



2025-2026

**Middle School
Wrestling
Coaches
Packet**

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For additional information related to sports medicine issues concerning athletic participation, please click the "School Resources" tab on the opening page of our website.

WEST VIRGINIA SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES COMMISSION



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BULLETIN

TO: Middle School Wrestling Coaches
FROM: Dan Comer, Assistant Director
DATE: October 2025
SUBJECT: 2025-2026 Wrestling Season

Coaches' Rule Books are mailed to all varsity high school and middle school coaches. If your high school also sponsors a ninth-grade wrestling team, that coach may request a packet from this office. **Note** - this is for a high school ninth grade team only. Please share this information with the ninth-grade coach. Coaches' packets are online.

Important Reminders:

1. Please be advised that the required Rules Clinics will be recorded and made available on the WVSSAC website. It **is mandatory for all head coaches to attend one of the State Rules Clinics**.
2. The November issue of The Interscholastic will have specific information regarding the wrestling program.
3. Use only WV registered officials for matches. You may use Class I, II, or III officials. (No inactive, suspended, or non-registered officials allowed)
4. **Hair Rule:**
If a wrestler chooses to wear a hair cover it must legally attach to the headgear as designed by the manufacturer per NFHS regulations. Should a wrestler with hair longer than a shirt collar choose to wear a hair cover then the hair cover must conform to NFHS rules. In either case the Official is to ensure that the regulations are followed.
5. **Middle School** - Sixteen (16) weigh-ins.
6. **Weight Certification:** Refer to The Interscholastic Weight Program and Certified Weight Permit Forms.
7. **Eligibility Certificates** are due online no later than the date of the first contest according to the standardized calendar. **Failure to submit eligibility certificates will result in a \$25 fine and forfeit of all contests played.**
8. **WVSSAC Rule 127-2-13 Practice** - Refer to *WVSSAC Rules & Regulation Handbook*.
9. **Mouth Guard Policy for Wrestling** - The use of mouth guards is **recommended** for all practices and contests and required for athletes wearing braces.
10. **Head, Neck and Cervical Collar Trauma Guidelines** - Refer to the approved Return to Play/Concussion Protocol. RTP refers to return to play and return to practice. The appropriate health care professional will determine when a concussed athlete may return to participation.

- 11. Injury/Participation Procedure at WVSSAC Championship Events** - Medical personnel (athletic trainers) will have the jurisdiction concerning the return of a player to competition after an injury. If a parent refuses to follow the determination of the authorized person, a release form must be signed.
12. Coaches are responsible for discussing the Bench Clearing Rule and Ejection Policy with all other coaches and players prior to the first contest.
- a. **Rule 127-4-3.7 Code for Interscholastic Athletics** - Coaches are hereby notified to carefully review this rule with special emphasis on 3.7.3.
13. The WVSSAC actively promotes good sportsmanship in all our sport programs. We encourage you to promote good sportsmanship by informing parents and athletes of the importance of supporting this concept. Please encourage your school principal and school to participate in the Sportsmanship Award Program.
- 14. Communicable Skin Disease Policy for Regional and State Tournaments**
- a) The Communicable Skin Disease Original Form must be used and shown to the official.
 - b) The form is only valid for a maximum of 7 days.
 - c) Wrestling mats shall be sanitized after each session.
 - d) This issue will be emphasized at the State Rules Clinics.
- 15. Coaches Dress Code:** It is strongly recommended that wrestling coaches dress in a professional manner during matches.

2025-2026 WRESTLING RULES CLINICS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>COORDINATOR</u>
Oct 7	Spring Mills HS	6:00 pm	Glenn Simpson
Oct 8	Frankfort HS	6:00 pm	Jay Hesse
Oct 9	Robert C. Byrd	6:00 pm	Eric Post
Oct 12	Interpreters' Clinic	9:00 am	Dan Comer
Oct 12	WVSSAC WVSSAC	2:00 pm	Dan Comer
Oct 20	Woodrow Wilson HS	6:00 pm	Andrew Pinnick
Oct 21	Herbert Hoover HS	6:00 pm	Richard Parsons
Oct 23	John Marshall HS	6:00 pm	Roger Simmons
Oct 27	Huntington HS	6:00 pm	Bruce Senior
Oct 28	*WVSSAC Office *Make-up Clinic	6:30 pm	Dan Comer

SCHOOLS: The **Head Coach** shall be **required** to attend any sports rules clinics which are sponsored by this Commission in his/her coaching assignment. Schools failing to have a head coaching position filled at the time of the clinic will be required to have a school representative present at the rules clinic. An individual can only represent one school unless he/she is head coach at both schools. In a 9-12 school, both the varsity and 9th grade coach are required to attend. Failure to have a representative at one of the above clinics will result in a \$50.00 fine.

The clinic attendance requirement may not be granted if the coach or representative is late in excess of 10 minutes.

§127-3-31. Wrestling.

31.1. Rules: Wrestling rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations are the official **rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.**

31.1.a. Triangular and quadrangular weigh-ins count as one weigh-in. Weigh-ins in which five or more schools participate count as two weigh-ins. A dual meet, in which only two teams compete, shall only count as one-half of a weigh-in point. (Revised 2020-21)

31.2. Scrimmages: Two wrestling scrimmages with another high school may be conducted. See Glossary.

31.3. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 12 SEPARATE days, exclusive of the day of a contest, **before participating in an interscholastic contest.**

31.4. A student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events during the season of that sport. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in the Awards Rule. Students may accept only this same type of award **in non-sanctioned events outside the sport season.**

31.5. *Middle School-* The above will apply for Middle School with the following adaptations:

31.5.a. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 19 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 22.

31.5.b. Middle school teams may have 16 weigh-ins excluding any conference tournaments.

31.5.c. Middle school teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage under the same conditions as a high school.

31.5.d. Middle school season will be completed by Saturday of Week 33.

WRESTLING CERTIFIED MINIMUM WEIGHT PERMIT FORM

BIRTH DATE _____ HEIGHT _____ WEIGHT _____
 Month Day Year

PHYSICIAN'S RECOMMENDATION

Date Examined _____

Signature of Physician _____

Once this Certified Minimum Weight Permit form has been completed, it cannot be changed by modification nor by a second examination.

I have read the above recommendation by the physician. I request that the student indicated be limited to: (check one)

- The higher of the two weight classification is the certified minimum weight allowed

BASE WEIGHT VERIFICATION

Signature of Parent _____

(For use by coach after 12/24 only)

If a wrestler has not made base weight at his/her Certified Minimum Weight (recorded above) prior to the December 23 deadline, base weight must be verified the first time the wrestler weighs in at his Certified Minimum Weight or at any weight class lower than previously being weighed in.

Referee's Signature

Reg. No. _____

Authorized Person's Signature

School Affiliation

This form will be completed, retained by the school, and taken to all regular season meets. The Wrestling Certified Minimum Weight Permit Verification Form must be completed by the school and returned to the WVSSAC office by December 23.

(Date)

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NFHS MEDICAL RELEASE FORM

FOR WRESTLER TO PARTICIPATE WITH SKIN LESION(S)

The National Federation of State High School Associations' (NFHS) Sports Medicine Advisory Committee has developed a medical release form for wrestlers to participate with skin lesion(s) as a suggested model you may consider adopting for your state. The NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) conducted a survey among specialty, academic, public health and primary care physicians and reviewed extensively the literature available on the communicability of various skin lesions at different stages of disease and treatment. No definitive data exists that allow us to absolutely predict when a lesion is no longer shedding organisms that could be transmitted to another wrestler. Another finding from the survey was the significant differences that exist among physicians relating to when they will permit a wrestler to return to participation after having a skin infection.

Neither the NFHS nor the NFHS SMAC presumes to dictate to professionals how to practice medicine. Nor is the information on this form meant to establish a standard of care. The NFHS SMAC does feel, however, that the guidelines included in the form represent a summary consensus of the various responses obtained from the survey, from conversations and from the literature. The committee also believes that the components of the form are very relevant to addressing the concerns of coaches, parents, wrestlers and appropriate health-care professionals that led to the research into this subject and to the development of this form.

GOALS FOR ESTABLISHING A WIDELY USED FORM:

1. Protect wrestlers from exposure to communicable skin disorders. Although most of the skin lesions being discussed generally have no major long-term consequences and are not life threatening, some do have morbidity associated with them and student-athletes should be protected from contracting skin disorders from other wrestlers or contaminated equipment such as mats.
2. Allow wrestlers to participate as soon as it is reasonably safe for them and for their opponents and/or teammates using the same mat.
3. Establish guidelines to help minimize major differences in management among appropriate health-care professionals who are signing "return to competition forms". Consistent use of these guidelines should reduce the likelihood wrestlers catching a skin disease from participation and suffering from inequalities as to who can or cannot participate.
4. Provide a basis to support appropriate health-care professional decisions on when a wrestler can or cannot participate. This should help the appropriate health-care professional who may face incredible pressure from many fronts to return a youngster to competition ASAP. This can involve any student athlete who never wins a match or the next state champion with a scholarship pending.

IMPORTANT COMPONENTS FOR AN EFFECTIVE FORM:

1. Each state association needs to determine which appropriate health-care professional can sign off on this form.
2. Inclusion of the applicable NFHS wrestling rule so appropriate health-care professionals will understand that covering a contagious lesion is not an option that is allowed by rule. Covering a non-contagious lesion after adequate therapy to prevent injury to lesion is acceptable.
3. Inclusion of the date and nature of treatment and the earliest date a wrestler can return to participation. This should mitigate the need for a family to incur the expense of additional office visits as occurs when a form must be signed within three days of wrestling as some do.
4. Inclusion of a "body gram" with front and back views should clearly identify the lesion in question. Using non-black ink to designate skin lesions should result in less confusion or conflict. Also including the number of lesions protects against spread after a visit with an appropriate health-care professional.
5. Inclusion of guidelines for minimum treatment before returning the wrestler to action as discussed above. This should enhance the likelihood that all wrestlers are managed safely and fairly.
6. Inclusion of all of the components discussed has the potential to remove the referee from making a medical decision. If a lesion is questioned, the referee's role could appropriately be only to see if the coach can provide a fully completed medical release form allowing the wrestler to wrestle.

This form may be reproduced, if desired, and can be edited in anyway for use by various individuals or organizations. It may also be modified and used for sports other than wrestling. In addition, the NFHS SMAC would welcome comments for inclusion in future versions, as this form will be reviewed yearly, and modified as needed.

Revised/Approved by NFHS SMAC - April 2018

National Federation of State High School Associations

Sports Medicine Advisory Committee

MEDICAL RELEASE FOR WRESTLER TO PARTICIPATE WITH SKIN LESION

Name: _____

Date of Exam: ____/____/____

Diagnosis _____

Mark Location AND Number of Lesion(s)

Location AND Number of Lesion(s) _____

Medication(s) Used to Treat Lesion(s): _____

Date Treatment Started: ____/____/____ Time: _____

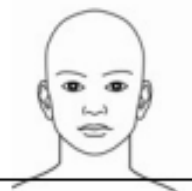
Form Expiration Date for this Lesion (Note on Diagram(s)): ____/____/____

Earliest Date the Wrestler May Return to Participation: ____/____/____

Provider Signature _____ Office Phone #: _____

Provider Name (Must Be Legible) _____

Office Address _____



FRONT



BACK

Below are some treatment guidelines that suggest **MINIMUM TREATMENT** before return to wrestling:

Bacterial Diseases (impetigo, boils): To be considered "non-contagious," all lesions must be scabbed over with no oozing or discharge and no new lesions should have occurred in the preceding 48 hours. Oral antibiotic for 72 hours is considered a minimum to achieve that status. If new lesions continue to develop or drain after 72 hours, MRSA (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus) should be considered.

Herpetic Lesions (Simplex, fever blisters/cold sores, Zoster, Gladiatorum): To be considered "non-contagious," all lesions must be scabbed over with no oozing or discharge and no new lesions should have occurred in the preceding 72 hours. For a (first episode of Herpes Gladiatorum), wrestlers should be treated and not allowed to compete for a minimum of 10 days. If general body signs and symptoms like fever and swollen lymph nodes are present, that minimum period of treatment before return to wrestling should be extended to 14 days. Recurrent outbreaks require a minimum of 120 hours of oral anti-viral treatment, again so long as no new lesions have developed, and all lesions are scabbed over.

Tinea Lesions (ringworm on scalp or skin): Oral or topical treatment for 72 hours on skin and oral treatment for 14 days on scalp. Scabies, Head

Lice: 24 hours after appropriate topical management.

Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye): 24 hours of topical or oral medication and no discharge.

Molluscum Contagiosum: Upon treatment with curettage and hyfrecator, may cover with binoculuses and wrestle immediately.

Note to Appropriate Health-Care Professionals: Non-contagious lesions do not require treatment prior to return to participation (e.g. eczema, psoriasis, etc.). Please familiarize yourself with NFHS Wrestling Rules 4-2-3, 4-2-4 and 4-2-5 which states:

"ART. 3 . . . If a participant is suspected by the referee or coach of having a communicable skin disease or any other condition that makes participation appear inadvisable, the coach shall provide current written documentation as defined by the NFHS or the state associations, from an appropriate health-care professional stating that the suspected disease or condition is not communicable, and that the athlete's participation would not be harmful to any opponent. This document shall be furnished at the weigh-in for the dual meet or tournament. The only exception would be if a designated, on-site meet appropriate health-care professional is present and is able to examine the wrestler either immediately prior to or immediately after the weigh-in. Covering a communicable condition shall not be considered acceptable and does not make the wrestler eligible to participate."

"ART. 4 . . . If a designated on-site meet appropriate health-care professional is present, he/she may overrule the diagnosis of the appropriate health-care professional signing the medical release form for a wrestler to participate or not participate with a particular skin condition."

"ART. 5 . . . A contestant may have documentation from an appropriate health-care professional only indicating a specific condition such as a birthmark or other non-communicable skin conditions such as psoriasis and eczema, and that documentation is valid for the duration of the season. It is valid with the understanding that a chronic condition could become secondarily infected and may require re-evaluation."

Once a lesion is considered non-contagious, it may be covered to allow participation.

DISCLAIMER: The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) shall not be liable or responsible, in any way, for any diagnosis or other evaluation made herein, or exam performed in connection therewith, by the above-named provider, or for any subsequent action taken, in whole or part, in reliance upon the accuracy or veracity of the information provided herein.

Revised/Approved by NFHS SMAC - April 2018

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources

Information for the Public -

Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)

What is *Staphylococcus aureus*?

Staphylococcus aureus, or A staph is a bacteria that lives on the skin or in the nose of healthy people. Occasionally, staph can cause infections of the skin, bloodstream, lungs, bones, joints, heart, or almost any part of the body.

What is methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)?

MRSA (pronounced 'mursa') is a type of staph that has become resistant to some common antibiotics. This means that an infection with MRSA is more difficult to treat.

Where are staph and MRSA found?

Staph and MRSA may be found on the skin or in the nose. About 30 to 50 % of people may carry the staph bacteria on their skin without getting ill.

How common is MRSA?

In many communities, including some in West Virginia, MRSA is now the most common cause of skin infections due to 'staph.' According to some studies, 1 to 10 % of people now carry MRSA in their nose or on their skin.

Who is the most at risk for staph infections?

While anyone can get an infection with staph, certain persons are more at risk. These people include diabetics, people on dialysis, persons who use injection drugs, people who have recently had surgery, and persons with chronic diseases such as cancer. Staph infections are also more common in persons who have a tube going into their body (such as a urinary catheter or intravenous (IV) catheter).

MRSA infections are more likely in persons who have recently received antibiotics or recently been in a hospital or nursing home. In the last few years, MRSA infections have also been identified in persons outside of hospitals. Cases of MRSA disease in the community are associated with recent antibiotic use, sharing contaminated items, active skin disease, and living in crowded settings. Outbreaks have occurred on sports teams, in jails or military units, camps and even hospital wards. Community associated MRSA infections are usually skin infections; however, severe illnesses can also occur.

WEST VIRGINIA SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES
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B U L L E T I N

TO: Wrestling Coaches and Wrestling Officials

FROM: Dan Comer, Assistant Executive Director

DATE: October 2025

SUBJECT: Skin Infections Awareness

It is the responsibility of wrestling coaches and officials to ensure that no wrestler participates while suffering from a skin infection/communicable disease. The health and well-being of all participants must be a primary concern.

The WVSSAC recommends that coaches go to www.thematdoc.com to purchase a copy of Dr. BJ. Anderson ***The Mat Doc Skin Infection Pocket Reference***. This reference guide helps wrestling personnel evaluate skin infections.

The Communicable Skin Disease Form is required for any wrestler desiring to return to competition after having a communicable skin disease or is suspected of having a communicable skin disease or any other condition that makes participation appear inadvisable. This form must be completed in its entirety and signed by a physician before an official or coach allows an athlete to participate with a skin condition. This procedure refers to practice and all competition.

If there is any doubt or question regarding a skin condition, the athlete must be removed from practice/competition until cleared by a physician.

When in doubt, sit them out!

WVSSAC Herpes Reporting Form

One or more members of the Middle/High School wrestling team has been diagnosed with herpes simplex. Date of diagnosis.

Please Note:

1. List all the teams that you have competed against within the 8 days prior to diagnosis.
2. You must provide verification that you have notified all schools your athletes have had contact with during this time period.
3. This form must be on file in the WVSSAC office within 2 working days of the diagnosis.

Questions, please contact the WVSSAC office (304) 485-5494.

Date	School	Tournament	Date of Communication	Date of Verification	Select form of Verification	Name of Contact
					<input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone	
					<input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone	
					<input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone	
					<input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone	
					<input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone	
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					<input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone	
					<input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone	

Principal Signature

This WVSSAC Herpes Reporting Form can be filled out online. Go to “Sports” “Wrestling” then “WVSSAC Herpes Reporting Form” It is also under “Forms.”

Coaching Reminders

Practice: Team members must have 12 practices on 12 separate days - 5 days sports specific if participating in another sport during the same sports season. A student must have 5 days of practice if coming from one sports season into the next sports season without interruption of school days. Only students enrolled in the specific member school and a member of team is allowed to practice. Rule 127-2-13.

Sunday Contests: Contests or practice on Sunday is prohibited. Practice refers to any group or individual meeting to view films or activity associated with the activity of that sports season. Rule 127-2-13.

Physical Exam: Team members must have Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physician's Certificate form completed and on file before beginning practice. Rule 127-3-3. (Must be *on* or after May 1st.)

All-Star Competition: Any student completing athletic eligibility at the end of current school year because of age or competition of semesters of eligibility may play in one (1) all-star game upon conclusion of the season without loss of eligibility for balance of year. Rule 127-3-4.

Awards: Team members can accept awards from school sponsoring a sanctioned event or the school. Wearing apparel, championship rings, equipment, athletic goods that exceeds \$100.00 are prohibited from any source. Rule 127-3-5.

Out of Season Coaching: Coaches may not promote, initiate, organize, supervise or participate in out-of-season events involving students of the same sport as the grade level coaching assignment and preceding grade level except as specified in Rules 127-3-7.2 and 127-3-7.3. Rule 127-3-7.7.

Amateur: Any team member competing for money, receiving any award or prize of monetary value that has not been approved by the WVSSAC, capitalizing on athletic fame or signing a professional playing contract in that sport is prohibited. Rule 127-2-11.

Participation as Ineligible: Any student who participates as ineligible may forfeit eligibility for up to JD days. Rule 127-2-12.

Non-School Participation: Participation is limited to school teams only with a few exceptions in individual sports provided the school principal approves and no school contests/activities are missed. Participation includes but is not limited to, practice, fund raising, team pictures, tryouts, etc. Rule 127-2-10.

Sanctioning and Travel: A member school shall not enter a contest, tournament, or competition which requires sanctioning until it is approved 30 days prior to the event. Rule 127-3-16.

For complete details regarding the above regulations and those governing team memberships, scholarship, undue influence, age, semester, etc. refer to the *Rules & Regulations Handbook* or at www.wvssac.org. This is not a comprehensive listing.

§127-2-13. Practice.

13.1. Only students enrolled and eligible to be listed on the eligibility certificate for that sport in the specific member school are allowed to participate in that school's practices. Exceptions are §§127-2-3.2, 127-2-3.5, and 127-2-13.6. (Revised 2012-13)

13.2. The frequency and length of practice is at the discretion of each member school.

13.3. Member schools of the WVSSAC may practice on any day of the year with the exception of Sunday practice. §127-3-14.2 further clarifies Sunday practice.

13.4. Individual players of a team must have practiced:

13.4.a. on **five** separate days before participating in an interscholastic scrimmage. (Effective September 13, 2021)

13.4.b. on **12** separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest. The following sport(s) is exempted from the provisions of this rule: golf. (Effective September 13, 2021)

13.4.c. a student athlete who is absent from practice with their team for non-medical reasons, and not under a doctor care, for more than 14 consecutive days must have the required full 12 practice days before resuming participation in a contest. Students participating in football must follow the practice progression as set for this §127-3-23. (Revised 2011-12)

13.5. A student shall not be permitted to engage in interscholastic practice until that student has filed with the principal a completed Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physician's Certificate Form. §127-3-3 further explains this required form.

13.6. A student academically ineligible may begin practicing 15 school days immediately prior to the date of regaining full eligibility. (All other ineligible students may not practice.)

13.7. If a student has established eligibility in a sport requiring 12 separate days of practice and is continuing to participate in that sport or no school days have lapsed from one sport to another sport in a same season, the student may participate in another sport of the season after completing five separate days of sport specific practice in the second sport. (Revised 2018-19)

13.8. Students participating in a sport(s) in one season must have practiced 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, to be eligible to participate in a sport in the next season with the following exception: the student has continued to practice or participate in tournament play without an interruption of school days. The student must complete five separate days of sport specific practice in the second sport.

3.7. Statement of Policy. Insofar as unsportsmanlike actions by students, school administrators, officials, coaches, faculty members, and spectators are concerned, the identical items under the Sportsmanship Rule along with the following guides will be referred to by the WVSSAC:

3.7.a. The school whose coach behaves in a manner likely to have adverse influence on the attitudes of students or spectators may be provided with the choice of taking disciplinary action against that coach or having the entire school disciplined by the WVSSAC.

3.7.b. Any student who in protest lays hands or attempts to lay hands upon an official may be declared ineligible by the principal or by the WVSSAC for up to one year. Any student who strikes an opponent, coach, or a spectator during or following an athletic event may be declared ineligible by the principal or the WVSSAC for a specified period of time up to one year, depending on the seriousness of the act.

3.7.c. Any coach, student, or bench personnel ejected by an official will be suspended for the remainder of the game, match, meet or contest. The coach, student, or bench personnel ejected by an official will also be suspended in additional contest(s): the suspension will be assessed based upon ten (10) percent of the allowed regular season contests or post season progression in a playoff tournament for each sport. Any tenth of a percentage from .1 to .4 will be a suspension equal to the whole number of the percent. Any tenth from .5 to .9 will be an additional contest added to the whole number. The suspension will include the number of indicated contests in that sport and at that level and all other sport contests in the interim at any level. A second ejection will result in the doubling of the suspension assessed for the first ejection. If an individual is ejected for a third time during the same sport season, the individual will be suspended from participating or coaching for 365 calendar days from the date of ejection. In accordance with rule 127-3-15.3, an individual ejected by an official may not appeal that ejection, or any subsequent suspension that is a consequence of the ejection by an official.

3.7.c.1. Any coach, player or bench personnel who has been ejected shall not be permitted to attend any contest(s) during said suspension. He/she shall not be affiliated with the team in any capacity. This would include but not be limited to transportation to or from the contest, meeting with the team before, during or after said contest. He/she is not permitted to be in sight or sound of said contest venue. Regular practice or team meetings not affiliated with a contest are permitted.

3.7.c.2. If suspensions are imposed to a student or bench personnel at the end of the sport season and no contest remains, the suspension is carried over to that particular sport until the next school year. In the case of a senior student, the penalty will continue to the next WVSSAC sponsored sport.

3.7.c.3. Any coach suspension that cannot be enforced during the sport season in which the ejection occurs will be enforced at the beginning of the next season of that same sport.

3.7.d. In case of spectators physically molesting an official, administrator, coach, or student, the school may be given one of two options: 1) file charges against the offender (s) or 2) accept discipline from the WVSSAC. Any person found guilty of W.Va. Code §61-2-15(a) Assault, Battery on Athletic Officials, while these individuals are working or as a result of working an athletic contest, shall be banned from all WVSSAC athletic events for a minimum of 365 days from the date of being found guilty. The school filing charges shall notify the WVSSAC of the incident and outcome of any legal action.

3.7.e. The school that does not lend complete cooperation in the host school's effort to promote the spirit of good sportsmanship may be disciplined by the WVSSAC.

3.7.f. A coach may be considered as committing unsportsmanlike conduct if they make degrading remarks about officials during or after a game either on the field of play, from the bench, or through any public news media, argues with officials, or goes through motions indicating dislike for a decision, protests the decision and actions of officials pertaining to the game during and after the contest, or detains the official on the field of play following a game to request a ruling or explanation of some phase of the game. If a coach feels he/she has a legitimate criticism of a penalty call or a request for a rule interpretation, such criticism or request should be made in the privacy of the coach's office or the official's quarters and should be made in a courteous manner.

3.7.g. A student or team attendant shall not leave the bench area, team box area, or their designated off-field area during a game or contest other than during that time permitted by game or contest rules. A coach shall not leave the bench area, team box area, or the designated off-field area during a game or contest other than during that time permitted by game or contest rules unless a student altercation is taking place and the official requests assistance. Violation of this rule shall cause the coach, student, or team attendant to be immediately ejected from the contest, team penalized according to game or contest rules and that coach, student, or team attendant will not be eligible to participate in the next contest as outlined in §127-4-2.3.

3.8. Procedure. Unsportsmanship action must be reported in detail to the WVSSAC. A copy of the complaint must also be filed with the principal of the school involved. Each principal involved shall report such information or answers to the report as they deem appropriate. Upon receipt of all reports, the Executive Director and/or the Board of Directors of the INVSSAC shall investigate and adjudicate such reports in accordance with the powers afforded in §127-1-8.6 and 8.7 and §127-1-12.2 and 12.3 of the Constitution. Penalties up to and including suspension of member schools may be made in accordance with §127-4.

3.9. The following defines the different types of disciplinary action which may be assessed for violation of any WVSSAC rule by a member school, administrator, coach, athlete or contest official:

3.9.a. **Warning.** A warning may be given by the Executive Director or Assistant Executive Director. It is official notice that an inexcusable, unethical, or unsportsmanship action has occurred, is a matter of record, and that such an occurrence must not be repeated.

3.9.b. **Probation.** Probation is a much more severe type of warning and may be expressed two ways: 1) a school, coach, student, or team attendant on probation is told that further violations will lead to a fine or suspension; and/or 2) a school on probation is on conditional WVSSAC membership but may engage in its regular schedule, sanctioned events, and all WVSSAC tournament play, providing a program is filed with the Executive Director of the WVSSAC indicating measures to be taken to alleviate this problem which caused the school to be placed on probation.

3.9.c. **Suspension.** A school/coach suspended from the WVSSAC may not meet in interscholastic competition of any kind with a INVSSAC member school or a school that is a member of another state associated with the National Federation of State High School Associations.

3.9.d. **Fine.** A fine may be levied by the Executive Director.

3.9.e. Each of these sanctions (Warning, Probation, suspension and Fine) may be imposed or levied separately, or in a combination of one or more sanctions.

3.10 **Appeals.** All cases involving disciplinary action against member schools, coaches, students, team attendants, or officials may be protested in accordance with §127-6. However, disciplinary action imposed by an official, including disciplinary action that is a consequence of a decision by an official, such as a suspension for an additional game or games as a consequence of an ejection, is governed by rule 127-3-15.3 and is not subject to appeal.

3.11 **Review of Ejections.** Disciplinary action imposed by a contest official, including disciplinary action that results in a suspension for an additional game or games as a consequence of an ejection, is not subject to appeal pursuant to Rule §127-6. However, if the individual ejected believes the ejection was improper, he/she may request a review of the ejection by his/her principal. If the principal believes there is merit in the requested review, the principal shall complete and submit the WVSSAC Ejection Review Form within 24 hours or the next business day of the ejection to the Executive Director of the WVSSAC. If a review is properly requested, the WVSSAC will review the officials' special report, the WVSSAC Ejection Review Form, and such other information as the WVSSAC deems appropriate. Upon review, the WVSSAC Executive Director or the designated Assistant Director will either sustain the ejection and any consequent suspension(s), or will determine the ejection was improper and void any consequent suspension(s). A decision by the WVSSAC upon reviewing an ejection is not subject to appeal pursuant to Rule §127-6.

RECRUITING REGULATIONS

If a coach is contacted by a student, his/her parents, or anyone else regarding a student athlete transferring to his/her district, the coach shall refer the individual(s) to a school administrator in the district immediately. A coach cannot discuss the matter with the student or anyone else for that matter and should not even listen when the subject is brought up concerning students transferring to his/her school. School coaches working or coaching in outside school leagues and camps should be warned that a potential problem exists if a student later enrolls at the school where the coach is employed. The school administrator, after being notified by the coach that a prospective student athlete has approached the coach about possibly playing for his/her school team, should contact the WVSSAC office immediately. Seriously or jokingly telling a student that you would like for that athlete to play for you or your team shall be considered recruiting. Rules regarding individuals who engage in recruiting shall not be restricted specifically to school personnel.

Approved by the Board of Appeals
October 1998

GUIDELINES FOR SUSPENDED COACH/PLAYER

A coach or player who is ejected from a contest shall be suspended for the remainder of the game, match, meet or contest. An ejected coach shall exit the playing arena (out of sight and sound of the venue) as well as the team and bench areas. If there is not another person hired by the board of education to coach that sport or a professional from that school present to take his/her place, the contest shall be forfeited. Because of supervision and liability, an ejected athlete shall sit on the bench and shall not cause nor participate in any further problems. Furthermore, a coach or player shall not be permitted to attend subsequent contests of the suspension. He/she shall not be formally affiliated with the team in any capacity. This would include but not be limited to transportation to or from the contest, meeting with the team before, during or after the contest, wearing a uniform, or sitting in the bench or team area. Regular practice or team meetings not affiliated with a contest will not fall under this policy.



SPECTATOR SUPPORT INFORMATION FOR TOURNAMENTS

The following sport support information is provided for each specified sport. ONLY those items marked with “Yes” are allowed during tournament play (sectional, regional, and state). It is recommended that schools follow these regulations during regular season play.

Vocal cheering and support from team bench areas are encouraged, however, the items indicated on this page are for use by spectators. Schools must stress GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP when allowing any item to be used. All items must be for support of your team and not directed against the opponent.

Legend: BSK Basketball CC Cross Country SB Softball TE Tennis WR Wrestling
BB Baseball FB Football SC Soccer TR Track & Field
CH Cheer GO Golf SW Swimming VB Volleyball

SPORT	BSK	BB	CH	CC	FB	GO	SB	SC	SW	TE	TR	VB	WR
Apparel Required Upper/Lower Body Garments	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Balloons	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Banners on wall/ Stadium	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Cheer & Band Member “Human” Tunnels	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Permanent Signage/ Advertisement Senior Pictures	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Confetti/Paper Debris	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Hand-held Signs (one holder)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Inflatable Tunnels	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Laser Pointer	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Miniature sports Balls thrown to crowd	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Noise makers (Horns, cow bells, bells, buzzers, clickers, etc.	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Opening Prayer / Invocation	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Paper banners for team to run through	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pom poms Sprit Towels	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Recorded/taped. music over amplifying system (only pregame or halftime)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
School Band, Pep Band	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Pressurized Air Horn Electronic Bull Horn	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Megaphones (as intended)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cannons & Muskets	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
50-50 Drawing	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Reserve Seating State Only	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No



**WEST VIRGINIA SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES COMMISSION
2875 STAUNTON TURNPIKE, PARKERSBURG, WV 26104**

BODY FLUID HANDLING PROCEDURES

PURPOSE

The West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission has adopted this policy in an effort to minimize the possibility of transmission of any infectious disease during a high school athletic practice or contest. The policy primarily addresses blood-borne pathogens such as Hepatitis B virus and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). However, it also discusses common-sense precautions against the spread of less serious contagions such as the Influenza virus and the Common Cold virus.

Much of this policy has been written with contacts sports such as football, wrestling, and basketball in mind. However, it is applicable for all sports.

BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGENS

Blood-Borne pathogens such as Hepatitis Band HIV are serious infectious diseases which are present in blood as well as other bodily fluids; such as semen, vaginal secretions and breast milk. While there are a number of other such blood-borne diseases, Hepatitis B and HIV are the most commonly known. Hepatitis B is a virus which results in a dangerous inflammation of the liver. Its victims suffer long-term consequences and reoccurrences, and the disease can be deadly if not treated. HIV is the virus that causes Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), which weakens the immune system, thus making a person susceptible to infections their immune systems would normally fight off.

The precise risk of HIV transmission during exposure of open wounds or mucous membranes such as eyes, ears, nose, and mouth to contaminated blood is not known. However, evidence would suggest it is extremely low. In fact, the possibility of contracting HIV in this manner is much less than the possibility of contracting Hepatitis B and other blood-borne viral infections.

Therefore, student athletes, coaches, and officials must understand that while it is possible for HIV to be transmitted by blood from one individual to another through an open wound or a mucous membrane, the probability is very low. However, since the chance of this occurring is not zero, the appropriate precautions should be taken to ensure no transmission can occur.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST TRANSMISSION OF BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGENS

The proper handling of body fluid spills should be a concern of teachers, coaches, officials, and student athletes. All concerned individuals must be aware that any time there is blood and/or other body fluids present, there is the possibility of an infectious disease being present. However this possibility can be early eliminated if the following precautions are observed.

General Procedures:

- 1) Wear latex or vinyl disposable exam gloves before making contact with body fluids during care treatment, and cleaning procedures.
- 2) Discard gloves after each use.
- 3) Wash hands after handling any body fluids, whether or not gloves are worn.
- 4) Discard disposal items in plastic lined containers with lids. Close bags and discard daily.
- 5) Do not reuse plastic bags.
- 6) Use disposable items to handle body fluids whenever possible.
- 7) Use paper towels to pick up and discard any solid waste materials such as vomitus and feces.

Procedures for Activities:

- 1) All athletes must cover any open wound.
- 2) Student athletes should treat and cover their own wounds whenever possible.
- 3) When administering first aid, disposable rubber gloves should be worn. A different pair of gloves should be worn for each treatment administered.
- 4) If an individual gets someone else's blood on his/her skin, the area should be washed with soap and water and wipe the area with disinfectant, such as isopropyl alcohol.
- 5) If a student athlete begins to bleed during activity, play must be stopped, the student athlete who is injured removed, and any potentially contaminated surfaces cleaned using a disinfectant. The surface should be wiped with clean water.
- 6) Any student athlete that is removed must have the wound covered and the bleeding stopped, prior to returning to contest.
- 7) Any individual who has treated a wound or cleaned a contaminated surface should wash his/her hands with soap and warm water.
- 8) A student athlete should take a shower using a liberal amount of soap and warm water following the contest. When showers are not available, it is recommended that the athletes wipe down with cleaning wipes (i.e., Wet Ones, Baby Wipes) following all practices or contests.
- 9) Towels, which are used by athletes, coaches, or officials should not be used to clean off any potentially contaminated surfaces.
- 10) All soiled linens such as towels and uniforms should be washed in hot water and in a detergent containing bleach, if possible.
- 11) If a coach or an official gets blood on them, they should first wash the area with warm water and soap, and then wipe the area with a disinfectant such as isopropyl alcohol.
- 12) All coaches, athletes, and officials should practice good hygiene. Towels, cups, and water bottles should not be shared.
- 13) Keeping locker rooms and other areas well-ventilated and clean can also help in preventing other air-borne contagions from being transmitted.

REFERENCES

St. Joseph's Hospital, Sports Medicine Staff, Parkersburg, WV.

West Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians, Sports Medicine Committee.

"Blood-Borne Pathogens in the Health Care of the Athlete," The First Aider, Fall 1992, Vol. 62, No.1.

"Infectious Disease Policy of the Florida High School Activities Association." 8-8-92.

"Routine for Handling Body Fluids," Michigan High School Association.

Policy Adopted by the Board of Directors

WAYS TO PREVENT SKIN INFECTIONS: A PLAYER'S GUIDE



Cover Cuts & Sores!

With a band aid or wrap before you play



Wash Up!

With soap and hot water



Don't Share!

Towels, clothes or personal items



Show & Tell!

Show cuts & sores
to your coach



Be Prepared!

Learn first aid for cuts
& sores



MEASURES FOR PREVENTING STAPHYLOCOCCAL SKIN INFECTIONS AMONG SPORTS PARTICIPANTS

Centers for Disease Control Recommendations for School Athletic Teams



Cover all wounds. If a wound cannot be covered adequately, consider excluding players with potentially infectious Skin lesions from practice or competitions until the lesions are healed or can be covered adequately.



Encourage good hygiene, including Showering and washing with soap after all practices and competitions.



Ensure availability of adequate Soap and hot water



Discourage Sharing of towels and personal items (e.g., clothing or equipment).



Establish routine cleaning schedules for Shared equipment.



Train athletes and coaches in first aid for wounds and recognition of wounds that are potentially infected.



Encourage athletes to report Skin lesions to coaches and encourage coaches to assess athletes regularly for Skin lesions.

