



2023-24 WIAA MIDDLE LEVEL/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL RULES AT A GLANCE

The WIAA Middle Level/Junior High Rules at a Glance offers a brief synopsis of WIAA Bylaws and Rules of Eligibility, to address in general some of the most common questions of the membership.

WIAA Bylaws, which outline the provisions of membership in the Association and the Rules of Eligibility, appear in the WIAA Middle Level/Junior High Handbook. The reader should refer to that publication, or confer with your school athletic director, for more complete information. Your AD should always be your first contact for questions or concerns about school sports.

It is the responsibility of member schools to abide by the rules of the Association, to educate students, coaches, parents and others regarding the provisions of membership and Rules of Eligibility and to report to the WIAA all violations of Association provisions.

The WIAA Constitutions states that each member school must have administrative oversight of at least one independently sponsored interscholastic athletic program that is maintained throughout duration of membership.

Junior high/middle-level schools are not restricted, as to what sports they conduct in the fall, winter, or spring seasons, however, the following regulations do apply:

There is to be no overlap of fall, winter and spring seasons.

FALL – The maximum length of a fall season is 10 weeks, concluding on the Saturday of the 10th week.

WINTER – The maximum length of a winter season is 15 weeks, concluding on the Saturday of the 15th week.

SPRING – The maximum length of a spring season is 10 weeks, concluding no later than the last day of school.

It is recommended that schools consider using the high school guidelines for minimum days of practice.

National Federation rules are followed, in junior high/middle-level competition, but schools and conferences may adapt those rules for safety reasons, or to allow more students to participate. Examples of adaptations might be:

1. Extra periods of play, to allow participation by youngsters that did not get an opportunity to play in the regular game.
2. Longer periods of play, designed for the same reason as number 1.
3. Weight considerations and restrictions.

GAME MAXIMUMS – Member schools may not exceed the game maximum requirements.

Baseball – 12	Soccer – 12
Basketball – 17 (2 tournaments)	Softball – 12
Cross Country – 8	Swimming & Diving – 12
Football – 7	Tennis – 12 (4 tournaments)
Golf – 12	Track & Field – 12
Gymnastics – 12	Volleyball – 13 (6 tournaments)
Lacrosse – TBA	Wrestling – 12

CONTEST OFFICIALS – A school shall use only persons licensed with the Association for purposes of officiating junior high/middle level (Grades 6-8) interscholastic contests. Schools must follow the requirements for number of licensed officials needed at each contest.

NON-SCHOOL PARTICIPATION (IN-SEASON) – 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 prior 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 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 on the basis of documented extenuating circumstances.

COACHING REQUIREMENTS – All coaches must meet the Coaches Not Licensed to Teach (CNLT) requirement if not certified to teach in Wisconsin. All paid coaches must be AED/CPR and First Aid certified and maintain certification while coaching.

COACHING CONTACT – Nonschool coaching contact will be permitted during the school year for middle school coaches, provided such nonschool programs are not limited to students on the basis of school or team affiliation.

PARTICIPATION – A student is eligible for interscholastic competition at a junior high/middle school (Grades 6-8), if he/she is carried on the attendance rolls (for purposes of state equalization aids) as a fulltime Grade 6, 7, or 8 student in that member school, with the following additional provisions: 1. A student is eligible to participate in interscholastic competition at the level (Grades 6-8) to which he/she has been placed/promoted. 2. Junior high/middle level students (Grades 6-8) are not eligible to compete with or against students enrolled in Grades 9-12.

Students at private schools may be afforded eligibility at the community/local public middle level/junior high school provided that the private school is also a WIAA member. A private member school student is eligible for interscholastic competition at a member junior high/middle level public school (Grades 6-8), if he/she is carried on the attendance rolls as a fulltime Grade 6, 7, or 8 student in the private school, with the following provisions: 1. A student is eligible to participate in interscholastic competition at the level (Grades 6-8) to which he/she has been placed/promoted. 2. Formal school Board of Education approval is required by all of the schools involved. 3. Formal middle level athletic conference approval is required by all of the schools involved, when conference membership applies.

AGE REQUIREMENT – A student shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition as a member of a team consisting of Grades 6, 7, and 8 students if he/she reaches his/her birthday before August 1 of any given school year (6th grade - 13, 7th grade - 14, 8th grade - 15).

HEALTH COMPLIANCE – A student may not practice for or participate in interscholastic athletics until the school has written evidence on file in its office attesting to: 1. Parental permission each school year including an acknowledgement of receiving the school athletic code, 2. Acknowledgement of receiving the WIAA Rules of Eligibility, 3. Athletic Emergency Form 4. Current physical fitness to participate in sports.

ALL-STAR ACTIVITIES – It is the philosophy of this Association that all-star games and similar activity do not serve the best interests of junior high/middle level students, because of overemphasis, exploitation, selection procedure, and/or other factors. A student becomes ineligible in a sport for a maximum of one year from date of last offense for participating in an all-star game or similar activity.

AMATEUR STATUS – A student may not accept, receive and/or direct to another, reimbursement in any form of salary, cash (including gift cards), or share of game or season proceeds for athletic accomplishments, such as being on a winning team, being selected for the school varsity team, or being a place winner in an individual tournament, etc. A student may receive: school mementos valued not more than \$200, an award valued no more than \$100 retail, and may retain non-school competition apparel worn by the student as part of the team uniform. Rules further prevent athletes from receiving compensation or benefit, directly or indirectly, for the use of name, picture and/or personal appearance as an athlete because of ability, potential and/or performance as an athlete. Athletes may not receive free and/or reduced rates on equipment, apparel, camps/clinics/instruction and competitive opportunities that are not identical for any and all interested students. A student may not be identified as an athlete, provide endorsement as an athlete, or appear as an athlete in the promotion of a commercial/advertisement and/or profit-making event, item, plan or service. Also, an athlete violates this rule if he/she plays in any contest (school or non-school) under a name other than his/her own.