

WIAA stance on waivers for Physical Education

In a nutshell; the WIAA has long been on record opposing efforts to substitute sports to meet physical education requirements.

Our concerns are broad and deep.

The reasons:

- 1. Sport seasons are not consistent with grading period starting and ending dates. Additional questions and concerns about grade determination exist. Does a starter receive an A – or does that require all-conference selection? What grade does an injured player receive when they are unable to complete the season?**
- 2. Increasingly, more coaches are not licensed as professional physical educators that are. To remove a broad-based education component from the curriculum would be counterproductive and detrimental. In addition, many coaches are not even licensed as teachers and have only minimal training as coaches.**
- 3. Athletics participation has been determined a ‘privilege’ by the US Supreme Court and does not carry the status of ‘right’ that physical education does. Training code violations requiring suspension would increase levels of scrutiny if academic credit was granted for athletic participation.**
- 4. Our society needs to develop a greater lifelong appreciation for physical education, fitness and health, as well as for good nutrition. Physical education curriculums can dictate policy; coach-athlete relationships aren’t so apt to do so. In an age when adolescent obesity and adolescent diabetes are of national concern and the costs associated with health care for an entire population are an ever-present topic of concern, moving away from policies controlling and dictating education in all of these areas would be a questionable practice – at best.**

Sincerely,

**Dave Anderson
Executive Director WIAA**