



WIAA Bulletin

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Charter Member
National Federation of
State HS Associations

WIAA Membership Approves Amendments at Annual Meeting

The membership of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association passed six amendments to its Constitution, Bylaws and Rules of Eligibility at the 2016 Annual Meeting on April 20 in Stevens Point.

The new rules become effective upon this publication of the Bulletin on May 27, 2016.

The membership voted 417-4 in favor of the amendment that requires a member school to maintain administrative control and oversight of at least one independently

sponsored interscholastic athletic program or co-op program throughout the duration of its membership.

Two amendments relating to eligibility to serve on the Board of Control and the Advisory Council both received passage by the membership. Part-time administrators, assistant administrators, high school principals or assistant high school principals of member schools will now be eligible to serve on the Board of Control and Advisory Council. The vote in reference to serving on the Board passed 256-155, with support for part-time status serving on the Advisory Council reflected in a 366-47 vote.

The membership approved extending non-varsity eligibility to students transferring before or during their fifth or sixth semesters following entry into the ninth grade if approved by both schools directly involved. The new rule provides 11th graders

See Membership Approves, page 6 >



A total of 431 schools were represented at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

Official's Licensing for 2016-17

The 2016-17 licensing renewal application is available on our website. **You must renew your license by June 3, 2016 to avoid paying the \$30 late fee.**

You once again have two options to choose from when renewing your 2016-17 official's license.

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

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

Under the OFFICIALS tab on the red menu bar, please choose Online Registration. You will select the option to renew your license, it will then ask you to login and you must login with your current login information. Proceed from there and follow the

Officials Licensing for 2016-17, page 3 >

WIAA Board Approves Conference Realignment in Southeast Area

The Board of Control voted to grant final approval to a conference realignment plan in the southeast area of the state and approved a number of other action items at its April meeting.

The ratified conference realignment plan involves 45 schools, including five current conferences in the Milwaukee metro area and the Badger Conference to be implemented in 2017-18. The plan mandates

crossover games for football only between a pair of conferences identified in the plan.

The Board approved cooperative programs for 2016-17 and 2017-18 winter sports with the exception of boys hockey, which will be voted on at the May 20 meeting. The Board also supported staff recommendations for appointments to the Officials Advisory Committee, as well as extending in-

See WIAA Board Approves, page 8 >

Board Passes First Consideration of Realignment

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Association Board of Control issued its approval for first consideration of a conference realignment proposal and a number of action items at its May meeting.

The realignment plan moves Peshtigo from the M & O Conference to the Packerland Conference for all sports beginning in the fall of 2017. It also proposes three football-only conferences in the northeast portion of the state involving the Packerland, M & O and Northern Lakes Conferences, including two 11-player leagues and an 8-player conference, which would also be implemented in the fall of 2017.

The plan would create an eight-team football league comprised of Algoma, Coleman, Kewaunee, Niagara/Goodman/Pembine, Oconto, Peshtigo, Southern Door and Sturgeon Bay. It would also form a nine-team conference including Crandon, Crivitz, Elcho/White Lake, Florence, Gillett, Wabeno/Laona, Suring, Three Lakes/Phelps and Wausaukee. The seven-team, 8-player

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2016 Annual Meeting Director's Report

April 20, 2016

Good morning!

Thank you for being here today and thank you for the opportunity to speak with you.

Before beginning our review of Old Business, I want to give a quick reminder that Sunday, May 1st is the WIAA's Scholar Athlete Banquet. Coach Dick Bennett is our main speaker. If you have any questions or would like to join us, see Tom Shafranski.



Dave Anderson

Also, please mark your calendars for the WIAA's biennial Sportsmanship Summit to be held Wednesday, December 7 right here at the Holiday Inn. Todd Clark will be getting you information in the coming months. We hope you'll put your student teams together and plan to be there.

As we turn our attention to the review of Old Business, frankly it was surprising to me to see the list of topics taken up by the membership and its committees, despite the fact that sportsmanship, social media and legislation dominated our focus through the second half of this year.

Because the list was quite extensive, some topics may only be mentioned in order to be placed in the record. For others, it will be appropriate to offer a few comments. For all of the topics, this summary only serves as an indication of where discussions left off.

After more than a year of consideration, the Board of Control gave final approval to seeding the half-sectional bracket. As you will recall, the history and rationale of how our tournament models evolved was reviewed last fall. All of those factors were a part of deliberations. Those discussions concluded with the decision that by next year, all of those team sports who have requested half-bracket seeding will be competing under that model.

Conference realignment continues to be a topic of great interest across the membership. Through-

out the fall, members and standing committees considered the idea of an 8-year, statewide realignment plan. While some liked or were intrigued by the idea, it never captured broad membership interest and support. Though this didn't gain momentum, certainly the interest in realignment persists. I will have more comments on realignment under New Business.

As promised last April, we took an in-depth look at co-op teams at Area Meetings last fall. This came about largely as a result of dissatisfaction with co-ops and their integration in tournament design, from the sport of girls' hockey and to some extent, gymnastics. I recognize that displeasure persists for some, but the overwhelming impression given to Board and staff is that the opportunities provided by co-op teams was meeting the vast majority of member's needs and expectations. As a result, no changes have been acted upon.

As a result of legislation passed as part of the State Budget document, this past fall the membership saw eligibility provided to home-school children. With strong leadership from the Board and school administrators, we met the requirements of this new law.

Student eligibility and rules affecting it were topics we identified last April and debated throughout the year. Those conversations culminated in your actions here today on several amendments affecting student eligibility. These were important votes—as we see no indication of a lessening of interest in this area by parents and legislators across the country.

Since we met last April many of you have begun getting your coaches certified in first-aid, CPR and AED to meet the 2017 requirement. It is quite likely that there have been no changes in many years, more important than this one. This proactive stance on coaches' education has a direct and positive impact on student well-being.

Three additional topics came to the forefront over the course of the past year—that will be used to pivot onto the discussion of New Business.

The first two topics are sport-season placement and competition. The underlying question on sport season placement is whether our existing season structure is meeting the needs and interests of your students—or is it limiting participation opportunities, especially for females?

As for competition, you know-well the concerns that have persisted for some since 2000 when a membership option was extended to private, religious and independent schools. The concerns came to a head at our last two Annual Meetings.

In recent years and to this point in time, you have rejected proposals, which would have us treat a segment of the membership differently. In 2009 a rural-urban plan for basketball was brought to Area Meetings. The 5-division model was adopted instead. Last year both the "multiplier" and "reducer" proposals were rejected by membership vote. This year, you have responded to the ad hoc committee's "success factor".

Because both of these issues – sport season placement and competition carry with them the prospect of significant impact upon the Association, the Board of Control has directed that study and evaluation of these issues must continue.

Subsequently, the Board has engaged the services of School Perceptions, an independent, Wisconsin based research firm that specializes in conducting surveys for education-based organizations. Their mission is to help educational leaders gather, organize and use data to make strategic decisions.

The research team will have their first meeting with the full Board in May. We are hoping to have the survey out to all member schools in October. We will keep you informed as a clearer timeline develops. I can tell you right now that your partici-

See Director's Report, page 10 >

WIAA Eligibility – Summer Reminders

By: Wade Labecki, WIAA Deputy Director

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

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

- 1) Remind those that might need to know, the rules affecting transfer students. Download and distribute the Transfer Rules and Waivers Quick Facts (available on the WIAA website) to the appropriate people including your guidance and admissions staff.
- 2) Review with coaches as necessary, the out-of-season coaching contact rules for their sport. Provide coaches with the summer contact form so they can provide you with a schedule of their planned contact days in advance. Remember that volunteer coaches are the same as paid coaches for purposes of this rule and that the second time

someone shows up at practice to help coach they are considered a school coach.

- a) All WIAA sport coaches are allowed up to 5 days of unrestricted coaching contact in the summer, between the end of school and July 31. (Football coaching contact ends July 23 in 2016.)
 - b) A reminder that varsity and junior varsity coaches can have coaching contact with 8th grade students on down up until the point of those 8th graders actually starting their 9th grade year. Someone designated as a frosh coach cannot have coaching contact with the 8th graders except as a part of the approved unrestricted contact days.
- 3) Remember that schools cannot be involved in out-of-season sports activities for students in grades 10-12. The only exception is dur-**

ing the summertime within the unrestricted coaching contact period. School facilities are sometimes used by nonschool groups for out-of-season camps and clinics. If this is to be done Board of Education policy for nonschool use of the facility must be followed. This may involve rent, and it is advisable that those conducting the activity have insurance protection.

- a) If conducted, a nonschool camp should be available to students from surrounding areas and not just returning athletes at your school. An acceptable non-school program may not be restricted based on school and/or team status.
 - b) Out-of-season coaching rules apply.
- 4) Schools cannot conduct summer school classes in sports funda-**

See WIAA Eligibility - Summer Reminders page 8 >

Officials Corner



Congratulations! 2016 Winter Tournament Officials

BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING - Division

2: Meet Referee – Stephen Good, Manitowoc; **Diving Referee** – William Benson, Fond du Lac; **Starter** – Heidi Szczupakiewicz, Muskego; **Stroke Judge** – John Kitslaar, III, Monona Grove; **Turn Judges** – William Benson, Fond du Lac & Tom Wencel, Middleton.

Division 1: Meet Referee – Stephen Good, Manitowoc; **Diving Referee** – William Benson, Fond du Lac; **Starter** – John Kitslaar III, Monona; **Stroke Judge** – Heidi Szczupakiewicz, Muskego; **Turn Judges** – William Benson, Fond du Lac & Tom Wencel, Middleton.

INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING - Philip Amstadt, Rhinelander; Ron Arendt, Palmyra; David Black, River Falls; Patrick DeBruin, Manitowoc; Larry Gorres, Menasha; Harold Hellen, Barneveld; Lynn Isensee, Sparta; Brett King, Grafton; Kirk Layer, Richland Center; Matt Pronschinske, Eau Claire; Bruce Schaefer, Chilton; Daniel Scharenbrock, Menasha; Mike Schumacher, Little Chute; Steve Skarda, Menasha; Steven Williamson, Blue River

TEAM WRESTLING - Tony Antczak, Hillsdale; Michael Arendt, Franksville; Scott Brookman, Tomah; Blaine Felsman, Oshkosh; Gail Pronschinske, Hudson; Tony Wilson, Delafield.

Off-Mat Officials – Bob Longdin, Kewaskum; Eric Reukauf, Dodgeville

HOCKEY - Curtis Beecher, Madison; Mark Bray, Appleton; Jim Brown, Wausau; William Conybear, Madison; Jay Dupree, Menomonie; Dave Ferwerda, Madison; Tom Fitzgerald, Mosinee; Daniel Fitzsimons, Middleton; Jon Haas, Fitchburg; Jeff Hanzlik, Chippewa Falls; Tyler Healy, Onalaska; Ryan Humpal, Milltown; Michael Jager, Madison; Dan Kassiss, Fitchburg; David King, Appleton; Nicole Kloes, Antigo; Andrew Krahenbuhl, Cameron; Jason Lassen, Onalaska; Bryce Maphis, Waukesha; Christopher Mc Guirk, Menasha; Karl Olm, Madison; Eric Olson, West Allis; Dave Reichenbacher, Greenville; Ryan Reischel, Sun Prairie; Graydon Richartz, Menomonie; Tim Richter, Verona; Ryan Schroder, Cottage Grove; Amy Smith, Cottage Grove; Scott Swid, Mosinee; Taylor Willert, Hammond

GYMNASTICS - Patricia Abraham, Onalaska; Jan Adkins, Sun Prairie; Michelle Andrews, West Bend; Melissa Bremmer, Verona; Lori Castleberg, Sun Prairie; Teri Creighton, Baraboo; Helen Culliney, Grafton; Barbara Fotsch, Sussex; Cheryl Hancock, Holmen; Cindy Hoenisch, Eau Claire; Kim Kitelinger, Waukesha; Kirsten Kronberger, Rhinelander; Marijean Lucas, Prescott; Brenna Lutter, Reedsburg; Carrie Pedersen, Eagle; Claudia Quam, Stoughton; Ann Renn, West Baraboo; Darci Robinson, Kansasville; Kathy Rundle, Marshfield; Renee Schude, Custer; Linda Skwierawski, Galesville; Jacqueline Strutt, Onalaska; Roseann Tank, Fort Atkinson; Susan Vielgut, Glendale; Faith Wagner, La Crosse

GIRLS BASKETBALL - Rod Amys, Poplar; Nicolas Been, Hammond; Wade Boegli, Brodhead; Todd Boivin, Shawano; Shelley Dietz, New Franken; Jed Durni, Eau Claire; Jared

Flesch, Sun Prairie; Jerry Frei, Brookfield; Steve Garvoille, Oregon; Ben Greiber, Fitchburg; John Hemauer, West Bend; David Hoffmann, New Franken; Tammy Hutchison, Mount Pleasant; Bryant Johnson, Brown Deer; Denita Johnson, Milwaukee; Mark H. Johnson, Tomah; Tim Kemnitz, West Bend; John Key, Green Bay; Logan Kimberly, Roberts; Jeremy Laehn, Eau Claire; Kevin LaJoie, Superior; Drew Larson, New Glarus; Todd Mangin, Reedsville; Tim McIntyre, Danbury; Dan Milliren, Greenville; Tyler Moy, Mondovi; Michael Murphy, Weston; Steven Olson, Superior; Jon Payne, Wausau; Matthew Pfluger, Oshkosh; Nick Pilsner, Mosinee; Joe Pintarro, Tomah; Daryl L. Pries, Cadott; Erin Rickard, Port Washington; Tim Rohlinger, Kewaskum; Terry Schmidt, Warrens; Franklin A. Searer, Plover; Andy Sisso, Superior; Douglas Stampfli, Fitchburg; Brian Trettin, Hayward; Justin Uitenbroek, Kaukauna; Paul Verbeten, Freedom; Tim Widiker, Hammond; Claude W. Williams Jr., Brown Deer; Jason Wolfe, Plover

BOYS BASKETBALL - Tim Ackerman, Mount Horeb; Patrick Anderson, Cottage Grove; Ryan Bakken, Oregon; Brad Baumgart, Kaukauna; John Blaskowski, Rice Lake; Jeff Brewster, Wauwatosa; James Brockman, Oshkosh; Darren Budahn, Milwaukee; Joe Cyran, Stevens Point; Wayne Cyscon, Cameron; Ryan Delong, Holmen; Mark Derfus, Marshfield; Alex DeVillers, Menomonee Falls; Jonathan DeVillers, Madison; Tim Diener, Milwaukee; Michael Endreas, Spencer; Jared Fern, Hammond; Rhoderick Fields, Appleton; John Fullerton, Fitchberg; Andy Gallion, Wauwatosa; Kevin Grosseohme, Milwaukee; Kevin Haglund, Plum City; Tim Higgins, Wau-paca; Dan Howard, Cottage Grove; Charlie Ihle, West Salem; Michael Klein, Hewitt; Matthew Leis, Chippewa Falls; Jeff Lewis, Franklin; Steven Luebke, New Berlin; Bart Matzek, Prescott; Brad Matzek, Prescott; Mike Matzek, Prescott; Chuck Morning IV, Menomonie; Jim Myers, Mount Horeb; Dan Owens, Racine; Tim Owens, Kenosha; Cole Passe, La Crosse; Mark Repinski, Amherst; Steven Schultz, Rice Lake; Scot Vanden-Heuvel, Kaukauna; Don Van Deurzen, Little Chute; Ricky VanDrise, Oshkosh; Nick White, Eau Claire; Jimi Zawacki, Strum; Mark Zwart, Monona ■

Initiative Created to Put Veterans in Stripes

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Official's Licensing for 2016-17 from page 1

prompts. If your payment is being made with a credit card that is not under your name, it is required that your name and address be placed where it asks for shipping information.

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

Under the Officials tab on the red menu

bar, choose Become an Official, you will then be taken to a page where you can print the 2016-17 licensing application.

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

WIAA Winter Team Tournament Sportsmanship Awards Selected

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association, in cooperation with Rural Mutual Insurance, has chosen the recipients of the team Sportsmanship Awards for the 2016 winter State Tournaments.

The winners of the prestigious sportsmanship honor are Ashland in gymnastics, Eau Claire Memorial in boys ice hockey, the Beloit Co-op in girls ice hockey, Dominican in boys basketball, Mineral Point in girls basketball and Wisconsin Lutheran in wrestling.

Ashland receives its first Sportsmanship Award in gymnastics and its fifth recognition overall. They also were presented the honor for boys soccer in 2013, girls soccer in 2009 and 2013, and in summer baseball in 2005. The squad and their fans received positive evaluations for their support of all participants. The Oredockers placed fifth in the Division 2 State Gymnastics team championship in March. The schools and communities receiving honorable mention include Kenosha Bradford/Indian Trail/Tremper/Westosha Central, Madison Memorial, Manitowoc and River Falls.



Eau Claire Memorial is the recipient of the Sportsmanship Award in boys hockey for the third time and for the first time since 2000. The Old Abes also earned the award in hockey in 1992. It is the ninth time the school and community have received the sportsmanship honor overall. They also received recognition in boys tennis in 2014; girls tennis in 1998, 2004 and 2011; girls soccer in 2005; and boys basketball in 1970. The Old Abes defeated the Antigo Co-op 5-1 in the quarterfinals before being eliminated from title contention by the Appleton East Co-op, 4-1, which won the State title. Honorable mention for the award went to Antigo/White Lake/Wittenberg-Birnamwood, Hudson, Onalaska and University School of Milwaukee.

The Beloit Co-op, which includes Beloit Memorial/Black Hawk/Clinton/Janesville Craig/Janesville Parker/Milton/Monroe/Turner, wins its first sportsmanship award in girls hockey. The multi-school program was selected by event management and staff for its sportsmanship in relation to its support. The Fury was backed by four bands and 23 buses, which significantly contributed to a record attendance for the girls semifinal session. They fell 6-1 in their semifinal match-up with eventual champion Hayward/Ashland/Northwestern/Rice Lake/Shell Lake/Spooner. The D.C. Everest/Mosinee/Wausau East/Wausau West and University School of Milwaukee/Divine Savior Holy Angels/Nicolet/Shorewood/Whitefish Bay co-ops each received honorable mention.

After being named the Sportsmanship Award recipient in boys basketball last year, Mineral Point earned the award this year at the State Girls Basketball Tournament in Green Bay with its positive exhibition of sportsmanship. It's the third time the Pointers have received the award overall, also receiving the honor in 2011 for team wrestling. The Pointers won the Division 4 State championship this season, defeating Kenosha St. Joseph 68-52 in the final after downing Regis 77-56 in the semifinals. Schools receiving honorable mention were Assumption, Barneveld, Clayton, Hayward and Regis.

Dominican won its unprecedented fifth straight championship in winning the Division 4 title at the State Boys Basketball Tournament in March and captured the school's first Sportsmanship Award in the process. The Knights defeated Aquinas 54-46 in the semifinals and Cameron in the title game, 62-43, to win the boys basketball program's seventh overall State championship. Barneveld, Green Bay N.E.W. Lutheran and Prairie du Chien received honorable mention.

Wisconsin Lutheran was declared the winner of the Sportsmanship Award in team wrestling. It was the first time the Vikings have received the award in any sport. They finished runner-up for the Division 2 championship, defeating River Valley 33-30 in the semifinals and falling to Ellsworth in the finals, 29-27. Fennimore, Hortonville, Kaukauna, Random Lake and River Valley received honorable mention for the award.

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

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

Rural Mutual Insurance has been a sponsor of this award for over 50 years, and their participation is essential to promoting sportsmanship and education-based athletics as a valued corporate partner of the WIAA. ■



New Athletic Director Workshop 2016



**Monday, July 25 - WIAA Office
Stevens Point, Wisconsin**



- | | |
|------------|--|
| 8 a.m. | Welcome - Dave Anderson, Executive Director |
| 8:15 a.m. | Eligibility - Wade Labecki, Deputy Director |
| 10 a.m. | WIAA Season Regulations/Tournament Procedures - Stephanie Hauser, Assistant Director |
| 10:30 a.m. | WIAA Website Overview/Financial Forms/
AD Resource Page - Deb Hauser, Associate Director |
| 11 a.m. | rSchool - Scheduling Games/Schedule Officials/Send Contracts/Making Updates |
| 12 p.m. | Lunch (provided) |
| 12:30 p.m. | LTC Course 502 - Principles, Strategies and Methods of Athletic Administration
(There will be a \$70 charge for anyone taking this course.
Course does count toward Certified Athletic Administrator certification.) |
| 4:30 p.m. | Wrap-up/Evaluation |

HOW TO REGISTER:

Email your interest in attending to Deb Hauser <dhauser@wiaawi.org> prior to June 30, 2016.

REQUIRED PAYMENT:

There is a \$70 charge for the 502 LTC Course payable to WADA (Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association).

OPTIONAL GRAD CREDIT:

One graduate credit through Edgewood College is available for an additional \$170.

Non-school Participation (In-Season) Rule Change

What are the new rules?

Two amendments referring to the non-school participation during the season language in the Rules of Eligibility passed. The first allows any individual student-athlete, with school approval, to 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 membership voted in support, 271-153.

The second amendment redefines the exceptional athlete provision to recognize 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 will allow non-school competition for a qualifying exceptional athlete during the regular season and during the WIAA Tournament Series. The measure passed by a 410-13 vote.

When do the rule changes go into effect?

The rules take effect with the publication of the WIAA Bulletin in May (May 27, 2016).

What is the difference between the two non-school proposals?

The first change allows any student to compete in up to two non-school competitions of the same sport during the regular season with school approval. But no approval shall be provided during the WIAA tournament.

The second change allows an athlete who qualifies based on the rules to compete representing the USA in international competition during the regular season or during the WIAA tournament with school approval. Note: In individual sports, the exceptional athlete must be aware that they jeopardize continuation in the individual tournament if they miss regional, sub-sectional and/or sectional tournaments. The exceptional athlete might continue in team competition under the school administration's prerogative.

Are the two mutually exclusive?

Yes. Any student with 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 waiver necessary?

Yes, for the exceptional athlete waiver. 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 school competition?

No. A student can participate in two non-school competitions and a skills contest. I.e: 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.

Non-school 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.

What is the difference in the middle school 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,

See *Non-school Participation Rule Change*, page 9 >

Middle Level Advisory Council Openings

The Middle Level/Junior High Advisory Council includes a representative from each Board of Control Districts, an ethnic at-large, gender at-large, and a non-public school at-large representative along with liaison representation made available to the Department of Public Instruction, Wisconsin Association of Middle Level Educators, Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association and the Wisconsin Athletic Trainers Association.

For the Ethnic At-Large position the candidate would have to have origins in black racial groups of Africa; Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race; Asian; Pacific Islander: American Indian; or Alaskan Native.

Membership on the Council is open to administrators, or building administrators and/or athletic directors of WIAA member middle level schools containing Grades 6-8 students (or any combination thereof).

Openings on the WIAA Middle Level Advisory Council will exist in the following positions for the 2016-17 school year: Districts 1, 2, 4, 6 representatives, Gender-At Large Representative, Non-Public School At-Large representative and Ethnic At-Large representative.

If a vacant position cannot be filled by a district representative the position will become available to any qualified individual from a member middle school.

An election does not take place for Middle Level Council representatives. A listing of interested candidates is provided to the Board of Control who then appoints an individual to fill the position. The position is for a three-year term.

This Council meets once a year, typically in January. For more information on this Council or if you are interested in filling one of these vacant positions, please contact Joan Gralla at jgralla@wiaawi.org or 715-344-8580. ■

BULLETIN Subscription Renewal Notice!

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Renewal _____ New _____

Membership Approves from page 1

eligibility to participate in non-varsity competitions. The membership supported passage of the amendment by a 384-40 count.

Two amendments referring to the non-school participation during the season language in the Rules of Eligibility passed. The first allows any individual student-athlete, with school approval, to participate in up to two nonschool contests during the regular season in the same sport. The nonschool opportunities will not count against the individual maximum in that sport. The membership voted in support, 271-153. The second amendment redefines the exceptional athlete provision to recognize only invitations to international competitions sanctioned by each sport's identified National Governing Body (NGB) and Olympic Development Programs (ODP) in representing the country as eligible for an exceptional athlete waiver. This waiver will allow nonschool competition for a qualifying exceptional athlete during the regular season and during the WIAA Tournament Series. The measure passed by a 410-13 vote.

The editorial changes, which are attempts to clarify existing rules without making changes in the interpretations of the rules, passed 381-36.

The membership voted down an amendment that would have implemented a success factor to promote programs to a higher division once a threshold of success was attained over a three-year period. The amendment failed by a 198-221 margin. The plan

was the recommendation of the Competitive Equity Ad-Hoc Committee and was advanced to last year's Annual Meeting for consideration, but was replaced at that time without a vote.



Steve Knecht



Ted Knutson



Bernard Nikolay



Eric Russell

In the New Business portion of the Director's Report, the membership was apprised of a number of continuing topics for discussions, including sports season placement and competition survey, sportsmanship, conference realignment and awareness of the new state Sexual Assault Amnesty Law.

In the 2016-17 Board of Control elections, Steve Knecht, the Coordinator of Athletics in Kenosha, will serve his second consecutive term as the District 7 representative. Eric Russell, superintendent at Baldwin-Woodville, was elected as the representative from District 1. Ted Knutson, principal at Aquinas, was elected to his second term as the non-public at-large representative. Bernard Nikolay, superintendent at Cambridge, will serve as the District 6 representative. Elected members of the Board of Control serve a three-year term.

Jennifer Vogler, district administrator at Wabeno, was re-elected to the Advisory

Council, representing small schools. Dan Retzki, associate principal at Green Bay Preble, was elected to a new term representing large schools. Mike Andreas, district administrator at Spencer, and Jeffrey Sauer, principal at Dodgeand, were elected to represent medium-sized schools; and Kyle Luedtke, district administrator at Benton, was elected to his first term representing small schools. Elected individuals serve a three-year term on the Advisory Council.

A special recognition for service to the WIAA was presented to Jerry O'Brien, who has provided legal counsel to the Association since 1965. In addition, Attorney General Brad Schimel addressed the membership with a presentation on the program "Dose of Reality," which is aimed at preventing prescription painkiller abuse in Wisconsin.

A total of 431 schools were represented at the 2016 Annual Meeting. ■



From left to right, Executive Director Dave Anderson; Past Executive Director Doug Chickering; Attorney General Brad Schimel; Jerry O'Brien and Board of Control President Corey Baumgartner.

Transfer Rule Change At Annual Meeting

At the Annual meeting, the membership voted to approve non-varsity eligibility to students transferring after 10th grade (fourth consecutive semester), but before entering 12th grade (seventh consecutive semester). Students transferring before or during their fifth or sixth semesters after entering 9th grade may compete in non-varsity competition with approval by both schools involved in the transfer.

Keep in mind, this eligibility restriction 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.

Simply 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 – no competition at any level, but may practice.

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 – no competition at any level, but may practice.

*Provided the student meets residency requirements ■

2016 State Spring Baseball Tournament

Tuesday-Thursday, June 14-16, 2016

Neuroscience Group Field at Fox Cities Stadium, Grand Chute, Wis.

Tuesday, June 14

Division 1 Quarterfinals - 8 a.m.

Game 1 - Sectional #2 winner vs. Sectional #3 winner

Game 2 - Sectional #5 winner vs. Sectional #8 winner

Division 1 Quarterfinals - 1 p.m.

Game 3 - Sectional #1 winner vs. Sectional #4 winner

Game 4 - Sectional #6 winner vs. Sectional #7 winner

Division 1 Semifinals - 6 p.m.

Game 5 - Winner of Game 1 vs. Winner of Game 2

Game 6 - Winner of Game 3 vs. Winner of Game 4

Wednesday, June 15

Division 4 Semifinals - 8 a.m.

Game 1 - Sectional #3 winner vs. Sectional #4 winner

Game 2 - Sectional #1 winner vs. Sectional #2 winner

Division 3 Semifinals - 1 p.m.

Game 1 - Sectional #3 winner vs. Sectional #4 winner

Game 2 - Sectional #1 winner vs. Sectional #2 winner

Division 2 Semifinals - 6 p.m.

Game 1 - Sectional #3 winner vs. Sectional #4 winner

Game 2 - Sectional #1 winner vs. Sectional #2 winner

Thursday, June 16

Division 4 Finals - 9 a.m.

Division 3 Finals - Noon

Division 2 Finals - 3 p.m.

Division 1 Finals - 6 p.m.

WIAA Announces Recipients of the 2016 State Scholar Athlete Award

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

The 2016 recipients, their families and school representatives were recognized at an awards ceremony Sunday, May 1 at the Jefferson Street Inn in Wausau.

Each WIAA Scholar Athlete Finalist received a medallion, certificate, and a special plaque for display in their school's trophy case. Dick Bennett, the former UW-Madison, UW-Green Bay and UW-Stevens Point men's basketball coach delivered the keynote address.



Dick Bennett

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

"These student athletes' accomplishments are incredible," said Tom Shafranski,

assistant director of the WIAA. "Sixteen of this year's 32 WIAA Scholar Athlete finalists have a grade point average of 4.0 to date, while the average GPA is 3.90.

"All 32 scholar athlete finalists have already earned a total of 296 letters during their first 3 1/2 years of high school" he said. "That's an average of nine letters per athlete, and we have not yet completed our Spring sports season."

More than 820 seniors were nominated for the 2016 WIAA Scholar Athlete Award by 420 high schools throughout the state. Since 1984 when the WIAA Scholar Athlete recognition began, every WIAA-member high school has been invited to nominate one boy and one girl for the WIAA Scholar Athlete award.

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

Release compiled by Kirk Howard, Kinziegreen Marketing Group ■



WIAA Scholar Athletes Class of 2016

2016 Scholar Athlete Award Recipients

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

DIVISION 1 – BOYS

Matthew Munns, Madison West
Mason Stokke, Menomonie
Matt Stoll, West Bend West
Noah Trimark, Kenosha Bradford*

DIVISION 1 – GIRLS

Alyssa Barnes, Neenah
Katie Hietpas, Sun Prairie
Madison Marko, Kenosha Bradford*
Aubrey Roberts, Eau Claire Memorial

DIVISION 2 – BOYS

John Maki, Mauston
Daniel Pederson, Spooner*
Austin Powell, Sauk Prairie*
Lucas Scherr, Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau*

DIVISION 2 – GIRLS

Alicia Monson, Amery
Brittany Rhyner, Dodgeville
Katrina Santos, East Troy
Bailey Schmidt, Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau*

DIVISION 3 – BOYS

Blake Cwynar, Darlington
Garrett Groshek, Amherst
Kevin Koski, Chequamegon*
Brady Schoenecker, Cameron

DIVISION 3 – GIRLS

Shae Brey, Regis
Kaitlyn Kaiser, Cuba City
Ellie Lochner, Phillips
Briana Nelson, Brookwood

DIVISION 4 – BOYS

Ryan Asher, Elmwood*
Logan Carroll, Pepin
Tanner Hudziak, Wild Rose
Kellen Kravik, Bangor

DIVISION 4 – GIRLS

Gena Grundhoffer, Assumption
Alyssa Kavajecz, South Shore
Taylor Schneider, Turtle Lake*
Kelly Tramburg, Fall River

Coaches Participating Against Athletes in the Off-Season

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

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

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

WIAA Eligibility - Summer Reminders from page 2

- mentals, etc. in excess of the approved unrestricted contact days and community education is a school program with the same restrictions and exceptions.
- 5) Schools may issue uniforms and/or protective apparel for 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 approved unrestricted contact opportunity, is school sponsored and available to all interested students on a voluntary basis.**
 - 7) Open gyms can be conducted in the summer but open gym rules apply including restricting students from other schools from attending.
 - 8) Remind students of amateur status and all star rules. You may wish to ask students to contact you prior to participating in all summer sport activities so you can assess the activity and help protect their eligibility.
 - 9) Remind students they must limit their nonschool activity when the school season in that sport starts. New rules allow a student to compete in not more than two nonschool competitions with 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. ■

Open Gyms

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

1. The open gym is made known and available to all students in the designated population of that school that is interested in attending. Open gyms may be gender specific. It is also acceptable to include people from the community. Schools may conduct "open gyms" in any activity. **It is not acceptable to include athletes from another school, public or nonpublic.**

2. There is **no instruction** during the open gym **by a coach or anyone else.**

3. Coaches may supervise open gyms, but they may not instruct, organize drills, etc. Coaches can also recreate with students in school sponsored, open gym settings that are purely recreational in nature, i.e., there is no instruction by the coach or anyone, sport skill demonstration, organized drills or resemblance of a practice being conducted.

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

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

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

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. ■

WIAA Board Approves from page 1

ternship opportunities in the executive office this summer to Hannah Skibba and Ethan Fenske.

An interpretation of the WIAA membership's provisions was issued by the Board. Beginning in 2016-17, associate charter school members in good standing, making a transition to full membership status, will not be subject to a one-year probationary period before being provided tournament eligibility or opportunities to co-op.

The Executive Staff presented reports on the Annual Meeting agenda, 2016 Scholar Athlete ceremony plans, the NFHS Legal Summit and review of the winter Tournament Series. The Board also received liaison updates from John Ashley of the Wisconsin Association of School Boards and Tim Collins of the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association. ■

School Involvement in Out-of-Season Activity

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

A further reminder that the WIAA has a rule which states "A school may not conduct intramural programs which involve athletes with past status on a school team (varsity, junior varsity, sophomore, freshman), except during the established school season of a sport." A

school cannot, for example, conduct intramural volleyball during the spring, with girls' volleyball players participating. It wouldn't make any difference how many were on a given team, or whether it was co-ed volleyball, if girls' volleyball players were involved, it would be a violation.

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

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

Non-school Participation Rule Change from page 5

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 schedule.

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.

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

1. Students must pay 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.

2. A student may be reimbursed actual and necessary costs associated with competing. This may include transportation, food, lodging and entry fees.

3. A school may not become involved financially, through transportation or any other way in a student's 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, any cash or merchandise awards for achievement in athletics. This means athletes may not accept items such as shoes, jackets, gift certificates, etc., for athletic accomplishments, such as being on a winning team, being selected for the school varsity team, or being a place winner in an individual tournament, etc. They may receive an award which is symbolic in nature, such as trophies, medals, banners, ribbons, pictures, event T-shirts, event hats, game balls, unattached emblems, letters, season highlight DVD or video or other items of no intrinsic value. ■

High School Out-of-Season Concerns

WIAA Bylaw, Article II, Section 2, A., 2), indicates "A school may not assemble athletes or prospective athletes in physical education classes, or some other manner, for purposes of teaching fundamentals, techniques, plays, etc., except during the designated school season of a sport." This includes the summer period, meaning that schools cannot conduct a **summer school class**, or community education program, on basketball fundamentals, for their basketball players. It doesn't matter if the class is open to all students. The one exception is in the summertime during the Board of Control approved unrestricted contact period between the end of school and July 31* (5 days in all WIAA sports). *Unrestricted coach contact ends July 23, 2016 for football.

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

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

Director's Report from page 2

pation in this survey will be vital to providing guidance to the Board and all other standing committees as they consider these two important issues.

The third of these transitional topics is sportsmanship and the Sportsmanship Manual. But as we begin, it is appropriate to remember that school sports—education based athletics are different and serve a different purpose than every other level of sport. We have different and unique aims, objectives and responsibilities than professional sports, than club sports and even the NCAA. As those responsible for the education and safety of children, our views on sportsmanship are inseparable from our responsibilities.

The reason for mentioning this is not to lecture on the educational necessity of sportsmanship or to rehash the memories of last January. Mention is made to let you know that about two weeks ago, on April 8 the Sportsmanship Committee met, along with several members of the executive staff for their annual review of sportsmanship and the Sportsmanship Manual. Staff and the committee were on a mission to critically and thoughtfully try to reimagine the Sportsmanship Manual in light of high school sports today. I am excited by what I heard about the committee's work and look forward to seeing the draft of the new manual as it emerges. I believe we will see a distinctly different style and approach brought to our sportsmanship efforts.

We expect to have the revisions readied for review by all committees, the Advisory Council and the Board of Control by their June meetings. If approved, the new manual will be available to you as a web-based document by the start of the next school year. I want to thank the Sportsmanship Committee for their work.

Earlier I mentioned conference realignment. I bring it up again because it may be the single greatest and most persisting source of angst within the membership. Perhaps even greater than the public vs. private debate.

Let me give you a very short history of realignment in the WIAA. Research suggests schools began to independently form affiliations with other schools to form conferences in the 1890's. The earliest documented concerns about conferences appear in the 1920's. WIAA schools formed their own conferences and relationships for 78 years; until persisting dissatisfaction grew so strong that concerns were registered beyond the WIAA membership. Based on a 110-108 vote at the 1973 Annual Meeting, the Board of Control became responsible for conferences and their realignment. That responsibility was affirmed in 1980 by a vote of 284-44.

The first challenge to the Board's authority for realignment came in 1977, brought by the Lumberjack Conference. The Conference's request for injunctive relief was denied. A 1997 suit brought by Slinger ended in the Court of Appeals of Wisconsin when the court reversed and reprimanded the lower court.

Back in the day, when member schools, the DPI and School Board Association all said the Board of Control should be responsible for realignment, the primary concern was simply that every member could be in a conference, where they could be assured of having contests for their kids and that they wouldn't have to travel further than necessary.

Member's expectations today are different. Today the expectations for realignment have be-

come finding a conference where everyone can be successful—or at least where "I" can be successful. Too often—and for a variety of reasons, members are expecting realignment to do for their programs what they themselves are unwilling or unable to do to make their programs successful. As you know, realignment has not ever been able to satisfy everyone.

Another noted difference has been that the emotions generated from the realignment process have spilled beyond being just the membership's business. It is no longer uncommon to hear implied threats of legal action. In the recent efforts to resist legislation directed at the Association, we heard from a number of legislators that they were concerned by the displeasure they were hearing from constituents about the WIAA and realignment and that's why they supported the legislation in front of them.

These observations are not indictments. They are just the new realities now added to the complex decisions you have asked your Board of Control to navigate and still be responsible for conference realignment.

Two years ago, in an overwhelming vote of 400-26 you rebuffed the Board's efforts to turn conference formation back to the individual schools. The Board and staff remain committed to doing their best to fulfill their responsibility. To that end, discussions have begun to evaluate our current process for realignment and consider how it might be improved. No final decisions have been set in stone, but ideas such as a more formalized, written application and explanation is being considered. We believe that district administrators must be directly involved from the start of the process. Perhaps we need to consider a Realignment "hearing committee" as is utilized by other states. These are some of the ideas the Board and staff will be discussing in the year ahead. If there is a better way, we are eager to find it and embrace it.

Also, in the year ahead, we will be discussing the new Amnesty law for victims of sexual assault, where under-age alcohol consumption is involved. While the law applies broadly to all under-age victims, some protections of that law have primarily focused on college students. I believe that as a membership we want to be proactive in considering how our participation codes of conduct may need to be modified and supportive of those willing to come forward and confront sexual assault.

Sport specific discussions will take place, such as a "pitch count" for pitchers in baseball, maximum weekly weight loss for wrestlers and football exposure and contact rules. These are conversations driven by the continuous insights of research and by our commitment to the well being of student athletes.

Football is also likely to become entwined with our realignment discussions—as it rightly or wrongly—already has been. Despite the football ad hoc committee's determination that football and our current regular season and play-off structure ought not to be tinkered with, there are those who persist in their belief that all-play or a version of the district plan, can diminish the angst of conference realignment.

Social media and video conferencing are two areas we will be focusing more attention on in the year ahead. Both can be tools that can support the WIAA membership's efforts to communicate, edu-

cate and tell our story. Admittedly, we are just beginning to utilize these tools, but we recognize their potential value.

Lastly, the coming year will also see the Board evaluate the suspension of member dues and fees. If this suspension is to become a permanent change, a Constitutional amendment will need to be drafted and brought to you at this meeting next April.

I can tell you right now—that for all the reasons provided to you last year on why we believed this to be a desirable path for this membership to follow, not one of them have changed. I continue to believe this to be the best path forward for this Association and will strongly recommend that you make this change permanent a year from now.

In closing, I want to say a few words about perspective. Because whether we're talking about sportsmanship, competition, sports injuries, realignment or any of the important issues, which accompany this work, there are times we may hold our opinions and perspectives, informed by a less-than-competent understanding. When our perspectives are fueled with emotion and passion, which are the companions to our work, the good of our efforts can quickly become lost or obscured.

Consider this: last fall you sponsored over 8,000 varsity cross country meets in the regular season. There were over 6,000 boys varsity soccer games, nearly 8,000 varsity volleyball games and over 3,500 varsity football games.

This past winter over 20,000 boys and girls varsity basketball games were played, there were 4,000 wrestling matches and nearly 3,000 boys and girls varsity hockey games.

Weather permitting, by the end of spring, you will have sponsored nearly 10,000 baseball games and 11,000 softball games.

By the end of this school year, the membership will have sponsored roughly 119,000 varsity level contests and there will have been over 3,300 additional tournament series contests and an unknown number of sub-varsity games.

I believe perspective is important as we think of sportsmanship and consider how many of these contests went exactly as they should and concluded without incident. Perspective is important if we truly want to be informed about what's harming teens and teenage mortality. We will quickly come to recognize there are few activities safer than school sports. Our perspectives, be they narrow or broad—form and shape the conference realignment process and experience.

As we move forward and onto the challenges which lie ahead, there are some things which we must know for sure and never lose sight of. We know that education is the pathway to success in life. As we consider the opportunities provided and the young people served, we know that this work illuminates that pathway for many students. Emotions and personal perspectives aside, at its core this Association is made up of good people—who are doing much good through their work. We do not demur from the collective responsibility we share, to preserve school sports on the moral, ethical and educational platform on which it began and why it exists today as part of an educational community and as a pathway for young people as they "play" their way to life's greatest successes.

Thank you for being here today.

Thank you for the great work that you do.

Mr. President, that concludes my Director's Report. ■

2016-2017 Eligibility Overview for Athletes

You Are Not Eligible:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you participate in more than two contests or events other than for your official interscholastic school team while you are a member of that school team and during the entire school season (start of practice to end of season) of that sport. You must have school approval.

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

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

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

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

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

Summer Coaching Contact

There are two types of coaching contact: School (unrestricted) and Nonschool (unlimited) allowed during the summertime. **NOTE:** During the school year, coaches are restricted to coaching contact during the sport season only.

Unrestricted SCHOOL Coaching Contact

- Sports: All sports
- Time period: Last day of school to July 31 (except Football: July 23, 2016) in summertime
- Duration: Five days (does not have to be consecutive)
- School Equipment: May be used
- Funding: School funds may be used (Fund 10, 60, 80 and activity accounts)
- School Transportation: May be used
- School Facilities: May be used (as can nonschool facilities)
- Participation: Open to any and all interested. May not be mandated.

Unlimited NONSCHOOL Coaching Contact

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

- Sports: All sports except football.
- Time period: Last day of school to First day of school 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).
 - o Community Ed and School District Recreation funds may be used (Fund 80).
- School transportation: May NOT be used, but may be rented.

- School Facilities: May be rented by nonschool organization following school policy (as can nonschool facilities).
- Participation: Open to any and all interested. May not be mandated.

Examples of Nonschool organizations:

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

NOTES:

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

Summer Contact

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

NOTE: In 2016, football begins on August 1 (equipment/fitness testing) & 2 (practice). Unrestricted school football coaching contact must end on July 23 in order to meet the dead week rule. **Football must follow the acclimatization plan if school resources are used.**

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

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

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

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

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

Unrestricted Contact

Students on your school teams can assemble

with coaches, school monies and resources can be used, and schools can sponsor the events/activities.

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

Unlimited Non-School Contact (all sports except football)

Open to any and all interested students in your community and other communities. NO school monies and resources can be used, and schools cannot sponsor the events/activities. School facilities must be contracted for in accordance with your school district policies.

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

What Type of Contact Can Coaches Have With Their Athletes?

All Sport Coaches

- Unrestricted Contact (see definition above)

All Sports Except Football

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

How Can Athletes Assemble on Their Own?

Summer (Last day of school until first day of school in the fall)

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

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

- During the school year, students may voluntarily assemble at any time without school and/or school coach involvement.
- During the school year, captain's practices are allowed provided the opportunity is voluntary and there is no school and/or school coach involvement.

Using Athletes As Clinicians

During the school year, you may only use

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

Coaches Education Information

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

The following do not have to take this required training:

A student teacher while student teaching.

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

Guest lecturers (one time appearance).

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

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

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

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

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

Holding a license that has expired.

Being a volunteer

Being unpaid

Being an occasional, but regularly scheduled lecturer or demonstrator.

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

Being a nonvarsity coach

Being an assistant coach.

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

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

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

2016 Summer Baseball State Tournament

Kapco Park, Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon

Semifinals: Friday, July 22 - 11:35 a.m.

Game 1 - Sectional #3 Winner vs. Sectional #4 Winner

Game 2 - Sectional #1 Winner vs. Sectional #2 Winner*

Championship: Friday, July 22 - 6:05 p.m.

Game 3 - Game #1 Winner vs. Game #2 Winner

* Following first game of session

Recruiting Guidelines

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

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

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

Acceptable

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

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

Unacceptable

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

Additional Examples

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

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

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

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

Fall Sports – Academic Ineligibility

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

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

situation, 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 athlete must sit out.

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

Fall 2016 Dates

Sport	Boys Soccer	Girls Volleyball	Boys Volleyball	Football	Cross Country	Girls Golf	Girls Tennis	Girls Swimming
Minimum Ineligibility Period: 21 Days or	8 games	5 meets	5 meets	3 games	4 meets	5 meets	5 meets	5 meets
Earliest Allowed Game/Meet – Fall 2016	Aug. 23	Aug. 23	Aug. 30	Aug. 18	Aug. 23	Aug. 11	Aug. 13	Aug. 17
Student Regains Eligibility on this Date or After Sitting Out the Required Number of Meets	Sept. 13	Sept. 13	Sept. 20	Sept. 8	Sept. 13	Sept. 1	Sept. 3	Sept. 7

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

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.

BASEBALL

Freedom @ Waupaca **May 12, 2016**

The Freedom and Waupaca baseball players and coaches displayed great sportsmanship throughout the game. Walker Smith and Shane Olsen of Waupaca, as well as Tanner Brockman and Kyle Elias of Freedom were young men noticed showing positive sportsmanship during the game. I was especially impressed with Walker Smith, who asked for time to make sure the Freedom catcher's shoe was tied properly before entering the batter's box. The coaching staff and parents of both programs were encouraging their players on the field. Your acts of positive sportsmanship did not go unnoticed. Best of luck to both teams in the playoffs.

Reporting Official: Brent Thompson

Hortonville @ Appleton North **May 5, 2016**

Thank you to both Hortonville and Appleton North for your hustle and sportsmanship throughout the mid-season contest. Zak Kosloske and Tyler Hafeman of Hortonville, as well as Mitch Eady of Appleton North, thank you for your hustle and sportsmanship with your opponents. Also thanks to Sam Schultes of Hortonville for your help with warming up the pitchers when called upon. All of us involved in a baseball game appreciate sportsmanship, thank you to these four young men for "going the extra mile" to make the game exciting, while keeping sportsmanship as a core value.

Reporting Official: Brent Thompson

Denmark @ Little Chute **May 2, 2016**

I wanted to take the time to recognize the sportsmanship that was displayed by these two baseball teams. Both Coach Birling and Coach Miller modeled good sportsmanship through the entire contest. Leighton Myers from Little Chute and Pete Mears from Denmark, your positive comments directed towards your teammates and competitors were noticed.

Reporting Official: Phil Punzel

West De Pere @ Menasha **April 28, 2016**

I wanted to take the time to say thanks to Coach Carlson and Coach Rukamp for what the two of you do for high school athletics. Your positive attitude was evident during the entire game. I would also like to acknowledge two players: Kyle Kosobuchi from West De Pere and Jake Zwerg from Menasha. These young men displayed tremendous sportsmanship throughout the entire game. Their hustle and positive words of encouragement that were directed to their teammates were noticed.

Reporting Official: Phil Punzel

Pardeeville vs. Lourdes Academy **April 26, 2016**

Both schools' administrators should be proud of their varsity baseball programs, both the players and coaches, for their display of positive sportsmanship during a recent contest. Riley Balzer of Pardeeville and Nathan Rueggesser of Lourdes were obvious leaders of their teams, especially in showing respect for opponents, as well as helping retrieve bats and foul balls around the plate. They offered a kind word to the umpires and were noticeably appreciative of their coaches. Best of luck the rest of the season to both teams!

Reporting Official: Brent Thompson

Seymour @ Xavier **April 21, 2016**

In an exciting baseball game, many acts of positive sportsmanship were observed. For both programs, hustle and respect appear to be central values taught in the classroom and on the field. Seymour players Trent LaCombe, Sam Blank, and Jerad Anderson were true leaders on the field. Xavier players Chase Hunter

and Pierce Blohowiak showed numerous positive acts of sportsmanship throughout the contest. Have a great rest of your season to both teams and keep up the great work.

Reporting Official: Brent Thompson

Appleton East @ Kimberly **April 19, 2016**

I want to thank Coach Reed and Coach McKinnis for the work that you do with high school students. The Appleton East and Kimberly baseball players displayed great sportsmanship throughout the contest. Steve Jacobsen from Kimberly and Sean Miller from Appleton East, your leadership on the field and in the dugout was outstanding. Have a great rest of the season.

Reporting Official: Phil Punzel

Green Bay East/West @ New London **April 14, 2016**

We were impressed with both the Green Bay East/West and the New London varsity baseball programs Thursday night and wanted to alert the WIAA management of what we observed. Trent Bauer and Sam Fonder of Green Bay East/West along with Ethan Wood and Remington Steele of New London were clearly leaders of their teams. Not only did they exhibit excellent sportsmanship, they congratulated opponents and assisted umpires in all aspects of the game. Both Green Bay East/West and New London school and community leadership should be proud of these young men, their coaches, and parents for their excellent display of positive sportsmanship at an education based athletic event. Best of luck the rest of the season to both teams!

Reporting Official: Brent Thompson

Union Grove @ Delavan-Darien **April 14, 2016**

From our arrival to the last pitch in the 9th inning, this was an exemplary display of sportsmanship by everyone involved. A.D. Guy Otte met us upon our arrival to make sure we were all set. All players and coaches from both teams were wonderful. We never heard anything but very positive comments from the fans. Players were very polite. I certainly hope to see both of the teams again soon!!! Congrats Delavan-Darien and Union Grove, you have a lot to be proud of!

Reporting Official: Chris Nicholson

Omro @ Laconia **April 12, 2016**

I want to take a moment to recognize the great sportsmanship that was shown by the Lomira and Omro varsity baseball teams. Coach Goetz and Coach Smit truly understand the importance of high school athletics. The way that both coaches motivated their teams was outstanding. I would also like to recognize the catchers from both teams. Number 23 Mr. Arps from Omro and number 8 Mr. Gosse from Laconia. Your hustle and words of encouragement directed towards your teammates was noticed.

Reporting Official: Phil Punzel

SOFTBALL

Rosholt @ Tigerton **May 12, 2016**

This was an absolutely delightful game to work. Both teams played hard and played well. All of the coaches and players were excellent to work with and showed excellent sportsmanship throughout the game. There were a few close plays during the game and there was never even a hint of questioning the calls. The players hustled on and off the field at the start and end of every inning. Of particular note, after the game and the handshakes, many of the players from both teams and all of the coaches thanked the officials for working the game. I do want to point out the pitcher from Rosholt in particular. After team handshakes she stopped by the officials and said, "Thanks for coming

out tonight." A game like this is how high school softball should be played all the time!

Reporting Official: Lance Bagstad

Prentice @ Rib Lake **May 2, 2016**

We had a great time doing this game. Both head coaches, players, and fans did an outstanding job of concentrating on a close game, and not being distracted by anything else going on. The game was evenly played and both coaches did an outstanding job of keeping their players' focus on the game and improving their play. A good time was had by all.

Reporting Official: Steve Gustafson

Oostburg @ Kiel **April 22, 2016**

The whole Kiel team, including players and coaches, showed great sportsmanship during a game in which they lead until the end before losing a close game. Not one player or coach complained about any calls, but what impressed me was the fact these kids were having fun and they all had great attitudes, although I could see it hurt to lose that game. It was a joy working this game.

Reporting Official: Steve Kiel

Green Bay Preble @ Pulaski **April 7, 2016**

I had the pleasure of working a fantastic game. It's refreshing to work with coaches and kids that demonstrate what high school athletics is all about. The game ended 5-4; so there were reasons for excitement. As always, coaches' opinions on ball/strike calls can differ from the umpires, but these coaches handled both of us with respect at all times. Not surprisingly that is how the girls treated us and each other. Everything said was followed by thank you or please. Opposing batters would regularly hand the catcher her mask and the catcher in turn would pick up the bat and give it back to the batter after a foul ball. The members of these communities should be very proud of their softball programs. These kids are not only learning how to play ball very well, they are learning how young adults should treat each other.

Reporting Official: Gary Hagberg

Board Passes from page 1

conference would include Bowler/Gresham, Gibraltar, Green Bay N.E.W. Lutheran, Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas, Menominee Indian, Oneida Nation and Sevastopol.

Membership rules require a 40-day window for schools involved in conference realignment plans to appeal the first consideration of the Board before it takes final action. Thus, schools have until June 29, 2016, to file an appeal of the Board's initial vote. The Board is scheduled to take final action on the plan at its August 12 meeting.

In other action, the Board approved the boys hockey cooperative programs for 2016-17 and 2017-18, which were postponed from the April 19 meeting. It also approved the minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting and the funding for repairs to the WIAA executive office.

The Board received Executive Staff reports and engaged in discussions with representatives of School Perceptions on a membership survey to gather data on competition, co-op teams and sports season placement. It also received liaison updates from John Ashley of the Wisconsin Association of School Boards and Tim Collins of the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association. ■

Prescription Opioid Abuse Among Teens Requires Attention

There are far too many tragic stories of shattered families and lives lost directly related to opioid abuse. The heartbreak, remorse and confusion of parents, siblings and friends mourning a teenager's death by overdose are life altering.

One such story involved a popular high school graduate with a 4.0 grade point average and a brilliant future. With his whole life ahead of him, he lost the battle with addiction by an overdose of prescription painkillers. In another painful account, a high school athlete willingly shared his prescribed pain medication for his injury with a teammate, who developed an addiction that ultimately cost him his life to an overdose.

Opioids are narcotics that are prescribed to treat severe or chronic pain. These types of medications run a high risk of addiction and dependency when taken other than prescribed or taken by those with no medical need.

Unsettling statistics and information shared at the 2016 Annual Meeting, followed by reports after the death of the pop star icon, Prince, has re-emphasized and elevated awareness to the dangers of prescription opioid abuse.

Concerns about prescription drug abuse are more than relevant for this membership and their athletic programs after a research study concluded there is a higher incidence of prescription painkiller abuse reported by high school athletes. An article in the *Journal of Child & Adolescent Substance Abuse* stated that 12 percent of high school boy athletes and eight percent of girl athletes admitted to using prescription painkillers for purposes not medically related in 2013.

Research reveals a number of alarming facts and statistics that indicate the prevalence and dangers of opioid addiction and overdose among teens. Each day in the United States, an estimated 2,500 teenagers abuse prescription or over-the-counter medications for the first time. According to a 2015 Monitoring the Future survey, 14 percent of high school seniors reported using these types of medications for nonmedical purposes in the past year. In 2013, *HealthDay* published a story that stated 24 percent of high school students had abused prescription drugs.

The abuse of prescription painkillers has a high correlation in leading to an addiction to heroin. Reports state four out of five heroin abusers begin their addiction with prescription painkillers. When the prescription drugs are no longer available or too costly, those addicted seek heroin for an affordable and available drug. As a result, reported heroin cases spread throughout the state and rose from 273 in 2008 to 1,136 in 2014, according to Wisconsin Crime Laboratory data.

In Wisconsin alone, there are more than 163,000 reported abusers of opiates, and it is trending to become the leading cause of injury deaths, surpassing motor vehicle fatalities and matching falls.

In addition, prescription painkiller overdoses now cause more deaths than heroin and cocaine combined.

This is not just an isolated problem in Wisconsin, but it extends nationally. Federal statistics indicate over half the overdose deaths involve opioid-based prescription drugs, quadrupling from 1999-2013.

Much of the pervasive hazard with prescription opioid pain medication abuse stems from the inaccuracies of the myths associated with them. A Wisconsin Department of Justice program, *Dose of Reality*, aims to educate and prevent prescription painkiller abuse in Wisconsin and dispel the myths.

One of the common myths is the use of prescription medications is safer than street drugs. However, statistics indicated the sharpest increase in overdoses is from prescription drugs.

Another myth is the perceived source of opioids among teens. Most are not buying them from unscrupulous drug dealers. Nearly 71 percent of the users are either taking them from the medicine cabinet at home or getting them from friends. Seven of the top 10 drugs abused by high school seniors are over-the-counter medications prescribed for other purposes, and studies indicate 83 percent of adolescents have unsupervised availability to their own prescriptions.

To enhance efforts in preventing opioid abuse, a bipartisan bill has been forwarded to the full US House of Representatives that would direct the CDC to develop and produce educational materials with the focus on teens that have been injured playing youth sports. The information would address the addictive nature of opioids and the benefits of safe alternative pain treatments.

Methods to help prevent abuse include taking medication only as prescribed by a doctor, not sharing drugs with anyone under any circumstances, storing prescriptions in a safe and secure place, and disposing of medications properly.

We join in the efforts of the Wisconsin Attorney General to help prevent opioid abuse by assisting in the promotion of Wisconsin's *Dose of Reality* campaign. As we have with performance enhancing substances, we collaborate with administrators, athletic directors, coaches, parents and students to educate on the dangers of prescription painkillers, the warning signs of abuse, and other, safer pain relief alternatives.

As a membership focused on the safety and well-being of students and athletes, we are tasked with continuing to educate and bring awareness to the life-threatening realities and dangers attributed to prescription drug abuse. The result will save countless teens' lives and community tragedies.

A popular coaching axiom states "Winning is never final; losing is never fatal." That's true in most experiences, except when it comes to the misuse of opioid prescription pain medications.

Visit DoseOfRealityWI.gov for more information. ■

Keep These Dates in Mind

May 26, 31, June 1 & 2 Spring Baseball Regionals
May 30 Memorial Day
May 31-June 1 Boys Golf Sectionals
May 31 & June 2 Softball Sectionals
June 2-3-4 State Boys Individual Tennis Tournament (Madison)
June 2 & 4 Girls Soccer Regionals
June 3-4 State Track & Field Meet (La Crosse)
June 6-7 State Boys Golf (Madison)
June 7 Spring Baseball Sectionals
June 9 & 11 Girls Soccer Sectionals
June 9-10-11 State Softball (Madison)
June 10-11 State Boys Team Tennis (Madison)
June 13 Sports Advisory Committee Meeting
June 14-15-16 State Spring Baseball (Appleton)
June 16-17-18 State Girls Soccer (Milwaukee)
June 22-23 Advisory Council Meeting
June 23 Board of Control Meeting
July 12 & 15 Summer Baseball Regionals
July 18 Summer Baseball Sectionals
July 22 State Summer Baseball
July 25-26 New AD Workshop
August 1 Membership Application Deadline
Earliest Day to Issue Football Equipment

August 2 Earliest Day for Football Practice
August 8 Earliest Day for Girls Golf Practice
August 9 Earliest Day for Girls Swimming & Diving Practice
Earliest Day for Girls Tennis Practice
August 11 Earliest Date for First Girls Golf Meet
August 12 Board of Control Meeting
August 13 Earliest Date for First Girls Tennis Meet
August 15 Earliest Day for Boys & Girls Cross Country Practice
Earliest Day for Boys Soccer Practice
Earliest Day for Girls Volleyball Practice
August 17 Earliest Date for First Girls Swimming & Diving Meet
August 18 Earliest Date for First Football Game
August 22 Earliest Day for Boys Volleyball Practice
August 23 Earliest Date for First Cross Country Meet
Earliest Date for First Boys Soccer Meet
Earliest Date for First Girls Volleyball Match
August 30 Earliest Date for First Boys Volleyball Match
September 5 Labor Day
September 7 Area Meeting - Mount Horeb
Coaches Advisory Meetings - Softball (Stevens Point)
Coaches Advisory Meetings - Baseball (Stevens Point)
September 8 Area Meeting - Oconomowoc
Coaches Advisory Meeting - Track & Field (Stevens Point)



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Wis. Assoc. of School Boards – Bill Yingst, Sr., Durand

At-Large Representative – Pam Foegen, Regis (President-Elect)

At-Large Representative – Eric Coleman, Milw. Public Sch.

At-Large Representative – Ted Knutson, Aquinas (La Crosse)

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Test Dates

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

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

ACT – 2015-2016

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Required
June 11, 2016**	May 6, 2016	May 7-20, 2016

ACT – 2016-2017

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Required
Sept. 10, 2016*	Aug. 5, 2016	Aug. 6-19, 2016
Oct. 22, 2016	Sept. 16, 2016	Sept. 17-30, 2016
Dec. 10, 2016	Nov. 4, 2016	Nov. 5-18, 2016
Feb. 11, 2017*	Jan. 13, 2017	Jan. 14-20, 2017
April 8, 2017	March 3, 2017	March 4-17, 2017
June 20, 2017	May 5, 2017	May 6-19, 2017

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

** See Non-Saturday

(<http://www.actstudent.org/faq/nonsat.html>) testing
for information related to this test date. ■

According to a May 2016 *Phi Delta Kappan* article, high school sports flourished following World War II. More recently, high school sports participation has nearly doubled since the 1970s, thanks in large part to the expanded opportunities for girls with the passage of Title IX. ■