



WASHINGTON INTERSCHOLASTIC
ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

WIAA State Tournament Inclement Weather Policy

[2018-19 WIAA Handbook](#)

In response to concerns about delays/rescheduling of post-season events, below are the pertinent sections of the WIAA Handbook, Rules 22.6.0 and 22.6.1. Please keep in mind that these are the rules for those events under the jurisdiction of the WIAA office. All post-season events for leagues and districts might have different rules/regulations/policies.

Coaches and parents who have difficulties or need direction or assistance with a particular event should contact their school's athletic director. Athletic directors will be in touch with the WIAA staff person responsible for the respective sport as needed.

22.6.0 TEAMS/INDIVIDUALS UNABLE TO ARRIVE FOR SCHEDULED COMPETITION AT A

CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT - The WIAA Executive Board and executive staff believe that all teams/individuals earning the right to participate in championship events should have those rights protected as much as possible. The WIAA Executive Board and executive staff also recognize the efforts of all participants to attend the championship events. The participating schools must also realize that these events are held to certain restrictions with facilities, game officials, and all other game administration. A WIAA championship event shall be defined as regional and state competition. The competing school is responsible for notifying the WIAA office or the event manager, if the school is having difficulty traveling to the event site due to weather or a clear area-wide emergency and may not arrive in time for the scheduled event(s). Notification shall be made as soon as possible after it becomes evident that the team/individual is having difficulty. School personnel have the responsibility of making alternative travel plans to tournament sites based upon weather forecasts and any other pertinent information. As a common practice, input and recommendations are to be sought from the Highway Patrol and/or the Department of Transportation. Specific circumstances not covered by this policy are left to the discretion of the WIAA Executive Director or designee.

22.6.1 If a team/individual is unable to arrive at a championship event site for its scheduled competition due to circumstances beyond its control (e.g., an earthquake, all passes closed, roads closed due to flooding, etc.) that team/individual will be allowed to participate in its scheduled event provided it arrives at the event site and is able to compete on the day of its scheduled event. The WIAA Executive Director, in cooperation with the event manager, shall adjust the schedule of the event for the purpose of allowing maximum participation for all qualified schools. If the team/individual is unable to arrive to compete on the day of its event, a forfeit is recorded and that team/individual shall move into the consolation bracket or be dropped from competition, whichever is applicable to the particular event.

- A. There may be times in the interest of safety, weather, or conditions beyond the control of the participating schools and/or the tournament management that it becomes necessary to delay, postpone, or cancel such tournaments. The intent of this policy is to accommodate the participating school(s) by rescheduling if possible.
1. The following practices shall be observed:
 - a) If severe weather conditions affect a participating school, but not the tournament, the principal must notify the tournament director.
 - b) If severe weather conditions affect the tournament, the WIAA Executive Director or WIAA staff designee will make the final decision concerning tournament postponement or rescheduling.
 - c) Play will resume on the next playable date.
 - d) Changing of sites, postponement or cancellation of events will be determined by the WIAA Executive Director or WIAA staff designee.
 2. Procedures to follow if contests are rescheduled:
 - a) The WIAA Executive Director or WIAA staff designee has the final authority on contest rescheduling.
 - b) If contests are rescheduled on the same day as originally scheduled but at a different site, the semifinal and championship contests will be scheduled at the same time or later than originally scheduled.
 - c) Time between contests may be shortened. Example: If contests were originally scheduled at two (2) hour intervals, they may be rescheduled at one and one half (1½) hour intervals.
 - d) Individuals/teams shall be granted a minimum of twenty (20) minutes for rest between contests.
 - e) Whenever possible, contests played on the final day of the tournament shall be scheduled to allow individuals/teams to return to their home community that day.
 - f) If during the last scheduled day of a WIAA tournament, contests are unable to be restarted requiring postponement overnight, only those individuals/teams still in contention for the championship will continue play. Individuals/teams not in contention for the championship shall be awarded a tie for the highest placing that could have been earned if postponement had not been necessary.
- B. Ticket revenue will not be refunded in the event the schedule and/or day(s) of the event are changed due to inclement weather.