
18.0.0 STUDENT STANDARDS FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY

PHILOSOPHY OF STANDARDS OF ELIGIBILITY: *In keeping with the belief that participation in activities is a privilege and not a right, certain standards of eligibility have been established. Standards on age, residence and seasons limitations promote the Association's goals of fairness and equality of opportunity for all participants. Standards on scholarship, attendance and amateur standing support the Association's goals of educating youth and promote activities as an integral part of the total educational process.*

18.1.0 STUDENT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA - All participants must be eligible under the rules of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association to participate in an interscholastic contest.

18.1.1 If a school district has more restrictive eligibility standards, the student will be held to the more restrictive standard.

18.1.2 This regulation does not restrict participation in practices.

18.2.0 CLEARED FOR PARTICIPATION - No student shall participate in a practice unless they are on the cleared for participation list on file in the principal's office or the office of the principal's designee.

18.2.1 A student must be on a school's cleared for participation list on or before the 50 percent (%) date for that sport in order for a student to participate in postseason and state tournament playoffs for a WIAA member school. The 50 percent (%) rule dates are included in each sports section of the WIAA Handbook.

18.3.0 ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE - Only students who are currently eligible to participate in an activity may appear in the team uniform on the team bench, sideline, court, field or deck during the contest.

18.3.1 Only students who are currently eligible in an activity may appear in the team uniform on the team bench, sideline, court, field or deck during the contest.

18.3.2 A student must be currently eligible for an activity in order to participate in the pre-event warm-up.

18.3.3 Upon mutual agreement of schools or leagues, eligibility lists may be exchanged.

18.4.0 AGE LIMITS - SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL – A student shall be under 20 years of age on September 1 for the fall sports season, on December 1 for the winter sports season, and on March 1 for the spring sports season.

AGE LIMITS - JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL – A student shall not have reached their 16th birthday prior to June 1 of the previous school year.

AGE LIMITS - MIDDLE SCHOOL – A student shall not have reached their 15th birthday prior to June 1 of the previous school year. Middle school is defined as a school with at least seventh and eighth grade levels.

18.4.1 **Overage Student** - A student who is ineligible to compete in middle or junior high level school athletics due to the age rule may participate in all sports in the public senior high school of the public school district provided both middle or junior high level and senior high school principals of the public school district concerned approve the student's participation. The middle level/junior high school principal shall certify to the senior high principal the student's scholastic eligibility.

18.5.0 STUDENT MEMBER OF A SCHOOL - Students must be regular members of the school they represent in order to participate in an interscholastic activity. Students are a "regular member" of a school if they are enrolled half time or more, exclusive of interscholastic activities.

Definitions:

18.5.1 **Home Based Education – Home School Contract must be on file annually in the principal's office or office of the principal's designee.** Home based students must register with a public school district with the intent to home school. Home based students do not receive assistance from the school district, nor does the school district receive FTE funding or any other outside sources for them. Home based instruction students are categorized as regular members of a school. Therefore, to be eligible for interscholastic activities, the student must:

- A. Meet both WIAA and school district eligibility requirement standards of all students, including transfer student requirements.
- B. Meet and adhere to the same team responsibilities and standards of behavior and performance of other members of the team/squad.
- C. Participate as a member of the public school in which service area they reside with their family unit. After registering with the school district as a home school student, a student is subject to the transfer rules if they subsequently change schools.
- D. Provide to school authorities acceptable documentation of any interscholastic eligibility standards required of all other student participants.
- E. Comply with WIAA and local school regulations during the time of participation.
- F. Comply with RCW 28A.225.010 (4).

18.5.2 **Alternative Education – Alternative Education Contract must be on file annually in the principals office or office of the principals designee.** Alternative education programs are academic learning opportunities that fall outside of the traditional school house format. These programs include, but are not limited to, Alternative Schools, Certified Educational Clinics, Charter Schools, Contract Based Education, Home Link, Online Schools, Parent/School District Co-Op, Virtual Academics, etc. A school district receives FTE funding for students involved in these programs. A full-time high school student in a public alternative school without athletics may participate at the resident public school that the student would normally attend or that student’s public school of record.

18.5.3 **Private School Education** - A student who is a regular member in a private school may participate on the interscholastic teams of their resident public school if the student resides within the service area of that public school and if the interscholastic activity is unavailable to the student in the private school.

- A. Students in a private school must meet the same team responsibilities as public school team members and are obligated by the same standards of behavior and performance as other members of the team.
- B. This rule may not be appealed through the eligibility appeal process.
- C. In a school district with multiple middle schools, a full-time seventh (7th) or eighth (8th) grade student in a private school who qualifies under 18.5.2 shall be able to participate at the seventh (7th) or eighth (8th) grade public school that is nearest that student’s current private school provided they reside in that school district.
- D. This rule may not be appealed.

18.6.0 RUNNING START ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS – A Running Start Contract must be on file annually in the principal’s office or office of the principal’s designee. A Running Start student’s eligibility is through the public school of residence/record, where the student accesses the Running Start program.

18.6.1 **Member of the School** - The Running Start student will not be included on the school's P-223 count submitted to OSPI. Running Start is considered a mainstream program. The school of eligibility must be the school of residence/record for the Running Start student and include the same transcript records as all other students.

18.6.2 **Regular Attendance** - The Running Start student must comply with the WIAA minimum eligibility standards of attendance and comply with local school attendance eligibility policies required of all other students. Note: Students who access the Running Start Program at the community colleges may find themselves on a different academic calendar from their high school for academic eligibility.

18.6.3 **Previous Semester** - The Running Start student shall meet the requirements of 18.8.0 by having been in regular attendance during the previous semester/trimester immediately preceding the semester/trimester in which the contest is held. Coursework will be monitored at any time and, at a minimum, the previous semester grades recorded on the official transcript. The School Eligibility Standards must be consistently applied to all students. School board (or schools so authorized by school district policy) adopted standards greater than WIAA standards must be applied.

18.6.4 **Scholarship** - The Running Start student shall maintain passing grades during the previous and current high school semester equivalent to the standards set in 18.7.0. For the purposes of this rule, one (1) five (5) credit class in college quarter shall be equal to one (1) high school credit and one (1) three (3) credit class in a college semester shall also be equal to one (1) high school credit.

Running Start students who participate in club sport programs at the post-secondary institution they attend forfeit their interscholastic eligibility for the corresponding WIAA sanctioned sport.

GUIDELINES IN ESTABLISHING RUNNING START ELIGIBILITY:

- A. Determine the number of credits required for athletic eligibility at the student’s high school. Example: Five (5) classes required in a six (6) period school day is equal to 2.5 semester credits needed for eligibility.
- B. Establish the student’s academic schedule for the year, either entirely as a Running Start student or a student with a blended schedule of classes from both Running Start and the high school.
- C. Determine the number of credits to be earned in each of the courses.
- D. The credits in the Running Start second term can be used either for the first (1st) semester, the second (2nd) semester, or split between the two (2) semesters.
- E. It is possible that a Running Start Student would not attend any classes during one (1) of the three (3) Running Start terms and still be eligible, provided they took enough credits during the other two (2) terms to meet or exceed the number of credits per semester for athletic eligibility at the high school.

- F. Running Start is a public school mainstream educational program. Eligibility is at the public school of residence/record where the student accesses the Running Start program. A student could still compete athletically for the private school if they maintain enrollment at the private school for at least 50 percent (%) of the school day at the private school.

PHILOSOPHY OF SCHOLARSHIP: *While the WIAA is aware of the important role that interscholastic athletics play in the development of students, the WIAA member schools are also committed to the philosophy that the primary purpose of our secondary schools should be to academically prepare students to become productive citizens upon graduation. Scholastic incentives should be established and enforced for the educational and personal welfare of the students who participate.*

18.7.0 SCHOLARSHIP - In order to maintain eligibility during the current semester/trimester, the student shall maintain passing grades, or the minimum grade standards as determined by the school district if more restrictive, in a minimum of:

3 classes in a 4 period class schedule or the equivalent credits

4 classes in a 5 period class schedule or the equivalent credits

5 classes in a 6 period class schedule or the equivalent credits

6 classes in a 7 period class schedule or the equivalent credits

7 classes in an 8 period class schedule or the equivalent credits

Class schedule guidelines referenced above shall be the requirement of all full time students in that school.

RUNNING START COURSES EQUIVALENT

One - 5 credit quarter course One high school credit

One - 3 credit semester course One high school credit

NOTE: Any class posted as a "W" indicates a student has withdrawn from the class and is not considered a class toward the minimum class or the equivalent credit requirements.

18.7.1 Member schools may allow only seniors who are on track to graduate to initially enroll in one less class than the minimum number of classes required to be passed for other students. Seniors enrolled in one less class than required to be passed by other students must maintain passing grades in all classes in which they initially enrolled in order to remain academically eligible. Seniors may not drop or withdraw from a class in order to remain eligible.

18.7.2 Any class taken as part of the regular schedule of the student during the semester/trimester shall be considered to be a full time subject.

In order to meet the minimum requirement, classes must be for high school credit and be reflected as such on the high school transcript.

18.7.3 Schools shall establish a grade monitoring system to ascertain the student's passing status in the minimum of required classes. To monitor a student's continued academic eligibility, periodic grade checks within each three (3) to six (6) week period are required during the current semester/trimester beyond normal grading periods. Private school students participating at their public school of residence will be held to the grade standard of the school they academically attend.

18.7.4 A student shall have passed the minimum number of classes as listed in 18.7.0 in the immediately preceding semester/trimester in order to be eligible for competition during the succeeding semester/trimester. The record at the end of the semester/trimester shall be final, except for those class-for-class replacement credits earned in a regular, accredited school program or alternative educational program accepted by the school district.

18.7.5 Incompletes may be made up for credit during the first five (5) weeks of the subsequent semester/trimester. The student shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition until the incomplete(s) are cleared.

18.7.6 **ACADEMIC SUSPENSION PERIOD** - A student who failed to make the grade requirements of 18.7.4 shall be placed on suspension. The student shall be ineligible during the suspension period. If, at the end of the suspension period, the student is passing in the minimum number of classes required above, the student may then be reinstated for interscholastic competition.

- A. In the fall, an incoming ninth grade student is not required to meet the previous semester scholarship rule in 18.7.4 provided they have met all other eligibility requirements. The student's grades will be monitored during the first designated monitoring period established by the school and every three (3) to six (6) weeks thereafter.

- B. The suspension period for high school students shall be from the end of the previous semester through the fourth (4th) Saturday in September in the fall or the first five (5) weeks of the succeeding semester/trimester. **If the suspension period falls during a non-school week (as defined in 17.15.1) and the athlete is missing scheduled competition, the week may count toward the five (5) week suspension.**
- C. The suspension period for middle level students shall be from the end of the previous semester through the first three (3) weeks of the succeeding semester/trimester.
- D. Each student is eligible on Monday of the week following the end of the suspension period.

18.8.0 PREVIOUS SEMESTER - The student shall have been in regular attendance as a full-time student as defined in 18.9.0 in an elementary, intermediate, middle level, or high school during the semester/trimester immediately preceding the semester/trimester in which the contest is held.

18.9.0 REGULAR ATTENDANCE - The student shall be enrolled and in regular attendance within the first 15 school days in a semester or ten (10) school days in a trimester at the start of the current semester/trimester in order to participate in interscholastic contests during the current semester/trimester. An enrolled student who receives semester/trimester grades will be considered to have been in attendance for that semester/trimester unless they are withdrawn from school.

PHILOSOPHY OF RESIDENCE RULE: *The WIAA residence rule is intended to create an equitable environment in which its member schools can compete, and at the same time prevent those abuses that taint the goals of interscholastic activities. Primarily, the residence rule is intended to prevent athletic recruiting, prevent students from choosing schools for athletic reasons, and to promote the varied family units as the best environment for students to live in while attending school. Deterring students from running away from or avoiding imposed discipline, protecting school programs by discouraging athletic transfers and protecting the opportunities for bona fide resident students to participate are also viable reasons for the residence rule.*

18.10.0 DEFINITION of RESIDENCE and FAMILY UNIT

RESIDENCE - The place where the family unit has established its home and/or the place where the student is habitually present and to which, when departing, the student intends to return.

FAMILY UNIT - The adult(s) who has/have resided with, had legal custody, legal guardianship, or has/have acted in a parental capacity of the student and any siblings high school age or younger with whom the student resides for a period of at least one (1) year.

18.10.1 In order to be eligible to participate and/or represent a member school in an interscholastic contest, the student of that school must be residing within the boundaries of that school district and designated attendance area of the school. In the event a school does not have a designated attendance area for such school, the WIAA Executive Board shall have the authority to designate an attendance area for such school. The WIAA Executive Board shall consider all relevant factors, including but not limited to, the natural or historical attendance area for such school, the geographical setting of the school in the municipality, and the nearby public school boundaries.

18.10.2 Unless otherwise provided, a student shall become varsity eligible at the school in which that student resides with the family unit, provided the student continuously attended that member school, or a feeder school of that member school, for a period of one (1) year.

18.10.3 A student who cannot meet the Residence Rule requirements would be eligible for all interscholastic competition below the varsity level, subject to 18.26.3.

18.10.4 Residence Area for private schools shall be a fifty (50) mile radius from the school address. **Any move by the family unit within the 50-mile radius from the school would require continuous enrollment at the original private school of residence.** NOTE: Refer to Article 3.1.1 for status of a private school district.

PHILOSOPHY OF TRANSFER - *The Transfer Rule is intended to create and maintain a consistent and level playing field for students in member schools. In keeping with the belief that participation in activities is a privilege and not a right, certain standards of eligibility have been established. The transfer rule protects students who have previously participated in athletic competition at a member school from being replaced by students who transfer. It encourages fair play, communication and determination while discouraging "school shopping" and abuses of promotion and recruiting by member schools and their agents. While recognizing the educational experiences that each member school provides, the WIAA member schools support the right of parents and students to attend a school of their choice during the window of transfer. Our membership also recognizes the unpredictable nature of the high school experience. Therefore, the WIAA supports the right of parents and students to attend a school of their choice, however, this does not guarantee varsity athletic eligibility. Once a student establishes themselves at a school, there must be an acceptable set of circumstances or "hardship" to warrant varsity athletic eligibility if a student transfers schools.*

18.11.0 TRANSFERRING STUDENTS - After residing in, registering with, attending, or participating with a middle level or high school, students changing enrollment to/from one school district to another school district or from one high school to another high school within a multiple high school district shall be considered transferring students. In order to be eligible for varsity competition, transferring students must meet the transferring student requirements of 18.11.1, 18.11.2, 18.11.3, or be granted a waiver under 18.13.0 and 18.26.3. This section shall also apply to those students receiving home based instruction. NOTE: Refer to Article 3.1.1 for the status of a private school district.

- 18.11.1 A student who is ineligible in a member school for interscholastic activities may not become immediately eligible at another member school without completing the conditions of ineligibility.
- 18.11.2 The following students who are attending a member school shall be deemed to meet the residence rule requirement and transferring student rule requirements:
- A. A student whose transfer is based on a bona fide change of residence to a new school (district) due to an actual physical relocation of and with the entire family unit to a different residence and preceded by termination of all occupancy of their previous residence (unless subject to 18.10.4 or 18.11.2.H).
 - B. A student attending a school outside of their residence district for one (1) calendar year or more is eligible thereafter at that school provided the enrollment/attendance is continuous.
 - C. A student whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) reside at different abodes as the result of a divorce or court approved legal separation is allowed one (1) transfer between parents or guardians after entering the ninth (9th) grade without being restricted to sub-varsity competition for one (1) year.
 - D. A student who is under commitment to the Department of Social and Health Services, a student who is on juvenile parole status and a student who has been adjudicated as a ward of a juvenile court where residence is the result of assignment by the government entity charged with their care.
 - E. A student who has a residence change because of the death of a member of the family unit or military deployment in order to reside with a relative.
 - F. A seventh (7th) and/or eighth (8th) grade student who transfers to a school without a corresponding change of residence by their family unit and who meets all other conditions of eligibility shall be eligible at the new middle school when properly enrolled. High school eligibility is subject to the transfer rule and one (1) year of continuous enrollment.
 - H. A student who wishes to transfer to a school without a corresponding change of residence by their family unit and who meets all other conditions of eligibility shall have initial eligibility at the new school only during the window of transfer (per school district policy.)**
 - 1. The window of transfer may be accessed one (1) time during the natural break between junior high/middle school and high school.**
 - a) If the school declares its ninth (9th) graders as junior high athletes, the window of transfer is between the ninth (9th) and tenth (10th) grade years.**
 - b) If the school declares its ninth (9th) graders as high school athletes, the window of transfer is between the eighth (8th) and ninth (9th) grade years.**
 - I. Provided all other conditions of eligibility are met, a student who has established their athletic eligibility at a high school of choice, public or private, located outside their resident public school during the window of transfer described above, will be required to have continuous enrollment at the established school of choice regardless of any family unit move within the student's original or chosen resident public school district attendance boundaries.**
 - J. CHILDREN OF "MISSION OR KEY AND ESSENTIAL" MILITARY PERSONNEL – A military service member who is deemed by the Department of Defense or the Department of Homeland Security (US Coast Guard) as "mission/ or key and essential" and who is further required to live within the boundaries of the military base, may upon arrival, enroll their child(ren) in a school district the family chooses. Such child(ren) shall be considered immediately eligible provided all other WIAA eligibility rules are met. Should the child(ren) change schools, all WIAA eligibility rules, including transfer rules, must be met.
 - K. A student, including F-1 Visa students, coming from outside the 50-mile radius upon enrollment to an Adventist boarding school based upon being an Adventist, would be varsity eligible.**
- 18.11.3 A student attending a member school for one (1) calendar year or more is eligible in the same school/school district during subsequent attendance, so long as the enrollment/attendance is continuous.
- 18.11.4 A student whose transfer is the result of participation in a one-year cultural or educational exchange experience with another country must file the cultural exchange form with their District Eligibility Chairperson.
- A. A student leaving this country for a one-year international exchange experience shall file the cultural exchange form with their District Eligibility Chairperson prior to departure and will be eligible at their school of origin upon their return, provided all other rules of eligibility have been met.

- B. An international exchange student coming to this country for a one-year cultural/educational experience is eligible at the varsity level for one (1) year only in the school in which they have been placed, provided all other rules of eligibility have been met and the student has not graduated from the high school equivalent in their home country. F-1 Visa students remaining for more than one (1) year will be considered transfer students. Graduated students cannot compete interscholastically at any level (i.e., varsity or sub-varsity). This rule may not be appealed.

18.12.0 SUB-VARSITY STATUS - Ineligibility pursuant to section 18.11.0 shall be effective for one (1) calendar year from the date of enrollment. This ineligible status only prohibits a student from competing at the varsity level.

18.13.0 RESIDENCE RULE WAIVER - Transferring students, unless eligible via 18.10.0 through 18.11.0, shall be deemed to have transferred at will and must apply to the WIAA District Eligibility Committee for a waiver of the Residence Rule. Such an application shall be processed under the appeal provisions contained in Article 19 of this Handbook. The procedure for evaluating a transferring student's application will be as follows:

- 18.13.1 The student must meet all other eligibility requirements of Article 18 of this Handbook.
- 18.13.2 The student must establish a hardship as defined under the provisions of Article 19.1.0 and as determined by the District Eligibility Committee.
- 18.13.3 There can be no evidence that either the student transferred for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics or transferred as a result of having been recruited for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.
- 18.13.4 In addition to the above requirements, the District Eligibility Chairperson shall, as an added condition of eligibility, require that a transferring student submit a WIAA Previous School Statement. A copy of the signed form must be retained on file in the school office for the duration of the student's attendance at that school.

18.14.0 SEASON LIMITATIONS - After entering or being eligible to enter the seventh (7th) grade students shall have six (6) consecutive years of interscholastic eligibility. If the seventh (7th) or eighth (8th) grade is repeated, and such repetition is based upon documented academic deficiencies by the school principal, the repeated year shall not count against the student's six (6) interscholastic competitive years. Home school students are required to provide documentation of academic deficiency to be verified by the school principal.

After entering or being eligible to enter the ninth (9th) grade, a student shall have four (4) consecutive years of interscholastic eligibility.

For the purpose of this rule, consecutive shall mean starting on a designated date and continuing without delay or interruption for four (4) consecutive years. For the purpose of interpreting this rule, interscholastic eligibility exists for a maximum of six (6) years after entering or being eligible to enter the seventh grade and four (4) consecutive academic years after entering or being eligible to enter the ninth grade, and as long as the total years of eligibility (grades 7-12) do not exceed six (6) years. Application of this rule shall not be determined by years of participation in individual sports or sport seasons.

- 18.14.1 Students who do not attend school or who fail to, or are deemed ineligible to participate shall forfeit their eligibility during that period and shall not be provided any additional period of eligibility except as may be provided through the appeal process in Article 19.
- 18.14.2 Students repeating the eighth (8th) grade at the middle level or ninth (9th) grade at the junior high level may participate in the senior high school of the same school district provided the principals of both schools involved agree. In such case, the middle level school principal shall provide certification of the student's scholastic eligibility to the high school principal.
- 18.14.3 Additional eligibility shall not be granted if the student has had six (6) years of interscholastic eligibility after entering or being eligible to enter the seventh (7th) grade or four (4) consecutive years of interscholastic eligibility after entering or being eligible to enter the ninth (9th) grade.
- 18.14.4 A student who has been identified as receiving special education services **and who is accessing educational services beyond their interscholastic eligibility** may apply for a waiver of this rule by submitting a request for extended eligibility to the WIAA Executive Director. The WIAA Executive Director may grant a waiver of this rule provided the student does not pose a safety risk to him/herself or to other students.

PHILOSOPHY OF GENDER IDENTITY PARTICIPATION: *The WIAA encourages participation for all students regardless of their gender identity or expression. Further, most local, state and federal rules and regulations require schools to provide transgender and other gender-diverse student-athletes with equal opportunities to participate in athletics. The purpose of this policy is to offer clarity with respect to the participation of trans and gender-diverse student-athletes. Additionally, this policy encourages a culture in which student-athletes are able to compete in a safe and supportive environment, free of discrimination.*

18.15.0 GENDER IDENTITY PARTICIPATION - All students should have the opportunity to participate in WIAA athletics and/or activities in a manner that is consistent with their gender identity. Currently, most athletic programs are offered separately for boys and girls as outlined in Appendix 1. Athletes will participate in programs consistent with their gender identity or the gender most consistently expressed. School personnel responsible for student eligibility will work collaboratively with the student-athlete to determine eligibility. Should any questions arise whether a student's request

to participate in a sex-segregated activity consistent with his or her gender identity is bona fide, a student may seek review of his or her eligibility for participation by working through the procedure set forth below. Once the student has been granted eligibility to participate in the sport consistent with his/her gender identity, the eligibility is granted for the duration of the student's participation and does not need to be renewed every sports season or school year. All discussion and documentation will be kept confidential, and the proceedings will be sealed unless the student and family make a specific request. For additional information on Gender Identity, refer to Appendix 6.

- 18.15.1 **NOTICE TO THE STUDENT AND FAMILY:** Should the participation of a student be challenged, the administration of the school shall contact the student and parents/legal guardian to advise them of the challenge.
- 18.15.2 **NOTICE TO THE WIAA:** The school administrator shall then contact the WIAA office, which will assign a facilitator who will assist the school and student in preparation and completion of the WIAA Gender Identity eligibility appeal process.
- 18.15.3 **FIRST LEVEL OF APPEAL:** The student will be scheduled for an appeal hearing before an eligibility committee specifically established to hear gender identity appeals. The WIAA shall schedule a hearing as expeditiously as possible, but in no case later than five (5) school business days of that member school prior to the first full interscholastic contest that is the subject of the petition, or within a reasonable time thereafter in cases of emergency, including, but not limited to, any unforeseeable late student enrollment. The Gender Identity Eligibility Committee will be comprised of a minimum of three of the following persons one of whom must be from the physician or mental health profession category:
- A. Physician with experience in gender identity health care and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) Standards of Care.
 - B. Psychiatrist, psychologist or licensed mental health professional familiar with the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) Standards of Care.
 - C. School administrator from a non-appealing school
 - D. WIAA staff member
 - E. Advocate familiar with Gender Identity and Expression issues
- 18.15.4 **DOCUMENTATION:** The appealing student should provide the Eligibility Committee with the following documentation and information:
- A. Current transcript and school registration information
 - B. Documentation of student's consistent gender identification (e.g., affirmed written statements from student and/or parent/guardian and/or health care provider)
 - C. Any other pertinent documentation or information
- 18.15.5 **SECOND LEVEL OF APPEAL:** An aggrieved student wishing to appeal the Gender Identity Eligibility Committee decision shall file notice of appeal with the Executive Director of the WIAA on or before the tenth (10th) school business day following the date of receipt of the written decision of the Gender Identity Eligibility Committee denying the petition. An appeal to the WIAA Executive Director shall require the Executive Director to schedule a hearing to commence on or before the tenth (10th) school business day following the date of receipt of the written notice of appeal. Written notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be delivered to the petitioned appellant in person or by certified mail, with return receipt requested, no later than five (5) school business days of that member school prior to the date of the hearing.
- When there is confirmation of a student's consistent gender identity, the eligibility committee/WIAA Executive Director will affirm the student's eligibility to participate in WIAA activities consistent with the student's gender identification. The WIAA will facilitate the provision of resources and training for a member school seeking assistance regarding gender identity.

18.16.0 FIFTH (5th) GRADE PARTICIPATION – Fifth (5th) graders may participate in any middle level program except football if the total enrollment of the seventh (7th) and eighth (8th) grades in a middle school is less than 40 on the first day of the season for that sport. In that case, the sixth (6th) grade students of the school may participate in any seventh (7th) and eighth (8th) grade program except football during that season.

18.16.1 This participation does not count against the student's middle level eligibility.

18.16.2 This rule may not be appealed through the eligibility appeal process.

18.17.0 SIXTH (6th) GRADE PARTICIPATION- Sixth (6th) graders **attending a middle school of any size** may participate with seventh (7th) and eighth (8th) graders **except in the sport of football, if the following conditions are met:**

18.17.1 Required approval:

- 1. School principal, superintendent, and local school board approval.**
- 2. League approval.**
- 3. WIAA District Board approval.**

18.17.2. The out-of-season rules, as covered in 17.5.0, would apply to sixth (6th) graders involved in these approved programs.

18.17.3 This participation does not count against the student's middle level eligibility.

18.17.4 This rule may not be appealed through the eligibility appeal process.

18.18.0 JOINING SEVENTH (7th) AND EIGHTH (8th) GRADERS WITH NINTH (9th) GRADE - A school district which operates with an organization pattern other than a 6-3-3 may with league approval join the seventh (7th) and eighth (8th) graders from member schools with high school ninth (9th) graders for middle level competition in any one or all sports seasons.

18.18.1 If there is more than one high school operating within the school district, each high school will serve the students of their attendance area.

18.18.2 This rule may not be appealed through the eligibility appeal process.

18.19.0 MIDDLE LEVEL PRACTICE WITH THE HIGH SCHOOL TEAM

18.19.1 If a sport is not offered by the middle school, middle level students may practice with the feeder high school as long as the number of consecutive weeks does not exceed the season limitation for middle level in that sport.

18.19.2 If a sport is offered by the middle school, middle level students may practice with the feeder high school teams only during the time period that the seasons run concurrently.

18.19.3 The local school board must assume all responsibility for the middle level students practicing with high school students.

18.19.3 This rule may not be appealed through the eligibility appeal process.

18.20.0 EIGHTH (8th) GRADERS PARTICIPATION WITH THE HIGH SCHOOL TEAM

18.20.1 **FEEDER MIDDLE SCHOOL/JUNIOR HIGH - DEFINITION**

A. Public schools – the middle school/junior high whose students will progress to a specific high school.

B. Private schools

1) A designated private feeder school owned and operated by the high school; or

2) In the case where no designated private feeder school exists, the middle school(s)/junior high(s) in the public school district where the private high school is located.

18.20.2 High schools with an enrollment equal to or less than one-half of the enrollment in the largest 2B school may allow eighth (8th) graders from a WIAA member feeder middle school/junior high to participate in any high school program for that classification cycle.

NOTE: 165 will be the enrollment cut-off for the 2020-2024 classification cycle.

18.20.3 With league approval, any 2B school **with an enrollment of 166 or greater** may allow eighth (8th) grade students from a WIAA member feeder middle school/junior high to participate in the high school program with the intent to maintain a varsity and a junior varsity program in baseball, basketball, soccer, softball, or volleyball. Eighth graders cannot be brought up to establish a C squad if one of the following circumstances exist.

NOTE: If a 2B school is not a member of a league, WIAA District approval is required.

18.20.4 With league approval, any 2B school **with an enrollment of 166 or greater** may allow eighth (8th) grade students from a WIAA member feeder middle school/junior high to participate in any high school program except football if that sport is not offered at the middle level/junior high.

NOTE: If a 2B school is not a member of league, WIAA District approval is required.

18.20.5 With league approval, any 2B school **with an enrollment of 166 or greater** may allow eighth (8th) grade students **from a WIAA member feeder middle school/junior high** to participate at the high school level if at any time during the season the number of participants on the high school team is at or below these specified numbers.

NOTE: If a 2B school is not a member of a league, WIAA District approval is required.

Baseball: 25

Basketball: 16

Soccer: 25

Softball: 25

Volleyball: 17

18.20.6 Combining contests in both middle level and high school, an eighth (8th) grader may participate in the maximum number of high school contests. Also refer to the specific sport sections in this WIAA handbook to verify daily, weekly or season limitations.

18.20.7 Provided all conditions of eligibility are met, any student will have four (4) years of eligibility after entering the ninth grade.

- 18.20.7 This rule may not be appealed through the eligibility appeal process.
- 18.21.0 NINTH (9th) GRADE PARTICIPATION** - Ninth (9th) graders may be declared on the WIAA membership form either in the middle level program or the high school program, on a sport by sport basis, regardless of the building in which the ninth (9th) graders are actually located.
- 18.21.1 A high school that has a squad of players consisting solely of ninth (9th) grade students must conduct its competition either under middle level school playing rules or under high school playing rules, depending upon whether it is playing a middle level team or a high school team.
- 18.21.2 A squad that consists of students from several grades (9th, 10th, 11th and 12th) will compete under high school playing regulations.
- 18.21.3 Ninth (9th) grade students, when declared in high school by the local school board, may form as many squads as desired and enter competition provided the squads are accepted by the league in which that school participates.
- 18.21.4 Ninth (9th) grade students in a high school can participate on any squad in that school and must adhere to all rules and regulations that apply.
- 18.21.5 When ninth (9th) grade is part of a middle level school program (6-3-3 organizational pattern), the ninth (9th) grade student shall not participate in any high school (10-12) athletic program if that sport is available in the middle level, except in the case of an overage student.
- 18.21.6 If ninth (9th) grade students are declared in high school by the local school board a ninth (9th) grade student has competed on the high school team, the student is ineligible for that school district's middle level school team in that sport during that school year.
- 18.21.7 Ninth (9th) grade teams from 9-12 high schools may play middle level teams, provided that (a) the principals of both schools agree to the contest(s); (b) the contest(s) is conducted according to middle level rules; (c) the high school squad consists solely of ninth (9th) grade students.
- 18.21.8 This rule may not be appealed through the eligibility appeal process.
- 18.22.0 CONCURRENT SPORTS LIMITATION** - A middle level or a high school level student may be on only one (1) interscholastic sport roster per season.
- 18.22.1 The exception shall be for students participating in '1B' or '2B' high schools with local administrators and school board determining eligible participation in more than one (1) interscholastic sport per season at that high school.
- 18.22.2 The exception shall be for the student who competes during an alternate season, qualifies for the state tournament, and is required to practice prior to competing in the state tournament. (Example: A student represented their school in fall tennis and qualified for the state tournament in the spring. During the spring season this same student represented their school in track. Prior to the state tennis tournament, the student is required to have a minimum number of practices, during which time the student is also participating on the track team. In the event that the student also qualifies for the state track meet, state event schedules will not be restructured in order for the student to compete in both state events.)
- 18.22.3 This does not prohibit a student from being a cheerleader **or a member of the dance/drill team** while concurrently participating in another sport.
- 18.23.0 NON-SCHOOL PARTICIPATION** - Students may participate on a non-school team or teams or in a non-school instruction program while also participating on a school team.
- 18.23.1 Schools may not give students special treatment or privileges on a regular basis to enable them to participate in non-school athletic activities. Some examples of special treatment or privileges include reduced practice times, special workouts, late arrivals, early dismissals or missing a practice or contest. Regular is defined as being more than once.
- 18.23.2 Students shall not compete in the uniform of the school at non-school events.
School uniforms, football helmets and shoulder pads may be worn ONLY during the WIAA season for that sport except during Washington State Coaches Association feeder or all state contests. NOTE: Uniforms are considered to be the school issued contest uniform (practice or shooting shirts are not classified as school uniforms) and are defined in the adopted rule book for each specific sport.
- 18.23.3 Participation on a non-school team or program cannot be a requirement or condition of participation on a school team.
- 18.23.4 Penalties
- A. If a school gives students special treatment or privileges, the school must report the violation to its league to determine appropriate penalties.
- B. Penalties assessed to the student for violating this rule are determined by the local school district.

18.24.0 AMATEUR STANDING - A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport must be an amateur in that sport. An amateur student-athlete is one who engages in athletics for the physical, mental, social and educational benefits, and to whom athletics is an avocation and not a source of financial reward.

- 18.24.1 In order to maintain amateur standing in that sport under WIAA jurisdiction, the student-athlete may not:
- A. Accept merchandise or in-kind gifts of more than \$500 in fair market value per sport during any one calendar year August 1 through July 31.
 - 1. Reduced membership fees or reduced user fees from an athletic club, recreation center, golf course, etc., do not count toward this \$500 limit.
 - 2. Defined games of chance are exempt from this rule.
 - 3. Awards that are permitted - Awards to athletic teams or to individual members of such teams under the jurisdiction of the Association may be made by a member school in the form of letters, insignias, certificates, medals, and/or trophies as are customarily emblematic of athletic competition and whose intrinsic values are insignificant.
 - B. Accept gift cards or cash awards in that sport. A voucher with no cash value is allowed.
 - C. Enter competition under a false name.
 - D. Accept payment of expense allowances over the actual and necessary expenses for the athletic trip (NOTE: Entry fees and payment for lost wages are not considered a reimbursable expense.)
 - E. Play on a college team. A student-athlete may try out and/or participate against a college team but may not represent a college team in that sport.
 - F. Sign or have ever signed a contract to play professional athletics in that sport.
 - G. By sport receive or have ever received from a professional sports organization, directly or indirectly, a salary or any other form of financial assistance including scholarships, educational grants-in-aid, or any of their expenses for reporting to or visiting a professional team.
 - H. Advertise or promote a commercial product or service.
- 18.24.2 Provided they are not representing a WIAA member school, a student-athlete may participate against professional and college scoring athletes in any sport under the jurisdiction of the WIAA.
- 18.24.3 Amateur standing will not be jeopardized by instructing, supervising or officiating in any organized youth sports program, recreation, playground or camp activities whether the student-athlete is paid or not paid for these duties.
- 18.24.4 A WIAA member school may not permit nor authorize the use of an individual student's name and/or picture, a school or school team name and/or picture(s) to directly advertise, recommend or promote a commercial product or service.
- 18.24.5 Use of a Student-Athlete's Name in Advertisements that are Congratulatory in Nature - A business can place its trademark on the advertisement only; the advertisement cannot include a reproduction of the product with which the business is associated.
- 18.24.6 A student who forfeits amateur status may apply to the Executive Director for reinstatement.

18.25.0 USE OF ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES – School and WIAA rules and regulations are intended to discourage the use of alcohol, tobacco, legend drugs, controlled substances and paraphernalia and to encourage the use of school and community resources. School and community resources should be identified for students who have had a violation and seek help or who are referred for assessment.

18.25.1 **Alcohol and tobacco** - Each WIAA member school shall adopt reasonable rules and regulations pertaining to the use of alcohol or tobacco products that are specific to the middle or high school levels.

18.25.2 **Legend drugs and controlled substances** – Penalties for the possession, use or sale of legend drugs (drugs obtained through prescription, RCW 69.41.020-050) and controlled substances (RCW 69.50) shall be as follows:

1st Violation - A participant shall be immediately ineligible for interscholastic competition in the current interscholastic sports program for the remainder of the season. Ineligibility shall continue until the next sports season in which the participant wishes to participate unless the student accesses the assistance program outlined in B (below.)

An athlete who is found to be in violation of the Legend drugs and controlled substances rule shall have two options.

- A. The athlete will be ineligible for participation in contests for the remainder of that interscholastic sports season and must meet the school's requirements in order to be eligible to compete in the next interscholastic sports season. The school principal will have the final authority regarding the student's participation in further interscholastic sports programs.
- B. The athlete may choose to seek and receive help for a problem with use of legend drugs or controlled substances. Successful utilization of school and or community assistance programs may

allow him/her to have eligibility re-instated in that athletic season, pending recommendation by the school.

2nd Violation - A participant who again violates any provision of RCW 69.41.020 through 69.41.050 or of RCW 69.50 shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition for a period of one (1) calendar year from the date of the second violation.

3rd Violation - A participant who violates for a third time RCW 69.41.020 - 69.41.050 or of RCW 69.50 shall be permanently ineligible for interscholastic competition.

18.26.0 HARDSHIP - The WIAA District Eligibility Committee and the Executive Director are given the authority to make specific exceptions to those student eligibility regulations contained in Article 18 provided such exceptions are based upon hardship conditions that are deemed to have contributed in a significant way to non-compliance with specific regulation(s) that may be appealed.

18.26.1 Any waiver of student eligibility regulations shall be based upon extenuating circumstances, beyond the student's, or where applicable, the parents' or legal guardian's control, that are deemed to have significantly influenced or contributed to the cause of the student's non-compliance to the eligibility regulation(s) involved. (The following criteria shall be used to determine if a hardship exists):

- A. A hardship exists only when some unique circumstances concerning the student's physical or emotional status exist and only when such circumstances are not the result of acts or actions by the student or family unit.
- B. There must be no reason to believe that the decision and/or the execution of the decision concerning the student's transfer was for athletic purposes.
- C. The circumstances must be totally different from those that exist for the majority or even a small minority of students (e.g., usual maturation problems or family situations that do not cause severe and abnormal emotional problems, and academic or athletic deficiencies in a school's curriculum or co-curricular activities do not constitute a hardship).
- D. The burden of providing evidence that a hardship exists shall be borne by the student.
- E. There shall be a direct, causal relationship between the alleged hardship and the student's inability to meet the specific eligibility rule(s).

18.26.2 Exceptions to student eligibility regulations based upon a hardship shall be subject to the following limitations:

- A. Loss of eligibility in itself or an injury in itself that prevents the student from being able to participate are not to be considered hardships. In addition, attending a school that does not offer interscholastic activities is not to be considered a hardship, nor shall it justify extending eligibility beyond the four (4) consecutive year period allowed.
- B. A hardship exception shall not be granted if there is sufficient evidence to make it reasonable to believe that the non-compliance to the eligibility rule in question was motivated by the student's, parents' or school's efforts to gain a desired athletic outcome or to intentionally circumvent a rule, or
- C. To grant additional eligibility based upon a hardship condition, a student must demonstrate that normal progression toward graduation has been significantly interrupted as a result of a long-confining illness (which can include a learning disability), an injury, or a family hardship, and that the interruption prevented the student from graduating and participating in four (4) consecutive years.

18.26.3 The District Eligibility Committee shall waive the junior varsity rule in the case of a transfer student for a specific sport if the petitioner can provide documentation in one or more of the following criteria on Form 6 Part 1 in the WIAA Eligibility Packet.

- A. A transferring student has not participated at the school level or club/community equivalent in that sport for one (1) year prior to their transfer.
For the purposes of this rule, participation is defined as: Participation in ten (10) or more coach organized (or led) practices or one (1) contest at the school, club or community level in that sport.
- B. A transferring ninth grade student from a middle level school to a four year high school shall not have played on an eighth grade team or club/community equivalent.
- C. A transferring tenth grade student from a junior high school to a three year high school shall not have played on a ninth grade team or club/community equivalent.

18.27.0 EJECTION FROM CONTEST - Conduct resulting in an ejection from an interscholastic contest administered by game officials, coaches or school administrators shall result in the following:

NOTE: Two (2) technical assessed during a basketball game are considered to be an ejection.

18.27.1 For the remainder of the contest in which the ejection occurred:

- A. When a student is ejected, the coach continues to be responsible for the student. The student shall remain with the team.
 - B. When a coach or other adult school representative is ejected, the coach or other adult school representative must vacate the playing area (gymnasium, field, and stadium.) If a head coach is ejected, an assistant coach or any school district personnel authorized to supervise students may assume the head coaching responsibilities for the remainder of the contest. If no other school district personnel are on site, the contest will be terminated and forfeiture declared.
- 18.27.2 The school principal/designee is required to submit an ejection report online to the WIAA office within 24 hours following the completion of the contest in which the ejection occurred.
- 18.27.3 The first ejection of the season shall result, at a minimum, in the ejected person (student, coach, other school representative) being ineligible until after the next school contest in that sport at the same level of competition from which the person was ejected has been completed.

A. An ejection due to violent conduct by a player or a coach or abusive language by a coach shall result in a suspension equal to twenty percent (20%) of the number of allowable contests for that sport as indicated below.				
Number of regular season contests in that sport	1-7	8-11	12-15	16-20
Number of contests to fulfill suspension	1	2	3	4
1. Violent conduct is defined as the commission of a violent act against an opponent, official, spectator, teammate or other individual(s) when in or out of play. A player or coach is guilty of violent conduct if they use excessive force or brutality against an opponent when not in the play. They are also guilty of violent conduct if they use excessive force or brutality against a teammate, spectator, official or any other person. Violent conduct may occur either on the field of play or outside its boundaries, whether the person is in play or not.				
2. Abusive language is defined as harsh or insulting language or profanity directed towards another individual.				

- B. The WIAA staff and/or WIAA Executive Board may increase a suspension based upon the aggressive conduct, inappropriate language, and/or circumstances following an ejection.**
 - C. Even though a jamboree does not count as a contest for the purposes of meeting the suspension period, the suspended person is not allowed to participate in a jamboree.
 - D. A student who is on suspension may be on the team bench, but not in the school uniform, during the suspension period.
 - E. Any coach ejected shall not be involved in coaching to any degree during the contest from which they are suspended and shall not be allowed into the facility (gymnasium, field, stadium, locker room or hallway, etc.) during the suspension period.
- 18.27.4 Should a participant be unable to complete a suspension during the sports season in which the ejection occurs, the suspension shall be carried over into the participant's succeeding season of participation. **The suspension will be based upon the maximum number of contests allowed to be played in that sport, not the number of contests scheduled or played by the school in that sport.** In order for the suspension in the succeeding season of participation to meet this requirement, the participant must be a member of the team for the entire season for that sport.

	Regular season contest limitation during subsequent season			
Served 0 during season ejected	1-7	8-11	12-15	16-20
1-7 regular season contest limitation	1	2	3	4
8-11 regular season contest limitation	1	2	3	4
12-15 regular season contest limitation	1	2	3	4
16-20 regular season contest limitation	1	2	3	4
Served 1 during season ejected				
1-7 regular season contest limitation	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
8-11 regular season contest limitation	1	1	2	2
12-15 regular season contest limitation	1	1	2	3
16-20 regular season contest limitation	1	2	2	3
Served 2 during season ejected				
8-11 regular season contest limitation	0	0	0	0
12-15 regular season contest limitation	0	1	1	2
16-20 regular season contest limitation	0	1	2	2

Served 3 during season ejected				
12-15 regular season contest limitation	0	0	0	0
16-20 regular season contest limitation	0	0	0	1

- 18.27.5 The second ejection in the same sport and season shall result in ineligibility for the remainder of the season of that sport.
- 18.27.6 For aggressive physical contact with an official, the WIAA Executive Director has the authority to suspend the individual from further competition for a period not to exceed one (1) calendar year.

- 18.27.7 Any school with five or more ejections during a school year must follow the protocol below:
- A. The first year that a school has five (5) or more ejections, the school must submit a written plan of action to reduce the number of ejections prior to the proceeding September WIAA Executive Board meeting.
The written plan must include the following elements: Accountability, Action Plan, Evaluation Plan, Specific Expectations and Timeline.
 - B. The second year that a school has five (5) or more ejections, the school principal/designee shall meet with a designated WIAA executive staff member at the WIAA office and present the school's sportsmanship plan.
 - C. The third year that a school has five (5) or more ejections, the school principal/designee, coaches and student athletes representing the school must present the school's sportsmanship plan to the WIAA Executive Board during the September WIAA Executive Board meeting.

19.0.0 STUDENT APPEALS OF INELIGIBILITY

PHILOSOPHY OF STUDENT APPEALS OF INELIGIBILITY: *The purpose of the appeal process is to provide students declared ineligible for athletic competition a clear explanation for their ineligibility and a procedure whereby they are afforded a full and reasonable opportunity to contest their ineligible status.*

19.1.0 APPEAL PROCEDURE FOR STUDENTS - Hardship must be the basis of an appeal. The following sections are the procedures for a student to appeal ineligibility to participate in interschool activities.

19.2.0 PURPOSE - The purpose of these provisions is to prescribe in detail the procedure whereby a student who wishes to contest the reasons for his/her alleged ineligibility to participate in an interschool activity under eligibility standards established by the WIAA shall be afforded a fair opportunity to petition the appropriate governing board(s) of the WIAA to obtain a full and open review.

19.3.0 PROCEDURES FOR INFORMING STUDENT OF INELIGIBILITY- Each school district superintendent or his/her designee(s), having reasonable cause to believe that a student is ineligible to participate in or continue in an interschool activity under the Rules and Regulations of the WIAA, shall provide the student with notice of his/her ineligibility either by certified mail or by delivering said notice in person. The notice shall:

- 19.3.1 Specify the reason(s) for the alleged ineligibility and the rule being violated.
- 19.3.2 Advise the student of his/her opportunity to request a hearing in order to contest the reason(s) for the alleged ineligibility.
- 19.3.3 State that a written petition for a hearing can be served upon the WIAA District Eligibility Committee, or its designee, on or before the expiration of the third school business day after receipt of the Notice of Opportunity for a hearing.
- 19.3.4 Specify how the petition for hearing can be served upon the WIAA District Eligibility Committee or its designee by providing an address for that Committee or its designee.
- 19.3.5 Provide the student with the form(s) necessary to petition for a hearing pursuant to the procedure provided herein.
- 19.3.6 Failure to request a hearing in the manner hereinafter described within three (3) school business days following the date of receipt of the written notice of alleged ineligibility shall waive the right to a hearing and the appeal procedures that govern determinations of eligibility under the standards established by the WIAA.
- 19.3.7 Unless otherwise provided, any student declared ineligible to participate in an interschool activity shall remain ineligible until a decision to the contrary is made as provided for in Article 19 of this Handbook.

19.4.0 PROCEDURES FOR INFORMING SENDING SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF APPEAL - In transferring student cases, the sending school principal or designee shall be notified by mail, email, fax or phone by the WIAA District Eligibility Chairperson or designee of the hearing date, time, and place. The sending school principal or designee shall have the opportunity to be present during the hearing.

- 19.5.0 NOTICE AND DECISION PROVISIONS/CONSTRUCTION OF DATES** - The notice and decision provisions contained in the hearing and appeals procedures as herein set forth shall correspond with the actual school business days of that member school. In computing any period of time prescribed or allowed by these rules the day of the act or event from which the designated period of time begins to run shall not be included. The last day of the period so computed shall be included, unless it is a legal holiday, in which event the period runs until the next day that is not a legal holiday.
- 19.6.0 DISTRICT LEVEL ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE** - The governing board in each WIAA Representative District shall appoint a committee composed of a chairperson and at least two (2) additional committee members. No member of the Eligibility Committee shall hear and decide a case concerning a student who attends or attended a school with which that member is employed or otherwise directly associated. In such case, that member shall be disqualified and the majority of the remaining members of the Eligibility Committee shall meet and appoint any additional person or persons necessary to fill such vacancy.
- 19.6.1 Each member of the committee must be trained and certified on an annual basis by the WIAA office staff.
- 19.6.2 The Eligibility Committee shall be authorized to hear and decide cases involving the eligibility of students to participate in interschool activities pursuant to the eligibility standards established by the WIAA.
- 19.6.3 The committee will review the appeal paperwork prior to scheduling the hearing.
- A. If the appeal meets a set criteria established for each article of the WIAA eligibility rule, the committee will process and approve.
- B. If the appeal does not meet the set criteria, then the district eligibility chair will schedule a hearing with the student and his/her representative.
- 19.6.4 Appeals of decisions of the district eligibility committee may be appealed to the WIAA Executive Director.
- 19.6.5 The district eligibility committee will be evaluated annually.
- 19.7.0 ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE - THE PETITION** - Any student and/or his/her parents(s)/family unit may request a hearing before the Eligibility Committee in order to contest the reason(s) for any alleged ineligibility under the standards established by the WIAA. The person(s) requesting such a hearing shall be known as the Petitioner. A request for a hearing in the form and manner described herein shall be known as a Petition. A Petition shall: (a) be written; (b) set forth the specific eligibility; (c) be signed by the Petitioner(s); and (d) be submitted to the Eligibility Committee with such completed forms as may be prescribed by the Executive Board of the WIAA.
- 19.8.0 ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE - THE HEARING** - Upon the receipt of a Petition properly submitted in the manner described above, the Eligibility Committee shall schedule a hearing as expeditiously as possible, but in no case later than five (5) school business days of that member school prior to the first full interscholastic contest that is the subject of the Petition, or within a reasonable time thereafter in cases of emergency including, but not limited to, an unforeseeable late student enrollment. Written notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be delivered to the Petitioner no later than three (3) school business days of that member school prior to the date of the hearing. In the case of transferring students, notice by phone, mail or fax shall also be given to the sending school principal. All hearings shall be closed to the public.
- 19.8.1 The Petitioner may represent himself/herself or be represented by such other person, as he or she may desire. The Petitioner shall have the opportunity to testify, present and cross-examine witnesses, as well as to introduce affidavits, exhibits, and other such evidence as may be deemed relevant and material by the Eligibility Committee.
- 19.8.2 The Eligibility Committee may continue the hearing for a reasonable period of time when in the judgment of the Committee such a continuance is determined to be necessary to a fair and proper disposition of the petition.
- 19.8.3 A tape recording or verbatim record of the hearing shall be made in connection with each petition considered by the Eligibility Committee.
- 19.9.0 ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE - THE DECISION** - At the conclusion of the hearing and after a full and complete consideration of the evidence presented in support of the petition, the Eligibility Committee shall either (a) grant the petition, (b) deny the petition, or (c) take the petition under advisement for a period not to exceed five (5) school business days of that member school. The decision of the Eligibility Committee shall be written and shall include specific findings and conclusions that support the particular determination. A copy of the decision of the Eligibility Committee shall be sent to the petitioner within five (5) school business days of that member school following the date of the conclusion of the hearing or time period for seeking additional information. The sending school principal shall also be sent a copy of the decision within five (5) school business days of that member school following the date of the conclusion of the hearing or time period for seeking additional information.
- 19.9.1 The decision of the Eligibility Committee shall be based solely upon the facts and arguments presented during the hearing.
- 19.9.2 In the case of a decision by the Eligibility Committee to deny the petition for eligibility, the Petitioner shall be provided, in addition to a copy of the written decision, a copy of the procedure and forms required in order to appeal to a Hearing Officer appointed by the WIAA Executive Director.
- 19.9.3 When the Eligibility Committee denies the petition, the student is ineligible for interscholastic competition.

- 19.10.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/HEARING OFFICER - APPEAL/NOTICE OF APPEAL** - An aggrieved student wishing to appeal the decision of the Eligibility Committee shall file notice of appeal with the Executive Director of the WIAA on or before the tenth (10th) school business day following the date of receipt of the written decision of the Eligibility Committee denying the petition. Upon failure to file a notice of appeal, the decision rendered by the Eligibility Committee shall constitute the final determination in the case.
- 19.10.1 The notice of appeal shall (a) be written, (b) be signed by the petitioner-appellant, (c) set forth the specific alleged error(s) that form the basis of appeal, and (d) be accompanied by such completed forms as the WIAA Executive Board may prescribe as now or hereafter amended.
- 19.10.2 An appeal to the WIAA Executive Director shall require the Executive Director to notify a designated Hearing Officer to schedule a hearing to commence on or before the tenth (10th) school business day following the date of receipt of the written notice of appeal. Written notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be sent to the petitioner-appellant no later than five (5) school business days of that member school prior to the date of the hearing.
- 19.11.0 HEARING OFFICER - THE HEARING** - The hearing before the WIAA Hearing Officer shall be limited to a review of the record of the hearing conducted before the District Eligibility Committee and any additional relevant evidence.
- 19.11.1 In the review of the record, the findings and recommendations of the Hearing Officer shall be based solely upon the record of the hearing conducted by the Eligibility Committee and may include additional evidence, oral or written, when in the opinion of the Hearing Officer, such evidence is deemed relevant and material to a fair and proper disposition of the appeal. Upon receipt of additional evidence by the Hearing Officer, the parties shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to contest such evidence.
- 19.11.2 A tape recording or verbatim record shall be made of the hearing.
- 19.12.0 HEARING OFFICER - THE RECOMMENDATION** - The recommended decisions to the WIAA Executive Director proposed by the Hearing Officer shall be written and shall include specific findings and conclusions that support the particular recommendations. The recommended decisions shall either affirm or reverse the decision of the Eligibility Committee, or take the petition under advisement for a period not to exceed five (5) school business days for the purpose of seeking additional information.
- 19.12.1 The written finding(s) of and recommendation(s) of the Hearing Officer shall be delivered to the Office of the WIAA Executive Director as expeditiously as possible, but in no case later than five (5) school business days of that member school following the date of the conclusion of the hearing or time period for seeking additional information.
- 19.12.2 WIAA Executive Director - The Decision - The WIAA Executive Director shall review the findings and recommendation of the Hearing Officer and shall either affirm or deny the recommendation of the Hearing Officer. The decision rendered by the Executive Director shall be written and shall include the findings and conclusions that support the particular determination and may include conditions for granting eligibility. The decision of the Executive Director is final.
- 19.12.3 A copy of the written decision of the Executive Director in each case shall be sent to the petitioner-appellant as expeditiously as possible but in no case later than five (5) school business days of that member school following the date of the conclusion of the hearing or time period for seeking additional information.
- 19.12.4 Any student who remains aggrieved by a decision of the WIAA Executive Director and/or WIAA Executive Board may appeal to the Superior Court pursuant to RCW 28A.645.010 through RCW 28A.645.030, as now or hereafter amended.
- 19.13.0 APPEAL PROCESS FOR EJECTION FROM CONTEST** - An appeal of the penalty shall proceed as follows:
- 19.13.1 Ejections resulting from a misinterpretation or misapplication on the part of the ejecting contest official(s) may be appealed.
- A. The principal/designee of the ejected person must contact the WIAA administrative staff within one (1) school business day after the conclusion of the contest in which the ejection occurred to verify a misapplication or misinterpretation of the rule. Providing the WIAA administrative staff finds a misapplication or misinterpretation of the rule, the principal/designee may appeal the suspension to the school's league.
- If the school is not a member of a league, the appeal will be filed directly with the District Board.
- B. The principal or designee may stay the suspension, but may not vacate the ejection, and will report his/her decision and rationale to the school's league.
- C. The hearing procedures, as outlined in 27.0.0, shall be followed. The league shall review and either affirm the decision of the principal/designee with the understanding that the one (1) contest suspension shall not be assessed or overrule the decision of the principal/designee, whereby the ejected person shall be required to serve the one (1) contest suspension. Any league action shall be in writing and specify the reasons for the league decision. Failure of a school for any reason to enforce the regulation and/or decision of the league will be considered a school violation.

- D. For tournaments, qualifying and/or state events any appeal will be heard by the Games Committee (refer to 19.13.3), providing the appeal was approved by the school principal/designee. A decision will be given no later than two (2) hours before the next event in which the ejected person might participate.
 - E. Providing the Games Committee (refer to 19.13.3) finds misapplication or misinterpretation of a rule, the penalty may be vacated.
 - F. Failure of the school to enforce the regulation or decision will result in the disqualification from and forfeiture of all remaining contests of that event. Due process procedures of the WIAA Handbook and Rule Violations and Penalties will apply to any further action.
 - G. The severity of the penalty for the second ejection or for aggressive physical contact may be appealed to the WIAA Executive Director upon presentation of rationale and written documentation signed by the WIAA member school principal or superintendent desiring and supporting penalty modification within two (2) school business days after the conclusion of the contest in which the ejection occurred.
- 19.13.2 Ejections resulting from a judgment call that resulted in an ejection, may be appealed. School approved video evidence, submitted by the principal or designee, may be used to determine whether an ejection was due to incorrect judgment on the part of the ejecting contest official(s).
- A. For regular season events, the principal/designee of the ejected person must contact the WIAA administrative staff within one (1) school business day after the conclusion of the contest in which the ejection occurred to verify an incorrect judgment call that resulted in the ejection. Providing the WIAA administrative staff finds an incorrect judgment call backed by video evidence, the principal/designee may appeal only the suspension to the school's league. If the school is not a member of a league, the appeal will be filed directly with the WIAA District Board.
 1. The video must be submitted within one (1) school business day after the conclusion of the contest during which the ejection occurred.
 2. The video submitted must clearly document the situation/play in which the ejection occurred.
 3. The WIAA administrative staff will have a minimum of two (2) school business days in order to make a decision regarding the appeal.
 4. **After watching a video submitted by a school to appeal a suspension of its participant(s) and/or coach(es), the WIAA staff and/or WIAA Executive Board have the ability to suspend a participant or coach if their behavior warranted ejection but was unseen by the officials working the contest.**
 5. The decision of the WIAA administrative staff regarding the ejection is final.
 6. If the next contest in which the ejected person will be suspended is less than two (2) school business days from the conclusion of the contest during which the ejection occurred, the appeal must be heard by a Games Committee (refer to 19.13.3).
 - B. Provided the steps in 19.13.2 have been met, the principal or designee may stay the suspension, but may not vacate the ejection, and will report his/her decision and rationale to the school's league.
 1. If WIAA administrative staff review cannot be completed prior to the next regular season contest or a Games Committee (refer to 19.13.3) is not available, the suspension must be fulfilled.
 2. If the suspension is fulfilled, an appeal can still be processed, with the potential to remove the ejection from the individual's record and the school ejection count.
 - C. The hearing procedures, as outlined in 27.0.0, shall be followed. The league shall review and either affirm the decision of the principal/designee with the understanding that the one (1) contest suspension shall not be assessed or overrule the decision of the principal/designee, whereby the ejected person shall be required to serve the one (1) contest suspension. Any league action shall be in writing and specify the reasons for the league decision. Failure of a school for any reason to enforce the regulation and/or decision of the league will be considered a school violation.
 - D. For postseason qualifying contests and/or state contests, any appeal **must** be heard by the Games Committee (refer to 19.13.3), providing the appeal was approved by the school principal/designee. A decision will be given no later than two (2) hours before the next event in which the ejected person might participate.

- E. Failure of the school to enforce the regulation or decision will result in the disqualification from and forfeiture of all remaining contests of that event. Due process procedures of the WIAA Handbook and Rule Violations and Penalties will apply to any further action.
 - F. The severity of the penalty for the second ejection or for aggressive physical contact may be appealed to the WIAA Executive Director upon presentation of rationale and written documentation signed by the WIAA member school principal or superintendent desiring and supporting penalty modification within two (2) school business days after the conclusion of the contest in which the ejection occurred.
- 19.13.3 Games Committee Defined -Each Event Manager may appoint and name a predetermined Games Committee for all regular season events with less than two (2) school business days between contests and all postseason contests. The Games Committee may be on site or readily accessible by phone for all regular season events with less than two (2) school business days between contests and all postseason qualifying and/or state contests.
- A. The Games Committee may be composed of no fewer than three, nor more than five, members. Games committee members may include 1) the event manager or designee; 2) the head official; 3) a coach, athletic director or school administrator not involved in the appeal; and may include 4) the official scorekeeper or 5) another event staff member.
 - B. The Games Committee members may not have a conflict of interest with the teams/individuals involved with the appeal.
 - C. The Games Committee may assist the event manager as needed and be immediately available to him/her at all times during the event.
 - D. The Games Committee will act as an arbitration board to review an appeal of an ejection due to incorrect judgment.
 - E. Providing the Games Committee overturns a judgment call that led to an ejection, the suspension may be vacated.
 - F. The decision of the Games Committee is final.
 - G. **The findings and decision must be submitted to the WIAA office within two (2) school business days.**
- 19.14.0 **PROTESTS OF ELIGIBILITY** - Any member school, which has reason to believe that a student is not in compliance with WIAA eligibility standards, may protest the student's eligibility by written notification to the principal of the school that the student attends.
- 19.14.1 Whenever the eligibility of a student is protested in the manner described above, a representative of the school which the student attends shall notify the student of his/her protested ineligibility and right to apply to the WIAA District Eligibility Committee as prescribed in Article 19 of the Handbook concerning his/her eligibility.
 - 19.14.2 In addition to the above, the District Eligibility Chairperson may appoint a Fact Finder to investigate matters pertaining to the protest.
 - 19.14.3 In addition to the above requirements, the District Eligibility Chairperson may, as an added condition of eligibility, require that a transferring student submit a WIAA Previous School Statement. This form must be signed by the principal of the school from which the student has transferred, indicating the principal's approval of athletic eligibility for the transferring student. A copy of the signed form must be retained on file in the school office for the duration of the student's attendance at that school.
 - 19.14.4 Unless such written protest is submitted by that member school at least seven (7) school business days before the student's first opportunity to participate in an interscholastic contest, the student shall remain eligible during the appeal process provided for in Article 19 of this Handbook.

20.0.0 COACHES

PHILOSOPHY OF COACHES: *Coaches are primarily responsible for imparting valuable educational experiences to student participants. Therefore, the WIAA believes that all coaches should have training in at least the essential areas of study required for a physical education teacher's endorsement in Washington secondary schools and the NFHS Coaches Education Program.*

- 20.1.0 **DEFINITION OF A HEAD COACH** - A head coach is that person in charge of the highest level team for that building (e.g.), the person responsible for the highest level (varsity) team in a building that houses grades 10-12 is the head coach; the person who is responsible for the highest level team in a building that houses grades 7-9 is the head coach.
- 20.2.0 **EMPLOYEE OF THE DISTRICT** - No school team or individual contestant shall be eligible to represent a school in an athletic contest unless the coach has been approved by the School Board of the school district in which he/she coaches.