



PLAY.
PERFORM.
COMPETE.
TOGETHER.

2025 Middle School Summit



NFHS Middle School Committee



Sarah
Bridenbaugh
Chair - KY



Bob Baldwin
Section 1 (2027)
MA



Keenan Huss
Section 2 (2028)
PA



Amy Boozer
Section 3 (2025)
SC



LeVar Ridgeway
Section 4 (2026)
WI



Jennifer Rukstad
Section 5 (2027)
Missouri



Nick Lasker
Section 6 (2028)
AR



Rob Cuff
Section 7 (2025)
UT



Justin Kesterson
Section 8 (2026)
Washington



Position Statements

- **Framework Template for Middle Schools Involvement within the State Association Structure and Leadership**
- **Position Statement: Similarities and Differences Between Middle School Interscholastic and Club/Youth Activities**
- **Position Statement: Similarities and Differences in Middle and High School Performing Arts and Activities**

Newsletter



By the Numbers

142
subscribers

42% average
open rate

3 times a
year

5 standing
sections

EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

spotlight



WISCONSIN
INTERSCHOLASTIC
ATHLETIC
ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON
INTERSCHOLASTIC
ACTIVITIES
ASSOCIATION

AROUND THE NATION

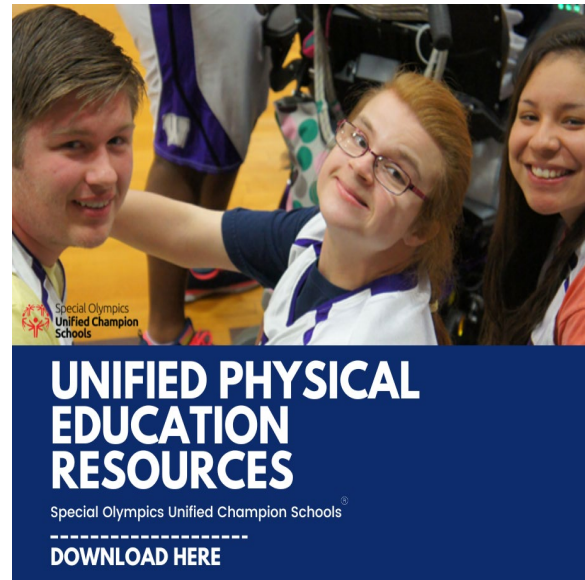
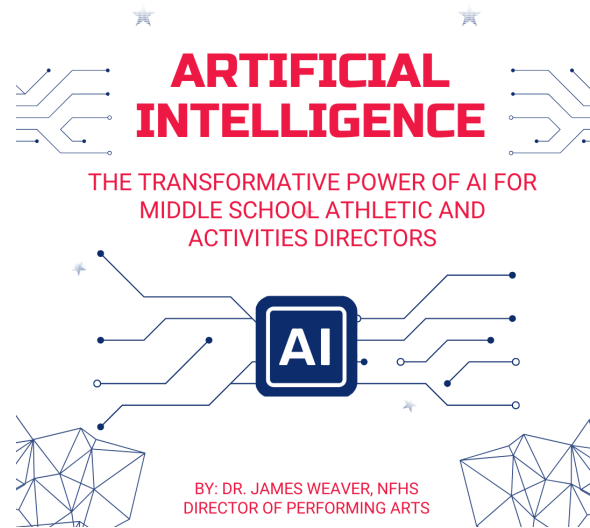
spotlight



SCHSL
Middle School
Leadership
Summit



Examples



Middle School LEARN



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Introducing the
**Middle School
Coaching Credential**



Join over 3,300 coaches and
achieve your **Middle School
Coach Level 1** credential
today!

Required Courses



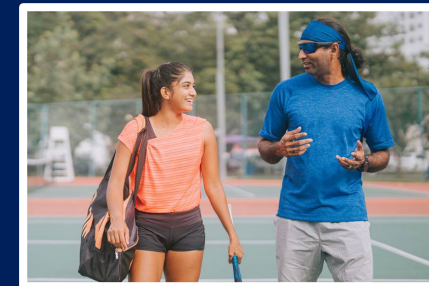
Middle School Coaching



Concussion in Sports



Sudden Cardiac Arrest



**Coaching Mental
Wellness**



New Credential Requirements

- Fundamentals of Coaching
- Concussion in Sports

- Sudden Cardiac Arrest
- **Coaching Mental Wellness**



- First Aid, Health and Safety
- Sport-Specific Course
- Heat Illness Prevention

- **Protecting Students from Abuse**
- **Emergency Action Planning for Afterschool Programs**



- Bullying, Hazing and Inappropriate Behaviors
- Sportsmanship
- Strength and Conditioning
- Engaging Effectively with Parents
- **Implicit Bias**

New Courses from

NFHSLearn.com



Middle School Coaching

Adolescent Development: Centering Athlete Needs

Coaching Mental Wellness

Emergency Action Planning for Afterschool Programs

Coaching Student Leadership



Middle School Officials' Information



States Requiring Registration/License for Middle School Officiating



- 19 state associations reported via the 2024-25 NFHS Officiating Services Department Survey that they require officials to be registered/licensed at the middle school level:

Alabama
DC
Florida
Illinois
Kentucky
Michigan
Mississippi

Missouri
Nevada
New Jersey
New Mexico
Ohio
Oklahoma

Pennsylvania
South Dakota
Washington
West Virginia
Wisconsin
Wyoming

Middle School Officials' Fees

- 15 states reported their middle school officials' fees to the NFHS. The range of fees is listed below:

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
Baseball	\$45	\$75
Basketball	\$25.00	\$71.25
Field Hockey	\$50	\$71.25
Flag Football	\$45	\$59
Football	\$45	\$75
Lacrosse (B/G)	\$54	\$79
Soccer	\$50	\$75
Track & Field	\$50	\$100
Volleyball	\$30	\$64
Wrestling (duals)	\$50	\$87

Junior Officials' Programs

- There are 23 state associations that have reported that they have a Junior Officials' Program in their states.
- The minimum age for an individual to serve as a junior official ranges from 14 to 17, depending on the state.
- Junior officials can work the following levels:
 - Middle School – 23 states
 - C-Team/Freshman – 18 states
 - Junior Varsity – 14 states
 - Varsity – 2 states

Middle School Performing Arts



Supporting Middle School Performing Arts



NFHS Performing Arts Department Resources

Professional Development

- Courses on NFHS Learn – Theatre Safety, New Music Teacher, Coaching Speech & Debate
- Free and on-demand: Designed for new or cross-disciplinary middle school educators.

Student Opportunities

- Debate in a Box (pilot kits and curriculum)
- Make Music Day – Engaging events with middle school-friendly entry points

Safety & Adjudication

- Band Safety Course – Relevant for beginning band directors
- Adjudication training – Helps standardize expectations at the middle school level



Resources from NFHS Arts Advocacy



Career Exploration



Careers in Music, Speech and Debate, Theatre Lesson Plans – Interactive modules including role-play and exit tickets



Teacher Well-Being & Safety

Heat-illness prevention guides
Educator satisfaction surveys



Student Leadership & Recognition

Tri-M Honor Society Grants – Promote leadership through music

More NFHS Performing Arts Resources



- Copyright & Licensing Essentials
 - NFHS Copyright Center
 - Articles,
 - licensing guides,
 - compliance flowcharts
- Professional Learning & Courses
 - New! Vocal Health Course – Vocal care strategies for music and theatre educators
 - Theatre Safety,
 - Event Management,
 - Copyright Compliance – All free on NFHS Learn
- Recognition & Leadership
 - Heart of the Arts Awards – Celebrating student and educator impact
 - Outstanding Educator Awards – Music, Speech/Debate, and Theatre



Discussion Items Submitted by Membership



Middle School Championships

Transfer Rules

Do you allow students to play travel
and middle school at the same
time?

Ideas to enhance/engage
membership

Are states introducing NCAA
eligibility early to 8th
graders/parents?

Any state level initiatives to foster leadership skills?

Any state level initiatives to highlight middle school programs similar to #HSActivities Month?

Suggestions for Next Steps and Resources



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Thank You

National Federation of State High School Associations

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