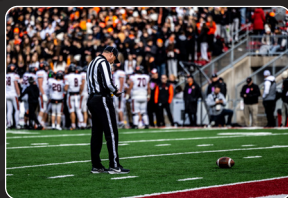
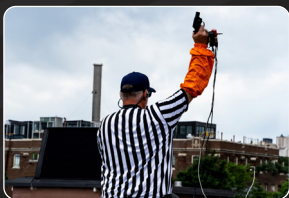




WISCONSIN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

SPORT OFFICIALS GUIDE



2026-27

2026-27 Sport Officials Guide

Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association

5516 Vern Holmes Dr. – Stevens Point, WI 54482-8833

Phone 715-344-8580 • email refs@wiaawi.org • website www.wiaawi.org

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WIAA EXECUTIVE STAFF

Stephanie Hauser, Executive Director

Mel Dow, Associate Director

Kassie Mortimer, Assistant Director

LeVar Ridgeway, Assistant Director

Melissa Gehring, Assistant Director

Chad Schultz, Assistant Director

Jake Beschta, Assistant Director

Todd Clark, Communications Director

LICENSE PROCEDURES

- Options for completing licensing application are as follows:

Option 1: Online licensing

Under the OFFICIALS tab on the red menu bar, please choose Online Registration. Select the option to renew your license, existing/returning WIAA officials will login with your current login information. Proceed from there and follow the prompts. Your name and address must match that which is found on your credit card statement in order for the transaction to process properly. New WIAA officials will click on the License Now button to register.

*For assistance with registration, call the WIAA office, 715-344-8580.

- Officiating license is valid from August 1 through July 31.
- Local Athletic Directors are able to register individuals in high school. High school students may apply for licensing and officiate contests up to and including the 9th grade level. High school students, classified as Limited/Restricted (L/R), are allowed to officiate:
 - WIAA contests up to and including the 9th grade level.
 - Sub Varsity contest in all sports except hockey, as long as they are assigned with a fully licensed non-high school student official.
 - In soccer, may work varsity contests as an AR.

Note: After two years' experience as a L/R official there is opportunity for advancement to L2 upon high school graduation with verification.

- The basic fee for each licensed official (no fees charged to high school students) will be \$35. A \$15 sport fee will be assessed for each sport for which you elect to be licensed.
- Registration windows for sports officials are:
 - Open and remain open until the start of that sports tournament series.
 - The upcoming year's registration for that sport will open after the first date of the tournament series. (Ex: Football registration for Fall of '27 opens on October 15, 2026, the start of the Football tournament series)

Registrations not completed by the following dates may receive digital copies of the rule materials supplied.

July 1: Fall Deadline

October 1 – Winter Deadline

January 1 – Spring Deadline .

Officials are highly encouraged to register by July 1 each year. Many competitions are contracted by the AD's and assignors during the summer months. More opportunities will be available for those who register before July 1.

- Completion of your application will result in:
 - Your name is being placed in the WIAA online Officials Directory.
 - Prior to each sport season for which you are licensed, you will receive appropriate rules books, case books, and officials manuals (when published). Simplified and illustrated books are included in a few sports, and they may be purchased from the WIAA at an additional charge.
 - Official licenses expire on July 31.
- By applying for a license to officiate WIAA athletic contests, the applicant acknowledges that he/she is performing duties as an independent contractor and not as an employee of the school or of the WIAA when officiating contests authorized by the issuance of this license.

MILITARY INITIATIVE

The WIAA offers current and former military personnel the opportunity to license as a WIAA sport official by waiving the basic license fee and the sport fee. This offer is extended to current and former military personnel who provide military documentation at the time of registration.

The training and discipline required of military personnel transfers well to sports officiating. By waiving the fees for these individuals, the WIAA hopes to acknowledge those who serve or have served and say THANK YOU.

RECIPROCITY

The WIAA has agreements with Iowa, Michigan, and Minnesota

- Wisconsin residents must be licensed in Wisconsin in order to utilize the reciprocity options.
- Wisconsin residents may only license in Wisconsin as a fully licensed official.
- For WIAA licensed officials who wish to also officiate in Iowa, Michigan and Minnesota, follow these steps:

- a. Hold a current license in Wisconsin.
- b. Submit an online application to a neighboring state association, and pay at minimum, the reciprocity fee. This will allow you to officiate those sports which you are licensed for in Wisconsin.

Note: The WIAA allows individuals licensed in Illinois to license as reciprocity officials. Illinois does not allow Wisconsin officials reciprocity licensing.

4. Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, and Minnesota residents who wish to officiate in Wisconsin may choose the reciprocity option during online registration. Provide documentation and \$10 for registration. Reciprocity officials must stay current with rules exams and meetings in their home state.

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

As a WIAA licensed sport official, the following was verified in your license application:

1. You have an accurate and working knowledge of the rules and officiating mechanics of the sports you have requested licensing.
2. You will uphold WIAA's policies and rule interpretations/ applications, including those of promoting wholesome amateur athletics in the member schools, and conducting them in an atmosphere of sportsmanship, free from gender and ethnic bias and/or harassment.
3. You are acting as an independent contractor and not as an employee of the WIAA or its member schools when seeking and accepting officiating contracts.

INACTIVE STATUS

1. Inactive Status may be granted for a maximum of one year, and is available ONLY to L5 and Master officials who are unable to fulfill existing contracts due to a physical condition, or U.S. Military Obligation, that makes it impossible for them to officiate the number of contests necessary to maintain classification. Simply submit a written request explaining your injury/status to the WIAA.
2. All other classification requirements must be met -- sports meeting requirement, submit exam(s), score required percentage for your level on the exam and submitting your varsity schedule (if required).
3. An official requesting Inactive Status must submit, if requested, copies of originally signed contracts and medical documentation or military orders.
4. If Inactive Status is granted, current classification is maintained for one year.

EXPERIENCED OFFICIALS NEW TO WISCONSIN

1. As a new official in Wisconsin, officials would normally be classified as a L1. Experienced officials, new to Wisconsin, can request an adjustment to their classification. This is an opportunity to receive credit for the experience gained in another state.
2. The WIAA must receive confirmation from the official's former home state association office.
 - a. Licensing officials must have their former home state association fill out and complete the [Classification Adjustment form](#) found on the WIAA website under Officials - Forms and Publications.
3. The WIAA office has the final determination of classification level.

CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

1. Officials have two requirements each year. The completion of these requirements will have a positive effect on an official's classification.

Requirements:

- a. Watch the rules video by the listed deadline.
- b. Complete the rules exam(s) by the listed deadline.

The online rules video is posted prior to the sports season, and contains information on WIAA rules and regulations, as well as covers all new NFHS rules. Officials must watch the entire video each year by the deadline, in order to receive credit. Once the video is completed, credit will be placed on the official's profile.

The online rules exams should be taken AFTER watching the rules video, and must be completed by the indicated deadline each year. As classification levels rise, the required score on the rules exam increases. (See below for specific information on required test scores for each classification.)

Note: It is the responsibility of the official to save copies of the certificate(s) of completion.

2. Officials may advance one level in classification each year if all requirements for the next level are met.

Note: L0, L1, L2 and L3 officials will be allowed to advance two levels in classification per sport, per year, when credited for attending a WIAA

approved officiating camp/clinic or by completing a NFHS officials training video for the sport(s) official is licensed in. Officials must meet all the criteria for the new level (maximum one clinic or video per sport/year). Note: Clinic attendance or training video viewing does not eliminate the WIAA rules video requirement. L4, L5 and Master officials attending a WIAA approved clinic, conducting a WIAA approved clinic or viewing a NFHS training video will be given credit for one varsity contest on their Schedule of Games. The change in classification occurs the following year during the July rollover.

3. Officials will maintain their current classification level for any of the following reasons (will not advance):
 - a. Miss the deadline for submitting Part I or Part II (if applicable) exam.
 - b. Did not achieve the required exam score for the next level but did achieve the necessary score to maintain their current level.
 - c. Did not have the required number of regular season varsity contests for the next level but did have the required number of regular season varsity contests to maintain their current level.
 - d. Submitted their varsity schedule late but did achieve the necessary number of regular season varsity contests to maintain their current level.
4. Officials will drop in classification for any of the following reasons:
 - a. Did not watch WIAA rules video in the sport(s) in which he/she is licensed.
 - b. Did not submit Part I or Part II (if applicable) exam.
 - c. Did not work the required number of regular season varsity contests for the L5 classification level.
 - d. A Master official did not achieve the required Part I and Part II (if applicable) exam score and/or did not have the required number of regular season varsity contests for the Master level.
 - e. Repetitive violation of requirements listed in No. 3.
5. An official's classification level will drop one level, in a given sport, for each year they are not licensed.

CLASSIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Officials may advance one level in classification each year if all requirements for the next level are met by the due date.

L0 - Meet sport meeting requirement, write Part I exam.

L1 - Meet sport meeting requirement, write Part I exam.

L2 - Meet sport meeting requirement, score 70% on Part I exam.

L3 - Meet sport meeting requirement, score 75% on Part I exam.

L4 - Meet sport meeting requirement, score 80% on Part I exam.

L5 - Meet sport meeting requirement, score 85% on Part I exam, provide schedule of regular season varsity games worked during current school year. Note: Post-season contests (regionals, sectionals, state) do not count for the required number of varsity contests, only regular season varsity contests.

MASTER - Meet sport meeting requirement, score 90% on Part I and Part II exam (if applicable), provide schedule of regular season varsity games worked during current school year. Note: Post-season contests (regionals, sectionals, state) do not count for the required number of varsity contests, only regular season varsity contests.

L5 Contest Requirements		Master Contest Requirements	
<i>Sport</i>	<i>No. of regular season contests</i>	<i>Sport</i>	<i>No. of regular season contests</i>
Baseball	4 games	Baseball	8 games
Basketball	8 games	Basketball	16 games*
Football	3 games	Football	5 games
Gymnastics	4 meets	Gymnastics	7 meets
Hockey	5 games	Hockey	9 games
Lacrosse	6 games	Lacrosse	12 games
Soccer	7 games	Soccer	14 games*
Softball	4 games	Softball	8 games
Swimming & Diving	5 meets	Swimming & Diving	10 meets*
Track & Field/Cross Country	3 meets	Track & Field/Cross Country	6 meets
Volleyball	4 matches	Volleyball	7 matches
Wrestling	4 matches	Wrestling	7 matches

* Female officials who wish to work only in girls contests in this sport, for affirmative action reasons, may submit a written request to the WIAA for a reduction in game requirements for classification purposes. A separate request must be submitted each year.

Note: Any competition conducted on a tournament (multi-school) basis will count as two of the required contests.

HOW TO GET GAME ASSIGNMENTS

1. Game assignments are made by each school's athletic director and/or conference commissioner/assignor.
2. Contact your local high school athletic director and let him/her know you are licensed and ready for assignments.
3. If there is an Officials Association in your area, it is highly recommended that you join. Association membership is beneficial in that it can help individuals receive mentoring, game assignments, additional training, etc. A listing of Wisconsin Official's Associations can be found on the WIAA website under Officials.
4. The WIAA partners with an officiating software company, which offers a platform for hiring officials. Most athletic directors use this platform to hire officials. If you want your officiating profile to be viewable by AD's through this platform, be sure to make the proper selection while registering

RANKING & TOURNAMENT AVAILABILITIES INFORMATION

All WIAA licensed officials need to enter their entire varsity game schedule on the WIAA website, in order to get ranked by coaches in any sport. Coaches are allowed to rank an official 1-6 after a game using the following scale.

- 1 - would not hire this official again.
- 2 - needs improvement.
- 3 - would hire for a regular season contest.
- 4 - would hire for a regional contest.
- 5 - would hire for a sectional contest.
- 6 - clearly among the best, would hire for a state contest.

Ranking data used for the current year is from the previous season.

The following is the formula used in determining ranking average: Points will be added up and will include points for an official's current classification level (L1=1, L2=2, L3=3, L4=4, L5=5 and Master=6) divided by the total number of rankings plus one. In the sport of basketball, volleyball, swimming & diving and soccer for every 10 rankings received, one high and one low will be thrown out, with a maximum of two high and two low rankings being thrown out. In all other sports, for every five rankings, one high and one low will be thrown out, with a maximum of two high and two low rankings thrown out.

Note: If coaches are to be able to rank officials properly, it is important that they know who you are. Therefore, when signing the scorebooks officials need to write clearly. Additionally, a profile picture should be added.

Tournament availability will be posted on the WIAA site. Check for email notifications announcing the posting of the availability.

*Officials must complete the rules video and all sport rules exams prior to the start of the WIAA tournament series in order to be considered eligible for the tournament.

OFFICIALS' CONTRACTS

1. Officials, when completing contest contracts, are reminded of the following:
 - a. An official acts as an independent contractor (not as an employee of the WIAA or its member schools) when entering into an agreement with the WIAA or a WIAA member school.
 - b. If a contest is rescheduled or cancelled because of situations beyond human control, the official(s) originally contracted must be given first right of refusal for the same contest at a later date.
 - c. Each official should request a contract from the commissioner/assignor or school for every contest regardless of the level of competition.
 - d. Replacement officials should request a contract from the commissioner/assignor or school prior to working the contest.
 - e. A WIAA official's license may be withdrawn or denied for inappropriate behavior, double booking, not showing for a contracted contest, officiating a WIAA contest prior to being licensed in that sport, officiating a contest with less than the required number of licensed officials, etc.
2. If an official has been reported to have double booked or dropped a contest without receiving approval of the conference/school, that official will not be tournament eligible for the current season.

3. Contracts are regarded as null and void if the official's license is revoked.
4. All schools and officials are expected to adhere to contract provisions. Officials that violate contract provisions may be subject to WIAA disciplinary action. Schools which violate contract provisions are expected to pay the official according to the financial terms of the contract.

WIAA TOURNAMENT CONTRACTS

Once an official accepts a contract(s) and fails to meet the obligations associated with it, except for injury, family emergencies, or with WIAA approval, he/she may be subject to discipline. Penalties might be, but are not limited to, assigned partner being replaced, plus removal from some future tournament consideration.

Note: Pending disciplinary actions against an official may render a previously offered tournament contract null and void. (See Accepting and Turning Back Game Guidelines)

Baseball

1. Tournament availability forms are available online to all L1-Master baseball officials.
2. The WIAA contracts officials for all tournament levels with preference given to L5 and Master officials having the highest rankings.
3. The following information will be used in determining contracts: a) coaches rankings from last year; b) the number of varsity contests worked during current season; c) total number of coaches who ranked the official; d) previous tournament experience and total years of experience; e) dates available; and f) restrictions an official or school have listed.
4. State tournament umpires are rotated in an attempt to contract deserving umpires from all areas of the state.

Basketball

1. Tournament availability forms are available online to all L4, L5 and master officials.
2. The WIAA contracts officials for all tournament games. The following information is used when determining contracts: a) on-time completion of availability form; b) feedback from assignors, officials associations and conference commissioners; c) results of coaches' rankings; d) varsity game minimum (12) met (may be gender specific); e) previous tournament experience; f) other criteria including but not limited to listed restrictions, continuing education and listed partners are considered.
3. During the WIAA tournament series, officials can only work one basketball game per day, and no more than three in one week.
4. The WIAA contracts the state officials from those working sectional games, taking into consideration a concern for a rotation of new officials and state representation. Three-person crews will be used for all WIAA basketball tournament games.
5. View the document "How State Tournament Officials Are Chosen" on the WIAA basketball website.

Cross Country

1. Tournament availability forms are available online, with the exception of L0 and LR, to all L1-Master cross country officials.
2. The WIAA contracts officials for all tournament levels with preference given to L5 and Master officials having the highest ranking and the geographical location of tournaments.
3. Contracts are dependent upon the following information: a) coaches rankings from last year; b) the number of varsity meets worked during current season; c) total number of coaches who evaluated the official; d) previous tournament experience and total years of experience; e) dates available; f) restrictions an official or school have listed; and g) requests from tournament managers.
4. The WIAA contracts the state officials from those working sectionals taking into consideration a concern for rotation of new officials and statewide representation.

Football

1. To be on the ranking list for football, a crew must meet the following criteria: a) at least two members of the crew must be L5 or Master; b) if only two members of the crew are L5 or Master, one other member must be L4; and c) the aggregate years that the crew members have been licensed must be at least 25. Crews containing reciprocity officials are not eligible for playoff consideration.

Note: Crews meeting the above criteria must submit the appropriate form prior to September 30 so their names can be added to the list for tournament availability. (Form may be obtained from the WIAA website.)

2. Coaches evaluations serve as a starting point in tournament selections. Experience, classification, prior WIAA tournament experience, number of varsity games worked during current season and other criteria are considered.
3. Every attempt is made to use as many qualified crews as possible. Final contracts are issued on the basis of geography with first consideration given to crews who are ranked "above average" in comparison to statewide averages.

Gymnastics

1. Tournament availability forms are available online, with the exception of LO and LR, to all L1-Master gymnastics officials.
2. Contracts are dependent upon the following information: a) coaches rankings from last year; b) number of club/college contests worked during current year; c) previous tournament experience and total years of experience; d) requests from tournament managers; and e) input from athletic directors/commissioners.
3. Judges are contracted to work meets in their own region of the state, if possible. However, it is often necessary to send judges a considerable distance for tournaments.
4. The WIAA contracts the state tournament judges from those having the highest ranking taking into consideration concern for statewide representation.

Hockey

1. Tournament availability forms are available online with the exception of LO and LR, to all L1-Master hockey officials.
2. The WIAA contracts officials for all tournament levels with preference given to those officials having the highest ranking, number of ranks received, classification level and geography.
3. The WIAA contracts the state tournament officials from those having the highest ranking taking into consideration concern for statewide representation.

Lacrosse

1. Tournament availability forms are available online for all L1-Master Boys and Girls Lacrosse officials.
2. The WIAA contracts officials for all tournament games. The following information is used when determining contracts:
 - a. On-time completion of availability form
 - b. Results of coaches' rankings
 - c. Assignor and official's association recommendations
 - d. Number of varsity games worked during the current season
 - e. Years of experience
 - f. Restrictions listed by official and/or member schools
3. The WIAA contracts the state tournament officials from those having the highest ranking, taking into consideration concern for statewide representation.

Soccer

1. Tournament availability forms are available online with the exception of LO and LR, to all L1-Master soccer officials.
2. The WIAA contracts officials for all tournament games. The following information is used when determining contracts: a) on-time completion of availability form; b) results of coaches' rankings; c) assignor feedback; d) officials' association recommendations; e) number of varsity games worked during the current season (may be gender specific); f) years of experience; g) previous tournament experience; and h) restrictions listed by official and/or member school.
3. The WIAA contracts the state tournament officials from those having the highest ranking taking into consideration concern for statewide representation.

Softball

1. Tournament availability forms are available online, with the exception of LO and LR, to all L1-Master softball umpires.
2. The WIAA contracts officials for all tournament levels with preference given to L5 and Master officials having the highest rankings.
3. Contracts are dependent upon the following information: a) coaches rankings from last year; b) the number of varsity games worked during current season; c) total number of coaches who evaluated the officials; d) previous tournament experience and total years of experience; e) dates available; f) restrictions an official or school have listed; and g) input from athletic directors/commissioners.
4. The WIAA contracts the state tournament officials from those working sectionals taking into consideration concern for rotation of new officials and statewide representation.

Swimming & Diving

1. Tournament availability forms are available online to all L1-Master officials. (L1 officials will be considered for stroke/turn swim only positions.)
2. The WIAA contracts officials for all tournament levels with preference given to officials having the highest ranking.

3. Contracts are dependent upon coaches rankings from last year, classification level, diving officials will need to have geography and rotation between the girls and boys program.
4. The WIAA contracts the state tournament officials from those working sectionals taking into consideration concern for rotation of officials and statewide representation.

Track & Field

1. Tournament availability forms are available online, with the exception of L0 and LR, to all L1-Master track & field officials.
2. The WIAA contracts officials for all tournament levels with preference given to L5 and Master officials having the highest ranking and the geographical location of tournaments.
3. Contracts are dependent upon the following information: a) coaches rankings from last year; b) the number of varsity meets worked during current season; c) total number of coaches who evaluated the official; d) previous tournament experience and total years of experience; e) dates available; f) restrictions an official or school have listed; and g) requests from tournament managers.
4. The WIAA contracts the state tournament officials from those working regionals or sectionals taking into consideration concern for rotation of new officials and statewide representation.

Volleyball

1. Tournament availability forms are available online, with the exception of L0 and LR, to all L1-Master volleyball officials.
2. The WIAA contracts officials for all tournament levels with preference given to L5 and Master officials having the highest rankings.
3. Contracts are dependent upon the following information: a) coaches rankings from last year; b) the number of varsity matches worked during current season; c) total number of coaches who evaluated the officials; d) previous tournament experience and total years of experience; e) dates available; f) restrictions an official or school have listed; and g) input from athletic directors/commissioners.
4. The WIAA contracts the state tournament officials from those working sectionals taking into consideration concern for rotation of new officials and statewide representation.

Wrestling

1. Tournament availability forms are available online to all L1-Master wrestling officials.
2. The WIAA contracts officials for all tournament levels with preference given to L5 and Master officials having the highest rankings.
3. The following information will be used in determining contracts: a) coaches rankings from last year; b) the number of varsity contests worked during current season; c) total number of coaches who ranked the official; d) previous tournament experience and total years of experience; e) dates available; and f) restrictions an official or school have listed.
4. The WIAA contracts the state tournament officials from those working sectionals taking into consideration concern for rotation of new officials and statewide representation.

WIAA TOURNAMENT CONTESTS

In all WIAA tournament series contests, game officials shall ask coaches to verify that they have the correct number of players in uniform for this competition, in addition to being legally equipped.

Noncompliance with this regulation, (i.e., exceeding the number of allowed players in uniform) once competition has begun, shall be regarded as flagrant, unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the head coach resulting in his/her immediate ejection (leave premises) when brought to the attention of the game officials.

Note: If no other coach or faculty member of that school is present to supervise the team, the game shall be forfeited and the team disqualified from further participation in the tournament series.

REQUIRED NUMBER OF OFFICIALS

Member schools of this Association are required to use only WIAA licensed sport officials as stipulated under Article IX - Officials Qualifications in the BYLAWS as follows:

A school shall use only persons licensed with the Association for purposes of officiating interscholastic contests – varsity, junior varsity, sophomore, freshman and junior high/middle level school (Grades 6-8). The following number of licensed officials (as noted in parenthesis) are required for each sport.

Baseball (2) – Umpires (Three-person crews are acceptable. Three-person crews will be used at sectionals. Four-person crews are used at State.) For junior high/middle level one licensed official is required but two are recommended. Note: Schools cannot use unlicensed individuals as their second official.

Basketball (2) – Referee and Umpire (Three-person crews are acceptable. Three-person crews will be used at regionals, sectionals and State tournament games.)

Cross Country (1) – Referee-Starter (Two are recommended for all interscholastic competition.)

Football – Regular Season (4): Referee, Umpire, Linesman, and Line Judge. Playoffs (5): Referee, Umpire, Linesman, Line Judge, and Back Judge.
Note: For interscholastic competition other than senior high varsity games, only three officials are required (four are recommended). Five-person crews are acceptable.

Gymnastics – Judges (2): Per event - Varsity. Judges (1): Per event - Junior Varsity

Hockey (3) – Referee, Assistant Referee, and Linesman - at all levels of competition.

Lacrosse (2) – Two licensed officials are required for all levels. (Boys – Referee and Umpire/Girls – Officials). Three licensed officials are recommended for varsity competitions (Boys – Referee, Umpire and Field Judge/Girls – Officials). Three person crews will be used at the State Tournament.

Soccer (3) – Head Referee and Assistant Referee (2) required for all varsity (non conference and conference) duals. Note: Two officials are acceptable for varsity multi-school tournaments and sub varsity contests. In emergency situations, one licensed WIAA official and two volunteers may be used to officiate sub varsity games. The volunteers would not need to be licensed and would not be required to be in a uniform. The volunteer official would only indicate when the ball is out-of-bounds and which team would get the throw in. The volunteer will not call offsides.

Softball (2) – Umpires - (Three-person crews are acceptable. Three-person crews will be used at the state tournament and sectional semifinal and championship games.) For junior high/middle level one licensed official is required but two are recommended. Note: Schools cannot use unlicensed individuals as their second official.

Swimming and Diving (2) – Referee and Starter. Diving - Championship Meets (2). Diving - Non-Championship Meets (1).

Track and Field (2) – Field Referee and Starter

Volleyball (2) – R1 and R2 - Note: For interscholastic competition other than senior high varsity games, only one licensed official is required (two are recommended).

Wrestling (1) – Referee

Middle level/junior high members are required to use the number of game officials as noted above in all competitions unless otherwise noted.

Contracts engaging services of officials (available on WIAA website) must be executed by an officially designated representative of the schools for ALL interscholastic competition at ALL levels of competition. Contracts are required for Association sponsored tournament competition as well as all other types of interscholastic activity.

WIAA member schools and officials are reminded that games/meets should not be started at any level of competition without the required number of officials. Schools and officials expose themselves to potential problems as well as WIAA disciplinary action if a game/meet starts with less than the number of officials required. If an official becomes incapacitated after a game/meet begins, the school is expected to attempt to fill the position with another licensed official.

OFFICIATING GUIDELINES

ACCEPTING AND TURNING BACK GAMES

Accepting Games

1. **Timing** – Assignors and Conference Commissioners have developed a timeline of when they schedule their officials for each sport. This can vary greatly from conference to conference. Learn the timing by speaking to your local assignors and Conference Commissioners. Currently, some assignments are being contracted 2-3 years in advance. This is detrimental to the recruitment and retention of officials.
2. **Connect** – Contact your local assignors and Conference Commissioners prior to their assignments. Express your interest in being assigned contests and provide them with any information that will speak to your experience. That information can include years of experience, sports, continuing education (camps/clinics), levels officiated (middle school, JV, Varsity, Collegiate, etc.), honors, association affiliation, etc. Provide your availability information, and any schools that you should not be assigned to.
3. **Professionalism** – Treat the process with professionalism. Interact with the assignors and Conference Commissioners as you would in a job interview.
4. **Punctuality** – Return offered contracts in a timely fashion. Most contracts allow 10 days to sign, some less. If a contract remains unsigned, it may be offered to someone else.

Turning Back Games

The communication between an official wishing to turn back a game and the assignor/Conference Commissioner is essential. Professionalism must be used. Officials need to understand the perspective of assignors and assignors need to be reasonable about potential turn-backs.

1. **Communicate** – Officials who have committed to work a game, but now find that they are unable to fulfill the contract must contact the assignor/Conference Commissioner as soon as possible. Assigning officials is an enormous task and changes can be very difficult, especially at the last minute.

2. **Be Responsible and Respectful** – Officials who turn back games can be seen as unreliable. As an independent contractor, professionalism and consistency, when dealing with officiating contracts, will create opportunities. A lack of reliability will likely diminish opportunities. Handle all contracts with respect and limit changes.
3. **Replacements** – Some assignors and Conference Commissioners prefer that a replacement official is offered, when turning back an assignment. Make sure that the chosen replacement is a quality fit for the game being turned back. A poor replacement official reflects badly on the originally contracted official. Other assignors and Conference Commissioners choose to fill a turnback on their own. Offering a suggestion would be welcomed.
4. **Considerations** – Turn-backs are viewed in different categories. The reputation of an official can be tarnished if contracts are broken for reasons that are viewed as unacceptable.
 - a. Horizontal changes – when an official turns-back a game to accept another one of the same level it is considered a horizontal change. Moving from one varsity game to another would be considered a horizontal change. Conference Commissioners and assignors communicate with one another, so turning back a game in one conference to take one in another conference is detrimental to the work relationship in both.
 - b. Vertical changes – Most assignors and Conference Commissioners are willing to assist in the advancement of your career – especially if you have had a strong and positive relationship. If an official has a contracted game, and is offered one at a higher level, a conversation with the assignor should ensue. Assignors will consider the timing and options for replacement before allowing a contract to be broken. It is a good idea to have a conversation about policies and procedures, relating to the possibility of better opportunities arising.

Business Mentality

As independent contractors, officials are building their business and reputation by the work they do and the professionalism with which it is done. Interactions when seeking job opportunities, as well as when working on the court/field will determine the success of their officiating.

In high school, athletics are education-based. The goal of the WIAA is to provide an environment for students, schools, and their communities to grow and learn through their experiences in sports. Officials are an important part of that experience.

Sportsmanship

In an effort to promote and maintain the high ideals of sportsmanship at interscholastic events, the WIAA Sportsmanship Committee recognizes the important perspective contest officials have during interscholastic events.

The WIAA and the Sportsmanship Committee extends a request to all contest officials to assist in providing positive experiences and cultivating the high ideals of sportsmanship.

The committee asks your cooperation and action in taking the time to complete and submit the online-submittable Poor Sportsmanship form on the WIAA website when you experience a lack of appropriate sportsmanship behavior by fans, players, coaches or school administration overlooking unsporting behavior.

With your help, we can maintain interscholastic athletics as an extension of the classroom where lifelong lessons and benefits are taught and learned.

EJECTIONS/UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

1. An official has discretionary power from the time he/she enters the area of competition to caution any player or coach guilty of misconduct or unsportsmanlike conduct and, if this persists, to disqualify the coach or player from further participation in that contest.
2. If an official finds it necessary to eject a coach, the official should determine at that time if there is an assistant coach or other faculty member present to assume the coaching duties. If the coach cannot identify someone to assume these responsibilities, the contest must be terminated. The contest would then be ruled a forfeit. The ejected coach shall leave the competition area and go to the locker room (indoor sports) or the bus or other area. An ejected coach may not be allowed to become a spectator.
3. Every coach, player, and fan ejection, regardless of the severity of the situation, must be reported to the WIAA on the Officials Report Form found on the WIAA website. Ejection reports need to be completed and submitted immediately after the contest in which they happened. The WIAA and Board of Control, if necessary, will report to the school deal with the misconduct problem. This requirement applies to all sports at all levels (varsity, junior varsity, etc.) of competition.
4. Officials should NOT deem it unnecessary to make a report just because either they assume or they have been told that the school will "handle the situation" by itself.
5. The referee or other contest official may warn and, if necessary thereafter, order forfeiture by the offending team or school if the conduct and control of any parties involved, including spectators, interrupts or adversely affects the normal procedure and progress of a contest.

EJECTION PROTOCOL

When an official ejects an athlete, coach or fan from a contest there is a protocol that is required.

1. Within the rules of the sport, announce the ejection by making eye contact with the ejected player or coach. Do not make physical contact with the individual. Eye contact can be made from a distance of twenty feet, but should not require an official to be closer than six to ten feet from the individual.

2. Request the player to go immediately to the bench and to the head coach.
3. One contest official will go to the sidelines, make eye contact with head coach and announce that the player (identify by number or lane or some accepted method) has been ejected from the remainder of this contest and state the reason.
4. Unless players create a disturbance, they must remain under the supervision of the coach. They should not be sent to a locker room or bus without supervision.
5. The ejection of a head coach requires that the official approach the coach, announce the ejection to the coach and request that they leave the competition area. In addition, the official must ask which assistant coach or school representative will function as the head coach in the ejected coaches absence.
6. Officials are reminded that only assistant coaches or school representatives may act in place of the coach.
7. The ejected coach must leave the competition area and go to the locker room (indoor sports) or the bus or other area. An ejected coach may not be allowed to become a spectator.
8. Immediately following the contest (preferably within 24 hours), an official shall file an Officials Report Form with the WIAA. It is not necessary for the official to contact the involved school.
9. Only one official needs to report the incident. Keep a copy of the report in your files.
10. Ejections should be reported using the forms on the WIAA website.

OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Officials are required to complete the following reports as necessary after a contest: [Coach Ejection](#); [Player & Fan Ejection](#); [Abuse of Contest Official](#); Loss of Coaching Box; [Sportsmanship PLUS](#); [Bad Sportsmanship](#); Injury Report; [Equipment & Facility](#); [Soccer Yellow Card](#); [Soccer Red Card](#). All these online report forms can be found on the Officials tab in the drop down menu under Forms & Publications then Reports.

1. Use clear, objective language.
 - a. Stick to the facts- who, what, when, where, and how.
 - b. Avoid emotional or judgmental language.
 - c. Officials should not cite or communicate additional penalties regarding further suspension of play outside of the specific context in which the ejection occurred.
2. Include key details and document only what you saw or heard..
 - a. Names (or jersey numbers) of involved parties.
 - b. Exact behavior that led to the ejection.
 - c. Time and game situation (quarter/period, score, etc.)
 - d. Any communication with coaches, players, or administrators.
 - e. Other officials' involvement or observations.
3. Maintain confidentiality, do not discuss the incident publicly or on social media.

CULTURAL/GENDER SENSITIVITY REMINDER

Sport officials are reminded to always act professionally when addressing student-athletes, coaches, school personnel and spectators. In the emotional setting of sport competition, use of informal nicknames or slang may convey an attitude of disrespect or bias.

OFFICIALS ACCIDENT AND LIABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAM

Information on this insurance program is provided on the WIAA website www.wiaawi.org/officials/forms-publications.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST OFFICIALS

Officials that fail to adhere to the rules and regulations set forth in this SPORT OFFICIALS GUIDE, fail to comply with requests of the WIAA, falsify information on the license application or fail to adhere to ethical standards may be subject to disciplinary action by the WIAA. Penalties might be, but are not limited to, a reduction in classification, removal from tournament consideration, license revocation. If an official finds the WIAA executive office action unacceptable, an "Appeal Process" is available.

1. Tobacco, including chewing tobacco, and alcoholic beverages cannot be used by officials during their period of jurisdiction.
2. Alcohol should never be ingested by an official prior to a contest, no matter what the circumstance, including in the form of cough/cold medicine (or post contest – on site in uniform).

3. Officials who knowingly do not enforce rules of the game or ignore safety concerns will be subject to the following progressive disciplinary action:
 - a. Notification to the official that a report has been received.
 - b. Removal from tournament eligibility lists.
 - c. Revoke license.

The WIAA reserves the right to move directly to penalty c. based on the severity of the incident.

APPEAL PROCESS

1. Aggrieved Parties May Appeal Decision – If a sports official is dissatisfied with a decision or with a ruling or interpretation of the provisions of the SPORT OFFICIALS GUIDE, and such game official is an aggrieved and affected party, such party may, within 15 days of receipt of the decision, submit to the WIAA a notice of appeal of the decision. The first level of appeal will be to the Executive Director and WIAA Staff. If the decision is unsatisfactory to the official, there is a second level of appeal. This involves the official requesting a formal hearing before the Board of Control. Any aggrieved parties appealing a decision or a ruling or interpretation of the Executive Director relative to the provisions of the SPORT OFFICIALS GUIDE must cite the provision of the SPORT OFFICIALS GUIDE allegedly violated and must state the waiver sought or relief desired.
2. Application/Status – The WIAA Appeals Procedures do not apply to the Executive Director's rulings, interpretations or decisions relating to sport regulations, National Federation rules or regulations, WIAA adopted National Federation rules or regulations as amended or any other determinations not specifically set forth in paragraph A above. The decision of the Executive Director and any penalty or penalties imposed shall remain in effect until such time as a contrary decision is made by the Board of Control pursuant to the procedures set forth herein. If there is an event or competition which is scheduled to take place prior to the time a determination is made by the Board of Control, the Executive Director's decision will remain in effect until such time as a determination is made by the Board of Control.
3. Notice – The Executive Director shall notify the appealing party of the time and place set for a hearing on the appeal. The hearing shall be conducted in conjunction with a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.
4. Attendance at the Hearing – Game official who is appealing party is entitled to attend hearings. Any person entitled to be in attendance at such hearing may represent themselves. Such persons are also entitled to be represented by counsel.
5. Board of Control to Hear Appeals – The Board of Control of the Association shall hear and decide all appeals brought under the provision of these rules. The President of the Board of Control may appoint a hearing officer to preside over the hearing or he/she may act as the hearing officer. The hearing officer may, at the beginning of the hearing, ask for statements clarifying the issues involved or factual matters to which the appealing party will stipulate and agree. The appealing party shall present its defense and proofs. The parties may offer such evidence, including the testimony of witnesses, as they desire and which shall be relevant to the proceedings. Each party shall have the right to cross examine witnesses of the adverse party. All parties shall be afforded the opportunity to examine all documents introduced.
6. Closing of Hearing – The hearing officer shall specifically inquire of all parties whether they have further evidence. Upon receiving negative replies, the hearing officer shall declare the hearing closed.
7. Hearing in Absence of any Party – The hearing may proceed in the absence of any party who, after it is shown has received due notice thereof, fails to be present or fails to request an adjournment. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for any meeting. Adjournments may be considered by the hearing officer upon the request of a party or upon the initiative of the hearing officer. However, a decision shall not be made solely upon the default of a party, but shall be based upon the evidence in the matter before the Board.
8. Decision of the Board – The decision of the Board of Control shall be made by a majority of the voting members at the hearing. The decision shall be in writing, signed by the Board of Control President or Executive Director and shall state the conclusions of the Board. All decisions of the Board shall be final and unappealable except as provided by these rules.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

All officials who apply for registration with the WIAA will be to be subject to criminal history background checks. New officials will be required to complete the background check, and renewing officials will be checked every five years. High school age licensed officials will not be required to complete a background check. After the licensing application has been submitted, an email will be sent with the link to the background check authorization form. Click on the link to access the form. Instructions are included.

Conviction Status

A WIAA Officiating license will not be issued to someone:

1. Convicted of an offense involving a minor or any sexual offense at any time; unless/until such offense has been reversed by proper authority having jurisdiction over the matter;
2. Convicted of an offense involving any illegal/illicit drug or controlled substance as prescribed by Federal or State law or regulation within the last 10 years;
3. Convicted of a DWI or OWI felony offense within the last 10 years;
4. Convicted of an offense involving the use or threatened use of violence against a person within the last 10 years;

5. Convicted of an offense involving theft within the last 10 years; or,
6. Currently serving a jail or prison sentence or a period of probation or extended supervision period of any offense other than simple traffic violations.

Any previous conviction(s) meeting the above criteria shall result in the denial of license. This denial may be waived by the WIAA in individual cases if it determines in its sole discretion that there exist circumstances justifying such a waiver or modification.

Currently Licensed Officials

1. When a currently licensed official is indicted or charged with any criminal offense or charged with a violation of any statute pertaining to minors, drugs or a controlled substance, such license will automatically be suspended, pending resolution of the indictment or charge. Conviction under any such indictment or charge shall result in immediate and automatic revocation of the officiating license.
2. Current licensed officials must inform the WIAA of any such indictment or charge immediately upon receipt of or upon having knowledge of such indictment or charge. Failure to notify the WIAA shall itself be a basis for immediate and automatic revocation of the officiating license.

Reinstatement

An official whose license has been revoked under the provisions of this policy, may petition for reinstatement based on the following:

1. Felonies: If revocation of a license is based upon a felony conviction, the applicant may petition for a license immediately upon reversal of the conviction or one year after the completion of any period of probation or extended supervision with the following exceptions:
 - a. In the case of a felony conviction involving illegal drugs or controlled substances, the applicant may not petition for reinstatement for a period of 5 (five) years following the completion of any period of probation or extended supervision.
 - b. Felony convictions involving a minor or a sexual offense.
2. Misdemeanors: If revocation of a license is based upon a misdemeanor conviction, the applicant may petition for reinstatement immediately upon the reversal of the conviction or the completion of any period of probation or extended supervision with the following exception:
 - a. Misdemeanor convictions involving a minor or sexual offense.
3. If revocation of a license is based upon any conviction involving a minor or sexual offense, reinstatement will not be permitted, unless and until such conviction has been reversed.

APPENDIX ITEM A:

Social Media Guidelines for Officials

- Consider social media communications as public at all times — even if created with private intentions. If you are going to use social media in any form, consider your communication may be read by anyone at any time.
- You represent the officiating industry, your associations, your assigners and your partners. Act accordingly.
- Promote officiating in a positive light and with a general feeling of pride and professionalism. You are an ambassador for officiating.
- You have a unique access to information. The same ethical restrictions that apply to any form of public speech also apply to social media. It is inappropriate to communicate specifics about your assignments, other officials, conferences/schools, coaches, players or any related personnel.
- Leverage social media to master the rules, mechanics, and play-calling necessary for the sport. Reviews of controversial plays and officiating decisions remain in private communications or officiating platforms.
- Be very sparing in the sharing of your personal information, including photos. Adjust security settings accordingly. Report fake profiles or posts to the appropriate authorities/governing bodies in a timely fashion.
- Follow specific conference, school and/or governing body social media policies.

**As adopted from the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO), and enhanced by WIAA*

Appendix Item B:

Guideline for Conflict of Interest for Varsity Sport Officials

The purpose of this guideline is to educate officials and meant to protect all contributors involved in education-based athletics. To maintain integrity and credibility, an official should consider avoiding any appearance of partiality in all assignments, regular season or tournament. It is the official's responsibility to notify the assigner (regular season) or tournament manager (postseason) immediately when a potential conflict arises, allowing for a change in assignment. The nature of the sport and circumstances determine the severity of the conflict; an official's residence may or may not be considered a conflict of interest. Not every scenario can be identified, nor prevented. Administration should be made aware of conflicts and proceed as necessary.

Employment and Financial Conflicts

An official should consider not accepting an assignment for a contest involving a school for which any of the following apply:

- **Current Employment:** The official is currently employed by or under contract with the participating school or school district in any capacity (including substitute teacher, non-paid coach, or volunteer), other than solely as a registered official.
- **Financial Interest:** The official, or any immediate family member, has a financial interest in the outcome of the contest.

Immediate Family Conflicts

- An official should consider not accepting assignments for a contest where an immediate family member is participating or serving in a significant role for either participating school. Immediate family includes:
- **Player/Coach:** A child, grandchild, sibling, parent, or spouse is participating as a player or serving as a coach or assistant coach for either team.
- **Administrator/School Board:** A parent, spouse, or sibling is serving as an administrator, athletic director, or school board member at a participating school.

Alumni and Coaching History Conflicts

- **Recent Alumni:** An official should generally avoid officiating varsity contests involving their alma mater if they are a recent graduate (e.g., within the last four years) or are considered a closely connected alumni of the participating school.
- **Coaching History:** For team sports, officials should consider not officiating varsity contests involving a school where they have coached, been an administrator, or played in that specific sport within the past five years.
- **Current Coaching:** An official who is a varsity coach in the sport he/she officiates could be considered a conflict.
- The official has a close, significant, or current personal relationship with a coach, administrator, or team staff member of a participating school.

Disclosure and Reporting

- **Disclosure:** Officials should update their potential school conflicts with the WIAA system as required.
- **Notification:** Officials should notify the WIAA immediately of any conflict that may arise after an assignment or tournament contract is accepted.
- **Local Policies:** Officials must also be cognizant of any association or school district policy that is more restrictive than this guideline.

WIAA APPROVED OFFICIALS UNIFORM & EQUIPMENT

Sport	Tops	Bottoms	Hat	Accessories	Additional Equipment
Baseball	Shirt: powder blue, navy blue, or black. Undershirt: if visible Navy or Black Sweater: navy blue (worn on bases only) Blazer, windbreaker, or windshirt worn over the appropriate shirt is acceptable.	Grey or heather grey slacks	Navy blue, sized hat recommended	Belt: black leather Socks: black	Plate Umpires should wear shoes designed for safety that include hard toes. Plate Umpires must have: Ball and strike indicator, small plate brush, protective supporter and cup, ball bag, lineup cards, pen or pencil for lineup changes, chest protector, sturdy mask with throat protector, and shin guards
Basketball	Jacket: black, if worn. Recommended for wear prior to game. Shirts: standard black/white vertically stripe, short sleeves approx. 8 inches in length; with black cuffs. V-neck shirt shall be worn and undershirt not visible. Shirt shall be tucked inside pants. Entire crew shall wear the same design and style.	Pants: entirely black slacks		Belt: if worn, black Socks: black	Whistle: recommended black, pealess plastic whistle. Carry a spare. Lanyard: black. The U.S. flag may be worn on the sleeve of the shirt.
Cross Country/ Track & Field	Jacket: black and white, if worn. Shirt: black and white striped.	Pants: black, may wear black shorts	Optional, all officials working the same meet should wear the same colored hat	Socks: black	Shoes: black. Arm Sleeve: brightly colored (ex: hunter's orange). Whistle: recommended black, pealess plastic whistle. Other items: ear protection, flash shield, and closed-barrel starting pistol with holster (.32 caliber and/or .22 caliber blank shells).
Football	Shirt: black and white vertically striped, long or short sleeved knit shirt. 1 inch or 2 1/4 inch stripes, a black knit cuff and byron collar. All game officials, in a given game, are to wear the same type of shirt. The U.S. flag may be worn on the chest or sleeve of the shirt. All crew members must wear it identical.	Pants: full-length, lined black pants with a single 1 1/4 inch white stripe down each leg may be worn in place of the traditional knickers if worn by the entire crew. Shorts: white or black officiating shorts (5-in seam) may be worn in place of the traditional knickers if entire crew wears shorts of the same color. If the shorts have loops, a black leather belt is required. All game officials, in a given game, are to wear the same type shorts.	Black baseball-style cap with white piping is required. For the purpose of identification, the referee shall wear a solid white baseball-style cap.	Belt: plain, black leather belt 1 1/4 to 2 inches wide with a plain buckle. Socks: black	Shoes: black football shoes, which may include some white accents, with black laces are required. Other equipment: black, pealess plastic whistle. Penalty marker and bean bag (all members of the crew should use the same color) to mark non-penalty spots. Back judge shall carry two different color bean bags: one for the end of the kick and one for marking first touching. Penalty marker shall be a light gold flag (15x15 inches) with a middle pouch weightier with sand or beans, etc. Clipping device for use in measuring first downs. Use of a second clip is recommended. Game card and pencil. Rubber bands or some device to keep track of the down number on hand and wrist. Electronic communication devices may be used by officials to communicate.
Gymnastics	Shirt: navy blue blazer or navy blue long sleeve sweater (or business casual attire)	Pants: gray slacks/skirt			
Hockey	Sweater: officials sweater	Pants: full-length black trousers	Helmet: black HECCD-certified ice hockey helmet. Chin strap fastened. Half face shield which meets HECC certification at the time of manufacture.	Arm band: for referees in the three or four official system	Whistle
Lacrosse	Shirt: black and white, 1-inch vertically striped, long or short sleeved shirt with byron color. Any visible undergarments should be black. Jacket: if worn, black and white 1 inch vertically striped.	Pants: full-length, solid black Shorts: black or white (minimum 6 inch seam)	Hat: black baseball-style cap with white piping	Socks: black stirrup socks with white over-the-calf crew socks on top, knee-length one-piece white with 4-inch black-top socks or short black socks that cover the ankle. Belt: black, 1 1/4 to 2 inches in width	Shoes: solid black with black laces. Gloves if worn solid black.
Soccer	Shirt: color approved by state association - see Wisconsin Adaptations. Color choice is up to officials but must match as a crew. Shirt color must be distinctly contrasting from both teams and goalies.	Pants: black, shorts or trousers	Hat: solid black (if worn)	Socks: black, knee length, with white horizontal stripes Watch	Shoes: Predominantly black with black laces. Whistle: recommended black, pealess plastic whistle. Carry a spare. Electronic communication devices may be used by officials to communicate. Cards: red and yellow. Flipping coin. Pencil and scorecard.
Softball	Shirt: powder blue, navy, or black pullover shirt. If an undershirt is worn it shall be white and short sleeved. If a long-sleeve undershirt or turtleneck is worn, it shall not be exposed.	Pants: heather grey or navy blue slacks.	Hat: navy blue- fitted	Belt: black with small buckle Socks: black, at least mid-calf length	Shoes: solid black with no white or colored markings, plate umpires should wear shoes designed for safety that includes hard toes. Plate umpires must have: ball and strike indicator, small plate brush, protective supporter and cup (male umpires), ball bag, chest protector, sturdy mask with throat protector, & shin guards.
Swimming & Diving	Shirt: white	Pants or shorts: white, khaki, or black. All officials must be in the same color.		Socks: white	Shoes: white

Sport	Tops	Bottoms	Hat	Accessories	Additional Equipment
Volleyball	Shirt: collared, polo-style shirt, in white, bright blue (cyan) or gray. Short or long sleeved. Officials must dress in like colors. *When necessary due to temperatures, officials may wear black shorts or a plain, white, bright blue (cyan) or gray sweater-crew sweatshirt.	Pants: black slacks		Socks: black	Shoes: solid black Whistle: recommended black, pealess plastic whistle. Carry a spare. Set of yellow and red cards, coin, watch, lineup card, pen/pencil. Electronic communication devices may used by officials to communicate.
Wrestling	Shirt: short-sleeved knit, with alternating black and white 1-inch stripes; or gray with black pinstripes, or an event provided shirt common to all referees at that event.	Pants: full-length black trousers		Belt: black if trousers have belt loops Socks: black	Shoes: black wrestling/gym shoes without colored highlights Black, pealess plastic whistle, colored disk, black lanyard, red (left wrist) and green (right wrist) armbands. A kit to conduct the random draw



WISCONSIN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

5516 Vern Holmes Drive | Stevens Point, WI 54482
(715) 344-8580 | wiaawi.org