

Baseball (Boys)

SEASON REGULATIONS

(Rules in this section are specific for sport involved. Refer to Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules of Eligibility for regulations related to age, residence, scholarship, amateur status, etc.)

ALERT: State Law (175.22) prohibits use of cell phones (and other image-recording devices) in locker rooms except in emergency situations.

1. PRESEASON AND OUT-OF-SEASON

- a. Organizational meetings may be conducted outside the season provided no instruction or practice is included and the meeting(s) has been approved by school administration.
- b. So long as participation is voluntary and available to all interested students, there shall be no restrictions upon schools, school teams and school coaches (grades 9-12) relative to assembling in the summertime, for up to 5 days which do not need to be consecutive for all WIAA sports sponsored by the school. Unrestricted contact days must conclude no later than July 31.
- c. It is the philosophy of this Association that athletes should not be unreasonably restricted, except during the actual school season of a sport. Subsequently, students may voluntarily assemble at any time without school and/or school coach involvement. With school consent, in the summertime, members of a school's team may voluntarily assemble with their teammates and coaches for purposes of instruction and/or competition for up to 5 days in all WIAA sports sponsored by the school, without restriction. **Note: Whether an opportunity is school sponsored or not, coach contact may not exceed Board of Control approved contact days.**
- d. Other than during the actual school season and those days designated as unrestricted coach contact days in the summertime, the following provisions shall apply to nonschool participation in accordance with the above:
 - (1) 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.
 - (2) The person who will be coaching a student in the following school season shall not be permitted to coach that student other than during the designated school season and Board of Control approved coach contact days in the summertime. Board of Control approved summertime contact is as follows:
 - (a) Unrestricted School Coaching Contact - Coaches in all WIAA recognized sports (baseball, cross country, football, golf, gymnastics, softball, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field, volleyball, soccer, basketball, hockey and wrestling) have been afforded up to 5 days of unrestricted school coaching contact between the end of school and July 31, in accordance with the Bylaws and as described in item B of this section. The five days do not need to be consecutive.
 - 1) There must be a minimum of one calendar week (Sun.-Sat.) of no unrestricted school coaching contact prior to (i.e. the week immediately preceding) the first allowed practice in a fall sport. This does not affect unlimited nonschool coaching contact.
 - 2) Football must follow the WIAA Fall Acclimatization policy.
 - (b) Unlimited Nonschool Coaching Contact – Coaches in all sports except football have been afforded unlimited nonschool coaching contact beyond the five unrestricted days that is permitted to continue throughout the summertime (when school is not in session from the last day of school to the start of school) in accordance with the Bylaws and as described in Section 2 – A and C-1) of Rules of Eligibility, Article VI - Nonschool Participation.

Note: Coaches or others may not mandate participation or provide any incentives to athletes for participating in summertime/out-of-season activities/programs. Participation may not be a requirement for making a school team or earning a letter award, etc.

2. LENGTH OF SEASON

- a. The earliest day practice may begin is the Monday of Week **38 (March 21)**. The season ends with the State Tournament concluding on Thursday of Week **50 (June 16)**.
- b. Baseball conditioning for pitchers may be conducted for five (5) days during the week prior to the first date for baseball practice (Sun to Sat). There must be a day of rest for at least one calendar day before the season begins. This activity is considered out-of-season and voluntary.
 - (1) Only one session per day per athlete permitted—the maximum length of the session is two hours per individual.
 - (2) The program can be conducted indoors or out depending on the weather.
 - (3) The conditioning program is limited to pitchers and catchers in grades 9 through 12.
 - (4) Balls, gloves and catcher's protective equipment are the only equipment permitted. Portable pitching mounds are permitted. (Bats, batting tees, fungos, batting cages, pitching machines, etc., are strictly prohibited.)
 - (5) The program may consist only of warm-ups, stretching, calisthenics, weight training, running, other conditioning exercises and throwing. Throwing is permitted only because it is an important aspect of conditioning the arm.
 - (6) A coach must be present at all conditioning sessions.
 - (7) Safety Precautions – Catchers should wear full equipment. Do not use anyone to assume a batter's position while pitchers are throwing, since although pitching control may be an outcome of the program, it is not a program objective.

Note: It is a violation of WIAA rules to allow work on fielding, covering bases, pick-offs or any other related fundamental, and therefore, these types of drills are strictly prohibited. In addition, it should not be used as a tryout, and team cuts are not permitted.

3. MINIMUM DAYS OF PRACTICE

- a. There must be practices on a minimum of seven different days before the first game may be played.
- b. The first five days of practice may not involve a team from outside the school.
- c. The minimum days of practice prior to the first competition is a team requirement. While it is desirable for each participant to satisfy this requirement, schools will determine when students may begin competition.

- d. Teams must rest from all physical activity for at least one calendar day after six consecutive days of practice or competition. In the event extreme weather forces a WIAA tournament contest to be cancelled, school administration may request relief.

4. SCRIMMAGES

- a. One scrimmage, over one day, with another school or schools may be conducted in addition to the maximum allowed games, provided all athletes participating meet all WIAA and school eligibility requirements (exceptions: students ineligible due to academic deficiency, code of conduct violations, or those required to miss the next competitive event, due to being ejected from their last competitive event, may participate at the discretion of the school), and:
 - (1) Five different days of practice have elapsed.
 - (2) There is no loss of academic class time.
 - (3) There is no score kept in a book or on a scoreboard.
 - (4) Each high school team, i.e., varsity, JV, sophomore, freshman, is allowed one scrimmage.
An individual student is allowed to participate in only one day of scrimmage activity.
Note: An individual student may participate in multiple levels of scrimmages conducted on the same day.
 - (5) It may be held any time during the regular season or the WIAA tournament series.
- b. Any interschool scrimmage other than the one described in 4-a counts toward the maximum allowed games.

Note: If either school counts a scrimmage as a game, it must be counted as a game for both programs, schools or teams.

5. DATE OF FIRST GAME

The first game may not be played before Tuesday, **March 29**.

6. MAXIMUM ALLOWED GAMES

- a. The maximum number of games is 26. Schedules of all teams should be clearly published and separated by level for each team sponsored by a school.
- b. Conference tournaments must be included in count of regular season maximums.
- c. No game may be scheduled (but a game may be rescheduled if postponed) after either of the schools involved has begun WIAA tournament series competition.
- d. The WIAA tournament series is not part of the maximum allowed games.
- e. Except for events held in bordering states (MN, IL, MI and IA), no approval shall be provided for more than one out-of-state competition, event and/or scrimmage per team each school season.

7. INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS

- a. A student may not participate in more than 26 games, but a student who participates at multiple levels on the same day playing in one inning of a varsity game or three innings of a subvarsity game does not count toward the maximum number of games.
- b. The WIAA tournament series is not part of the maximum allowed games.
- c. WIAA Pitching Restrictions
All baseball teams at all levels will maintain a pitch count log for all pitchers during the school baseball season (regular and WIAA tournament).
 - (1) The pitch count is based on the number of pitches thrown to batters during an at-bat. Warm-up pitches allowed before the game, in between innings or allowed by the umpire in case of injury or game delay do not count.
 - (2) Pitches are counted, and when the number of pitches reaches a certain level, the pitcher must take off the required days of rest. The maximum number of pitches is 100.

Age	Maximum Number of Pitches	Required Days of Rest (Pitches)				
		0 Days	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
HS	100	1-30	31-49	50-75	76-100	--
MS 11-12	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
MS 13-14	95	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+

- (3) When the pitcher reaches 100 pitches, he may not pitch to another batter. He may only finish pitching to the current batter.
- (4) The pitching rule applies even though a game is called (ended) by the umpire because of darkness, rain or some other factor before it has become an official game.
- (5) At the pregame meeting, coaches should have a copy of their pitch-count log for any questions about pitcher status. Each team will designate a pitch-count person for their team. It is recommended (but not mandatory) that a responsible individual be a separate pitch recorder who will also record pitch counts from an area behind home plate.
- (6) At the end of each complete inning, coaches (and pitch-count recorder if present) will meet at a location designated by the team host and/or umpire to review pitch counts. If there is a difference, the coaches must resolve the difference before beginning the next inning.
- (7) If the counts differ, the following will be used to determine the pitch count:
 - If a pitch-count recorder is present and two of three agree, the majority will be considered official.
 - If a pitch-count recorder is present and none of the three agree, the pitch-count recorder will be considered official.
 - If a pitch-count recorder is not present, the home counter will be considered official.
- (8) At the conclusion of the game, both head coaches and pitch counter if present will sign the pitch count chart.
- (9) It is not the responsibility of game officials to enforce the pitch-count rule. Schools must report violation to the WIAA office following competition. Violations are considered in the same manner as a school using an ineligible student. The minimum penalty for such violations is forfeiture of the game.

8. FLAGRANT OR UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

- a. A student, disqualified from a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, is suspended from interscholastic competition for no less than the next competitive event (but not less than one complete game or meet) at the same level of competition as the disqualification.
 - (1) Ejections for violations of Rule 3, Section 3, Article 1, a-d and f, and Rule 1, Section 5, Article 1 (removal of helmet) do not require the player to miss the next contest with request to the WIAA office, unless the umpire deems the act to be flagrant or unsportsmanlike.
- b. Athletes who are ineligible during the WIAA Tournament (for any reason) may not appear in uniform, participate in warm-ups, and may not participate in the awards ceremony at the WIAA Tournament. Exception: An injured athlete will be allowed to participate in the awards ceremony provided he/she is included in the roster allotment for that game. During the regular season, schools should establish their own policy as to whether athletes are allowed to be in uniform and participate in pregame and postgame activity, if they are ineligible to compete due to flagrant and/or unsportsmanlike conduct, athletic and/or academic code violations, or for any other reason.
- c. Any player who in the judgment of the official, intentionally spits on, strikes, slaps, kicks, pushes or aggressively physically contacts an official at any time shall be immediately ineligible for competition a minimum of 90 calendar days from the date of the confrontation. In addition, the player is ineligible to compete for the first 25% of the next season in that same sport.

9. PROHIBITION OF PRACTICE AT GAME SITE

Schools are prohibited during the regular season and the WIAA tournament series from practicing for regional, sectional, and State Tournament at sites and facilities hosting WIAA tournaments.

10. CONTEST CONTROL

- a. All schools are responsible before, during, and after a contest for the proper conduct of their coaches, athletes, students, and other spectators and, when requested, a school must complete a report regarding the contest in which a problem occurred (WIAA Bylaws, Article X).
- b. Schools are expected to prohibit and/or eliminate pranks and/or mischief or any other activity involving destruction, theft, etc., of athletic facilities, equipment and material.

11. LICENSED OFFICIALS

A minimum of two WIAA licensed officials (umpires) are required for all interscholastic competition.

12. MEDICAL COVERAGE

For all games and practices, emergency procedures should be in place as per DPI and Wisconsin Statute 121.02 (1) (g) Emergency Nursing Service.

These should include, but are not limited to, such things as:

- a. A physician available by phone or on location.
- b. Phone location and phone numbers available for contacting physician and/or ambulance service.

13. CONCUSSION AND/OR UNCONSCIOUS PARTICIPANT

No athlete shall return to play or practice on the same day of being diagnosed with a concussion. Any athlete suspected of having a concussion must be evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional that day. Any athlete with a concussion must be medically cleared by an appropriate health-care professional prior to resuming participation in any practice or competition. Return to play must follow a step-wise protocol which includes provisions for delaying return to play based upon the return of any signs or symptoms. Any athlete deemed unconscious must have medical evaluation and clearance before being allowed to return to participation.

14. OXYGEN AND FLUIDS PROVIDED INTRAVENOUSLY

- a. Oxygen administered by mechanical means for recuperative purposes is not permitted.
- b. Fluids provided intravenously is an invasive procedure to be used only in emergency situations. An athlete may not return to competition the same day.

Note: See WIAA Medical Policies and Procedures for additional medical information.

15. RULES GOVERNING COMPETITION

The official rules for all interscholastic competition are contained in the (a) current edition of BASEBALL RULES and (b) related publications and interpretations of the National Federation with the following provisions:

NATIONAL FEDERATION ALLOWED ADAPTATIONS

- a. Ten Run Rule (4-2-2) shall be used in all regular season and WIAA tournament series competition.

The game shall end when the visiting team is behind 10 or more runs after 4 1/2 innings, or after the fifth inning if either team is 10 runs behind and both teams have had an equal number of times at bat.
- b. A game called for any reason, where a winner cannot be determined, will be treated as a suspended game (Rule 4-3). If the game is to be completed, it will be continued from the point of suspension and a suspended game will be completed unless both schools agree not to do so.
- c. If a regular season game is called prior to the completion of any full inning, NFHS Rule 4-2-3 will be applied. If a WIAA tournament game is called prior to the completion of any full inning, after the fifth inning, the game becomes a suspended game if the visiting team has scored one or more runs to tie the score or take the lead and the home team has not retaken the lead (Rule 4-2-3).
- d. Two seven-inning games shall constitute a doubleheader (NFHS rule 4-2-2b). By mutual agreement of school administration, nonvarsity five-inning doubleheaders may be scheduled.
- e. Courtesy Runners
 - (1) The team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and catcher at any time. The same runner may not be used for both positions. Neither the pitcher nor catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.
 - (2) Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.
 - (3) A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher and then be used as a runner or batter for another player in that half inning.

Penalty: For illegal substitution, such substitute shall be ejected.
- f. A time limit may be placed on nonvarsity games. Innings in progress must be completed and no new inning may be started once the time

limit has elapsed, regardless of the number of innings played, unless tied in tournament play (Rule 4-2-4). This is a conference or host school decision not umpire's prerogative.

STATE ASSOCIATION REGULATIONS

- a. Nonvarsity teams shall be allowed to wear old varsity uniforms, which are now unapproved, provided participant safety is not jeopardized.
- b. Coaches must report to their school administration within 48 hours following a contest any player or coach ejection. School administrators must then report the ejection to the WIAA via written communication within three (3) school days following the contest. This written communication must also include a plan of action to prevent future ejections. Officials will continue to provide electronic reports to the WIAA.

STATE ASSOCIATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. It is strongly recommended that schools which schedule games on facilities without dugouts, separate the dugout area from the spectator area with fencing, rope or similar protective measure.
- b. It is recommended all eligible substitutes be listed on the back of the line-up card given to the umpire before the game.

16. NON-VARSITY TEAMS WITH ONLY GRADE 9 STUDENTS

The above rules will apply for Grade 9 teams with the following adaptations:

- a. The season ends on the last day of school.
- b. The maximum number of games is 17. Each team may also engage in one interschool practice and/or scrimmage in addition to their maximum number of games. A game involving the faculty or a school controlled group, such as a team of intramural players, does not count as one of the maximum number of permissible contests.

17. GRADE 9 STUDENTS PARTICIPATING ON GRADE 8 TEAMS

- a. Rules governing junior high/middle level competition are contained in the Junior High/Middle Level Handbook.
- b. A school may not allow its students in Grades 9, 10, 11 and/or 12 to compete against another member school's students in Grade 8 and/or below.

Note: In emergency situations a waiver may be requested allowing 9th grade student(s) at member middle schools to compete at the 8th grade level at member middle schools.

- c. Rules governing Grade 9 season length apply for teams with students Grade 9 and below.