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## 25.0.0 RULE VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

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**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. The process for developing a penalty starts with the offending school's administrator contacting the league president and determining the parameters for developing the offending school's proposal for penalty and any other remedies. If there is a doubt about a proposal, the WIAA staff must be contacted for assistance. The WIAA staff may assist or seek guidance from members of the review panel. The penalties listed are available to the leagues, districts, and WIAA Executive Board. Authority to impose forfeitures, withhold revenue shares, and impose fines is vested in the League, WIAA District Board, and WIAA Executive Board, while only the District and Executive Boards have the authority to withhold allocations and suspension, or place a member school on probation or restriction. The Penalty Review Council is available to assist schools, leagues, and districts in establishing the appropriate penalty.*

**25.1.0 REPORTING RULE VIOLATIONS BY MEMBER SCHOOLS** - When school personnel, WIAA District Director, or the WIAA staff has been advised of an allegation that a rule has been violated, the principal (or designee) of the school involved must report any necessary 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.

25.1.1 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.

25.1.2 Should a violation be discovered within ten (10) days of the start of postseason competition, the appeal goes directly to the WIAA Executive Board.

25.1.3 Only the WIAA Executive Board may remove an individual athlete or a team from postseason competition.

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

25.2.1 Schools, WIAA staff, WIAA District Directors, WIAA District Eligibility Committee Members, and/or the WIAA Eligibility Hearing Officer have the responsibility to report possible eligibility infractions or alleged 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.

25.2.2 The principal **or designee** of the school involved in the alleged violation shall reply to the notifying school principal **or designee** within five (5) school business days **with** the results of the investigation.

25.2.3 Copies of the report, including action taken, shall be sent to the involved school's superintendent, appropriate league, WIAA District Director and the notifying school's principal.

25.2.4 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.

25.2.5 The action of the league shall be forwarded to the appropriate WIAA District Board, then to the District Directors Appeals 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 **alter** penalties as deemed appropriate.

**25.3.0 PENALTY FOR USE OF INELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT** - Whenever possible, those responsible for the violation shall be penalized. Students who are not responsible for the violation shall be penalized as a last option. However, if students benefit or are responsible for the violation, that benefit or responsibility must be measured within the penalty

25.3.1 The appeal and supporting rationale must be filed with the appropriate league by the school principal/designee within two (2) school business days of the verification of an ineligible participant and declaration of contest(s) forfeiture.

25.3.2 The hearing procedures, as outlined in the WIAA Handbook, shall be followed. The WIAA district shall review the documentation and determine if the contest(s) should be forfeited. Any WIAA district action shall be in writing and shall specify the reasons for the decision. Failure of a school for any reason to enforce the regulation and/or decision of the WIAA district will be considered a school violation.

25.3.3 A school may appeal a ruling of forfeiture that is based on the contribution of an ineligible participant toward victory in a team sport. The school shall prove by a preponderance of evidence that the contest would have been won without the participation of the ineligible participant. The WIAA district may also impose a penalty against the member school.

- 25.3.4 Criteria to determine an individual athlete's contribution to a victory will include, but is not limited to, the following:
- A. Was the ineligible athlete a starter in the contest in question?
  - B. What was the ineligible athlete's amount of playing time?
  - C. What was the score when the contestant entered the contest and what was the score at the end of the contest?
  - D. What were the individual's statistics from the game and when were they achieved?
  - E. What was the contribution of the opposing player while this individual was in the game?
  - F. How did the role played in this game by this player compare to the role he/she played in other games?
  - G. Was anyone aware this athlete was ineligible prior to his/her participating?
  - H. What is the input from the opposing school or schools?
- 25.3.5 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.

**25.4.0 APPEAL OF PENALTY FOR USE OF INELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT**

- 25.4.1 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.
- 25.4.2 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.
- 25.4.3 **APPEAL OF PENALTY FOR USE OF INELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT IN A TEAM SPORT** - In the event of a valid physical not being on file or 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.
- INADVERTENT ERROR - DEFINITION-** An inadvertent error is a mechanical, electronic, or clerical (incorrect posting) error that resulted in an ineligible participant competing in a contest.

**25.5.0 PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS** 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.

- 25.5.1 Letter of Remedy – the school that has violated a WIAA rule/regulation must write a letter to its league explaining the violation and the internal processes it will use so that further violations do not occur. The letter should also include the member schools suggestion for penalty.
- 25.5.2 Forfeiture of contest(s) - the forfeit of contests or meets may be included in penalties assessed for violation of Association rules.
- 25.5.3 Probation - The school is placed on probation for a specified time by the league, WIAA District or WIAA Executive Board. During the probationary period, a school may participate in all interscholastic activities unless stipulated otherwise by the league or WIAA.
- 25.5.4 Restriction - The league, WIAA District, or WIAA Executive Board may take action that would restrict participation in league. The restriction may be applied to any and all individuals involved including a coach, participant, school employee, team, group, or school.
- 25.5.5 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.
- 25.5.6 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. The list of violations set forth in this listing is not all-inclusive, and if a violation of rules occurs which is not listed herein, then the appropriate body shall have the authority to assess penalties that are deemed appropriate.

## Violations

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violation un-willfully committed</li> <li>• Self-reported violation</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> violation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violation willfully committed</li> <li>• Violation reported by others</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> violation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment</li> <li>• Blatant disregard for rule(s)</li> <li>• Continuous violation</li> </ul>

## Penalties

Probation	Restriction	Suspension
Fine \$25 - \$1,000	Fine \$500-1,500	Fine \$1,000-2,500
Suspension from 0-20% of allowable competition	Suspension from 10-50% of allowable competition	Suspension from up to one year of allowable competition
Forfeiture of Contests	Forfeiture of Contests	Forfeiture of Contests

25.5.7 The WIAA Executive Board may expel a member school if a violation or series of violations occurs.

25.5.8 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.

25.5.9 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.

25.5.10 When the WIAA is involved in legal cases, the Executive Board may seek to recover attorney costs when found to be the prevailing party.

**25.6.0 Penalty Review Council** - A council for penalty review to assist member schools, leagues, district directors, and the WIAA Executive Board in penalty review.

25.6.1 The purpose of this council will be to advise school personnel and league presidents on the issue of developing the appropriate penalty for violation of WIAA Rules and Regulations. Once a WIAA member school discovers--or is advised by another member school or WIAA staff--that it has violated a WIAA rule, the school must contact that school's league president. The member school may propose suggested penalties to the league or may seek advice from the council by contacting the chair.

25.6.2 In all cases, the "Penalty Options" chart shall be used to assist the school, league, and panel.

25.6.3 The council shall be comprised of five (5) individuals who will be appointed by the WIAA Executive Board. Each shall serve a two-year term, with the exception of the chair, who will serve a four (4) year term.

25.6.4 The Penalty Review Council shall adopt a schedule of fines and publish said schedule annually in the Association Handbook. The fine schedule shall also include any amounts paid by the Association or received by the school as a result of postseason competition. A fine shall not be levied against any individual within the interscholastic athletic program but may only be levied against the member school and only for selected violations as determined by the Penalty Review Council.

**25.7.0 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.

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## 26.0.0 CONTEST PROTESTS

**26.0.0 CONTEST PROTESTS - Protests of an official's judgment will not be heard.** Game protests must meet the following requirements to be heard:

26.0.1 When a school feels that there has been a misinterpretation or misapplication of a rule, the school representative shall notify the official's assignor, the opposing school, the league president, ~~and~~ the District Director **and the WIAA staff** within 24 hours of the conclusion of the contest.

26.0.3 Following the contest the school principal or superintendent shall officially lodge the protest in writing. The written protest shall contain the facts, including the specific rule in question. The principal/designee must contact the WIAA office to verify the misapplication or misinterpretation of the rule prior to a ruling by the league, district or a games committee.

26.0.4	For state playoff contests refer to the protest procedures in the Bound for State Regulations.
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## 26.1.0 REGULAR SEASON CONTEST PROTESTS

26.1.1 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 **hearing** board for a resolution.

- 26.1.2 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.
- 26.1.3 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.
- 26.1.4 **PROTEST HEARING PROCEDURES**
  - A. The written protest shall be sent to the appropriate board within twenty-four (24) hours of the conclusion of the contest.
  - B. Protests shall contain a digest of all the facts pertinent to the case, delivered or postmarked within the timeline 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.

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**27.0.0 APPEALS OF LEAGUE, DISTRICT OR DISTRICT DIRECTORS' APPEALS BOARD DECISIONS**

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- 27.1.0 **APPEALS** – Appeals of decisions rendered by a league shall be heard by the WIAA district board in which the league is located.
  - 27.1.1 Appeals of decisions rendered by a WIAA district board or disputes between WIAA District boards may be appealed to the District Directors' Appeals Board.
  - 27.1.2 The WIAA Executive Board shall hear appeals of decisions rendered by the District Directors' Appeals Board.
  - 27.1.3 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.
- 27.2.0 **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.
  - 27.2.1 **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 appropriate level, 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.
  - 27.2.2 **Fact Finding:** The League/District Director 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.
  - 27.2.3 **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.
  - 27.2.4 **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.

- 27.2.5 **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.
- 27.2.6 **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.
- 27.2.7 **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.
- 27.2.8 **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.
- 27.2.9 **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.

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## 28.0.0 SPECIFIC SPORT RULES AND REGULATIONS

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

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## 29.0.0 BASEBALL

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### 29.1.0 SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Year	First Practice	Minimum Practice Days	50% Rule Date	Regular Season Contest Limit	End Season
2017-18	February 26	10	April 2	20 + Jamboree	May 26
2018-19	February 25	10	April 1	20 + Jamboree	May 25

**29.2.0 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.

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

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

### 29.5.0 PITCHER LIMITATION

**29.5.1** The pitching limitation rule applies during all regular season and postseason games, as well as to tied, suspended, discontinued or protested games.