
26.0.0 RULE EXCEPTIONS - EXPERIMENTS

26.1.0 EXCEPTIONS TO RULES AND REGULATIONS - All requests for exceptions to adopted sport rules or WIAA Rules and Regulations, except student eligibility, must be directed to the WIAA Executive Board for approval.

26.2.0 EXPERIMENTS

- 26.2.1 Should a league or member school desire to deviate from a) applicable playing rule of a game/contest, b) WIAA Handbook regulations, or c) The WIAA Executive Board adopted policies related to activities, the league or school shall submit a written proposal to the WIAA Executive Board no later than 90 days prior to the start of the specific activity season.
- 26.2.2 Such a proposal shall have complete and detailed rationale for the request and documented support from the respective WIAA District.
- 26.2.3 League concurrence of the experiment is required for requests made by member schools.
- 26.2.4 An experiment (if approved) shall be granted one year only, but may be renewed for a second year. There will be no renewal until an amendment is submitted to and acted on by the Representative Assembly. Should there be a need for additional data, a written, detailed assessment and evaluation of the experiment with any recommendations shall be sent to the WIAA office no later than thirty (30) school business days following the completion of the activity season in which the experiment was conducted.
- 26.2.5 The WIAA Executive Staff shall review the evaluation and recommendations and present its findings to the WIAA Executive Board for their review and action.

27.0.0 RULE VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

PHILOSOPHY OF RULE VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES: *The strength of the WIAA lies in the willingness and ability of the membership to support the rules and regulations adopted and, if necessary, to support the penalties placed upon members, if it is determined that those same rules and regulations have been violated. AFFIRMATION OF GOALS 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.5, 2.2.6 THEREFORE:*

27.1.0 SELF REPORTING RULE VIOLATIONS BY MEMBER SCHOOLS - When a school or the WIAA staff becomes aware that a rule has been violated, the offending school principal (or designee) must report the infraction and any action taken by the school in writing within five (5) school business days to: 1) the superintendent of the offending school, 2) the league of school membership for review and action, and 3) the appropriate WIAA District.

- 27.1.1 The offending school may appeal any league actions, first to the appropriate WIAA District for review and action and, following WIAA District action, to the District Directors and then to the WIAA Executive Board for review and action in accordance with Article 26.0.0.

27.2.0 RULE VIOLATIONS INVOLVING SCHOOLS OR STUDENTS - Reports of students or schools in alleged violation of WIAA Rules and Regulations shall be handled as follows:

- 27.2.1 Schools, WIAA District Eligibility Committee Members, and/or the WIAA Eligibility Hearing Officer have the responsibility to report possible eligibility infractions or school violations of WIAA rules and regulations in writing to the principal of the school involved, with copies sent to the involved school's superintendent, the appropriate league and WIAA District Directors at the earliest possible date for the principal's investigation and response to the notifying school.
- 27.2.2 The principal of the school involved in the alleged violation shall reply to the notifying school principal within five (5) school business days the results of the investigation.
- 27.2.3 Copies of the investigation report, including action taken, shall be sent to the involved school's superintendent, appropriate league, WIAA District Secretary and the notifying school's principal.
- 27.2.4 After five (5) school business days of receipt of notice of an alleged violation, upon receipt or absence of the investigation report, the league shall hear the allegations and determine the penalty, if any, in accordance with the WIAA School District Due Process Procedures.
- 27.2.5 The action of the league shall be forwarded to the appropriate WIAA District Board, then to the WIAA Executive Board for review. **The WIAA Executive Board may appoint a fact finder to investigate the alleged violations.** The Board at each level shall determine if the penalty is appropriate and in accordance with the WIAA School District Due Process Procedures. The Board at each level has the authority to levy additional penalties as deemed appropriate.

PHILOSOPHY OF RECRUITING: *Students who demonstrate special skills and talent in any of the activities under the jurisdiction of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association should not be subjected to pressures to enroll or continue to be enrolled in a member school outside of their normal enrollment area. The rules do not prohibit legitimate school public relations, promotion or marketing. Rather, these rules prohibit capitalization upon a school's athletic program and/or a student's athletic interest, potential or proficiency as a factor in determining school attendance.*

27.3.0 RECRUITING - Efforts to induce students to enroll or continue to be enrolled in a member school because of the students' special talent or skill is considered recruiting. Recruiting of students or attempted recruiting of students for athletic purposes is prohibited, regardless of their residence.

27.3.1 No student athlete may receive, or be offered, any remunerations of any kind, or to receive or be offered any special inducement of any kind which is not made available to all applicants who enroll or continue to be enrolled in the school or apply to the school.

A. Special inducement shall include, but not be limited to, the offer or acceptance of:

1. Money or other valuable consideration such as free or reduced tuition during the regular year or summer school by anyone connected with the school.
2. Room, board or clothing or financial allotment for clothing.
3. Pay for work that is not performed or that is in excess of the amount regularly paid for such service.
4. Free transportation by any school connected person.
5. Residence with any school connected person.
6. Any privilege not afforded to non-athletes.
7. Free or reduced rent for parents.
8. Payment of moving expenses of parents or assistance with the moving of parents.
9. Employment of family unit in order to entice the family to move to a certain community if someone connected with the school makes the offer.
10. Help in securing a college athletic scholarship.

B. Inducing or attempting to induce or encourage any prospective student to attend or continue to attend any member school for the purpose of participating in athletics, even when special remuneration or inducement is not given, is a violation.

No member school and no one acting on behalf of any member school shall give any speech or give any slide, film or tape presentation or distribute any written material which states or implies that a member school's athletic program is better than the athletic program of any other member school or that it would be more advantageous for any prospective student-athlete to participate in athletics at that member school as opposed to any other school.

C. Member schools shall be responsible for any violation committed by any person associated with the school, including principals, assistant principals, coaches, teachers, any other staff members or students, or any organization having any connection to the school. The member schools shall be responsible for any violation committed by any person acting at the direction of the school.

This rule is not intended to prevent a member school from conducting academic recruitment programs or recruitment programs designed to attract students based upon the school's overall educational and extracurricular programs of the school and not be used as a subterfuge for recruiting students for athletic purposes.

D. A student who has enrolled in a different school and has been determined to be recruited will be deemed ineligible at all levels of play and for all sports for one full calendar year. The one (1) year penalty will begin on the day the determination is made that the student has been recruited.

27.4.0 USE OF INELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT - The use of a participant who is ineligible by WIAA or local school district rules shall result in forfeiture of contests in which that participant took part, except in situations in which it is determined that the participant/parent/guardian provided the school with false information which caused the school to declare the participant eligible. In such cases, the participant will be declared ineligible for interscholastic competition for a period of one (1) year. The one (1) year penalty begins on the day the determination is made that false information had been provided. The one (1) year penalty may be appealed to the WIAA Executive Director.

Should a member school determine that a participant is ineligible after that student has participated in one or more interscholastic competitions, that student may apply for eligibility through the process outlined in WIAA Rule 19. Should the participant be declared eligible during this process, the forfeiture(s) due to this participation shall be voided.

27.5.0 PENALTY FOR USE OF INELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT - The penalty for use of an ineligible participant is as follows:

- 27.5.1 In the team sports of baseball (including the pitching limitation rule), basketball (including violations of the quarter rule), football, soccer, softball and volleyball, the school must:
- A. Forfeit all contests involved, unless the participant is found to be eligible by the District Eligibility Committee after the contests have been played.
 - B. Adjust its place in league standings and/or relinquish its place in tournament standings.
 - C. Return team and individual awards.

27.5.2 APPEAL OF PENALTY FOR USE OF INELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT IN A TEAM SPORT – An inadvertent error is a mechanical, electronic, or clerical (incorrect posting) error that resulted in an ineligible participant competing in a contest. In the event of an inadvertent error the school officials may petition the League to have the forfeiture voided. The petitioning school shall have the burden to show the error was not intentional and occurred notwithstanding the maintenance of procedures reasonably adopted to avoid such an error.

- 27.5.3 In the individual sports of bowling, cross country, golf, gymnastics, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, and wrestling, the school must:
- A. Eliminate all matches, places, points, scores, etc., of involved student as an individual, and eliminate all contributions made by involved student toward team score.
 - B. Reduce team points (score) and adjust league standings and/or tournament places.
 - C. Return awards of individual(s) and, if appropriate, after adjusting standings, team awards.

27.6.0 PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION - Violations of the rules of this Association shall render the offending school liable to a penalty by the action of the school, league, WIAA District or the WIAA Executive Board.

- 27.6.1 Probation - The school is placed on probation for a specified time by the league, WIAA District or WIAA Executive Board. An official letter shall be sent to the concerned school warning against further actions that are contrary to the aims and philosophy of the league, WIAA District or WIAA. During the probationary period, a school may participate in all interscholastic activities unless stipulated otherwise by the league or WIAA.
- 27.6.2 Restriction - As a condition of probationary status, the league, WIAA District, or WIAA Executive Board may take action that would restrict participation in league, WIAA District or state level activities. The restriction may be applied to an individual, team, group or school.

Authority to impose one or more of the following restrictions is vested in the entity indicated as follows:

	School	League	WIAA District Board	WIAA Ex. Board
Fines	X	X	X	X
Forfeiture of:				
Game	X	X	X	X
Season		X	X	X
Revenue Shares	X	X	X	X
Withhold Allocation			X	X
Play-off Entry Denial		X	X	X

- 27.6.3 Suspension - All rights and privileges of member schools of the WIAA are withheld for a specified period determined by the WIAA Executive Board. The WIAA Executive Board may suspend a school in a particular sport or activity or in all sports and activities for a sports season or school year.

- 27.6.4 Expulsion - The school's membership in the WIAA is terminated.
 - 27.6.5 If a student who has been declared ineligible is permitted to participate in interscholastic competition because of a court restraining order and/or injunction against the school or WIAA, and if such restraining order and/or injunction subsequently is dismissed, stayed, reversed or the school or WIAA prevails at trial, one (1) or more of the penalties outlined above may be taken in the interest of restitution and fairness to other member schools.
 - 27.6.6 If a student participates under a court order and then the Association prevails at trial, or the participant dismisses his/her action/lawsuit, or the injunction, restraining order, action/lawsuit is subsequently overturned or dismissed, the participant shall become immediately ineligible and shall remain ineligible for the period of time equal to that for which the student was allowed to participate under the restraining order or injunction.
 - 27.6.7 When the WIAA is involved in legal cases, the Executive Board may seek to recover attorney costs when found to be the prevailing party.
- 27.7.0 SUMMARY OF RULINGS** - At the conclusion of each school year a summary of rule violations and actions taken by schools, leagues and WIAA Districts shall be forwarded to the WIAA Office by each WIAA District Executive Board.

28.0.0 PROTESTS - APPEALS

- 28.0.0 CONTEST PROTESTS - Protests of an official's judgment will not be heard.** Game protests must meet the following requirements to be heard:
- A. When a coach feels that there has been a misinterpretation or misapplication of a rule, the coach shall notify the game officials following the incident in question and prior to the resumption of action that the remainder of the contest is being played under protest.
 - B. Following the contest the school principal or superintendent shall officially lodge the protest, in writing, with the game management. The written protest shall contain the facts, including the specific rule in question.
- 28.0.1 Protests involving schools from the same WIAA League - Disputes and game protests involving schools that are members of the same WIAA League shall be referred to their League board for a resolution.
- 28.0.2 Protests involving schools from the same WIAA District - Disputes and game protests involving schools that are members of the same WIAA District shall be referred to their District board for a resolution. Districts may delegate this authority to the appropriate league/leagues.
- 28.0.3 Protests involving schools from two (2) WIAA Districts - Disputes and game protests involving schools that are members of different WIAA Districts shall be referred to the WIAA Executive Board.
- 28.0.4 **PROTEST OF CONTEST HEARING PROCEDURES**
- A. The written protest shall be sent to the appropriate board as required by 28.3.1 and 28.3.2 within twenty-four (24) hours or no later than the next school business day following the event or incident.
 - B. Protests shall contain a digest of all the facts pertinent to the case, delivered or postmarked within the timelines above, signed by the principal or superintendent. The hearing shall be conducted in compliance with School Due Process Procedures. The petitioner(s) shall be afforded the opportunity to:
 1. Present rationale and justification in writing or personally including specific rule(s) in question, action school authorities have taken, purpose and desired outcome of request.
 2. Select and present supporters of request.
 3. The hearing board may meet in closed or executive session.
 4. Reconsideration- Request for reconsideration of the decision by the hearing board may be submitted in writing based on new information not previously or reasonably available at the time of the hearing/decision.
- 28.1.0 APPEALS** –Appeals of decisions rendered by a league shall be heard by the WIAA district board in which the league is located. Decisions of the district board and disputes between WIAA District boards may be appealed to the District Directors' Appeals Board. The WIAA Executive Board shall hear appeals of decisions rendered by the District Directors' Appeals Board. Reconsideration of decisions rendered by the WIAA Executive Board or an interpretation by the WIAA Executive Board relative to the provisions of the WIAA Rules and Regulations may be appealed to the WIAA Executive Board. Such appeals shall be conducted in accordance with WIAA Due Process Procedures.
- Schools may appeal their classification to the District Directors' Appeals Board.

- 28.2.0 DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES** - The following Due Process Procedures, adopted by the WIAA Executive Board, shall apply to each appeal submitted to the League, District, District Directors' Appeals Board, or the WIAA Executive Board:
- 28.2.1 **Aggrieved May Appeal Decision:** If a member school administrator is dissatisfied with a decision of the League, District, District Directors' Appeals Board, or WIAA Executive Board relative to WIAA rules and regulations and such school is an aggrieved and affected party, such party may within ten (10) school business days of receipt of the decision submit to the WIAA Executive Director, in writing, a notice of appeal of the decision and a request for a formal hearing. The notice of appeal shall be in writing, stating all reasons, rationale and supportive documentation pertinent to the appeal.
- 28.2.2 **Fact Finding:** The League/District Secretary or staff, or such representative of the WIAA designated by the appropriate league or board, may actively fact find all matters upon which the appeal is based. Such fact finding shall be performed so as to bring matters to the hearing, unless for cause otherwise shown, and presented no later than the next regularly scheduled meeting of the League or board.
- 28.2.3 **Notice:** The League Secretary or District Director shall notify the appealing party by phone or mail of the time and place set for a hearing on the appeal. Notice shall be given at least three (3) school business days prior to the hearing date. The hearing shall be conducted in conjunction with a regularly scheduled meeting of the league or board, or the matter may be heard at a special meeting of the league or board.
- 28.2.4 **Attendance at Hearing:** Member school administrators and their designees of appealing parties are entitled to attend hearings. Any person entitled to be in attendance may represent themselves. Such persons are also entitled to be represented by counsel provided they notify all other parties in the appeal of the name, address and telephone number of such counsel at least three (3) school business days in advance of the hearing.
- All such hearings of the appropriate hearing body shall be open to public attendance unless appealing parties request a closed session hearing. The decision to designate a closed session, prior to or during the hearing, shall be that of the designated hearing officer.
- 28.2.5 **Appeal Hearings:** The League/District/District Directors' Appeals Board/WIAA Executive Board shall hear all appeals brought under the provisions of these rules. The president of the League/District/District Directors' Appeals Board/WIAA Executive Board may appoint a hearing officer to preside over the hearing or may act as the hearing officer. The hearing officer may, at the beginning of the hearing, ask for statements clarifying the issues involved or upon which factual matters the appealing party will stipulate and agree to. The fact-finder shall make available written copies of any fact finding and may give testimony relative thereto. The appealing party shall present its defense and proofs. The parties may offer such evidence, including testimony of witnesses, as they desire and which is relative to the proceedings. Each party shall have the right to question, for clarification, witnesses of the adverse party. All parties shall be afforded the opportunity to examine all documents introduced.
- During the hearing, the rights of the hearing body shall be, but shall not be limited to: Limit testimony to the appeal or reconsideration topic, question witnesses and/or testimony for clarity and understanding, hear from witnesses of their choosing, and instruct witnesses of their rights.
- Witnesses shall have the right, but shall not be limited to: Elect to present testimony free from interruption and/or questioning during prepared testimony, respond to rebuttal of their testimony, and present written statements as testimony.
- 28.2.6 **Hearing in Absence of Member:** 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. Adjournment 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 hearing body.
- 28.2.7 **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.
- 28.2.8 **Decision of the Hearing Body:** The decision of the hearing body shall be deliberated during closed sessions and shall be made within seven (7) school business days of the closing of the hearing. The decision shall be in writing, signed by the hearing officer and shall state the findings and conclusions. It shall be mailed to the appealing party by certified mail, return receipt requested. All decisions of the hearing body shall be final and non-appealable except as provided by these rules.

28.2.9 Reconsideration: Notice of a request for reconsideration of a decision by the League/District/District Directors' Appeals Board/WIAA Executive Board shall be submitted in writing to the League/District/District Director's Appeals Board/WIAA Executive Board within ten (10) school business days of receipt of the decision provided such request is based upon new information not previously or reasonably available at the time of the hearing/decision and/or misapplication of the School Due Process Procedures. Upon receipt of notice, the League/District/WIAA Executive Board shall within thirty (30) school business days respond to the request and/or schedule a reconsideration hearing.

28.3.0 DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES – STATE EVENTS – When a coach feels there has been a misinterpretation or misapplication of a rule, the coach shall notify the game officials following the incident in question and prior to the next live ball or the resumption of action (where applicable) that the remainder of the contest is being played under protest.

28.3.1 Following the contest, the coach shall officially lodge the protest, in writing, with the game management. The written protest shall be submitted to game management within twenty-four (24) hours or no later than the next school business day.

28.3.2 The above process can be modified so that the tournament games committee can render a decision in a timely manner, so that the tournament can proceed as scheduled.

50.0.0 SPECIFIC SPORT RULES AND REGULATIONS

50.1.0 CONTEST RULES - Except when otherwise indicated, the contest rules developed by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) shall apply.

51.0.0 BASEBALL

51.1.0 SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Year	First Practice	Minimum Practice Days Per Individual	Regular Season Contest Limit	End Season
2009-10	March 1	10	20 + Jamboree	May 29
2010-11	February 28	10	20 + Jamboree	May 28

51.2.0 JAMBOREE - A baseball jamboree is an abbreviated contest during which no more than six (6) innings per team and/or six (6) innings per player may be played. All general jamboree rules also apply. Please refer to general jamboree guidelines.

51.3.0 INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS - Each game played in an invitational tournament must count toward the team and individual participant contest limitation.

51.4.0 PLAYER LIMITATION - Starting a contest shall count as one of the twenty (20) contests allowed for an individual.

51.4.1 Any substitute who does not play in more than two (2) innings of a contest shall not have it count against the twenty (20) individual season contest limit.

51.5.0 PITCHER LIMITATION - When a pitcher pitches four (4) innings or more in a contest which began and ended on the same day or in a day, the pitcher shall not pitch again until two (2) calendar days have elapsed. The following examples indicate when a pitcher could pitch: Monday-Thursday, Tuesday-Friday, Wednesday-Saturday, Thursday-Monday, Friday-Monday, Saturday-Tuesday.

51.5.1 One (1) pitch constitutes an inning.

51.5.2 The same rule applies to playoffs as well as to regular season play, and to tied, suspended, discontinued or protested games.

51.6.0 CALLED CONTEST - When a non-league or league contest is called by the umpire before the contest can be considered a regulation game according to NFHS rules, and the league has no rule pertaining to the situation, the contest is declared a "no contest."

51.6.1 The contest may be continued or replayed.

51.6.2 The pitcher limitation rule shall apply.

51.7.0 SUSPENDED CONTEST - In State tournament play (regionals, semi-finals, and finals), any contest called by the umpire before it can be considered a regulation game according to NFHS rules shall be a suspended contest and will be continued at a later time as follows:

51.7.1 The contest shall continue from the point of suspension at a later time.

51.7.2 The lineup, innings pitched and batting order of each team will remain exactly the same as when the contest was suspended.

51.8.0 GAME ENDING PROCEDURES - NFHS Rule 4-2-2, in which the game shall end when the losing team is behind 10 or more runs and has had at least five turns at bat, applies during all regular season and postseason games except for the regional, semifinal and final rounds.