



Myth vs Fact

At the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA), we are dedicated to promoting the ideals of the membership and maximizing the opportunities of the student-athletes through the programs they participate in.

As a membership-based organization, there are often questions raised about the WIAA and its role in overseeing student athletics. What follows is a "Myth vs Fact" breakdown of some of the most common misconceptions about the WIAA.

Myth: The WIAA evades state open records laws that elected officials are subject to.

Fact: The WIAA is a private nonprofit, membership-based organization, not a government entity. Rules, regulations, policies, and other procedures put forth by the WIAA are publicly discussed with the opportunity for students, families, school leaders, and even members of the public to weigh in and offer their thoughts.

Myth: If the WIAA receives state funding, its policies should be set by lawmakers.

Fact: The WIAA is not a state agency and as a result does not receive state funding. The WIAA is a membership organization with policies set by our member schools from around the state.

Here is how WIAA funding breaks down:

85%	tournament event revenue
4%	officials/referee registration
11%	broadcast rights fees and corporate sponsorship
0%	membership dues
0%	tax dollars!

Myth: The WIAA is run by bureaucrats and isn't accountable to student-athletes or families.

Fact: The WIAA hears from and is managed by a diverse set of voices from top to bottom, including the fact that it's managed by its member schools. This allows for policies and rules to be revised directly by the members – including school officials, athletic directors and even includes the student voice.

While there are full-time staff employed by the WIAA, these individuals serve at the discretion of the WIAA's board which is made up of elected school leaders from across the state.

Myth: Student athletics would be better served by policies enacted and enforced by lawmakers in Madison.

Fact: While lawmakers must deal with a wide-range of topics from health care to funding roads and bridges, WIAA members and officials are focused on one thing: providing the best possible experience for Wisconsin's student-athletes through education-based programs.

Politics already permeates so much of our lives. Inserting partisan politics into student athletics is simply unneeded and adds complications and bureaucracy to a wholesome self-governing system.

Myth: Decisions by the WIAA are made in secret and arbitrarily punish student-athletes.

Fact: While WIAA decisions can sometimes feel arbitrary or even unjust, great lengths are taken to ensure that the policies adopted by the member schools are applied in a uniform and consistent manner. Protecting student's identities and personnel information is not just an expectation of the WIAA but something we are bound to do; however, the merits and details of alleged infractions are openly discussed and uniformly enforced – again with the regulations being set by member schools from around the state. In addition, a school, parent/guardian, student or game official may request a formal appeal hearing before the Board of Control if dissatisfied with an interpretation of the executive staff relative to the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules of Eligibility or Guide for Officials.

