



2025-26 NSAA Changes

Baseball

- Jamboree games are allowed, beginning Week 36 through Tuesday of Week 37 of the NSAA Calendar. **(AR)**

Basketball

- The higher seed will host Class D1 & D2 District Final games. **(AR)**
- The Class B, C1, C2, D1 and D2 contest limitation is 24 total contests in addition to the postseason. Tournament play-in games are not to be counted toward the limit of 24 contests. **(RA)**
- Class B districts will be seeded statewide, using a serpentine method based on wildcard points. The highest seeded team in each district will host. A neutral site will be used if a matchup of two schools greater than 300 miles apart occurs in the 1st round or semifinals of the district. District finals will be hosted by the highest remaining seed regardless of distance. 7 district winners and a wildcard will advance to state. **(CC)**
- The seeding date for Class A Girls Basketball Districts will be Saturday of Week 33. Games through Friday of Week 33 will be factored into seeding. **(CC)**

Bowling

- Bowling districts will be assigned based on a serpentine method based on wildcard points, with hosts selected before the season. After postseason seeding, host schools will be assigned to one of the six districts. The NSAA Bowling Director will make the simplest one-team swaps between districts, based on wildcard points. **(AR)**

Cross Country

- In Class A, district seeding will be based on the average of a team's four fastest times. **(AR)**

Football

- The 8-man playoff eligibility number will increase to 55, beginning with the 2026-27 scheduling cycle. Beginning in 2026, Class D3 will be added. Class D1 will be the 32 largest 8-man schools. Remaining schools declaring to play 8-man will be split equally between Class D2 & D3. **(AR)**
- 8-man football schools can regain their one-cycle eligibility waiver if their enrollment number becomes eligible during the 2nd year of their current waiver period, beginning with the 2026-27 scheduling cycle. **(AR)**
- Beginning in 2025, the higher seed will host all playoff games prior to the Championship in Class D1 & D2. **(AR)**
- In 2025 only, the Class D1 & D2 playoffs will be seeded 1-32, with no re-seed after the 1st round. **(AR)**

Golf

- In all classes, schools can permit 7th and 8th grade students to practice with high school golf teams. **(RA)**
- In Class B, the best 4 team scores will be used to calculate the team differential used for district seeding. **(CC)**

Journalism

- A Unified exhibition category will be added to the State Journalism Championships. **(AR)**

Music

- Digital and hard copies are permitted for accompanists and directors use at NSAA District Music Contests. **(RA)**

Soccer

- Class B districts will be seeded statewide, using a serpentine method based on wildcard points. The highest seeded team in each district will host. A neutral site will be used if a matchup of two schools greater than 300 miles apart occurs in the 1st round or semifinals of the district. District finals will be hosted by the highest remaining seed regardless of distance. 7 district winners and a wildcard will advance to state. **(CC)**

Softball

- Class A district hosts will be able to decide whether to play Game 5 or Game 6 on the first day of districts. **(AR)**
- Class B districts will be seeded statewide, using a serpentine method based on wildcard points. The highest seeded team in each district will host. A neutral site will be used if a matchup of two schools greater than 300 miles apart occurs in the 1st round or semifinals of the district. District finals will be hosted by the highest remaining seed regardless of distance. 7 district winners and a wildcard will advance to state. **(CC)**

Tennis

- In Class B, out-of-state competition will count towards the contest limit, regular season record and state seeding. **(CC)**

Unified Track & Field

- Competition will expand to three divisions – boys, girls, and co-ed – implementation and timeline TBD. **(AR)**

Volleyball

- The higher seed will host Class D1 & D2 District Final games. **(AR)**
- In Class C1 & C2, 7th and 8th grade female team managers are allowed to participate in practice. **(RA)**
- Class B districts will be seeded statewide, using a serpentine method based on wildcard points. The highest seeded team in each district will host. A neutral site will be used if a matchup of two schools greater than 300 miles apart occurs in the 1st round or semifinals of the district. District finals will be hosted by the highest remaining seed regardless of distance. 7 district winners and a wildcard will advance to state. **(CC)**

Wrestling

- Class D Boys Wrestling Districts will be assigned with the westernmost 25% of schools in the class + the next 6 westernmost schools making up the D4 district. The remaining Class D schools will be placed in the other 3 districts using a serpentine method using returning state points. **(AR)**
- In all classes, 7th and 8th grade team managers are allowed to participate in practice. **(RA)**
- The organized practice number for wrestling increased from 4 to 8. **(RA)**
- In Boys Wrestling, teams that are unable to fill 8 weight classes (Class D) or 10 weight classes (Classes A, B & C) and opt-out of qualifying/competing in the State Dual Championships may participate in 18 events. **(RA)**

Class Caucus Criteria (AR)

- Approved ruling 1.5.4.2.1b. was amended to allow the Class Caucus Review Committee to consider proposals materially affecting member school/NSAA finances if a plan to account for the cost(s) is included in the proposal.

Opting-up Classifications (AR)

- Approved Ruling 2.13.2 was amended to allow schools to opt-up more than one classification.

Hardship Eligibility Criteria (RA+)

- Bylaw 1.10.3.11 was amended to remove mention of physical harm and add language about mental health, prioritizing the need to address a student's mental health prior to a request for a hardship waiver. The requirement for the determination of a hardship waiver to be delivered via Certified Mail was removed.

Updated Due Process Procedure (RA+)

- Bylaw 1.10 was amended to streamline the due process procedure for member school violations by eliminating a hearing officer, clarifying who can file a complaint against a member school and adding language to eliminate the ability for an anonymous person to trigger an investigation of a member school. The requirement for the determination to be delivered via Certified Mail was removed.

Eliminate From the Floor Proposals (RA+)

- NSAA member schools shall only consider proposals which are submitted by the October 1 deadline at the November District Meetings. From the Floor Proposals will no longer be allowed at the November District Meeting or at Representative Assembly.

(AR) = Proposal that passed a vote in at least one November 2024 NSAA District Meeting and passed a vote of the NSAA Board of Directors at their April 2025 meeting.

(CC) = Proposal that passed through the Class Caucus during the 2024-25 school year.

(RA) = Proposal that passed a vote in at least one November 2024 NSAA District Meeting, passed a vote in at least three January 2025 NSAA District Meetings and passed the vote of the NSAA Representative Assembly in April 2025.

(RA+) = Proposal that passed a vote in at least one November 2024 NSAA District Meeting, passed a vote in at least three January 2025 NSAA District Meetings, passed the vote of the NSAA Representative Assembly in April 2025 and passed a referendum vote of NSAA member schools.