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## 18.0.0 STUDENT STANDARDS FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY

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**PHILOSOPHY OF STANDARDS OF ELIGIBILITY:** *In keeping with the belief that participation in activities is a privilege and not a right, certain standards of eligibility have been established. Standards on age, residence and seasons limitations promote the Association's goals of fairness and equality of opportunity for all participants. Standards on scholarship, attendance and amateur standing promote the Association's goals of educating youth and promoting activities as an integral part of the total educational process. AFFIRMATION OF ASSOCIATION GOALS 2.2.1, 2.2.4 AND 2.2.6. THEREFORE:*

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

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

18.1.2 This regulation does not restrict participation in practices or intra-squad scrimmages except for cheer and/or dance/drill participants. Cheer and/or dance/drill participants must meet and maintain the WIAA eligibility requirements in order to try out for the school team(s).

**18.2.0 ELIGIBILITY LISTS** - No student shall participate in an interscholastic contest unless he/she is properly certified on an eligibility list on file in the principal's office or the office of the principal's designee.

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

**18.3.0 PLAYERS ELIGIBLE FOR PARTICIPATION** - Only players who are currently eligible to participate in an activity may appear in their team uniform on the team bench, sideline, court, field or deck during the contest.

18.3.1 A student must be currently eligible to participate in an activity in order to participate in the pre-event warmup.

18.3.2 A student must be a member of a WIAA member school squad and have been included on a school's eligibility roster for at least 50% of the regular season for that sport in order for a student to participate in postseason and state tournament playoffs.

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

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

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

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

18.4.2 Provided any student is deemed ineligible under this rule, he or she may be declared eligible pursuant to Article 19 of this handbook.

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

Definitions:

**Home Based Education** – Home based students must register with a public school district with the intent to home school. Home based students do not receive assistance from the school district, nor does the school district receive FTE funding or any other outside sources for them.

**Alternative Education** – Alternative education programs are academic learning opportunities that fall outside of the traditional school house format. These programs include, but are not limited to, Alternative Schools, Certified Educational Clinics, Home Link, Virtual Academics, Online Schools, Contract Based Education, Parent/School District Co-Op, etc. A school district receives FTE funding for students involved in these programs.

18.5.1 A student who is a regular member in a private school may participate on the interscholastic teams of his/her resident public school if the student resides within the service area of that public school and if the interscholastic activity is unavailable to the student in the private school. Students in a private school must meet the same team responsibilities as public school team members and are obligated by the same standards of behavior and performance as other members of the team.

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

- 18.5.2 A full-time high school student in a public alternative school without athletics may participate at the resident public school that the student would normally attend or that student's public school of record.
  - A. In a school district with multiple middle schools, a full-time seventh or eighth grade student in a private school who qualifies under 18.5.2 shall be able to participate at the seventh or eighth grade public school that is nearest that student's current private school provided he/she resides in that school district.
- 18.5.3 Alternative school students must meet the same academic standards at the school where they will participate.
- 18.5.4 Home based instruction students are categorized as regular members of a school. Therefore, to be eligible to participate in interscholastic contests/competitions, the student must:
  - A. Meet both WIAA and school district eligibility requirement standards of all students, including transfer student requirements.
  - B. Meet and adhere to the same team responsibilities and standards of behavior and performance of other members of the team/squad.
  - C. Participate as a member of the public school in which service area he/she resides with his/her family unit. After registering with the school district as a home school student, a student is subject to the transfer rules if he/she subsequently changes schools.
  - D. Provide the school administration acceptable documentation of any interscholastic eligibility standards required of all other student participants.
  - E. Comply with WIAA and local school regulations during the time of participation.
  - F. Comply with RCW 28A.225.010 (4).
  - G. Provide to school authorities all required forms and documentation.

**18.6.0 RUNNING START ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS** – A Running Start student's eligibility is through the public school of residence / record, where the student accesses the Running Start program.

- A. **Member of the School** - The Running Start student must be included on the school's P-223 count submitted to OSPI. Running Start is considered a mainstream program. The school of eligibility must be the "School of Record" for the Running Start student and include the same transcript records as all other students.
- B. **Regular Attendance** - The Running Start student must comply with the WIAA minimum eligibility standards of attendance and comply with local school attendance eligibility policies required of all other students. Note: Students who access the Running Start Program at the community colleges may find themselves on a different academic calendar from their high school for academic eligibility.
- C. **Previous Semester** - The Running Start student shall meet the requirements of 18.8.0 by having been in regular attendance during the previous semester/trimester immediately preceding the semester/trimester in which the contest is held. Coursework will be monitored at any time AND, at a minimum, the previous semester grades recorded on the official transcript. The School Eligibility Standards must be consistently applied to ALL students. School board (or schools so authorized by school district policy) adopted standards greater than WIAA standards must be applied.
- D. **Scholarship** - The Running Start student shall maintain passing grades during the previous and current high school semester equivalent to the standards set in 18.7.0. For the purposes of this rule, one (1) five (5) credit class in college quarter shall be equal to one (1) high school credit and one (1) three (3) credit class in a college semester shall also be equal to one (1) high school credit.

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

**GUIDELINES IN ESTABLISHING RUNNING START ELIGIBILITY:**

1. Determine the number of credits required for athletic eligibility at the student's high school. Example: 5 classes required in a 6 period school day is equal to 2.5 semester credits needed for eligibility.
2. Establish the student's academic schedule for the year, either entirely as a Running Start student or a student with a blended schedule of classes from both Running Start and the high school.
3. Determine the number of credits to be earned in each of the courses.

4. The credits in the Running Start second term can be used either for the first semester, the second semester, or split between the two semesters.
5. It is possible that a Running Start Student would not attend any classes during one of the three Running Start terms and still be eligible, provided he/she took enough credits during the other two terms to meet or exceed the number of credits per semester for athletic eligibility at the high school.
6. Running Start is a public school mainstream educational program. Eligibility is at the public school of residence where the student accesses the Running Start program. A student could still compete athletically for the private school if he/she maintains enrollment at the private school for at least 50 percent of the school day at the private school.

**PHILOSOPHY OF SCHOLARSHIP:** *While the WIAA is aware of the important role that interscholastic athletics play in the development of students, the WIAA member schools are also committed to the philosophy that the primary purpose of our secondary schools should be to academically prepare students to become productive citizens upon graduation. Scholastic incentives should be established and enforced for the educational and personal welfare of the students who participate. AFFIRMATION OF ASSOCIATION GOALS 2.2.1, 2.2.4 AND 2.2.9. THEREFORE:*

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

- 3 classes in a 4 period class schedule or the equivalent credits**
- 4 classes in a 5 period class schedule or the equivalent credits**
- 5 classes in a 6 period class schedule or the equivalent credits**
- 6 classes in a 7 period class schedule or the equivalent credits**
- 7 classes in an 8 period class schedule or the equivalent credits**

<b>RUNNING START COURSES</b>	<b>EQUIVALENT</b>
<b>One - 5 credit quarter course</b>	<b>One high school credit</b>
<b>One - 3 credit semester course</b>	<b>One high school credit</b>

- 18.7.1 Member schools may allow only seniors who are on track to graduate to initially enroll in one less class than the minimum number of classes required for other students. Seniors enrolled in one less class than other students must maintain passing grades in all classes in which they initially enrolled in order to remain academically eligible. Seniors may not drop or withdraw from a class in order to remain eligible.
- 18.7.2 Any class taken as part of the regular schedule of the student during the semester/trimester shall be considered to be a full time subject.
- 18.7.3 Schools shall establish a grade monitoring system to ascertain the student's passing status in the minimum of required classes. To monitor a student's continued academic eligibility periodic grade checks within each three to six week period are required during the current semester/trimester beyond normal grading periods. Private school students participating at their public school of residence will be held to the grade standard of the school they academically attend.
- 18.7.4 A student shall have passed the minimum number of classes as listed in 18.7.0 in the immediately preceding semester/trimester in order to be eligible for competition during the succeeding semester/trimester. The record at the end of the semester/trimester shall be final, except for those credits earned in a regular, accredited summer school program or alternative educational program accepted by the school district.
- 18.7.5 Incompletes may be made up for credit during the first five (5) weeks of the subsequent semester/trimester. The student shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition until the incomplete(s) are cleared.
- 18.7.6 **ACADEMIC SUSPENSION PERIOD** - A student who failed to make the grade requirements of 18.7.4, shall be placed on suspension. The student shall be ineligible during the suspension period. If, at the end of the suspension period, the student is passing in the minimum number of classes required above, the student may then be reinstated for interscholastic competition.
  - A. The suspension period for high school students shall be from the end of the previous semester through the last Saturday of September in the fall or the first five (5) weeks of the succeeding semester/trimester.
  - B. The suspension period for middle level students shall be from the end of the previous semester through the first three (3) weeks of the succeeding semester/trimester.
  - C. Each student is eligible on Monday of the week following the end of the suspension period. Three or more teaching days shall constitute a week.

**18.8.0 PREVIOUS SEMESTER** - The student shall have been in regular attendance as a full time student as defined in 18.7.0 and 18.7.3, in an elementary, intermediate, middle level, or high school during the semester/trimester immediately preceding the semester/trimester in which the contest is held.

18.8.1 Completion of a semester is determined by the local school district.

**18.9.0 REGULAR ATTENDANCE** - The student shall be enrolled and in regular attendance within the first fifteen (15) school days in a semester or ten (10) school days in a trimester at the start of the current semester/trimester in order to participate in interscholastic contests during the current semester/trimester.

18.9.1 An enrolled student who receives semester/trimester grades will be considered to have been in attendance for that semester/trimester unless he/she is withdrawn from school.

**PHILOSOPHY OF RESIDENCE RULE:** *The WIAA residence rule is intended to create an equitable environment in which its member schools can compete, and at the same time prevent those abuses that taint the goals of interscholastic athletics. Primarily, the residence rule is intended to prevent athletic recruiting, prevent students from choosing schools for athletic reasons, and to promote the varied family units as the best environment for students to live in while attending school. Deterring students from running away from or avoiding imposed discipline, protecting school programs by discouraging athletic transfers and protecting the opportunities for bona fide resident students to participate are also viable reasons for the residence rule. AFFIRMATION OF GOALS 2.2.6 AND 2.2.7 OF THE ASSOCIATION. THEREFORE:*

**18.10.0 DEFINITION of RESIDENCE and FAMILY UNIT**

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

**FAMILY UNIT** - The adult(s) who has/have had legal custody or legal guardianship of the student for a period of at least one (1) year and with whom the student resides.

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

18.10.2 Unless otherwise provided, a student shall be eligible while attending a school in the school district in which that student resides with the family unit, and provided that the student has been continuously attending that member school, or a feeder school of that member school, for a period of one (1) year.

18.10.3 A student who cannot meet the Residence Rule requirements would be eligible for all interscholastic competition below the varsity level, subject to 18.25.3.

18.10.4 Residence Area for private schools shall be a fifty (50) mile radius from the school address. NOTE: Refer to Article 3.1.1 for status of a private school district.

**PHILOSOPHY OF TRANSFER** - *The Transfer Rule is preventative in nature and is devised to eliminate the incentive to transfer schools when the motivation is for athletic purposes and after a student has initially chosen the school of his/her choice while he/she has been living with the family unit. The Transfer Rule protects students who have previously participated in athletic competition at a member school from being replaced by students who transfer for athletic purposes and further protects students at other member schools from the effects of "school shopping" by students and "recruiting" by member schools and their agents. The Transfer Rule encourages fair play, discourages the excesses and abuses of promotion, and protects the integrity of interscholastic athletic programs for the member schools and their students. While recognizing the educational experiences that each member school provides, the WIAA member schools support the right of parents and students to attend a school of their choice. The WIAA member schools believe that once an educational choice has been made there must be a special set of circumstances as covered in the "hardship rule" to warrant athletic eligibility when a student transfer occurs without a commensurate move on the part of the family unit.*

**18.11.0 TRANSFERRING STUDENTS** - After registering with and/or attending a middle level or high school, students changing enrollment to/from one school district to another school district or from one high school to another high school within a multiple high school district shall be considered transferring students. In order to be eligible for varsity competition, transferring students must meet the normal residence requirements or the transferring student requirements of 18.11.1, 18.11.2, 18.11.3, or be granted a waiver under 18.13.0 and 18.25.0. This section shall also apply to those students receiving home based instruction. NOTE: Refer to Article 3.1.1 for the status of a private school district.

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

18.11.2 The following students who are attending a member school shall be deemed to meet the residence rule requirement and transferring student rule requirements:

- A. A student whose transfer is based on a bona fide and immediate change of residence to a new school (district) due to an actual physical relocation of and with the entire family unit to a different residence and preceded by termination of all occupancy of their previous residence.
  - B. A student attending a school outside of his/her residence district for one (1) calendar year or more is eligible thereafter at that school provided the enrollment/attendance is continuous.
  - C. A student whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) reside at different abodes as the result of a divorce or court approved legal separation is allowed one (1) transfer between parents or guardians after entering the ninth grade without being restricted to sub-varsity competition for one (1) year.
  - D. A student who is under commitment to the Department of Social and Health Services, a student who is on juvenile parole status and a student who has been adjudicated as a ward of a juvenile court where residence is the result of assignment by the government entity charged with his/her care.
  - E. A student whose release has been ordered by the Superintendent of Public Instruction on the basis of a special hardship or detrimental condition.
  - F. A student who has a residence change following the death or disability of the family unit, including military deployment, in order to reside with a relative.
  - G. A seventh and/or eighth grade student who transfers to a school without a corresponding change of residence by his or her family unit and who meets all other conditions of eligibility shall be eligible at the new middle school when properly enrolled. High school eligibility is subject to the transfer rule and one (1) year of continuous enrollment.
  - H. A student, except F-1 Visa students to a private school, upon enrollment to the initial first level of a private school within a 50-mile radius of the family residence from his/her public school of residence or his/her public school of residence from a private school within a 50-mile radius of the family residence.  
 If either the public or the private school declares its ninth graders as junior high athletes, the window of transfer is between the ninth and tenth grade years; if the school declares its ninth graders as high school athletes, the window of transfer is between the eighth and ninth grade years.
- 18.11.3 A student attending a member school for one (1) calendar year or more is eligible in the same school/school district during subsequent attendance, so long as the enrollment/attendance is continuous.
- 18.11.4 A student whose transfer is the result of participation in a one-year cultural or educational exchange experience with another country. Form 6 of the WIAA eligibility packet must be submitted to the WIAA District Eligibility Chairperson.
- A. A student leaving this country for a one-year cultural/educational experience shall file a letter with his/her district eligibility committee prior to departure and will be eligible at his/her school of origin upon his/her return, provided all other rules of eligibility have been met.
  - B. A student coming to this country for a one-year cultural/educational experience is eligible at the varsity level for one (1) year only in the school in which he/she has been placed, provided all other rules of eligibility have been met and the student has not graduated from the high school equivalent in his/her home country. F-1 Visa students remaining for more than one (1) year will be considered transfer students. Graduated students can not compete interscholastically at any level (i.e., varsity or sub-varsity). This rule may not be appealed.
  - C. In no case will eligibility be extended beyond the four (4) consecutive years provided for in 18.14. There shall be no evidence that a significant reason for the transfer was to participate in athletics. Students must meet all other WIAA rules of eligibility.
- 18.12.0 SUB-VARSITY STATUS-** Ineligibility pursuant to section 18.11.0 shall be effective for one (1) calendar year from the date of enrollment. This ineligible status only prohibits a student from competing at the varsity level.
- 18.13.0 RESIDENCE RULE WAIVER -** Transferring students, unless eligible via 18.10.0 through 18.11.0, shall be deemed to have transferred at will and must apply to the WIAA District Eligibility Committee for a waiver of the Residence Rule. Such an application shall be processed under the appeal provisions contained in Article 19 of this Handbook. The procedure for evaluating a transferring student's application will be as follows:
- 18.13.1 The student must meet all other eligibility requirements of Article 18 of this Handbook.

- 18.13.2 The student must establish a hardship as defined under the provisions of Article 18.25.0 and as determined by the District Eligibility Committee.
- 18.13.3 There can be no evidence that either the student transferred for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics or transferred as a result of having been recruited for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.
- 18.13.4 In addition to the above requirements, the District Eligibility Chairperson shall, as an added condition of eligibility, require that a transferring student submit a WIAA Previous School Statement. A copy of the signed form must be retained on file in the school office for the duration of the student's attendance at that school.

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

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

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

- 18.14.1 Students who do not attend school or who fail to, or are deemed ineligible to participate shall forfeit their eligibility during that period and shall not be provided any additional period of eligibility except as may be provided through the appeal process in Article 19. If additional eligibility is granted as provided through Article 19, under no circumstances will eligibility be extended longer than one (1) additional year beyond the fourth consecutive year of high school (grades 9-12.)
- 18.14.2 Students repeating the eighth grade at the middle level or ninth grade at the junior high level may participate in the senior high school of the same school district provided the principals of both schools involved agree. In such case, the middle level school principal shall provide certification of the student's scholastic eligibility to the high school principal.
- 18.14.3 Additional eligibility shall not be granted if the student has had six (6) years of interscholastic eligibility after entering or being eligible to enter the seventh grade or four (4) consecutive years of interscholastic eligibility after entering or being eligible to enter the ninth grade.

**PHILOSOPHY OF GENDER IDENTITY PARTICIPATION:** *The WIAA allows participation for all students regardless of their gender identity or expression. The purpose of this policy is to designate a set of criteria in which student-athletes are able to compete on a level playing field in a safe, competitive and friendly environment, free of discrimination. Fundamental fairness, as well as most local, state and federal rules and regulations, requires schools to provide intersex and transgender student-athletes with equal opportunities to participate in athletics. This policy creates a framework in which this participation may occur in a safe and healthy manner that is fair to all competitors.*

**18.15.0 GENDER IDENTITY PARTICIPATION** - All students should have the opportunity to participate in WIAA activities in a manner that is consistent with their gender identity, irrespective of the gender listed on a student's records. Should any questions arise whether a student's request to participate in a sex-segregated activity consistent with his or her gender identity is bona fide, a student may seek review of his or her eligibility for participation by working through the procedure set forth below: Once the student has been granted eligibility to participate in the sport consistent with his/her gender identity, the eligibility is granted for the duration of the student's participation and does not need to be renewed every sports season or school year. All discussion and documentation will be kept confidential, and the proceedings will be sealed unless the student and family make a specific request.

18.15.1 **NOTICE TO THE SCHOOL:** The student and/or parents shall contact the school administrator or athletic director indicating that the student has a consistent gender identity different than the gender listed on the student's school registration records, and that the student desires to participate in activities in a manner consistent with his/her gender identity.

18.15.2 **NOTICE TO THE WIAA:** The school administrator shall contact the WIAA office, which will assign a facilitator who will assist the school and student in preparation and completion of the WIAA Gender Identity eligibility appeal process.

18.15.3 **FIRST LEVEL OF APPEAL:** The student will be scheduled for an appeal hearing before an eligibility committee specifically established to hear gender identity appeals. The WIAA shall schedule a hearing as expeditiously as possible, but in no case later than five (5) school business days of that member school prior to the first full interscholastic contest that is the subject of the petition, or within a reasonable time thereafter in cases of emergency, including, but not limited to, any unforeseeable late student enrollment. The Gender Identity Eligibility Committee will be comprised of a minimum of three of the following persons one of whom must be from the physician or mental health profession category:

- A. Physician with experience in gender identity health care and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) Standards of Care.
- B. Psychiatrist, psychologist or licensed mental health professional familiar with the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) Standards of Care.
- C. School administrator from a non-appealing school
- D. WIAA staff member
- E. Advocate familiar with Gender Identity and Expression issues

18.15.4 **DOCUMENTATION:** The appealing student should provide the Eligibility Committee with the following documentation and information:

- A. Current transcript and school registration information
- B. Documentation of student's consistent gender identification (e.g., affirmed written statements from student and/or parent/guardian and /or health care provider)
- C. Any other pertinent documentation or information

18.15.5 **SECOND LEVEL OF APPEAL:** An aggrieved student wishing to appeal the Gender Identity Eligibility Committee decision shall file notice of appeal with the Executive Director of the WIAA on or before the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) school business day following the date of receipt of the written decision of the Gender Identity Eligibility Committee denying the petition. An appeal to the WIAA Executive Director shall require the Executive Director to schedule a hearing to commence on or before the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) school business day following the date of receipt of the written notice of appeal. Written notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be delivered to the petitioned appellant in person or by certified mail, with return receipt requested, no later than five (5) school business days of that member school prior to the date of the hearing.

When there is confirmation of a student's consistent gender identity, the eligibility committee/WIAA Executive Director will affirm the student's eligibility to participate in WIAA activities consistent with the student's gender identification. The WIAA will facilitate the provision of resources and training for a member school seeking assistance regarding gender identity.

For Additional information on Gender Identity, refer to APPENDIX 6

**18.16.0 FIFTH GRADE PARTICIPATION** – If the total enrollment of the seventh and eighth grades in a middle school is not over forty (40) when the enrollment count is taken to determine the high school classification, the fifth grade students of the school may be permitted to participate on seventh and eighth grade volleyball, basketball and track teams for the next two (2) years. If the total enrollment of seventh and eighth grade students in a middle school is greater than forty (40) when the enrollment count was taken, but drops below forty (40) during the first two (2) weeks of any sports season, the fifth grade students of the school may be permitted to participate on seventh and eighth grade volleyball, basketball and track teams during that specific sports season.

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

- 18.16.2 When a fifth grade student has participated in one such contest he/she is no longer eligible for that sport at the elementary level.
- 18.17.0 SIXTH GRADE PARTICIPATION-** If the total enrollment of the seventh and eighth grades in a middle school is not over sixty (60) when the enrollment count is taken to determine the high school classification, the sixth grade students of the school may be permitted to participate on all seventh and eighth grade teams except tackle football for the next two (2) years. If the total enrollment of seventh and eighth grade students in a middle school is greater than sixty (60) when the enrollment count was taken, but drops below sixty (60) during the first two (2) weeks of any sports season, the sixth grade students of the school may be permitted to participate on all seventh and eighth grade teams except tackle football during that specific sports season.
- 18.17.1 This participation does not count against the student's middle level eligibility.
- 18.17.2 When a sixth grade student has participated in one such contest, he/she is no longer eligible for that sport at the elementary school level.
- 18.18.0 JOINING SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADERS WITH NINTH GRADE** - A school district which operates with an organization pattern other than a 6-3-3 may with league approval join the seventh and eighth graders from member schools with high school ninth graders for middle level competition in any one or all sports seasons. If there is more than one high school operating within the school district, each high school will serve the students of their attendance area.
- 18.19.0 EIGHTH GRADE SQUADS**
- 18.19.1 PRACTICE WITH THE HIGH SCHOOL TEAM
- A. Eighth graders may practice with the feeder high school teams during the time period that the seasons run concurrently.
- B. Eighth graders may practice with the feeder high school if a sport is not offered by the middle school, as long as the number of weeks does not exceed the season limitation for middle level in that sport.
- C. The local school board must assume all responsibility for the middle level students practicing with high school students.
- 18.19.2 PARTICIPATION WITH THE HIGH SCHOOL TEAM - A 1B high school may use eighth grade students from a WIAA member feeder middle school/junior high to salvage viable varsity or junior varsity high school teams or if no middle level program is offered in that sport during the same season.
- A. This participation does not count against the student's high school eligibility.
- B. Once a student has competed on the middle level school team, the student is ineligible for that school district's high school team in that sport except basketball during that school year unless required to salvage a viable high school varsity or junior varsity squad. Also refer to the high school basketball section.
- C. Once an eighth grade student has participated in one high school contest, he/she is no longer eligible for that sport at the middle school level except when the season schedule in basketball does not allow equal opportunities for boys and girls.
- D. The high school season limitation rule applies to eighth graders playing on a high school team. Eighth graders may play in a maximum of ten (10) games at the middle level and a maximum of 40 quarters at the high school level.
- 18.20.0 NINTH GRADE SQUADS** - Ninth graders may be declared on the WIAA membership form EITHER in the middle level program OR the high school program, on a sport by sport basis, regardless of the building in which the ninth graders are actually located.
- 18.20.1 A high school that has a squad of players consisting solely of ninth grade students must conduct its competition either under middle level school playing rules or under high school playing rules, depending upon whether it is playing a middle level team or a high school team.
- 18.20.2 A squad that consists of students from several grades (9th, 10th, 11th and 12th) will compete under high school playing regulations.
- 18.20.3 Ninth graders, when declared in high school by the local school board, may form as many squads as desired and enter competition provided the squads are accepted by the league in which that school participates.
- 18.20.4 Ninth grade students in a high school can participate on any squad in that school and must adhere to all rules and regulations that apply.
- 18.20.5 Middle level teams may play ninth grade teams from 9-12 high schools, provided that (a) the principals of both schools agree to the contest(s); (b) the contest(s) is conducted according to middle level rules; (c) the high school squad consists solely of ninth graders.
- 18.20.6 When ninth grade is part of a middle level school program (6-3-3 organizational pattern), the ninth grade student shall not participate in any high school (10-12) athletic program if that sport is available in the middle level, except in the case of an overage student.



- 18.20.7 If, in a given sport at the middle level, no participation is available and both middle level school and senior high school principals agree, ninth grade students may participate in the senior high school program.
- 18.20.8 If ninth graders are declared in high school by the local school board a ninth grade student has competed on the high school team, the student is ineligible for that school district's middle level school team in that sport during that school year.
- 18.21.0 CONCURRENT SPORTS LIMITATION** - A middle level or a high school level student shall not compete concurrently in more than one (1) interscholastic sport per season.
- 18.21.1 The exception shall be for students participating in '1B' or '2B' high schools with local administrators and school board determining eligible participation in more than one (1) interscholastic sport per season at that high school.
- 18.21.2 The exception shall be for the student who competes during an alternate season, qualifies for the state tournament, and is required to practice prior to competing in the state tournament. (Example: A student represented his/her school in fall tennis and qualified for the state tournament in the spring. During the spring season this same student represented his/her school in track. Prior to the state tennis tournament, the student is required to have a minimum number of practices, during which time the student is also participating on the track team. In the event that the student also qualifies for the state track meet, state event schedules will NOT be restructured in order for the student to compete in both state events.)
- 18.21.3 This does not prohibit a student from being a cheerleader while concurrently participating in another sport.
- 18.22.0 NON-SCHOOL PARTICIPATION** - Students may participate on a non-school team or teams **or in a non-school instruction program** while also participating on a school team.
- 18.22.1 Students may try out and/or participate in a practice setting with a college team.
- 18.22.2 Students may not participate on professional teams in that sport and may not represent a college team in that sport. A high school student forfeits any remaining high school eligibility in that sport by participating on or against a professional or college team.
- 18.22.3 Schools may not give students special treatment or privileges on a regular basis to enable them to participate in non-school athletic activities, such as reduced practice times, special workouts, late arrivals, or early dismissals.
- 18.22.4 Students shall not compete in the uniform of the school at non-school events.
- 18.22.5 Participation on a non-school team or program cannot be a requirement or condition of participation on a school team.
- 18.23.0 AMATEUR STANDING** - A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport must be an amateur in that sport. An amateur student-athlete is one who engages in athletics for the physical, mental, social and educational benefits, and to whom athletics is an avocation and not a source of financial reward.
- 18.23.1 In order to maintain amateur standing in those activities under WIAA jurisdiction, the student-athlete may not:
- A. Accept merchandise or in-kind gifts of more than \$300 in fair market value per sport during any one calendar year August 1 through July 31. Reduced membership fees or reduced user fees from an athletic club, recreation center, golf courses, etc., do not count toward this \$300 limit.
  - B. Accept cash awards.
  - C. Enter competition under a false name.
  - D. Accept payment of expense allowances over the actual and necessary expenses for the athletic trip (NOTE: Entry fees are not considered a reimbursable expense.)
- 18.23.2 The student-athlete may play as an amateur on any team not under the jurisdiction of a professional sports team or franchise. "Jurisdiction" means that funds from the team or franchise or coaching by any member of the sports team or franchise have been provided.
- A. Sign or have ever signed a contract to play professional athletics in that sport.
  - B. Play or have ever played in a competition on any professional team in that sport.
  - C. By sport receive or have ever received, directly or indirectly, a salary or any other form of financial assistance (including scholarships, educational grants-in-aid, or any of his/her expenses for reporting to or visiting a professional team) from a professional sports organization.
- 18.23.3 Amateur standing will not be jeopardized by instructing, supervising or officiating in any organized youth sports program, recreation, playground or camp activities whether the student-athlete is paid or not paid for these duties.

- 18.23.4 AWARDS THAT ARE PERMITTED - Awards to athletic teams or to individual members of such teams under the jurisdiction of the Association may be made by a member school in the form of letters, insignias, certificates, medals, and/or trophies as are customarily emblematic of athletic competition and whose intrinsic values are insignificant.
- A. All League/District/State - High school team members and coaches may participate in the selection of all-league/district/state teams after the date of the last league game. Newspapers may use such lists in their selection of "all-star" and "all-State" teams.
- 18.23.5 A student who forfeits amateur status may apply to the Executive Director for reinstatement.
- 18.24.0 COMMERCIAL ENDORSEMENT** - A WIAA member school may not permit or authorize the use of an individual student's name and/or picture, a school or school team name and/or picture(s) to directly advertise, recommend or promote a commercial product or service.
- 18.24.1 **Use of a Student-Athlete's Name in Advertisements that are Congratulatory in Nature** - The business can place its trademark on the advertisement only; the advertisement cannot include a reproduction of the product with which the business is associated.
- 18.25.0 HARDSHIP** - The WIAA District Eligibility Committee and the Executive Director are given the authority to make specific exceptions to those student eligibility regulations contained in Article 18 provided such exceptions are based upon hardship conditions that are deemed to have contributed in a significant way to non-compliance with specific regulation(s) that may be appealed.
- 18.25.1 Any waiver of student eligibility regulations shall be based upon extenuating circumstances, beyond the student's, or where applicable, the parents' or legal guardian's control, that are deemed to have significantly influenced or contributed to the cause of the student's non-compliance to the eligibility regulation(s) involved. (The following criteria shall be used to determine if a hardship exists):
- A. A hardship exists only when some unique circumstances concerning the student's physical or emotional status exist and only when such circumstances are not the result of acts or actions by the student or family unit.
- B. The circumstances must be totally different from those that exist for the majority or even a small minority of students (e.g., usual maturation problems or family situations that do not cause severe and abnormal emotional problems, and academic or athletic deficiencies in a school's curriculum or co-curricular activities do not constitute a hardship).
- C. There must be no reason to believe that the decision and/or the execution of the decision concerning the student's academic status was for athletic purposes.
- D. The burden of providing evidence that a hardship exists shall be borne by the student.
- E. There shall be a direct, causal relationship between the alleged hardship and the student's inability to meet the specific eligibility rule(s).
- 18.25.2 Exceptions to student eligibility regulations based upon a hardship shall be subject to the following limitations:
- A. Loss of eligibility in itself or an injury in itself that prevents the student from being able to participate are not to be considered hardships. In addition, attending a school that does not offer interscholastic activities is not to be considered a hardship, nor shall it justify extending eligibility beyond the four (4) consecutive year period allowed.
- B. A hardship exception shall not be granted if there is sufficient evidence to make it reasonable to believe that the non-compliance to the eligibility rule in question was motivated by the student's, parents' or school's efforts to gain a desired athletic outcome or to intentionally circumvent a rule, or
- C. To grant additional eligibility based upon a hardship condition, a student must demonstrate that normal progression towards graduation has been significantly interrupted as a result of either a long-confining illness (which can include a learning disability), an injury, or a family hardship, and that the interruption prevented the student from graduating in four (4) consecutive years.
- 18.25.3 The District Eligibility Committee shall waive the junior varsity rule in the case of a transfer student for a specific sport if the petitioner can provide documentation in one or more of the following criteria on Form 5 in the WIAA Eligibility Packet.
- A. A transferring student has not participated on a school or club/community team for which the student is requesting a varsity level eligibility for one (1) year prior to participation in that sport.
- NOTE: Participation is defined as: Participation in ten (10) or more coach organized (or led) practices or one (1) contest at the school, club or community level in that sport.

- B. A transferring ninth grade student from a middle level school to a four year high school shall not have played on an eighth grade team or club/community equivalent.
- C. A transferring tenth grade student from a junior high school to a three year high school shall not have played on a ninth grade team or club/community equivalent.

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

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

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

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

A. In order to be eligible to participate in the next interscholastic sports season, the student athlete shall meet with the school eligibility board consisting of coaches and administrators selected by the principal, to request approval to participate. The school eligibility board will recommend to the principal appropriate action to be taken in the student athlete's case. The school principal shall have the final authority as to the student athlete's participation in the interscholastic sports program.

B. A participant who seeks and receives help for a problem with use of legend drugs (RCW 69.41.010 identified substances) or controlled substances and controlled substance analogs (RCW 69.50.101 identified substances) shall be given the opportunity for assistance through the school and/or community agencies. In no instance shall participation in a school and/or community approved assistance program excuse a student athlete from subsequent compliance with this regulation. However, successful utilization of such an opportunity or compliance with athletic code by the student athlete may allow him/her to have eligibility re-instated in that athletic season, pending recommendation by the school eligibility authority.

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

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

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

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

- A. When a student is ejected, the coach continues to be responsible for the student. The student shall remain with the team.
- B. When a coach or other adult school representative is ejected, the coach or other adult school representative must vacate the playing area (gymnasium, field, and stadium.) If a head coach is ejected, an assistant coach or any school district personnel authorized to supervise students may assume the head coaching responsibilities for the remainder of the contest. If no other school district personnel are on site, the contest will be terminated and a forfeiture declared.

18.27.2 The first ejection of the season shall result in the ejected person (student, coach, other school representative) being ineligible until after the next school contest in that sport at the same level of competition from which the person was ejected.

- A. A jamboree does not count as a contest for the purposes of meeting the suspension period.
- B. A student who is on suspension may be on the team bench, but not in the school uniform, during the suspension period.
- C. Any coach ejected shall not be involved in coaching to any degree during the suspended game and shall not be allowed into the facility (gymnasium, field, stadium, locker room or hallway, etc.) during the suspension period.

- 18.27.3 Should a participant be unable to complete a suspension during the sports season in which the ejection occurs the suspension shall be carried over into the participant's succeeding season of participation. In order for the suspension in the succeeding season of participation to meet this requirement, the participant must be a member of the team for the entire season for that sport.
- 18.27.4 The second ejection in the same sport and season shall result in ineligibility for the remainder of the season of that sport.
- 18.27.5 For aggressive physical contact with an official, the WIAA Executive Director has the authority to suspend the individual from further competition for a period not to exceed one (1) calendar year.

**WIAA RULE 18.0.0: STUDENT STANDARDS FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY Q and A**

**18.1.0 STUDENT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

- 1. **Must all eligibility criteria be met prior to a participant trying out for a particular sport or activity?**  
 A student participant is not required to meet all eligibility standards to try out. The WIAA rules govern interscholastic participation; practices or tryouts are intraschool events and local schools may establish criteria that must be met prior to turnout participation.  
 Note: A physical exam is required prior to the first practice. (17.11.0)

**18.3.0 PLAYERS ELIGIBLE FOR PARTICIPATION**

- 2. **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 shall appear in the contest in uniform or occupy a position on the team bench.
- 3. **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. (18.3.0)
- 4. **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. (18.3.2)
- 5. **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. (18.3.2)

**18.4.0 AGE LIMITS - HIGH SCHOOL**

- 6. **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.

**18.4.0 AGE LIMITS - JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

- 7. **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.

**18.4.0 AGE LIMITS - MIDDLE SCHOOL**

8. **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.
9. **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. (18.4.1)  
Note: This will be the first of the four consecutive years of eligibility at the high school level.

**18.5.0 STUDENT MEMBER OF A SCHOOL**

10. **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. (18.5.2)
11. **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. (18.5.4C)
12. **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 18.25.3, 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.
13. **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.
14. **My private school had to drop its soccer program one week into the season due to lack of participation. Where am I now 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. (18.5.1 and 18.5.2)
15. **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.
16. **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. (18.5.2)
17. **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. (18.5.0)
18. **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. (18.5.1)
19. **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. (18.5.1 and 18.5.3)

20. **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. (18.5.2)

#### 18.6.0 RUNNING START

21. **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 of 18.22.3 and all other conditions of athletic eligibility. (18.6.0)

22. **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. (18.7.0, 18.6.3 and 18.6.4)

23. **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.

24. **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.

#### 18.7.0 SCHOLARSHIP

25. **I am a senior who will graduate this year and am enrolled in one less class than required by the other students I 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. (18.7.1)

**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. (18.7.1)

26. **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 last 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 6<sup>th</sup> week of the semester, providing you are now passing the minimum number of classes required by your school and the WIAA for athletic eligibility. (18.7.6)

Note: School districts can adopt a stricter scholastic policy.

27. **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. (18.7.3)

28. **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. (18.7.0)  
 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.
29. **Can a scholastically ineligible student participate in practices, but not compete interscholastically?**  
 YES, an ineligible student may practice subject to local school regulations.
30. **For scholastic eligibility purposes, is it necessary to check eighth grade transcripts for incoming ninth graders?**  
 YES, students must meet all eligibility standards. The second semester eighth grade transcript is used to determine first semester ninth grade scholastic eligibility.
31. **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.
32. **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.
33. **I am a senior and have almost enough credits to graduate. The WIAA member school rule indicates that I need to be enrolled half-time. My high school is on a six (6) period day, so does that mean I only need to take three (3) classes?**  
 NO, the WIAA scholastic rule indicates you must be enrolled in and passing five (5) classes in a six (6) period day schedule to be athletically eligible. (18.5.0 and 18.7.1)
34. **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. (18.5.1)
35. **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. (18.7.6A)
36. **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 last Saturday of September, providing you are now meeting the WIAA and school district scholastic standards

#### 18.8.0 PREVIOUS SEMESTER

37. **I dropped out of school with five weeks remaining in the semester last spring. Can I now play football this fall?**  
 If you were granted credit 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.
38. **I overslept this morning and did not get to school until the start of 4<sup>th</sup> 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 on your eligibility to compete in tonight's game.

39. **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. (18.7.0 and 18.8.0)

#### 18.10.0 RESIDENCE

40. **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. (18.10.0)

#### 18.10.4 PRIVATE SCHOOL RESIDENCY

41. **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.

#### 18.10.0 GUARDIANSHIP - FAMILY UNIT

42. **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.

#### 18.11.0 TRANSFER STUDENT

43. **What is the definition of a transfer student?**  
A transfer student is one who is attending a school district outside of the school district where his/her family unit resides. (18.11.0)
44. **What are the restrictions on athletic participation as a transfer student?**  
Transfer students are limited to junior varsity participation in those sports they participated in the previous year at the school, club or community level. Students regain full varsity eligibility after one year of continuous enrollment. (18.12.0 and 18.25.3)
45. **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. (18.11.2A) Note: Subject to 18.5.0
46. **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. (18.11.2B and 18.11.3)
47. **My parents are legally divorced, and I have been living with my mother since the divorce. As a 10<sup>th</sup> 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. (18.11.2C)
48. **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. (18.11.2C)



- 49. I am a 7<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. (18.11.2G)
- 50. I have completed the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at my public middle school and now want to transfer to a local private school for the 9<sup>th</sup> 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. (18.11.2H)
- 51. I have been attending my private school for the past five years and just completed the 11<sup>th</sup> 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. (18.11.2H)
- 52. 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. (18.11.3)
- 53. 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 the restrictions of 18.25.3 for your first year of participation.
- 54. 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 is subject to WIAA Rule 18.25.3, which 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. (18.25.3)
- 55. 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 18.25.3. 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. (18.25.3)
- 56. I am an out-of-district student attending a junior high as a 9<sup>th</sup> 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. (18.25.3)  
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.
- 57. I attend a K-7 non-high school district. Where is my athletic eligibility when I become an eighth grader?**  
Upon completion of the seventh grade in the K-7 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 as per WIAA rule 18.25.3.

- 58. I attend a K-8 non-high school private school. Where is my athletic eligibility as a ninth grader?**  
Upon completion of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the K-8 non-high school private school, 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 as per WIAA rule 18.25.3
- 59. 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. (18.10.1)
- 60. 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. (18.11.1B) (18.11.1G)

#### **18.11.4 CULTURAL EXCHANGE (VISA) STUDENTS**

- 61. 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 exchange student as long as you have not graduated from high school in your home country. (18.11.4B)  
Note: Your host school will have to submit Form 6 of the WIAA Eligibility Packet to the WIAA District Eligibility Chairperson.
- 62. 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.
- 63. 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 Form 6 of the WIAA Eligibility Packet 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. (18.11.4A)
- 64. When I was a sophomore, I participated in a cultural exchange program. I forgot to fill out Form 6 prior to leaving. Will I be eligible at my high school when I return?**  
You will have to apply for eligibility through the eligibility committee. (18.11.4)
- 65. I am a cultural 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. (18.11.4B)
- 66. I attended high school in the United States for three years before I left the country for a cultural 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. (18.11.4C)
- 67. I am a foreign 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.
- 68. I participated in a cultural exchange program when I was in eleventh grade. I failed to submit the Form 6 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.

**18.14.0 SEASON LIMITATIONS**

- 69. 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. (18.14.0)
- 70. 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Your high school can choose to allow you to practice with the team, but you cannot compete in any interscholastic contests.
- 71. 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.
- 72. 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.
- 73. 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.)
- 74. 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. (18.14.0)

**18.21.0 CONCURRENT SPORTS PARTICIPATION**

- 75. My daughter is a very gifted athlete. We live in a very small town and our high school is in the "B" 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 "B" classification where, with school board approval, a student may participate in more than one sport in a season.

### 18.22.0 NON-SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

76. **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. (18.22.3 and 18.22.4)  
**REGULAR is defined as meaning more than one (if a student is released from a practice or game to participate in a non-school program).**
77. **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. (18.22.1)  
Note: You need to check the NCAA regulations for any restrictions that may apply.
78. **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. (18.22.0 and 18.6.0)

### 18.23.0 AMATEUR STANDING

79. **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 must be an amateur in the sports you participate in at the high school level.
80. **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. (18.23.3)
81. **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?**  
NO, to maintain amateur status a student cannot accept merchandise or in-kind gifts of more than \$300 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. (18.23.1A)
82. **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. (18.23.1D)
83. **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. (18.23.1)
84. **Our town's radio station wants to select a "player of the game" for each of the games broadcast on the radio, then 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 \$300 merchandise limit allowed within a calendar year.

**18.24.0 COMMERCIAL ENDORSEMENTS**

85. **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.

**18.25.0 HARDSHIP**

86. **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. (18.25.3) Having or not having an academic or athletic program is not grounds for hardship by definition. (18.25.1B)
87. **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 years. (18.25.2C)
88. **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. (18.25.1B)

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.

**18.26.0 ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES**

89. **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 by a recommendation from your school eligibility board, since you are currently participating in a treatment program and following the recommendations of the health care professionals. (18.26.2)
90. **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.
91. **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.
92. **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. (18.26.0)
93. **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 and 18.11.1)

### 18.27.0 EJECTION FROM A CONTEST

94. **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. (18.27.1B)
95. **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. (18.27.1A)
96. **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. (18.27.2)
97. **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. (18.27.2B)  
**May I be in the stands watching the game?**  
YES, you can 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.
98. **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. (18.27.2C)
99. **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. (18.27.3)
100. **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. (18.27.4)
101. **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. (18.27.5)
102. **I play select club soccer and have been suspended for a period of one year by the Washington State Youth Soccer Association for excessive violent conduct. Can I play this spring for my high school team?**  
NO, the WIAA and the WSYSA have a reciprocal agreement to honor all suspensions of six months or more.

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### 19.0.0 STUDENT APPEALS OF INELIGIBILITY

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**PHILOSOPHY OF STUDENT APPEALS OF INELIGIBILITY:** *The purpose of the appeal process is to provide students declared ineligible for athletic competition a clear explanation for their ineligibility and a procedure whereby they are afforded a full and reasonable opportunity to contest their ineligible status. AFFIRMATION OF ASSOCIATION GOALS 2.2.2, 2.2.4 AND 2.2.8. THEREFORE:*

- 19.1.0 **APPEAL PROCEDURE FOR STUDENTS** - The following sections are the procedures for a student to appeal ineligibility to participate in interschool activities.
- 19.1.1 For basis of an appeal, see Article 18.25.0, hardship cases.

- 19.2.0 PURPOSE** - The purpose of these provisions is to prescribe in detail the procedure whereby a student who wishes to contest the reasons for his/her alleged ineligibility to participate in an interschool activity under eligibility standards established by the WIAA shall be afforded a fair opportunity to petition the appropriate governing board(s) of the WIAA to obtain a full and open review.
- 19.3.0 PROCEDURES FOR INFORMING STUDENT OF INELIGIBILITY**- Each school district superintendent or his/her designee(s), having reasonable cause to believe that a student is ineligible to participate in or continue in an interschool activity under the Rules and Regulations of the WIAA, shall provide the student with notice of his/her ineligibility either by certified mail or by delivering said notice in person. The notice shall:
- A. Specify the reason(s) for the alleged ineligibility and the rule being violated.
  - B. Advise the student of his/her opportunity to request a hearing in order to contest the reason(s) for the alleged ineligibility.
  - C. State that a written petition for a hearing can be served upon the WIAA District Eligibility Committee, or its designee, on or before the expiration of the third school business day after receipt of the Notice of Opportunity for a hearing.
  - D. Specify how the petition for hearing can be served upon the WIAA District Eligibility Committee or its designee by providing an address for that Committee or its designee.
  - E. Provide the student with the form(s) necessary to petition for a hearing pursuant to the procedure provided herein.
- 19.3.1 Failure to request a hearing in the manner hereinafter described within three (3) school business days following the date of receipt of the written notice of alleged ineligibility shall waive the right to a hearing and the appeal procedures that govern determinations of eligibility under the standards established by the WIAA.
- 19.3.2 Unless otherwise provided, any student declared ineligible to participate in an interschool activity shall remain ineligible until a decision to the contrary is made as provided for in Article 19 of this Handbook.
- 19.4.0 PROCEDURES FOR INFORMING SENDING SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF APPEAL** - In transferring student cases, the sending school principal or designee shall be notified by mail, **email**, fax or phone by the WIAA District Eligibility Chairperson or designee of the hearing date, time, and place. The sending school principal or designee shall have the opportunity to be present during the hearing.
- 19.5.0 NOTICE AND DECISION PROVISIONS/CONSTRUCTION OF DATES** - The notice and decision provisions contained in the hearing and appeals procedures as herein set forth shall correspond with the actual school business days of that member school. In computing any period of time prescribed or allowed by these rules the day of the act or event from which the designated period of time begins to run shall not be included. The last day of the period so computed shall be included, unless it is a legal holiday, in which event the period runs until the next day that is not a legal holiday.
- 19.6.0 DISTRICT LEVEL ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE** - The governing board in each WIAA Representative District shall appoint a committee composed of at least three (3) WIAA District Representatives that shall be known as the Eligibility Committee. No member of the Eligibility Committee shall hear and decide a case concerning a student who attends or attended a school with which that member is employed or otherwise directly associated. In such case, that member shall be disqualified and the majority of the remaining members of the Eligibility Committee shall meet and appoint any additional person or persons necessary to fill such vacancy.
- 19.6.1 The Eligibility Committee shall be authorized to hear and decide cases involving the eligibility of students to participate in interschool activities pursuant to the eligibility standards established by the WIAA.
- 19.7.0 ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE - THE PETITION** - Any student and/or his/her parents(s)/family unit may request a hearing before the Eligibility Committee in order to contest the reason(s) for any alleged ineligibility under the standards established by the WIAA. The person(s) requesting such a hearing shall be known as the Petitioner. A request for a hearing in the form and manner described herein shall be known as a Petition. A Petition shall: (a) be written; (b) set forth the specific eligibility; (c) be signed by the Petitioner(s); and (d) be submitted to the Eligibility Committee with such completed forms as may be prescribed by the Executive Board of the WIAA.
- 19.8.0 ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE - THE HEARING** - Upon the receipt of a Petition properly submitted in the manner described above, the Eligibility Committee shall schedule a hearing as expeditiously as possible, but in no case later than five (5) school business days of that member school prior to the first full interscholastic contest that is the subject of the Petition, or within a reasonable time thereafter in cases of emergency including, but not limited to, an unforeseeable late student enrollment. Written notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be delivered to the Petitioner in person or by certified mail, with return receipt requested, no later than three (3) school business days of that member school prior to the date of the hearing. In the case of transferring students, notice by phone, mail or fax shall also be given to the sending school principal. **All hearings shall be closed to the public.**

- 19.8.1 The Petitioner may represent himself/herself or be represented by such other person, as he or she may desire. The Petitioner shall have the opportunity to testify, present and cross-examine witnesses, as well as to introduce affidavits, exhibits, and other such evidence as may be deemed relevant and material by the Eligibility Committee.
- 19.8.2 The Eligibility Committee may continue the hearing for a reasonable period of time when in the judgment of the Committee such a continuance is determined to be necessary to a fair and proper disposition of the petition.
- 19.8.3 A tape recording or verbatim record of the hearing shall be made in connection with each petition considered by the Eligibility Committee.

**19.9.0 ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE - THE DECISION** - At the conclusion of the hearing and after a full and complete consideration of the evidence presented in support of the petition, the Eligibility Committee shall either (a) grant the petition, (b) deny the petition, or (c) take the petition under advisement for a period not to exceed five (5) school business days of that member school. The decision of the Eligibility Committee shall be written and shall include specific findings and conclusions that support the particular determination. A copy of the decision of the Eligibility Committee shall be delivered to the petitioner in person or be sent by certified mail, with return receipt requested, within five (5) school business days of that member school following the date of the conclusion of the hearing or time period for seeking additional information. The sending school principal shall also be sent a copy of the decision within five (5) school business days of that member school following the date of the conclusion of the hearing or time period for seeking additional information.

- 19.9.1 The decision of the Eligibility Committee shall be based solely upon the facts and arguments presented during the hearing.
- 19.9.2 In the case of a decision by the Eligibility Committee to deny the petition for eligibility, the Petitioner shall be provided, in addition to a copy of the written decision, a copy of the procedure and forms required in order to appeal to a Hearing Officer appointed by the WIAA Executive Director.
- 19.9.3 When the Eligibility Committee denies the petition, the student is ineligible for interscholastic competition.

**19.10.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/HEARING OFFICER - APPEAL/NOTICE OF APPEAL** - An aggrieved student wishing to appeal the decision of the Eligibility Committee shall file notice of appeal with the Executive Director of the WIAA on or before the tenth (10th) school business day following the date of receipt of the written decision of the Eligibility Committee denying the petition. Upon failure to file a notice of appeal, the decision rendered by the Eligibility Committee shall constitute the final determination in the case. The notice of appeal shall (a) be written, (b) be signed by the petitioner-appellant, (c) set forth the specific alleged error(s) that form the basis of appeal, and (d) be accompanied by such completed forms as the WIAA Executive Board may prescribe as now or hereafter amended.

- 19.10.1 An appeal to the WIAA Executive Director shall require the Executive Director to notify a designated Hearing Officer to schedule a hearing to commence on or before the tenth (10th) school business day following the date of receipt of the written notice of appeal. Written notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be delivered to the petitioner-appellant in person or by certified mail, with return receipt requested, no later than five (5) school business days of that member school prior to the date of the hearing.

**19.11.0 HEARING OFFICER - THE HEARING** - The hearing before the WIAA Hearing Officer shall be limited to a review of the record of the hearing conducted before the District Eligibility Committee and any additional relevant evidence.

- 19.11.1 In the review of the record, the findings and recommendations of the Hearing Officer shall be based solely upon the record of the hearing conducted by the Eligibility Committee and may include additional evidence, oral or written, when in the opinion of the Hearing Officer, such evidence is deemed relevant and material to a fair and proper disposition of the appeal. Upon receipt of additional evidence by the Hearing Officer, the parties shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to contest such evidence.
- 19.11.2 A tape recording or verbatim record shall be made of the hearing.

**19.12.0 HEARING OFFICER - THE RECOMMENDATION** - The recommended decisions to the WIAA Executive Director proposed by the Hearing Officer shall be written and shall include specific findings and conclusions that support the particular recommendations. The recommended decisions shall either affirm or reverse the decision of the Eligibility Committee, or take the petition under advisement for a period not to exceed five (5) school business days for the purpose of seeking additional information.

- 19.12.1 The written finding(s) of and recommendation(s) of the Hearing Officer shall be delivered to the Office of the WIAA Executive Director as expeditiously as possible, but in no case later than five (5) school business days of that member school following the date of the conclusion of the hearing or time period for seeking additional information.



- 19.12.2 WIAA Executive Director - The Decision - The WIAA Executive Director shall review the findings and recommendation of the Hearing Officer and shall either affirm or deny the recommendation of the Hearing Officer. The decision rendered by the Executive Director shall be written and shall include the findings and conclusions that support the particular determination and may include conditions for granting eligibility. The decision of the Executive Director is final.
- 19.12.3 A copy of the written decision of the Executive Director in each case shall be delivered to the petitioner-appellant in person or sent by certified mail, with return receipt requested, as expeditiously as possible but in no case later than five (5) school business days of that member school following the date of the conclusion of the hearing or time period for seeking additional information.
- 19.12.4 Any student who remains aggrieved by a decision of the WIAA Executive Director and/or WIAA Executive Board may appeal to the Superior Court pursuant to RCW 28A.645.010 through RCW 28A.645.030, as now or hereafter amended.
- 19.13.0 APPEAL PROCESS FOR EJECTION FROM CONTEST** - An appeal of the penalty shall proceed as follows:
- 19.13.1 **Judgment calls by a contest official may NOT be appealed.** Ejections resulting from a misinterpretation or misapplication on the part of the ejecting contest official(s) only may be appealed. Pictures, video and/or replay recording devices may not be used to determine whether an ejection was due to judgment, misinterpretation or misapplication on the part of the ejecting contest official(s).
- 19.13.2 Verbal notification of the intent to appeal shall be given to the contest official by the coach of the ejected person prior to the "next live ball" or resumption of play. The verbal notification shall be based on an identified misapplication or misinterpretation of a specific rule.
- 19.13.3 An appeal may be heard by the principal/designee of the ejected person. Providing the principal/designee finds a misapplication or misinterpretation of the rule, the principal/designee may stay the suspension, but may not vacate the ejection. The principal/designee must contact the WIAA office to verify the misapplication or misinterpretation of the rule prior to contacting the league.
- 19.13.4 The principal or designee will report his/her decision and rationale to the league of the school's membership for review within one (1) school business day after the conclusion of the contest in which the ejection occurred.
- 19.13.5 The hearing procedures, as outlined in 28.0.0, shall be followed. The league shall review and either affirm the decision of the principal/designee with the understanding that the one (1) contest suspension shall not be assessed or overrule the decision of the principal/designee, whereby the ejected person shall be required to serve the one (1) contest suspension. Any league action shall be in writing and specify the reasons for the league decision. Failure of a school for any reason to enforce the regulation and/or decision of the league will be considered a school violation.
- 19.13.6 For tournaments, qualifying and/or state events any appeal will be heard by the games committee, providing the appeal was approved by the school principal/designee. A decision will be given no later than two (2) hours before the next event in which the ejected person might participate.
- 19.13.7 Providing the games committee finds misapplication or misinterpretation of a rule, the penalty may be vacated.
- 19.13.8 Failure of the school to enforce the regulation or decision will result in the disqualification from and forfeiture of all remaining contests of that event. Due process procedures of the WIAA Handbook and Rule Violations and Penalties will apply to any further action.
- 19.13.9 The severity of the penalty for the second ejection **or for aggressive physical contact** may be appealed to the WIAA Executive Director upon presentation of rationale and written documentation signed by the WIAA member school principal or superintendent desiring and supporting penalty modification within two (2) school business days after the conclusion of the contest in which the ejection occurred.
- 19.14.0 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. 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.

- A. Whenever the eligibility of a student is protested in the manner described above, a representative of the school which the student attends shall notify the student of his/her protested ineligibility and right to apply to the WIAA District Eligibility Committee as prescribed in Article 19 of the Handbook concerning his/her eligibility.
- B. In addition to the above, the District Eligibility Chairperson may appoint a Fact Finder to investigate matters pertaining to the protest. Refer to Appendix 12, Procedures for WIAA Fact-Finding.
- C. 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.

**WIAA RULE 19.0.0: THE WIAA ELIGIBILITY APPEAL PROCESS Q and A**

**19.0.0 THE ELIGIBILITY APPEAL PROCESS**

**1. Where can I get the WIAA Eligibility Forms?**

You can get the Eligibility forms three ways:  
 On the WIAA Web site at [www.wiaa.com](http://www.wiaa.com), click on publications/student eligibility packet  
 Contact the athletic director at your high school  
 Call the WIAA Office at 425-687-8585 to request the forms. (19.3.0E)

**2. 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. (19.7.0)

**3. How will I be notified of the date and time of my eligibility hearing?**

The WIAA District Eligibility Chairperson will send you notification by certified mail of the date, time and place of your eligibility hearing. Your athletic director will also be provided the hearing information. (19.8.0)

**4. 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. (19.6.0)

You should be present for the hearing, and you can bring any number of other people to represent and support your appeal. (19.8.1)

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. (19.8.1)

The hearing will be tape recorded, but all information at the hearing is confidential. (19.8.3)

A normal hearing will take 15 to 30 minutes depending upon the complexity of the information involved in your appeal.

You will be notified of the results of your appeal following your hearing. A certified letter will be sent within five school business days following the date of your hearing. (19.9.0)

**5. 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. (19.10.0)

6. **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 will not be able to appeal this ejection because the coach did not give verbal notification to the umpire prior to the "next live ball." (19.13.2)  
 Note: Judgment calls are not subject to appeal. (19.13.1)
7. **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?**  
 There is no appeal of judgment calls by a game official. (19.13.1)

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## 23.0.0 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.*

**AFFIRMATION OF GOALS 2.2.1 AND 2.2.2 OF THE ASSOCIATION. THEREFORE:**

**23.1.0 EMPLOYEE OF THE DISTRICT** - No school team or individual contestant shall be eligible to represent a school in an athletic contest unless the coach is an employee of the school district in which he/she coaches. 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.

23.1.1 Coaching stipends and all gifts to a coach exceeding a total of \$500 in a season must be approved by the school's board of directors.

**23.2.0 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.

**23.3.0 TRAINING** - Interscholastic coaches, paid and/or volunteer, shall 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. For initial employment as a paid and/or volunteer interscholastic coach, an individual must meet the following requirements:

**23.3.1 COACHING REQUIREMENTS** - Described below are the minimum standards for a paid and/or volunteer interscholastic coach for employment, progressive employment, and continuous employment.

- A. Hold a valid current "hands-on" First Aid Certification or have completed a School District approved "**hands-on**" Athletic Training/Sports Medicine course equivalent to the Red Cross First Aid Card training or be enrolled in a "hands on" 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.
- B. Hold a valid current "hands-on" CPR Certification or be enrolled in a "hands-on" CPR Course.
- C. Red Cross Safety Training for Swim Coaches or Lifeguard Certification is required for all swim coaches. Red Cross Safety Training for Swim Coaches or U.S. Diving Safety certification is required for diving coaches.
- D. "Hands on" pole Vault Coaches Training is required for Pole Vault Coaches. Coaches must be recertified every three (3) years.
- E. "Hands-on" Stunt Certification is required for Cheer Coaches and dance/drill coaches who intend to have their cheer **or dance/drill** squad(s) perform stunts. The certification program must be approved by the Washington State Cheer Coaches Association, the Washington State Dance/Drill Coaches Association, or the WIAA. Coaches must be recertified every three (3) years.
- F. The Employing School District will require:
  1. Washington State Patrol Criminal History Information Form required by RCW 43.43.830 on file.
  2. The OSPI Moral Character Supplement Form 4020B be completed.
- G. The Coach Must Satisfy the Following Requirements:
  1. Be a high school graduate or have completed a graduation equivalency diploma (GED) program, except as in d. below
    - a. Be at least 21 years of age to be a head coach.