



Washington Interscholastic Activities Association
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
for the 2025 Representative Assembly

The amendments and rationale are presented as submitted. The sponsoring school/school district is listed first, followed alphabetically by the supporting schools/school districts. The opinions and/or positions by the leagues, WIAA Districts, and affiliate organizations will take place through March. Positions taken by the affiliate organizations will be provided to the voting delegates prior to the April 9-18, 2025 voting period.

The ~~strike through~~ text is proposed to be deleted from the current handbook wording. The **bold** and **shaded** text is proposed to be added to the current handbook wording. Amendments can potentially be modified during the Winter Coalition on January 27, 2025. Amendments that pass will go into effect on August 1 unless otherwise indicated. The sponsoring school is listed first, followed by the supporting schools.

ML/HS AMENDMENT #7

18.16.0 GENDER IDENTITY PARTICIPTION

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Philosophy of Gender Identity Participation: The WIAA encourages participation for all students, regardless of their gender identity or expression. Further, most local, state, and federal rules and regulations require schools to provide transgender and other gender-diverse student-athletes with equal opportunities to participate in athletics. ~~The purpose of this policy is to offer clarity with respect to the participation of trans and gender-diverse student-athletes. Additionally, this policy encourages a culture in which student-athletes can compete in a safe and supportive environment, free of discrimination.~~ This policy encourages a culture in which all student-athletes can compete in a safe and supportive environment, free of discrimination. There are two categories of sports – ‘Boys/Open’ and ‘Girls.’ All student-athletes regardless of sex, gender identity, or gender expression who meet eligibility criteria are allowed to participate in the ‘Boys/Open Category.’ However, to maintain fair and equitable competition, participation in the ‘Girls Category’ is limited to students whose biological sex is female.

~~18.16.0 GENDER IDENTITY PARTICIPTION – All students have the opportunity to participate in WIAA athletics and/or activities in a manner that is consistent with their gender identity. Currently, most athletic programs are offered separately for boys and girls as outlined in Appendix 1. Athletes will participate in programs consistent with their gender identity or the gender most consistently expressed. School personnel responsible for student eligibility will work collaboratively with the student athlete to determine eligibility. Once the student has been granted eligibility to participate in the sport consistent with their gender identity, the eligibility is granted for the duration of the student’s participation and does not need to be renewed every sports season or school year. The WIAA staff is willing to collaborate with any member school seeking assistance regarding gender equity. For additional information on Gender Identity, refer to Appendix 6.~~

18.16.0 GENDER IDENTITY PARTICIPTION - All Students are encouraged to participate in WIAA athletics and/or activities. All student-athletes regardless of sex, gender identity, or gender expression who meet eligibility criteria are allowed to participate in the ‘Boys/Open Category.’ However, in order to maintain fair and equitable competition, participation in the ‘Girls Category’ is limited to students whose biological sex is female as defined in Appendix 6.

'Boys/Open Categories': Baseball, Basketball, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Dance/Drill, Football, Golf, Soccer, Swimming/Diving, Tennis, Track and Field, Wrestling

'Girls Categories': Girls Basketball, Girls Bowling, Girls Cross Country, Girls Golf, Girls Gymnastics, Girls Soccer, Girls Fastpitch Softball, Girls Slowpitch Softball, Girls Swimming/Diving, Girls Tennis, Girls Track and Field, Girls Volleyball, Girls Wrestling

For eligibility determination, biological sex may be verified using an original birth certificate or, if unavailable, an affidavit from a licensed physician. In rare cases involving student-athletes with differences in sex development such as intersex conditions, appeals should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis in accordance with WIAA handbook rule 19.0.0. Student Appeals of Ineligibility.

APPENDIX 6 – GENDER IDENTITY Language and terminology are continually evolving, which means that people talk and think about gender in many different ways. However, below are a number of commonly used terms (and key aspects to each of our identities) to use as a starting point for any conversation about gender:

1. **Assigned Biological** Sex describes the sex a person was given at birth based on their anatomy. Falls within two categories: female and male.

Submitted by the Lynden School District, Blaine School District, Brewster School District, Cashmere School District, Colville School District, Grand Coulee Dam School District, Lake Chelan School District, Lynden Christian School, Mansfield School District, Mead School District, Okanogan School District, Omak School District, Oroville School District, and Tonasket School District.

Rationale:

The policy is modeled after Alaska's program which replaces boys' sports with an open division for all student-athletes while also creating eligibility restrictions for girls' sports and girls' divisions.

PROS:

1. Focus is on fair competition and protecting the integrity of female sports. Restricting girls' sports to those designated female at birth aims to maintain a level playing field, addressing concerns about potential physical advantages in certain sports.
2. Maintaining separate divisions for biological girls addresses safety concerns that could arise from physical differences in some sports.
3. The rule emphasizes inclusivity and encourages transgender and gender-diverse students to participate in athletics and activities. The rule aligns with local, state, and federal guidelines that mandate equal opportunities for all students.
4. Provides clear eligibility guidelines by creating an open division and restricting girls' sports to student-athletes who are biological females. Clarity within eligibility can ensure consistency across schools and sports. Female athletes, parents, coaches, and teams having a clearer understanding of who is competing within each category reduces the potential of unfair and vitriol responses to successful transgender female athletes.
5. Transgender participation policies are currently being developed across all competition levels of organizations sponsoring sex-segregated athletics.

CONS:

1. *Restricting participation in girls' athletics to biological females may spark legal challenges at federal and state levels. Although the policy states a commitment to inclusivity, some may interpret it as discriminatory based on gender expression or identity, particularly student-athletes who identify as female but are unable to compete in girls' sports.*
2. *Privacy should be fully protected. Any appeal process could be complicated and may involve medical evaluations that raise privacy and ethical concerns. Schools and athletic organizations may face challenges implementing and enforcing the policy, especially regarding medical assessments or appeals, leading to administrative burdens and potential inconsistencies in implementation.*