

**M. TEAMS/INDIVIDUALS UNABLE TO ARRIVE FOR SCHEDULED COMPETITION AT A CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT
[Inclement Weather (policy #51.13)]**

The WIAA Executive Board and executive staff believe that all teams/individuals earning the right to participate in championship events should have those rights protected as much as possible. The WIAA Executive Board and executive staff also recognize the efforts of all participants to attend the championship events. The participating schools must also realize that these events are held to certain restrictions with facilities, game officials, and all other game administration.

A WIAA championship event shall be defined as regional and state competition. The competing school is responsible for notifying the WIAA office or the event manager, if the school is having difficulty traveling to the event site due to weather or a clear area-wide emergency and may not arrive in time for the scheduled event(s). Notification shall be made as soon as possible after it becomes evident that the team/individual is having difficulty. School personnel have the responsibility of making alternative travel plans to tournament sites based upon weather forecasts and any other pertinent information. As a common practice, input and recommendations are to be sought from the Highway Patrol and/or the Department of Transportation. Specific circumstances not covered by this policy are left to the discretion of the WIAA Executive Director or designee.

1. If a team/individual is unable to arrive at a championship event site for their scheduled competition due to circumstances beyond their control (e.g., an earthquake, all passes closed, roads closed due to flooding, etc), that team/individual will be allowed to participate in their scheduled event provided they arrive at the event site and are able to compete on the day of their scheduled event. The WIAA Executive Director, in cooperation with the event manager, shall adjust the schedule of the event for the purpose of allowing maximum participation for all qualified schools. If the team/individual is unable to arrive to compete on the day of its event, a forfeit is recorded and that team/individual shall move into the consolation bracket or be dropped from competition, whichever is applicable to the particular event.
2. There may be times in the interest of safety, weather, or conditions beyond the control of the participating schools and/or the tournament management that it becomes necessary to delay, postpone, or cancel such tournaments. The intent of this policy is to accommodate the participating school(s) by rescheduling if possible.
 - a. The following practices shall be observed:
 - 1) If severe weather conditions affect a participating school, but not the tournament, the principal must notify the tournament director.
 - 2) If severe weather conditions affect the tournament, the WIAA Executive Director or WIAA staff designee will make the final decision concerning tournament postponement or rescheduling.
 - 3) Participation on Sunday in any athletic contest cannot be expected or required of any school (without prior permission and approval of each participating school's local school board) nor can any penalty or forfeiture be imposed for not participating on Sunday.
 - 4) Play will resume on the next playable date.
 - 5) Changing of sites, postponement or cancellation of events will be determined by the WIAA Executive Director or WIAA staff designee.
 - b. Procedures to follow if contests are rescheduled:
 - 1) The WIAA Executive Director or WIAA staff designee has the final authority on contest rescheduling.
 - 2) If contests are rescheduled on the same day as originally scheduled but at a different site, the semifinal and championship contests will be scheduled at the same time or later than originally scheduled.
 - 3) Time between contests may be shortened. Example: If contests were originally scheduled at two (2) hour intervals, they may be rescheduled at one and one half (1½) hour intervals.
 - 4) Individuals/teams shall be granted a minimum of twenty (20) minutes for rest between contests.
 - 5) Whenever possible, contests played on the final day of the tournament shall be scheduled to allow individuals/teams to return to their home community that day.