

# **MEMBERSHIP MAKES CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS AND ELIGIBILITY RULES**

**STEVENS POINT, Wis.** – The membership of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association passed a number of amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules of Eligibility at its Annual Meeting held at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center today.

Of the six amendments related to the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules of Eligibility up for membership vote, five passed into membership rule effective May 18, 2012.

Arguably the most significant change is to the Rules of Eligibility. It liberalizes the language addressing school teams assembling out-of-season during the school year. The new language permits student-athletes to assemble during the school year at any time outside the season for practice or competition as long as the school and/or school coach are not involved. The amendment received membership approval by a 258-72 vote.

The second of the amendments impacting the membership's Rules of Eligibility allows an injured athlete to participate in an awards ceremony if he/she is included on the team roster for the championship game. The vote to overwhelmingly approve was 313-19.

Two of the approved amendments relate to conference affiliation and realignment provisions. The first would remove a member school from the Tournament Series in a sport for two years when that school voluntarily withdraws from a conference in that respective sport. The one exception would be football, which already has a four-year sanction. The membership passed the measure 295-35.

The second amendment impacting with conference implications adds clarity to the options and authority the Board of Control has in realignment proceedings. These options include total movement of member schools, sport-specific relief and/or scheduling assistance. The amendment passed soundly, 311-19.

Another of the approved amendments is a change to the membership's Bylaws. It grants a forfeit bye to the next opponent of any team that withdraws from tournament competition for any reason other than a rules violation. In 2010, the membership approved a rule that outlined the policy when scheduled classes are interrupted because of infectious and communicable disease. The former rule reinstated the most recently defeated team back into the tournament to replace the displaced team. Under the new rule, a bye will be issued for the next round's opponent. The membership voted 314-18 to pass the amendment.

A second proposed amendment to the Bylaws was deferred to committee. It originated as an effort to increase the required participation of coaches for annual sport rules meetings, the amendment would have prohibited head coaches from coaching their team in the WIAA Tournament if they neglected to view the rules video and/or does not complete the sport exam by an established deadline.

The membership also approved the editorial changes of the Constitution by a 323-7 margin. Editorial changes are only intended to clarify existing interpretations of the rules.

Other notable information presented in Executive Director Dave Anderson's report included results of a membership survey regarding admission for spring contests, protection of school brands, independent contractor and concussion legislation, new website development and the State basketball tournament venue determination announced Tuesday.

A total of 411 delegates from 349 schools were in attendance. The WIAA oversees interscholastic athletic programs for 506 senior high schools and 71 junior high/middle level schools in its membership. It sponsors 25 championship tournament series. For more information, please contact the WIAA office at (715) 344-8580.

**# WIAA #**

Todd C. Clark  
Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association  
Director of Communications & Advanced Media  
5516 Vern Holmes Dr.  
Stevens Point, WI 54482  
(715) 344-8580  
(715) 344-4241 (fax)  
[tclark@wiaawi.org](mailto:tclark@wiaawi.org)  
[www.wiaawi.org](http://www.wiaawi.org)

#####  
This e-mail and any attachments is strictly confidential to the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association and is intended only for the addressee. It may contain information that may be confidential, legal, privileged, or otherwise exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by return email, delete this message and destroy any copies. Any dissemination or use of this message or its attachments without permission of the sender is unauthorized and is strictly prohibited.  
#####