

WISCONSIN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS AND RULES OF ELIGIBILITY
EFFECTIVE 2025-26

ANNUAL MEETING – APRIL 25, 2025

BYLAWS

NUMBER 1 – SPECTATOR NFHS SPORTSMANSHIP CLASS

In addition to the current one-game suspension requirement, this amendment would require a spectator who has been ejected from a contest to complete the free, online NFHS Sportsmanship course available on the NFHSLearn.com website and submitting the completed course certificate to school officials before attending any future home athletic events.

Article X – Game Control

Section 1– School – p. 27

- C. A spectator, who is ejected from a contest, in addition to a one-game suspension, must complete the free NFHS Sportsmanship Class prior to attending the next home game for the school associated with the spectator.
- D. It shall be the responsibility of a school to eliminate such pranks and/or mischief, as ripping or cutting nets from basketball goals, tearing down goal posts, stealing batons, or marking flags or any other activity involving destruction and/or theft of game equipment and materials.

	Advance to Annual Meeting	Support
Sports Advisory Committee	<u>14-0</u>	<u>14-0</u>
Advisory Council	<u>17-0</u>	<u>17-0</u>
Board of Control	_____	_____

- _____ Support adoption
- _____ Don't support adoption
- _____ No position

Rationale: The Sportsmanship Committee believes an education component, in addition to the current one-game suspension requirement, would be appropriate for a spectator whose behavior results in an ejection from an event.

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY

NUMBER 2 – SUMMER COACHING CONTACT

This amendment would expand the opportunities for coaching contact in all WIAA sponsored sports throughout the months of June and July.

Article VI– Nonschool Participation

Section 2 – Out-of-Season – p. 34

- B. With school consent, in the summertime, members of a school’s team may voluntarily assemble with their teammates and coaches for purposes of instruction and/or competition ~~for up to five days (do not need to be consecutive)~~ in all WIAA sports sponsored by the school, without restriction ~~between the end of school and~~ **between June 1 through June 30 and July 7 through July 31.**

Note: Whether an opportunity is school-sponsored or not, coach contact outside the actual school season may not ~~exceed~~ **occur outside the** Board of Control approved contact days **calendar.**

- C. Other than during the actual school season and those days designated as sanctioned school coach contact days in the summertime, the following provisions shall apply to nonschool participation in accordance with Section 2A above.
- 1) An acceptable nonschool program or activity is one.....
 - 2) The person who will be coaching a student in the following school season shall not be permitted to coach that student other than during the designated school season and Board of Control approved coach contact days in the summertime. An exception is that coaches can have coaching contact with students who have just completed 8th grade up until these 8th graders start their 9th grade year as a student or first attends a day of fall practice (whichever comes first). Board of Control approved summertime coach contact is as follows:
 - a. Sanctioned School Coaching Contact – Coaches in all WIAA recognized sports (baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, gymnastics, hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field, volleyball, and wrestling) have been afforded ~~up to five days of~~ sanctioned school coaching contact ~~between the end of school and~~ **between June 1 through June 30 and July 7 through July 31**, in accordance with the Bylaws and as described in item B of this section. ~~The five days do not need to be consecutive.~~
 - (1) There must be a minimum of one calendar week (Sun.-Sat.) of no sanctioned
 - (2) Football must follow the WIAA Fall Acclimatization policy.
 - b. Nonschool Programming – Coaches in all sports except football have been afforded nonschool program contact beyond the ~~five~~ sanctioned school contact days that is permitted to continue throughout the summertime (when school is not in session from the last day of school to the start of school) in accordance with the Bylaws and as described in Section 2 – A and C-1) of this section.
 - c. This provision shall not prevent a coach from having supervisory responsibilities ...
 - d. Coaches are allowed to recreate ...
 - e. Coaches are allowed to use some or all of their athletes, as clinicians, when conducting a clinic for youngsters who have just completed 8th grade on down. This may be done ~~for a maximum of six days, during the summer (when school is not in session), and must conclude no later than~~ **between June 1 through June 30 and July 7 through July 31.**

Note: There must be a minimum of one calendar week (Sun.-Sat.) of no sanctioned school coaching contact prior to (i.e. the week immediately preceding) the first allowed practice in a fall sport. This does not affect nonschool programming.
 - f. A member school is permitted to supervise ...

Corresponding changes to the following:

Bylaws, Article III – All-Star Prohibition

Section 1 – Out-of-Season - Nonschool Use – p. 25

- A. In the summertime, with approval of its governing body, a school may issue its own protective equipment, uniforms, and other apparel for use by athletes in training or nonschool competition at its own discretion.

Note: For school protective equipment, uniforms and other apparel, summertime shall be from the Friday before Memorial Day to the first day of school. Reminder: ~~School sanctioned C~~ **School sanctioned C** coaching contact is not allowed prior to ~~the last day of school~~ **June 1.**

Corresponding changes to the following:

Rules At A Glance

I. Coaches and Coaching Contact

- B. Coaching restrictions apply to all sports during the school year, except during the respective sport season. All coaches have ~~five days of~~ sanctioned school coaching contact in the summer, between ~~the end of school June 1~~ and July 31, ~~with no coaching contact July 1 through July 6, the days do not need to be consecutive. The five contact days must be the same for all levels within a sport program.~~ Football must follow WIAA Fall Football Acclimatization rules and contact ends July 27, 2024 (11-player only). In 2025, July 26 will be the last day for football coaches contact (11-player only). 8-player teams must conclude by July 31. In addition, coaching restrictions do not apply in the summer beyond the ~~five~~ sanctioned school days in all sports except football, the summer being defined as when school is not in normal session, provided such nonschool programs are not limited to students on the basis of school or team affiliation. Other than during the actual school season and as specifically approved in the summer, coaches may not have coaching contact with their athletes other than as listed above; including practicing or competing with athletes, driving athletes to nonschool competition, driving athletes to camps, clinics, etc., or having basically anything to do with the athletes' nonschool participation. Further, coaches may not:
1. Mandate athletes participate in nonschool competition, or determine who may or may not participate in non-school activities.
 2. Require involvement in out-of-season activities as part of the requirements for making a school team, earning a school letter award, etc.
 3. Provide incentives such as T-shirts, etc., for participation in the off-season.

	Advance to Annual Meeting	Support
Sports Advisory Committee	<u>14-0</u>	<u>14-0</u>
Advisory Council	<u>17-0</u>	<u>17-0</u>
Board of Control	_____	_____
_____ Support adoption		
_____ Don't support adoption		
_____ No position		

Rationale: Committee was convened to investigate concerns related to summer contact hours. The committee composition represents a diverse cross-section of the WIAA membership. The committee sought feedback via a statewide survey of stakeholder groups. The committee believes in increased opportunities for our coaches to work with our student-athletes in the summer.

CONSTITUTION

NUMBER 3 – ELIMINATING GAME MAXIMUM LANGUAGE SPECIFIC TO 9TH GRADE TEAMS

This amendment would allow 9th grade teams the ability to play the same number of contests as allowed in season regulations for JV and Varsity teams.

Article VI – Powers and Duties of the Board of Control

Section 2 – Authority – p. 17-18

- A. The Board of Control shall have general control over all activity and persons involved with the official school teams in any sport sponsored by this Association.
 - 1) The Board shall have sole authority to interpret the provisions of the CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS, and RULES of ELIGIBILITY, and any other regulations which are adopted.
 - 2) The Board shall have the authority to make changes, whenever necessary, in rules and regulations of this Association, except the CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS, and RULES OF ELIGIBILITY.
 - a. *Any change approved by the Board of Control in maximum game/meet limits, or in WIAA adaptations to NFHS rules of sport, which by their enactment would result in additional cost to be incurred by schools, must be advanced to the Annual Meeting for a vote before taking effect.*

Corresponding changes to the following:

Respective Sport Season Regulations

Reference:

Games/Meet Maximums for WIAA Sports

	Advance to Annual Meeting	Support
Sports Advisory Committee	<u>14-0</u>	<u>14-0</u>
Advisory Council	<u>17-0</u>	<u>17-0</u>
Board of Control	_____	_____
_____ Support adoption		
_____ Don't support adoption		
_____ No position		

Rationale: Current rules restrict the number of contests that 9th grade only teams can compete in.

CONSTITUTION

NUMBER 4 – COMPETITIVE BALANCE - PETITION

This amendment brought forward by members of the Association would include Cross Country as the only team state qualifying sport to be excluded from competitive balance.

Article III – Membership

Section 3 – Classification – p. 14

- B. After determining the school enrollment as described above (Art. III Sect. 3-A), a tournament performance factor and procedures outlined in Appendix N will be used to determine divisional tournament placement for all WIAA sports, except swimming & diving, ~~and~~ track & field ~~and~~ cross country.

Corresponding Language:

Appendix N

Cross Country Tournament Regulations

	Advance to Annual Meeting	Support
Sports Advisory Committee	<u> X </u>	<u> 0-14 </u>
Advisory Council	<u> X </u>	<u> 1-16 </u>
Board of Control	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>

- Support adoption
- Don't support adoption
- No position

Rationale provided by petitioner: Cross country, like track & field and swimming & diving, is not a bracketed tournament sport. It is also a co-ed sport, in which boys and girls compete at the same meets all season long as well as the tournament series. Only 16 percent of all surveyed head coaches (224 responses) voted to keep cross country in the Competitive Balance Plan. The remaining 84 percent either wanted cross country exempt or were indifferent. Cross country has individual qualifiers and team qualifiers determined by sectional finish. Over two-thirds of the cross country programs in Wisconsin have the same coach for boys and girls, with the vast majority of these teams at the Division II and Division III level - schools that are subject to reclassification based on competitive balance formulas. Twelve cross country programs were separated based on competitive balance in 2024 (boys in DIII and girls in DII, for example). No other state in the country separates boys and girls cross country teams from the same school for purposes of classification. Separation of teams places a significant burden on the coaches and individuals in those programs, even if those sectional races are on different days. After reclassification this year, division one was still composed of 120 schools, which means a corresponding number of schools are demoted in reclassification as well. This plan impacts all divisions.

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY

NUMBER 5 – NAME, IMAGE AND LIKENESS

This change would allow student-athletes to enter into Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) opportunities for those activities not associated with their school team, school, conference or the WIAA. Taking into consideration the current NCAA landscape and member concerns, intentional language has been included to address undue influence.

Article IV – Amateur Status

Section 1 – Loss of Eligibility – p. 32

- A. A student shall be an amateur in all recognized sports of this Association in order to compete in any sport, and he/she shall become ineligible for all further participation in the school's interscholastic program for violation of any of the amateur status provisions. The penalty may be reduced upon request of a school on the basis of documented extenuating circumstances, when accompanied by evidence of complete restitution made by the athlete (when applicable).
- B. A student shall be determined to be in violation if he/she:
- 1) Accepts, receives...
 - 2) Signs a contract or agreement for services as a participating athlete.
 - a. A student may be employed (but not self-employed) on a part-time basis as an instructor on the play-grounds, game official, lifeguard, e.g.
 - b. This rule shall not prevent a student from signing 1) an agreement which binds him/her to play only for a particular team, ~~or~~ 2) an athletic tender with a university or college ~~or~~ 3) a Name, Image or Likeness opportunities as outlined in Article IV Section 1-C.
 - 3) ~~Receives compensation or benefit, directly or indirectly, for the use of name, picture, and/or personal appearance, as an athlete because of ability, potential, and/or performance as an athlete.~~
 - 4) ~~Receives free and/or reduced rates on equipment, apparel, camps/clinics/instruction and competitive opportunities that are not identical for any and all interested students.~~
 - 5) ~~Is identified as an athlete, provides endorsement as an athlete, or appears as an athlete, in the promotion of a commercial/advertisement and/or profit making event, item, plan or service.~~
~~Note: When an athlete has been identified with or without permission and/or awareness resulting in a violation of this rule, the penalty may be reduced once the violation has been rectified.~~
 - 6) Plays in any contest (school or nonschool) under a name other than his/her own name.
- C. An athlete forfeits amateur status in a sport by capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money, compensation, endorsements or gifts of monetary value in affiliation or connection with activities involving the student's school team, school, Conference or WIAA (scholarships to institutions of higher learning are specifically exempted).
- 1) This provision is not intended to restrict the right of any student to participate in a Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) commercial endorsement provided there is no school team, school, Conference or WIAA affiliation.
 - 2) Prohibited NIL Activities:
 - a. The student shall not appear in the uniform of the student's school and does not utilize the marks, logos, etc. of the school team, school, Conference or WIAA as part of any endorsement.
 - b. The student shall not promote activities nor products associated with the following: gaming/gambling; alcoholic beverages, tobacco, cannabis, or related products; banned or illegal substances; adult entertainment products or services; weapons (i.e. firearms).
 - c. The compensation is not contingent on specific athletic performance or achievement (ie. financial incentives based on points scored).
 - d. The compensation is not provided by the school or persons associated with school as an inducement to attend a particular school ("recruiting") or to remain enrolled at a particular school.
Note: Definition of Persons Associated With School include, but are not limited to; current or former coaches, current or former athletes, parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver of current or former student/athletes (exception of one's own parent) , booster club members, alumni, spouses or relatives of coaches, teachers and other employees, coaches who become employed, active applicants for coaching positions, and persons who are employed by companies or organizations that have donated monetarily, athletic supplies, equipment or apparel to that school.
 - e. The NIL activities do not interfere with a student-athlete's academic obligations.

Amendment 5 - Continued

- f. A student does not miss athletic practice, competition, travel, or other team obligations in order to participate in NIL opportunities.
- g. A student can not utilize representation or contract an agent. High schools or its employees are not allowed to help facilitate deals for student-athletes.

Note: When an athlete has been identified with or without permission and/or awareness resulting in a violation of this rule, the penalty may be reduced once the violation has been rectified.

	Advance to Annual Meeting	Support
Sports Advisory Committee	<u>14-0</u>	<u>14-0</u>
Advisory Council	<u>17-0</u>	<u>17-0</u>
Board of Control	_____	_____
_____ Support adoption		
_____ Don't support adoption		
_____ No position		

Rationale: Current restriction prevents students from monetizing for their activities outside of their educationally based athletic programs.

EDITORIAL CHANGES

Editorial changes are attempts to clarify existing rules without making any change in the interpretation of the rule. In some instances, the change may be merely a word(s) or the addition or deletion of a sentence, while in other cases the change may reflect Board of Control interpretation of membership wishes.

CONSTITUTION

Article V – Board of Control Organization

Section 4 – Elections – p. 16-17

- A. Representatives of Seven Districts and At-Large Gender, Ethnic Minority, and Nonpublic School Representatives
- 1) Each member senior high school of this Association is entitled, when appropriate, to one vote for Board of Control member in its geographical district, one vote for an at-large gender member, one vote for an at-large ethnic minority member, and one vote for an at-large nonpublic school member. The vote must be cast by the administrator, high school principal, or a person designated by either of these persons.
 - 2) No later than the ~~fourth Tuesday~~ **third Monday** in ~~January~~ **February**, the WIAA office will announce that declarations of candidacy will be accepted from eligible administrators (Article V, Section 1-A-1) if there is a Board of Control vacancy in their elector district or for the at-large gender, ethnic minority or nonpublic school representative.
 - 3) No later than 5:00 p.m. on the ~~fourth Tuesday~~ **first Monday** in ~~February~~ **March**, any eligible school administrator may file a declaration of candidacy with the WIAA office.
 - 4) No later than the first Tuesday in March, the Executive Director shall verify the declarations of candidacy and certify the names of the candidates who have filed valid nominations.
 - 5) The Board of Control shall require a primary election, if there are more than two candidates for any seat. If a primary is necessary, a ballot will be prepared and distributed to the appropriate schools **on the third Monday in March**. The return ballot must be ~~signed and returned~~ **electronically submitted** to the WIAA office, ~~postmarked~~ no later than the fourth Tuesday in March. If any eligible candidate receives 75% or more of the total votes that can be cast, that person shall be declared elected. Primary election ballots will provide a write-in option.
 - 6) Before the ~~first~~ **second** Tuesday in April (unless the primary has determined an elected candidate) or immediately following the primary (if necessary), the WIAA office will issue ballots to the voting schools for purposes of the election. These ballots will contain the names of the top vote-getters in the primary, double the number to be elected, as well as a write-in option or, if there has not been a primary, the ballots will contain the names of all candidates, as well as a write-in option. The ballots must be ~~signed and returned~~ **electronically submitted** to the WIAA office, ~~postmarked~~ no later than the third Tuesday in April.
 - 7) In both a primary and/or general election, at least 25% of the schools in the election set must have voted in order for a write-in candidate to be advanced or elected.
 - 8) A special Elections Committee appointed by the Board of Control shall open and canvass the ballots. The results shall be announced at the Annual Meeting. In the event of a tie, a runoff election shall be conducted by mail-in ballot within two weeks following the Annual Meeting.

Corresponding Language:

Constitution, Article VII-Advisory Council Organization, Section 4–Elections (p. 19-20)

EDITORIAL CHANGES – Continued

Article III – Membership

Section 3 – Classification – p. 14

- B. After determining the school enrollment as described above (Art. III Sect. 3-A), a tournament performance factor and procedures outlined in Appendix N will be used to determine divisional tournament placement for all WIAA team sports with multiple divisions, ~~except swimming & diving and track & field.~~