WISCONSIN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

2026-27 NFHS Hockey Rules Book

(PLEASE KEEP WITH YOUR RULES BOOK)

NATIONAL FEDERATION ALLOWED ADAPTATIONS

a. There is no limit to squad size and no limit on nonplayers in the team box during the regular season.

b. Any player receiving a total of four penalties (minor, major, or misconduct) in a game shall be removed from participation for the balance of that game. This does not include bench penalties served by the player or violations resulting in penalty shots. The ejection is not considered a game misconduct or game disqualification.

c. Players ejected for any reason are to remain on their team bench under the supervision of their coach. If off bench, adult, school personnel must be provided.

d. Game disqualification penalties will be applied from the end of one season to the beginning of the next season of varsity sports the player is involved in.

e. If at any time, starting in the second period, when a team is leading by six goals, the clock shall run continuously except for:

(1) When a goal is scored.

(2) When a penalty is assessed.

(3) An injury.

(4) A timeout.

(5) Any emergency situation requiring repairs to the ice, Plexiglas, lights, scoreboard, etc., (not to include player equipment other than goalies).

If a penalty terminates during a stoppage of play in a running clock situation, the player serving the penalty will not be allowed to return to the ice until play resumes following that stoppage of play.

f. Overtime procedures for regular season games are as follows:

(1) A three-minute rest period.

(2) An eight-minute five (5) on five (5) overtime sudden victory period.

(3) If still tied, a three-minute rest period, followed by a five-minute three (3) on three (3) sudden victory period.

(4) If still tied, the contest ends in a tie and is to be listed as a tie on a team's season record.

(5) An alternate tie-breaking procedure may be determined in addition to the procedures identified above by the host school. However, any hockey game where an alternate tie-breaking procedure is used (not including a sudden-victory during an eight-minute overtime period or a sudden-victory during a five-minute three (3) on three (3) period) is to be listed as a tie on a team's season record.

Refer to WIAA Hockey Tournament Procedures for expanded tournament overtime rules.

g. Following the assessment of the third set of coincident minor penalties for infractions occurring between two opposing players, after a stoppage of play for "chippy conduct" the Referee will inform both teams. Any further infractions of this type will result in automatic misconduct penalties being assessed (coincidental minor shall not be assessed in these situations). Some examples of these types of "chippy" penalties occurring after a stoppage of play are: roughing, head contact, unsportsmanlike conduct, avoidable contact after stoppage, slashing, high sticking, and cross checking.

h. A game disqualification penalty issued for fighting shall result in a three game suspension for the player(s) assessed the penalty.

STATE ASSOCIATION REGULATIONS

a. Schools are to play 17-minute periods for all regular season and tournament series games.

b. A 12-minute warm-up and a 12-minute intermission must be used unless extenuating circumstances (senior night, parents night, local youth program, etc.) are indicated to the officials and visiting team.

c. All school-aged team attendants (managers, student trainers, statisticians, etc.) are required to wear an ice hockey helmet with full facemask and chin straps which are securely fastened to the head, when in exposed team areas.

d. It is required that all facilities (indoor and outdoor) have a screen or Plexiglas beginning at the top of the side and endboards and to a height adequate to (a) protect spectators at rink side from the puck and sticks and (b) prevent spectators from leaning over the boards and interfering with play. A screen shall be of heavy enough wire and small enough mesh to ensure that it will stop the puck and not allow it to become lodged in the screen. This screen or Plexiglas shall completely encircle the rink except for the player and penalty bench area.

e. The referees' duties shall include certification of the official scoresheet by their signatures and official's number.

f. Members of teams below the varsity level will not be penalized for failing to wear uniforms prescribed in the rules provided: 1) a reasonable attempt is made to conform to the regulations and 2) participant safety is not jeopardized. The WIAA office should be informed about questionable situations.

g. Any school whose players, during the regular season, collectively receive a total of three or more game disqualifications over two or more games, or four game disqualifications during the same game, will be prohibited from participating in the WIAA State Tournament series. This ruling may be appealed by the school involved. *This rule does not apply to game disqualifications received during the tournament series.*

h. JV ice hockey players and their JV teams will be suspended at the conclusion of any game/tournament when the second game disqualification penalty of the year is assessed. The suspension will continue until a review by the WIAA office determines the JV team can be allowed to compete.

i. Coaches must report DQs to their school administration within 48 hours following a contest where a DQ penalty was assessed to their school's hockey team. School administrators must then report the DQ to the WIAA office via written communication within three (3) school days following the contest where the DQ penalty was assessed. This written communication must also include a plan of action to prevent future Game Disqualification penalties by their school team. Officials will continue to provide electronic reports to the WIAA office.

STATE ASSOCIATION RECOMMENDATIONS

a. At the discretion of home management, cheerleaders may be permitted to lead cheers from on the ice. They must be limited to before the game and between periods only. They are not to be allowed on the ice:
   (1) During a period.
   (2) Between periods when players are on the ice.
   (3) After the contest.