with prior school approval during each regular sport season. Another exception is that during the season, athletes may participate in a skills contest with approval of the school. Specific skill contests (punt, pass, and kick, shooting contests e.g., free throws, 3-point, drive, chip and putt) isolate separate skills outside of the traditional competition setting. The skill contest may not include physical contact or extreme fatigue as the actual sport competition. Fun runs are not considered skills contests. There can be no school coach involvement. All other eligibility rules including amateur status apply.
- 10) It is important to remind students and coaches that out of season and summertime

- activities must be voluntary. Taking or requiring attendance, providing incentives or connecting playing time and/or lettering requirements to out of season programs is prohibited.
- 11) A reminder that the academic eligibility requirements apply to spring tournaments and an athlete can become academically ineligible and miss the opportunity to play in a state tournament. Also, the period of ineligibility for the fall is 15 scheduled school days or 21 calendar days, depending on when school starts. The WIAA publishes a chart each spring to help you determine when eligibility is regained.

These rules apply to high schools. Some may also apply to middle level but the rules at the middle level are significantly different. These are not all-inclusive but hopefully will serve as a reminder in a number of important areas. Working to prevent the loss of athletic eligibility is always worth the effort.

NEW Sports Medical Recommendations on Expanded Coaching Contact Rules



# **Transfer Rule Summary**

Keep in mind, the transfer rule applies to transfers that are not made necessary by a total and complete change in residence by the parent(s) that the student lived with when establishing eligibility.

### The Essentials of The Transfer Rule\*

A transfer made necessary by a total and complete change of residence of the parent(s) – unrestricted. Transfers with no change of residence of the parent(s) at the beginning of:

9th grade - unrestricted

10th grade - unrestricted

11th grade – nonvarsity for calendar year

12th grade – nonvarsity for calendar year

Transfers with no change of residence of the parent(s) during the school year:

9th grade - nonvarsity for remainder of year

10th grade - nonvarsity for calendar year

11th grade - nonvarsity for calendar year

12th grade – nonvarsity for calendar year

\*Provided the student meets residency requirements

# WIAA Winter Performance Factor Results in 2025-26 Divisional Movement

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Classification Committee conducted hearings for member school requests and appeals in applying the performance factor initiative for the winter sports with implementation during the 2025-26 seasons.

This initiative affords schools the opportunity to request to move to a division with lower or higher enrollments for all sports. The Classification Committee reviewed 16 such requests for winter sports. Four of the requests were to move up a division for the 2025-26 Tournament Series, including three in boys hockey (Edgewood, Superior and University School of Milwaukee) and one in boys basketball (West Allis Central). All four requests were approved. The remaining 12 requests were to move down for the 2025-26 Tournament Series, including five in boys basketball (Ashland, Green Bay East, Riverdale, Sevastopol and Sheboygan South), four in girls basketball (Ashland, Riverdale, Sheboygan South and Green Bay East), and three in boys hockey (Ashland, Barron and Medford). The committee approved all the requests to move down one division.

School programs reaching the six-point performance factor threshold during the past three seasons are placed in the division containing the next largest set of enrollments from where the schools' enrollments would place them for each respective sport other than track & field and swimming & diving—which do not have a team component to advancing in the Tournament Series—and sports with only one division. Schools are restricted to moving up a maximum of one division from the previous year's placement.

The school sports programs that have accumulated at least six points to engage a promotion one division higher than their enrollment would place them in 2025-26 are listed below. Please note that programs that meet the performance points threshold to be promoted and are initially assigned to a lower enrollment division—based on their 2025-26 tournament assignment enrollments—will be promoted back into the division they competed in during the most recent season's Tournament Series.

#### Boys Basketball (9)

Aquinas Arrowhead De Pere

Kenosha St. Joseph Catholic Milwaukee Academy of Science

Mineral Point Pewaukee West Salem

Wisconsin Lutheran

#### Girls Basketball (9)

Albany/Monticello Arrowhead Cuba City

## Girls Basketball (continued)

Edgewood Laconia Notre Dame Pewaukee Wauwatosa East Xavier

#### Gymnastics (5)

Chippewa Falls/McDonell Catholic Elkhorn Franklin/Muskego Verona/Edgewood West Salem Co-op

## Boys Hockey (5)

Brookfield East Co-op Edgewood New Richmond Notre Dame Tomahawk

#### Wrestling (5)

Coleman Fennimore Kaukauna Luxemburg-Casco St. Croix Falls

The performance factor process affords schools the opportunity to appeal their promotion to the division with the next largest enrollments based on performance points. Of the 33 programs listed above that compiled points to engage their promotion, 12 appeals were submitted. The Classification Committee evaluated six appeals in girls basketball (Albany/Monticello, Cuba City, Laconia, Notre Dame, Pewaukee and Wauwatosa East), three in boys basketball (Kenosha St. Joseph Catholic, Pewaukee and West Salem), two in gymnastics (Elkhorn and West Salem), and one in boys hockey (Tomahawk). There were no approvals of appeals for the programs moving up a division based on the performance factor.

The Classification Committee consists of nine athletic directors, two principals and seven superintendents

The Competitive Balance Performance Factor was approved by a 265-115 membership vote at the 2023 Annual Meeting and was implemented for the first time in 2024-25.

The WIAA will release the Tournament Series assignments for all 2025-26 winter sports later this spring. For more on the performance factor process, visit the Competitive Balance homepage on the WIAA website. ●



# **2025 Boys Golf State Championships**

Monday-Tuesday, June 9-10 – University Ridge, Madison

Monday, June 9 - Tee Times

**7 a.m.** – Division 1 **Noon** – Divisions 2 & 3

## Tuesday, June 10 - Tee Times

**7 a.m. –** Divisions 2 & 3 **Noon –** Division 1



# 2025 Boys Tennis State Individual Championships

Thurs.-Sat., June 5-7 Nielsen Stadium, Madison

#### Thursday, June 5

First matches called at 10:15 a.m.

#### Friday, June 6

First matches called at 8:45 a.m.

#### Saturday, June 7

First matches called at 8:15 a.m.

\*Brackets will become available online after the completion of the Division 1 and 2 Individual seeding and once all special qualifiers have been determined. The Seeding Committee will complete the field by the end of the day on May 30, and the brackets will be available for viewing on our WIAA website at that time.

# 2025 Boys Tennis State Team Championships

Fri.-Sat., June 13-14 Nielsen Stadium, Madison DIVISION 1

## Quarterfinals — Friday June 13 - 3:30 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 — Saturday, June 14 - 9 a.m.

Match 5: Winner of Match 1 vs. Winner of Match 2 Match 6: Winner of Match 3 vs. Winner of Match 4

## Championship Match — Saturday, June 14 - 2 p.m.

Match 7: Winner of Match 5 vs. Winner of Match 6

#### **DIVISION 2**

## Semifinals – Saturday, June 14 - 9 a.m.

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

#### Championship Match - Saturday, June 14 - 2 p.m.

Match 3: Winner of Match 1 vs. Winner of Match 2

# **Non-School Participation (In-Season) Rules**

#### What are the rules?

Individual student-athletes, with school approval, may participate in up to two non-school contests during the regular season in the same sport. The non-school opportunities will not count against the individual maximum in that sport.

The exceptional athlete provision recognizes only invitations to international competitions sanctioned by each sport's identified National Governing Body (NGB) and Olympic Development Programs (ODP) in representing the USA as eligible for an exceptional athlete waiver. This waiver allows non-school competition for a qualifying exceptional athlete during the regular season and during the WIAA Tournament Series.

#### Are the two mutually exclusive?

Yes. Any student with prior school approval may participate in up to two non-school competitions during the school sport regular season. If the student qualifies by National Governing Body and/or Olympic Development standards and meets WIAA exceptional athlete rules, the student may participate as an exceptional athlete representing their country in international competition with school approval.

#### Is a WIAA waiver necessary?

Yes, for the exceptional athlete waiver involving international competition representing the National Team or NGB. No, for the two regular season non-school competitions. School approval is required for both.

#### Two per year or two per sport season?

Per sport season during the regular season. A student may play in two non-school volleyball contests, two non-school basketball games, and two non-school softball games in one school year.

#### Does a skills contest count as a non-school competition?

No. A student can participate in two non-school competitions and a skills contest. le: two non-school basketball games and a free throw contest.

# What happens if an athlete participates in more than two non-school competitions or participates without school approval?

The athlete becomes ineligible in the sport for the remainder of the season.

# How are the non-school competitions and tournaments that the student competes in counted?

The rule has been directed at students participating in non-school games, meets, or contests. Non-school competitions shall be counted the same manner as provided in the season regulations of a given sport. The sports of tennis, volleyball, and wrestling provide team tournaments. All other sports count contests, meets, or games on an individual basis.

Nonschool competitions do not count against a student's individual maximum allowed competitions as part of a school team.

# Does participation in non-school competitions count against the individual maximums in either exceptions?

No, nonschool competitions do not count against a student's individual maximum allowed competitions as part of a school team.

# What is the difference in the <u>middle school</u> rule change and the high school rule change?

There is one word different. But the difference does affect the method to count the non-school competitions. In the high school, the competition is counted the same as in the season regulations. The middle school rule, the change was:

It is the philosophy of this Association that a student owes loyalty and allegiance to the school and team of which he/she is a member during the season of a given sport. Athletes may compete in not more than two non-school events with school approval during each regular sport season. The event(s) will not count against the individual maximum for the athlete in that sport. A student becomes ineligible in a sport for the remainder of the season for competing in more than two non-school events non-school game, meet, or contest in the same sport during the season of practice and competition established by the school. The penalty may be reduced upon request of a school.

The word difference is competition in the high school rule and events in the

middle school rule. Therefore, a middle school tournament will count as one event. A middle school non-school event may include more than one game, meet, or contest such as a softball tournament which may have 2, 3, or 4 games included in the event.

#### Can school funds be used for the non-school event?

No. If school resources are used, then it must be added to the school sched-

#### Can the student go to the Nike National meet?

Yes, if it is open to any and all students (not an all-star contest) and all other rules followed.

See Non-School Participation, page 20 >



## **2025 State Softball Tournament**

Wednesday-Saturday, June 11-14
Goodman Diamond, Madison

### Wednesday, June 11

#### Session 1

11 a.m. – Division 1 Quarterfinal – #2 Seed vs. #7 Seed approx. 1:30 p.m. – Division 1 Quarterfinal – #3 Seed vs. #6 Seed

#### Session 2

4 p.m. – Division 1 Quarterfinal – #1 Seed vs. #8 Seed approx. 6:30 p.m. – Division 1 Quarterfinal – #4 Seed vs. #5 Seed

#### Thursday, June 12

#### Session 3

9 a.m. – Division 5 Semifinal – #1 Seed vs. #4 Seed approx. 11:30 a.m. – Division 5 Semifinal – #2 Seed vs. #3 Seed

#### Session 4

2 p.m. – Division 4 Semifinal – #1 Seed vs. #4 Seed approx. 4:30 p.m. – Division 4 Semifinal – #2 Seed vs. #3 Seed approx. 7 p.m. – Division 1 Semifinal – Upper Bracket Winners

#### Friday, June 13

#### Session 5

9 a.m. – Division 1 Semifinal – Lower Bracket Winners approx. 11:30 a.m. – Division 3 Semifinal – #1 Seed vs. #4 Seed approx. 2 p.m. – Division 3 Semifinal – #2 Seed vs. #3 Seed

#### Session 6

4:30 p.m. – Division 2 Semifinal – #1 Seed vs. #4 Seed approx. 7 p.m. – Division 2 Semifinal – #2 Seed vs. #3 Seed

#### Saturday, June 14

### Session 7

8 a.m. – Division 5 Championship

#### Session 8

approx. 10:30 a.m. – Division 4 Championship

#### Session 9

approx. 1 p.m. - Division 3 Championship

#### Session 10

4 p.m. – Division 2 Championship

#### Session 11

approx. 6:30 p.m. – Division 1 Championship

## **Coaching Contact**

## **During the School Year**

## **During the Season**

see WIAA Season Regulations for contact rules (during the season) in each

#### **Outside of the Season**

## No Coaching Contact Allowed

with any athletes they will be ...wiui any athletes they will be coaching the upcoming or following school season (except their own children).

There is no distinction between Varsity and JV coaches, i.e., JV coaches cannot coach Varsity athletes, and vice versa, nor any distinction between paid and non-paid coaches. EXCEPTION: Varsity and IV coaches can have coaching and JV coaches can have coaching contact with students who have just completed 8th grade or any preceeding grade up until they start their 9th grade year. (The 9th grade year begins with the first day of practice or the first day of school, whichever comes first.)

### **Outside of the School Year (Summer)**

## SCHOOL coach

#### **Sanctioned School Contact Days**

- At no time shall football programs rur any type of fully padded practices during the designated summer time contact periods. Football must follow WIAA acclimatization guidelines.
- When students assemble to assist as clinicians this is considered sanctioned coaching contact.
- Programming is to be voluntary, scho consent is required, and Sports Medic Advisory Committee guidance is
- May not be mandated, nor a requirement for making a school team and/or earning a school letter.

## When acting as a NON-SCHOOL coach

#### **Non-School Programming**

Non-school programming is not associated with high school team and their programs. More importantly, non-school programming is not a mechanism to circumvent WIAA coaching contact rules.

Non-school programming is any non-school entity that provides sport programming. A non-school entity may secure a coach who also serves as a member school coach. A non-school entity may have athletes on the team from the coaches school.

Non-school programming is not developed, organized, administered or financed by coaches or any other person associated with the WIAA member school. Programming that begins on June 1 as school programming should not be

- During the school year, coaches and athletes cannot assemt outside of the season (with the exception of open gyms and strength/conditioning).
- Programming that begins on June 1 as school programming should not become non-school programming during the non-contact period (e.g., July 1-6, a league that extends into August,
- Last day of school (Spring) to the First Day of School (Fall)
- Open to any and all interested.
- May NOT be used:
- School Equipment\* School Facilities

### **Organizational Meetings**

- Not counted as a practice day
- · Can include film session and scouting report
- Out-of-Season Fundraising
- · Info meetings on camps/clinics, etc.
- Equipment Fittings (Helmets, shoulder pads, etc.) – may not be issued until first day of practice

## **Virtual Workouts**

- . Coach may hold virtual workout, following
- . Does not count toward acclimatization nor reacclimatization practices

. Coaches may provide links to virtual workouts (must be available to general public) but may not advance athletes

#### **Open Gym**

- Date, time, gym may be arranged by head
- May not be mandated
- whether coach or non-coach
- · Coach may play, compete, train with team as long as no instruction is provided
- Only students from host school may attend
- Restricted to 9-12 grade students

### Team Building

- May be held in or out of the season
- Not counted as a practice day
- . May not include any sport-specific materials
- · May be virtual

## **Providing Out-of-Season** Workouts

- Example workouts may be provided and coaches may provide links to virtual workouts (must be available to general public) but may not advance athletes through stages
- May not be in calendar form or daily workout plan
- . No instruction allowed by any member of coaching staff
- May not be mandated

#### **Weight Training**

- . Date, time and individualized workout may be arranged by head coach
- . May not be mandated
- . No incentives may be provided for
- . Coach may train with team
- . Only students from host school may attend
- · Restricted to 9-12 grade students

No sport-specific technique instruction

# **Boys and Girls Lacrosse Tournament Information**

The Bank of Sun Prairie Stadium at Ashley Field in Sun Prairie will host the WIAA State Championship game in each gender, on Saturday, June 14. One ticket gets you into both Championship games.

- Boys lacrosse is competing with 41 programs (17 stand-alone schools and 24 co-ops). In all, 112 Wisconsin high schools are represented this year.
- Girls lacrosse is competing with 36 programs this Spring (14 stand-alone schools and 22 co-ops). Ninety Six of the WIAA member schools are represented during this girls lacrosse season.

#### **Girls Lacrosse**

Regional Quarterfinals - Tuesday, May 27 Regional Semifinals – Thursday, May 29 Regional Finals- Tuesday, June 3 Sectional Semifinal - Thursday, June 5 Sectional Finals - Saturday, June 7 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP - June 14, 1 p.m.

## **Boys Lacrosse**

Regional Quarterfinals - Tuesday, May 27 Regional Semifinals - Friday, May 30 Regional Finals-Tuesday, June 3 Sectional Semifinal – Thursday, June 5 Sectional Finals - Saturday, June 7 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP – June 14, immediately following the Girls Lacrosse Awards Ceremony

# **NFHS Volleyball Rules Changes - 2025-26**

3-2-1 NOTE (NEW): Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, state associations may adopt the use of a non-smooth or textured volleyball.

Rationale: Allows either boys or girls to adopt a textured volleyball with no restrictions on color or shape of panels to be inclusive of all current textured volleyballs on the market.

4-2-1h(3), 4-2-1i(2): Team members may wear black, white or gray undergarments in addition to undergarments that match the predominant color of the uniform top/bottom under the uniform top and/or bottom. All team members, other than the libero, wearing an undergarment must wear the same color.

Rationale: Aligns with other NFHS rules codes allowing athletes to wear more commonly found colors of undergarments.

4-2-4d, f: Beginning July 1, 2029, the number on the front of the uniform must be centered on the upper half of the uniform top eliminating the measurement requirements from the shoulder seam and neckline.

Rationale: Removes officials from the position of measuring uniforms to verify the legal distance of the number from the shoulder or neckline, creates consistency in number placement, and allows for number placement variances due to player body types.

5-3-2b, 5-5-3b(9): Eliminates the requirement for the second referee to carry and use a lineup card to check the starting lineups.

Rationale: Allows veteran officials to use each coach's submitted lineup sheet to check the starting lineup while allowing the use of the lineup card as a training tool for newer officials to assist with tracking rotations during the

9-4-8c (NEW): Eliminates the judgment call of a multiple contact fault in a single attempt to play the ball on the second team hit if the ball is next contacted by a teammate.

Rationale: Allows for play to continue when multiple contacts on the second contact does not create an advantage for the offending team.

10-4 PENALTIES 1: Changes the penalty administration for an illegal libero replacement to an unnecessary delay if identified before contact of serve and an illegal alignment if identified after contact for serve.

Rationale: Aligns the penalty for an illegal libero replacement with the definition of illegal alignment which occurs on contact of serve.



Friday & Saturday, June 6 & 7 **Veterans Memorial Stadium** La Crosse

# **Summer Contact**

All sport coaches have **sanctioned school coaching contact** opportunities during the summer, from June 1 through June 30 and July 7 through July 31. Sanctioned school opportunities allow you to use school support and facilities as you would during the season. Sanctioned school coaching contact means teams can assemble with coaches, school monies and resources can be applied, and schools can sponsor the events/activities. Sanctioned school contact days are open to any and all interested students in your school. They are not allowed during the school year.

NOTE: In 2025,11-player and 8-player football practice and equipment/fitness testing may be done on August 5. Sanctioned school football coaching contact must end on July 26 in order to meet the dead week rule. Football must follow the acclimatization plan if school resources are used.

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

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

Nonschool programming must be **open to any** and all interested students in your community and

other communities along with being **voluntary**. Nonschool programming is not an opportunity for a high school program in disguise. An outside organization coordinates and secures facilities, staff, rosters, schedules, etc. and is not representation of the school.

During the summer and school year out of season, athletes may assemble in any manner they wish without school or coach involvement (other than the sanctioned school contact window). The booster club is considered non-school.

### **Sanctioned SCHOOL Coaching Contact**

- Sports: All sports
- Time period/Duration: June 1 through June 30 and July 7 through July 31 (except Football: July 26, 2025) in summertime
- School Equipment: May be used
- Funding: School funds may be used (Fund 10, 60, 80 and activity accounts)
- School Transportation: May be used
- School Facilities: May be used (as can nonschool facilities)
- Participation: Open to any and all interested.
   May not be mandated.

#### **Nonschool Programming Contact**

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

- Sports: All sports except football.
- Time period: Last day of school to First day of school in summertime
- Duration: Unlimited during the time period.
- Equipment: with Board of Education permission and following school policy.

- Funding: School funds may NOT be used (Fund 10, 60 and activity funds).
- School transportation: May NOT be used, but may be rented.
- School Facilities: May be rented by nonschool organization following school policy.
- Participation: Open to any and all interested.
   May not be mandated.

#### **Examples of Nonschool organizations:**

- Lion's Club
- Rotary
- American Legion
- AAU basketball
- Youth athletic clubs
- Hockey associations
- Joe's Pizza
- USAV (club volleyball)

#### Notes:

- NONSCHOOL team is not a code word for SCHOOL team.
- Amateur Status rules apply. Athletes may retain items of wearing apparel which are worn for nonschool athletic competition as a part of a team uniform provided for and worn by the student during competition.

#### **Using Athletes As Clinicians**

During the school year, you may only use your athletes as clinicians during the sport season. In the summertime, a school may conduct a clinic for students in grade 8 and below, where high school varsity and junior varsity coaches may use some or all of their athletes as clinicians. Individual students may be used as clinicians from June 1 through June 30 and July 7 through July 31. Using students as clinicians in such a manner may not occur after July 31.

## **Board Acts on Conference Plans & Advances Amendments**

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Board of Control approved several of the Conference Realignment Task Force recommendations for football-only and lacrosse conference realignment, and advanced five Constitutional amendments to the Annual Meeting at its March 11 meeting.

After reviewing 13 appeals of the football conference realignment plans recommended by the Conference Realignment Task Force, the Board approved the entire 8-player football plan and all but two of the 11-player football plans that were released on Feb. 6. The plan involving the Northeastern Conference and Eastern Wisconsin Conference, as well as the plan for the Classic Eight Conference, Greater Metro Conference, North Shore Conference, Parkland Conference and the Woodland Conference were remanded back to the Task Force for further evaluation and consideration.

Following the review of one appeal of the lacrosse realignment plan, the Board approved the alignments of the Bay Valley Lakes Association, Badger Conference, and Hudson and Superior as independents. The portion of the plan involving the Classic Eight Conference, North Shore Conference,

Greater Metro Conference and the Midwest Classic Conference were remanded back to the committee for further review.

The remanded plans were re-evaluated by the Task Force at its April 15 meeting with the final proposal for those conferences presented to the Board for approval at its April 23 meeting.

The lacrosse plan approved by the Board will be implemented in the spring of the 2025-26 school year, and the football alignments will begin in the fall of the 2026-27 school year. The complete details of conference configurations, as well as information on the conference realignment process, are available on the Conference Realignment Requests and Approvals page of the WIAA website. Access the page by clicking on the "Conference Realignment" link within the "Schools" megamenu.

The Board also took action to approve the gymnastics cooperative teams for 2025-26 and the other winter sports cooperative teams for 2025-26 and 2026-27.

Among the four amendments the Board voted to advance for a membership vote at the Annual Meeting on April 25, two impact the Rules of Eligi-

bility. One of those is a second attempt for the membership to consider Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) options. The second amendment to the Rules of Eligibility advanced was a recommendation of the Calendar and Contact Ad-Hoc Committee that expands the opportunities for summer coaching contact in all WIAA-sponsored sports.

The Board voted to advance one amendment impacting the Bylaws. which require a spectator who has been ejected from a contest would be required to complete the free, online NFHS Sportsmanship Course available on the NFHSLearn.com website before attending any future home athletic events.

The fourth amendment advanced by the Board is Constitutional allows ninth-grade teams to play the same number of contests as allowed in the Season Regulations for junior varsity and varsity teams.

Another Constitutional amendment was brought forward by a membership petition, which advances directly to the Annual Meeting. If approved by the membership, the proposal would make cross country the only sport with a team

See Board Acts, page 13 ➤

# Members Encouraged to Review Criteria and Submit Award of Excellence Application

The WIAA encourages member schools to recognize and celebrate administrative excellence in their athletics programs by reviewing the award criteria for eligibility and submitting the WIAA Award of Excellence form for their efforts during the 2024-25 school year.

The program promotes and acknowledges the efforts and achievements of member schools in the areas of sportsmanship, ethics, integrity, leadership, character and administrative accomplishment. Please take this opportunity to promote the qualities of athletic administration excellence that the award represents.

The criteria applied toward the Award of Excellence in 2024-25 includes:

- Athletic Director maintains and updates all information in the WIAA School Directory annually.
- Athletic Director does due diligence in striving to achieve staff compliance with all WIAA coaching requirements (i.e. rules video, exam, officials' rankings)
- Athletic director conducted regular occurring meetings with a Captain's Club/Team Leadership Council/Etc. – sportsmanship, ethics and/or integrity is on the agenda and is discussed
- Athletic director conducted regular occurring meetings with coaches - sportsmanship, ethics and/or integrity is a topic that is on the agenda and is discussed
- Athletic director conducted at least one informational meeting with student-athletes and their parents – sportsmanship, ethics and/or integrity is a topic that is on the agenda and is discussed

- Athletic director attended conference meetings
   sportsmanship, ethics and/or integrity is a topic that is on the agenda and is discussed
- Coaches and student-athletes attended a sportsmanship summit/leadership conference/ etc.
- There was school representation at one of the seven WIAA Fall Area Meetings
- There was school representation at WIAA Annual Meeting in April
- Athletic Director made the student body aware of sportsmanship initiatives through school assemblies, announcements, posters, etc.
- Three or more athletic teams gave back to their school or community through volunteerism
- Athletic director has taken the Free NFHS Sportsmanship course
- Three or more head coaches have taken the Free NFHS Sportsmanship course
- Athletic program had no coach ejections at any level
- Athletic program had no coach or player assault of an official at any level
- Athletic director nominated/submitted a boy and/or a girl for WIAA Scholar Athlete recognition (either for local or state level recognition)
- Athletic director or designee submits the online season Schedule/Results Verification Form by the established deadlines for all bracketed team sports (baseball, basketball, football, hockey, soccer, softball, volleyball)
- Athletic director or designee completes and submits the accurate enrollment count on the Enrollment Form by established deadline of Oct. 11, 2024

- Athletic director or designee completes and submits the accurate data on the online Sports Participation Form by June 30, 2025
- Athletic director or designee submits the completed online Fan Ejection Form within three days following the event the ejection occurred, requiring a fan to miss the next competition

The application form, once completed, requires the signatures of the school's athletic director, principal, superintendent and the school board president to verify their school has achieved the required criteria.

The online school entry application for the Award of Excellence is available on the Forms Directory page. Please submit your application no sooner than the completion of your spring sports season and prior to the deadline of June 30, 2025. Any questions about the Award of Excellence, including deadlines listed in the criteria, please contact Todd Clark at the WIAA office at (715) 344-8580.

Recipients will be presented with the Award of Excellence at the fall Area Meetings and will be recognized for the achievement on the WIAA website, Bulletin, in the State Tournament programs and at the Area Meetings and Annual Meeting.



### Board Acts from page 12

qualifying component to be excluded from the competitive balance performance factor.

In addition, there were two editorial changes, which are intended to clarify the existing rules without changing the interpretation of the rule, moving forward to a membership vote.

Other topics of discussion included updates on the Calendar and Contact Committee; competitive balance; the ongoing efforts to recruit and retain licensed officials; and the activities of the Student-Athlete Leadership Team, which included a presentation of promotional videos featuring the group.

The Board received liaison reports from Dan Rossmiller of the Wisconsin Association of School Boards, Paul Manriquez of the Department of Public Instruction and Brittany Spencer Grant of the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association.



## **New Athletic Director Workshop**

Monday, July 21, 2025 – WIAA office 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. (Optional WADA/NIAAA class to follow)



Have you recently hired a new AD in your school? Will there be a new AD in your district for the 2025-26 school year?

If so, please register for the free New AD Workshop!

This is a one day orientation for new ADs to learn about the WIAA and NFHS rules and procedures, navigating the WIAA website including Arbiter/rSchool, School Database, ScoreCenter, etc, Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association (WADA) and much more! Come meet the WIAA staff at the office and learn who you can contact for assistance on any topic throughout the school year. Lunch will be provided.

Additional virtual meetings will be planned throughout the school year to continue education and follow up with all those who attend.

To register, email Deb Lepak <dlepak@wiaawi.org> prior to July 7, 2025. Include the new AD's name, school, and, if known, email address. (If you are currently searching for a new AD, please let us know when you hire someone, even if after the deadline.)

## Officials from page 3

William Gromacki, Waukesha Charles Hardrick, Milwaukee Pat Henrichs, Stetsonville Thomas Huenink, Cedar Grove Sandra Jones, Two Rivers Owen Kirk Kaul, Hustisford Robert Kern, Milwaukee Mark Klobukowski, New Berlin Allen Knurr, Omro Gordon Knuth, Grafton Dennis Kostac, Green Bay John Larson, West Bend Ralph Lobner, De Forest Mimi Loose, Madison Lyle M Dorschied, La Farge David Magar, Plymouth David Nielsen, Stoughton Steven Paulus, Fredonia Samuel Plumeri, Franklin Patrick Pretty, Cedarburg William Roberts, Fort Atkinson Chuck Rupnow, Chanhassen (MN) Tom Rusch, Plymouth Gregory Sarandos, Wind Lake Bruce Schaefer, Chilton Edward Schaub Jr, Woodruff Nancy Schoen, Hatley Richard Seider, Kiel David Steiger, Appleton Cal Tackes, Edgar Clifton Thompson, Blair Ronald Todryk, Marshfield Alan Weil, West Allis Jorene Ziebell, New London

## 40 Years

William Beckman, Black Earth Paul Beyerl, Waterford Jim Brown, Wausau Lawrence Burns, Milwaukee Frank Carini, Cedarburg Michael Colombo, Greenfield Jeffery Fauske, Oshkosh Cheryl Hancock, Holmen Jeff Hartl, Kieler Melvin Heimark, Jackson Steven Hoppman, Hazel Green Tom Huber, Rockford (IL) Michael Huettl, Fort Atkinson Dave Jameson, Oregon Michael Klein, Port Edwards Delon Lambert, Bloomer Dennis Mandel, Milwaukee Patrick Mccaughey, Madison Guy Mcdonald, Shorewood Keith Nault, Waukesha John Roever, Slinger Duane Rolkosky, Muskego Daniel Smith, Waukesha David Soderbloom, Quinnesec (MI) Mark Sorensen, Hartland Lynn Steinmetz, Turtle Lake Ronald Stueber, Park Falls Peter Teasdale, Sparta Russell Ullsperger, Appleton Tim Wagner, Jefferson Michael Wittlieff, Janesville Michael Zupek, Manitowoc

#### 30 Years

Robby Alvis, Kronenwetter

Mike Bauhs, Verona Joshua Beck, Waukesha Allen Beranek, Franklin Paul Berkovitz, Kewaunee Jon Beyer, Appleton Joseph Bogenberger, Waukesha Matthew Boyer, Baraboo Ronald Britten, Racine Mark Brzeskiewicz, Phillips Monte Conrad, Bloomer Patti Duellman, Winona (MN) Brad Emanuel, Esko (MN) Kay Ferguson Connelly, Oak Creek Jeremiah Fredrickson, Elk Mound Derek Freeman, Nekoosa Wes Gaedtke, West Bend John Gidley, Superior Dennis Goettl, Marshfield Laura Gumm, Kohler Bill Hannah, Prairie du Chien Joe Hanson, Dodgeville John Herrmann, Manitowoc Rodney Hoppe, Bonduel Shawn Houser, Duluth (MN) Troy Ingli, Stockholm Mark Jandrin, Luxemburg David Johannes, Eau Claire Chuck Johnson, Eau Claire Jeff Johnson, Eau Claire Steven Kaiser, Cuba City Brad Karls, New Holstein Dan Kevan, Spooner Neil Knapton, Marshall Steven Knoener, Elkhart Lake Steven Komorowski, Oak Creek Carrie Anne Kraus, Dane Tom Krause, Burlington John Lacourt, Marinette Paul Laxton, Holmen William Lecaptain, Manitowoc Norman Logterman, Emerald Cindy Loonstra, Marshfield Kim Luckey, Richland Center Harold Luther, Beloit Jean Lyons, Hartland Bernard Mach, Waukesha Thomas Mailand, Marinette Ken Marchetti, Iron Mt (MI) John Marra, Williams Bay Norman Pantzlaff, Reedsville Phil Rajkowski, Combined Locks Randy Rasmussen, Marathon Daniel Retzki, Waupaca Dwayne Rose, Menomonee Falls Keith Roush, Osceola Michael Rupnow, Racine Dean Salveson, Sauk City Brad Sauve, Spring Valley James Schaefer, Green Bay Sarah Schumacher-Pross, Lancaster Douglas Schupp, Iron Mt (MI) Mark Shanks, Kingsford (MI) Andrew Sislo, Superior Rodney Sonnenberg, Reedsburg Charles Starck, Manitowoc John Steffens, Waukesha Todd Stoffregen, Sheboygan Falls

Fred Strampe, Waukesha Joan Thompson, Darlington Tim Torgerson, Watertown Randy Tylke, Greenfield Thomas Ueberroth, Hales Corners Brian Ulness, Valders Peter Van Houwelingen, Neenah Pete Vrieze, New Richmond Jim Wagner, Mukwonago Daniel Wipperfurth, Verona Daniel Yagodinski, Luxemburg Thomas Young, Hilbert

20 Years Dean Abel, Walworth Jacob Adams, Rhinelander Brad Anderson, Juneau Eric Anderson, Sun Prairie Gary Barden, Wild Rose Keith Baumgartner, Edgar Wendall Bean, Whitewater Kevin Bernander, Wisconsin Dells Jason Bettin, Waukesha Nic Betts, Kendall Stephen Blackford, Sobieski Jed Block, Appleton Wade Boegli, Brodhead Jason Boldt, Hobart Ryan Bowers, Appleton William Brandtmeier, Menasha Robert Broeckel, Chilton Chad Brueggeman, West Salem E Christian Buettner, Brookfield Sue Caldwell, Lodi Todd Camlek, La Farge Joseph Carlson, Mosinee David Cepek, Little Chute Ross Clay, Hammond Wendy Dallmann, Chetek Leigh Darrow, Cadott Josh Deppe, Hartford John Dickinsen Ii, Colfax Rade Dimitrijevic, Kenosha J Dobbins, Onalaska Wade Fraley, Madison Dean Frick, Athens David Furru, Wauwatosa Kristin Galle, Belmont Salvador Garcia, Waukesha Kirk Gardner, North Prairie Scott Gauthier, De Pere Martin Gerich Jr, Hayward Glenn Goszinski, Milton Sue Gumz, Eau Claire Shane Hamilton, Mcfarland Kirby Hanson, Red Wing (MN) Seth Hanson, Sparta Michael Herald, Green Bay Ryan Herald, Oconto Howard Hockstad, Cedarburg Steven Hrycay, Janesville David Huening, Rochester Patrick Jacobs, Delavan Joel Jerominski, Greenfield Steve Johannes, Hartland Jill Joly, Seymour Gary Keeney, Prairie du Chien Sean Kelly, De Pere Michael Kieser, West Bend

Dale Kleffman, Land O Lakes Dan Kleinhans, Nekoosa Jeffrey Klopfenstein, Monroe Tony Knoeck, Hartford Ryan Koessl, Kenosha Scott Kopetsky, Sheboygan Kale Kowahl, Independence Josh Kral, Rhinelander Zac Krause, Green Bay George Lambe, Muskego Cory Lardinois, Appleton Paul Lassance, Dubuque (IA) Russell Laursen, De Pere Gary Lewis, Elkhorn Lance Liermann, Newton Benjamin Ligocki, Waterford Robert Lindeman, Mineral Point Ryan Lindner, Wind Lake Laura Lindquist, Cumberland Jeb Loth, Elkhorn Tyler Ludeking, Onalaska Keith Manke, De Forest Larry Mcgowan, Monticello Nate Mcnaughton, Somerset Mark Meier, Madison Aaron Mertig, Hudson Thomas Mesalk, Cedarburg Kevin Michlig, Cross Plains Kerry Mikoleit, Minocqua Jerry Ming, Grayslake (IL) Glenn Moehling, Elkhorn Gary Mortimer, Wisconsin Dells Patrick Mott, Milwaukee Touly Moua, Schofield John Muentner, Brownsville Jamie Muller, La Crosse Jason Nate, Kimberly Scott Navarrette, Milwaukee Pedro Nevarez, Racine Gary Oehldrich, Sheboygan Eric Olson, Milwaukee Brian Otto, Cumberland Joseph Pachal, Holmen Dorie Prochaska, Cross Plains Josh Puls, Menasha Paul Ringo, Winona (MN) Charles Runge, Mukwonago Barbara Salisbury, Abbotsford Adam Salo, Cloquet (MN) Randy Sanders, Little Chute Brian Schaefer, Menasha Jill Schleis, Madison Bruce Schoff, Wisconsin Rapids Brandon Schroder, Marathon Jeff Sears, Appleton Si Shabtaie, Madison Karen Shelton, Spring Green Anthony Smith, Plymouth Charles Spielman, Galena (IL) Kevin Steele, Monroe Chad Steinmetz, Eau Claire John Sumner, Altoona John Sweeney, Wauwatosa Matt Syens, Waupun Guy Trier, Ironwood (MI) Tim Trower, Baraboo Wade Turner, New London

See Officials, page 15 >

Peter Kingslien, Mount Horeb

## Officials from page 14

Bradley Vanderveren, Hudson Matthew Vanevenhoven, Sun Prairie Luis Veloz, Milwaukee Michael Warren, Sauk City Trent Weik, Rib Lake Nick White, Eau Claire Jeffrey Wiegel, Monroe James Wilbern, Milwaukee Kevin Yeske, Auburndale Jeffrey Zietlow, Oak Creek

#### 10 Years

Michael Aalto, Madison Tommy Anderson, Kenosha John Arens, Winona (MN) Joe Baierl, Marshfield Jacob Bannister, Milton Chris Barnes, Waukesha Doug Beernink, Wisconsin Dells Brock Bero, Peshtigo Brad Bever, New Lisbon Michael Bieber, Sheboygan Mitchell Blackford, Green Bay Gene Bohn, Sturtevant Stephanie Bonikowske, Clintonville Laurie Boone, Mindoro Steven Bowers, Wausau Tywon Bressler, Menomonee Falls Ethan Brochtrup, Theinsville Jyl Brockman, Kaukauna Kevin Broeckel, Greenfield Kimberly Bromberek, Oshkosh Farah Brown, Sobieski Olivia Burrows, Mosinee John Callahan, Sheboygan John Capper, Elm Grove Kevin Carstens, Onalaska Joshua Cash Sr, Waunakee Herman Cheung, Franklin Carlie Christensen, River Falls Jennifer Christopherson, Kiel Frederick Clark, Madison Paul Clark, Gurnee (IL) Mark Clemence, Wind Lake Gary Colby, Osseo Pat Collar, Appleton Dana Collins, Milwaukee Kenneth Cyracus, Appleton John Daleiden, Arcadia Michael Diehl, New Holstein Jordan Dietrich, Neenah Connor Diffley, Pleasant Prairie Ethan Dornfeldt, Hartford Colby Dotseth, Knapp David Douglas, South Milwaukee Sandra Drew, Pardeeville Justin Droessler, Appleton Jeff Ebner, Westby Connor Ellenbecker, Athens Kevin Engel, Rosendale James Essman, Mukwonago Kevin Fiske, Viroqua Seth Fitzsimmons, Muskego Mitchell Frank, Oshkosh Zach Freeman, Hermantown (MN) Justin Gagnon, Mosinee Luke Gajewski, Kaukauna Kevin Gamble, Chili Dean Gassner, Campbellsport

Paul Godfroy, Kimberly Andrea Gores, Boyceville Garret Gould, Adams Friendship Thomas Grosse, Fitchburg Tim Gunderson, Eau Claire Erik Gustafson, Milwaukee Charlie Habermann, Moose Lake (MN) Chuck Hable, Oshkosh Johan Haraldsen, Oshkosh Tiffany Hardy, Pleasant Prairie Daniel Hasko, Racine Chris Haugen, Stillwater (MN) Troy Helgeson, Allouez Dan Henderson, Oshkosh Travis Hetzel, Waukesha Stephen Hetzner, Appleton Mark Hollowitsch, Onalaska Scott Horman, Appleton Adam Inclan, Racine Alfredo Jackson, Racine Sayer Jackson, Marathon Michael Jacobs, Sun Prairie Dave Jahnke, Watertown Brenda James, Ridgeway Marilinda Johnson, Brown Deer Eric Jubeck, Monroe Howard Jubeck, Monroe Douglas Kaldunski, Athens Barbara Keegan, Monroe Ted Kietlinski, Birnamwood Lee Kleszczynski, Greenfield Dustin Klitzke, Appleton Brian Klockziem, Verona Ien Kmetz (Connell), Salem Michael Kollat, Winneconne Kyle Koltz, Eden Thomas Krueger, Rio Jeff Langkamp, Lannon Isaiah Langlois, Dubuque (IA) Brandy Langsdorf, Doylestown Dean Laux, Appleton Sean Leary, Darlington Dan Lechtenberg, Manchester (IA) Ray Lee, Winneconne Ben Leibl, Holmen Shaun Liesch, Freedom Larz Luchterhand, Cato Craig Lutz, Appleton Lane Luxem, Watertown Kathleen Malone, West Salem Kenneth Maly, Middleton Aric Mancl, Wisconsin Rapids Mirza Mangic, Greenfield Robert Martin, Mineral Point Janelle Martinson, Cottage Grove Erik Meyer, Sauk City Curtis Miller, Marathon Larry Milton, Cudahy David Monk, Wausau Edhem Muminovic, Rice Lake Nicole Natzke, Greenleaf Priest Aneb Nefer-1, Milwaukee Michael Nickels, Niagara Mychal Niedbalski, Holmen John Noga, Reedsburg Josh Olson, Grantsburg Josh Oppeneer, Plymouth Garett Pankratz, West Salem

Michael Peterman, Green Bay

Daniel Peterson, Mount Pleasant Tyler Peterson, Greenfield Jason Piittmann, Kewaskum Vincent Pintarro, Milwaukee Marlon Pitchford, Milwaukee Bill Plate, Prescott Henry Quinlan, Ashland Larry Radloff, Milwaukee Paul Raj, Duluth (MN) John Reed Jr, Greenfield William Reese, Oshkosh John Reminger, Leopolis John Richards, Plymouth Derek Robarge, La Crosse Brian Robinson, Oshkosh Thomas Rosenow, Fox Lake Frank Sadilek, Johnson Creek Paul Schaeve, Fond du Lac Aaron Schaitel, Holmen Austin Scheel, Madison Bob Schlosser, Chetek Jeffrey Scott, Marshfield Serafina Scurto, Friendship Ronald Seffrood, Lodi Phillip Semaan, Duluth (MN) John Semrow, Slinger Robert Shaffer, Milwaukee Darren Sheldon, Cloquet (MN) Shannon Simon, Walworth Bruce Sinkula, Blanchardville Matthew Solberg, Duluth (MN) John Statz, Baraboo Eric Swanson, River Falls Kevin Swiontek, Menomonee Falls Richard Swoboda, Manitowoc Adam Thill, Peshtigo David Timmons, Buffalo City Dallas Topper, Plainfield Angela Totzke, Edgar Theodore Tyma, Franklin Brian Uhl, Green Bay Craig Uhlers, Kewaunee Keith Varkalis, Mchenry (IL) Mark Veeser, Neenah Justin Verhulst, Mcfarland Nathaniel Wagner, Pulaski Robert Walensky, Holmen Erich Wallace, Merrill Jon Wallace, Minong Jason Welch, Arpin David Welles, Wausau Jeremy Werner, Baldwin Tim Whitford, Winneconne Aaron Wiegand, Sheboygan Scott Wildman, Madison Joshua Willis, Racine Becky Wilson, Janesville Julie Wipperfurth, Sauk City Jacob Witt, Oshkosh Dan Wojtanowski, Oregon Terry Zais, Star Prairie

### 5 Years

Gary Albrecht, Woodbury (MN) Alex Ames, Madison Joan Anthony, Boscobel Nathan Babcock, Black River Falls Brian Bach, Deerfield David Bauer, Mosinee

William Beaumier, Shawano James Becker, Muskego Lukas Beier, Milwaukee Patricia Berger, Sheboygan Malachi Berry, Neillsville Mike Birtzer, Menomonie Joel Block, Sun Prairie Wyatt Booth, Merrill William Boppre, Glendale Aaron Borgerding, Spring Valley Timothy Bott, Two Harbors (MN) Samuel Brannan, De Pere Isaac Brehmer, McGregor (IA) Charles Brewer, Mequon Leo Bronston, Onalaska Donald Brown, New Richmond AJ Brunner, Cedarburg Derek Bult, Howards Grove Mizahna Burner, Beloit Cheryl Bussewitz, Clayton Andrew Canales, North Fond du Lac Carson Cantwell, Hartland Bradley Carl, Madison Brian Cashore, Evansville Jeff Cass, Madison Jerry Christiansen, Burlington Jim Church, Sparta Dan Clark, Dresser Jeffrey Clark, South Milwaukee Dustin Collelo, Barnum (MN) Kyle Cotrell, Proctor (MN) Nate Cravillion, Marshfield Jacob Crogan, Watertown Mark Cutler, Horicon Michael Daane, Oostburg Isaac Dahlke, Marshfield Patrick Danaher, West Bend Cole Dassow, Medford James Dawson, Mount Horeb Justin Daye, Westfield Logan Degroot, Milwaukee Carl Deluca, Onalaska Tim Deppe, Green Bay James Deziel, Altoona Aubree Diedrich, Brillion Cory Diedrick, Little Chute Brian Dow, Cornell Marty Draxler, Marshfield Jacob Durocher, Wrightstown Lexy Duvall, Colby Daniel Egan, Sussex Nicholas Elert, Muskego Maxwell Erickson, Prairie du Chien Mark Evetovich, Platteville Ryan Fell, West Salem Karl Fenrick, Milton Jack Fischer, Brillion Todd Fischer, Osseo Scott Fortune, Appleton John Frizzell, Wisconsin Rapids Bernard Gallagher, Madison Steven Gee, Jefferson Travis Gerads, Hudson Aaron Girard, Milton Jean Goedel, Oak Creek Matthew Goodwin, Brown Deer Nolan Gosse, Walworth Michael Gosz, Colgate

See Officials, page 16 ➤

## Officials from page 15

Maci Grade, Brandon John Grafwallner, Milwaukee Paul Grenier, Quinnesec (MI) Brandon Grosz, Greenfield Gregory Gruna, Eau Claire Jonathan Guderski, Fond du Lac Isaac Guelmi, Greenfield Gary Gullone, Galena (IL) Mary Hager, Hayward Matt Hager, Hayward Will Hansen, Elm Grove Max Haskins, River Falls Samuel Hayes, Dorchester Bryan Henriksen, Nekoosa Addison Hensler, Waterloo Brooke Hetfeld, Webster Thomas Hickey, Wauwatosa Rachel Holden, Cambridge Kenneth Hollern, Colfax Scott Hughes, Brooklyn Center (MN) Derrick Hurt Jr, Glendale Rene Jacinto, Wauwatosa Dominick Jackson, River Falls Jeffrey Jacobson, Monona Jenna Jager, Dubuque (IA) Jason Jansen, Kaukauna Kevin Jicha, Green Bay Amy Johnson, Kingsford (MI) Chevenne Johnson, Poplar Seth Johnson, Edgerton Kent Kaelberer, Colgate Douglas Kahl, Barron Jerry Kastenholz, Waukesha Jeff Kaufman, De Pere Scott Kelnhofer, Plover Corey Kirschbaum, Prescott Matt Kleinheinz, Marshall Kevin Klopp, Mikana Michael Klug, Greenfield Robert Koch, Lodi Alyssa Koehler, Amery Petrus Koek, Franklin Aaron Koeller, Wausau Kody Koltz, Eden Tristan Konen, Hilbert

Brandon Krueger, Appleton Matthew Krueger, Milton Annette Krutz, De Pere John Kyle, Oconomowoc Martin Lackey, Middleton Eric Lang, Winneconne Gerald Lang, Verona Mark Lecaptain, Brussels Brett Lew, Eau Claire Danitra Lewis, Milwaukee Wi Nick Liimatainen, Duluth (MN) Bernard Lindner, South Milwaukee Hunter Lisowe, St Cloud Edward Lovrich, Kingsford (MI) Luke Lundquist, Greenfield Nolan Lux, La Crosse Michael Mackesey, Delavan Brady Madigan, Ripon Christopher Martin, Milwaukee Michael Martin, Racine Pedro Martinez Garcia, Wauwatosa Jeff Martis, Appleton Kyle Martis, Hartland Rodney Marx, La Crosse Nolan Matson, Neillsville Gerald Mavroff, Larsen Joshua Mcdowell, Deforest Michael Mchugh, Deforest Colton Measner, Janesville Brian Meitner, Fort Atkinson Terry Meloy, Fredonia Brian Melrood, Lannon Rory Merlino, Waconia (MN) Cory Michel, New Berlin Linda Mikunda, Barron Keith Milson, Menomonie Brooks Mitchell, Hillsboro Beth Morrell, Northfield (MN) Brian Morrow, Muskego Jordan Mueller, Oshkosh Charles Nassar, La Crosse Elwood Nelson, Somerset Jon Nelson, Lyndon Station Mark Nelson, Kenosha Rob Nennig, New Berlin

Hanna Neuberg, Eau Claire

Abigail Nitzke, Berlin Benjamin Nommensen, Appleton Shawn Northey, Esko (MN) Eric Okstad, Pine Island (MN) Joshua Paltz, Wisconsin Rapids Jeffrey Pape, Carlton (MN) Rebecca Patt, Neenah Alyce Paye, Luxemburg Savannah Pearson, Menomonie Bo Perkins, Two Rivers Brian Perry, Lacrosse Scott Peterson, Germantown Quintin Pierquet, Saint Cloud Max Pirman, Sobieski Carter Poppe, Oshkosh Kobey Pues, Shawano Bryon Pulkownik, Milwaukee Timothy Raisbeck, Warren (IL) David Randall, Waterford Ronald Rasmussen, Wisconsin Rapids Dennis Reed, Appleton Derek Riechers, Belmont Liana Rix, Fitchburg Nelson Rosales, Madison Mark Roth, Fitchburg Kjerstin Schauf, Eau Claire Geoffrey Schick, Racine Andrew Schleicher, Sheboygan Falls Thomas Schmidt, Green Bay Andrew Schroeder, Wausaukee Brian Schultz, Menasha David Schultz, Manitowoc Daniel Schwarzenberger, Chippewa Falls Joe Sciortino, Menomonee Falls Joel Seehafer, Green Bay Chad Seguin, Hudson Max Sikora, Waterford Jennifer Smith, Woodbury (MN) Steve Sperka, Muskego Edward St. Arnauld, Iron Mountain (MI) David Stefaniak, Genoa City Joe Stekel, Milwaukee Robert Stekel, Hillsboro Kent Stelter, Eau Claire Mike Stephany, Kiel Brian Stepping, Madison

Chad Stigler, Menomonee Falls Jason Storch, Antigo Danielle Strong, Gays Mills Gary Sullivan, Mineral Point Matthew Sumner, Grafton Jay Swanson, Sun Prairie Laurence Talbott, Tomah Craig Tarr, Watertown Michael Tiedt, Suamico Jonah Tinman, Cameron Noah Trimmer, Beaver Dam Matthew Turner, Milwaukee Jeremy Uecker, Hermantown (MN) Benjamin Urbanek, Chaseburg Dale Van De Loo, Menasha Matthew Ver Hulst, Wisconsin Rapids Scott Vogel, Hubertus Michael Wagner, Mineral Point James Walker, Pardeeville Bryce Walsh, Manitowoc Cole Walters, Wisconsin Rapids Riley Walz, Amery Tiffany Warren, Sauk City Patrick Watson, Wauwatosa Gregg Wavrunek, Onalaska Steve Wegner, East Troy Kent Weiler, Albany Wade Welper, La Crescent (MN) Zach Wenger, North Prairie Jaden Werner, Crivitz Andy Wiedeman, Pulaski Tom Wilde, Jackson Ben Wildner, Hartford Bowen Wileman, Milton Mike Williams, Pewaukee Krista Wold, Hayward Richard Yelton, Burlington Doug Young, Oconomowoc Zachariah Yuenger, Watertown David Zebro, Shell Lake Justin Ziebell, Slinger Tom Zimdars, Sobieski Ryan Zimmerman, Chippewa Falls Bret Zorza, Green Bay Mark Zunac, Brookfield •

### Recruiting Restrictions from page 5

based on athletic potential or ability.

Jared Krasselt, Marshfield

- Providing promotional pamphlets to selected students, based on athletic potential or ability.
- Providing tuition reduction to selected students, based wholly or in part on athletic potential or ability.
- Community or booster club member(s) contacting a potential student, because of athletic ability or potential, and encouraging attendance.
- Providing items of apparel and/or other incentives to students.

#### **Additional Examples**

 Interpretation of this provision now allows youth athletic teams to receive invitation/com-

- plimentary admission to high school sporting events and to be acknowledged or introduced at those events.
- Teams may also perform and/or scrimmage in connection with a high school event
- Under no circumstances may a youth team be introduced, etc., at more than one contest per season.
- This interpretation provides for admission, acknowledgment and performance and/or scrimmage opportunity.
- These events may not extend or prolong the contest or periods beyond the limits provided by rule.
- · Participating in the high school team's game

- preparations is not permitted (e.g. pregame, halftime, sidelines, locker room).
- Under no circumstances will it be considered acceptable to single out any individual youth/middle level student athlete separate from or disproportionate to the remainder of the team.

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

# Calendar & Contact Committee Shares Coaching Contact Emphasis at Annual Meeting

The Calendar and Contact Ad Hoc Committee was formed in April 2024 with 23 members representing athletic directors, principals, superintendents, coaches and officials.

The purpose of this committee is to represent the diverse voices of the membership evaluating season lengths, game maximums and coaching contact. The primary goal of the committee is to promote a balanced education-based athletic experience for student-athletes.

Committee Co-Chairs, Janel Batten, Pulaski activities director, and Jake Beschta, Denmark principal, presented an update to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

They overviewed the proposed amendment that was recommended by the committee regarding a change to the summer coaching contact rules. The committee cited the following points of emphasis as context for voting members:

• These expanded opportunities for coaching contact by school

- coaches is optional. They cited many other states utilizing a similar affordance for summer coaching and noted the allowance for additional flexibility for schools' summer calendar.
- The committee also believes that this proposal provides equity for the 514 member schools with a uniform start date (June 1) as well as a common non-contact week (July 1-7).
- The committee feels that this proposal allows the member school to re-establish local control regarding who is providing coaching instruction and how often it is being provided.

The co-chairs invited feedback and questions from the members through a QR code in the **Annual Meeting Powerpoint presentation** available with a link in the Video Summary menu on the Calendar & Contact webpage. They also shared that they will be meeting on May 1 to begin discussion of the next major topics of game maximums and season lengths.

# **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 acknowledgement.

#### RACEDALL

#### West De Pere @ Menasha - April 30, 2025

Listed here are four young men who appreciate and share positive sportsmanship with others: Owen Aykens & Jack Olszewski of Menasha, and Ethan Collar and Loli Delgado of West De Pere. Thank you for supporting players from the other team by picking up their bats, offering them a kind word, and showing hustle after foul balls when it isn't asked of you. Your kind gestures were noticed by many. Menasha and West De Pere school district administrators should be proud of their student athletes and coaches. Keep up the great work and have an enjoyable rest of your season.

Reporting Official: Brent Thompson

#### Milwaukee Bradley vs. Milwaukee Riverside – April 29, 2025

The players on both teams made this game a joy to officiate. Positive banter was flowing freely between the players and teams. Bradley's catcher #3 Emanual Figueroa had a positive attitude all game, working to build up his teammates even when the score of the game shifted away from his team, and he always had something nice to say to the opposing batters as they came to bat. Riverside's #6 Kai Westfall also shared his positive attitude on the field, building up his team and complimenting Bradley's players when they made a good play in the field. Even the fans got in on the vibe. When Bradley's third baseman #2 Eliel Guzman was ready to field a ground ball and it took a bad hop off the grass lip, both sides cheered his effort and encouraged him to keep his head up. All in all, a great game to officiate.

Reporting Official: Michael Baird

### Kaukauna at Hortonville – April 10, 2025

It is wonderful to see student athletes exhibit positive acts of sportsmanship before, during and after a varsity baseball game. Kaukauna's Isaac Maas and Ryker Donnermeyer, as well as Hortonville's Turner Kuhnke and Rashed Kastner, exemplify what it means to be great sportsman and leaders of a team. Keith and I wanted to congratulate these young men for this much appreciated display of showmanship and positive attitude. Thank you to Coach Jenkins and Coach Yeager for your positive and upbeat leadership by example, it was noticed by many.

Reporting Official: Brent Thompson

## Campbellsport @ Oakfield – April 3, 2025

Both the Campbellsport and Oakfield school administrators should be very proud of their varsity baseball programs. The players and coaches displayed positive sportsmanship during this early season contest. Carson Fisher and Ashton Hanke of Oakfield and Brody Dolan and Trenton Schladweiter of Campbellsport were obvious leaders of their teams, especially in showing respect for opponents as well as helping retrieve bats, helmets and foul balls near the

plate. They offered many encouraging words to all involved, including the umpiring crew, and were noticeably appreciative of their coaches and teammates. Thanks to the head coaches and cousins Jim Krug and Jonah Krug for your positive leadership by example. It was appreciated and a nice reflection of your programs' overall Sportsmanship. Great job to all and best of luck this season!

Reporting Official: Brent Thompson

#### SOFTBALL

#### Little Chute @ Wrightstown - April 28, 2025

The final score and result of the game does not matter to this report. What does matter is the sportsmanship displayed by both teams, coaches, and fans. Before, during and after the contest the teams and coaches respected each other and the calls made in the game. They should be given credit for this type of behavior. I was behind the plate and took a foul ball which came off my mask. Right away the catcher turned to me and asked if I was ok. Then the batter did the same, and both coaches cared to ask if I was all right. The catcher even asked a second time if I was ok. I chuckled when one of the fans said to just walk it off, and it will be ok. Congrats to both teams, players, coaches, fans and schools for this outstanding display of excellent sportsmanship.

Reporting Official: Mark Craig

## Marinette @ Oconto Falls – April 15, 2025

The game itself was more than just a contest—it was a celebration of sportsmanship. Both teams came in well-coached, prepared and focused, but what stood out most was the mutual respect on display. Players helped each other with bats on foul balls and after the play ended. Coaches exchanged nods of appreciation, and the dugouts cheered not just for their own teammates, but for great plays on either side. Coach Steve Kurek from Oconto Falls and coach Ken Kacalo of Marinette and their schools and communities should be proud of these ladies on the field. There is one player I would like to spotlight who's the first to greet you with a grin and the last to leave the field. It's not just what she says, it's how she carries herself. Whether she's backing up a bad throw during warmups or jogging to the mound for a quick pep talk, she does it all with joy. Amelia Danielczak from Oconto Falls shows up with the same unshakable energy and ever-present smile during warmups until the teams leave the field of play at the end of the game. She reminds us that how you play the game matters just as much if not more than the final score. In a game that showcased not only skill but character, Danielczak reminded everyone that leadership isn't just about calling pitches or making plays—it's about lifting others up, staying positive, and playing with heart.

Reporting Official: Jim Kostura

#### Waukesha West @ Mukwonago - April 14, 2025

I want to recognize Waukesha West varsity softball for being an absolute joy to umpire these young women. They are the definition of a true team, collaborating and cheering for each other, yelling and screaming positive cheers for their fellow teammates, celebrating teammates success, and recognizing when teammates may need to be picked up or teammates who may even be injured. This team is a blast to umpire. They are personable, and they are professional. Josh Kraner is doing a great job coaching these young women as his assistant coach. Special recognition to Kaiya Kraner, Paige Kahle, Payton Hisel and Emma Aguilera. These girls are great and a true representation of young athletes and how to play the game the right way. I look forward to more of their games in the future and wish them well as they advance through the 2025 season.

Reporting Official: John Steffen

#### Manawa at Wittenberg-Birnamwood – April 10, 2025

The sportsmanship displayed by coaches, players and fans was refreshing. I have worked for both of these schools in the past, their behavior was not unique to this game. They choose to treat officials, opponents and each other with respect. They learn this from coaches who understand that there is more to be learned from high school sports than just the game. It was a very well-played, competitive game. When we were done, all involved shook hands with both umpires. That doesn't always happen, but it sure feels and looks good when it does. Both teams and schools should be very proud of themselves.

Reporting Official: Gary Hagberg

#### GIRLS SOCCER

#### Janesville Craig @ Sun Prairie East – April 24, 2025

I need to share that the Janesville Girls junior varsity team as one of the most relentlessly positive teams I have ever been around. The girls were under pressure most of the game and you would never have known. Their talk on the field and from the bench was always positive and encouraging. Too often I see teams in the same situation start bickering with each other, the other team and referees. To see this team stay so upbeat and positive was an absolute joy and they should be recognized for their outstanding attitudes.

Reporting Official: Kent Disch

#### Ozaukee @ Wayland Academy - April 12, 2025

I was AR2, which at Wayland is on the fans' side. Throughout the entire game, absolutely everyone from both Ozaukee and Wayland, classmates, parents through grandparents were positive 100% of the time, not even one mildly negative comment. It was a "Wow" afternoon

Reporting Official: Tom Konecny

## **Board Approves**

## from page 1

and girls lacrosse beginning in the spring of 2026 and for football in the fall of 2026.

The Board's action impacts 49 football programs assigned to seven conferences, including one plan that involves the Northeastern Conference and Eastern Wisconsin Conference, and a second plan that affects the Classic Eight Conference, Greater Metro Conference, North Shore Conference, Parkland Conference and the Woodland Conference. The approved plan for lacrosse impacts 20 boys' programs and 18 girls' programs that were assigned to three conferences, respectively. The three boys' and girls' leagues modified include the North Shore Conference, Greater Metro/Midwest Classic Conference and the Classic Eight Conference.

A complete listing of the conference configurations resulting from the approved football and lacrosse remanded plans are available on the Conference Realignment Requests and Proposals page of the WIAA Website at: https://www.wiaawi.org/Schools/Conferences/Conference-Realignment/Requests-and-Proposals.

The Board also addressed and approved three schools' fast-track conference realignment requests to be implemented in the 2025-26 winter sports' season. Port Washington and the West Bend East/West Co-op will both move from the Glacier Trails to the Greater Metro Conference in gymnastics, and Sheboygan Christian will move from independent status to the Eastern Wisconsin Conference in boys swimming & diving.

After assessing the budget review cycle process presented by the executive staff, the Board supported several school reimbursement and licensed officials pay increases related to Tournament Series events, as well as adding a \$70 stipend to tournament seed meeting hosts beginning next school year.

Among the increases, all schools hosting cross country sectionals will receive \$1000 to assist in the expense of timing systems in lieu of charging participating schools an entry fee. In addition, regional and sectional tournament event manager stipends will be increased \$20 per event, and regional and sectional tournament host allowances will also be increased \$50 per

event for all sports. Furthermore, the member schools' tournament ticket revenue sharing percentage will be increased five percent in all sports.

Other increases will adjust school State Tournament reimbursements. Mileage returns to schools will increase \$.15 to \$.70 for individual tournaments with an increase of \$.25 to \$2 for team tournaments mileage. Additionally, \$3 per meal will be added to the existing State Tournament reimbursements and lodging will increase \$15 per night. State Tournament reimbursements to schools per person for individual State Tournament expenses will also increase \$14.

Officials' pay during the Tournament Series will experience a \$10 boost to the current fee structure for each respective sport contest. The raise in officials' compensation comes on the heels of a \$10 increase implemented in 2024-25.

The total estimated increase of payments to schools and licensed officials is approximately \$892,910. With the \$807,350 increase distributed to member schools, the expected revenue to be allocated to schools in 2025-26 is approximately \$4 million.

Topics of discussion included staff reports on the Annual Meeting scheduled on Friday, April 25 at the Sentry Theater in Stevens Point, the 2025 Scholar-Athlete Award Ceremony on May 4 at SentryWorld in Stevens Point, a recap of the recent NFHS Legal Meeting, a review of the winter tournaments and a summary of the WIAA Beyond the Game: Give-Back Program to member schools, which accounts for approximately \$300,000 in products.

Other discussions encompassed updates on Student-Athlete Leadership Team activities; the status of hiring a marketing & communications assistant; an update on the development of a WIAA Foundation; and reviewing the efforts to recruit and retain licensed officials, which prompted Board approval to editorial changes to the Guide for Sports Officials resource.

The Board received liaison reports from Dan Rossmiller of the Wisconsin Association of School Boards, Paul Manriquez of the Department of Public Instruction and Brittany Spencer Grant of the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association.

## Beschta to Join WIAA Staff from page 1

Assistant Director," Beschta said. "I look forward to working alongside our dedicated WIAA team to support our member schools in providing the absolute best in academic and co-curricular opportunities for our student-athletes."

He joins the executive staff after serving as high school principal in the Denmark School District since 2020. Prior to his most current role, Beschta served as principal at Oconto Falls High School from 2018-2020. He served three years as the athletic director and associate principal at Sheboygan Falls High School from 2015-18. Other educational experiences include teaching middle school mathematics and language arts in the Coleman School District from 2007-15. Along with his teaching duties, he served as football junior varsity head coach and varsity assistant coach, girls basketball junior varsity head and varsity assistant coach and as a high school track & field coach.

Beschta has recently served as the co-chair of the WIAA Calendar and Contact Ad-Hoc Committee, and he is a WIAA-licensed basketball official at the master level along with being a member of the Green Bay Officials Association. Other education-related service includes a position as secretary and vice president of the Northeast Wisconsin Conference Principals Committee.

# Board Approves at May Meeting from page 1

ment Task Force recommendation to place Wayland Academy in the 8-player football Southeastern Conference in 2025 after having competed as an independent program. Other independent programs moving into conferences for the 2025-26 seasons include St. Mary Catholic to the Bay Conference in girls golf and Stevens Point Area Senior High to the Bay Valley Lakes Conference in boys lacrosse.

There were three Conference Realignment Task Force recommendations approved by the Board beginning in 2025-26. The names of the schools appealing the Task Force plans in January and February, as well as the schools appealing the Task Force's recommendations to the Board in March, will now be available on the Conference Realignment page of the WIAA website. The Board also voted in favor of adding competitive history and playoff qualification in football and preference to those seeking relief through the application process to all other existing criteria to determine realignment plans as denoted on the form. The Board also supported the recommendation for the Task Force to publish two possible solutions for requests that directly impacts more than two schools to elicit specific feedback from member schools.

Another notable action item by the Board included approving the spring co-op teams for 2025-26 and

Among the topics reported to the Board by the executive staff were preparations for the upcoming spring tournaments; the activities associated with Student-Athlete Leadership Team; an update on the establishment of the WIAA Foundation; ongoing efforts to recruit and retain licensed officials, including a report on a recently conducted officials' survey presented by Brian Nichol of the Donovan Group; and technology updates on the status of the transition to Arbiter for assigning officials and moving to USA Bracketing as the wrestling tournament management system in 2025-26.

The Board also received a report by Jake Beschta, co-chair of the Calendar & Contact Committee. The review also included updates to the Coaching Contact Flow Chart, recognizing the changes necessitated by the membership vote at the Annual Meeting was also shared, as was the corresponding Sports Medical Advisory Committee recommendations for the new Summer Coaching Contact rules.

Jim Bouché of Wausau attended his first meeting serving on the Board representing the Wisconsin Association of School Boards, replacing Mike Humke. The Board received liaison reports from Dan Rossmiller of the Wisconsin Association of School Boards and Brittany Spencer Grant of the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association.



# **WIAA 101: Membership Governance**

The Annual Meeting last month was a brilliant reminder of how the democratic process of the association functions in a transparent and self-governing manner, but much work is still needed to educate how rules are cultivated.

The votes on the Constitutional amendments were a culmination of extensive efforts to communicate and educate the membership on each of the proposals advanced to the Annual Meeting. Furthermore, anyone wanting to witness the proceedings had access to a live stream of the meeting.

Through our long-standing symbiotic relationship with athletic directors and the membership of the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association, significant effort and progress have been made to engage all athletic directors in the rule-making process. Efforts focused to include school administrators in the process has also made strides to enhance understanding and awareness of the WIAA's role as a partner in education.

It is important that another set of key stakeholders within the membership understand the policymaking process. Many head coaches, and many more assistant coaches, are not as well-versed in how membership rules—even impacting their own sports—are reviewed and advanced in the decision-making process. This is most evident when proposals supported by segments of coaches' associations or coaches' advisory committees are not similarly supported by other levels along the rule-making process. Comments made publicly have commonly referred to the membership in the third person as "the WIAA" or "they" in reference to decisions made by athletic and schools administrators from the same schools they represent. Isn't the appropriate context for referencing the members in the first person "our membership," or specifically "the 514 schools" or "the elected representatives?"

Recommendations that change rules in the season regulations are almost

invariably originated by the coaches through representation on the coaches' advisory committee. Those plans are advanced to the Sports Advisory Committee, consisting of athletic directors, for their vote in support or opposition. Proposals are then advanced to be analyzed by administrators on the Advisory Council and ultimately approved or defeated by another set of elected school administrators on the Board of Control.

Constitution, Bylaws and Rules of Eligibility amendments are voted on by school representatives of all member school in attendance at the Annual Meeting. Choosing not to be fully engaged in the discussions or expressing frustration and disapproval of an outcome by faulting the process only exacerbates and perpetuates any public and member misperception of how rules are developed. In addition, as we've experienced, this has resulted in–even recently–valuable membership resources being allocated to legislative and legal challenges to the membership's autonomy.

The votes on each of the five amendments at the Annual Meeting in April resulted in a convincing directive that either supported or opposed the proposals, which would indicate the membership's clear prerogative for each of the amendments.

These calls for membership engagement to advance the ideals and process are, and will remain, ongoing. The continuous influx of new school administrators, athletic directors, coaches, student-athletes and their families assure a fluid stream of new constituents for this membership. Working together through continued emphasis on participating in and understanding the process will only strengthen the membership within and help defend us from outside interference with this democratic process.

# Keep These Dates in Mind

May 22, 27 & 29 Softball Regionals	August 1	Membership Application Deadline
May 26 Memorial Day	August 5	Earliest Day to Issue Football Equipment (11-player & 8-player)
May 27 Boys Tennis Subsectionals	August 5	Earliest Day for Football Practice (11-player & 8-player)
May 27 Lacrosse Regional Quarterfinal (if needed)	August 11	Earliest Day for Girls Golf Practice
May 27 Track & Field Regionals	August 12	Earliest Day for Girls Swimming & Diving Practice
May 27-28 Boys Golf Regionals	August 12	Earliest Day for Girls Tennis Practice
May 28-29 Boys Tennis Sectionals	August 14	Earliest Day for First Girls Golf Meet
May 29 & June 3 Girls Lacrosse Regionals	August 15	Board of Control Meeting
May 29, June 3-4-5 Baseball Regionals	August 16	Earliest Day for First Girls Tennis Meet
May 30 Track & Field Sectionals	August 18	Earliest Day for Boys Soccer Practice
May 30 & June 3 Boys Lacrosse Regionals	August 18	Earliest Day for Volleyball Practice
June 3-4 Boys Golf Sectionals	August 18	Earliest Day for Cross Country Practice
June 3 & 5 Softball Sectionals	August 20	Earliest Day for First Girls Swimming & Diving Meet
June 3, 5 & 7 Girls Soccer Regionals	August 21	Earliest Day for First Football Game (11-player & 8-player)
June 5 & 7 Lacrosse Sectionals	August 26	Earliest Day for First Cross Country Meet
June 5-6-7 State Boys Individual Tennis (Madison)	August 26	Earliest Day for First Boys Soccer Game
June 6-7 State Track & Field (La Crosse)	August 26	Earliest Day for First Volleyball Match
June 9-10 State Boys Golf (Madison)	September 1	Labor Day
June 10 Baseball Sectionals	September 1	Fall Sports Request Down/Up Form Open
June 12-13 Summer Slam	September 9	Coaches Advisory Committee Meetings – Lacrosse
June 12-13-14 State Softball (Madison)	September 11	Coaches Advisory Committee Meetings – Baseball
June 12 & 14 Girls Soccer Sectionals	September 15	Area Meeting - Mauston
June 13-14 State Boys Team Tennis (Madison)	September 16	Area Meeting - Oconomowoc
June 14 State Lacrosse (Sun Prairie)	September 17	Area Meeting - Rice Lake
June 16 Classification Committee Meeting	September 19	Board of Control Meeting
June 16-17-18-19 State Baseball (Appleton)	September 22	Area Meeting - Antigo
June 19 Coaches Advisory Committee Meeting – Softball	September 22-24	Rosh Hashanah
June 19-20-21 June Jam	September 23	Area Meeting - Mount Horeb
June 19-20-21 State Girls Soccer (Milwaukee)	September 24	Area Meeting - Fox Valley Lutheran
June 23 Coaches Advisory Meeting – Track & Field	September 24	Girls Golf Entry Deadline
June 24 Advisory Council Meeting	September 29	Area Meeting - Greenfield
June 25 Board of Control Meeting	September 30	Fall Tournament Central Launch
July 8 Classification Committee Meeting	October 1	Conference Realignment Initial Application Deadline
July 28 New AD Workshop	October 1	Fall Sports Request Up/Down Deadline
July 30 Media Advisory Committee Meeting	October 1	Fall Tournament Participation Deadline

## Non-School Participation from page 10

# Can a student compete in a Special Olympic competition during the regular season and WIAA tournament?

Yes. The event must be a Special Olympic sanctioned event. A waiver is required.

#### What amateur status rules apply?

All. The student may only be reimbursed for actual costs associated with transportation, food, lodging, and entry fees. No more than those costs.

From the Rules at a Glance:

- F. EXPENSES TRAINING AND COMPETING
  - Students must pay 100% of their own expenses, including transportation, to any non-school (out-of-season) camps, clinics, or specialized training. Schools may pay expenses and provide transportation to similar in-season activities in that sport and during unrestricted contact days in the summer.
  - A student may be reimbursed actual and necessary costs associated with competing. This may include transportation, food, lodging and entry fees.
  - 3. A school may not become involved financially, through transporta-

tion or any other way in a student's non-school participation outside the sport season and the five Board of Control approved unrestricted contact days in the summer. (BL – Art. II, RE – Art. IV and Art. VI) Note: Funds kept in school activity accounts are considered school funds.

Awards must meet the WIAA amateur status rules as well. From the Rules at a Glance:

#### C: AMATEUR STATUS

A student may not accept, receive and/or direct to another, reimbursement in any form of salary, cash, or share of game or season proceeds for athletic accomplishments, such as being on a winning team, being selected for the school varsity team, or being a place winner in an individual tournament, etc. A student may receive: a medal, cup, trophy or plaque from the sponsoring organization regardless of cost; school mementos valued not more than \$200; an award valued not more than \$100 retail for participation in an athletic contest in a WIAA recognized sport; and may retain nonschool competition apparel worn by the student as part of the team uniform.

## Hansche of Westosha Central from page 4

months of treatment, Lee returned to school and is participating in basketball as much as she is able.

Even before her ordeal, Lee was recognized as a leader and a role model at school and in the community. She was nominated and selected to the first WIAA Student-Athlete Leadership Team this year. In addition to her volleyball exploits, she is also a three-year letterwinner heading into the winter season, receiving the team's Leadership Award. Lee received the school's Courage Award in 2023-24 and is a four-time school scholar athlete.

Her leadership is represented by her involvement in other education-based activities as well. Lee has served as president of the school's National Honor Society, Student Council, 4-H and Future Farmers of America, and vice president of the Chieftains' Student-Athlete Leadership Team.

The WIAA Spirit of Sport Award was implemented in 2018. The recipient of the award also serves as the WIAA's nominee submitted to the NFHS for Section 4 and national Spirit of Sport Award consideration. The following is a list of previous recipients of the WIAA Spirit of Sport Award.

2018 - Bryce Ladwig, Plymouth

2019 - Ashley Stich, Kenosha Tremper

2020 - Adam Szepieniec, DeForest

2021 - Abigail Tuma, Shawano

2022 - Jordan Glenn, Wisconsin Lutheran

2023 - Kenzie Koppenhaver, Kiel

2024 - Michael Turner, Hartford

## **Test Dates**

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

Listed below are the 2024-25 and 2025-26 dates for ACT.

ACT - 2024-25

Test Date	Regular Deadline	Late Deadline
June 14, 2025	May 9	May 26
July 12, 2025	June 6	June 20
	ACT - 2025-26	
Test Date	Regular Deadline	Late Deadline
September 6, 2025	August 1	August 19
October 18, 2025	September 12	September 30
December 13, 2025	November 7	November 24
February 14, 2026	January 7	January 21
April 11, 2026	March 6	March 24
June 13, 2026	May 8	May 27
July 11, 2026	June 5	June 24

# **WIAA BULLETIN**

#### Official Publication

Published online 4 times August 2024, October 2024, February 2025 and May 2025, at Stevens Point, Wisconsin by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association. Headquarters and general business office at 5516 Vern Holmes Drive, Stevens Point, WI, 54482-8833.

Publisher: Stephanie Hauser, Executive Director Editor: Todd Clark, Communications Director

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