

Basketball (Boys & Girls)

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. Sanctioned school 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 sanctioned school 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) Sanctioned School Coaching Contact - Coaches in all WIAA recognized sports (baseball, cross country, football, golf, gymnastics, lacrosse, softball, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field, volleyball, soccer, basketball, hockey and wrestling) have been afforded up to 5 days of sanctioned 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 sanctioned school coaching contact prior to (i.e. the week immediately preceding) the first allowed practice in a fall sport. This does not affect nonschool programming.
 - 2) Football must follow the WIAA Fall Acclimatization policy.
 - (b) Nonschool Programming - Coaches in all sports except football have been afforded nonschool program contact beyond the five sanctioned school contact 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. Girls - The earliest day practice may begin is Monday of Week 19 (November 6). The season ends with the State Tournament concluding on Saturday of Week 36 (March 9).
- b. Boys - The earliest day practice may begin is Monday of Week 20 (November 13). The season ends with the State Tournament concluding on Saturday of Week 37 (March 16).

3. MINIMUM DAYS OF PRACTICE

- a. There must be practices on a minimum of seven different days before the first competition may be conducted.
- b. The first three 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 athletes 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) Does not count in either team's win/loss record.
 - (2) Three different days of practice have elapsed.
 - (3) There is no loss of academic class time.
 - (4) Each high school team, i.e., varsity, JV, sophomore, freshman, is allowed one scrimmage.
 - (5) 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.

(6) It may be held any time during the regular season or the WIAA tournament series.

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:

- a. Girls – Tuesday, November 14.
- b. Boys – Tuesday, November 21.

6. MAXIMUM ALLOWED GAMES

- a. The maximum number of games is 24 for varsity and 22 for non-varsity. If schools opt to schedule games against out-of-state (nonbordering states), they are limited to **one** competition/tournament of that type. 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. Overtime is mandatory in all conference and nonconference games.
- d. No game may continue more than two days.
- e. A school may not play in more than two tournaments or in a nonconference tournament consisting of more than eight schools. Each game in a tournament counts as one game toward the maximum allowed games. **Note: A tournament is any event that is bracketed and plays to winner.**
- f. No game may be scheduled (but may be rescheduled if postponed) after either of the schools involved has begun WIAA tournament competition.
- g. The WIAA tournament series is not part of the maximum allowed games.
- h. 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. If schools opt to schedule games against out-of-state (nonbordering states), they are limited to one competition/tournament of that type.
- b. A student may not participate in more than the number of halves listed below based on the total number of games played (see a. above):

22 games – 66 halves	23 games – 69 halves	24 games – 72 halves
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Note: When a JV game consists of only one half, followed by a varsity game with two halves – a player would be allowed to play in only two halves.
- c. The WIAA tournament series is not part of the half limitation.
- d. A student may not participate in more than two tournaments.
- e. It is strongly recommended that a student participate at only one level (varsity or nonvarsity) on the same day.
- f. A student who participates at multiple levels on the same day may not play in more than a total of 3 halves on that day with overtime period(s) considered an extension of the second half. Note: The half rule does not apply in situations where a student plays two games at the same level (varsity or nonvarsity) on the same day.
- g. It is not the responsibility of game officials to enforce the half rule. Schools must report violations to the WIAA 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 game in which participant exceeded the maximum.
- h. It is strongly recommended that a student who is a varsity starter or leading reserve not play at the nonvarsity level.
- i. **For information about non-school participation, refer to Rules of Eligibility, Article VI, Section 1 of the Senior High Handbook and consult with Athletic Administration.**

8. FLAGRANT OR UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT AND INELIGIBLE ATHLETES

- 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.
Note: An athlete ejected from a game for receiving two technical fouls in a game is subject to this suspension.
- 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 preparation at sites and facilities hosting WIAA tournaments. In addition schools may not use a tournament playing floor a minimum of two hours prior to the start of a WIAA tournament game for the purposes of shooting, passing, etc. (Violations of two hour rule will result in violating school's coach losing the use of the coaching box for that game.)

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, mischief, or any other activity involving destruction, theft, etc., of athletic facilities, equipment, and materials.

11. LICENSED OFFICIALS

Two WIAA licensed officials are required for all interscholastic competition. Three officials are allowed.

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.
- c. A designated physician or licensed athletic trainer will determine whether an injured athlete may continue whether or not consciousness is involved. They may consult with another physician if they desire, but their decision will be final. Coaches cannot keep medical personnel from examining athletes that are or may be injured.

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 editions of BASKETBALL RULES and CASE BOOK and (b) related publications and interpretations of the National Federation with these additional provisions:

NATIONAL FEDERATION ALLOWED ADAPTATIONS

- a. A mercy rule will be used for all levels of high school games.
 - (1) When the point differential reaches 40 points or more with less than 9 minutes to play in the second half, the clock will go to running time. The clock will only be stopped for time-outs (team or official).
 - (2) Rule applies during the regular season and tournament series.
 - (3) If the differential drops below 40 points, clock still runs continuously until the game is over.
- b. Coaches, at all levels, are allowed to use a 28-foot coaching box.

STATE ASSOCIATION REGULATIONS

- a. All varsity games will be played in two 18 minute halves. All nonvarsity games will be played in two 16 minute halves.
- b. Pregame Warm-up Procedure and Player Introductions will follow NFHS Rule 4.1 (pg. 28) and 5.1 (pg.86) in the NFHS Officials Manual starting in the 2023-24 season.
 - (1) There will be 15 minutes allowed for pregame warm-ups.
 - (2) Officials' Pregame Protocol (NFHS Basketball Officials Manual, pgs. 28 & 86)
 - (a) 15:00 Officials enter court and go directly to positions.
 - (b) 12:00 Referee goes to the table and checks scorebook(s), briefs scorer and timer, checks game ball.
 - (c) 10:00 Remaining official(s) go across the floor to join referee, greet the visiting coach, then greet the home head coach.
 - 1) Referee goes to area in front of scorer's table.
 - 2) U1 and U2 will get respective head coaches and captains from teams.
 - 3) Referee does introductions of officials, coaches, and captain(s).
 - 4) Referee conducts pregame briefing to include discussing legal equipment and good sporting behavior with head coaches and captain(s). Also discuss team color, proper basket, other appropriate items and answer any questions.
 - 5) Return to original positions.
 - (3) Introduction of Players - All five starters of the visiting team shall be introduced first followed by the five starters for the home team. Players shall not seek out the opposing coach to shake his/her hand.
- c. The school of a player who breaks a backboard is responsible for replacing the board.
- d. Nonvarsity teams shall be allowed to wear old varsity uniforms, which are now unapproved, provided participant safety is not jeopardized.
- e. 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.

16. NON-VARSITY TEAMS WITH ONLY GRADE 9 STUDENTS

The above rules will apply with these additional provisions:

- a. The season ends on the Saturday of Week 34 (February 24) for girls and Saturday of Week 35 (March 2) for boys.
- b. The maximum number of games is 22.
- c. One game involving the faculty or a school controlled group, such as a team of intramural players, does not count toward the maximum.
- d. A student in their Grade 9 team competition may not play in more than 44 halves.
- e. Schools may decide by mutual agreement to use the smaller basketball for boys' competition.

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.