We would like to remind schools of the following regulations as the end of the school year approaches and summer begins:

While we have new and interesting times with the Coronavirus, the WIAA membership rules have not changed and are still in effect.

Note: The Supreme Court decision applies to schools. It restricts schools from having kids in the buildings for pupil instruction and extracurriculars through June 30. Therefore, unrestricted school coaching contact cannot begin until July 1 unless new restrictions are enacted regarding schools.

Keep in mind that summer time begins with the last day of school. Therefore, the last day of school is defined by the school year calendar that your school board passed and designated for the 2019-20 school year.

Coaching contact rules have not changed.

Coaches may not coach their athletes out of season during the school year. For the majority of WIAA member schools, your last day of school on your school calendar has probably not elapsed. Once it has, then unlimited non-school coaching contact opportunities would be a local decision.

As for school coaches who might be coaching some of the school’s students on non-school teams after the end of your school year, we have been telling people that’s a local decision that schools might get an answer from their legal counsel and insurance company. Same with coaches.

Keep in mind, summer unlimited non-school coaching contact is from the last day of school to the first day of school. If your school calendar states the last day of school is June 7, then coaches are restricted until that date set by your local school board as the last day of school.

**Academic Eligibility**

The eligibility rules remain the same. At this point, we are telling districts to implement their grading system and apply their academic code as it fits. If it’s pass/fail (same for credit/no credit) by WIAA rules, two or more failing
grades would mean a suspension as a minimum. You must apply your rules as written.

If no pass is the equivalent of failing, apply the rule using your academic policy as written with no pass. We would suggest that your coaches check with the athletes’ academic progress during these times and remind them of the expectations for academic accountability.

Schools utilizing the 30-day spring extension may use the 21 calendar day fall suspension rule for athletes participating in the spring school extension. It cannot be served with non-school activity. If the school does not utilize the 30-day spring extension, the fall 21 calendar days from the first allowed contest date would apply.

The WIAA Board of Control will be discussing the academic requirements, but at this time the rules are in effect. Also, if your school offers summer school, athletes can make up failing grades by taking summer school courses.

**Code of Conduct**

Schools must enforce their code of conduct as written. It cannot be changed after students violate it. If the contest was not played by the team who did follow the rules, a suspension is not considered served. Same thing if a game is rained out, suspended, or cancelled. The student still owes a suspension.

Schools utilizing the 30-day spring extension may apply code violations during this time period for athletes participating in the spring extension. Apply your code as written utilizing the WIAA minimums as well. It cannot be served with non-school activity. If the school does not utilize the 30-day spring extension, the code of conduct suspensions must be applied as written in your code of conduct.

Please also reference the Q&A regarding the 30-day contact opportunity: https://www.wiaawi.org/News/News-Article/ArtMID/5378/ArticleID/21567/Executive-Staff-Responds-to-Expanded-Contact-Days-Questions

**Uniforms and Equipment**

Schools may not issue wearing apparel and protective equipment prior to the first allowable day of practice, unless specifically allowed in Season Regulations for that sport.

One exception is that with approval of its governing body schools may issue school uniform or other wearing apparel and protective equipment for use by athletes in training or competition, **in the summertime from the Friday before Memorial Day to the first day of school in the fall**. During the school year, with approval of its governing body, a school may issue its
baseball and softball equipment at its own discretion. It is acceptable to issue implements at anytime if the school wishes, such as vaulting poles, shot puts, hurdles, baseball bats, basketballs, volleyballs, etc. (BL – Art. II and RE – Art. VI, Sect. 2)

FB Jerseys – the new trend in jerseys is to add a watermark on the body with designs on the yoke (shoulder). While allowed on the dark jerseys, the body and shoulders on the white jersey must be white (NFHS FB Rule 1-5-2). A light grey watermark is not allowed on the white jersey. Also, be sure to check the sleeves to make sure that they cover your high school shoulder pads. The jerseys designed for the colleges and NFL are specifically designed for tapered shoulder pads which most high schools do not own.

School Open Gyms

School open gyms are for only your students attending your high school in grades 9-12. Students from other schools whether public or nonpublic are not allowed to participate in your school's open gyms. 8th graders may participate during the summer before their 9th grade year. Do not confuse open gyms with unlimited nonschool coaching contact. Coaches may supervise open gyms, but they (or anyone else) may not instruct, organize drills, etc.

Out of Season

Coaches may not utilize attendance/participation in out-of-season open gyms or activities as a determination for making a team, playing time, or to receive a letter in that particular sport.

Football Summer Contact

Football summer coaching contact ends on Saturday, July 25 (11-player). There has been some discussion (or rumors) that football summer contact has been changed to allow coaching in 7-on-7 league. Football coaches are restricted to the five unrestricted school coaching contact days. Football coaches must use their five unrestricted coaching contact days to coach 7-on-7. If equipment is used for camps, it must be issued and collected. Equipment may not be issued for a camp and left with the athletes until the season begins. Football must follow the WIAA Fall Acclimatization policy when using the five unrestricted coaching contact days.
Nonschool Coaching Contact

Coaches in all sports except football may coach their athletes in nonschool competitions in the summertime, from the last day of school to the first day of school.

Keep in mind, coaches may not work with their athletes out of season during the school year – for example, basketball coaches are not allowed to coach AAU teams while school is still in session. Fall sport coaches may not hold off-season practices, or provide instruction at open gyms.

During the summer, coaches are restricted to five unrestricted school coaching contact days with their athletes from the last day of school to July 31 (July 25 for 11-player football). If they want more, all coaches except football could coach at a camp via nonschool organizations from the last day of school to the first day of school.

Training and Competing

1. The WIAA recognizes a distinction between training and competing. Students must pay 100% of their own expenses, including transportation, to any nonschool (out-of-season) camps, clinics, or specialized training. Schools may pay expenses and provide transportation to similar in season activities in that sport and during the five unrestricted contact days in the summer.

** Students may not fundraise in order to cover the cost of these activities – use of GoFundMe pages, for example, to cover nonschool camp or clinic fees would violate this rule.

2. A student may be reimbursed actual and necessary costs associated with competing. This may include transportation, food, lodging and entry fees.

3. Keep in mind that the amateur status rule needs to be reinforced. The amateur status lists of acceptable and unacceptable items was repealed and replaced. School mementos (i.e.: rings, sweatshirts, t-shirts, event hats, etc.) are allowed if not more than $200 and awards valued at less than $100 retail value are allowed in school and nonschool competition. In addition, athletes may receive and retain items of apparel that are worn as part of a team uniform in nonschool athletic competitions. Notice, apparel doesn’t include backpacks, duffel bags, equipment (helmets, shin guards, gloves, mitts, etc.), and implements (bats, poles, hockey sticks, etc.).