



WIAA

Committee Member

Handbook

Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association

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Welcome, WIAA Committee Member!

Thank you for participating as a member of a WIAA committee, council, or board. The WIAA relies on its committee structure for representative membership opinion and your role will be meaningful.

Please take the opportunity to review this publication and the organizational chart that appears later in the document.

All committees are expected to maintain a diverse membership through broad based membership selection procedures.

We look forward to the contributions you will be making in the form of suggestions and opinions as deliberations take part. Thank you for taking the time and for having the interest to be part of WIAA governance.



Stephanie Hauser
WIAA Executive Director

Article II – Purpose

Section 1 – The purpose of this Association is threefold:

- A. To organize, develop, direct, and control an interscholastic athletic program which will promote the ideals of its membership and opportunities for member schools' participation.
- B. To emphasize interscholastic athletics as a partner with other school activities in the total educational process and formulate and maintain policies which will cultivate high ideals of good citizenship and sportsmanship.
- C. To promote uniformity of standards in interscholastic athletic competition and prevent exploitation by special interest groups of the school program and the individual's ability.

Note: The WIAA membership-sponsored tournaments are the collective property of the Association and not of any individual member. The Association reserves the right to promote and advance the membership's interests with 1) publication information; 2) exclusive arrangements to create recognition and exposure for school-sponsored activities; 3) restrictive policies prohibiting exploitation and commercialization of membership-sponsored tournaments; 4) appropriate proprietary interests; and 5) the use of images or transmissions identifying students, administrative personnel, and member school marks.

WHAT COMMITTEE AM I A MEMBER OF?

There are many committees in the WIAA structure. A brief description of each follows, including the Board of Control which makes all final committee decisions relating to the interscholastic athletic programs of Wisconsin Schools

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Ad hoc committees are routinely appointed to study critical issues. They are appointed by WIAA staff and/or the Board of Control and approved by the Board of Control. A WIAA staff member presides over discussions. Membership balance is achieved through a selection process that considers geographical area, gender, school size, and administrative position and school board member representation. It is unlikely that an individual on a standing committee will concurrently serve on an ad hoc committee. Ad hoc committee recommendations pass through the appropriate coaches advisory committee (if necessary), the Sports Advisory Committee, the Advisory Council and then on to the Board of Control.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Eighteen members representing small, medium and large schools as well as a gender minority representative, a non-public school representative and an ethnic minority representative make up this council. They are elected by the membership to serve a 3-year term. Tenure may not encompass more than two full 3-year terms. Their chief responsibility is to review and study the requests of the coaches committees and make recommendations. They also have the power to initiate amendments for presentation to the membership as well as the authority to vote and approve by majority vote any changes in WIAA rules and regulations before proposals advance to the Board of Control. The council meets three times annually.

BOARD OF CONTROL

Executive and administrative powers of this Association shall be vested in a committee of eleven members, to be known as the Board of Control. Ten of the members shall be administrators, assistant administrators, high school principals, or assistant high school principals. Seven of the ten members shall each represent one of the districts comprised of the high schools listed hereafter. One of the ten members shall be an at-large representative of whichever gender has fewer memberships at the election announcement date for this position. One of the ten members shall be an at-large representative of ethnic minority origin as defined in the following note. Note: A person having origins in Black racial groups of Africa; Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race; Asian; Pacific Islander; American Indian; or Alaskan Native. One of ten members shall be an at-large eligible administrator of a member nonpublic school. Note: Candidates must have 1) Department of Public Instruction licensure allowing placement in the eligible set, 2) must be employed full-time or part-time in a qualifying position and (3) cannot be members of the teachers' bargaining unit. One member shall represent the Wisconsin Association of School Boards, and that organization shall determine the procedure for selecting its representative. There are regular Board of Control meetings held nine times during the fiscal year.

CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE

The WIAA membership has established a procedure to address competitive balance in the WIAA tournament series. The Classification Committee has been created to lead this process. The 18 members, consisting of school administrators and athletic directors are appointed by WIAA staff and approved by the Board of Control. They serve a 3-year term, and tenure may not encompass more than two full 3-year terms. The Classification Committee will elect Co-Chairs to serve for 2 years, staggered terms, in that leadership role. This committee will meet 6 times per year to review applications and to make decisions regarding those applications. The committee's decision regarding applications is final. In addition, the committee will revise and make recommendations to the classification process which will be advanced to the Board of Control for approval.

COACHES ADVISORY COMMITTEES

There are committees for each of the sports sponsored by the WIAA and each committee consists of four to eight persons, depending upon the number of schools involved in each sport. They are appointed by WIAA staff and approved by the Board of Control. One of the members of each committee is the president (or president's representative) of the respective coaches association. The committees review their particular sport and recommend changes in rules that are channeled through the Sports Advisory Committee. Members usually serve three-year terms and each committee meets once each year.

CONFERENCE REALIGNMENT TASK FORCE

The WIAA Board of Control has established a procedure to accomplish realignment where necessary and to provide for due process and input from those directly involved. They are appointed by WIAA staff and approved by the Board of Control. The Conference Realignment Task Force has been created to lead this process. The 17 members, consisting of school administrators, athletic directors and liaisons, of the Task Force are recommended by WIAA Staff and approved by the WIAA Board of Control. The Task Force will elect co-chairs to serve for 2 years, staggered terms, in that leadership role. This committee will meet 2-4 times each year to review conference realignment proposals, to make realignment recommendations to the Board of Control, and to review and revise the conference realignment process. Task Force committee members will serve a 3-year term. Should a vacancy occur prior to the completion of a term, the WIAA staff will make a recommendation for WIAA Board of Control approval.

MEDIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

There are media professionals from throughout the state of Wisconsin serving on this committee. They are appointed by WIAA staff and

approved by the Board of Control. These professionals represent a multitude of media platforms and have strong backgrounds in providing media services to high schools. They meet annually and provide feedback to WIAA staff regarding media policies and protocols.

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

There are medical professionals selected from throughout the State of Wisconsin serving on this committee. They are appointed by WIAA staff and approved by the Board of Control. These professionals have strong backgrounds in providing medical services to high school athletes. They meet annually and make recommendations to the WIAA in areas dealing with health and safety matters. A Registered Dietician/Sport Nutritionist, Licensed Athletic Trainer and DHS representative serve in a liaison role. Emeritus members will be appointed by the committee chair as deemed necessary.

MIDDLE LEVEL COUNCIL

The Middle Level Council is a ten-member body which advises the Board of Control on middle level matters. There are seven members representing each of the seven Board of Control districts. The eighth and ninth members are gender and ethnic minority representatives serving at-large. Their terms of office are the same as the Board of Control and they meet once each year. District administrators, middle level building administrators, and middle level athletic directors are eligible to serve. Representatives of the Department of Public Instruction, the Wisconsin Association of Middle Level Educators, and the Wisconsin Athletic Trainers Association meet regularly with the council in liaison capacities.

OFFICIALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fifteen game officials make up membership of this committee, which is charged with the responsibility of reviewing all matters relating to officiating and making recommendations for changes to the Board of Control. They are appointed by WIAA staff and approved by the Board of Control. Their term is for three years and they meet annually. They are involved in every WIAA sport which has game or meet officials. A member of the Conference Commissioners Association and a member of the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association serve in liaison roles.

SPORTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Athletic directors who are members of the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association (WADA), seven male and seven female, make up this 14-member committee. They are elected by their WADA peers in the same geographical areas as the Board members. They serve two-year terms. Their chief responsibility is to review and study requests of the coaches committees and make recommendations, which, thereafter, are reviewed by the Advisory Council then submitted to the Board of Control. The committee meets three times annually.

SPORTSMANSHIP COMMITTEE

The Sportsmanship Committee promotes sportsmanship among WIAA member schools by sharing ideas and initiatives from schools, conferences, and administrators. They are appointed by WIAA staff and approved by the Board of Control. The committee consists of 12 members representing administration, athletic administration, coaching, officiating and large, medium and small schools. Members are appointed with geographic balance representing all parts of Wisconsin. Terms will be three years with an option for a maximum of two successive terms.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The WIAA Student Athlete Leadership Team is a collection of diverse student-athlete leaders from member schools across the state. This group of student-athletes will serve as ambassadors for their peers and the WIAA while learning more about athletic leadership and the sport industry through various committee activities. Within the activities the group will provide a student voice with the WIAA and will be instrumental in creating and executing an annual student-athlete leadership conference for member schools. Their efforts will assist in supporting, educating and advancing the purpose of education-based athletics.

WHERE DO COMMITTEE MEETINGS TAKE PLACE?

Most meetings take place in the Executive Office of the WIAA in Stevens Point. The office is located at 5516 Vern Holmes Dr., Stevens Point.

Committee members are reimbursed for necessary meals as well as for travel expenses. Committee members are asked to share rides when possible. In rare cases lodging accommodations can be provided. An effort is made to schedule the meetings – all of which occur in the daytime – late enough in the morning to allow members to leave home the same day.

Please make every effort to attend meeting in person. If that is not possible, contact the committee liaison to discuss virtual options.

WHO IS THE WIAA LIAISON FOR THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES?

Ad Hoc Committees	Stephanie Hauser
Advisory Council	Stephanie Hauser
Board of Control	Stephanie Hauser
Classification Committee	Stephanie Hauser
Coaches Advisory Committees	
Baseball	Mel Dow
Basketball	Melissa Gehring & LeVar Ridgeway
Cross Country	Melissa Gehring
Football	Jake Beschta & Chad Schultz
Golf	Jake Beschta & Mel Dow
Gymnastics	Chad Schultz
Hockey	Jake Beschta
Lacrosse	Chad Schultz
Soccer	LeVar Ridgeway
Softball	Jake Beschta
Swimming & Diving	LeVar Ridgeway
Tennis	Chad Schultz
Track & Field	Melissa Gehring
Volleyball	Melissa Gehring
Wrestling	Mel Dow
Conference Realignment Task Force	Melissa Gehring & Jake Beschta
Media Advisory Committee	Todd Clark
Medical Advisory Committee	Mel Dow
Middle Level Council	LeVar Ridgeway
Officials Advisory Committee	Chad Schultz
Sports Advisory Committee	Mel Dow
Sportsmanship Committee	Todd Clark
Student Leadership	LeVar Ridgeway

WHAT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY AS A COMMITTEE MEMBER?

You are expected to attend all scheduled meetings and lend your experience and knowledge to the committee process. You are urged to express your thoughts and the feelings of others from whom you have solicited or received input. You should vote on issues in the way you believe will ultimately best serve the interests of boys and girls participating in interscholastics athletics. We expect the committee members to take the time to garner input from others.

MAY I INTRODUCE AGENDA ITEMS?

Agendas are established in respect to the concerns which have surfaced between meetings. You have an opportunity to provide input to the agenda in this manner please contact the liaison in advance to request an agenda item.

WHAT HAPPENS TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF MY COMMITTEE?

Some recommendations may be enacted immediately without consideration of other committees if the Executive Office feels it is important to do so and can act within the parameters established by the Board of Control. Most recommendations are reviewed by other groups. For example, recommendations of the coaches committees for the various sports are screened first by the Sports Advisory Committee, then the Advisory Council and finally reach the Board of Control. Some committee recommendations go directly to the Board of Control although the Advisory Council – unless its meeting times prevent it – normally discusses recommendations of all other committees. Sometimes one committee will make a recommendation directly related to responsibilities of another committee. For example, football coaches may support a rules change that has safety ramifications. The Medical Advisory Committee opinion will be sought on such an item before it goes to the Board. Another example: The wrestling coaches may have a suggestion relating to grade 7-8 programs which would be reviewed by the Middle Level Council.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WITH INPUT INTO THE WIAA?

Yes, there are many! Not only does the Wisconsin Association of School Boards have a direct vote on the Board of Control but WASB also is represented by a liaison member at Board meetings. The Department of Public Instruction also has a liaison member sitting in on Board meetings. Also represented at Board meetings with a liaison are the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association (WADA). Through the Medical Advisory Committee, the WIAA has a relationship with the medical professional organizations. There is a close relationship between the WIAA and important school administrator organizations in the state – the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators (WASDA), Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance (WIRSA) and the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators (AWSA). The WIAA also communicates with the Wisconsin School Music Association, and the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association. The Wisconsin Association of Middle Level Educators (WAMLE) and the Department of Public Instruction have liaison representation on the Middle Level Council. The WIAA is a charter member of the National Federation of State High School Associations which consists of organizations like the WIAA in every state in the nation as well as most of the Canadian provinces.

HOW ARE THE ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS AND RULES OF ELIGIBILITY CHANGED?

The Board of Control shall designate a time and place for Annual Meetings for the purpose of conducting the business of this Association. Written notice of the Annual Meeting shall be provided member schools at least 30 days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting. Each member school shall be entitled to one vote at the Annual Meeting and this vote may be cast by the district administrator, principal, or another person designated by the local board of education.

A proposed amendment to the Constitution, Bylaws, or Rules of Eligibility may originate at the Annual Meeting, within the Board of Control or Advisory Council, or by petition in writing by the district administrator or high school principal of at least 10% of the member schools. Within 30 days of the origination or filing of a proposed amendment, the Executive Director shall distribute to member schools of this Association an informational bulletin detailing the wording of the proposal and a brief description of its meaning, intent and the effect of the passage. The member school representatives at the ensuing Annual Meeting of the Association shall vote on the proposed amendment. If the majority of the schools vote in favor of the proposed amendment it shall become effective no later than the next following issue of the WIAA BULLETIN, which is the Association's official publication.

WISCONSIN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Committee Organization

A charter member of the NFHS in 1923

Liaison Relationships to Board of Control

