

- 19.14.0 PROTESTS OF ELIGIBILITY** - Any member school, which has reason to believe that a student is not in compliance with WIAA eligibility standards, may protest the student’s eligibility by written notification to the principal of the school that the student attends.
- 19.14.1 Whenever the eligibility of a student is protested in the manner described above, a representative of the school which the student attends shall notify the student of their protested ineligibility and right to apply to the WIAA District Eligibility Committee as prescribed in Article 19 of the Handbook concerning their eligibility.
- 19.14.2 In addition to the above, the District Eligibility Chairperson may appoint a Fact Finder to investigate matters pertaining to the protest.
- 19.14.3 In addition to the above requirements, the District Eligibility Chairperson may, as an added condition of eligibility, require that a transferring student submit a WIAA Previous School Statement. This form must be signed by the principal of the school from which the student has transferred, indicating the principal’s approval of athletic eligibility for the transferring student. A copy of the signed form must be retained on file in the school office for the duration of the student’s attendance at that school.
- 19.14.4 Unless such written protest is submitted by that member school at least seven (7) school business days before the student’s first opportunity to participate in an interscholastic contest, the student shall remain eligible during the appeal process provided for in Article 19 of this Handbook.

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## 20.0.0 COACHES

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

- Q&A 20.1.0 DEFINITION OF A HEAD COACH** - A head coach is that person in charge of the highest level team for that building (e.g.), the person responsible for the highest level (varsity) team in a building that houses grades 10-12 is the head coach; the person who is responsible for the highest level team in a building that houses grades 7-9 is the head coach.
- 20.2.0 EMPLOYEE OF THE DISTRICT** - No school team or individual contestant shall be eligible to represent a school in an athletic contest unless the coach has been approved by the School Board of the school district in which he/she coaches.
- 20.2.1 This requirement applies to all paid and/or volunteer coaches. Volunteers become representatives of the District, and may serve as coaches, only upon registration, approval and authorization of the school district Board of Directors.
- Q&A 20.2.2** Coaching stipends and all gifts to a coach exceeding a total of \$500 between the first day of the summer activities period until the final day of the next WIAA school year must be approved by the school’s board of directors.
- 20.3.0 COACHES EDUCATION COMPLIANCE** - Only paid and/or volunteer coaches who have met the coaches standards are eligible to coach or be involved in a practice or competition.
- If a school district has more restrictive coaching standards, the coach will be held to the more restrictive standard.
- 20.4.0 SUPERVISION** - A school appointed coach, or another appointed member of the school faculty, must accompany any school team (or individual) at any time in connection with school sponsored interscholastic competition.
- 20.5.0 COACHING REQUIREMENTS** - For initial employment as a paid and/or volunteer interscholastic coach, an individual must meet the following requirements: (Also refer Coaching Standards Checklist in Appendix 17).
- 20.5.1 Be a high school graduate or have completed a graduation equivalency diploma (GED) program.
- A. Be at least 21 years of age to be a head coach.
- B. Be at least 19 years of age to be an assistant coach except as in c. below.
- C. 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 and hold a valid First Aid Certification and a valid CPR card.
- 20.5.2 Annually complete the WIAA general rules clinic and the WIAA approved rule clinic for the sport being coached.
- A. All high school and middle level paid coaches and volunteers acting as head high school head coaches.
- B. Volunteer assistant coaches – recommended, but not required.

- 20.5.3 Hold a valid current First Aid Certification or have completed a School District approved Athletic Training/Sports Medicine course equivalent to the Red Cross First Aid Card training or be enrolled in a First Aid class. A Sports Medicine course is to include prevention of injuries, recognition of injuries, emergency on-site procedures including transporting the injured, and rehabilitation of injuries. If a Sports Medicine course is used to fulfill this requirement, it must be renewed every three (3) years.
- 20.5.4 Hold a valid current CPR Certification or be enrolled in an approved CPR Course.
- 20.5.5 Have successfully completed Concussion recognition and management with Return to Play Protocols training as required by Washington State Law that must be renewed every three (3) years.
- 20.5.6 Have successfully completed Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness and Training as required by Washington State Law that must be renewed every three (3) years.
- 20.5.7 Before the beginning of the third year of coaching, a member school coach (paid or volunteer) must complete a school district approved Coaching Principles training that requires a minimum of five (5) hours of instruction, or complete the NFHS Coaches Fundamentals Course, or attend all sessions of the WIAA Coaches School, or other Coaches School as approved by the WIAA or the local school district. After initial completion, coaches will be required to repeat this training every three (3) years. The training must include a minimum of one (1) hour in each of the following categories:
- A. Medical aspects of coaching - Health and Welfare
    - Care and Prevention of student injury
    - Athletic Training/Sports Medicine
    - Chemical and Substance Abuse
    - Injury Rehabilitation
    - Nutrition
    - Kinesiology
    - Exercise Physiology
  - B. Legal Aspects of Coaching - Litigation, Liability
    - School Physical Education, Sports, or Athletic Law
    - Annual review of rule changes and application of rules
    - School Board Policies, WIAA Rules, School Law
    - Bullying, Hazing, Harrassment
  - C. Psycho/Social Foundations
    - Sociology and Psychology of Sports (adolescent psychology, sports sociology and psychology, motivation, dealing with substance abuse.)
    - Philosophy of Interscholastic Activities Programs
    - Coaching Techniques
    - Instructional methods in physical education/activities
    - Instructional methods in physical education for handicapped
    - Instructional methods in interscholastic sports
    - Philosophy/Sports Management/Pedagogy
    - Social, Emotional Learning strategies and procedures
    - Restorative Practices
    - Mental Health
    - Suicide Prevention
  - D. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
    - Anti-Racism
    - Discrimination in Sport / Examining implicit bias
    - Gender equity
    - LGBTQ and Gender Identity
    - Recognizing and eliminating barriers to participation
    - Supporting students from diverse backgrounds
    - Supporting students impacted by income disparities
    - Unified Sports / Including students with disabilities

- 20.5.8 Red Cross Safety Training for Swim Coaches or Lifeguard Certification is required for all swim coaches. Red Cross Safety Training for Swim Coaches, U.S. Diving Safety certification or Lifeguard Certification is required for diving coaches.
- A. Each team must have a certified swim coach on site during practice and competition in order for an athlete(s) to be eligible to participate in swimming.
- B. Each team must have a certified dive coach on site during practice and competition in order for an athlete(s) to be eligible to participate in diving.
- Q&A** 20.5.9 “Hands on” Pole Vault Coaches Training is required for pole vault coaches. Coaches must be recertified every two (2) years with “hands on” training to be required the first two (2) two-year cycles and either the “hands on” training or completion of WIAA-approved online courses during the next two-year cycle.
- Each team must have a certified pole vault coach on site during practice and competition in order for an athlete(s) to be eligible to participate in pole vault.
- Q&A** 20.5.10 “Hands on” stunt Certification is required for cheer coaches who intend to have their cheer squad(s) perform stunts. The certification program must be approved by the Washington State Cheer Coaches Association, and the WIAA. Coaches must be recertified every two (2) years with “hands on” training
- Each team must have a stunt certified coach on site during practice and competition in order for an athlete(s) to be eligible to stunt.
- Q&A** 20.5.11 “Hands on” lift Certification is required for-dance/drill coaches who intend to have their squad(s) perform lifts. The certification program must be approved by the Washington State Dance/Drill Coaches Association, and the WIAA. Coaches must be recertified every two (2) years with “hands on” training.
- Each team must have a stunt certified coach on site during practice and competition in order for an athlete(s) to be eligible to stunt.
- Q&A** 20.5.11 All Middle School and High School football coaches must complete school-district approved technique specific safety training similar to “Heads Up Football”. The training must include, but is not limited to, “hands on” Safer Tackling Techniques and Drills, Helmet and Shoulder Pad fitting, Concussion management with Return to Play Protocols following a concussion, Heat and Hydration training and Sudden Cardiac Arrest training. Football coaches will be required to repeat this training every two (2) years.
- 20.5.12 Washington State Patrol Criminal History Information – The employing school district is required by RCW 43.43.830 to file the Washington State Patrol Criminal History Information for paid and/or volunteer coaches.
- 20.6.0 SHARED COACHING** - The WIAA Executive Director may approve shared coaching in diving, pole vaulting and gymnastics that have been determined to pose a safety or health concern for student athletes due to the qualifications or lack thereof of available coaching staff. Prior to approval the following criteria must be documented or verified to the Executive Director by the requesting member school:
- 20.6.1 The requesting school district has determined no qualified coaching is available, and the shared coach is qualified and approved (employed) by the local school district in compliance with Coaching Standards as set forth by the WIAA.
- 20.6.2 The "specialized" program must be made available to all athletes in that event (e.g., under the safety purposes of this permissive rule, if a school sends one pole vaulter to a shared coach, the school must send all pole vaulters from the school).
- 20.6.3 Coaching will be only during the WIAA adopted season for the sport.
- 20.6.4 Approval must be requested during the first year of each classification period.
- 20.6.5 Each team must have a certified swim coach on site during practice and competition in order for an athlete(s) to be eligible to participate in swimming.
- 20.6.6 Each team must have a certified dive coach on site during practice and competition in order for an athlete(s) to be eligible to participate in diving.
- 20.7.0 NEGATIVE COMMENTARY BY COACHES AND/OR OFFICIALS** - The WIAA prohibits negative commentary or statements to the media or general public in any form relative to officiating prior to, during, or following any interscholastic activity or athletic event. This rule applies equally to members of the Washington Officials Association relative to coaching tactics or administrative responsibilities.

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## 21.0.0 OFFICIALS

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The control, supervision and regulation of school officials shall be under the direction of the Washington Officials Association or any other voluntary nonprofit entity.

- 21.1.0 REGISTERED OFFICIAL** - A registered official is properly enrolled with the Washington Officials Association, has paid the appropriate association/board dues and is eligible to officiate sub-varsity interscholastic contests only.