



BULLETIN



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BOARD OF CONTROL APPROVES SPRING SPORTS CHANGES; ACTION ITEMS

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

The sport of track & field will experience the most changes to the Season Regulations with five recommendations passed by the Board. Beginning next spring, pole vaulters will weigh-in twice during the season with a third verification form required before the State Meet for qualifying pole vaulters.

Another rule change modifies the relay substitution language. In order to add competitors to a relay during the Tournament Series, not only must six student-athletes be listed on the original entry, but the substitutions need to be necessary for the relay to compete (a relay team must be down to three or less eligible competitors).

In addition, the pre-State Track & Field Tournament Series schedule will be modified starting in 2027. In odd years, Division 1 regionals will be held Monday with sectionals on Thursday, and Division 2 and 3 regionals and sectionals will be conducted on Tuesday and Friday, respectively. In even years, Division 2 and 3 regionals and sectionals will be scheduled Monday and Thursday with Division 1 regionals and sectionals scheduled Tuesday and Friday. In years when the Tournament Series falls on the week of Memorial Day, the Tournament Series will follow the current Tuesday and Friday schedule for regionals and sectionals.

The two remaining modifications to the Tournament Series impacts the wheelchair division. In 2026, sectional champions and those performances in sectionals that rank among the 10 best of all sectional performances will advance to the State

Meet. In addition, the weight of the seated wheelchair shot put implement for girls will be standardized at three kilograms and four kilograms for boys.

In softball, the Board approved a recommendation to apply consistency to the application of the 10-run rule after five complete innings to all regular-season games and all Tournament Series games, including the State Tournament championship games. Another softball rule to add a fifth free admission for coach, manager, athletic trainer or physician, in addition to 18 student-athletes, was amended and will be revisited through the 2026-27 committee, rule-making process.

The one recommendation in lacrosse also passed. Beginning next spring, all seeding meetings will be conducted virtually.

A fast track conference realignment plan received approval from the Board, effective in 2026-27. The current 16-team Woodland Conference would split into the Parkland and Woodland Conferences. The Woodland Conference becomes a 10-team league with the addition of West Allis Hale and St. Augustine Prep to join Brown Deer, Cudahy, Greenfield, Milwaukee Lutheran, Shorewood, South Milwaukee, West Allis Central and Whitnall. Pewaukee, New Berlin Eisenhower, New Berlin West, Pius XI Catholic, Greendale, Wisconsin Lutheran, Waukesha North and Waukesha South will comprise the Parkland Conference.

In addition to the procedural approvals, the Board ratified the policy for Unmanned Aircraft Systems at WIAA Tournament Series events and approved the 2026-27 and 2027-28 fall sports co-ops, which includes 112 programs, excluding football. Not including co-ops that simply exchanged schools, the eight new co-op programs are:



Experiencing the Product of a Thriving Membership

The Area Meetings in September provided the opportunity to share information with the membership, including how the association is offering services while increasing the dollars returned to its members schools.

At the Annual Meeting last April it was noted that a record amount \$3.16 million was returned to the membership in 2023-24. That amount is 25.3 percent of the total revenue generated during the year. The allowances for schools are likely to exceed \$4 million this year.

The WIAA has been fully transparent with financials for many years with details presented during the treasurer's report each year at the Annual Meeting, as well as the publication of the report in the meeting's program—which is also available on the WIAA website—and in the annual WIAA Yearbook. Furthermore, the progress made in recent years to review and increase allowances is not just a matter of providing transparency—it's worth promoting.

A four-year cycle to review budget allocations and payments have been implemented; so there won't be an extended period until they are reviewed and addressed. In year one, State Tournament workers and licensed officials will be assessed. In year two, member school travel reimbursement, as well as regional and sectional host fees will be evaluated. Then in year three, admission ticket prices for the regional, sectional and State Tournaments will be evaluated. To complete the cycle in year four, committee and staff stipends along with various membership service programs will be considered.

The process of review is already paying dividends, literally. Last April, the Board of Control reviewed the budget cycle calendar and approved the Executive Staff's recommendation to increase allowances and payments in several areas. For schools, regional and sectional tournament event manager stipends were increased \$20 per event, and regional and sectional tournament host allowances were increased \$50 per event for all sports. In addition, member schools' tournament ticket revenue sharing percentage was increased five percent in all sports. Additionally, a \$70 stipend for tournament seed meeting hosts was introduced this fall.

All schools hosting cross country sectionals this fall will receive \$1000 to assist in the expense of timing systems in lieu of charging participating schools an entry fee. Other increases will adjust school State Tournament reimbursements. Mileage returns to schools will increase \$.15 to a total of \$.70 for individual tournaments with an increase of \$.25 to a total of \$2 for team tournaments. Moreover, \$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.

All tallied, that's an estimated increase of payments to schools and licensed officials of approximately \$900,000 annually. Moving forward, with continued robust attendance during the Tournament Series, the budget review cycle will not only affirm our service to the membership but also acknowledge the efforts and commitments of member schools, officials and workers during the Tournament Series.

Enjoy the rest of the fall season, and have a great transition to the winter season. ■

Competitive Balance Tables

	2024-25 Teams	Promoted Teams 2024-25	%	State Champions 2024-25	State Runner-Up 2024-25	State Qualifiers 2024-25	Sectional Qualifiers 2024-25
Boys Cross Country	435	5	1.15%	1	0	2	-
Girls Cross Country	435	4	0.92%	0	0	2	-
Football	366	10	2.73%	1	2	4	9
Girls Golf	185	2	1.08%	1	1	1	1
Boys Soccer	280	3	1.07%	0	0	0	4
Girls Volleyball	486	3	0.62%	0	0	0	3
Girls Tennis	205	3	1.46%	0	0	2	2
Boys Basketball	497	7	1.41%	1	0	1	2
Girls Basketball	485	8	1.65%	0	2	2	4
Gymnastics	80	2	2.50%	0	0	3	-
Boys Hockey	86	3	3.49%	0	0	0	2
Wrestling	344	4	1.16%	0	1	2	3
Baseball	442	4	0.90%	0	0	1	1
Boys Golf	373	6	1.61%	0	2	3	4
Girls Soccer	267	7	2.62%	0	0	1	7
Softball	424	6	1.42%	0	2	2	5
Boys Tennis	188	2	1.06%	0	0	0	2
TOTALS	5,578	79	1.42%	5.10%	12.70%	32.90%	72.1%

Competitive Balance Classification Committee Deadlines

Fall

OCTOBER 1

Fall Sports Competitive Balance
Classification Application to Request
Up/Down and/or Appeal *OPENS*

Winter

FEBRUARY 1

Winter Sports Competitive Balance
Classification Application to Request
Up/Down and/or Appeal *OPENS*

Spring

MAY 1

Spring Sports Competitive Balance
Classification Application to Request
Up/Down and/or Appeal *OPENS*

DECEMBER 1

Fall Sports Competitive Balance
Classification Application to Request
Up/Down and/or Appeal *CLOSES*

APRIL 1

Winter Sports Competitive Balance
Classification Application to Request
Up/Down and/or Appeal *CLOSES*

JULY 1

Spring Sports Competitive Balance
Classification Application to Request
Up/Down and/or Appeal *CLOSES*

BOARD APPROVES MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS & COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Board of Control approved a limited number of action items and received customary Executive Staff and liaison reports at its Sept. 19 meeting.

The Board voted to authorize the 2025-26 membership renewals and appointments to the Coaches Advisory Committees, Conference Realignment Task Force, Calendar & Contact Ad-Hoc Committee and the Classification Committee. Other Board action included approval of the August financial

statements and general fund payments, and the 2024-2025 spring financial statements.

Executive Staff reports to the Board included updates on the Calendar & Contact Ad-Hoc Committee, the activities of the Student-Athlete Leadership Team, the continued efforts to recruit and retain licensed officials, preparations for the fall Tournament Series, and a review of the first three Area Meetings and the NFHS Section 4/5 meeting.

In addition, the Board received liaison reports from Paul Manriquez of the Department of Public Instruction, Dan Rossmiller of the Wisconsin Association of School Boards and Kyle LeMieux of the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association. Andy Engel of the Hamilton Consulting Group also presented a report to the Board. ■



Officiating Survey: Process, Purpose & Next Steps

This initiative is about a WIAA survey which was conducted by the Donovan Group with for active and retired high school sport officials to gather feedback on recruitment and retention challenges and opportunities. The results will be used to create a strategic plan and actionable steps, involving key stakeholders, to improve the officiating environment.

Scan the QR code for more information! ■



Board Of Control Continued

- Racine Park/Racine Horlick in girls cross country
- Big Foot/Williams Bay in girls golf
- Melrose-Mindoro/Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau in boys soccer;
- Seymour/Freeman in girls swimming & diving
- Viroqua/Youth Initiative in girls tennis
- McFarland/Monona Grove/Oregon/Deerfield in boys volleyball
- Oshkosh North/Oshkosh West in boys volleyball
- Prairie Farm/Clayton in girls volleyball.

The Board was introduced to two possible Constitutional amendments. One amendment under consideration pertains to the powers and duties of the Board of Control. It would remove language that requires all changes to rules and regulation

to be passed by the Advisory Council before advancing to the Board. The second amendment consideration would remove coaching contact restrictions for newly hired coaches who have not previously coached a student-athlete in the respective school's program. Final determination for Constitutional amendments to advance to the Annual Meeting will be decided by the Board of Control at its meeting in March.

Executive Staff reports to the Board included updates on the Calendar & Contact Ad-Hoc Committee, the activities of the Student-Athlete Leadership Team and planning for the Leadership Summit, the continued efforts to recruit and retain licensed officials, awareness of the "Hear It, See It, Report It" initiative and a review of the Area Meetings.

Dr. Timothy McGuine from the UW-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health presented an update on goals and purpose of the NFHS Strategic Plan, the benefits of the ongoing Sport Related Concussion (SRC) Surveillance Program, the importance of emergency action plans and the Pre-event Emergency Action Plan meeting, and the research findings that the use of guardian caps in high school football was not associated with a decreased risk of sustaining a concussion during practice or games.

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

Calendar & Contact Ad Hoc Committee Updates



The Calendar and Contact Ad Hoc Committee, under the leadership of co-chairs Janel Batten (Pulaski) and Rachel Biertzer (Port Washington) issued a 2025 Summer Coaches Contact Questionnaire in September to collect feedback from the membership's athletics directors and coaches regarding their experiences in implementing the new summer contact language this past summer.

The committee will review this feedback and begin planning support and helpful resources to support member schools in planning for the summer of 2026.

Upon the committee's creation in spring of 2024, it was tasked with studying coaches' contact, game maximums and season lengths. The committee will start their work on game maximums and season lengths beginning in November. The committee will issue a game maximums

and season lengths survey to our membership's school administrators, athletics directors, high school head coaches, student-athletes and parents/guardians to collect input regarding each WIAA sponsored sports game maximums and season lengths.

The survey will be rolled out at the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association (WADA) conference in Wisconsin Dells on Nov. 10 and will remain open through Nov. 29. The feedback received from this survey will guide the committee's work moving forward which may or may not lead to any future recommended changes.

The ad hoc committee consists of 23 district administrators, principals and athletics directors who represent all seven membership districts.

2025 Area Meetings *Provide Valuable Interaction*

The WIAA Executive Staff visited the seven districts during the series of Area Meetings in September, marking the 49th year the meetings have been conducted.

The meetings had an impressive turnout with 440 attendees, which accounted for 85 percent of member schools with at least one representative attending one of the seven meetings.

The meetings serve as a catalyst for discussions throughout the year. Three agenda topics featured at the meetings included informative presentations by Board members of the WIAA Foundation, members of the Student-Athlete Leadership Team (SALT) and members of the Calendar and Contact Committee.

Foundation Board members shared the purpose of the initiative focusing on the areas of athletic programs, risk minimization and officials' development through grant opportunities.

Members of SALT representing schools in the seven WIAA districts shared the four areas of focus in the group's second year, including student-athlete well-being, respect for all in interscholastic athletics, increasing participation in education-based athletics and increasing leadership opportunities throughout the state.

Representatives from the Calendar & Contact Ad Hoc Committee reintroduced the purpose of the group, provided a progress report and encouraged members to participate in a statewide survey that will provide data from the membership on game maximums and season lengths.

Executive Staff presentations offered overviews on the data collected with respect to the performance factor in 2024-25; a review of the 2025 Constitutional changes, including an update on the impact of Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) rules; introduction of potential 2026 Constitutional changes; a summary of an officials' survey and the ongoing efforts to recruit and retain licensed officials.

Another featured topic provided awareness of the rebranded game misconduct forms to report unsporting behavior, racially motivated conduct and hate speech, which was also the focus of the breakout session that yielded feedback from the members on racially insensitive conduct and the process to address concerns when it occurs.

Other topics presented included an update on the migration to Arbiter, reports on the powers and duties of the Advisory Council and the Board of Control, the transfer rule, State Tournament anniversaries in 2025-26, WIAA Spotlight social media initiative, the co-op approval process, electronic seeding and postseason video streaming. In addition, attendees of the meetings were urged to complete a first-ever membership survey designed to assist in setting strategic goals for the Association.

Thirty-nine schools were recognized as recipients of the 2024-25 Award of Excellence, and the meetings concluded with an electronic spin of a wheel that randomly selected members in attendance to receive athletic training supplies or bags of girls and boys volleyballs.

To review Area Meeting resources, including the slide presentation, video and responses recorded in the Gameday Misconduct Report breakout session, access the Area Meetings homepage located on the WIAA website under the About Us tab. ■

Spin & WIN

**ATHLETIC TRAINING
BACKPACK + SUPPLIES**

**BAG OF
VOLLEYBALLS**

Winners

District 1
Superior, Spooner & Cadott

District 2
SPASH, Abbotsford & Wausau East

District 3
Hillsboro, Tomah & Reedsburg

District 4
De Pere, Chilton, Hortonville & Sheboygan South

District 5
Abundant Life, Cuba City, Sun Prairie West & Waunakee

District 6
Lake Classical Academy, Williams Bay, Wilmot Union & Winnebago Lutheran

District 7
Milwaukee Marshall, DSHA, Germantown & Kenosha Tremper





WIAA Leadership Summit to be Held in December

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association, in cooperation with Rural Mutual Insurance, will conduct the 2025 Leadership Summit Wednesday, Dec. 10 at Sentry World in Stevens Point, Wis.

Registration is open to all member schools. Each registered school team will consist of up to four students and a minimum of one school chaperone. The deadline to register a team for the Summit is Wednesday, Nov. 26. Registrations will be processed in the order they are received, and registrations after capacity is reached or after the deadline will be placed on a waiting list. Schools may register for more than one team, but priority will be given to schools registering one team if registration capacity is reached.

The Summit is scheduled to begin with registration at 8:15 a.m. with the first session starting at 8:55 a.m. The cost of the event is \$200 per team, which includes Summit materials, a commemorative t-shirt and lunch. If lodging at Sentry World for the night of Dec. 9 is desired, schools must make reservations prior to midnight Nov. 12, 2025. The room rate is \$209 plus tax.

The purpose of the Summit is to assist membership schools with their leadership, citizenship and sportsmanship efforts with a high-impact day of growth, connection and inspiration.

The Summit will feature a morning keynote address by Craig Hillier, author of "Playing Beyond the Scoreboard;" an afternoon keynote presentation by Mark Horbinski, founder of Won80; a mini keynote session will address "Respect for All" by Kwabena Antoine Nixon, CEO of Be Inspired Works; and three time slots for three different break-out sessions.

The subjects for the three, 30-minute break-out presentations will focus on "Leadership Opportunities" by Bradie Ewing, former Wisconsin Badger and professional football player, "Student-Athlete Wellness" by Charles LaTorre of Emplify by Bellin, and "Encouraging Participation in Education-Based Athletics" by the WIAA Student-Athlete Leadership Team.

The link to the online registration form is on the Sportsmanship Summit page of the WIAA website at <https://www.wiaawi.org/Schools/Sportsmanship/2025-Leadership-Summit>. Check-in for the Summit at Sentry World (601 Michigan Ave. Stevens Point WI 54481) will begin at 8:15 a.m. The programming is anticipated to conclude at 1:40 p.m.

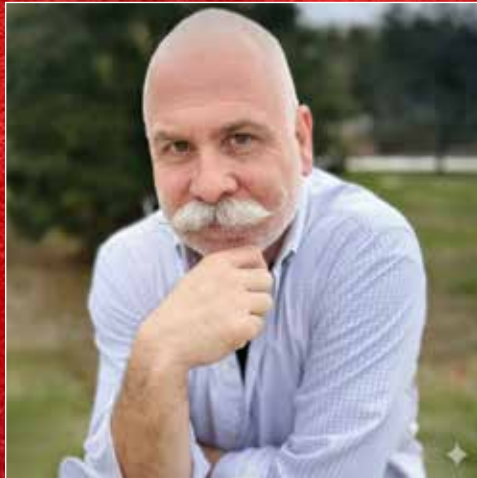
Schools interested in registering for the 2025 Leadership Summit should complete the online registration form by Wednesday, Nov. 24. Please contact the WIAA with any questions regarding the Summit by calling (715) 344-8580, or by emailing to Iridgeway@wiaawi.org or tlclark@wiaawi.org.

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT SPEAKERS

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Craig Hillier



Mark Horbinski



Kwabena Antoine Nixon

BREAK-OUT SPEAKERS



Bradie Ewing



Charles LaTorre



WIAA Student-Athlete
Leadership Team



2025-26 Member School Enrollment



SCHOOL	2026-27		
Abbotsford.....	214	Bangor.....	211
Abundant Life Christian.....	161	Baraboo.....	879
Adams-Friendship.....	417	Barneveld.....	127
Albany.....	70	Barron.....	291
Algoma.....	201	Northstar Academy.....	11
Algoma Venture Academy.....	27	Barron Total.....	302
Algoma Total.....	228	Bay Port.....	1897
Alma.....	82	Bayfield.....	121
Alma Center Lincoln.....	164	Beaver Dam.....	991
Almond-Bancroft.....	98	Belleville.....	265
Altoona.....	560	Belmont.....	98
Amery.....	387	Beloit Memorial.....	1248
Amherst.....	320	Benton.....	62
Antigo.....	647	Berlin.....	426
Wausau Area Virtual Education.....	4	Big Foot.....	426
Antigo Total.....	651	Birchwood.....	70
Appleton East.....	1187	Birchwood Charter.....	10
Appleton eSchool.....	15	Birchwood Total.....	80
Appleton Technical Academy.....	0	Black Hawk.....	98
Fox Cities Leadership Academy.....	0	Black River Falls.....	453
Renaissance School for the Arts.....	0	Blair-Taylor.....	166
Tesla Engineering.....	163	Bloomer.....	403
Valley New School.....	14	Bonduel.....	269
Wisconsin Connections.....	122	Boscobel.....	192
Appleton East Total.....	1501	Bowler.....	87
Appleton North.....	1611	Boyceville.....	214
Appleton eSchool.....	16	Brillion.....	314
Appleton Technical Academy.....	0	Brodhead.....	306
Fox Cities Leadership Academy.....	82	Brookfield Academy.....	319
Renaissance School for the Arts.....	0	Brookfield Central.....	1164
Tesla Engineering.....	0	Brookfield East.....	1393
Valley New School.....	14	Brookwood.....	171
Wisconsin Connections.....	131	Brown Deer.....	525
Appleton North Total.....	1854	Bruce.....	104
Appleton West.....	1017	Burlington.....	950
Appleton eSchool.....	7	Butternut.....	53
Appleton Technical Academy.....	79	Cadott.....	226
Fox Cities Leadership Academy.....	0	Cambria-Friesland.....	91
Renaissance School for the Arts...	153	Cambridge.....	273
Tesla Engineering.....	0	Koshkonong Trails.....	21
Valley New School.....	15	Cambridge Total.....	294
Wisconsin Connections.....	134	Cameron.....	292
Appleton West Total.....	1405	Northstar Academy.....	9
Aquinas.....	330	Cameron Total.....	301
Arcadia.....	411	Campbellsport.....	426
Argyle.....	88	Carmen Northwest.....	379
Arrowhead.....	1862	Carmen South.....	403
Ashland.....	589	Carmen Southeast.....	1080
Ashwaubenon.....	1004	Cashton.....	186
Assumption.....	135	Cassville.....	58
Athens.....	134	Catholic Central.....	108
Auburndale.....	237	Catholic Memorial.....	617
Audubon Technology.....	445	Cedar Grove-Belgium.....	240
Augusta.....	146	Rocket Academy.....	40
Wildland Research.....	40	Cedar Grove-Belgium Total.....	280
Augusta Total.....	186	Cedarburg.....	1043
Badger.....	1184	Central Wisconsin Christian.....	138
New Visions Charter.....	33	Chequamegon.....	182
Badger Total.....	1217	Chesterton Academy of Milwaukee.....	174
Baldwin-Woodville.....	546	Chesterton Academy of St. John Paul II	
		Classical School (Green Bay).....	51
		Chetek-Weyerhaeuser.....	247
		Northstar Academy.....	0
		Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Total.....	247
		Chilton.....	349
		Chippewa Falls.....	1408
		Clayton.....	75
		Clear Lake.....	168
		Clinton.....	299
		Clintonville.....	387
		Cochrane-Fountain City.....	161
		Colby.....	299
		Coleman.....	206
		Colfax.....	385
		Columbus.....	385
		Columbus Catholic.....	155
		Cornell.....	90
		Coulee Christian.....	74
		Crandon.....	226
		Cristo Rey Jesuit.....	445
		Crivitz.....	220
		Cuba City.....	239
		Cudahy.....	620
		Cumberland.....	276
		D.C. Everest.....	1739
		Darlington.....	254
		De Pere.....	1437
		De Soto.....	133
		Deerfield.....	200
		DeForest.....	1197
		Delavan-Darien.....	507
		Delavan-Darien Technical School.....	93
		Delavan-Darien Total.....	600
		Denmark.....	475
		Viking Academy Charter.....	16
		Denmark Total.....	491
		Destiny.....	215
		Divine Savior Holy Angels.....	1292
		Dodgeand.....	205
		Dodgeville.....	358
		Dominican.....	317
		Drummond.....	94
		Dr. Howard Fuller Collegiate.....	519
		Durand-Arkansaw.....	310
		East Troy.....	417
		Eastbrook Academy.....	85
		Eau Claire Immanuel Lutheran.....	110
		Eau Claire Memorial.....	1506
		McKinley.....	19
		Eau Claire Virtual.....	59
		Eau Claire Memorial Total.....	1584
		Eau Claire North.....	1531
		McKinley.....	39
		Eau Claire Virtual.....	59
		Eau Claire North Total.....	1629
		Edgar.....	189
		Edgerton.....	538
		Edgewood.....	598
		Elcho.....	66
		Eleva-Strum.....	193
		Elk Mound.....	355
		Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah.....	146



Elkhorn.....	917
Career & College.....	265
Elkhorn Total	1182
Ellsworth.....	503
Elmwood.....	95
Evansville.....	466
Faith Christian (Wms Bay).....	78
Faith Christian Academy (Wausau).....	58
Fall Creek.....	269
Fall River.....	144
Fennimore.....	255
Flambeau.....	130
Florence.....	121
Fond du Lac.....	1820
STEM Institute.....	60
Fond du Lac Total.....	1880
Fort Atkinson.....	778
Fox Valley Lutheran.....	833
Franklin.....	1547
Frederic.....	114
Freedom.....	495
Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau.....	380
Germantown.....	1275
Gibraltar.....	154
Gillett.....	145
Gilman.....	102
Gilmanton.....	35
Glenwood City.....	186
Golda Meir.....	592
Goodman.....	22
Grafton.....	728
Granton.....	56
Grantsburg.....	279
Green Bay East.....	1058
John Dewey Academy of Learning... 18	
North East Wis. N.E.W.	
School of Innovation.....	48
Green Bay East Total	1124
Green Bay N.E.W. Lutheran.....	124
Green Bay Preble.....	2150
John Dewey Academy of Learning... 28	
North East Wis. N.E.W. School	
of Innovation.....	38
Green Bay Preble Total.....	2216
Green Bay Southwest	1002
John Dewey Academy of Learning... 10	
North East Wis. N.E.W.	
School of Innovation.....	28
Green Bay Southwest Total.....	38
Green Bay West.....	1040
John Dewey Academy of Learning... 9	
North East Wis. N.E.W.	
School of Innovation.....	41
Green Bay West Total.....	50
Green Lake.....	85
Greendale.....	871
Greenfield.....	1122
Greenwood.....	107
Gresham.....	86
Hamilton.....	1513
Hartford Union.....	1143

Hayward.....	488
HACIL.....	82
Hayward Total.....	570
Heritage Christian.....	219
Highland.....	73
Hilbert.....	167
Hillsboro.....	138
Hmong American Peace.....	610
Holmen.....	1195
Holy Redeemer.....	82
Homestead.....	1161
Horicon.....	225
Hortonville.....	1385
Howards Grove.....	291
Hudson.....	1690
Hurley.....	184
Hustisford.....	81
Independence.....	135
Iola-Scandinavia.....	191
Iowa-Grant.....	219
Ithaca.....	101
Janesville Craig.....	1346
Arise Virtual Academy.....	40
Rock River.....	85
Rock University.....	50
Janesville Craig Total.....	1521
Janesville Parker.....	1214
Arise Virtual Academy.....	47
Rock River.....	161
Rock University.....	34
Janesville Parker Total.....	1456
Jefferson.....	566
Johnson Creek.....	179
Juda.....	77
Kaukauna.....	1206
Kenosha Bradford.....	1454
Kenosha Harborside.....	135
Kenosha Lakeview Tech.....	121
Kenosha Bradford Total.....	1710
Kenosha Christian Life.....	194
Kenosha Indian Trail.....	1837
Kenosha Harborside.....	60
Kenosha Lakeview Tech.....	138
Kenosha Indian Trail Total.....	2035
Kenosha St. Joseph Catholic.....	206
Kenosha Tremper.....	1373
Kenosha Harborside.....	94
Kenosha Lakeview Tech.....	131
Kenosha Tremper Total.....	1598
Kettle Moraine.....	896
Kettle Moraine Connect.....	23
High School of Health Sciences.... 181	
Kettle Moraine Global School for	
Global Learning.....	79
Kettle Moraine School for the	
Performing Arts.....	106
Kettle Moraine Total.....	1285
Kettle Moraine Lutheran.....	631
Kewaskum.....	608
Kewaunee.....	278
Kickapoo.....	156

Kiel.....	351
Kiel eSchool.....	38
Kiel Total.....	389
Kimberly.....	1571
Kingdom Prep Lutheran.....	344
Kohler.....	231
La Crosse Central.....	943
La Crosse Polytechnic School.....	21
La Crosse Central Total.....	964
La Crosse Logan.....	698
La Crosse Polytechnic School.....	22
La Crosse Logan Total.....	720
La Farge.....	63
Lac Courte Oreilles.....	122
Laconia.....	291
Ladysmith.....	247
Lake Country Classical Academy.....	86
Lake Country Lutheran.....	369
Lake Holcombe.....	75
Lake Mills.....	436
Lakeland.....	713
Lakeside Lutheran.....	566
Lancaster.....	301
Laona.....	76
Lena.....	121
Little Chute.....	378
Little Chute Career Pathways.....	100
Little Chute Total.....	478
Living Word Lutheran.....	302
Lodi.....	429
Lomira.....	292
Lourdes Academy.....	175
Loyal.....	162
Luck.....	106
Luther.....	270
Luxemburg-Casco.....	664
Madison Country Day.....	137
Madison East.....	1763
Madison La Follette.....	1607
Madison Memorial.....	2027
Madison West.....	2302
Manawa.....	190
Manitowoc Lincoln.....	1363
Manitowoc Lutheran.....	303
Marathon.....	279
Marinette.....	576
Marion.....	147
Markesan.....	253
Marquette.....	1880
Marshall.....	254
Marshfield.....	1180
Martin Luther.....	673
Mauston.....	329
ILEAD Charter.....	39
Lemonweir Academy.....	59
Mauston Total.....	427
Mayville.....	336
McDonell Central Catholic.....	204
McFarland.....	705
Medford.....	667



Mellen	68	Monona Grove Total	1200	Pardeeville	272
Melrose-Mindoro	199	Monroe	676	Parkview	254
Menasha	949	Montello	171	Parkview Academy of	
Menominee Nation	372	High Marq Environment	21	Virtual Education	36
Menominee Falls	1218	Montello Virtual	14	Parkview Total	290
Menomonie	970	Montello Total	206	Pecatonica	119
Mercer	28	Monticello	93	Pembine	51
Merrill	727	Mosinee	556	Pepin	80
Messmer	520	Mount Horeb	730	Peshtigo	346
Middleton	2354	Mukwonago	1536	Pewaukee	851
Clark Street	100	Muskego	1621	Phelps	34
Middleton Total	2454	Necedah	201	Phillips	189
Milton	1052	N-Gage Academy	13	Pittsville	164
Milwaukee Academy of Science	407	Necedah Total	214	Pius XI Catholic	693
Milwaukee Arts	971	Neenah	2022	Platteville	434
Milwaukee Bay View	935	Neillsville	271	Plum City	73
Milwaukee Bradley Tech	961	Nekoosa	265	Plymouth	708
Milwaukee Hamilton	1351	New Auburn	99	Port Edwards	139
Milwaukee Juneau	234	New Berlin Eisenhower	731	Port Washington	799
Milwaukee King	1254	New Berlin West	719	Portage	624
Milwaukee WI Conservatory of		New Glarus	308	Potosi	91
Lifelong Learning	111	New Holstein	326	Poynette	289
Milwaukee Lutheran	913	New Lisbon	154	Prairie du Chien	252
Milwaukee Madison	447	New London	631	Prairie Farm	113
Banner Preparatory	37	Catalyst Academy	31	Northstar Academy	0
Milwaukee Madison Total	484	New London Total	662	Prairie Farm Total	113
Milwaukee Marshall	718	New Richmond	1021	Prentice	109
Milwaukee North	309	Newman Catholic	93	Prescott	375
Milwaukee Pulaski	970	Niagara	116	Princeton	89
Lad Lake Synergy	19	Nicolet	1029	Providence Academy (Green Bay)	57
Project Stay	180	North Crawford	107	Providence Academy (La Crosse)	24
Milwaukee Pulaski Total	1169	North Fond du Lac	482	Pulaski	1099
Milwaukee Reagan	1370	Northland Lutheran	115	Racine Case	1760
Milwaukee Riverside	1239	Northland Pines	345	Racine Horlick	1171
Alliance School of Milwaukee	113	SOAR	59	Racine Lutheran	370
NOVA	100	Northland Pines Total	404	Racine Park	1174
Shalom	115	Northwestern	386	Racine St. Catherine's	437
Milwaukee Riverside Total	1567	Northwood	93	Randolph	144
Milwaukee School of Languages	523	Notre Dame	729	Random Lake	190
Milwaukee South	941	Oak Creek	2118	Reedsburg	848
Grandview	223	Oakfield	164	Reedsville	177
South Division		Obama SCTE	314	Regis	227
Accelerated Academy	19	Assata	83	Rhineland	718
Milwaukee South Total	1183	Obama SCTE Total	397	Rib Lake	154
Milwaukee Vincent	507	Oconomowoc	1573	Rice Lake	658
Green Tree Preparatory Academy	287	Oconto	289	Richland Center	342
Vincent Accelerated Academy	37	Oconto Falls	500	Richland Online Academy	35
Milwaukee Vincent Total	831	Omro	327	Richland Center Partner	32
Milwaukee Washington	379	Onalaska	916	Richland Center Total	409
Groppi	177	Oneida Nation	156	Rio	102
Transition	136	Oostburg	330	Ripon	405
Milwaukee Washington Total	692	Oregon	1339	Odyssey Academy of	
Mineral Point	242	Osceola	476	Virtual Learning	17
Mishicot	281	Oshkosh North	1235	Ripon Total	422
Mondovi	249	Oshkosh West	1582	River Falls	1116
Anthony Acres Charter School	23	Osseo-Fairchild	205	River Ridge	148
Mondovi Total	272	Owen-Withee	135	River Valley	344
Monona Grove	1152	Ozaukee	207	Riverdale	193
Liberal Arts Charter School for		Pacelli	173	Roncalli	215
the 21st Century	48	Palmyra-Eagle	144	Rosholt	144



Royall.....	131
Saint Ambrose	157
Saint Anthony	569
Saint Croix Central	476
Saint Croix Virtual	21
Saint Croix Central Total.....	497
Saint Croix Falls	328
Saint Francis.....	505
Saint Joan Antida	406
Saint Lawrence Seminary	270
Saint Mary Catholic	290
Saint Mary's Springs.....	266
Saint Thomas Aquinas	42
Saint Thomas More.....	599
Salam	307
Sauk Prairie	819
Seneca.....	77
Sevastopol.....	203
Seymour	544
Shawano	687
Sheboygan Christian.....	179
Sheboygan Lutheran	175
Sheboygan Falls	477
ETUDE	0
Sheboygan Falls Total.....	477
Sheboygan North.....	1494
Central High.....	84
ETUDE	29
George D. Warriner.....	44
Sheboygan North Total	1651
Sheboygan South	1035
Central High.....	84
ETUDE	32
George D. Warriner.....	53
Sheboygan South Total	1204
Shell Lake	193
Shiocton.....	208
Shoreland Lutheran	467
Shorewood	599
Shullsburg.....	118
Siren.....	96
Slinger	1050
Solon Springs	101
Somerset.....	455
South Milwaukee.....	935
South Shore.....	61
Southern Door	296
Southwestern.....	155
Sparta.....	869
S.A.I.L.S.	35
Sparta Total	904
Spencer	184
Spooner	334
Spring Valley.....	196
St. Ignatius Chesterton Academy	40
St. John's Northwestern	187
Stanley-Boyd	300
Stevens Point Area Senior High	2005
Charles F. Fernandez Center.....	69
Point of Discovery	68

Wausau Area Virtual Education.....	1
Stevens Point Area Senior High Total	2143
Stockbridge.....	39
Stoughton	806
Stratford	277
Sturgeon Bay	354
Sun Prairie East.....	1392
Sun Prairie West	1439
Superior	1243
Suring.....	103
Tenor.....	619
The Lincoln Academy.....	201
The Prairie School.....	222
Thorp	180
Three Lakes	156
Tigerton	62
Tomah	922
Tomahawk	372
Tri-County	159
Trinity Academy.....	4
Turner	476
Turtle Lake	127
Northstar Academy.....	0
Turtle Lake Total.....	127
Two Rivers	467
Lighthouse Learning Academy	44
Two Rivers Total.....	511
Union Grove.....	1050
Unity	269
University Lake School.....	102
University School of Milwaukee.....	390
Valders	278
Valley Christian (Oshkosh)	198
Veritas	256
Verona.....	1876
Viroqua.....	290
Laurel.....	39
Viroqua Total	329
Wabeno	100
Washburn.....	186
Washington Island	22
Waterford.....	906
Waterloo.....	233
Watertown.....	1008
eCampus	81
Endeavor	43
Watertown Total	1132
Watertown Luther Prep.....	392
Waukesha North	868
Waukesha South.....	1073
Waukesha West	1158
Waunakee	1373
Waupaca.....	635
Waupun	568
Wausau East.....	890
Wausau Area Virtual Education.....	38
Wausau Enrich Excel	
Achieve Learning.....	17
Wausau East Total.....	945
Wausau West.....	1416

Wausau Area Virtual Education.....	86
Wausau Enrich Excel	
Achieve Learning.....	17
Wausau West Total	1519
Wausaukee	114
Wautoma	377
Wauwatosa East.....	1042
Wauwatosa West	913
Wauzeka-Stauben.....	76
Wayland Academy.....	195
Webster	204
West Allis Central	940
Deeper Learning Virtual Academy.....	0
James E. Dottke	
Project-Based Learning.....	83
West Allis Central Total	1023
West Allis Hale	1022
Deeper Learning Virtual Academy	108
James E. Dottke	
Project-Based Learning.....	84
West Allis Hale Total	1214
West Bend East.....	815
West Bend West.....	1003
West De Pere	1050
Phantom Knight Charter School	20
West De Pere Total.....	1070
West Salem	563
Westby.....	301
Westfield	325
Weston	80
Westosha Central	1336
Weyauwega-Fremont	257
White Lake	40
Whitefish Bay	915
Whitehall	214
Whitewater.....	591
Whitnall	807
Wild Rose	155
Williams Bay.....	168
Career & College.....	8
Williams Bay Total	176
Wilmot Union	844
Winnebago Lutheran	337
Winneconne	508
Winter	64
Wisconsin Dells	550
Wisconsin Heights.....	226
Wisconsin Lutheran	938
Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln.....	1259
River Cities.....	89
Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln Total	1348
Wisconsin School for the	
Blind and Visually Impaired	14
Wittenberg-Biramwood.....	336
Wittenberg-Biramwood Total	337
Wolf River Lutheran	35
Wonewoc-Center.....	114
Wrightstown	426
Xavier	439
Youth Initiative.....	67

National Test Dates

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

Listed below are the 2025-26 dates for ACT.

2026 National Test Dates Schedule

Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
Dec. 13, 2025	Nov. 7	Nov. 24
Feb. 14, 2026	Jan. 9	Jan. 23
April 11, 2026	March 6	March 24
June 13, 2026	May 8	May 29
July 11, 2026	June 5	June 24



Participation in High School Sports *INCREASED* in 2024-25



INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – High school athletics participation increased by more than 200,000 in 2024-25, continuing an upward trajectory and registering an all-time high for participation.

The NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey indicated that 8,266,244 participants were involved in high school sports in 2024-25, which is up 203,942 from the previous year and tops the previous record of 8,062,302 set in 2023-24. The total includes 4,726,648 boys and 3,539,596 girls – both record highs – according to figures obtained from the 51 NFHS member state associations, which includes the District of Columbia. It's notable that these figures include participation in each sport for multisport athletes.

The 2024-25 total marked the third consecutive notable increase after numbers fell during the pandemic. Since the initial survey after the pandemic, participation in high school sports has increased more than 645,000 in three years and represents a turnaround from the decline that started the year before the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It is wonderful to see the interest in high school sports reach new heights," said Dr. Karissa Niehoff, CEO of the NFHS. "The immense value of high school sports is reflected in these impressive numbers. As high school students have consistently demonstrated their desire to play with their peers and represent their schools and community, state and school administrators have stepped up to offer more participation opportunities to meet that demand."

The biggest gains in 2024-25 were mainly found in girls sports, with flag football leading the way. The rapid rise of girls flag football programs across the country led to 68,847 girls participating in the sport last year – an impressive 60 percent increase from the previous year. In addition, schools sponsoring the sport increased by nearly 1,000.

Girls wrestling topped 74,000 participants for the first time, jumping 15 percent from a year ago and adding nearly 1,000 schools with a girls wrestling program. Boys wrestling participation is also enjoying a rebound in numbers, recording an increase of 8,340 to top 300,000 for the first time.

The number of participants in Unified Sports and Esports also registered increases in 2024-25. The survey indicated a total of 70,006 participants in the 15 Unified Sports, up from 51,502 in 2023-24. A total of 30,440 students participated in Esports last year – an increase of 2,939 participants from the previous year.

Outdoor track and field, volleyball and soccer all registered increases and remained the top three participatory sports for girls. Track and field participation increased to 513,808, followed by volleyball at 492,799 (up 2.85%) and soccer at 393,048 (up 2.38%). Basketball (356,240) remained in the No. 4 spot followed by fast-pitch softball (331,306). Competitive spirit (206,262) jumped to the sixth-most popular girls sport with a nearly 14-percent increase, while tennis (204,721) also increased by more than four percent. Cross country (191,733), swimming and diving (138,303) and lacrosse (99,292) round out the top 10.

Outdoor track and field, soccer and golf had significant gains on the boys side, and all 10 of the most popular sports held steady or registered gains. After 11-player football (1,029,588) and outdoor track and field (644,235), the rest of the boys top 10 includes basketball (540,704), soccer (484,908), baseball (472,598), wrestling (300,214), cross country (241,565), golf (162,357), tennis (158,667) and swimming and diving (119,102).

Wisconsin ranks 14th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia on the list with 186,542 participants in 26 sponsored sports. ■





DAIRY FARMERS
—OF—
WISCONSIN



SPIRIT *of* SPORT

Reid Hansche, Westosha Central

WIAA Seeks Nominations for Spirit of Sport Award

The WIAA Executive Staff is encouraging all member schools to submit nominations of individuals or groups they consider worthy of consideration for the 2025-26 National Federation of State High School Associations Spirit of Sport Award.

The deadline for nominating an individual or group for the award sponsored by the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin is Friday, Dec. 5th. Please submit the name and a brief summary of the nominee via email to Melissa Gehring at mgehring@wiaawi.org. If your nominee is chosen for the award, administrators will be asked to complete a more comprehensive application to be forwarded to the NFHS for consideration.

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

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

The Wisconsin nominee is submitted to the NFHS for national consideration. Each year, the NFHS presents eight section recipients, as well as a national recipient for the Spirit of Sport Award. The WIAA's nominee to the NFHS will receive a keepsake award in recognition of the honor and be introduced at the WIAA Annual Meeting on April 24, 2026.

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



WIAA Sport Medical Advisory Committee

THE HISTORY

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

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

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

SIGNIFICANT HEALTH MOVES

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

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

In a 1989 opinion which resulted in a 1990 rule change, "The Medical Advisory Committee supports a strong position



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

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

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

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

In 2011, the SMAC worked with legislators to develop concussion legislation. As the concussion legislation was passed, the Committee worked with the Wisconsin Department of Instruction to provide educational materials for member schools and other youth athletic organizations.



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

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

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

THE PRESENT

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

At the May 2016 meeting, the SMAC adopted a change from the wrestling half-pound per day weight loss to the 1.5 percent

per week weight loss plan based on the recommendation of the 7% Committee. The 1.5% weight loss program will provide an individualized weight loss plan for every wrestler based on their skin-fold measurement.

In addition, the SMAC adopted guidelines for Relative Energy Deficit in Sport (RED-S) to emphasize the condition effects all athletes; not just females. Due to the energy deficiency in RED-S normal body functioning is impaired and can affect metabolic rate, immunity, cardiovascular health, protein synthesis, as well as menstrual function, and bone health.

In May of 2017, the SMAC updated the concussion information, absorbed the Female Triad information into the Disordered Eating/RED-S information, and added mental health/wellness. May of 2019, the SMAC discussed sport specific requests and began a process to update the WIAA Medical Policies and Procedures.

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

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

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

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

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

The most recent guidance from the SMAC assured that the overall health and wellbeing of student-athletes is considered when the membership expanded school sanctioned summer coaching contact approved for the summer of 2025. The approved expansion allows for coaching contact when serving in the role as a school coach from June 1-30 and July 7-31. ■

2025-26 NAER Helmet Reconditioning - Re



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

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

Reconditioning/Recertification and Sanitization:

NAERA recommends every football, lacrosse, baseball and softball helmet be reconditioned and recertified prior to

being issued to all athletes, unless stated otherwise by the manufacturer. NAERA further recommends that nonrecertifiable equipment, including but not limited to, football and lacrosse shoulder pads, chest protectors and shin guards be sanitized in accordance to manufacturer guidelines.

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

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

What does ND 001 6.1.1 mean for your school or organization?

For Football helmets, as of this writing, the requirements from all football helmet manufacturers for recertification is a minimum of every other year. If you acquired new helmets in 2024 these helmets will need recertification per this standard for 2026 play.

A certification



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

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

NAERA encourages schools and organizations to send your equipment for reconditioning and recertification as soon as your season is complete. Please make certain you are using a reconditioning company licensed by NOCSAE. For a list of NOCSAE licensed NAERA athletic equipment reconditioners visit www.naera.net. ■

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS



8-PLAYER FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE:

South Wood County Stadium, Wisconsin Rapids

Saturday, Nov. 15
1:00 p.m.



FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS SCHEDULE:

Camp Randall Stadium, Madison

Thursday, Nov. 20
Division 7: 10 a.m.
Division 6: 1 p.m.
Division 5: 4 p.m.
Division 4: 7 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 21
Division 3: 10 a.m.
Division 2: 1 p.m.
Division 1: 4 p.m.



Scan the QR code to visit our State Tournament Center for schedules, brackets, tickets, parking info, live streams, and souvenirs.



SPORT

Melrose-Mindoro @ Bangor | Aug. 21, 2025

Head Coach Tory Lockington of Melrose-Mindoro was extremely sporting in a very close game. He spoke to the officials respectfully and worked with his players in a positive manor to focus on playing the game correctly. We were very impressed with how he and his players conducted themselves on the field.

Reporting Official: Joe Pachal

River Valley @ Evansville | Aug. 21, 2025

The teams respected the officials throughout the game, and Evansville provided us with food at half time. Top-class school!

Reporting Official: Raymond Raatz

Mayville @ Cedar Grove-Belgium | Aug. 22, 2025

In a hard-fought, non-conference game with two playoff-caliber teams. Head Coach Dan Schreurs of Cedar Grove-Belgium and his coaching staff kept a well-maintained sideline and consistently offered positive reinforcement to their team throughout the contest. Scott Hilber, head coach of Mayville, also maintained a clean sideline, which can be challenging for some teams in early-season games. All players from both teams also addressed officials respectfully throughout the game if they had questions or concerns. It was a pleasure for our crew to officiate such a well-played game with student-athletes and coaches who exhibited such high moral character!

Reporting Official: Wade Turner

Cedarburg @ Elkhorn | Aug. 28, 2025

Both teams were excellent with the sportsmanship, no cross talking, no cussing, played hard and helped each other off the ground. The coaches were fabulous and of course, voiced their opinions on calls, but were very respectful about it and after getting an explanation, accepted the decision and moved on. This made officiating the game very enjoyable!

Reporting Official: Mike Edic

Eau Claire Memorial @ Marshfield | Sept. 12, 2025

The outstanding leadership and sportsmanship starts with the Eau Claire Memorial coaching staff and Head Coach Tom Westcott. Coach Westcott made sure the actions of his staff and players were honorable. He would ask questions and appreciated the explanations. He would use the explanations to teach his players and improve their game. He made sure his team and staff were in the safe buffer zone at the snap and allowed the wing official to easily maneuver up and down the sidelines. Also, the linesman appreciated the focused ball people as they kept the balls dry and coming in on a regular bases as the skies open up with rain. In the middle of the field, the umpire and referee enjoyed communicating

REPORT PLUS+

with the players. They were respectful and appreciative of the words shared. It was evident they love the game of football as they worked hard and had fun. Also, they would help opposing team players off the turf and shared positive words to their teammates and opponents. The fans positively cheered for their team. The officials didn't hear any derogatory remarks on the officiating or the opposing team. Our crew commends the positive sportsmanship displayed by the Eau Claire Memorial football program and community. We wish them continued success!

Reporting Official: Mike Umland

Glenwood City @ Boyceville | Sept. 12, 2025

Both head coaches, Shane Strong of Glenwood City and Micheal Roemhild of Boyceville displayed great sportsmanship throughout the entire game. The players on both sides on the field and sidelines were always positive. And on the field, they respected one another the entire game, helping each other up after a play, or after a QB threw a pass, they were always pulling up and not hitting the QBs, which was great to see. As for the fans, it was also excellent with positive cheering and very respectful all night. From the time my crew arrived to the school, we were greeted by staff and they were with us the entire night. Our crew discussed after the game it was the best display of Sportsmanship we had ever seen on and off the field! Well done by all those involved for upholding the values of great sportsmanship.

Reporting Official: Gail Pronschinske

Lakeland @ Medford | Sept. 19, 2025

Working a varsity football game at Medford is always a great experience for our crew. Athletic Director Ryan Pilgrim meets us outside the school and walks us to our locker room where we receive towels (always appreciated) and a gift bag that includes a water bottle, energy bar and a hand written thank you note from one of the students. I worked the Medford sideline. Coach Ted Wilson, his entire staff and student-athletes are always respectful and a pleasure to deal with. There were many examples of good sportsmanship from both the Lakeland and Medford teams last night. On behalf of our crew I want to congratulate both programs.

Reporting Official: James Haluska

Chippewa Falls @ D.C. Everest | Oct. 3, 2025

Homecoming always seems to bring extras, but not tonight. These two teams were a training video of how WIAA sports need to be conducted. Congratulations to both staffs. It's an honor to work programs that get it right. My crew wants to make sure these communities know the football in their respective communities are in the best of hands. Thanks to all involved, including the staff.

Reporting Official: Rich Hohl

Mondovi @ Regis | Oct. 3, 2025

I would like to recognize both schools for great sportsmanship displayed during the game. Craig and his Mondovi Buffaloes squad and Brian and his Regis Rambler squad displayed great sportsmanship during the whole game. Both teams, when being introduced on the field before start of the game, were recognized as a team. They represented their schools well. All players would help each other up off field, and say "good play." It was a pleasure as an officiating crew to be involved in such a well-played game by both teams. I would like to also recognize the fans for both schools for being so supportive to their respected teams.

Reporting Official: Pat Plumer

New Holstein @ Brillion | Oct. 3, 2025

I would like to give a shout out to Coach Tanner Behnke and Coach Matt Rupp for the great programs they are running. When we walked on the field you could feel what a great night it would be. We met with both coaches, and both had nice things to say about their opponent. During the game, both teams were helping each other up and congratulating them on good plays. It was a very intense game. It is a great night when coaches coach, players play and officials officiate. It was extra good night with it being Homecoming to go with fireworks and the band playing. Both schools should be proud of the staff and their students for great sportsmanship.

Reporting Official: David LeBlanc





VOLLEYBALL

Holmen @ Kettle Moraine Tournament Sept. 13, 2025

We really enjoyed having the Holmen girls volleyball team on our court at the Kettle Moraine Lasers Invite. Led by head coach Nicky Rose, the players and coaches went out of their way throughout the day to show great sportsmanship to opponents, officials and tournament staff. It was a long day of volleyball, but having a team that showed this type of positivity helped make it an enjoyable one and thus believe they deserve to be recognized.

Reporting Official: Patrick Mott

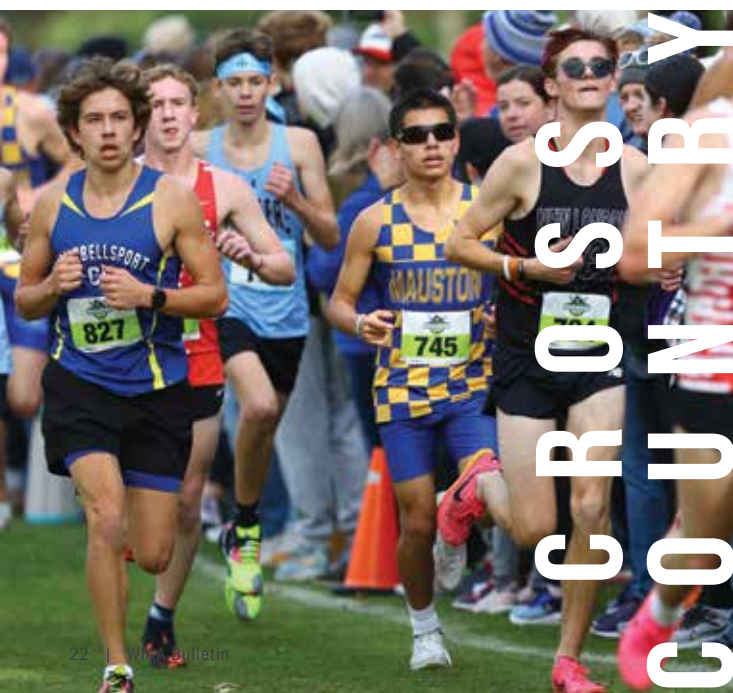


SOCCER

Port Washington @ Kettle Moraine Lutheran Oct. 2, 2025

Both KML and Port Washington deserve recognition for an outstanding match. It was a competitive, hard-fought 2-1 match but the boys were playing smart and controlled, keeping each other safe and not being reckless. They helped each other up after fouls and were chatting with each other during down time the entire match. The best part was, during a short episode of parent misbehavior, one of the players of the losing team was overheard saying "I don't know what they're complaining about, he's calling a great game." Both Coach Nolte and Coach Burmesch deserve recognition for instilling good sportsmanship in their players!

Reporting Official: Matt Miles



CROSS COUNTRY

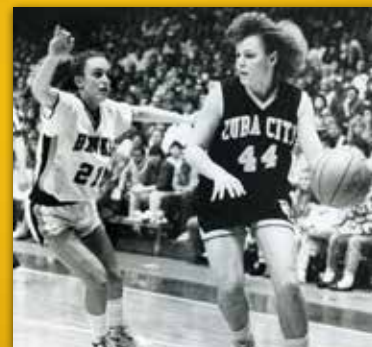
Milwaukee King & Milwaukee Reagan Sectional Oct. 25, 2025

Rufus King (Coach Zeise-Meet Manager) & Reagan (Coach Duellmann-Meet Manager) were responsible as hosts for all organizational aspects of each of the competitions. Present at the meet were former runners, coaches and AD's from various metro Milwaukee schools supporting the competitors. In conversations, I heard nothing but positive feedback about how smoothly and efficiently everything ran and how well-organized the event was. My compliments to the host coaches for taking the initiative to host, and for their attention to detail. From the thoughtful and well laid-out course, to coaches' hospitality and the post race water bottles for competitors - Job well done! ■

Reporting Official: Robert Kern



We're celebrating 50 YEARS of the
WIAA GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE TOURNAMENT *in 2026!*



Let's make this 50th anniversary one to remember!

Join us in honoring this milestone all season long—during regionals, sectionals, and culminating at the State Tournament, March 12-14 at the Resch Center in Green Bay.

QUESTIONS? Reach out to Melissa Gehring, WIAA Assistant Director at mgehring@wiaawi.org.

WE'D LOVE YOUR HELP! DO YOU HAVE:

PHOTOS OR VIDEOS from your school's past State Tournament appearances?

UNIQUE ARTIFACT(S) you'd be willing to loan for a special exhibit in Green Bay?

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM:

bit.ly/WIAAAnniversary-ShareContent



COMMUNITY MEMBER(S) who've made a lasting impact on girls' basketball?

PLEASE HAVE THEM FILL OUT THIS FORM:

bit.ly/WIAA50GB-ShareYourStory



**COMING IN
JANUARY:**

Athletic directors will receive a **special toolkit filled with celebration resources**—graphics, social media templates, videoboard content, roster printouts, public address announcements and information on ordering limited-edition apparel.



2025-26 BASKETBALL RULES CHANGES

4-22-1 & 2:

This change removes the offensive team from goaltending violations, simplifying enforcement for officials and reducing ambiguity over whether a ball was a shot or a pass. It also encourages more scoring opportunities and minimizes confusion for players and coaches.

Rationale: The change eliminates the possibility of an offensive goaltending violation, which simplifies the rule for officials and players. It removes the need to judge whether a ball in flight is a try or a pass, resulting in clearer enforcement, greater consistency, and more opportunities for scoring plays near the basket.

4-22-3 (NEW):

This rule change establishes that once the ball contacts the backboard, it is automatically considered to be on its downward flight. Therefore, if a player touches the ball after it hits the backboard, and the ball has a possibility of entering the basket, it is ruled as goaltending. This clarification helps protect legitimate shot attempts, reduces rough rebounding situations, and addresses a common rules misconception among coaches and players. It provides officials with a clearer standard for enforcing goaltending in backboard-related plays.

Rationale: This change enhances officiating clarity and protects legitimate shot attempts. It also addresses a common misconception among coaches and players by explicitly defining goaltending, leading to more consistent enforcement.

4-34-1: This rule change updates the definition of a player to clarify that a player is one of the five team members legally on the court at any given time, except during time-outs or intermissions. The change ensures consistency in rule enforcement by recognizing that it is difficult to distinguish between players, substitutes, and bench personnel during time-outs and intermissions. This clarification also supports the accountability of coaches for all team conduct during these periods and helps avoid misapplication of penalties such as technical fouls.

Rationale: This change ensures consistent enforcement of penalties for unsporting conduct by bench personnel. It allows officials to issue technical fouls to bench personnel during time-outs, aligning with the current rules for intermissions. It eliminates confusion and potential misapplication of rules and ensures fair and consistent enforcement of penalties for unsporting behavior, regardless of the individual's role.

7-5-4:

This rule change updates the procedure for determining the designated throw-in spot following a stoppage of play (not due to the ball going out of bounds) in the frontcourt. Instead of relying on an imaginary line, officials now use existing court markings, specifically the three-point line, to determine the location. This change improves accuracy, consistency, and clarity for officials by using visible floor markings rather than imaginary lines, which were often misjudged.

Rationale: By using the visible three-point line as the line of demarcation, officials will have a clearer and more consistent method for determining throw-in locations. This improves accuracy and reduces confusion, resulting in more reliable throw-ins.

9-2-12 & 9-3-4 (NEW): T

This rule change addresses situations where a thrower purposely and/or deceitfully delays returning inbounds after legally stepping out of bounds and then becomes the first player to touch the ball upon re-entering the court. Previously penalized as a technical foul, this action is now treated as a violation, aligning it with similar out-of-bounds scenarios. The change reduces the severity of the penalty to encourage more consistent enforcement by officials and prevents players from gaining an unfair advantage through deceptive re-entry tactics.

Rationale: This change lessens the penalty for players who delay their return after being out of bounds, shifting the penalty from a technical foul to a less severe violation. This rule aligns with the penalty structure of similar violations, such as Rule 9-3-3 (where a player steps out of bounds on their own volition). The change is intended to make it easier for officials to recognize and penalize these actions consistently while reducing the severity of the penalty, encouraging more accurate enforcement.

10-4-4b:

This rule prohibits players from illegally contacting the backboard or ring in ways that create an unfair advantage or interfere with a scoring attempt. This rule is designed to maintain fair play and protect the integrity of scoring opportunities by penalizing actions affecting the outcome of a shot, with a technical foul.

Rationale: The rule change aims to standardize and clarify the enforcement of basket interference, leading to fairer outcomes and more consistent officiating. The removal of subjective judgments around intent allows for clearer rulings and better alignment with current game dynamics.

4-6-1a & b (NEW):

This rule change clarifies and expands the definition of basket interference to include additional actions that unfairly affect the ball while it is in a scoring position. Basket interference now occurs when a player slaps or strikes the backboard, causing the backboard or basket to vibrate, while the ball is on or within the basket, touching the backboard, or within the cylinder.

Rationale: This clarification helps officials consistently identify interference that affects scoring plays and ensures the integrity of the basket area during shot attempts. ■

2025-26 Basketball Editorial Changes

4-19-3c, 4-47, 5.2.1 SITUATION C, 6-3-2a, 6-3-5b, 10-5-2

2025-26 Basketball Points of Emphasis

1. Bench Decorum and Communication
2. Faking Being Fouled
3. Contact on the Ball Handler

BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS



GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE:

Resch, Green Bay

Thursday, March 12

Division 3 Semifinals - 1:35 pm

#1 Seed vs. #4 Seed

#2 Seed vs. #3 Seed

Division 4 Semifinals - 6:35 pm

#1 Seed vs. #4 Seed

#2 Seed vs. #3 Seed

Friday, March 13

Division 5 Semifinals - 9:05am

#1 Seed vs. #4 Seed

#2 Seed vs. #3 Seed

Division 2 Semifinals - 1:35pm

#1 Seed vs. #4 Seed

#2 Seed vs. #3 Seed

Division 1 Semifinals - 6:35pm

#1 Seed vs. #4 Seed

#2 Seed vs. #3 Seed

Saturday, March 14

3-Point Challenge - 9:30am

Division 5 Championship - 11:05am

Division 4 Championship - 15 minutes
following completion of Div. 5 championship game

Division 3 Championship - 15 minutes
following completion of Div. 4 championship game

Division 2 Championship - 6:35pm

Division 1 Championship - 15 minutes following
completion of Div. 2 championship game



BOYS BASKETBALL STATE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE:

Kohl Center, Madison

Thursday, March 19

Division 3 Semifinals - 1:35 pm

#1 Seed vs. #4 Seed

#2 Seed vs. #3 Seed

Division 4 Semifinals - 6:35 pm

#1 Seed vs. #4 Seed

#2 Seed vs. #3 Seed

Friday, March 20

Division 5 Semifinals - 9:05am

#1 Seed vs. #4 Seed

#2 Seed vs. #3 Seed

Division 2 Semifinals - 1:35pm

#1 Seed vs. #4 Seed

#2 Seed vs. #3 Seed

Division 1 Semifinals - 6:35pm

#1 Seed vs. #4 Seed

#2 Seed vs. #3 Seed

Saturday, March 21

3-Point Challenge - 9:30am

Division 5 Championship - 11:05am

Division 4 Championship - 15 minutes
following completion of Div. 5 championship game

Division 3 Championship - 15 minutes
following completion of Div. 4 championship game

Division 2 Championship - 6:35pm

Division 1 Championship - 15 minutes following
completion of Div. 2 championship game

ICE HOCKEY POINTS OF EMPHASIS



NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Book 2025-26

The NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Committee remains committed to minimizing violent and reckless play — the primary threat to the health and safety of high school hockey. This year's points of emphasis aim to support that goal.

SPORTSMANSHIP

NFHS rules continue to promote respect, integrity and sportsmanship. High school hockey should model positive behavior:

- Win with humility. Lose with grace. Compete with dignity.
- Upholding sportsmanship requires the daily commitment of everyone involved.
- Coaches, players and goalkeepers must be mindful of their language, as inappropriate or abusive language has no place in high school hockey.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

All players and goalkeepers need to be properly equipped, including newly required neck laceration protectors.

Body-checking is intended to gain puck possession — not to punish or intimidate.

Boarding and checking from behind remain two of the most dangerous plays.

Responsibility lies with the player initiating contact.

The following are illegal and must be eliminated:

- Hits to the head
- Fighting
- Blindside hits
- Late hits and unnecessary contact

OFFICIALS: GAME MANAGEMENT

▪ Faceoffs

Ensure equal opportunity by properly positioning all players and conducting fair drops.

▪ Icing

Apply the rule correctly — the puck must fully cross the center red line.

▪ Offsides

Officials must maintain proper positioning. Missing an obvious offsides call can undermine credibility of the game. ■



HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS



BOYS HOCKEY STATE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE:

Bob Suter's LEGACY20 Arena, Middleton

Thursday, March 5

Division 2 Semifinals

9:30 a.m. #1 Seed vs. #4 Seed

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

Friday, March 6

Division 1 Semifinals

10:00 a.m. #1 Seed vs. #4 Seed

2:00 p.m. #2 Seed vs. #3 Seed

Saturday, March 7

Division 2 - Championship

11:00 a.m. Winner of Game 1 vs. Winner of Game 2

Division 1 - Championship

7:00 p.m. Winner of Game 1 vs. Winner of Game 2



GIRLS HOCKEY STATE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE:

Bob Suter's LEGACY20 Arena, Middleton

Thursday, March 5

Semifinals

4:30 p.m. #1 Seed vs. #4 Seed

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

Saturday, March 7

Championship

3:00 p.m. Winner of Game 1 vs. Winner of Game 2

ICE HOCKEY COMMENTS ON THE RULES 2025-26

NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Book 2025-26

Electronic Devices (3-8)

The additional language does not allow any microphones or cameras to be worn by any player or goalkeeper during play.

Linesperson (5-4)

The term "linesman" has been replaced with "linesperson" throughout the rules.

Puck on Outside Netting (9-8-4)

This new article clarifies what shall be done when a puck is resting on the outside netting of the goal frame. ■

WRESTLING POINTS OF



NFHS Wrestling Rules Book

The NFHS Wrestling Rules Committee and the NFHS Board of Directors believe there are areas of interscholastic wrestling that need to be addressed and given special attention. These areas of concern are often cyclical, some areas need more attention than others, and that is why they might appear in the rules book for consecutive editions. These concerns are identified as “Points of Emphasis.” For the 2025-26 high school wrestling season, attention is being called to: The use and necessity of the NFHS Skin Lesion Form, Coach Misconduct Penalty Consequences and Clarifying the Officials Wrestling Signal – Out of Bounds. When a topic is included in the Points of Emphasis, these topics are important enough to reinforce throughout the academic year because they are not being given the proper attention needed.

Use and Necessity of the NFHS Wrestling Skin Lesion Form

The NFHS Wrestling Skin Lesion Form is a critical document designed to promote student safety and prevent the spread of infectious skin diseases in wrestling. Given the high-contact nature of the sport, wrestlers are particularly vulnerable to conditions such as ringworm, impetigo and herpes simplex. This form provides standardized medical documentation that allows licensed medical professionals to evaluate skin lesions and determine whether an athlete is medically cleared to compete. By requiring this form prior to participation, schools and state associations can ensure consistent, evidence-based decision-making while minimizing health risks to all competitors. Its use is not only a matter of compliance with national guidelines but a crucial component of maintaining local public health and personal integrity within competitive wrestling. The NFHS Skin Lesion form is a (.pdf) and is made available to the public for free on the NFHS website (www.nfhs.org) under the Wrestling Resources area.

Coach Misconduct Penalty - Consequences

At face value, coach misconduct occurs when a coach improperly questions the referee at the scorer’s table. Whether questioning a possible misapplication of a rule or the judgment of the referee, it will result in the head coach receiving a misconduct penalty. What the coach is not always aware of are the consequences of the penalty. The consequences are that whenever a coach improperly questions the referee, it is done at the coach’s peril because each offense has its own penalty...and they are cumulative from a warning to a two team point deduction and removal of the head coach for the remainder of the day. Beside the punitive effects of

coaching misconduct, there are the environmental impacts such as affecting team morale and focus.

1. Team Morale

- Wrestlers may become distracted or demoralized during a match if they see their coach penalized or ejected.
- It can lead to a loss of composure among athletes who look to coaches for leadership and emotional regulation during intense moments.

2. Competitive Disadvantage

- Misconduct penalties can accumulate and result in team point deductions, which can significantly affect dual meet or tournament outcomes.
- In tight competitions, a single point deduction could be the difference between advancing or elimination.

3. Reputation and Credibility Loss

- Coaches may develop a reputation for poor sportsmanship, which can impact:
 - Parental respect and trust
 - Collegial relationships with other coaches,
 - School and community trust.

4. Administrative and Disciplinary Ramifications

- Repeat offenses may trigger school or state athletic association reviews, leading to suspension or formal reprimand.
- It can affect job evaluations, or the potential for rehiring, especially if the coach is a teacher or staff member.

5. Negative Role Modeling

- High school sports are education-based. A coach penalized for misconduct can inadvertently model poor behavior for the team’s wrestlers.
- This undermines core values like respect, accountability and sportsmanship, which are the very underpinnings of high school sports and activities.

EMPHASIS

Book 2025-26

NFHS Official Wrestling Signals – Out of Bounds

The role of the referee is an integral part of the sport of wrestling. Referees communicate all of the action on the mat and surrounding areas to the wrestlers, fans, coaches and team personnel. Using clear wrestling official signals is essential for ensuring consistent communication, maintaining the integrity of the match, and enhancing the overall spectator experience. Wrestling is a fast-paced and technical sport where split-second decisions by officials can significantly impact the outcome. When officials use standardized, visible and unmistakable signals, it reduces confusion among coaches, athletes, scorers and fans. Clear signals also promote fairness and transparency, allowing everyone to understand infractions, points awarded, or match-ending calls in real-time. The out-of-bounds signal is crucial because of the opportunity to score right before a wrestler goes out of bounds. The correct mechanic is sounding the referee's whistle while using a sweeping motion of both arms to express that a wrestler has gone out of bounds. That motion alone does not require that the referee stop action first before signaling out of bounds. Consistent use of these and all the other official wrestling signals reinforces uniformity across all skill levels of high school competition, helping students and coaches to better understand expectations no matter where or with whom they compete against on the mat. ■



WRESTLING COMMENTS ON THE RULES 2025-26

NFHS Wrestling Rules Book

Modified an optional random draw (1-2-2)

This change aligns with flexibility and allowing states to choose how to determine the starting weight class for dual meets. They have the option to start duals at the lowest weight class and proceed sequentially or the random draw of weight classes.

Modified how the school name and other associated school marks can be applied on the uniform (4-1-2)

This is a universal rule change approved for all NFHS rules publications.

Modified the restriction on leg sleeve(s) (4-3-5)

This change permits wrestlers to wear a leg sleeve without built-in pad.

Clarified how a Technical fall is scored (5-11-2c, 5-11-4)

This rule change defines when a technical fall shall be awarded and eliminates any confusion between a pinning situation and near-fall criteria. This rule change will also clarify when a match shall be stopped to award the technical fall. By adding the near fall to this rule it will make the near fall consistent with the takedown or reversal that creates the 15-point advantage.

Modified an illegal hold/maneuver (7-1-5n)

This rule change seeks to clarify language regarding the leg block or "cut-back." When applied, the hold/maneuver can cause significant injury to the defensive wrestler's lower extremities.

Modified use of an illegal hold/maneuver (7-3-3)

Locking hands and including a leg in the clasp around the trunk of the body is the same as locking hands with an arm included.

Clarified some Official Signals (Official Wrestling Signals)

Deleted one of the signals for the Referee's Time-Out and adjusted two other signals (No Control and Near Fall). ■

2025-26 WIAA Wrestling

Reminders



OUR NEED FOR OFFICIALS

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

OFFICIALS' CLINIC

Will again be held in Wisconsin Dells on Nov. 8th in conjunction with the annual WWCA coach's clinic. This is a great event – be there if possible. You will be contacted with more information. Association leaders, please encourage your membership to attend.

SPORTSMANSHIP

As noted previously, ejections were up this past year. This continues to be a disturbing trend in our sport. We ask that all participants honor the spirit of competition by treating opponents, officials, and each other with dignity and respect. Coaches are expected to lead by example, fostering an environment of fairness and encouragement. Athletes should compete with heart and humility, regardless of the outcome. Spectators play a vital role by supporting all competitors positively and refraining from negative or unsportsmanlike behavior.



UNIFORMS

Uniforms must be school issued and meet the requirements as outlined in the NFHS rule book under Rule 4 Section 1. All wrestlers must wear an appropriate undergarment that completely covers the buttocks and groin area. In addition, Female wrestlers must also wear a sports bra that completely covers their breasts and minimizes the risk for exposure. If this combination of a legal singlet and a sports bra does not meet that criteria, the wrestler may be required to wear a form-fitted compression shirt to satisfy this requirement. Coaches, please make sure that all of your wrestlers are legally equipped and that you are carrying extra uniforms and accessories to ensure that all of your wrestlers meet the criteria for a legal uniform.

WEBSITE

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

WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS



INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS SCHEDULE:

Kohl Center, Madison

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

Doors open for fans 90 minutes prior to the start of session 5 (finals).

ATTENTION: Fans should plan to allow extra time to enter.

Metal detectors will be used on entry into the Kohl Center.

SESSION 1 FEB. 26 | Eight Mats

Division 1 & Girls Preliminaries
2 p.m. (Doors open at 1 p.m.)
Weigh in: 12:30 p.m.

Div. 1 & Girls Quarterfinals
Approx. 4:30 p.m.

Div. 2 & 3 Preliminaries
Approx. 6:00 p.m.
Weigh in: 4:00 p.m.

Div. 2 & 3 Quarterfinals
Approx. 8:00 p.m.

SESSION 2 FEB. 27 | Eight Mats

Div. 1 & Girls Weigh Ins: 8:30 a.m.
Div. 2-3 Weigh Ins: 11:00 a.m.

Div. 1 & Girls Consolation Prelims
10 a.m. (Doors open at 9 a.m.)

Div. 1 & Girls Consolation Quarterfinals
Approx. 11:30 a.m.

Div. 2 & 3 Consolation Quarterfinals
Approx. 1:00 p.m.

SESSION 3 FEB. 27 | Eight Mats

Div. 1, 2, 3 and Girls Semifinals
7 p.m. (Doors open at 6 p.m.)

*(Div. 1 on mats 1 & 2; Girls on mats 3 & 4;
Div. 2 on mats 5 & 6; Div. 3 on mats 7 & 8)*

SESSION 4 FEB. 28 | Eight Mats

All Weigh Ins: 8:30 a.m.

Div. 1, 2, 3 & Girls Consolation Semifinals
10 a.m. (Doors open at 9 a.m.)

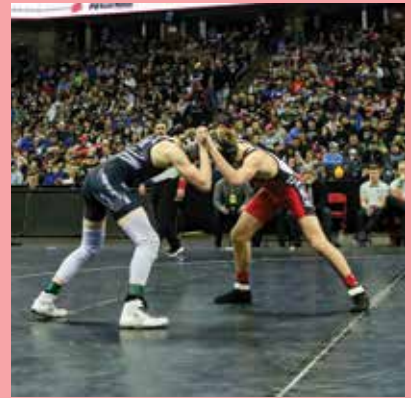
*(Div. 1 on mats 1 & 2; Girls on mats 3 & 4; Div. 2 on
mats 5 & 6; Div. 3 on mats 7 & 8)*

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

SESSION 5 FEB. 28 | Four Mats

March of Champions – 5:30 p.m.
(Doors open at 4:00 p.m.)

Div. 1, 2, 3 & Girls Championships



TEAM WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE:

La Crosse Center, La Crosse

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

Teams will be seeded on Sunday, March 1 and posted after seed meetings

Friday, March 6, 2026 (one session)

Weigh-ins – 4:15 p.m.
Admission \$16 for one session

Quarterfinals Matches 1 & 2 in all Divisions – 5:30 p.m.

Match 1: #1 Seed vs. #8 seed
Match 2: #4 seed vs. #5 seed

Quarterfinals Matches 3 & 4 in all Divisions – 7:30 p.m.

Match 3: #3 seed vs. #6 seed
Match 4: #2 seed vs. #7 seed

Saturday, March 7, 2026 (two sessions)

Weigh-ins all divisions – 8:45 a.m.
Admission 11 for each session

Division 1 Semifinals in all Divisions – 10:00 a.m.

Match 5:
Match 1 winner vs. Match 2 winner

Match 6:
Match 3 winner vs. Match 4 winner

Championship in all Divisions 3:00 p.m.



**Steve
Luedeman Jr.**

Crivitz, Wis.
REFEREE



**Bill
Haling**

Wausau, Wis.
UMPIRE



**Dale
Konwinski**

Chippewa Falls, Wis.
HEAD LINESMAN



**Cody
McLean**

Markesan, Wis.
LINE JUDGE



**Travis
Brown**

Wausau, Wis.
BACK JUDGE

Green Bay Packers Officiating Crew of the Month

1. Steve Luedeman (Referee):

Steve demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement and the mentorship and development of new officials through his role as a long-time member for the Green Bay Officials Association and their Football sports committee. Steve leads portions of the on-field positioning and mechanics clinic for new officials with passion. Steve has routinely brought new officials with his crew to help develop them. Steve has worked every level from pop warner through college and even the Indoor Arena Football League. He has worked multiple levels including college playoffs, indoor football championship games, and WIAA championship games. Steve is committed to remaining on the field on Friday nights to give back to the game he loves.

2. Bill Haling (Umpire):

New to officiating, Bill exemplifies a strong commitment to continuous improvement by immersing himself in the officiating world, attending clinics and meetings, and seeking mentorship as a lifelong learner to constantly improve his craft. His teamwork and crew cohesion is evident through his reliance on his crew members, whom he credits as amazing mentors who provide immense support and patiently answer his constant questions about rules and interpretations. Bill was a former coach and now turned official and is actively participating in the Central Wisconsin Officials Association (CWOA).

3. Dale Konwinski (Head Linesman):

Dale is a WIAA master-ranked official with over 26 years of experience. Dale has demonstrated giving back to the sport of football by leading annual Q&A rule clinics for high school teams in the area and discussing the NFHS Points of Emphasis. By leading clinics Dale has been able to provide important, critical feedback to new officials through that process. Dale is best known by coaches for creating and maintaining strong relationships, a steady presence, and having productive and patient sideline conversations.

4. Cody McLean (Line Judge):

In Cody's spare time he gives back to the game of football by running a youth flag football program. Cody also coaches or has coached levels 5th grade through high school assistant. He also spends time and serves the community by speaking to high school officiating classes and sharing his stories and the benefits of becoming an official. Coaches shared Cody is a "discipline and character guy" who has the unique ability to connect with all kids.

5. Travis Brown (Back Judge):

Travis demonstrates mentorship and giving back to football by sharing his passion and experience, helping to train new officials at the CWOA annual clinic and by working non-varsity games to help develop youth football officials. Travis is a student of the game with a family history in officiating. He continually shows a commitment to improvement by regularly attending association meetings to enhance his knowledge and mechanics. Members of his crew indicate he excels as a dead ball official and is a valuable asset to his crew. ■