

# Hockey Rule

## Questions & Answers

(updated 2-13-09)

2-13-09

### Players on the Ice Prior to the Start of a Period

**QUESTION:** How many players can be on the ice prior to the start of a period?

**INTERPRETATION:** NFHS Rule 2, Section 4 Starting Lineups, Article 2, Teams shall be on the ice, ready to play promptly at the beginning of each period. After the first period, starting players shall remain in their half of the ice and proceed to the center ice face-off positions. All remaining players shall proceed directly to their benches, unless modified by state association adoption. The WIAA has not modified this NFHS regulation.

### Rescheduling Games

**QUESTION:** Can a hockey game be rescheduled after the WIAA tournament series has begun?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes, per WIAA Season Regulation, 6., d., page 23, No game may be scheduled (but a game may be rescheduled if postponed) after either of the schools involved in the rescheduled event has begun WIAA tournament series play.

### Multi-Game Formats

**QUESTION:** I just want to be sure we are clear on the format of the Marathon Cup Tournament. We play on Thursday (2 games), Saturday winners play & losers play. Then, about a week or 10 days later, the teams that did not meet, play each other. Because we count these as Valley Conference games, we have to make sure we play that third game. Will we be able to use this as one exposure for all 3 games?

**INTERPRETATION:** The Marathon Cup can continue to be a tournament providing three exposures that count as one of two multi-games allowed on a 20 game schedule as we are limiting these multi-games to a maximum of three. For most tournaments, these games will be played within a three calendar day period. However, in this case, with schools so close together and no loss of school time, the third game can be played within six days of the first game. This will allow a Thursday-Saturday-Tuesday model to be implemented.

### Appreciation Nights

**QUESTION:** Our hockey booster club would like to have a student fan appreciation night on 2/5. To show their appreciation for our student fans they would like to hand every student that comes through the doors a ticket for a random prize drawing. Throughout the game they will randomly draw tickets and announce the winners of prizes. This would be an opportunity for all of the students that come through the doors to be a fan for the game.

**INTERPRETATION:** On the surface, the appreciation night you are planning looks to be OK. So long as it is promoted and advertised to encourage the entire student body to attend, followed by a random drawing of all students in attendance and is not skill related to a sport, there does not appear to be any potential peril for student-athlete eligibility.

### Co-ops

**QUESTION:** We have experienced a series of injuries on our JV hockey team. Can a JV school team co-op with another school so that we have enough hockey players to maintain a JV program?

**INTERPRETATION:** WIAA language pertaining to JV co-op programs remains silent. This allows schools to co-op with other schools within their geographical area at the JV level without WIAA approval. If a school decides to co-op during the season with a school in their area, they need to be certain both schools approve of this co-op, all students involved have filed a WIAA Physical Exam form with their school's office and that all eligibility requirements have been met.

**QUESTION:** What are the options for a student-athlete playing on our JV ice hockey team to play on our varsity squad if they do not attend one of the approved schools in our co-op?

**INTERPRETATION:** Student-athletes seeking varsity opportunities for practice and competition must be full-time students enrolled and approved for play at a WIAA member school that has been approved as a co-op or a stand-alone ice hockey program.

### **Spectator Behavior**

**QUESTION:** Are cowbells and thundersticks allowed during the WIAA tournament series?

**INTERPRETATION:** WIAA/NFHS regulations do not restrict the use of cowbells or thundersticks during the WIAA Ice Hockey tournament series.

**QUESTION:** If a student-athlete records a hat trick and the fans throw their hats on the ice, is the home team assessed a delay of game minor?

**INTERPRETATION:** When hats are thrown on the ice, this is a game management matter, not an issue for the officials to assess penalties. It is best to have game management inform spectators in advance that throwing anything onto the ice is first of all dangerous, and secondly unacceptable behavior. This includes the throwing of hats following a hat trick. Spectators identified throwing anything onto the ice need to be made aware that doing so will result in removal from a contest. This has, at times, resulted in spectators or groups of spectators being asked to leave an ice rink.

There is no fair way for officials to implement a penalty as it would be too easy for a spectator from another school to go near a home school's spectator seating area, begin throwing something on the ice and then have the officials assess a two-minute penalty.

**QUESTION:** In girl's hockey, are bandannas permitted?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes, bandannas are permitted under ice hockey helmets for boys and girls. At the state tournament we ask the player's to take them off along with any headgear they may be wearing for the playing of the National Anthem.

### **Medical**

**QUESTION:** Can a cast be worn by an ice hockey player? If so, does it need to be padded?

**INTERPRETATION:** In the WIAA Medical Policies and Procedures Handbook on page 23, there is a chart that identifies Non-Required Equipment. Cast/Splint is found in the first column. Here you will find that a cast/splint is allowed; it must be padded; and the player must have a medical release at the game site.

### **Individual Participation Limitations**

**QUESTION:** In determining the number of periods an ice hockey player competes in a day, does overtime count as a period or an extension of the third period?

**INTERPRETATION:** Overtime is considered to be an extension of the third period. When an overtime

**occurs, it does not count towards a player's total number of periods played.**

**QUESTION:** If a two-minute penalty continues into the next period of play, does an ice hockey player have to count that period as a period of play towards his/her five allowed periods in a day if he/she completes the penalty and then goes directly to the player's bench area?

**INTERPRETATION:** No, whenever a penalty runs into the next period and the player does not participate at all in the period, the period does not count as one of the five allowed periods for a player in one day. If the player were to return to the ice and competition or return to play during another portion of that period, then the period would have to count as one of the five allowed periods in a day.

**QUESTION:** Can a goalie play more than five periods in one day if a school hockey team only has two goalies and one gets hurt during the JV game?

**INTERPRETATION:** No, WIAA Season Regulations, 7. Individual Participation Limitations, A student may be a member of two different school level teams in the same calendar week. When a student plays in two different levels of competition on the same day, (e.g. JV/varsity) they may not participate in more than five periods in any single day. If a goalie gets hurt during a JV game and a school team has only two goalies, either the second goalie has to play and may not exceed a total of five periods or another team player has to become the goalie.

### Eligibility

**QUESTION:** Can a 7th grade girl practice with the varsity team in girl's hockey? She is a goalie and the coach wondered if she could practice?

**INTERPRETATION:** WIAA regulations prevent 7th and 8th graders from competing with high school programs. This is a situation the WIAA has been reviewing during the past three years as it relates to allowing 8th graders to compete on 9th grade teams. At the 2004 Annual Meeting, the WIAA membership strongly approved of a By-Law change separating competition between 8th graders and 9th graders in WIAA school programs. This WIAA By-Law change began with a request from the WIAA Middle Level/Jr. High School Council and was fully supported at all WIAA committee levels. As we went through the first year of this waiver last year, we found there were concerns pertaining to red-shirting, recruitment, use of non-school programs for team selection, selection of players for high school programs as early as seventh grade and other concerning situations that were not appropriate for school programs. Please do not take this to in any way indicate that your school was involved in these situations, it is simply that there were numerous school football, basketball, baseball, softball, tennis and volleyball programs involved. Many of these programs contacted our office well in advance of the school season. This raised numerous questions about allowing this waiver to be used. Even in our smallest member schools we have found that numerous school programs are actually "discouraging" student participation rather than "encouraging" more students to participate in programs like basketball and volleyball where large numbers are not needed to field a team that is two-deep at all positions. This is contrary to what we see in other sports. In addition, if a school program cannot gather enough student-athletes from a particular class to form a team, then, perhaps, that program should not be offered. Parents become very concerned when ever a student is allowed to even practice with a high school program. With these thoughts in mind, last spring the WIAA membership approved a new regulation allowing 9th graders to compete on 7th-8th grade teams when conditions present themselves. As this relates to the allowance of "practice" by 8th graders on high school teams, WIAA regulations remain silent on this matter. Consequently, this remains a local school district's philosophical position. Obviously, similar concerns to those listed above can easily develop. This is especially true when one 7th or 8th grader is allowed to "practice" with a high school program while other 7th-8th grade students are not provided this privilege. The effect of allowing a seventh or eighth grader to even "practice" with a school team has a tendency to lead to a dramatic impact on school sponsored programs. In considering the allowance of 7th & 8th graders to "practice" on high school teams, the WIAA

**encourages school districts to discuss this matter carefully with their coaching staffs, school administration and school board in hopes of developing a policy that will work for that school district.**

**QUESTION:** Can a student-athlete who has never been out for our high school ice hockey team report to the team and be allowed to join the high school ice hockey team after the first day of practice?

**INTERPRETATION:** Obviously, this causes concerns regarding displacement of other players on the team who have been working for certain spots on the team during the entire year. Consequently, decisions to allow a student-athlete who has never been out for a school team to join a high school team after the season has begun and after try-outs and/or cuts have been made is a school's decision. WIAA regulations indicate: "A student who was a member of a school team in a given sport during the previous year may not delay reporting for the school team beyond the school's official opening day of practice . . ."

**QUESTION:** We have a family moving to our community that wants to talk to our ice hockey coach, visit a practice and a game to get a better idea of our ice hockey program. Is this allowed?

**INTERPRETATION:** WIAA Rules of Eligibility, Article II, Section 3, 8), No eligibility will be granted for a student whose residence within a school's attendance boundaries, with or without parents, or whose attendance at a school has been the result of undue influence (special consideration due to athletic ability or potential) on the part of any person, whether or not connected with the school. Anyone can purchase a ticket and attend a game. That is no problem. To allow parents or a student to attend a practice requires the following question to be asked: Does the school have a policy regarding allowance of open practice sessions to the general public? If so, a student and his/her family could be allowed to attend. If not, then they can not attend. Regarding programming at the school, the admissions counselor, principal and athletic director are the school representatives that should be involved in providing information to the interested family/student. Coaches, if parents and/or students happen to come to see them, need politely indicate that they can sit down and discuss their program later, after the student is officially enrolled in their school.

### **Number of Players in the Team Box**

**QUESTION:** How many non-players can be in the team box during the regular season?

**INTERPRETATION:** WIAA Season Regulations, 15., page 24, There is no limit to squad size and no limit on nonplayers in the team box during the regular season.

**QUESTION:** How about during the tournament series?

**INTERPRETATION:** WIAA Tournament Procedures, 3., page 25, The maximum number of participants for each tournament game is 20. Each participating school will be allowed a maximum of 20 players in full uniform for each tournament game. A school may have no more than four non-player personnel on the bench, plus one additional medical personnel for a total of five non-player personnel on the bench.

**QUESTION:** Can hockey player be on a junior program's roster during the WIAA season?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes, there are no WIAA eligibility restrictions that prevent a student-athlete from being on the roster of a nonschool program during a WIAA season.

**1-16-09**

### **Multiple Games Scheduling**

**QUESTION:** Can you give me a clear explanation on next season's multiple games with no school time missed

games? How often can we do this? Is this only done during Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks? What if 2 schools play Friday night and Saturday night weekend series, will this count as 1 game? If you play in a 3 game tournament does it count has 1 or 2 games?

**INTERPRETATION: The regulation has been approved as follows:**

**“Of the 20 contests currently allowed, two contests may be designated as multi-games between another school or schools, which will count as one of the maximum total contests provided no members of the team are dismissed from academic classes in order to play or travel.”**

To respond to questions:

**Q: How often can we do this?**

**A: Two multi-game tournaments/round-robin events can be scheduled during the regular season. All teams involved must adhere to not being dismissed from academic classes in order to play or travel. Tournaments and round-robin events can be scheduled at times other than holiday breaks. However, all school teams involved cannot be dismissed from academic classes to play or travel.**

**Q: What if two schools play Fri. night and Sat. night weekend series, will this count has one game?**

**A: Allowed as one of the multi-games. Counts as one (1) game.**

**Q: If you play in a 3 game tournament does it count has 1 or 2 games?**

**A: Playing in a three game tournament counts as one game so long as all school teams involved are not dismissed from academic classes to play or travel and all schools count this multi-game as one of their two allowed multi-games.**

**As various questions and scheduling situations have been brought my way in recent weeks, I have been informing athletic directors of the following as well:**

**Tournaments and round-robin events need to limited to a maximum of three games played over a maximum of a three consecutive day period.**

### **Noisemakers**

**QUESTION:** I’ve read the noisemaker policy on your web site, and have a question with regards to it. While attending a H.S. hockey game home team’s goal was scored, the score officials sounded something similar to a cannon shot followed by horn (diesel type). I’m not sure if these sounds were recorded or live, or whether or not that matters. My question is if this is within the policy stated on your web page regarding noisemakers?

**INTERPRETATION: During the regular season, matters of neutrality for contests are the responsibility of the conference (if a conference game) or the host school (if a nonconference game). During the WIAA tournament series, the WIAA has responsibility for matters like this. In ice hockey, the use of “Fog Horns” whether recorded or live has become quite popular during recent years. The problem with the use of “Fog Horns” is that a minor official, who is to be as neutral as possible, is usually responsible for blowing the fog horn. The WIAA informs host schools during our tournament series that if a fog horn is to be blown following a goal for the host school, it must also be blown following the scoring of a goal by the visiting team. Otherwise, it should not be blown at all. During the regular season, this is a regulation that many schools and conferences have applied to their school contests. Many times, because there are also non-school contests played at rinks, this is misapplied.**

### **Jr. High School Students Practicing with High School Teams**

**QUESTION:** I have a 7th grade son and a 10th grade son. Both play hockey. If given the option, I believe my 7<sup>th</sup> grade son would choose to “practice only” with the high school rather than play youth hockey as an 8th grader. This would also put both boys on the same schedule saving on time and travel expenses. If it were legal with the WIAA, I would discuss it with the coach to see if he thought it would be in the best interest of both our sons and the high school program. There is one other family with the exact same circumstances as ours that may also consider this if it were an option.

**INTERPRETATION:** WIAA regulations do prevent students in 8th grade and below from competing in high school level competitions. While taking “time and turns” away from students already “in high school” would never be recommended, here, WIAA rules do not prevent middle level students in your district from “practicing” with the high school team if that’s what your administration approves of. Because of ramifications across all your schools programs, this ought to be an administrative determination, not a coach’s prerogative. I would presume this to be an opportunity your district would make available then to all the district’s middle level students with the same circumstances and interest in such an opportunity. We have found grave unhappiness and concern to exist in parents and student-athletes of a feeder program when only certain middle level students are provided the opportunity to practice/work out with a high school team.

**QUESTION:** We had an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student from another school system in our community practice with the high school hockey team during the holiday break. Is this OK?

**INTERPRETATION:** No, allowing 8<sup>th</sup> graders from another school system to practice with a high school team is an unacceptable recruiting practice.

### **Financing Ice Hockey School Programs**

**QUESTION:** I am the president of our hockey booster club, I recently received a check from the host school of our co-op hockey program. Can I use this check to reduce the amount each student-athlete owes for being on the hockey team?

**INTERPRETATION:** No, there are a number of concerns with this matter. First, the WIAA cannot consider this hockey program to be a WIAA school program if the booster club is receiving checks from the school. The member school must be the recipient of funds for their athletic programs. The cash flow for this program is unacceptable and needs to be changed so that all funds are sent to the school, the school administration gets funds they receive approved through the school’s gift acceptance policy and then distributes them appropriately. The current mechanics for the cashflow of your program as indicated above will prevent this program from being involved in the WIAA tournament series. Also, WIAA Amateur Status regulations prevent student-athletes from receiving reimbursement or award in any form of (a) salary, (b) cash, (c) merchandise of any kind or amount or (d) share of game or season proceeds, for achievement in athletics. Receipt of funds to reduce a student-athlete’s participation fee must be considered a violation of this regulation. For situations like this, reversing the cash flow so that the school receives these funds allows school administrators to appropriately distribute these funds within Amateur Status regulations.

### **Prohibited Activities/Materials**

**QUESTION:** Where do the WIAA regulations indicate that alcohol may not be served at high school contests?

**INTERPRETATION:** Be mindful, that providing or promoting alcohol and/or tobacco products during any high school event is an inappropriate promotion that is not legal nor healthy for high school age students to be involved in. This is a promotion that will likely be viewed in a very negative way within any community.

WIAA regulations as found on page 49 of the WIAA Sr. High School Handbook, WIAA Tournament Policies, Prohibited Activities/Materials, indicates: “No alcoholic beverages, tobacco products or illegal substances may be available or present at high school events.” Obviously, this directly pertains to WIAA Tournament contests; however, many conferences and schools have similar policies to enforce the regulation of alcohol and tobacco products.

**QUESTION:** Is there an age requirement for hockey because next year I will be 13 and going to be a freshman, so I was wondering if I could play high school hockey at 13 years old?

**INTERPRETATION:** WIAA eligibility regulations indicate that to be eligible for WIAA interscholastic programs you need to be a full-time student and living within the school boundaries of the school you are enrolled. So long as you are enrolled next year at your high school and that school maintains their co-op status with the current co-op or has an ice hockey program of their own, you are eligible to make the team. Making the team is up to you.

**QUESTION:** I currently have a freshman goalie that is playing bantam hockey. I was wondering on the ruling, how much he can play at the varsity level?

**INTERPRETATION:** In hockey, as in other WIAA sports, once the hockey season has begun and a student-athlete has begun to practice with his/her school team, they must discontinue competition with any nonschool programs. If a student-athlete should be "cut" from a school team, they may then rejoin the nonschool team. Also, in hockey, if a student-athlete is "cut" from the school team, the WIAA does allow a student to go from the school program to nonschool programs, one time, without resulting in a loss of eligibility for the school team. In other words, if "cut," a student may play bantams and then be asked to return to the school team one time during the school season. If this student should return and play in a nonschool contest, he/she is no longer eligible for the WIAA school team.

**QUESTION:** We have a student on our boy's hockey team that is a senior and will be graduating after the first semester. (He is graduating early) The final day for the 1st Semester is Friday January 16. Second semester begins on Monday, January 19. We have a scheduled hockey game on Saturday January 17. Is he eligible to play in the game on the 17 as the 2nd Semester has not begun yet?

**INTERPRETATION:** The succinct answer is that when school/semester ends Friday – this student is no longer eligible. He will have completed requirements for graduation and is no longer enrolled – or returning/continuing - as your full time student. The only 'exception' to this fundamental requirement our members have identified – allows students who graduate in May or June to complete the remainder of their spring sport season. Ref: WIAA Rules of Eligibility, Art. V, Sect. 1A-8 and 1A-9. (p. 35, Sr. High Handbook)

**QUESTION:** If a freshman girl or boy wants to quit a non-school ice hockey team and play on a high school team, can they?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes, since student is a 9th grader and has no prior status in your school's program, she can be allowed to join the school's team if AD and coaches wish to allow. Rules relative to delayed reporting are found on p.37 of Sr. High Handbook, ROE Art. VI, sect. 1A-2.

**QUESTION:** I am putting a 13 and 14 -year old girls hockey team together for the purpose of playing in a breast cancer fundraiser tournament this weekend. It is a tournament that is sanctioned neither by the WAHA or the WIAA. Can I have high school freshman girls (14-yr. olds) that are rostered on a WIAA team compete in this tournament with me ?

**INTERPRETATION:** No, WIAA ROE, page 37, "It is the philosophy of this Association that a student owes loyalty and allegiance to the school and team of which he/she is a member during the season of a given sport. A student becomes ineligible in a sport for the remainder of the season for competing in non-school game, meet, or contest in the same sport during the season of practice and competition established by the school." A fundraising weekend tournament can only be viewed as a nonschool competition even when the tournament is not sanctioned by WAHA and/or the WIAA.

## Intentional Offsides

**QUESTION:** Last evening we officiated a varsity hockey contest in which we called an intentional offsides because a player caused an offsides in which there was no possibility of completing a legal play. The head coach for the team committing the infraction, who is a very tenured coach, became irate with the call and insisted repeatedly the intentional offsides rule was removed from the rule book over two years ago. The assistant coach insisted the rule in the NFHS rule book was “not to be applied to Wisconsin”. I assume he was referring to a Wisconsin adaptation. It appears clear that rule 6-28-3 provides authority for this infraction, and the 2008-09 examination addressed this rule in its questions. However, was there some attempt to strike this rule that these coaches may be confused with?

**INTERPRETATION:** Based upon the information you have provided, seems you made the correct call. NFHS Rule 6-28-3 was modified about five years ago and this may be what the coach was referring to. However, the change simply removed the description of a player having to be “deeper than the point of the circle” in order for an intentional offsides to be called. The current language allows for a judgment call by the official for an intentional offside. You are correct, if the offside play is made for the purpose of deliberately securing an immediate stoppage of play, regardless of the reason, or where an offside play is made under conditions where there is no possibility of completing a legal play, then the play is blown dead and faced off at the end zone faceoff spot in the defending zone of the offending team.

## Equipment & Uniforms

**QUESTION:** Is there a “warning” in a WIAA hockey game for not using a mouth-guard?

**INTERPRETATION:** No, NFHS Rule 3-4-4 indicates: All players, including goalkeepers, shall wear and have properly inserted into their mouth during the course of play a dental guard which should cover all the remaining teeth of one jaw.

**PENALTY:** For initial violation, offending player shall be immediately replaced on the ice, and the referee shall warn the offending team that subsequent violations by any player of that team shall result in the player being assessed a misconduct. **GOALKEEPER—Minor.**

**QUESTION:** Do hockey uniforms have to have numbers on their sleeves?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes, NFHS Rule 2-1-2 indicates that all players shall wear numbered uniforms. It is required that all players be numbered with at least 10-inch (25.4 cm) high Gothic, colored numbers on the back of their jerseys and the same numbers at least 4 inches (10.16 cm) in height on both sleeves of the jersey. The color of the numbers shall contrast with the color of the jersey.

**QUESTION:** Do ice hockey sweaters have to be “white” when a team is the home team during the regular season?

**INTERPRETATION:** NFHS Rule 2-1-2b indicates: “It is required that the visiting team wear dark-colored uniforms.” This is currently the only NFHS regulation pertaining to the color of a sweater. Visiting teams are to wear their dark jerseys/sweaters while home teams need to wear light colored sweaters. During the WIAA tournament series, 2009 WIAA regulations require the second school alphabetically to wear light colored jerseys.

**QUESTION:** Last year goaltenders had to have a neck protector under their gear separate from the chest protector. Do they still need this?

**INTERPRETATION:** NFHS Rule 3-3-1 now reads as follow: “Required equipment for goalkeepers shall include gloves, skates, stick, protective full face mask, flapper-style throat protector, leg pads and helmet with chin strap.” The regulation goes on to indicate the flapper-style throat protection must be separate, commercially manufactured, unaltered and properly attached to the helmet or face mask. Simply put, the flapper-style throat protector has now replaced the neck protector.

## Four Penalties in One Game

**QUESTION:** After receiving four penalties in a game, must the player receiving these four penalties be removed from the remainder of the contest?

**INTERPRETATION :** Yes, WIAA Season Regulations, 15., b., Any player receiving a total of four penalties (minor,

major, or misconduct) in a game shall be removed from participation for the balance of that game. This does not include bench penalties served by the player or violations resulting in penalty shots. The ejection is not considered a game misconduct or game disqualification.

### Number of Required Officials

**QUESTION:** Can a JV game be officiated by 2 officials, or does there need to be 3 to start the game? I'm looking in the NFHS rules book and it only says that a game shall be officiated by either a two or three official system. I know you need 3 for a varsity game. Can you clarify for me?

**INTERPRETATION:** WIAA Sr. High School Handbook, page 52, indicates—"Hockey (3)–Referee, Assistant Referee, and Linesman—at all levels of competition." Three (3) WIAA registered ice hockey officials are required in order for an ice hockey game to begin.

### Eligibility

**QUESTION:** I have been approached by a few of the players that were cut from the team that would be interested in practicing with the JV team but not playing in any games. Our coach is very interested in having the guys come out and have a red shirt type of season where they can work on their skills and become stronger skaters but not play in any games. We would also outline with these guys the team rules and the expectations for the season. They could also participate with the team as managers or assist the team with stats or other needed activities. Is there a problem with this at all? We would discuss it with all the current players as well to make sure that they understand what the program is all about.

What do you think?

**INTERPRETATION:** Past history in ice hockey has been to "cut" student-athletes and then they are allowed to return to non-school (WAHA) teams. Keep in mind that any student-athlete who is "cut" can be asked to return to the school team one time during the season. If a player returns to the school team and then competes on a non-school team, they are no longer allowed to compete with the school team. In the meantime, a student-athlete can be practicing and/or competing with a non-school team. If a school wishes to keep players they have "cut" and practice with them, the school is allowed to do so. There are no limits during the regular season to the number of players on a school team's bench. The school could develop an additional schedule for them if they choose to do so and are able to gain governing body support. Having student-athletes only practice with/against the varsity team can develop into difficult situations and may be an issue that school administrators want to think very carefully about. In an email the term "red-shirting" is used. Please keep in mind there is no "red-shirting" for high school student-athletes. Each student-athlete has four years of eligibility beginning with the start of their freshmen year. You may wish to review WIAA Rules at a Glance, III., B.

Regarding players remaining as managers, statisticians, etc., school programs are certainly allowed to have student-athletes handle these positions. Keep in mind, they are limited and during the tournament series do have limitations to the number of coaches, managers, and players allowed in the box.

**QUESTION:** My son would like to play hockey but the school has no team. Can he play on a different high school team?

**INTERPRETATION:** Unless a co-op is established or if the student is still in 9th or 10th grade, the only options that now exist for this situation is for a family to make a full and complete move into a new community where the school in that community has ice hockey or play on nonschool programs. Parents need to contact their school's athletic director in these situations if they have a student in 9th or 10th grade or attending a jr. high school or a middle school.

**QUESTION:** Before hockey began, I had a 9th grade player email me and ask my opinion to whether she should play high school hockey or play WAHA U-14 level girls hockey. Because the U-14 team had a returning 11th grade goal tender and another 11th grader who showed interest in the back-up position, I recommended that she play at the U-14 level. We started high school hockey a week ago today, and the potential back-up goalie has informed me she does not want to play goalie leaving my team with just the one. The U-14 player has already begun the U-14 season and has already played 2 games. Is it to late to invite the U-14 player to the high school team? If so, do I need WIAA approval to do so?

**INTERPRETATION:** WIAA provisions require students who were a part of the team last season may not delay reporting 'this' season and must be present on day one of practice.

As you describe this situation, with student being a 9th grader, we see no reason she couldn't come out for the school team at this point in time. Obviously, once she reports to the school team she can no longer continue competition with the club team until the school season's over.

### **Out-of-State Tournaments**

**QUESTION:** Our girl's hockey team is competing in the Schwan Cup later this month in Minnesota. Do I need to fill out a waiver to do this with the WIAA?

**INTERPRETATION:** Simply put, **YES**, the WIAA office does need to provide a waiver to any WIAA school team that participates in this tournament. There have been questions in past years regarding the actual "school" that is hosting this tournament and sanctioning issues associated with this tournament.

### **Fundraisers**

**QUESTION:** We would like to do a fundraiser of some sort with our hockey team for a local cancer campaign. Can we start a program where spectators contribute a certain dollar amount for every goal we score?

**INTERPRETATION:** In simplest terms – "no". The WIAA's Board of Control and the other advisory committees which guide the Board, have taken a clear, firm position opposing any/all fundraisers which are based either on performance within a competition and/or based upon the outcome of a competition. Both from the sportsmanship perspective as well as for the "flavor" of "gaming/gambling" which accompany fundraisers based on performance in competition/outcomes of games... our membership has zero interest in embracing this style of fund raiser. Fund raisers based on – yards rushed, takedowns, shots on goal, goals scored...freethrows/assists, etc., ...etc., any/all of these (and others) are not acceptable/appropriate school/program fundraisers when connected to performance in a competition with another school.

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#### **Intentional Offsides**

**QUESTION:** Last evening we officiated a varsity hockey contest in which we called an intentional offsides because a player caused an offsides in which there was no possibility of completing a legal play. The head coach for the team committing the infraction, who is a very tenured coach, became irate with the call and insisted repeatedly the intentional offsides rule was removed from the rule book over two years ago. The assistant coach insisted the rule in the NFHS rule book was "not to be applied to Wisconsin". I assume he was referring to a Wisconsin adaptation. It appears clear that rule 6-28-3 provides authority for this infraction, and the 2008-09 examination addressed this rule in its questions. However, was there some attempt to strike this rule that these coaches may be confused with?

**INTERPRETATION:** Based upon the information you have provided, seems you made the correct call. NFHS Rule 6-28-3 was modified about five years ago and this may be what the coach was referring to. However, the change simply removed the description of a player having to be "deeper than the point of the circle" in order for an intentional offsides to be called. The current language allows for a judgment call by the official for an intentional offside. You are correct, if the offside play is made for the purpose of deliberately securing an immediate stoppage of play, regardless of the reason, or where an offside play is made under conditions where there is no possibility of completing a legal play, then the play is blown dead and faced off at the end zone faceoff spot in the defending zone of the offending team.

#### **Equipment & Uniforms**

**QUESTION:** Is there a "warning" in a WIAA hockey game for not using a mouth-guard?

**INTERPRETATION:** No, NFHS Rule 3-4-4 indicates: All players, including goalkeepers, shall wear and have properly inserted into their mouth during the course of play a dental guard which should cover all the remaining teeth of one jaw.

**PENALTY:** For initial violation, offending player shall be immediately replaced on the ice, and the referee shall warn the offending team that subsequent violations by any player of that team shall result in the player being assessed a misconduct. **GOALKEEPER—Minor.**

**QUESTION:** Do hockey uniforms have to have numbers on their sleeves?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes, NFHS Rule 2-1-2 indicates that all players shall wear numbered uniforms. It is required that all players be numbered with at least 10-inch (25.4 cm) high Gothic, colored numbers on the back of their jerseys and the same numbers at least 4 inches (10.16 cm) in height on both sleeves of the jersey. The color of the numbers

shall contrast with the color of the jersey.

**QUESTION:** Do ice hockey sweaters have to be “white” when a team is the home team during the regular season?

**INTERPRETATION:** NFHS Rule 2-1-2b indicates: “It is required that the visiting team wear dark-colored uniforms.” This is currently the only NFHS regulation pertaining to the color of a sweater. Visiting teams are to wear their dark jerseys/sweaters while home teams need to wear light colored sweaters. During the WIAA tournament series, 2009 WIAA regulations require the second school alphabetically to wear light colored jerseys.

**QUESTION:** Last year goaltenders had to have a neck protector under their gear separate from the chest protector. Do they still need this?

**INTERPRETATION:** NFHS Rule 3-3-1 now reads as follow: “Required equipment for goalkeepers shall include gloves, skates, stick, protective full face mask, flapper-style throat protector, leg pads and helmet with chin strap.” The regulation goes on to indicate the flapper-style throat protection must be separate, commercially manufactured, unaltered and properly attached to the helmet or face mask. Simply put, the flapper-style throat protector has now replaced the neck protector.

#### Four Penalties in One Game

**QUESTION:** After receiving four penalties in a game, must the player receiving these four penalties be removed from the remainder of the contest?

**INTERPRETATION :** Yes, WIAA Season Regulations, 15., b., Any player receiving a total of four penalties (minor, major, or misconduct) in a game shall be removed from participation for the balance of that game. This does not include bench penalties served by the player or violations resulting in penalty shots. The ejection is not considered a game misconduct or game disqualification.

#### Number of Required Officials

**QUESTION:** Can a JV game be officiated by 2 officials, or does there need to be 3 to start the game? I’m looking in the NFHS rules book and it only says that a game shall be officiated by either a two or three official system. I know you need 3 for a varsity game. Can you clarify for me?

**INTERPRETATION:** WIAA Sr. High School Handbook, page 52, indicates—”Hockey (3)–Referee, Assistant Referee, and Linesman—at all levels of competition.” Three (3) WIAA registered ice hockey officials are required in order for an ice hockey game to begin.

#### Eligibility

**QUESTION:** I have been approached by a few of the players that were cut from the team that would be interested in practicing with the JV team but not playing in any games. Our coach is very interested in having the guys come out and have a red shirt type of season where they can work on their skills and become stronger skaters but not play in any games. We would also outline with these guys the team rules and the expectations for the season. They could also participate with the team as managers or assist the team with stats or other needed activities. Is there a problem with this at all? We would discuss it with all the current players as well to make sure that they understand what the program is all about. What do you think?

**INTERPRETATION:** Past history in ice hockey has been to “cut” student-athletes and then they are allowed to return to non-school (WAHA) teams. Keep in mind that any student-athlete who is “cut” can be asked to return to the school team one time during the season. If a player returns to the school team and then competes on a non-school team, they are no longer allowed to compete with the school team. In the meantime, a student-athlete can be practicing and/or competing with a non-school team. If a school wishes to keep players they have “cut” and practice with them, the school is allowed to do so. There are no limits during the regular season to the number of players on a school team’s bench. The school could develop an additional schedule for them if they choose to do so and are able to gain governing body support. Having student-athletes only practice with/against the varsity team can develop into difficult situations and may be an issue that school administrators want to think very carefully about. In an email the term “red-shirting” is used. Please keep in mind there is no “red-shirting” for high school student-athletes. Each student-athlete

has four years of eligibility beginning with the start of their freshmen year. You may wish to review WIAA Rules at a Glance, III., B.

Regarding players remaining as managers, statisticians, etc., school programs are certainly allowed to have student-athletes handle these positions. Keep in mind, they are limited and during the tournament series do have limitations to the number of coaches, managers, and players allowed in the box.

**QUESTION:** My son would like to play hockey but the school has no team. Can he play on a different high school team?

**INTERPRETATION:** Unless a co-op is established or if the student is still in 9th or 10th grade, the only options that now exist for this situation is for a family to make a full and complete move into a new community where the school in that community has ice hockey or play on nonschool programs. Parents need to contact their school's athletic director in these situations if they have a student in 9th or 10th grade or attending a jr. high school or a middle school.

**QUESTION:** Before hockey began, I had a 9th grade player email me and ask my opinion to whether she should play high school hockey or play WAHA U-14 level girls hockey. Because the U-14 team had a returning 11th grade goal tender and another 11th grader who showed interest in the back-up position, I recommended that she play at the U-14 level. We started high school hockey a week ago today, and the potential back-up goalie has informed me she does not want to play goalie leaving my team with just the one. The U-14 player has already begun the U-14 season and has already played 2 games. Is it to late to invite the U-14 player to the high school team? If so, do I need WIAA approval to do so?

**INTERPRETATION:** WIAA provisions require students who were a part of the team last season may not delay reporting 'this' season and must be present on day one of practice.

As you describe this situation, with student being a 9th grader, we see no reason she couldn't come out for the school team at this point in time. Obviously, once she reports to the school team she can no longer continue competition with the club team until the school season's over.

#### Out-of-State Tournaments

**QUESTION:** Our girl's hockey team is competing in the Schwan Cup later this month in Minnesota. Do I need to fill out a waiver to do this with the WIAA?

**INTERPRETATION:** Simply put, YES, the WIAA office does need to provide a waiver to any WIAA school team that participates in this tournament. There have been questions in past years regarding the actual "school" that is hosting this tournament and sanctioning issues associated with this tournament.

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**10-24-08**

### **Recruiting**

**QUESTION:** I was told about a player from Town A that had played his club hockey in Town B. I talked to him and his parents about coming to School C for school and playing hockey. He is an 8th grader now. He is in the Town A School District. My question is, can he come and play with our team this summer (in June) for our five days of contact? He has not made up his mind yet as to which high school he will be attending. I would appreciate any help.

**INTERPRETATION:** First, we need to address the situation of parents/potential student-athletes talking with you, as coach, prior to enrolling at School C High School. These situations seem to happen often in ice hockey and I do this whenever these situations develop to protect the eligibility of the student-athlete and to protect yourself as coach. Any time a parent or potential student-athlete asks you about attending School C High School, you can acknowledge that you are glad to know they are interested in attending School C. However, since they have not enrolled in your school, you are not able to discuss athletic opportunities since WIAA regulations prevent attendance at a WIAA member school where the result of undue influence (special consideration due to athletic

ability or potential) on the part of any person, whether or not connected with the school can jeopardize a student's eligibility. This regulation is found on page 31 of the WIAA Sr. High School Handbook, Rules of Eligibility, Article I, Section 3. This student has no status at your high school until he/she officially enrolls. Once the student enrolls through your admissions office, then you can begin to have discussions with him/her and their family. Until that enrollment process is complete, you do not want to have any conversations with them or their parents.

Then, regarding your question about 8th graders from another school district working out with or competing with another school's team during the summertime contact period—you can now see where the answer to this question is simply, no. This is not allowed. Student-athletes who work out or compete with their school team during the five unrestricted summertime contact days is not allowed. Students involved in these workouts/competitions can only be full-time students enrolled at that high school so long as participation is voluntary and available to all interested students. In addition, I will also identify that students from other schools may not participate in "Open Skates/Gyms" as well. Per WIAA Rules at a Glance, "The open gym is open to any student in the designated population of that school that is interested in attending."

### **Team Resemblance**

**QUESTION: I'm inquiring about members of the Team AAA, which is a non-school girls hockey team, playing fall hockey (pre-season) with a league in Minnesota during the months of August-September. I understand there is a WIAA rule of not more than 3 or more players playing organized games. I was also told that it is not being enforced at this time. Could you please advise me of whether or not this is allowed or not?**

**INTERPRETATION:** The 'hard numbers' limits given earlier this spring for defining non school teams have been placed in moratorium. They will not be in effect in the next school year.

Status quo prevails; i.e. The former rule: "an acceptable nonschool program is one which is not limited to students based on school and/or team status" - and - non school activities in which students are engaged "may not resemble in any way a school's team practicing or competing out-of-season". In saying the most recent interpretation will not take effect, our members must still acknowledge that the status quo does not diminish the very real threats to them, their teams and tournament opportunities. But, they have been advised. Best friendly advice, best practice - we can offer to make sure the school's team is not placed in peril - is to be certain the club team is diverse and is not able to be identified as just the school's team assembling and competing outside the season. The distractions created by the allegations of violation we receive at tournament time would seem to me to be reason enough to make the school's team as bullet proof as possible. The consensus is that no pre-season team should be made up exclusively of students from same school. Merely grade level diversification is not acceptable.

### **Open Skating**

**QUESTION: I have a question about the preseason high school open hockey sessions. Can a coach of the team be the adult supervisor for these sessions as long as they do not coach any of the sessions, provide instructions on how the sessions should run or have any ice related role? The reason I ask is the rink needs to have adult supervisors for these open ice sessions and we are trying to determine who can help the rink complete this supervision. I do know that team coaches can't be involved on the ice or provide any coaching to the players but I am unclear on whether they can supervise.**

**INTERPRETATION:** This past spring the WIAA Board of Control approved, the following change of interpretation: Effective immediately, coaches will now be allowed to recreate with student-athletes in out-of-season open gym settings that are purely recreational, i.e., there is no instruction, sport skill demonstration, organized drills, or resemblance of a practice being conducted. First, remember that Open Gyms are 'school sponsored' programming made known, open and available to any interested student in your school's student population. Open Gyms may include members of the community. \*Coaches may now skate, outside of the season with students, including members of the team (even during the school year - outside of the season) during open skates. \*Coaches should be advised that this (must) be casual (recreational) connected to the school's open gym, con-

ditioning for (any interested student), e.g., \*The opportunity must be voluntary and may not be restricted to hockey athletes, only. Include any interested student – same as required in all open-gyms. Do not include athletes from other schools. \*Opportunity may not resemble a “practice”; e.g., coach with a watch & clipboard, interval running, taking attendance, posting a specific/required work out, e.g. Review Rule At A Glance Text regarding open gym for additional/specifics about open gyms. Nothing has changed with respect to a coach’s inability to organize, mandate attendance, coach/instruct, demonstrate and/or direct a practice, e.g., in an open gym setting. Nothing has changed with respect to the stated philosophy for open gyms. Really, the only element which has changed is that prior to this, coaches could only supervise open gyms. Now, coaches “playing” along with the students – in open gyms - will not be considered a violation of open gym provisions. That notion and image - of ‘pure play’ - has been a central one in the deliberations leading to this new interpretation. The new, added text we think is very clear: “Coaches may be allowed to recreate with students and other faculty in open gym settings, provided they are purely recreational in nature.” Look over the existing text of open gyms and in particular the philosophy...then consider the new text. The new interpretation as approved by the Board, now allows coaches to participate with students in an open-gym - in a recreational climate/activity/manner. Can you take a few shots with the puck, can you throw and play catch, can you take some turns pitching – sure/perhaps; in a climate of “play and recreation”... and not one which will easily be described only as preseason hockey practice. It is advisable to think carefully of what you will and/or won’t take part in within your particular open gym environment. What actions will make you, your kids or program vulnerable to the assertions – later on, when parents or students become disgruntled – and will then be described to us as simply, “mandatory, out-of-season practice with the coach directing, providing instruction and feedback”? We think it’s important to recognize that not every open gym might be conducive to a coach ‘playing’ along with students. In addition to the above, it is appropriate to remind coaches as well as school administration that: Schools will continue to hold all responsibility and liability – for a coach participating with students in this setting – should school administration choose to allow it. Again, keep in mind that the Member’s Bylaw (Article II, Handbook p 26), the fundamental rules and fundamental philosophy of/for open gyms – in order to be in compliance with the Bylaw and Rules of Eligibility, have not changed – at all.

### Coaching Contact

**QUESTION: I am working to hire my coaching staff that will help coach this season. One person that I have communicated with has been hired to be an assistant with the before/after season Phoenix Hockey organization. Since we have two players on his before/after program that will be playing on our high school hockey team I wanted to research the rules on this and see if he would have an opportunity to work with the high school team as well. Someone mentioned to me there might be a waiver that we could get to allow him to help coach with us this season as long as he does not coach with the before/after program next year. Is that true? This coach has a lot of experience and would really help our program grow but I wanted to make sure that I follow the proper procedure in this. Any advice you can provide for me would be helpful.**

**INTERPRETATION :** The response to this inquiry is generally, ‘no, not an eligible candidate’ - given recent coaching contact. Typically the ‘emergency coach contact waiver’ is provided if/when - a given candidate can not be hired and the school is confronted with having NO coach. It has not been provided for JV coaches, assistant coaches and the like. My understanding from your note then, is that this prospective coach has not yet had out-of-season contact with your schools players. But WILL have - by virtue of his contract with the club team. If this understanding is accurate, best possible solution might be to see if there are any alternatives available to the coach and/or players, i.e., either the coach get assigned a different team or age group...that does not include players from your school – OR – players get assigned a different club team. If my understanding is accurate – and if either of these two possible out-of-season disconnects was able to be activated, then there would be no peril in hiring this coach...Otherwise, given what’s known, it would be a difficult and unlikely, waiver appeal.

**QUESTION: A head coach (hockey) is asked to run a few summer/fall skills sessions for the local youth program (all participants are under 9th grade level). He will set the practice agenda for the age appro-**

**priateness and would like to use high school players for puck gathering and cone movement and demonstrations. The players are volunteers looking for “volunteer hours” for college entrance.**

**Is this possible?**

**INTERPRETATION:** The first element that we are dealing with is coaching contact outside of the season. You are heading in the right direction with this as coaching contact must conclude by July 31 each year for hockey and other identified sports. Next, student-athletes serving as clinicians must also conclude by July 31. Contact by any coach (head, assistant, volunteer, etc.) after July 31 is considered to be illegal contact unless it is with the coach’s son or daughter. A coach can be involved in a camp or clinic after this date with student-athletes he/she will not be coaching during the upcoming season.

### **Uniforms & Equipment**

**QUESTION: There is concern within our hockey association that hockey helmets must be HECC certified every five years. Since I am new to this position for only a couple of weeks, I said I would check into the ruling. I assume W.I.A.A. rules fall under the Federation of High School Hockey. We are under the impression hockey helmets must be certified every five years. I am looking for clarification so I can one go back to our association and two, if necessary, take a look at our helmets and plan now for any replacement or reconditioning of helmets that may need to be done before the season starts.**

**INTERPRETATION:** I also received a note asking about helmets being HECC certified every five years. The NFHS Rule book indicates there is a requirement for helmets and face masks to meet current HECC/ATM Standards at the time of manufacture (NFHS Rule 3-4-5, page 26). Since there is no language from either the NFHS or the WIAA regarding the recertification of ice hockey helmets, it is the responsibility of the school to monitor the condition of the helmets after purchase. In order to assist schools with liability issues pertaining to concussions and other head trauma, the WIAA has encouraged WIAA Ice Hockey school programs to develop an inventory profile program/system to monitor ice hockey helmets. There are ice hockey programs where the players own their own helmet and others where the school owns the helmets, schools need to identify a program/system for replacing ice hockey helmets. There is no specific number of years when replacements need to be made. Five years seems like a very reasonable length of time. I would encourage discussing this matter with your helmet sales representative.

**QUESTION: Will goalie pads be changing from 12 inches to 11 inches in Wisconsin anytime soon? Our goalie is looking to purchase new pads and do not want to have them be outdated right away. Do you know anything about this?**

**INTERPRETATION:** I am aware of potential rule changes and some discussions that have taken place regarding goalie’s leg pads being reduced from 12 to 11 inches. Although these discussions are taking place with governing bodies, no changes have been made with NFHS or USA regulations. The width continues to be 12 inches for the coming year for both the WIAA and USA ice hockey. USA rules are in place through 2009, the NFHS rules are reviewed on an annual basis; however major changes like these will normally be coordinated with USA rule changes. When/if changes like these are made, there is normally a period of a couple of years for implementation of the new rule to take place. This allows the purchase of equipment to be organized. When/if changes are made in the rules, I will let you know. To purchase 11” goalie pads will never hurt anyone as it is most likely these will be allowed for a long time to come. There continues to be no problem with the purchase and use of 12” wide pads for the year ahead.

**QUESTION: Can teams wear sweaters with laces under the chin and do teams have to wear the same uniform?**

**INTERPRETATION:** NFHS Rule 2-1-2a, page 19, indicates . . .”All members of a team shall wear identical uniforms relative to color of helmets (excluding goalkeepers), jerseys, socks, pants and length of pants.” Neither NFHS nor WIAA regulations speak to the issue of laces. This means they can be allowed on jerseys. Gloves do not have to be the same color.

**QUESTION: I am ordering new girls hockey jerseys this year but I cannot find anything on regulations for numbers. I know basketball has all kinds of uniform restrictions. Do you have anything you can send me on hockey uniform specs?**

**INTERPRETATION:** Uniform specs are found in the NFHS Rule Book, Rule 2-1-2, page 19. Some key points include:

1. It is required that all players be numbered with at least 10-inch (25.4 ccm) high Gothic, colored numbers on the back of their jerseys and the same numbers at least 4 inches (10.16 cm) in height on both sleeves of the jersey.
  2. The color of the numbers shall contrast with the color of the jersey.
  3. Visiting teams are required to wear dark-colored uniforms.
- Hockey has not gotten into some of the issues basketball has.

### **Practice Sessions**

**QUESTION: Now after more closely reading the Handbook, girl's hockey must practice a minimum of 10 practices before the first game. At this point they only have 7 practices on ice. Can three dry land practices count toward the 10?**

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes, dry land practices can be counted toward the 10 minimum practices required. Also keep in mind that another school team may not be involved in the first seven days of practice.

### **Official's Ranking**

**QUESTION: Can you explain my ranking? Since I do most of my high school refereeing in Minnesota I am not up on how the system works in Wisconsin. I have the computerized sheet showing some schools that ranked me as a result of playoffs. It is not clear to me if this was coaches that ranked me and who if anyone else did or should have ranked me? The computerized numbers and the handwritten number tell 2 different stories. I am not sure what the "TOP 10 List" (60% of ranking) is. Regardless I will continue to play a supportive role as needed.**

**INTERPRETATION:** Only head coaches who have seen you officiate—in games, while scouting, etc. – are allowed to provide a rank for you each year. Coaches are allowed to rank each official in two ways:

1. Top 10 List—this is a list that each head coach is allowed to provide. Coaches rank 10 officials 1-10 who they believe should receive an opportunity to officiate the State Tournament in Madison. I break down each time a coach identifies you as a Top 10 Official and the position (1-10) where they place you. Points are distributed on a six-point scale and awarded for each ranking, added up and divided by the number of rankings for your score on the Top 10 List. This Top 10 ranking is given 60% of your overall ranking.
2. Coaches Ranking Form—this is a form where coaches can give you a ranking of 1-6. From this form we take each ranking, for each five rankings, we toss out the high score and the low score with a maximum of 2 high and 2 low rankings thrown out to identify your average. These scores are then added and divided by the number of scores to identify your Coaches Ranking score. This score is given 40% of your overall ranking.
3. The Top 10 List and the Coaches Ranking Form scores are averaged together to identify your overall score. This is the score that is used to determine your rank for WIAA Tournament officiating.

**QUESTION: This is a hockey tournament that includes school teams from Canada we are scheduled to play in this winter. The e-mail I forwarded to you has the place we are playing, the teams involved and we play three games. We don't know who we play yet. Can you tell by this if this is ok to play in, or do you need more info?**

**INTERPRETATION:** We will need a little more info, confirmed.

(I am uncertain how National Federation views Canadian Province schools for sanctioning purposes – whether they consider provinces the same as 'bordering states', or not)

So as a result what we simply need answers to:

Please verify with the event sponsor:

Given conditions as outlined in Bylaws Art. II Sect 5-G – it does not appear this event requires NF sanction-

ing. We would still need to have confirmed:

☐ Are all participating schools 9-12 high schools and members of their respective state High School (or Provincial) Associations?

**QUESTION: My girl's hockey ice time scheduler informed me that we need to inform you that we have, for our 20th game, scheduled, Ozaukee WAHA. They will play at Stoughton on January 12, 2009.**

**Is there a form I need to complete or will this suffice?**

**INTERPRETATION:** WIAA school teams are allowed to compete against non-school teams. There are three things that must be included:

1. WIAA licensed officials have to be used.
2. WIAA/NFHS playing regulations have to be used—not USA.
3. School administration has to approve of the contest.

### Scoresheets

**QUESTION: I am a WIAA hockey official, I also run the score clock for WIAA games. Who do I contact to get a set of WIAA score sheets?**

**Last season all the games that I did were done on USA hockey score sheets.**

**INTERPRETATION:** Neither the WIAA nor the NFHS provide score sheets for ice hockey. As an athletic director, I always made them for the entire conference and distributed them to the other conference schools. My best advice is to contact the athletic director at the school you are affiliated with. I do have a model that I can fax to athletic directors as they prepare for the upcoming ice hockey season. If they need a copy of this model, let the AD know they can contact my office and ask, we'll fax them a copy.

### Co-op Programs

**QUESTION: Can you clarify the WIAA stance on JV hockey programs for co-op hockey programs? We want to schedule 10-12 "JV" games to assure some of our younger/less skilled players get some game action. I guess I am unclear if this is acceptable.**

**INTERPRETATION:** So long as a program is considered to be a "JV" program, the WIAA has allowed local schools to determine co-op programs. As an association, we have not had "JV" co-op teams apply or be approved through any type of protocol. Schools are able to organize these teams as they wish.

**QUESTION: Can you e-mail me the guidelines for the hockey co-ops. We are currently in one with Reedsburg and I need to look at the rationale again because we are in a renewal time. Or point me in the direction to find it. Thanks for your help.**

**INTERPRETATION:** The best place to find these on the WIAA website. From the WIAA website's home page, go to WIAA INFO. From here, go to FORMS. Once you get to this page, you will find under Membership Applications the Cooperative Program Application. On this form, you will find all the technical aspects of renewing a co-op program. The key date to keep in mind is April 1, 2009, as this is the date the Co-op Program Application is due here in our office to Ms. Deb Hauser.

There is additional information in the Sr. High School Handbook, page 20; however, there is actually more information on the form than in the Handbook.

**2-8-08**

**QUESTION: If goalies wear a "flapper-style" throat protector, do they need to also wear a separate throat protector?**

**INTERPRETATION: Goalies do not need a separate throat protector if they have a flapper-style already in place. As far as the extended mask, if they do not have a flapper, then they need a separate throat protector on their neck.**

**QUESTION:** How many players can be on the ice prior to the start of a period?

**INTERPRETATION:** NFHS Rule 2, Section 4 Starting Lineups, Article 2, Teams shall be on the ice, ready to play promptly at the beginning of each period. After the first period, starting players shall remain in their half of the ice and proceed to the center ice faceoff positions. All remaining players shall proceed directly to their benches, unless modified by state association adoption. The WIAA has not modified this NFHS regulation.

**QUESTION:** Can a hockey game be rescheduled after the WIAA tournament series has begun?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes, per WIAA Season Regulation, 6., d., page 23, No game may be scheduled (but a game may be rescheduled if postponed) after either of the schools involved in the rescheduled event has begun WIAA tournament series play.

**QUESTION:** Our hockey booster club would like to have a student fan appreciation night on 2/5. To show their appreciation for our student fans they would like to hand every one of our students that comes through the doors a ticket for a random prize drawing. Throughout the game they will randomly draw tickets and announce the winners of prizes. This would be an opportunity for all of the students that come through the doors to be a fan for the game.

**INTERPRETATION:** On the surface, the appreciation night you are planning looks to be OK. So long as it is promoted and advertised to encourage the entire student body to attend, followed by a random drawing of all students in attendance and is not skill related to a sport, there does not appear to be any potential peril for student-athlete eligibility.

**QUESTION:** Are thundersticks allowed during the WIAA tournament series?

**INTERPRETATION:** WIAA regulations do not restrict the use of thundersticks during the WIAA tournament series at any sport tournament.

**QUESTION:** Can a goalie play more than five periods in one day if a school hockey team only has two goalies and one gets hurt during the JV game?

**INTERPRETATION:** No, WIAA Season Regulations, 7. Individual Participation Limitations, A student may be a member of two different school level teams in the same calendar week. When a student plays in two different levels of competition on the same day, (e.g. JV/varsity) they may not participate in more than five periods in any single day.

If a goalie gets hurt during a JV game and a school team has only two goalies, either the second goalie has to play and may not exceed a total of five periods or another team player has to become the goalie.

**QUESTION:** We have experienced a series of injuries on our JV hockey team. Can a JV school team co-op with another school so that we have enough hockey players to maintain a JV program?

**INTERPRETATION:** WIAA language pertaining to JV co-op programs remains silent. This allows schools to co-op with other schools within their geographical area at the JV level without WIAA approval. If a school decides to co-op during the season with a school in their area, they need to be certain both schools approve of this co-op, all students involved have filed a WIAA physical exam form with their school's office and that all eligibility requirements have been met.

**QUESTION:** If a student-athlete records a hat trick and the fans throw their hats on the ice, is the home team assessed a delay of game minor?

**INTERPRETATION:** When hats are thrown on the ice, this is a game management matter, not an issue for the officials to assess penalties. It is best to have game management inform spectators in advance that throwing anything onto the ice is first of all dangerous, and secondly unacceptable behavior. This includes the throwing of hats following a hat trick. Spectators identified throwing anything onto the ice need to be

made aware that doing so will result in removal from a contest. This has, at times, resulted in spectators or groups of spectators being asked to leave an ice rink. There is no fair way for officials to implement a penalty as it would be too easy for a spectator from another school to go near a home school's spectator seating area, begin throwing something on the ice and then have the officials assess a two-minute penalty.

**QUESTION:** In girl's hockey, are bandannas permitted?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes, bandannas are permitted under ice hockey helmets for boys and girls. At the state tournament we ask the player's to take them off along with any headgear they may be wearing for the playing of the National Anthem.

**QUESTION:** Can a hockey player be on a junior program's roster during the WIAA season?

**INTERPRETATION:** Yes, there are no WIAA eligibility restrictions that prevent a student-athlete from being on the roster of a nonschool program during a WIAA season.

**QUESTION:** Can a cast be worn by an ice hockey player? If so, does it need to be padded?

**INTERPRETATION:** In the WIAA Medical Policies and Procedures Handbook on page 23, there is a chart that identifies Non-Required Equipment. Cast/splint is found in the first column. Here you will find that a cast/splint is allowed; it must be padded; and the player must have a medical release at the game site.

**QUESTION:** Can a 7th grade girl practice with the varsity team in girl's hockey? She is a goalie and the coach wondered if she could practice?

**INTERPRETATION:** WIAA regulations prevent 7th and 8th graders from competing with high school programs.

This is a situation the WIAA has been reviewing during the past three years as it relates to allowing 8th graders to compete on 9th grade teams.

At the 2004 Annual Meeting, the WIAA membership strongly approved of a By-Law change separating competition between 8th graders and 9th graders in WIAA school programs. This WIAA By-Law change began with a request from the WIAA Middle Level/Jr. High School Council and was fully supported at all WIAA committee levels.

As we went through the first year of this waiver last year, we found there were concerns pertaining to red-shirting, recruitment, use of non-school programs for team selection, selection of players for high school programs as early as seventh grade and other concerning situations that were not appropriate for school programs. Please do not take this to in any way indicate that your school was involved in these situations, it is simply that there were numerous school football, basketball, baseball, softball, tennis and volleyball programs involved. Many of these programs contacted our office well in advance of the school season. This raised numerous questions about allowing this waiver to be used.

Even in our smallest member schools we have found that numerous school programs are actually "discouraging" student participation rather than "encouraging" more students to participate in programs like basketball and volleyball where large numbers are not needed to field a team that is two-deep at all positions. This is contrary to what we see in other sports. In addition, if a school program cannot gather enough student-athletes from a particular class to form a team, then, perhaps, that program should not be offered. Parents become very concerned when ever a student is allowed to even practice with a high school program. With these thoughts in mind, last spring the WIAA membership approved a new regulation allowing 9th graders to compete on 7th-8th grade teams when conditions present themselves. As this relates to the allowance of "practice" by 8th graders on high school teams, WIAA regulations remain silent on this matter. Consequently, this remains a local school district's philosophical position. Obviously, similar concerns to those listed above can easily develop. This is especially true when one 7th or 8th grader is allowed to "practice" with a high school program while other 7th-8th grade students are not provided this privilege. The effect of allowing a 7th or 8th grader to even "practice" with a school team has a tendency

to lead to a dramatic impact on school sponsored programs.

In considering the allowance of 7th & 8th graders to “practice” on high school teams, the WIAA encourages school districts to discuss this matter carefully with their coaching staffs, school administration and school board in hopes of developing a policy that will work for that school district.

**QUESTION:** In determining the number of periods an ice hockey player competes in a day, does overtime count as a period or an extension of the third period?

**INTERPRETATION:** Overtime is considered to be an extension of the third period. When an overtime occurs, it does not count towards a player's total number of periods played.

**QUESTION:** If a two-minute penalty continues into the next period of play, does an ice hockey player have to count that period as a period of play towards his/her five allowed periods in a day if he/she completes the penalty and then goes directly to the player's bench area?

**INTERPRETATION:** No, whenever a penalty runs into the next period and the player does not participate at all in the period, the period does not count as one of the five allowed periods for a player in one day. If the player were to return to the ice and competition or return to play during another portion of that period, then the period would have to count as one of the five allowed periods in a day.

**QUESTION:** Can a freshman who has never been out for our high school ice hockey team report to the team and be allowed to join the high school ice hockey team?

**INTERPRETATION:** Obviously, this causes concerns regarding displacement of other players on the team who have been working for certain spots on the team during the entire year. Consequently, decisions to allow a freshmen to join a high school team after the season has begun and after try-outs and/or cuts have been made is a school decision. WIAA regulations do not prevent a freshmen who has never reported to the school team from being allowed to join the team after the start of the season.

**QUESTION:** We have a family moving to our community that wants to talk to our ice hockey coach, visit a practice and a game to get a better idea of our ice hockey program. Is this allowed?

**INTERPRETATION:** WIAA Rules of Eligibility, Article II, Section 3, 8), No eligibility will be granted for a student whose residence within a school's attendance boundaries, with or without parents, or whose attendance at a school has been the result of undue influence (special consideration due to athletic ability or potential) on the part of any person, whether or not connected with the school. Anyone can purchase a ticket and attend a game. That is no problem. To allow parents or a student to attend a practice requires the following question to be asked: Does the school have a policy regarding allowance of open practice sessions to the general public? If so, a student and his/her family could be allowed to attend. If not, then they can not attend. Regarding programming at the school, the admissions counselor, principal and athletic director are the school representatives that should be involved in providing information to the interested family/student. Coaches, if parents and/or students happen to come to see them, need politely indicate that they can sit down and discuss their program later, after the student is officially enrolled in their school.

**QUESTION:** How many non-players can be in the team box during the regular season?

**INTERPRETATION:** WIAA Season Regulations, 15., page 24, There is no limit to squad size and no limit on nonplayers in the team box during the regular season.

**QUESTION:** How about during the tournament series?

**INTERPRETATION:** WIAA Tournament Procedures, 3., page 25, The maximum number of participants for each tournament game is 20. Each participating school will be allowed a maximum of 20 players in full uniform for each tournament game. A school may have no more than four nonplayer personnel on the bench, plus one additional medical personnel for a total of five nonplayer personnel on the bench.

1-18-08

**QUESTION:** I've read the noise maker policy on your website, and have a question with regards to it. While attending a H.S. hockey game home team's goal was scored, the score officials sounded something similar to a cannon shot followed by horn (diesel type). I'm not sure if these sounds were recorded or live, or whether or not that matters. My question is if this is within the policy stated on your web page regarding noisemakers?

**INTERPRETATION:** During the regular season, matters of neutrality for contests are the responsibility of the conference (if a conference game) or the host school (if a nonconference game). During the WIAA tournament series, the WIAA has responsibility for matters like this. In ice hockey, the use of "Foghorns" whether recorded or live has become quite popular during recent years. The problem with the use of "Foghorns" is that a minor official, who is to be as neutral as possible, is usually responsible for blowing the foghorn. The WIAA informs host schools during our tournament series that if a foghorn is to be blown following a goal for the host school, it must also be blown following the scoring of a goal by the visiting team. Otherwise, it should not be blown at all. During the regular season, this is a regulation that many schools and conferences have applied to their school contests. Many times, because there are also non-school contests played at rinks, this is misapplied.

**QUESTION:** There is still confusion with required goalie equipment. What constitutes a mask with an extension?

**INTERPRETATION:** Many goalies are now wearing a Mission Profile Afterburner Ice Hockey Goalie Mask or one of similar styles that features a pro-style design, extended chin and polycarbonate shell around the chin. It is a legal mask; however, it does require that a goalie also wears a separate neck guard providing throat protection or a neck guard as part of a manufactured undergarment providing throat protection (chest protector extensions do not satisfy the requirement).

**QUESTION:** I am the president of our hockey booster club, I recently received a check from the host school of our co-op hockey program. Can I use this check to reduce the amount each student-athlete owes for being on the hockey team?

**INTERPRETATION:** No, there are a number of concerns with this matter. First, the WIAA can not consider this hockey program to be a WIAA school program if the booster club is receiving checks from the school. The member school must be the recipient of funds for their athletic programs. The cash flow for this program is unacceptable and needs to be changed so that all funds are sent to the school, the school administration gets funds they receive approved through the school's gift acceptance policy and then distributes them appropriately. The current mechanics for the cashflow of your program as indicated above will prevent this program from being involved in the WIAA tournament series. Also, WIAA Amateur Status regulations prevent student-athletes from receiving reimbursement or award in any form of (a) salary, (b) cash, (c) merchandise of any kind or amount or (d) share of game or season proceeds, for achievement in athletics. Receipt of funds to reduce a student-athlete's participation fee must be considered a violation of this regulation. For situations like this, reversing the cash flow so that the school receives these funds allows school administrators to appropriately distribute these funds within Amateur Status regulations.

**QUESTION:** We had an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student from another school system in our community practice with the high school hockey team during the holiday break. Is this OK?

**INTERPRETATION:** No, allowing 8<sup>th</sup> graders from another school system to practice with a high school team is an unacceptable recruiting practice.

In addition, only students from your school who have a physical on file in the high school office should be allowed to practice with a high school team.

**QUESTION:** Where do the WIAA regulations indicate that alcohol may not be served at high school contests?

**INTERPRETATION:** Be mindful, that providing or promoting alcohol and/or tobacco products during any high school event is an inappropriate promotion that is not legal nor healthy for high school age students to be involved in. This is a promotion that will likely be viewed in a very negative way within any community.

WIAA regulations as found on page 49 of the WIAA Sr. High School Handbook, WIAA Tournament Policies, Prohibited Activities/Materials, indicates: “No alcoholic beverages, tobacco products or illegal substances may be available or present at high school events.” Obviously, this directly pertains to WIAA Tournament contests; however, many conferences and schools have similar policies to enforce the regulation of alcohol and tobacco products.

**QUESTION:** I currently have a freshman goalie that is playing bantam hockey. I was wondering on the ruling, how much he can play at the varsity level?

**INTERPRETATION:** In hockey, as in other WIAA sports, once the hockey season has begun and a student-athlete has begun to practice with his/her school team, they must discontinue competition with any nonschool programs. If a student-athlete should be “cut” from a school team, they may then rejoin the nonschool team. Also, in hockey, if a student-athlete is “cut” from the school team, the WIAA does allow a student to go from the school program to nonschool programs, one time, without resulting in a loss of eligibility for the school team. In other words, if “cut,” a student may play bantams and then be asked to return to the school team one time during the school season. If this student should return and play in a nonschool contest, he/she is no longer eligible for the WIAA school team.

**QUESTION:** We have a student on our boy’s hockey team that is a senior and will be graduating after the first semester. (He is graduating early.) The final day for the 1st semester is Friday, January 18. Second semester begins on Monday, January 21. We have a scheduled hockey game on Saturday, January 19. Is he eligible to play in the game on the 19th as the 2nd semester has not begun yet?

**INTERPRETATION:** The succinct answer is that when school/semester ends Friday – this student is no longer eligible. He will have completed requirements for graduation and is no longer enrolled – or returning/continuing - as your full time student. The only ‘exception’ to this fundamental requirement our members have identified – allows students who graduate in May or June to complete the remainder of their spring sport season. Ref: WIAA Rules of Eligibility, Art. V, Sect. 1A-8 and 1A-9. (p. 35, Sr. High Handbook)

**QUESTION:** We have experienced some checking from behind penalties this year. We have a series of checking drills that we do. What else can be done to prevent additional penalties?

**INTERPRETATION:** As you know, I have taken personal attention to this dangerous penalty. I have been dealing with every checking from behind that has received a game disqualification. As of January 9, 2008, 23 game disqualification penalties have been reported to the WIAA office. Of these 23 game DQ penalties, 11 have been for checking from behind. Where I believe the danger occurs with checking from behind is in the pedagogy—the teaching of checking. This places coaches at great risk for liability should a serious or catastrophic injury take place. What I have been finding is coaches who teach all the checking drills—and I have no problem with what they are teaching. The problem is that when they are teaching these drills, the entire focus is on either making contact with an opponent or on separating the puck from the opponent.

Here is what is missing in a simple form: I am not able to identify teaching being done to help the attacker anticipate or even consider that an opponent might turn their back on the attacker. In addition, there is no evidence of practice done to quickly avoid contact when/if the opponent does turn their back. Consequently, there is a natural thought process being taught where the only focus is on making contact and/or separating the opponent from the puck through checking drills. Coaches have to add the thought

to student-athletes that they must anticipate as attackers that there is a relatively good chance opponents will change direction or protect the puck (or themselves) by abruptly turning their back as an attacker approaches. Then, as soon as an opponent turns their back towards the attacker, the attacker must anticipate moves like this and be prepared to abruptly avoid the contact, especially against the boards. We can only develop this anticipation and these avoidance techniques by coaching student-athletes on these skills and have them practice these skills during checking drills in practice. In this way the skills can hopefully become an automatic reaction during contests—preventing contact to the back and most likely serious, if not, catastrophic injuries from taking place.