

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (Q&A)

17.1.0 SCHOOL YEAR

Q&A: *When do the WIAA rules take effect?*

The school year begins on August 1 and ends the first day following the spring sports tournaments.

17.2.2 IN-SEASON

Q&A-1: *My team did not qualify for postseason playoffs. How long can we continue to practice as a team with our coach?*

The season concludes with the final day of the state event in for that sport. Even though the team did not qualify, your coach could continue to coach your team until the conclusion of the state tournament for that sport.

Q&A-2: *Our basketball team is planning to play in a summer basketball tournament on the Sunday after the spring tournaments. With the impending weather reports, the state softball tournament may be postponed until after that date. Will our coach violate the out-of-season rule if she coaches us on Sunday, even though the softball tournament may not be completed?*

NO. Coaches cannot be responsible for the spring tournament being postponed due to inclement weather.

17.3.4 ALTERNATE SEASON CONTESTS

Q&A: *Our league plays girls tennis in the fall, but we would like to hold the final district qualifying event one week prior to the state tournament. Is it ok for our team to begin practice 20 school days prior to the district qualifying tournament?*

NO; your team may begin practice twenty (20) days prior to the first day of the state tournament, with any contests held only after ten (10) practices have been completed. The deadline for determining district entries to state tournament shall be midnight Saturday prior to the week of the state-level events.

17.4.0 POSTSEASON CONTESTS

Q&A-1: *When can a team that participates in the alternate fall season begin practice for the spring state tournament?*

Whether or not the team qualified in the fall for a spring state tournament, the team is allowed to begin practice no sooner than twenty (20) school days prior to the first day of the state tournament.

Q&A-2: *With the season limitation for baseball at twenty (20) games, if our team schedules and plays in only nineteen (19) games during the regular season, would we be allowed to play a game during the week between the regionals and the semifinals?*

YES.

Q&A-3: *I qualified in the fall district tournament for the state tennis tournament in the spring. Are there practice requirements and, if so, can any of my teammates hit balls with me during spring practice?*

You are required to have ten (10) days of practice prior to the state tennis tournament. Any of your teammates, whether they qualified for the state tournament or not, could participate in the practices.

17.5.4 OUT-OF-SEASON

Q&A-1: *May a school hold a student benefit fund-raiser basketball game out-of-season that involves only seniors?*

NO; school sponsorship or promotion or practice and/or participation is limited to the designated WIAA season for that sport.

Q&A-2: *Is it permissible for a school to sponsor a spring vacation basketball tournament and invite other school teams?*

NO; this would be a violation for each school involved.

Q&A-3: *Is it a violation when a school vehicle is used to transport students to a winter freestyle wrestling tournament?*

It is a violation only if the tournament occurs outside the designated WIAA wrestling season.

Q&A-4: *Could the school provide the insurance or assist in promoting an out-of-season tournament sponsored by that school's booster club?*

NO; providing insurance indicates school sponsorship, which would be a violation. It would be a violation for any agent of the school to promote an out-of-season event.

Q&A-5: *Can school uniforms or equipment be used by students participating in all star or all state contests?*

School uniforms may be worn ONLY if the all state contests are sponsored by the Washington State Coaches Association.

Q&A-6: *Since uniforms are considered to be the school-issued contest uniform, if a school surpluses old school uniforms, or if the student athletes purchase the old school uniforms, could they be worn during a community basketball tournament?*

YES.

Q&A-7: *Could a school provide facilities, sport specific apparatus (such as batting cages, football sleds, nets, etc.), school equipment (such as football helmets and shoulder pads, balls, etc.) to be used during the summer?*

YES; schools may provide equipment when approved by the local school board.

Q&A-8: *Could a school authorize school district vehicles to be used to transport individuals and/or teams to summer camps or clinics if approved by the local school board?*

YES; schools may provide vehicles to transport individuals and/or teams to summer camps or clinics when approved by the local school board.

Q&A-9: *Are schools authorized to provide insurance to cover summer programs?*

YES; schools may provide insurance to cover summer programs when approved by the local school board.

Q&A-10: *An ASB pays the league entry fee for summer league competition. Is this a violation?*

NO.

Q&A-11: *Although not coaching the team, could a basketball coach take his/her players to a spring tournament?*

NO; the coach may provide, post or distribute information to his/her players regarding the spring tournament, but could not transport them to the site or be involved in coaching.

17.5.5 COACHES ARE ALLOWED TO COACH ONLY DURING THE SEASON

Q&A-1: *If a school does not have a junior high program in a sport, may the high school coach of that sport work with seventh and eighth graders?*

In the absence of a sport being offered at the middle level, the local school board could designate twelve (12) consecutive weeks within the high school season for a middle level season. The high school coach could then work with those middle school students during the concurrent seasons.

Q&A-2: *At what point does an individual become a "coach" and at what point does the out-of-season rule apply to that new coach?*

A newly hired coach is considered a coach when a verbal/written agreement is made with the school district.

- 1) *If the new baseball coach was hired by the school district after August 1 for that school year, then he/she may continue to meet previous non-school coaching commitments through the school year up to and through the baseball season. No new programs may be added, unless already a member of the non-school program, any students from that school may not join the team, and practice with current and/or potential athletes attending that school may not be held.*
- 2) *If the new basketball coach was hired by the school district in the spring for the proceeding school year, that coach may not begin coaching current and/or potential athletes before the first day following the spring sport championships and must end involvement with current and/or potential athletes on July 31.*

Q&A-3: *Could a gymnastics coach be coaching in the same training facility with current and/or potential athletes if those athletes are being coached by someone else?*

YES; a coach may be in the same facility, as long as that coach is not coaching any current and/or potential athletes.

Q&A-4: *We have a former NBA player now living in our community. Is it permissible to bring him in to assist in practices once in a while?*

This person would be considered a volunteer coach and must be approved as a volunteer according to local school district policies. Volunteer coaches are subject to the out-of-season rules and coaches standards in the same manner as paid coaches.

Q&A-5: *Are there any restrictions regarding alumni returning to the school during the winter break to assist with the wrestling program?*

Alumni assisting in any manner with a school sports program must be approved volunteer coaches according to local school district policies and are subject to the out-of-season rules and coaches standards.

Q&A-6: *Could a middle level coach work with the high school team at any time during the WIAA school year?*

NO, not unless the person has a written agreement with the school district to coach at both levels and then, only during the designated season for each level. The specific sports coaches are considered to be coaches of all student athletes within that school district.

Q&A-7: *I coached volleyball in the fall. At the end of the volleyball season, I resigned and coached many of the same players on a club volleyball team. Can I reapply for the high school coaching position again in the fall?*

*NO, when a coach is hired to coach an interscholastic team, that coach has committed to following all WIAA rules throughout the WIAA school year. If you resign, are terminated, or for whatever reason do not anticipate returning the next year and choose to coach a club team that involves students from that school during the out-of-season time period, you cannot be considered for that school's coaching position until **after that sport has concluded during the following school year.***

Q&A-8: *Could a coach be involved in coaching one of his/her athletes who has been nominated as a member of a regional or national team in that sport during the out-of-season time period?*

YES, if that athlete is a senior. NO for any other age athlete unless a waiver has been provided by the WIAA Executive Board.

Q&A-9: *Could a coach work with his/her student athletes at a club, YMCA, YWCA, college, etc., during the school year out of his/her sport season, if that position was his/her primary source of income?*

NO.

Q&A-10: *May a coach take a player to a sport clinic for his/her sport during the school year?*

YES, during the sport season. NO, during the out-of-season time period.

Q&A-11: *May a coach take his/her team to a coaches (only) clinic in order to demonstrate drills?*

YES, provided there is no coaching that takes place. The coach may merely introduce the players and the drill.

Q&A-12: *Could a coach utilize some of his/her players to assist in conducting a clinic or camp for students in grades six or below?*

Not if during the out-of-season time period.

Q&A-13: *May a prospective coach run practice drills involving the players at that school during the interview/screening for a new position?*

YES.

Q&A-14: *Could the high school basketball coach work with the middle school basketball team during the fall (which is the designated season for this middle level basketball league)?*

YES; but ONLY if the school district has a written agreement with this coach to coach at both levels. A high school coach could coach middle level players during their season and high school players during the high school season.

Q&A-15: *Could a high school basketball coach participate in evaluating players and selecting teams in a spring basketball league?*

NO, the coach may not be involved in any coaching activity during the out-of-season time period. Evaluating players and selecting teams is a coach's responsibility.

Q&A-16: *May a high school coach serve as the head or assistant coach for an AAU basketball team comprised of high school players from different high schools?*

YES; a high school coach could coach an AAU basketball team if the athletes are not from the coach's high school team or if the coaching takes place during the summer.

Q&A-17: *Is it a violation for a coach or school designee to distribute information for clinics and camps prior to the last spring state tournament?*

NO; this is not a violation. The distribution of materials should be approved by school administrators and is permitted.

Q&A-18: *The swim coach of our high school, who is employed to coach swimming only, also works for the community pool and serves students from the school in the following situations:*

This individual coaches an AAU swim team during the summer. Violation?

NO.

This individual coaches an AAU swim team during April. Violation?

YES.

Q&A-19: *A coach receives a free trip if he/she solicits five participants for an interscholastic athletic trip. Is this permitted?*

This is a violation if it occurs during the school year and outside the designated season.

Q&A-20: *During the summer, a school coach attends camp along with squad members who have remaining eligibility and, while at camp, instructs squads of students from that coach's school. Is this permitted?*

No violation.

Q&A-21: *A coach organizes an after-school team of students for a summer league. Is this a violation?*

No WIAA rules would not be violated if a coach organizes a summer league team during the summer.

Q&A-22: *Is it OK for a coach to organize students during the school year to attend summer "team" camp?*

YES; provided it is understood that participation is optional and not a requirement or prerequisite to turning out for the sport the following year.

Q&A-23: *A coach organizes squad members to participate in a non-school activity out of the specified sport season during the school year. Is this a violation?*

YES.

Q&A-24: *Could a track coach transport his/her students to an indoor track meet prior to the WIAA track season?*

NO.

Q&A-25: *May the basketball coach of a school team coach one of the school's basketball players in an AAU league during the WIAA basketball season?*

YES.

Q&A-26: *I have a softball coach traveling to Southern California in January with a club team. One of our girls made the team. Can he coach the team if he is in the stands when our girl plays, and our girl is in the stands when he coaches?*

NO.

Q&A-27: *The high school volleyball coach also coaches volleyball at the junior high. The junior high season is during January and February. Could she take five of the high school players to demonstrate specific skills during a junior high practice?*

Not unless the high school athletes register with the school district as a volunteer coach and meet the beginning level of coaches standards.

Q&A-28: *As a state championship basketball coach, I have been asked to assist in the drafting of high school players for an all star spring basketball tournament? Is that OK?*

You may assist in evaluating and drafting players onto all star teams only if none of your players are involved. Analyzing players on their performance and ability is a primary function and a regular responsibility of a coach during a practice and is permissible only during the designated WIAA season.

Q&A-29: *Is it within WIAA rules for the volleyball coach to play with the students during the out-of-season time period?*

YES; a coach may play with students from his/her school as long as no coaching is taking place.

Q&A-30: *If we hire a club softball coach for the high school, can she continue coaching the club athletes?*

If the club coach was hired after August 1 for that school year, then she may continue her non-school commitment and continue to coach the club athletes up to and through the spring sports season. If any of the club athletes are also students at the school where she is hired to coach, they could continue with the club team coached by that coach, but no new students from that school could be added to the team.

Q&A-31: *If the high school coach is a relative of an athlete on the team, can that coach coach his/her relative during the out-of-season time period?*

NO; parents may coach only their own child individually during the out-of-season time period.

17.5.7 COACHES MAY HOLD TWO MEETINGS OUT-OF-SEASON

Q&A-1: *Is it permissible for a preseason meeting to take place at a University of Washington basketball game prior to the start of the WIAA basketball season?*

YES; since WIAA rules allow for two preseason meetings, each school has the authority to determine the date, time and place for those meetings.

Q&A-2: *Our basketball coach would like to sponsor a three-on-three spring basketball tournament to raise money for our team to go to a summer team basketball camp. Would that be permissible?*

NO, fundraising activities cannot be specific to the sport coached during the out-of-season time period.

17.5.8 OUT-OF-SEASON COACHING RESTRICTIONS

Q&A-1: *Which students are affected by the out-of-season coaching rules?*

“Current members or future squad members grades 7-12” applies to students in the school district in which the coach is hired to coach.

- 1) *The school district for public schools is defined by public school boundaries.*
 - a) *If a school district has specific boundaries for its high school(s) and middle school(s), a high school coach may coach students in the high school and the middle school(s) that feed directly to the high school only during their designated season (when the high school and middle level programs overlap or if that coach is hired to coach at both the high school and middle level) or during the summer.*
 - i. *During the out-of-season time period, the coach could coach high school students attending a different high school or a middle school that does not feed directly to the high school in which that coach was hired to coach.*
 - b) *If a school district has an open enrollment policy, then a high school coach may coach students only in the high school in which the coach is hired to coach during the designated high school season or during the summer.*
- 2) *During the out-of-season time period, a private high school coach may not coach middle level students who:*
 - a) *attend a designated feeder school owned and operated by the high school where the coach is hired to coach; or*
 - b) *in the case where no designated feeder school exists, reside in the public school district where the private high school is located.*

Q&A-2: *Could a middle level softball coach hit balls with his/her daughter in the neighborhood park?*

YES; WIAA out-of-season rules do not prohibit immediate family obligations. However, if another member of the daughter’s team participates, the out-of-season rules would be violated except during the season or during the summer.

Q & A-3: *Could a seventh grade volleyball coach also coach a high school age club volleyball team?
Only if the high school students attended a high school in a different school district than the one in which the seventh grade coach is hired to coach.*

Q&A-4: *Are there any WIAA regulations governing the participation of a high school athlete between school sport turnouts or seasons?*

NO; students may participate in non-school programs as they choose. The WIAA out-of-season rules prohibit the involvement of school coaches except during the designated WIAA season or during the summer.

Q&A-5: *Is it OK for a coach to work with seniors after they have finished their season?*
YES.

Q&A-6: *May high school players play on a USAV team if coached by their school coach?*

YES; current and/or prospective players may be coached by their school coach during the WIAA volleyball season, but not during the out-of-season time period.

Q&A-7: *Is unsupervised use of school outdoor facilities for specific sport practice by several 'team members' in violation of out-of-season rules?*

This "practice" is a violation only if the school or coach organizes or promotes it. If school-owned equipment is not used and it is not during school time, it is permissible for students to practice together.

Q&A-8: *May a softball coach of a school team coach a member of that school's basketball team in an AAU league during the softball season?*

YES; as long as he/she is not under the direction of the school's basketball coach.

Q&A-9: *Our football team is planning a team camp in the second week in August, which we realize is during the out-of-season period for our football coach. The coach will not assist in organizing or coaching and, in fact, he will not attend. The school is not sponsoring the camp. Will it be OK for the students to participate?*

YES; the out-of-season coaching rules do not prohibit students from participating in events at any time.

Q&A-10: *We are planning to have a staff vs student end of the season basketball game at our middle school to raise funds for next year. The game will be played during the basketball season on a day without any games and will be at the end of a school day as an assembly, with the A-squad boys and girls against the teachers. Three of the middle school teachers coach at the high school. The athletic director and activities coordinator organize the kids and there is no coaching other than helping them to rotate in and out to insure that everyone gets to play. Is this ok?*

YES; the event is being held during the middle level season.

Q&A-11: *May a high school coach, coach USAV junior high age teams?*

YES; if the coaching occurs outside the WIAA season and none of the USAV team members are potential members of the high school team. There is no such restriction if done during the time period the junior high and high school seasons overlap.

Q&A-12: *As part of the selection process, my school is asking coaching candidates to run a simulated practice. Would that violate any out-of-season rules?*

NO; since the individual has not yet been hired and the simulated practice is part of the selection process.

17.5.9 STUDENTS AS MANAGERS

Q&A-1: *Could a female swimmer serve as manager for the boys' swim team?*

YES; as long as she is not receiving any coaching.

Q&A-2: *Could an eighth grade boy serve as manager for the high school boys' basketball team?*

YES; as long as no direct coaching is taking place.

17.5.10 STUDENTS AS VOLUNTEER COACHES

Q & A: *Could a high school senior assist with the middle level basketball program in the fall?*

YES; high school students may serve as middle level volunteer assistant coaches during the designated middle school season when under the direct supervision of the middle level coach. These high school students must meet WIAA coaches standards minimum requirements to hold a valid First Aid Certification and a valid CPR card.

17.7.0 OUT-OF-SEASON CONDITIONING

Q&A-1: *Could a football coach supervise the weight room in August?*

*Schools may sponsor an off season weight training and conditioning program **during the out-of-season time period** that must be open to all students and cannot include instruction in specific sport skills and/or drills. Each school has the authority to determine who will supervise the weight room.*

Q&A-2: *My school has advertised in the school bulletin that the weight room will be open for wrestlers beginning October 1st. Can students not interested in wrestling be denied access to the weight room?*

NO; access to the weight room is considered to be part of a year-round conditioning program and must be posted and advertised as being open to all students within the school.

Q&A-3: *Could a school district approved conditioning coach or supervisor test the participants in that summer program during the three-week period prior to the start of the fall sports season?*

YES; testing of participants is permissible as long as the testing is a normal portion of the conditioning program and the test does not include any activity that resembles a drill or specific function of any fall sport.

Q&A-4: *Could a track coach run with his/her team during the winter for conditioning purposes?*

*YES; running is considered as part of any conditioning program and this would be legal as long as no coaching is taking place, and the running is part of the out-of-season conditioning **opportunities are posted and advertised as being open to all students within the school.***

Q&A-5: *Could a cross country coach follow in a car behind his/her squad during the spring?*

*YES; **Running is considered as part of any conditioning program and this would be legal as long as no coaching is taking place, the running is part of the out-of-season conditioning program, and the out-of-season conditioning opportunities are posted and advertised as being open to all students within the school.***

17.8.0 OPEN GYM

Q&A-1: *Could a coach have an open gym time period for his/her sport during the noon hour or after school outside the regular sport season, during the school year?*

NO; schools may sponsor an open gym program, which is open and promoted to all students, with a range of activities available. No coaching is permitted. The gym supervisor must be approved by the school.

Q&A-2: *A coach opens the gymnasium and supervises but does not direct drills for students. A variety of activities are available and the gym is open to all. Is this a violation?*

NO.

Q&A-3: *The softball coach wants to set up the batting cage during the open gym time period each day. Is this legal?*

YES; as long as a number of sport opportunities are available for the interested students (batting cage, volleyball net and standards, basketball hoop, etc.). Coaches may not give instruction, but may provide general supervision.

Q&A-4: *Is it legal for the basketball coach to be supervising the gym while the basketball team players are running drills or plays during open gym time?*

YES; as long as the players are not being coached.

Q&A-5: *I play basketball at a 3A school. My coach has been asked to coach a non-school team in a tournament that is scheduled for the last weekend in February. Since our team did not qualify for the 3A state tournament, we are ok to play on his team right?*

YES; the season for 3A basketball ends on the Sunday following the conclusion of the 3A state basketball tournament, not following your final regular season contest.

Q&A-6: *Is it legal for our school to sponsor basketball intramurals in the spring and have the basketball coach supervise?*

NO; school sponsorship and promotion in a given sport is restricted to the WIAA designated season for that sport.

Q&A-7: *Our boys swim coach plans to apply for an open coaching position with the local swim club (not affiliated with the high school) in which one athlete from a school that coops with our school team is a member. Would it be a violation for this person to coach both programs?*

YES; this coach cannot be coaching ANY of the students in the school feeder system, grades 7-12, including all students attending the school of any cooperative program during the out-of-season time period.

Q&A-8: *Our coach is planning to sponsor an open gym for the basketball players in October as a preparation for the upcoming season. He has a written schedule for conditioning and plays to work on, and he will be there to assist as needed. Is that legal?*

NO; coaches may conduct practice ONLY during the WIAA sport season.

17.9.0 SPORT CAMPS OR CLINICS

Q&A: *Could a basketball coach use some of his/her players to demonstrate a teaching skill to other coaches during a clinic?*

YES; provided the only contact with the team is to notify them of the time and date of the clinic, and the skills they will be asked to perform. During the clinic itself, the coach can merely introduce the players and the skill.

17.10.0 SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Q&A-1: *A local WIAA member high school has a summer football program. The middle school in the school district is not a member of the WIAA. Can the middle school students who will attend the high school during the next fall participate in the summer program?*

There is no WIAA rule to prohibit participation in the summer program as long as the last middle school sports event has been completed and the local school district allows summer participation for these students.

Q&A-2: *May a high school baseball coach be actively involved in a summer baseball program before school is out, if the majority of the summer team roster is composed of that coach's high school team?*

YES; a coach may coach non-school teams and players during the season. However, requiring participation by student-athletes as a condition for playing on a school team would constitute a violation.

Q&A-3: *Are students that participate in a school-sponsored summer program required to meet all WIAA eligibility requirements?*

WIAA rules and regulations do not govern summer programs, other than to define the time period for summer, and to allow school districts to sponsor programs. Local school districts have the authority to determine what programs will be sponsored by the school(s) within that district, and may add restrictions as deemed appropriate. The WIAA rules of eligibility do not apply, although local school districts could add that stipulation.

17.11.0 PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Q&A-1: *A family friend is a Doctor of Chiropractics and has agreed to provide athletic physical exams for our family. Will this physical exam be accepted for interscholastic participation?*

NO; only those licensed to perform physical examinations are able to provide physical exams for athletic participation.

Q&A-2: *I had a physical exam in April for spring sports. For how long is my physical good?*

Physical exams are good for 24 months unless the school district has a more restrictive policy.

Q&A-3: *I was injured for the early part of the basketball season, but have finally been cleared by a chiropractor to resume athletic participation. Is the medical release from a chiropractor acceptable?*

NO; the written release to resume participation must come from a physician licensed to perform physical examinations.

Q&A-4: *Can a student get a waiver of the Physical Exam requirement for religious reasons?*

NO; the physical exam requirement is a health and safety requirement for all students who choose to participate in athletics at a member school.

17.12.0 PRACTICE REGULATIONS

Q&A-1: *One of our volleyball players will be on vacation with her family the day that volleyball practice starts. Since her dad is a club coach, could he run her through practice drills so she can count those days toward meeting the minimum pre-contest practice requirements?*

NO; only the practices run by authorized school coaches may count toward meeting the minimum practice requirements.

Q&A-2: *One of the wrestlers will return from basic military training one week into the wrestling season. Can basic training count towards the pre-contest practice requirements?*

NO; only the practices run by authorized school coaches may count toward meeting the minimum practice requirements.

Q&A-3: *One of the soccer players on our team has been training with the Olympic Development Program (ODP) in another state. Can those practices count towards the pre-contest practice requirements?*

NO; only the practices run by authorized school coaches may count toward meeting the minimum practice requirements.

Q&A-4: *Four of the football players will be showing their steers at the county fair in August and will miss three days of football practice. Could the coach run a practice for them on the fairgrounds?*

YES; contingent upon the school administration approving the site with the school coach running the same practice as that conducted at the school site.

Q&A-5: *One of the players on our volleyball team has a job that conflicts with after school practice. The coach also teaches an advanced PE class and is willing to run a special practice for her during the class. Will that allow for her to play in our first match?*

NO; participating in physical education classes does not constitute a practice.

Q&A-6: *Instead of a practice on the field, our coach plans for the teams to watch game films and talk strategy to prepare for an upcoming game.*

For the purpose of meeting the pre-contest practice requirements, the practice must be a physical activity.

Q&A-7: *One of the gymnasts on our team also participates in club gymnastics. She intends to practice for about 15 minutes at school then continue the practice at the club where she competes. Is that legal?*

NO; students cannot be given special treatment (late arrival, early dismissal, etc.) for non-school programs on a regular basis and can only count those practices conducted by the authorized school coach.

Q&A-8: *After one of the volleyball players had participated in two practices, it was discovered that her physical was not valid. Do those two practices count toward meeting the minimum practice requirement?*

NO; a valid physical MUST be on file before a student may participate and count the practices.

Q&A-9: *We had a student who turned out for baseball and practiced with the team for five days and then decided to participate in track instead. Can those baseball practices apply to track?*

YES; the five (5) baseball practices could count toward meeting the minimum practice requirement in track, so that only five (5) track practices must be completed before the student would be eligible to compete in a track meet provided all other conditions of eligibility have been met.

Q&A-10: *One of the girls on the basketball team was ill and unable to meet the ten minimum practice requirement before the first game. Since the girls teams will be away for their game, could she practice with the boys team to get in a valid practice?*

YES; provided the practice with the boys team is identical to the girls team practice, and the boys coach is also under contract by the school district to coach the girls team, the practice could count.

Q&A-11: *Can the boys basketball players practice against the girls basketball team?*

YES; it does not count as a game and does not count as a practice unless during a scheduled practice time where the coaches of both teams are involved.

Q&A-12: *Can the seventh and/or eighth graders practice with the high school team if that sport is not offered at the middle level?*

YES; provided the practice sessions do not extend beyond the twelve (12) week middle level season limit and the school district assumes all responsibility and liability for the different age groups practicing together.

Q&A-13: *Since participation in physical education classes cannot count as a practice, could the coach schedule a team practice before school?*

YES; practices may be conducted prior to, or after, the school day.

17.12.3 ATHLETE MUST BE MEDICALLY CLEARED TO PARTICIPATE

Q&A-1: *One of the boys on the basketball team broke his hand and has not been cleared by his physician to scrimmage with the team, although he has been cleared to run for conditioning. If he runs on the sidelines during a practice while the team is scrimmaging, can that count as a practice?*

NO; the player must medically cleared to fully participate in practice in order for it to count toward meeting the minimum practice requirements.

Q&A-2: *Due to a severely sprained ankle, one of our swimmers is unable to swim at this point. If she assists the coach with timing and other managerial duties, can those practice sessions count toward meeting the practice requirements?*

NO; she must medically cleared to fully participate in practice in order for it to count toward meeting the minimum practice requirements.

17.12.6 ONE DAY EQUALS ONE PRACTICE

Q&A: *Due to an illness, one of our soccer players missed three practices. The coach is willing to run two practices in a day, one early in the morning, and one later in the afternoon, in order for this player to be eligible for the first game. Will that be acceptable?*

Each school has the authority to decide when, where, and how long practice sessions will be conducted. However, whether the student participates in one or two practices in a day, one day is equal to one practice for the purposes of meeting the minimum practice requirements.

17.12.7 PRACTICE DAYS

Q&A-1: *I need only one more practice to be eligible for our first soccer game, and my coach is willing to have a special practice on Sunday.*

While WIAA rules do not prohibit a Sunday practice, a full team practice must be held in order for the practice to count.

Q&A-2: *Our family generally travels out of state on Thanksgiving to spend time with relatives, but my gymnastics coach has scheduled practice on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of that holiday weekend. Can he do that?*

Each school has the authority to decide when, where, and how long practice sessions will be conducted. A nationally recognized holiday is an allowable practice day.

17.12.8 PRACTICE ON A GAME DAY

Q&A: *One of our basketball players needs only one more practice in order to play in our first game tomorrow night. If the coach runs a special practice tomorrow morning would he be eligible to play?*

NO; while the coach could schedule a practice, providing it is a full team practice, it could count toward the minimum practice requirement, but practice on a game day does not allow an athlete to become eligible for competition on that day.

17.12.9 PRE-CONTEST WARM-UP EXERCISES

Q&A: *One of the soccer players on our team needs only one practice to play in our first game this afternoon. If the coach extends the pre-game warm-up to a full practice, could she play in the game?*

NO; participation in pre-contest warm-up exercises cannot count as a practice and practice on a game day does not allow an athlete to become eligible for competition on that day.

17.12.10 INTERRUPTION OF PRE-CONTEST PRACTICES

Q&A-1: *After participating in five days of practice, one of the baseball players was in a car accident and unable to practice for two weeks. Now that he has a doctor's clearance to participate, does he need only the five remaining practices before being eligible to play in a game?*

NO; he will need the full ten practices before he will be eligible to play. Beginning with the fourth consecutive scheduled practice day that he missed, the number of days missed is subtracted from the number of days practiced.

Q&A-2: *If one of the players missed an optional practice, does that count as a missed practice day?*

YES; any practice held by the coach and/or authorized by the school must count as a school scheduled practice day.

Q&A-3: *One of our softball players participated in twelve practices, then became ill and missed the next eight practices. How many practices is she required to participate in before she is eligible to play?*

That decision is left to the local school administration, the coach, the parents, and her physician. Once the pre-contest practice requirements have been met, the school will make the determination on the minimum requirements regarding return to play.

17.12.12 WAIVER OF INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS

Q&A-1: *Because I played in the pep band during the state basketball tournament, I missed the first four softball practices. I know the basketball players need only five (of the ten) pre-contest practices in order to be eligible for our first game, but I was told I have to participate in the full ten practices. Is that right?*

YES; only athletes competing in any level of WIAA sanctioned postseason playoffs are allowed up waive up to one-half of the minimum pre-contest practice requirements. Band, cheer or dance/drill participants who perform at a sport state championship event must complete all precontest practices in the succeeding sports season before competing in a contest.

Q&A-2: *Several of the football players on our team also play basketball. Since they won the football state championship, we plan to give them the next week to rest before beginning basketball practices since they will need to practice only five days before our first basketball game.*

The provision to waive up to one-half of the practice requirements is available ONLY if the players are unable to meet the practice requirement. If practices are scheduled, they should be expected to participate and are not allowed to waive that practice. If they choose to take a week off, they would have to get in the full ten practices before playing in a basketball game.

Q&A-3: *My doubles partner and I qualified for the state tennis tournament in the fall since our school participates in an alternate season program. We both played baseball in the spring, so could we waive half of the required spring practices in the alternate sport?*

YES; since the doubles team qualified in the fall (alternate) season and each member is also participating in a spring sport, up to one-half of the required number of practices may be waived.

Q&A-4: *Could the son of one of the football coaches practice with his dad's team even though the son attends a different high school in a multi-high school district? The son's team did not make the playoffs so his team's season is over, but he wants to continue to practice.*

NO; only students who are members of the school may practice with the team.

Q&A-5: *Our middle school provides a four-sport season for students with ninth graders competing at the high school level in sports not offered at the middle school. The middle level sports season are somewhat different than the three high school sports seasons. If a ninth grader completes a middle level season then plays at the high school level in a different sport, is that student required to complete all of the precontest practices or would that student be allowed to waive up to half of those practices due to competing in another sport?*

The only waiver of the pre-contest practices is for students participating in a sport state championship event.

Q&A-6: *The football team at my school is in the playoffs. Several of the football players also play basketball. After the basketball season begins and while the team is still involved in the football playoffs, if the basketball coach holds a morning practice and the football coach holds an afternoon practice, can the morning practice count toward the minimum practice requirement for basketball?*

YES, provided the practice was scheduled for the entire team, and not just the football players who also play basketball.

Q&A-7: *If players on a football team that is still in the playoffs beyond the start of the basketball season also participate in two basketball practices, then miss the next four basketball practices due to conflicts with football practice or games, does the interruption of pre-contest rule (17.12.10) apply?*
No, since the players continued to practice with the football team during the overlap, 17.12.10 would not apply.

Q&A-8: *How many practices are required of players on a football team that is still in the playoffs beyond the start of the basketball season?*
Whether the player participates in one, two, or more practices during the football-basketball overlap, the player is required to participate in the first basketball practice following the conclusion of that team's football season, and a minimum of five (5) practices must be completed before the player can participate in a basketball game.

Q&A-9: *If the softball program is cancelled by the school midway through the season, could a student waive up to one-half of the required practices in order to participate in track and field?*
Yes, since the program was cancelled by the school and the other sport is held during the same season.

17.15.2 EACH CONTEST CREDITED TO A SQUAD

Q&A-1: *If a junior varsity team plays a varsity team, how does that game count?*
It counts as a JV contests for the JV team, and as a varsity game for the varsity team.

Q&A-2: *Does it count as a game if the varsity girls basketball team scrimmages against the boys junior varsity team?*
NO; since both teams are from the same school, the scrimmage would be considered the same as a practice.

Q&A-3: *The basketball team is scheduled to play a game on Martin Luther King Day. Since that's a national holiday, is it legal to play on that day?*
YES; there are no WIAA restrictions for playing on a national holiday.

17.15.8 POSTSEASON QUALIFYING EVENTS

Q&A-1: *Does a league championship tournament where all teams qualify for the district tournament, but that determines only the league champion, meet this rule?*
NO; either teams must be eliminated or the tournament must determine seeding for the district tournament.

17.24.5 INTERSTATE COMPETITION

Q&A: *Our softball team has been invited to participate in a tournament in Arizona over spring break. Are there any special requirements our school must meet since the tournament is in a different state?*
In addition to any local school district requirements regarding travel, any interstate or international event involving two or more schools which is co-sponsored by or titled in the name of an organization outside the school community (e.g. a college/university, a theme park, an athletic shoe/apparel company) needs to be sanctioned. Any event in non-bordering states if more than five or more states are involved needs to be sanctioned. Any event in non-bordering states if more than eight schools are involved needs to be sanctioned. The host school must fill out the request for sanction via the NFHS Website. Your school would be allowed to participate after approval has been granted by the appropriate levels.

18.3.0 PLAYERS ELIGIBLE FOR PARTICIPATION

Q&A-1: *Is a basketball player who does not have the minimum number of practices to compete in an interscholastic contest allowed to be on the team bench in uniform during a contest?*
NO; only players who are currently eligible to participate may wear the contest uniform on the team bench.

Q&A-2: *A high school volleyball team has nine players on the roster, but only six players on the court. The other three players are serving as line judges. One of the six court players becomes injured. Can one of the other players serving as line judge now play in the contest?*
YES; the three students serving as line judges are eligible players. The fact that they are currently not occupying a spot on the team bench does not prohibit their participation in the contest, provided the players do not exceed the team and individual contest limitations for that day.

Q&A-3: *I competed in wrestling at my high school until January 25, and then switched to play basketball. Can I compete in the postseason basketball tournaments?*

NO; you must have been on a school's team roster for at least 50 percent of the regular season in that sport in order to be eligible for postseason participation.

Q&A-4: *My family has lived in school district A for many years, then we moved to a new school district at the beginning of the second semester. It is near the end of my wrestling season. Am I eligible at my new school to participate in the remainder of the wrestling season?*

YES; since your entire family unit has relocated, you have immediate eligibility at your new school, provided you meet all other eligibility requirements of participation.

Note: Your new school and coaches will make the decision on the level and degree of your participation. You would be eligible for postseason competition because you have been on A TEAM ROSTER for more than 50 percent of the season in wrestling.

Q&A-5: *One of our school's basketball players broke her ankle after only the third basketball practice, had to sit on the sidelines the next eight weeks, and was just cleared by her doctor to play. Because she has not been playing, will she still meet the 50% rule?*

YES; she has been on the eligibility list for basketball for the entire season and since participation is not a requirement, she would be eligible to participate in the postseason provided she meets all other conditions of eligibility.

18.4.0 AGE LIMITS

Q&A-1: *Can a student who turns 20 years of age in July compete for a fall sport?*

NO; at the high school level, a student must be under 20 years of age on September 1 for a fall sport, December 1 for a winter sport, and March 1 for a spring sport.

Q&A-2: *Can a student who turns 16 in May of the previous school year compete on a junior high school athletic team?*

NO; a student who turns 16 prior to June 1 cannot compete at the junior high level the next school year.

Q&A-3: *Is a student who turns 15 in April of the previous school year eligible to compete on a middle level athletic team?*

NO; a student who turns 15 prior to June 1 cannot compete at the middle level the next school year. It may be possible for the student to participate at the high school level.

Q&A-4: *Can an overage middle level student compete on the high school team?*

YES; a student who is ineligible to compete in the 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 the middle or junior high level and senior high school principals concerned approve the student's eligibility.

Note: This will be the first of the four consecutive years of eligibility at the high school level.

18.5.2 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Q&A-1: *I attend a private high school without athletics. Can I compete in athletics at the public high school of my choice?*

NO; you can only compete at the resident public high school that you would normally attend.

Q&A-2: *As a home school student, where can I compete in athletics?*

A home school student has athletic eligibility in his/her resident public school of record. In order to participate in activities/athletics the student must be a registered home school student with the school district and must meet all the eligibility requirements for participation.

Q&A-3: *As a home school student, can I transfer to another public school for athletics?*

YES; but you need to be released by your public school of residence and then register with the nonresident school district as a home school student. In addition, your athletic participation will be subject to the transfer rule, and your participation will be limited to the junior varsity level for one year in those sports you participated in the previous year at the school, club or community levels.

Q&A-4: *I attend two different high schools: I attend school A for 75 percent of the school day and school B for 25 percent of the school day. Can I compete for athletics at school B?*

NO; you must be enrolled half time or more to be a member of a school and represent them in interscholastic athletic competition. Your athletic eligibility is at school A.

Q&A-5: *My private school had to drop its soccer program one week into the season due to lack of participation. Where am I eligible to play soccer?*

Because your school no longer has a soccer program, you are eligible to play soccer at your public school of residence. If in a multiple high school district, then you are only eligible at the high school of your residence.

Q&A-6: *I attend an alternative school without athletics. Prior to this school year, I attended a traditional public school that offered athletics and I participated in basketball. Where is my eligibility this year?*

You remain eligible at your public school of record.

Q&A-7: *I am attending a private school that does not have a gymnastics program. Can I participate at the public school closest to my private school?*

No; you may only participate at your resident public school that you would normally attend.

Q&A-8: *My resident public school does not offer the sport in which I want to participate. May I participate at another public school?*

No; you must be enrolled half time or more to represent a school in interscholastic activities.

Q&A-9: *The private school I attend has not been offering a soccer program, and I have been returning to my public school of residence to participate in soccer. But next year, my private school will be starting a soccer program. Can I still participate for my public school of residence since I have already been playing on their soccer team?*

You will have to start playing for your private school once it begins offering the sport.

Q&A-10: *I will be taking a Distance Learning Program offered by a school district in another part of the state. Where is my athletic eligibility?*

Since you will be an out-of-district student taking courses from an alternative school without athletics, your athletic eligibility is at your public school of residence.

Q&A-11: *I attend a private high school without athletics. Can I compete in athletics at another private high school of my choice?*

NO; you can only compete at the resident public high school that you would normally attend.

18.6.0 RUNNING START ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

Q&A- 1: *I am a full time Running Start student. Where am I eligible for athletics?*

Your athletic eligibility is at your high school "of record," which is your public school of residence. If you are a transfer student to another school district, your athletic eligibility would be subject to the transfer rules and all other conditions of athletic eligibility.

Q&A- 2: *I take classes at the community college as part of the Running Start program and also take two classes at my high school. How do I compute my grades for athletic competition?*

You will have a "blended" GPA of college and high school credits. Begin by determining how many class periods are in the normal semester/trimester class schedule and the credits that can be earned at your high school. Example: Your high school has a six-period day (six .5 credit classes). The WIAA minimum class load and number of classes that must be passed would be five class periods or the equivalent of 2.5 credits. A five-hour Running Start class equals 1 credit. If you take eight hours of classes at Running Start (the equivalent of 1.6 credits) blended with the two classes at high school (equivalent to 1 credit), you would have 2.6 credits for the semester. 2.5 credits or more would meet the WIAA standard in a six-period day. Be aware that most school districts have a more restrictive academic requirement that you must meet for athletic participation.

Q&A- 3: *I attend a private school and would like to access Running Start classes. Where is my athletic eligibility?*

Running Start is a public school educational program offering. Your eligibility is at your public school of residence where you access the Running Start program. You will be considered a transfer student back to your public school of residence with possible restrictions on your athletic

participation for one year. You could still compete athletically for your private school if you maintain enrollment at the private school for at least 50 percent of the school day at the private school.

Q&A- 4: *Is it conceivable that a Running Start student could take enough credits with a blended schedule and not have to attend school the second semester, yet still be able to compete?*

Yes; it is possible the student would not have to attend school during the second semester, provided that the required number of credits has been taken.

18.7.6 ACADEMIC SUSPENSION PERIOD

Q&A-1: *I am a senior who will graduate this year and am enrolled in one less class than required by the other students at my school. Will I still be eligible if I drop a full credit class?*

NO; seniors must maintain passing grades in all classes in which they initially enrolled in order to remain academically eligible.

Could I drop a full credit class and add a TA class?

NO; seniors may not drop or withdraw from a class in order to be eligible.

Q&A-2: *I was academically ineligible at the start of my first semester this year due to poor grades at the end of the second semester last year. Basketball is my first sport this year. Do I have to sit out the first five weeks of the basketball season?*

NO; the academic suspension period for high school shall be from the end of the previous semester through the fourth (4th) Saturday of September in the fall and the first five (5) weeks of the succeeding semester/trimester. You can become eligible on the Monday of the 6th week of the semester, providing you are now passing the minimum number of classes required by your school and the WIAA for athletic eligibility.

Note: School districts can adopt a stricter scholastic policy.

Q&A-3: *How should a school periodically monitor the academic progress of athletes to guarantee they are academically eligible?*

Each member school must establish a periodic grade monitoring system to guarantee that all athletes are meeting the academic standards of the current semester. It would not be necessary to establish a GPA when monitoring students' academic progress. A school would need to determine if the student is eligible academically. School district standards may be more restrictive and could require a GPA. A monitoring system would check athlete's grades two or three times during each nine-week academic quarter or equivalent.

Q&A-4: *I am participating in volleyball in the fall sports season. I was academically eligible at the beginning of the semester, but now four weeks into the season I am failing three of my six classes. Can I still compete in contests?*

NO; you must meet the WIAA and school minimum grade standards at all times during the current semester. You would be able to begin competition at any point in the semester that your grades improve and you meet the WIAA and school standards of eligibility.

Note: Your school may have a policy that requires a period of ineligibility when you do not meet the minimum grade standards during the season and semester.

Q&A-5: *Can a scholastically ineligible student participate in practices, but not compete interscholastically?*

YES; an ineligible student may practice subject to local school regulations.

Q&A-6: *My high school has a pass-all-classes scholastic requirement for athletics. During the mid-term grade check, I failed one class. I meet the WIAA scholastic standard but do not meet the school district scholastic standard. Can I still participate in athletic contests?*

NO; you are an ineligible athlete because you do not meet your school district scholastic standard.

Q&A-7: *I will be attending summer school. How are these grades used for my athletic eligibility? Summer school grades become part of the second semester grades of the previous school year.*

Q&A-8: *I am a senior and have almost enough credits to graduate. My high school is on a six (6) period day, so does that mean I only need to take three (3) classes?*

NO; each student must meet the WIAA scholastic rule.

Q&A-9: *I attend a private school and go to my public school of residence to swim as my private school does not have a swim program. Which school's academic grade standard am I held to for athletic eligibility?*

You are held to the grade standard of the school that you academically attend.

Q&A-10: *I am on the football team but academically ineligible due to my second semester grades from the previous school year. Our football team has a jamboree prior to the start of school this year. Can I play in the jamboree?*

NO; the academic suspension period is from the end of the previous semester until the completion of the academic suspension period.

Q&A-11: *I was academically ineligible at the start of my first semester this year due to poor grades at the end of the second semester last year. I will be a Running Start student beginning this fall and classes at the community college do not start until the third week of September. When does my suspension period end?*

Your academic suspension period will end after the fourth (4th) Saturday of September, providing you are now meeting the WIAA and school district scholastic standards.

18.8.0 PREVIOUS SEMESTER

Q&A-1: *I dropped out of school with five (5) weeks remaining in the semester last spring. Can I now play football this fall?*

If you received grades for the semester and you meet the academic standards, you are eligible. If you received NO academic credit the previous semester, you are ineligible until you have attained a previous semester.

Q&A-2: *My family moved to a new school district at the end of the first semester of the school year. I did not do well academically at my old school and would have been ineligible at the start of the second semester due to my poor grades. At my new school district I would be eligible because its grade standard is not as restrictive. Which grade standard is applicable in my situation?*

The grade standard of the school that issued the grades is the standard that you will be held accountable to at the start of the second semester at your new school. Your academic progress during the second semester will be under the academic standard of your new school.

18.9.0 REGULAR ATTENDANCE

Q&A: *I overslept this morning and did not get to school until the start of 4th period. Can I play in tonight's game because I missed part of the school day?*

The WIAA does not have a rule on attendance the day of a contest. Many school districts and leagues have an attendance rule for practice and game days. Please check with your athletic director regarding your eligibility to compete in tonight's game.

18.10.0 DEFINITION of RESIDENCE and FAMILY UNIT

Q&A-1: *Are there any restrictions on legal custody and a student's athletic eligibility?*

YES; the court established guardianship or legal custody must have been in effect for a period of at least one year when determining athletic eligibility.

Q&A-2: *Do I need to own my home in order for my son to have athletic eligibility?*

NO; home ownership has nothing to do with athletic eligibility. The important factor in establishing athletic eligibility is the school district where the entire family unit lives full time.

Q&A-3: *Public school districts have established boundaries. What are the established boundaries of a private school?*

The private school residence boundary is a 50-mile radius from the school.

18.11.0 TRANSFERRING STUDENTS

Q&A-1: *I am a basketball player, and my entire family unit moved from another state to Washington State over the weekend. Can I play basketball at my new school?*

YES; you are immediately eligible as soon as you enroll in your new school and provide documentation to meet all conditions of athletic eligibility.

Q&A-2: I have attended a high school outside of my resident school district the past two years. My family is moving again to another school district. Where is my athletic eligibility?

You actually have initial eligibility at two schools. 1) You can remain at your current high school with full athletic eligibility because you have more than one year of continuous enrollment. 2) You could move to your new high school and also have immediate athletic eligibility because your entire family unit has relocated. You must meet all other conditions of athletic eligibility.

Q&A-3: My parents are legally divorced, and I have been living with my mother since the divorce. As a 10th grader I want to live with my father. What is my athletic eligibility?

You will have full residence eligibility when you move to live with your father, if you meet all other conditions of athletic eligibility. If you were to go back to live with your mother, you would be considered a transfer student with limitations on your athletic participation.

Q&A-4: My parents are not getting along and have separated to live in different school districts. I want to live with my father and attend school in a new school district. What is my athletic eligibility?

You would be considered a transfer student with limitations on your athletic participation at the new school, because the entire family unit no longer lives together and your parents have not obtained a court approved legal separation or divorce.

Q&A-5: I am a 7th grader and want to attend a school outside of my resident public school district, because it is easier for my parents to provide transportation. Are there any restrictions on my athletic eligibility?

You will have full athletic eligibility at your new middle school. There are no transfer restrictions at the middle level for 7th and 8th graders.

Q&A-6: I have completed the 8th grade at my public middle school and now want to transfer to a local private school for the 9th grade. Will I have any eligibility problems?

By rule you are transferring at the break between the middle level and high school and will be eligible, provided you meet all conditions of athletic eligibility.

Q&A-7: I have been attending my private school for the past five years and just completed the 11th grade. I now want to transfer to my public high school in order to take more advanced placement classes. Will I be able to play on the varsity team as a senior?

NO; you would be considered a transfer student and limited to JV participation in those sports you participated in the previous year at the school, club or community levels, provided you meet all other conditions of athletic eligibility.

Q&A-8: Our son attends an alternative high school in another school district. He wants to participate in sports this year. Can he participate at the nearest out-of-district high school?

There are two options for participation: 1) As an out-of-district alternative school student, you can return to your public school of residence and compete with full athletic eligibility, or 2) you can compete at one of the high schools in the school district of the alternative school you attend. If you choose option 2, you do so as a transfer student with restrictions for your first year of participation.

Q&A-9: I have been attending an out-of-district alternative high school the past three years and now want to attend the public out-of-district high school for my senior year. I have not participated in athletics at any level the past two years and would like to be on the swim team for my senior year. Is this possible?

You will now be considered a transfer student at the out-of-district high school. Your athletic eligibility limits your participation to the JV level for one year in those sports you participated in the previous year. Since you did not participate in any sports the previous year at the school, club or community level, you will have full varsity eligibility as a transfer student, provided you meet all other conditions of athletic eligibility.

Q&A-10: My daughter has been struggling at her resident high school with her grades and we feel a change would be best for her. She will enroll in the neighboring school district next fall and wants to play varsity volleyball. She has been playing volleyball at the school and club level the past three years and is very talented. Will this change of schools impact her athletic eligibility?

YES; your daughter is now considered a transfer student and is subject to the transfer rule. Since she played volleyball last year, she will be limited to JV participation for one year. After one year of continuous enrollment, she would regain varsity eligibility, provided she meets all other conditions of athletic eligibility.

Q&A-11: *I am an out-of-district student attending a junior high as a 9th grader. I play junior golf, a sport not offered at the junior high school, and want to participate on the high school golf team. Are there any restrictions on my ability to play on the high school varsity team?*

YES; you could participate on the high school golf team because the sport is not offered at the junior high school, but your participation would be limited to the junior varsity team because you are a transfer student, provided you meet all other conditions of athletic eligibility.

Note: If you have had continuous enrollment of more than one year at the junior high school, you would have full varsity eligibility on the high school golf team.

Q&A-12: *I attend a K-8 public school district. Where is my athletic eligibility when I become a ninth grader?*

Upon completion of the eighth grade in the K-8 non-high school district, you can choose any public or private school as your new resident school district. Once you make a choice, that school district becomes your resident school for athletic eligibility, and any further school changes would be with transfer student restrictions.

Q&A-13: *My father works in a different school district than where we live. If I attend the school where he works, it would be easier for my father to provide transportation, especially after practices. Will I lose eligibility if I transfer?*

You will be a transfer student, subject to all transfer rules.

Q&A-14: *I transferred to a middle school outside my resident school district at the beginning of the second semester of my 8th grade year. How will this affect my high school eligibility at the out-of-district high school?*

You are considered a transfer student for one year from the date you began attending the out-of-district school. During the second semester of your 8th grade year, this will have no effect on your athletic participation as there is no transfer rule for middle school students. But, as a high school student, you will be a transfer student with limitations on your athletic participation for the first semester of your high school season until you have one year of continuous enrollment in the school district. After one year of continuous enrollment in the school district, you will have full athletic opportunity.

Q&A-15: *I have been attending my resident high school for the past three years, but my parents are moving to another area of the state over the summer. I want to stay and finish my senior year at my current high school. Would I be athletically eligible?*

YES; you have more than one year of continuous enrollment at your current high school. As long as you maintain continuous enrollment, you have full athletic eligibility, regardless of where your family unit resides, provided you meet all other conditions of athletic eligibility.

18.11.1 ELIGIBILITY - INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Q&A-1: *I will be coming to Washington State as part of a yearlong cultural exchange. Will I be able to participate in athletics at my host school?*

YES, you will have one year of varsity eligibility as an International exchange student as long as you have not graduated from high school in your home country. Your host school will have to submit the International Exchange Form of the WIAA Eligibility Packet to the WIAA District Eligibility Chairperson. The contract and related issues/international exchange student contract (entering/leaving) can be found at wiaa.com/publications/forms/student_eligibility.

Q&A-2: *I am a graduate of my high school in my home country and will be spending a year in a high school in Washington State. Can I participate in sports at my host school?*

NO; you are a graduate of high school and have no further high school athletic eligibility. Your host high school may allow you to practice with the team, but you will not be able to participate in any level of interscholastic competition.

Q&A-3: *I will be part of a Rotary Club Exchange for my junior year. I do not know if I will be able to participate in athletics in my host country, but want to be able to compete back at my resident public school when I return for my senior year. How do I make this happen?*

You need to submit International Exchange Form to your WIAA District Eligibility Chairperson PRIOR to departure, and you will be eligible upon your return as long as you meet all other eligibility rules. The contract and related issues/international exchange student contract (entering/leaving) can be found at wiaa.com/publications/forms/student_eligibility.

Q&A-4: *I am an International exchange student who graduated in my home country. At what level of competition will I be able to participate?*

Since you have already graduated in your home country, you are ineligible to participate at any level of competition at the high school you now attend.

Q&A-5: *I am an International exchange student who has been reassigned to a new host family and a new school. Am I eligible to participate at my new school?*

NO; you are considered a transfer student, subject to all transfer rules.

Q&A-6: *I participated in an International exchange program when I was in eleventh grade. I failed to submit the International Exchange Form to my WIAA District Eligibility Chairperson prior to my experience. What do I need to do in order to become varsity eligible?*

You will need to go before your district eligibility committee where your case will be heard. The contract and related issues/international exchange student contract (entering/leaving) can be found at wiaa.com/publications/forms/student_eligibility.

Q&A-7: *I attended high school in the United States for three years before I left the country for an International exchange program. During my year abroad, I participated at the high school I was attending. I have returned home and want to attend high school for another year to finish credits. Will I be able to participate?*

NO; you have had four years of high school and have participated each of those four years.

18.14.0 SEASON LIMITATIONS

Q&A-1: *I had to repeat the eighth grade. I played sports in seventh and both years of eighth grade. Do I have four years of eligibility when I enter ninth grade at the high school?*

If you are able to provide documentation from the school principal that you had to repeat eighth grade because of academic deficiencies, then you will have four consecutive years of high school eligibility.

Q&A-2: *I have had some academic difficulty and will not graduate with my class in June. I will return to high school next year to complete all my credits and want to participate in athletics. I have been a member of the high school football team all four years. Are there any limitations on my athletic participation as a 5th year senior?*

YES; you have no athletic eligibility remaining; you have already participated for four (4) consecutive years since entering or being eligible to enter the 9th grade. Your high school can choose to allow you to practice with the team, but you cannot compete in any interscholastic contests.

Q&A-3: *I was involved in a serious car accident when I was a sophomore and was hospitalized for an extended period of time. I was unable to attend school for most of my sophomore year and am behind in credits and will not graduate with my class. I will return to school for a fifth year to earn enough credits to graduate. Will I be able to participate in athletics?*

You will need to appeal your athletic eligibility to your WIAA District Eligibility Committee. You will need to demonstrate a hardship beyond your control that caused you to be behind in credits and not graduate with your class. If granted, eligibility will only be granted for the portion of the season that was missed due to the hardship.

Q&A-4: *My family moved to a new school district at the end of the first semester. My old school played golf during the fall sports season. My new school plays golf in the spring season. Am I eligible to participate in golf at my new school, even though I have already played golf for a school this school year?*

YES; if your move to a new school is a result of a relocation of your entire family unit, you can participate in golf in the spring season at your new school. (If you had been a transfer student without a move of your family unit, you would not be eligible for golf in the spring season at your new school.)

Q&A-5: *I am a home school student in the eighth grade. My parents are going to hold me back as an eighth grader for an additional year. How will this affect my athletic participation?*

If the seventh or eighth grade is repeated, and such repetition is based upon documented academic reasons by the school principal, the repeated year shall not count against your six (6) interscholastic competitive years. It will be the responsibility of your parents to demonstrate to the school principal that you are being held back for academic reasons, which would be comparable to the mainstream student being held back for academic reasons.

Q&A-6: *Our son will not graduate from high school this June with his class; basically he has just been lazy and has not earned enough credits to graduate on time. He will either take summer school or go back to school next fall to earn enough credits to graduate. We understand there is an appeal process for athletic eligibility. We want to complete the process this spring so we can make a decision on completing his credits. If he will have athletic eligibility next fall, he will return to school in the fall. If not, he will take summer school to earn his credits, then go to community college next fall.*

Your son will not be able to appeal his eligibility until the fall when he becomes a fifth year student. You should base your decision on the best academic course of action for your son, not on his possible athletic eligibility.

Q&A-7: *If our school does not have a separate eighth grade program, could those eighth graders practice with the high school team?*

The school must designate a twelve-week season, even though not sponsoring a separate program. Although they would not be allowed to compete on behalf of the school (unless in a 1B or 2B school), the school then has the authority and responsibility to determine if eighth graders would be allowed to practice.

18.17.0: SIXTH (6TH) GRADE PARTICIPATION

Q&A-1: *Since the rules now allow for sixth graders to participate in all sports except football, is my school required to now include sixth graders in those sports?*

No. Just like your school determines which sports and activities to offer, it will also determine if sixth graders will be allowed to participate with the seventh and eighth grade teams.

Q&A-2: *Because our middle school has an enrollment below 60 in grades 7 and 8, we have always brought sixth graders up. If we continue to do that, do the out-of-season rules now apply to those sixth graders because of this new rule?*

Yes. The out-of-season would apply to any and all sixth graders if they participate with the seventh and eighth graders.

Q&A-3: *If the participation numbers in seventh and eighth grade baseball are low, and it is decided to bring sixth graders up to play baseball, does that also mean that they must be brought up for all sports except football?*

No. With the exception of football, your school has the authority to determine in which sports sixth graders may participate.

Q&A-4: *Will the middle school enrollment be a determining factor in whether or not sixth graders are allowed to participate?*

No. Middle schools of any size may utilize sixth graders in all sports except football.

Q&A-5: *If sixth graders are brought up to participate in softball, does that mean a sixth grader might get more playing time than a seventh or eighth grader?*

Potentially. Playing time is determined by the coach based upon school policies.

Q&A-6: *If my school wants to utilize sixth graders, but my league votes no because the other school do not want to include sixth graders, is there an avenue for appeal?*

Yes. The school could appeal the decision of the league to the WIAA District Board.

Q&A-7: *Football is offered at my son's middle school and he will be in the sixth grade this year. He has played youth football with many of the same kids for years. Will he be able to join the team with the rest of his friends?*

No. Sixth graders may participate in all middle level sports except football.

Q&A-8: My daughter's middle school is offering fastpitch softball to sixth graders. The coach from her traveling team is interested in coaching the team. If the coach is hired, will it affect my daughter's eligibility?

No. Once the coach is hired by the school, all out-of-season rules outlined in WIAA handbook rule 17.5.0 would apply to the coach. The coach would no longer be able to coach the traveling team during the out-of-season timelines.

Q&A-9: If my sixth grade son participates in the middle level program at his school, will that impact his future eligibility?

No. Provided all other condition of eligibility are met, your son will have six (6) years of eligibility upon enrollment into the seventh grade.

18.20.0 EIGHTH GRADERS

Q&A-1: If our school utilizes eighth graders on the junior varsity basketball program who have not yet played any games at the middle level, what is the maximum number of high school games in which they could play?

20 games.

Q&A-2: If an eighth grader has participated on a middle level or junior high basketball team, what is the maximum number of quarters in which they could play at the high school level?

40 quarters.

Q&A-3: As a 1B school, if eighth graders are brought up to play high school basketball, are they restricted to the junior varsity team?

No, your school has the authority to determine not only if eighth graders will be brought up to play at the high school, but on which team (varsity or junior varsity) each will play.

Q&A-4: As a 2B school with an enrollment of 98, are we required to bring up eighth graders to play high school basketball even if there are enough high school participants to field both a varsity and junior varsity team?

With an enrollment of 104 or below, 18.20.0 allows for eighth graders to play at the high school level, but each school determines whether or not to utilize eighth graders.

Q&A-5: As a 2B school with an enrollment of 115, can we bring up eighth graders to fill in some of the lower weight classes in high school wrestling?

In a 2B school with an enrollment of 115, eighth graders could wrestle on the high school team only with league approval and only if wrestling was not offered at the middle level.

Q&A-6: After an eighth grader has played in a high school basketball game, is she also allowed to play in a middle level basketball game since both are in season?

Yes. Combining the number of games played at the high school level with those played at the middle level, whether concurrently or in one season following by another, each eighth grader can play in a maximum of 80 quarters. **Each middle level game played counts as four quarters, regardless of the number of quarters of actual participation in that game (subtract 4 from the 80 quarter limit for each middle level game played.)**

Q&A-7: Since high school players can now participate in up to 80 quarters in a season, regardless of the number of games in which they enter, does the same hold true for eighth graders playing both at the middle level and the high school level?

No. Quarters are counted at the high school level, but games are counted at the middle level. If a student plays in only one quarter of a middle level basketball game, he/she has "used up" four (4) quarters at the high school level.

Q&A-8: With league approval, eighth graders can participate on the high school basketball team if the participation numbers are at 16 or below. Does that also mean that the team is limited to suit up only 16 players per game?

No. There is no limit on the number of players who can participate in any regular season game. The roster is limited to 12 players during the postseason.

18.22.0 CONCURRENT SPORTS LIMITATION

Q&A-1: *My daughter is a very gifted athlete. We live in a very small town and our high school is in the 1B classification. She wants to play two sports during the spring season, softball and track and field. Is this possible?*

YES; students are limited to participation in only one sport per season, except in the 1B or 2B classification where, with school board approval, a student may participate in more than one sport in a season.

Q&A-2: *My son participates in track for the 1B private school he attends. His school does not offer soccer, but our 4A resident school does. Since students in 1B schools are allowed to participate in more than one sport during the same season, could he also play soccer at that school?*

NO; this rule is designed to assist small schools in salvaging sports offerings, not to provide additional opportunities for student athletes at their resident public school.

Q&A-3: *If a student is having a difficult time deciding between competing in baseball or track and field, is it ok to practice with both teams so he can get in the required practices and then compete for only one?*

YES; since he would be competing in only one sport.

Q&A-4: *Could a cross country athlete turn out for football following the conclusion of the cross country state championships?*

YES; that student could practice with the football team but could not compete in football since he competed in cross country during the same season.

18.23.0 NON-SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

Q&A-1: *I am a select soccer player. Can I play on my select club team at the same time that I play on my high school team?*

YES; you can participate on a non-school team at the same time you compete on your school team with a few restrictions. You cannot be given special treatment or privileges on a regular basis to enable you to participate on your non-school team, e.g., reduced practice times, special workouts, late arrivals or early dismissals. You also cannot compete in your school uniform at non-school events. REGULAR is defined as meaning more than one (if a student is released from a practice or game to participate in a non-school sports program).

Q&A-2: *A college is recruiting me and they have asked me to visit campus and practice with the team. Will this jeopardize my athletic eligibility?*

NO; you are allowed to try out and/or practice with a college team.

Note: You need to check the NCAA regulations for any restrictions that may apply.

Q&A-3: *I am a Running Start student and have started to play on the college basketball team. Can I still play on my high school basketball team?*

NO; once you play on a college team, you no longer have high school eligibility in that sport.

18.24.0 AMATEUR STANDING

Q&A-1: *I have become a professional in the sport of bowling. Can I still play on my high school teams in all other sports?*

YES; you would still be considered an amateur in the other sports.

Q&A-2: *I have been invited to attend one of the Nike Basketball camps this summer. As part of the camp, I will be given a pair of shoes and workout gear with a retail value of over \$400. Can I accept this merchandise without jeopardizing my amateur status?*

In order to maintain amateur status a student cannot 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. If the merchandise was part of the camp fee paid by the student, then he/she has purchased the merchandise and it will not affect amateur status.

Q&A-3: *My son has been invited to participate in a large invitation track meet this summer in California. As part of the invitation the meet organizers have agreed to pay his transportation to and from the event, as well as provide housing and meals at the event. Is this allowable without jeopardizing his amateur status?*

YES; you can accept payment for the actual expenses for the athletic trip.

Q&A-4: *Our son won a car as a prize for a hole in one in a charity golf tournament. Will keeping the car affect his amateur standing?*

NO; the hole in one contest is considered a game of chance by the PGA Golf rules, and the student would be able to accept the car without jeopardizing his/her WIAA eligibility.

Q&A-5: *If I win \$700 in merchandise credit for winning a golf tournament may I donate \$200 of the amount to my school and keep the other \$500 under my name to not jeopardize my amateur standing?*

NO; you may only accept \$500 in merchandise credit during any calendar year. Any additional amount must be forfeited.

Q&A-6: *Our town's radio station wants to select a "player of the game" for each of the games broadcast on the radio and give that player a gift certificate for a free meal at a local restaurant. Is that legal?*

In order for the athlete to maintain his/her amateur standing, the athlete can not endorse the food item or the restaurant. The value of the gift certificate must apply toward the \$500 merchandise limit allowed within a calendar year.

Q&A-7: *The local newspaper prints a special edition of the paper for each sports season with pictures of the athletes, schedules, highlights of the upcoming season, etc. There is advertising from many of the local businesses as part of this special edition. Is this a violation of any WIAA rules or regulations?*

Articles that are congratulatory in nature are permitted. The trademarks associated with the business may be included. Product reproductions are not permitted.

Q&A-8: *I will be instructing, supervising and officiating at a sports camp this summer and will be paid for these duties. Will being paid affect my amateur status?*

NO; you can instruct, supervise or officiate for any organized youth sports program, recreation, and playground or camp activities without jeopardizing your amateur status.

18.25.0 USE OF ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES

Q&A-1: *I was caught in possession of illegal drugs at school. I have been told that I am ineligible for the remainder of the sports season. I have completed the drug and alcohol assessment process and have been attending the prescribed treatment sessions. Is there any way I can regain my eligibility this season?*

YES; your eligibility may be re-instated for this violation for the current season based upon a recommendation from your school, since you are currently participating in a treatment program and following the recommendations of the health care professionals.

Q&A-2: *I have had a drug violation in middle school and have again been involved in another drug violation at the high school. Are the violations cumulative or do they apply to the middle level and high school levels separately?*

The repeat offenses for the use of illegal substances are specific to the middle level and high school level, thereby, making this your first high school violation, which is subject to local school district policies that may be more restrictive.

Q&A-3: *My school district has a 365 day or all year athletic code prohibiting the use of illegal substances for all athletes, but my friends at a neighboring high school have indicated their school athletic code is for the season only. Why are the athletic codes different?*

The WIAA requires a school district to have an athletic code that covers the sports season of participation. Schools and school districts have the right to have more restrictive athletic code rules that would cover the entire school year or the calendar year.

Q&A-4: *Does a penalty for violation of use of illegal substances carry over from the middle school to high school?*

NO; the penalties for use of illegal substances are specific to the middle level and the high school level as they relate to the first violation.

Q&A-5: *I had an athletic code violation at my resident school. I have transferred to a new school. Will I be subject to the athletic code restrictions of my old school?*

YES; a student who is ineligible in a member school may not become immediately eligible at another member school without completing the conditions of ineligibility.

18.26.0 HARDSHIP

Q&A-1: *My school does not offer German as a foreign language. I will be transferring to another school district in order to take German and other AP classes. Will I be able to play varsity sports?*

NO; you will have automatic JV eligibility for one year in those sports you participated in the previous year if you meet all conditions of athletic eligibility. Having or not having an academic or athletic program is not grounds for hardship by definition.

Q&A-2: *I became pregnant last year and missed a year of athletic participation. Will I be able to participate in my fifth year?*

In order to be granted a replacement year, you must show that you were unable to complete high school in four consecutive years as a result of a long-confining illness, an injury or a family hardship that prevented graduation in four (4) years.

Q&A-3: *Our son attends our resident public school, but it does not have a swim program and he wants to transfer to a neighboring school district that has a swim program. Can he go through the Eligibility Appeal Process to gain athletic eligibility?*

NO; by definition, having or not having an academic or athletic program is not grounds for hardship. Note: The only way to participate in swimming would be for your school to enter into a combined or cooperative agreement with a school that has a swim program.

18.27.0 EJECTION FROM CONTEST

Q&A-1: *As the only coach at the baseball game, I was ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct. The umpire called the game because there was no other adult school representative present to assume the coaching duties. Was this the correct action?*

YES; when the coach is ejected and there are no other authorized adult school district personnel present to supervise the team, the contest is terminated and forfeiture declared.

Q&A-2: *I was ejected from the basketball game because of offensive language directed towards the official. I was upset and wanted to leave the gym and get away from the game. My coach required me to stay on the team bench. Why?*

Your coach is responsible for you until you return to your school after the game or are released to your parents by the coach.

Q&A-3: *I had a player receive his first ejection from the varsity football game on Friday night. Can I play him in the junior varsity game on Monday and have him sit out the next varsity game?*

NO; any ejected player or coach is ineligible for all contests until after the next school contest in that sport at the same level of competition from which the person was ejected.

Q&A-4: *I am a senior on my soccer team and was ejected in the previous varsity game. Can I suit-up and be on the team bench for the next varsity game?*

Only students eligible to play may appear in the school uniform, but you may be on the team sideline during the suspension period.

May I be in the stands watching the game?

YES; you may be in the stands as a spectator.

May I be on the team bench as a manager and take stats for this game?

YES; an ejected student may be on the team bench during the suspension period.

Q&A-5: *Our wrestling coach was ejected last night from the varsity match. He wants to attend tonight's match so he can scout the visiting team. Do the rules permit this?*

NO; any coach ejected cannot be involved in coaching to any degree and is not allowed into the facility during the suspension period.

Q&A-6: *My starting goalkeeper was ejected from the last soccer game of the season last spring. When does he have to sit out a contest?*

If the athlete is unable to complete a suspension during the sports season in which the ejection occurred, the suspension shall be carried over into the participant's succeeding season of participation.

Q&A-7: My son was ejected for the second time in last night's soccer game. What is the penalty for the second ejection?

The second ejection in the same sport and season results in ineligibility for the remainder of the season.

Q&A-8: I lost my temper at last night's game and physically assaulted the official. I was ejected and will sit out the next game. Will there be any further penalties for my actions?

YES; the WIAA Executive Director has the authority to suspend an individual from further competition for a period not to exceed one (1) calendar year. In addition, the official involved could bring legal charges against you with the local law enforcement authorities.

19.1.0 APPEAL PROCEDURE FOR STUDENTS

Q&A: Where can I find the WIAA Eligibility Forms?

You can find the Eligibility forms three ways:

1. On the WIAA Website at <https://www.wiaa.com/subcontent.aspx?SecID=1222> eligibility and related issues/student eligibility packet
2. Contact the athletic director at your high school
3. Call the WIAA Office at 425-687-8585 to request the forms

19.7.0 ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE - THE PETITION

Q&A: Where do I send the completed eligibility packet?

The completed eligibility packet is sent to your WIAA District Eligibility Chairperson. Work with your athletic director in completing the eligibility packet and sending or faxing the completed packet to your WIAA District Eligibility Chairperson

19.8.0 ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE - THE HEARING

Q&A: How will I be notified of the date and time of my eligibility hearing?

The WIAA District Eligibility Chairperson will notify you of the date, time and place of your eligibility hearing. Your athletic director will also be provided the hearing information.

19.9.0 ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE - THE DECISION

Q&A: I am very nervous about my eligibility hearing. Can you explain the hearing process?

Your hearing will be with a minimum of three representatives from your WIAA District. There may be more than three members of the Eligibility Committee present.

You should be present for the hearing, and you can bring any number of other people to represent and support your appeal. The Eligibility Committee will review the eligibility packet you have submitted, and they will then give you an opportunity to explain your unique circumstances and hardship that have resulted in your request to appeal your eligibility. There will be an opportunity for questions by everyone present.

The hearing will be tape recorded, but all information at the hearing is confidential.

A hearing will typically take 15 to 30 minutes depending upon the complexity of the information involved in your appeal. All information shared during the hearing is confidential.

You will be notified of the results of your appeal following your hearing. A letter will be sent within five school business days following the date of your hearing.

19.10.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/HEARING OFFICER - APPEAL/NOTICE OF APPEAL

Q&A: If the WIAA District Eligibility Committee denies my eligibility appeal, do I have any other level of appeal?

YES: You can appeal to the WIAA Hearing Officer. You will be given appeal procedure information with your WIAA District Eligibility Committee decision. Any appeal to the WIAA Hearing Officer shall be based on alleged errors from the WIAA District level hearing or additional relevant evidence that was not presented at the WIAA District Eligibility hearing.

19.13.0 APPEAL PROCESS FOR EJECTION FROM CONTEST

Q&A-1: The pitcher on our softball team was ejected from today's game. I did not notify the umpire of my desire to appeal until after the game. What is the appeal process I must follow?

The school principal has one (1) school business day to notify the WIAA staff of the appeal.

Q&A-2: *As the athletic director, I want to appeal the ejection of my coach from yesterday's game. The coach notified the official of the intent to appeal at the time of the ejection. I agree with my coach that the official made the wrong judgment call. What is the appeal process I must follow?*
The process for the appeal of a judgment call that led to an ejection by a game official is spelled out in the rule.

Q&A-3: *During the contest last night, a player from the other team punched one of our players but it was not seen by the official. We have everything on video tape. Can this be reviewed and the correct suspension handed down to the player?*
No. The WIAA staff will not review a video of an incident to suspend another individual when it was not seen by the official, unless it is part of the appeal process for an ejection submitted by that school. The video should be sent to the opposing school's Athletic Director to be reviewed.

20.2.2 COACHING STIPENDS AND GIFTS TO COACHES

Q&A: *Does the \$500 limit also apply for a coach conducting clinics and/or training sessions during the summer?*

*Yes, school board approval is required for any payments and/or gifts to a coach in excess of \$500 while conducting coaching duties or activities, including any year round activities, related to each sport he/she coaches for that school. **This includes payment by a booster club, individual(s) or group(s) for coaching involvement on behalf of the school.***