



Nebraska School Activities Association
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NSAA MISSION STATEMENT

The public and non-public high schools of Nebraska voluntarily agreed to form the Nebraska School Activities Association for the following purposes:

- To formulate and make policies which will cultivate high ideals of citizenship, fair competition, sportsmanship and teamwork which will compliment the member schools' curriculum programs.***
- To foster uniformity of standards in interscholastic activity competition***
- To organize, develop, direct and regulate an interscholastic activity program which is equitable and will protect and promote the health and physical welfare of all participants.***

This SOCCER MANUAL has been prepared and designed to provide general information for use in the administration of NSAA soccer competition. It will serve as a guide to the participating schools and will provide for greater consistency between games. The regulations in this manual shall be considered official unless the schools are notified of a change.

All coaches and athletic directors are urged to read this manual thoroughly and to save it for future reference.

Assistant Director Ron Higdon is the NSAA staff member responsible for administering soccer. He can be reached at rhigdon@nsaahome.org.

Spring Sports Registration Deadline: Tuesday, Week 27, January 1, 2019
Date of First Practice: Monday, Week 35, February 25, 2019
Varsity Schedules Due Online: Tuesday, Week 36, March 5, 2019
Date of First Contest: Thursday, Week 37, March 14, 2019
Eligibility Due: Thursday, Week 37, March 14, 2019
District Entries Due: Monday, Week 43, April 22, 2019
Class A District Assigning/Seeding Released: Wednesday, Week 43, April 24, 2019
Class B District Seeding Released: Wednesday, Week 43, April 24, 2019
Class A District & Class B Sub-district Tournaments: Monday-Thursday, Week 44, April 29-May 2, 2019
Class B Soccer District Final: Saturday, Week 44, May 4, 2019
State Championship: Wednesday-Tuesday, Week 45 & 46, May 8-11, 13-14, 2019

**KEY DATES
FUTURE DATES**

SCHOOL YEAR	Season Begins	First Contest
2019-2020	March 2	March 19
2020-2021	March 1	March 18
2021-2022	February 28	March 17

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NEW FOR 2019

The NSAA is responsible for seeding and pairings.

The tournament shall be seeded based on wild card point averages of matches played through Monday of Week 43 for Class B and Tuesday for Class A. The district assignments/seeds will be released on the NSAA website Wednesday of Week 43.

If teams in the district tournament have identical wild card point totals, the following tie breaker will be used to determine seeding.

1. If two teams are tied with identical point averages and have played each other, the results of the competition between these schools will be considered and the team winning the majority of contests between the two teams will be given the higher seed.

2. If a tie still exists, or if more than two teams are tied, the team or teams playing the greatest number of first division teams in their classification will be selected. If two teams are still tied, criteria (1) will apply before going to step (3).

3. If a tie still exists, total the sum of the tied teams' opponents' wins and losses.

The team whose opponents have the higher winning percentage will receive the higher seed. If two teams remain tied, criteria (1) will apply before going to step (4).

4. If a tie still exists, the higher seed will be decided by a coin flip in the NSAA office.

NSAA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAW CHANGES

2.13 CLASSIFICATION

2.13.2 Basis for Classification. A school's classification shall be based on its total enrollment for all activities with the exception of football, boys tennis, boys basketball, wrestling, boys golf, boys soccer and baseball that will be classified on boy enrollment only, and volleyball, softball, girls basketball, girls golf, girls tennis and girls soccer that will be classified on girl enrollment only.

2.13.2.1 A school's total enrollment shall be the total boy and girl enrollment in grades nine, ten, and eleven according to the enrollment figures submitted to the State Department of Education on the last Friday in September of the preceding school year except for football, boys tennis, boys basketball, wrestling, boys golf, boys soccer and baseball that will be classified on boy enrollment only, and volleyball, softball, girls basketball, girls golf, girls tennis and girls soccer that will be classified on girl enrollment only.

APPROVED RULING 2.1.2 (Medical Personnel at Regular Season Games)

Severe injuries, sudden illnesses and other critical incidents do not often occur during school activities, but it is important for every school to have an emergency action plan (EAP) for administrators, faculty, coaches and staff members to follow should emergencies occur. Due to lack of universal availability of medical coverage and other logistical reasons, NSAA does not require that schools have a physician, trainer or ambulance on-site at regular season activities; however, each school should have a plan in place should there be an emergency involving athletes, coaches, officials or spectators requiring medical attention.

3.12 OFFICIALS—Appendix 4--NSAA POLICY ON COMMENTS AND NEGATIVE ACTIONS AGAINST OFFICIALS AND JUDGES

The National Federation of State High School Associations has devised Code of Ethics guidelines for high school coaches. The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. The coach or sponsor shall respect and support contest officials and judges. The coach or sponsor shall not indulge in conduct that would incite

players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials, judges or players is unethical. The Nebraska School Activities Association has embraced that Coaches Code of Ethics and has established policies and standards that will cultivate the ideals of good sportsmanship, professionalism and conduct. It shall be the responsibility of each member school to ensure that all individuals directly associated with the interscholastic program conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike and professional manner.

The high school coach or director is a representative of the school at interscholastic activity events. It is the responsibility of all coaches and directors to serve as role models for students and the public. It is the expectation that all coaches, directors, administrators and student participants shall refrain from negative criticism of NSAA member institutions, officials, adjudicators, judges, etc. in public statements before, during or after interscholastic events. The appropriate public response to media questions at all venues regarding officiating/judging is "per NSAA policy, I am unable to comment." Any other response is a violation of this board policy and is subject to penalty. It would be considered a violation of this NSAA policy to include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. Making degrading and/or critical remarks about officials or adjudicators or the officiating or judging before, during or after an event either on or off-site, via social media, or through any public means.
- b. Detaining the officials/adjudicators/judges during or following the event to request a ruling or explanation of actions or evaluation by the official(s)/adjudicator(s)/judges.
- c. Entering the officials dressing area following the contest.

Negative actions by an individual directly associated with the program shall be reported to the NSAA office by the school and/or by the head contest official, adjudicator, judge, or manager. The school shall document the results of their investigation and actions taken, where necessary and appropriate. The NSAA Executive Director shall determine the appropriate penalties for violation of this board policy.

Expected Behaviors at Awards Ceremonies

Education-based activities give students the ability to train, participate and compete in a structured setting. With that, students often learn lessons that are sometimes not taught in the traditional academic classroom. Some of those lessons includes learning to win and lose with dignity and grace. As such, the following guidelines have been developed for awards ceremonies at the conclusion of sub-district, district and state contests.

Only one team can win a district or state championship, yet the NSAA provides trophies, plaques and medals to the losing teams in many of the postseason activities. It shall be the expectation that both team shall accept their medals and trophies in a sporting and willing manner. Some losing teams have been reluctant to step forward and accept their awards, and coaches and administrators need to assure sporting behaviors for their student athletes. It is natural to be disappointed in losing the contest, but stepping forward at this time of disappointment is a life lesson that helps mold proper and sporting behaviors. It is the expectation!

The executive director or the NSAA Board of Directors shall determine the type and severity of sanctions to schools that do not comply with these expectations.

NFHS 2018-19 Soccer Rules Changes

4-1-1a, b:

a. The home team shall wear dark jerseys and socks (dark is defined as any color which contrasts with white), and the visiting team shall wear solid white jerseys and solid white socks. Prior to and during the game, jerseys shall be tucked into the shorts, unless manufactured to be worn outside.

b. Both socks shall be the same color, with the home team wearing socks of a single dominant color, but not necessarily the color of the jersey and the visiting team wearing solid white sock. If tape or a similar material (stays/ straps) is applied externally to the socks, it must be of similar color as that part of the sock to which it is applied.

Rationale: This change allows home teams to wear the school-colored jerseys at home. The change would provide the opportunity for teams to use an alternative color uniform for "special" events, if approved by the state association.

4-1-1d, e:

d. If visible apparel is worn under the jersey and/or shorts, it shall be of similar length for an individual and a solid liked-color for the team.

Rationale: The previous rule caused financial hardships for some players and schools. The rule allows for the purchase of one set of cold-weather undergarments per player.

4-2-10 (NEW):

In addition to the above permitted uses, state associations may on an individual basis permit a player to participate while wearing a head covering if it meets the following criteria:

1. For medical or cosmetic reasons – In the event a participant is required by a licensed medical physician to cover his/her head with a covering or wrap, the physician's statement is required before the state association can approve a covering or wrap which is not abrasive, hard or dangerous to any other player and which is attached in such a way it is highly unlikely that it will come off during play.
2. For religious reasons – In the event there is documented evidence provided to the state association that a participant may not expose his/her uncovered head, the state association may approve a covering or wrap which is not abrasive, hard or dangerous to any other player and which is attached in such a way it is highly unlikely to come off during play.

Rationale: The addition of this exception allows for the participation of students who for religious reasons must maintain a covered head in all situations. The same is true for the student who for medical or cosmetic reasons needs to cover the head.

8-1-2:

At the moment of the kickoff, all players, except the player taking the kickoff, shall be in their team's half of the field. Players opposing the kicker shall be at least 10 yards from the ball until it is kicked.

Rationale: This 2017 rule change allowing the kickoff to be taken in any direction has created difficulty for the player taking the kick to easily kickoff into his/her own half of the field without

physically being in the opponent's half of the field. This addition to the rule would permit only the player taking the kickoff to be in the opponent's half of the field, in order to take the kickoff.

11-1-4:

A Player is offside and penalized if, at the time the ball touches or is played by a teammate, the player, in an offside position, becomes involved in active play by:

- a. interfering with play or with an opponent or;
- b. seeks to gain an advantage by being in that position.

A player in an offside position receiving the ball from an opponent, who deliberately plays the ball (except from a deliberate save), is not considered to have gained an advantage. Indirect free kick at the spot of the infraction (even in own half), subject to the provisions in P 13.1.3

Rationale: This change better articulates the difference between being in an offside position and an offside violation. It also places the penalty language in a more logical place within the rule.

12-8-1f, 15 (NEW):

1. A player, coach or bench personnel shall be cautioned (yellow card) for:

- f. unsporting conduct, including, but not limited to: 15. A player who commits an offense against an opponent within his/her team penalty area which denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity and the referee awards a penalty kick, if the offense was an attempt to play the ball. 12-8-2d3, 4 2. A player, coach or bench personnel shall be disqualified (red card) for: (NEW) d. committing serious foul play: 3. a player commits a foul, outside the penalty area, attempting to deny an obvious goal-scoring opportunity, and the goal is not scored; or 4. a player commits a foul, inside the penalty area, while not attempting to play the ball, and the goal is not scored.

Rationale: This change addresses the issues of denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO) that occur in the game that places a player and team in double jeopardy when applying a penalty.

13-2-1j (NEW): ART. 1 . . . Direct free kicks are awarded and taken from the point of the infraction (Except as in 13-1-3 and 14-1-1):

- j. if a player, coach, or bench personnel enters or leaves the field of play without permission of an official and interferes with play or an official (12-8-1).

Rationale: This change emphasizes the importance of proper decorum and behavior from the benches.

13-2-3: ART. 3 . . . The following indirect free kicks are taken from where the ball was when the referee stopped play: (Subject to restrictions in 13-1-3 and 13-1-4.)

- a. if a player, coach or bench personnel enters or leaves the field of play without permission of an official and does not interfere with play or an official (12-8-1);

Rationale: This change maintains a focus on the proper decorum and behavior of the benches.

18-1-g (NEW): A deliberate act is one in which a player chooses to act, regardless of the outcome of that action. This deliberate act is neither reaction nor reflex. A deliberate action may result in the opponent benefiting from the action (e.g., a deliberate, but misplayed ball that goes

directly to an opponent). A reaction or reflex may result in that player benefiting from the action (e.g., a ball inadvertently contacting the arm and falling directly to the player's feet).

Rationale: This definition provides guidance for interpretation of rules that contain the word deliberate or phrase deliberate act.

Major Editorial Changes

4-2-4: Clarifies a religious medal or other religious items must be taped to the body.

2018-19 NFHS Points of Emphasis

1. **Denying an Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity:** The penalty associated with a player who denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity has been amended. In an effort to make the penalty better fit the infraction, now when a player commits an offense against an opponent within their own penalty area which denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity and the referee awards a penalty kick, the offender is cautioned if the offence was an attempt to play the ball. Formerly, this player was disqualified and penalty kick was awarded. In circumstances where there was no attempt to play the ball, the player is still disqualified.

In evaluating whether there has been an obvious goal scoring opportunity, officials are encouraged to consider the following:

Distance between the offense and the goal (the offense must be near the goal)
General direction of play (the attacking players are generally headed towards the goal)
Likelihood of keeping or gaining control of the ball (the player must have or be able to get control of the ball in order to score)
Location and number of defenders (not more than one defender between the attacking player and the goal, not counting the player that committed the foul and the defenders must be able to challenge the attacking player)
If any of the above considerations are missing, it is not an obvious goal scoring opportunity.

2. **Excessive Player Substitutions:** Concern has been expressed in situations where teams make excessive substitutions towards the end of a game in an effort to waste time. According to Rule 3-6, a referee has the discretion to stop the clock during the substitution so that this time is not lost. Further, the referee may consider this unsporting conduct and a caution may be issued to the coach of the offending team.
3. **Referee Mechanics for Indirect Free Kicks:** When a team is awarded a free kick, it is important that the referee correctly utilize the NFHS Official Soccer Signals and properly signal so the teams know whether the kick is direct or indirect. This is especially important if the free kick is near the opponent's goal. For an indirect free kick, the referee must raise one arm vertically and maintain that position until the ball is touched by a second player. It is critical players know what type of free kick is occurring so the team taking the kick can properly execute the kick and the team defending know whether a goal may be scored directly from the kick. For indirect free kicks, if the ball enters the goal directly from the kick, the restart is a goalkick.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.12

Concussion in Sports, Heat Illness Prevention, Sudden Cardiac Arrest Education

All coaches and volunteers are required to complete the NFHS Concussion in Sports, Heat Illness Prevention, and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training courses annually. These courses should be taken prior to any pre-season or regular season physical workouts that the respective coach would be present for or involved in administering.

Any course taken after May 1 would be considered valid for the following school year.

Obtaining a Special Services Certificate for Coaching

1. Complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course that also will meet the Nebraska Human Relations requirement.
2. Complete a course in NFHS First Aid, Health and Safety for Coaches.
3. Complete finger print cards to meet the State Patrol requirement if the applicant has not resided continuously in Nebraska for the past five years. A check for the cost of fingerprinting of \$50 should be submitted with the application. The coach has been a resident for the past five years, a record of the addresses should be placed on the application.
4. Online application/fee should be completed at www.education.ne.gov/TCERT.
5. Submit original certificates indicating completion of the NHFS Fundamentals of coaching, NFHS First Aid for Coaches, and/or the transcript from a college showing completion of the human relations requirement.
6. A Special Services certificate will be sent electronically to the individual's email address included on the application. The certificate will be valid for five years and can be renewed following standards found in NAC 92, Chapter 21.
7. All head coaches are required to attend an NSAA Rules Meeting or complete an NSAA Rules Meeting online annually. Failure to do so will result in possible late fees and suspension penalties.

RULES MEETINGS

Online rules meetings are initially offered at no cost to coaches or officials, followed by a period with a \$25 "Late" Fee, followed by a period with a \$50 "Delinquent" Fee. The following sanctions and fees are applicable to those coaches who fail to complete the rules meeting by the expiration of the "Delinquent" Fee period.

Absence from the required rules meeting OR FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE ONLINE RULES MEETING will result in the following sanctions:

First Offense in Three-Year Period

The head coach will be suspended from coaching in any competition in that activity until

- (1) The head coach COMPLETES THE NSAA'S ONLINE RULES MEETING OFFERED AT THE LATE FEE of \$100; and
- (2) the head coach successfully completes the open book test for officials/judges of that activity (70% or higher); and the school's administration verifies that the coach has read all the supporting NSAA, National Federation, and safety information.

During this regular season suspension period, the head coach may continue to coach the team at practices.

Second and Subsequent Offenses in Three-Year Period

The head coach will be suspended from coaching in all NSAA end-of-season play (sub-districts, districts, playoffs, and state competition).

- (1) The head coach COMPLETES THE NSAA'S ONLINE RULES MEETING OFFERED AT THE LATE FEE of \$200; and
- (2) the head coach successfully completes the open book test for officials/judges of that activity (70% or higher); and the school's administration verifies that the coach has read all the supporting NSAA, National Federation, and safety information.

During this regular season suspension period, the head coach may continue to coach the team at practices.

2019 Online Soccer Rules Meetings

February 8-23, 2019	No Charge to Officials & Head Coaches
February 24-March 2, 2019	Basic \$25.00 Fee - Officials & Head Coaches
March 3-5, 2019	Late/Penalty \$50.00 Fee - Officials & Head Coaches

2.12.3 Coaches' Aides

Schools may contract non-certificated personnel to assist with their activities programs, but such personnel shall be coaches' aides.

2.12.3.1 The individuals must have a job description.

2.12.3.2 The individual shall not initiate nor change instruction given by the head coach and must carry out specific directions given by the head coach.

2.12.3.3 The individual may assist in starting, executing, and completing the specific plan of the learning experience as defined and directed by the head coach.

2.12.3.4 The aide should be specifically prepared for duties assigned, to include the handling of emergency situations that arise in the course of his/her work.

2.12.3.5 Coaches' aides are not to be given the sole responsibility of directing or supervising students during practice. The head coach should be in the immediate practice area.

2.12.3.6 When traveling to and from and participating in interschool competition, the team or individuals are to be accompanied by the head coach/sponsor, assistant coach/sponsor, or in case of an emergency, a certificated faculty member.

NSAA ATHLETIC BYLAWS GOVERNING SOCCER

- 1. Boys and girls soccer shall be conducted during the spring sports season.
- 2. The soccer season shall begin the first day of practice as permitted by NSAA rules and shall end with the state championships:

Week 35	February 25, 2019	First Practice
Week 37	March 14, 2019	First Contest
Week 44	April 29-May 4, 2019	District Tournaments
Week 45, 46	May 8-11, 13-14, 2019	State Championships

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.1.1

1. A season begins on the first day of allowable practices for that sport, as designated in 3.1.1.2. The season officially ends with the conclusion of the State Championship in that sport. Students may not participate in outside group instruction or competition once the season officially begins, and outside group instruction or competition may not commence until the school varsity team has been completely eliminated from further participation in that sport.
2. All scheduled and postponed regular season varsity contests must be played prior to the start of sub-district, district or state competition. Once sub-district, district or state competition begins, no regular varsity contests shall be permitted.
3. Students who are not listed on the NSAA District Entry form may participate in outside group instruction or competition of the same sport before the varsity school team has been completely eliminated from post-season competition. Those students who have participated in outside group instruction or competition following their regular season schedule would not be eligible to be placed on the district or state entry form of the same sport and would not be allowed to practice with the varsity team.
 - 3.1.1.1 A season begins the day of opening practice as permitted by the NSAA rules rather than the first day of interscholastic competition.
 - 3.1.1.2 The division of sports seasons shall be as follows: No school shall register more than one varsity team per sport and no student shall participate simultaneously in more than one sport per season.

Note: Week designations are for the standardized calendar. The standardized calendar usually begins with the first full week in July.

CONTEST LIMITATIONS

1. No soccer team (varsity or non-varsity) representing a member school shall participate in more than thirteen soccer games, excluding of the district and state tournaments. If a school is involved in a conference tournament, the conference tournament is to be counted as one of the thirteen game limit. Participation in any soccer tournament/engagement shall count as one of the thirteen permitted games.
2. An athlete may participate in no more than one soccer game per day, with two exceptions:
 - a. In tournaments/engagements, an athlete may participate in two soccer games per day (maximum of 2 games per day: 2 JV, or 1 varsity and 1 JV).
 - b. In varsity and junior varsity competition played on the same day, students are limited to three halves of soccer competition and the participation can be split between the varsity and junior varsity games. Any participation in a half counts as one half of competition regardless of the amount of time played.
3. No contest may be held with any team not belonging to the NSAA or its own state high school association.
4. No contest in any class, other than the state tournament contests, are permitted during the dates of the State Soccer Championships. This includes regular season contests, non-varsity tournaments, and conference tournaments or playoffs.
5. No game or scrimmage may be held with any team before the opening game of the season. Each interschool scrimmage played on or after the first date permitted for sports contests shall count as a game played (one of the thirteen games allowed). The penalty for participation in an illegal scrimmage or game may be suspension from the NSAA for one season of that sport. This does not prohibit intra-squad scrimmages.

6. A school that violates the team match limitation or the student match limitation may be disqualified from district and state tournament competition.

TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES

A tournament is defined as a contest involving four or more teams in which the winner continues to advance and compete until a single winner is determined. Tournaments cannot be in round-robin format.

Soccer Engagements (classics, invitationals, etc.)

1. Any and all date changes due to weather must be communicated to the NSAA office. If you have a cancellation or postponement after a tournament has been seeded and bracketed, any rescheduled contests for that tournament must follow the original bracket and format.
2. If a team participates in more than one tournament, each tournament in excess of the one permitted tournament shall count as one of the thirteen permitted matches. A tournament is defined as a contest involving four or more teams in which the winner continues to advance and compete until a single winner is determined. Tournaments cannot be in round-robin format.
3. Teams are allowed to participate in two games in one day that are not in a tournament format; this format is considered an “engagement”.
 - a. Each game has a predetermined opponent.
 - b. Each engagement would count as one of the thirteen permitted matches.
4. A school team shall not participate in a high school indoor soccer competition until the first date permitted for interschool competition. Any soccer competitions on or after that date, whether indoors or outdoors, shall count as one of the permitted thirteen games.

3.2.1--“SCHOOL-YEAR, OUT-OF-SEASON” DEFINITION

“School-year, out-of-season” is defined as that period of time during the school year in which no organized practice can be conducted. The “school-year, out-of-season” period begins on August 10 and runs until the first allowable date of practice in that sport, and the period after a team or individual has been eliminated from further competition during the championship series of district and state tournaments/meets through May 31 or the end of the school year, whichever is later. For non-varsity competition, “school year, out-of-season” begins the day following the last date of interscholastic competition or the last date of the varsity season, whichever is later.

3.2.2--“School-Year, Out-of-Season” Participation

Except during the season of the sport involved, a student may be a member of a non-high school team and compete unattached in non-high school competition. Students are prohibited from wearing high school uniforms during non-high school sponsored competition.

3.2.3--Organized Practice

Organized Practice. No organized practice in any sport shall be held during the “school-year, out-of-season” period. An organized practice shall be defined as follows:

- a. **Soccer.** An organized practice in soccer shall mean more than seven students under direct supervision of a sponsor.
- b. If more than one group is practicing at the same time, it shall be called an organized practice.

3.5--PARTICIPATION ON NON-HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS AND IN NON-HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION

3.5.1 Any student who participates in any athletic contest other than as a representative of his/her high school during the season of the sport involved becomes ineligible to represent his/her school in that sport for one or more contests or the remainder of the season.

1. During the season of a particular sport, athletes participating in that sport for a high school may attend, but may not physically take part, either as an individual or as a member of a team, in the sport activity in which instruction is being offered in the clinic, camp, or school.
2. At no time during the high school sport season can a student who is a member of the school squad in that sport compete in non-school organized competition in any skill of the sport.
3. A person maybe considered to be a participant without being an official entry in the competition.
4. The phrase “compete in non-school organized competition in any skill of the sport” is interpreted to mean to take part in any skill of the sport of season. For example, a student out for cross country or track would become ineligible to represent the high school if he/she participates in a road race or a marathon. A student on the high school basketball team would become ineligible if he/she participates in a free throw contest, 1-on-1, 2-on-2,3-on-3, 4-on-4 basketball contest, or other similar contest. A student out for high school football will become Ineligible if he competes in a punt, pass and kick contest. A wrestler shall not participate in a non-school takedown tournament during the wrestling season. An exception to this rule may be granted by the Executive Director for special circumstances.
5. Schools must contact the Executive Director in advance of the event to determine whether an activity would qualify under this exception.
6. If prizes or awards are provided for such participation, such awards need to be in compliance with NSAA guidelines. Awards to individuals for activity participation in the form of cash, merchandise certificates, or any negotiable instrument are not allowed.
7. Halftime free-throw or three-point contests or other such halftime skill contests used as fundraisers by a schoolrelated group shall no longer impact the eligibility of students out for the sport, providing the award is not in the form of cash, merchandise certificates or any negotiable instruments, and providing that the full retail value of the symbolic or merchandise award does not exceed the value set by the Board of Directors (currently \$50).

8. A student may participate as an individual, without loss of interscholastic eligibility under the following conditions:
 - (a) As a member of a national team (and the actuals direct tryouts) which is defined as one selected by the National Governing Body of the sport on a national qualification basis, either through a defined selective process of actual tryout for the purpose of international competition which requires entries to officially represent their respective nations.
 - (b) In an Olympic Developmental Program, which is defined as a training program or competition.
 - (1) Conducted or sponsored by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), or
 - (2) Directly funded and conducted by the USOC member national governing body on a national level (e.g. NGB national championship and direct qualification therefore); or
 - (3) Specifically authorized by a national governing body involving only athletes previously identified by some qualifying procedure by the national governing body as having potential for future participation in regional, national, or international competition in the sport involved.
 - (4) Coaches from schools involved with an Olympic Development Program must adhere to the organized practice rule.
 - (c) While representing the National Federation as a member of its United States national entry in an International School Sport Federation event.
 - (d) In an athletic contest sponsored by a non-high school organization, provided the individual has qualified prior to the sports season through actual competition in a meet or series of meets which were designated in advance by the sponsoring organization as qualifying meets. Times, distances, placement, or performance in high school competition shall not be considered as qualifying criteria.
 - (e) Provided in a, b, c, and d, such participation has been approved by the high school principal and the Nebraska School Activities Association.
9. The high school principal and the coach of the sport involved must approve the request for a waiver of Section 3.5. The school then may request a waiver from the Nebraska School Activities Association, including documentation on how prequalification was met, with a maximum of one (1) non-school event per season for an individual student.
10. If the student(s) has not qualified for the competition through actual competition in a meet or series of meets which were designated in advance by the sponsoring organization as qualifying meets, or the competition is not a part of the United States Olympic Development Program, a waiver may be granted provided the student(s) does not represent his/her school in varsity competition of the sport involved for the same number of days in which he/she participated in the non-school competition.
11. Students must miss the school events(s) immediately following the outside participation activity unless there are not the required number of regularly scheduled school events remaining; in which case, the additional events would need to be made up in advance of the outside participation.

12. Request for the certification of distances or times attained in state meet competition shall be submitted by the individual along with information on how these marks are to be used. In order to be considered, the use of such marks must meet established minimum qualifying standards and competition must be open to any athlete meeting such standards. Certification of times or distances will not be given if qualification is based upon placement in a contest sponsored by the membership of the Nebraska School Activities Association.
13. NSAA Bylaw 3.1.1.2 specifies that no student shall participate in more than one sport per season. An exception would be that such dual participation would be approved for students participating in Unified Sports®. Students in NSAA member schools that participate in Unified Sports® may also participate on an interscholastic athletic team during the Unified Sports season. This does NOT apply to other NSAA sports.
14. Outside participation is approved for students participating in Unified Sports®. As an example, students in NSAA member schools that participate in Unified Sports® may also participate on their “club” bowling team during the NSAA Unified Sports®, Bowling season. (exception to Bylaw 3.5.1) This does NOT apply to other NSAA sports.

3.5.2--OUTSIDE PRACTICES, TRYOUTS, PARTICIPATION, INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION

Individual Instruction. During a season of a sport, a student is permitted to take individual instruction from a person other than the high school coach at times other than scheduled high school practice sessions, but such instructions shall not interfere with, nor be substituted for the high school coaching, practice sessions, or contest.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.5.2

During a season of a sport, a student is permitted to take individual instruction from a person other than the high school coach. Group instruction, practices with outside teams, and tryouts for outside teams other than as part of a college or university recruiting visit, however, are not permitted.

SOCCER SCHEDULES

1. Schedules need to be entered on the NSAA website by March 5, 2019.
2. Please follow the instructions sent to the schools when entering schedules.
3. The schedules will be posted on the NSAA website (www.nsaahome.org).
4. Contests may not be added after March 5, 2019. Please notify the NSAA with any postponements or cancellations. Submit schedule changes to Jeff Stauss, jstauss@nsaahome.org.
5. All contests MUST be played prior to the start of districts (April 29, 2019).

MUSIC LICENSES

Generally, music used for contests (warm-up, half-time, “walk-up” music, etc.) needs to be licensed. Some music may be in public domain; however, most music is not and will require a license. This season, take the necessary time to verify your music is licensed through the proper entities. Visit www.nfhslearn.com for additional resources.

STEROID POLICY

The Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), strongly oppose the abuse of anabolic steroids and other performance-enhancing substances by high school student-athletes. Such use violates legal, ethical and competitive equity standards, and imposes unreasonable long-term health risks.

The NSAA and the NFHS support prohibitions by educational institutions, amateur and professional organizations and governmental regulators on the use of anabolic steroids and other controlled substances, except as specifically prescribed by physicians for therapeutic purposes.

NSAA SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDELINES AND EJECTIONS

1. Enforcement of the “sit-out rule” for ejections from high school contests for unsportsmanlike conduct is a responsibility of the member school. Failure to properly enforce this rule could result in other sanctions by the NSAA.
2. Administrators will be expected to promptly file a report with the NSAA whenever a participant or coach from their school has been ejected from any high school contest. Such filing must be done online under the AD login section of the NSAA webpage.
3. A participant or coach ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next athletic contest at that level of competition and any other athletic contest at any level during the interim.
4. Enforcement of the “sit-out rule” is expected to begin immediately, regardless whether it is regular-season or tournament play.
5. Any participant ejected a second time during a season from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next two contests at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to other penalties the NSAA or school may assess.
6. Any participant ejected a third time during a season from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next three contests at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to other penalties the NSAA or school may assess.
7. During the time of their “sit-out” suspension, athletes who are ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct may not suit up or participate, but it is the school’s discretion whether such athlete is able to travel with the team or sit on the team bench.
8. Coaches who are ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct may not coach in any contest or be present at the contest site during the time of their “sit-out” suspension. Coaches who are ejected will also be required to successfully complete the NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior online course within 10 days of the ejection. Failure to successfully complete the course will result in a suspension from coaching for the remainder of the season. In those situations in which the ejection of the coach occurs near the end of the season or during the NSAA end-of-season play, the coach will be required to successfully complete the NFHS Sportsmanship online course before being able to coach the following season or year.
9. Coaches who are ejected a second time in a season will be required to sit-out the next two contests at that level, plus all other contests at other levels during the interim. Coaches may not be present at the contest site during the time of their “sit-out” suspension. Any coach ejected a second time will also be required to successfully complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching online course within 10 days of the ejection. Failure to successfully complete the course will result in a suspension from coaching for the

10. remainder of the season. In those situations in which the ejection of the coach occurs near the end of the season or during the NSAA end-of-season play, the coach will be required to successfully complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching online course before being able to coach the following season or year.
11. If the ejection takes place in the final game of the season, the suspension will carry over to the following season.
12. When schools have students or coaches with multiple ejections, the school shall submit to the NSAA a written management plan on how they plan to remediate the problem.
13. Officials will be expected to file with the NSAA an ejection report for any ejection of a player or coach from a contest online. Any unusual situation that occurs prior to, during, or after a contest should also be reported.
14. Prompt reporting to the NSAA office by the official is necessary. Officials are asked to submit their electronic report or call the NSAA office by the day following the ejection.
15. Officials are asked to be specific in listing the reason(s) for an ejection.
16. Affiliated officials (officials registered from contiguous states) will also be required to perform this reporting function.
17. There is no appeal process for ejections for unsportsmanlike conduct.
18. The Executive Director shall reserve the right to consider the length of suspensions when some levels of competition are scheduled on an irregular basis (e.g., three weeks between regularly scheduled non-varsity contests).

****Note: Any red card issued to a player or coach constitutes an ejection.**

FAN/SPECTATOR SUPPORT ITEMS

In the Chart below, ONLY those items marked “Yes” will be allowed as fan/spectator support items at all NSAA Sub-District, District, State Playoffs and State Championships. Sportsmanlike vocal cheering and support from the team bench area are encouraged. The items indicated on this page are for use by fans/spectators.

Prohibited items: Confetti/shredded paper, powder (baby, talc, etc.), Laser light/pointer, flashing objects, miniature sports balls, objects or candy thrown into the crowd, Artificial noise makers, (included but not limited to horns, cow bells, bells, buzzers, clickers, thunder sticks, rattles, instruments not part of a band), whistles, air horns, sirens, cannons/muskets/guns/fireworks or live animals.

Regulations listed are subject to facility restrictions.

SPORT	BA	BB	CC	FB	GO	SO	SB	SW	TE	TR	VB	WR
Balloons	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
One School Banner per school	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hand held signs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Megaphones (school recognized cheerleaders only)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Shirts on student spectators (required) AR 3.3.11	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shirts on general spectators	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Team Introduction Run-throughs or Break Away Banners	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pompoms, spirit towels	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Prerecorded music that has been approved by the Host Administration may be played during pre-contest warm ups provided that a high school band is not available to play during that time.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
School bands	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes
Carried school flags (Running/taunting prohibited)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Key: BA-Baseball, BB-Basketball, CC-Cross Country, FB-Football, GO-Golf, SO-Soccer, SB-Softball, SW- Swimming & Diving, TE-Tennis, TR-Track & Field, VB-Volleyball, WR-Wrestling, NA-Not Apply

Wild Card Criteria

1. The results of only those games played against varsity teams of schools in Nebraska and of varsity teams in states contiguous to Nebraska will be used to:
 - a. Calculate point averages.
 - b. To determine the win and loss record for designating a team as a first, second, third or fourth division team.
2. All games played by a school's varsity team, regardless of the location of the opposing school, will count toward the number of permitted contests in a particular sport.
3. Seven Class A teams will qualify for the state championships by winning the championship of their respective district tournaments.
4. One additional Class A team, which fails to qualify through district tournament competition, will be chosen to complete the eight-team tournament field.
5. These teams will be selected in the following manner:
 - a. In order to be considered as a wild card qualifier, a team must have played a minimum of 10 varsity contests, which includes district contests and out of state games.
 - b. Only the contests between varsity Nebraska teams and varsity teams from states contiguous with Nebraska will be considered when calculating the point totals.
 - c. The results of all such contests played through the District Final contests shall be used.
 - d. This includes regularly scheduled contests, tournament contests, and district contests.
 - e. This includes non-completed, suspended games without a winner determined. No points will be awarded but the number of games will include this match.
6. **FORFEITS:** A contest that is forfeited because of extenuating circumstances (such as weather) between schools shall count as a loss for the team forfeiting, and the forfeiting team shall receive wild card points for the forfeited loss.
 - a. Schools that are required to forfeit a game or games shall count such contests as one of the permissible contests under the contest limitation requirement of that sport, but such mandated forfeitures shall count as loss wild card points.
 - b. When a school's varsity team is unable to complete the season, those remaining teams on than school's regular season schedule shall receive forfeit wins for those scheduled contests and shall be awarded wild card points for those forfeit wins. Wild card points will be determined by the forfeiting team's record at the time of seeding for postseason competition.
7. Varsity teams of schools located in contiguous states will be converted to a Nebraska classification using enrollment figures obtained from that state's activities association.
8. The following point evaluation scale will be used to determine a team's total points:

POINT EVALUATION SCALE	1st Division Team	2nd Division Team	3rd Division Team	4th Division Team
Victory Over--	50	47	44	41
Loss To--	39	36	33	30

- ◆ A first division team is a team, which has won at least **75%** of its matches played.
(**Example: 20-0, 19-1, 18-2, 17-3, 16-4, 15-5.**)
- ◆ A second division team is a team, which has won at least **50%** but less than **75%** of its matches played. (**Example: 14-6, 13-7, 12-8, 11-9, 10-10.**)
- ◆ A third division team, which has won at least **25%** but less than **50%** of its matches played.
(**Examples: 9-11, 8-12, 7-13, 6-14, 5-15.**)
- ◆ A fourth division team is a team, which has won less than 25% of its matches played.
(**Examples: 4-16, 3-17, 2-18, 1-19, 0-20.**)

9. No points are deducted for playing teams, which are, classified below your classification.
10. In competition with schools one classification above yours, 2 bonus points will be awarded.
11. A team's point average will be determined by dividing the total number of points by the number of contests played.
12. The teams failing to qualify through district competition in their class, but having the highest point average based on the year's record after the completion of all the district tournaments will be selected as the wild card qualifiers. *Class A will qualify one wild card team.
13. If a tie exists for one or both of the qualifying spots, the following procedure will be used to select the team or teams:
 - a. If only two teams have identical point averages and are tied for one of the qualifying spots and the teams have played each other, the team that won the contest or the majority of contests between the two teams in question will qualify for the state tournament.
 - b. If the two teams have not played each other or if more than two teams are tied, step C will be used to determine which team qualifies for the state tournament.
 - c. If two or more teams have identical point averages and are tied for one or both of the remaining qualifying spots, the team or teams playing the greatest number of first division teams will be selected. If only two teams remain after this step and the two teams tied have played each other, step A will be used to determine the qualifier for the state tournament.
 - d. If a tie still exists, the team's opponents' wins and losses will be totaled and the winning percentages calculated. The team whose opponents have the highest percentage based on this calculation will be chosen.
 - e. If a tie still exists, the representative will be decided by a coin flip in the NSAA office.
14. Out-of state matches will be included through the Friday of Week 44.
15. The state brackets will be released Saturday after the Class B District Final.
16. Schools must report contiguous out-of-state records to the NSAA, Jeff Stauss at jstauss@nsaahome.org. Win-loss records not reported to the NSAA will be recorded as a fourth-division team until such information is provided.
17. When determining the classification of an out-of-state school for wild card purposes, if the school's three-grade enrollment is less than the lowest enrollment in a particular class, the out-of-state school shall be classified in the immediate lower class. The enrollment of Nebraska schools opting up to play in a higher class will not be considered when comparing out-of-state schools for classification purposes.
18. If two or more schools are tied for the final place in a particular class, the tie is broken by using the schools' three-year average enrollment for the most recent three years. When determining the classification of an out-of-state school for wild card purposes, if the out-of-state school's three-grade enrollment is identical to the enrollments shared by schools in two different classes, the out-of-state school shall be placed in the higher class.

REPORTING SCORES

Report all VARSITY game scores to: MAXPREPS.COM

Teams who compete against schools in contiguous states are responsible for reporting all contiguous state opponents' current win-loss records to the NSAA throughout the season and prior to districts and state seeding.

DURATION OF GAME & LENGTH OF PERIODS

VARSITY MATCHES

Two equal halves of 40 minutes shall be played.

40 + 10 + 40

Periods may not be shortened.

BELOW VARSITY LEVEL

Match lengths may be modified.

Overtime procedures may also be modified.

Mercy Rule/Victory Margin

The match shall end when one team has established a 10 goal differential at the end of the first half or during the second half. The margin of victory rule does not apply prior to completion of the first half of play.

OVERTIME PROCEDURE FOR GAMES TIED AT THE END OF REGULATION PLAY

Due to the use of the point system in determining "wild card" qualifiers for the state tournament, it is necessary that no game end with a tied score.

Games that are tied at the end of 80 minutes of play--

1. Two overtime periods of 10 minutes each.
2. A coin shall be flipped prior to the first overtime period. The visiting team captain shall call the coin while it is still in the air. The winner of the toss shall choose a goal to defend or to kick off first. The loser of the toss shall be given the remaining choice.
3. The interval between the second half and the first overtime period shall be 5 minutes.
4. The interval between the first and second overtime period shall be 2 minutes.

If a tie still exists at the end of the second overtime period--

1. The two teams shall participate in a penalty kick tiebreaker procedure.
2. The interval between the second overtime period and the beginning of the penalty kick procedure shall be 5 minutes.

PENALTY KICK TIE BREAKER PROCEDURE

1. The two head coaches, officials, and team captains shall assemble at midfield to review the procedure.
2. The head referee shall choose the goal at which all of the penalty kicks shall be taken.
3. Each coach will select any five players, including the goalkeeper, on or off the field (except those who may have been disqualified) to take the penalty kicks.
4. A coin toss shall be held. The team winning the toss shall have the choice of kicking first or second.
5. The kicks shall be attempted from the penalty mark.
6. Teams will alternate kickers. There is no follow-up on the kick.
7. Following five kicks for each team, the team scoring on the greatest number of these kicks shall be declared the winner.
8. Add one goal to the winning team score and credit the team with a victory. An asterisk (*) may be placed by the team advancing to indicate the advancement was the result of a tiebreaker system.

If the score remains tied, after each team has had five penalty kicks:

1. Each coach will select five different players other than the first five who already have kicked to take the penalty kicks in a sudden victory situation, wherein, if one team scores and the other team does not score, the game is ended without more kicks being taken.
2. If the score remains tied, continue the sudden victory penalty kicks with the coach selecting any five players other than the preceding players to take the next set of alternating penalty kicks.
3. If a tie still remains, repeat sudden victory procedure.

TOURNAMENT/ENGAGEMENT PLAY

In tournament/engagement competition where each team could potentially play two games on the same day, the following procedure may be used: If the game is tied at the end of 80 minutes, the overtime periods may be shortened to 5 minute periods OR if the coaches reach a mutual agreement prior to the game, the penalty kick tie breaker may be used immediately following the completion of regulation. The tournament/engagement host should determine the overtime procedure and notify all participating schools and officials in advance. **All games in the tournament must use the same overtime procedure.**

SUSPENSION OF PLAY

In the event a game must be suspended and the game cannot be resumed that day, the head referee shall declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been completed and the score is not tied. If less than one-half of the game has been played or if more than one-half of the game has been played and the score is tied, the game will resume at the point of interruption. If a game is resumed from the point of interruption, and one team is clearly in possession, the game will be restarted by an indirect free kick by the team in possession at the point where the ball was when play was suspended. If there is no clear possession, there will be a drop ball at the spot where the ball was declared dead, provided the ball is not in the penalty area.

DISTRICT TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Classification of Schools. Soccer will be divided into two classes. The largest twenty-eight schools registered will be Class A with the remaining schools being Class B. District assignments are given on the last page of this manual.

District Assignments. Please refer to the NSAA website, nsaahome.org for current district information.

Class A schools will be placed into seven districts. The districts will be determined using a serpentine method, based upon the NSAA wild card point system through Tuesday of Week 43. The highest seed in each district will be given the choice to host. If after the first round of districts, the top seed of the district loses, the next highest seed would host the championship or return to the host site for the game (if they are unable to host the event). The winner of each district will qualify for the state tournament.

District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14	13	12	11	10	9	8
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
28	27	26	25	24	23	22

Class B Districts

Class B schools will be placed into eight districts composed of boys' teams and eight districts composed of girls' teams. Both the boys' and girls' districts will be composed of either four-team districts or five-team districts. The winner of each district will qualify for the district final round. The schools will be assigned to districts on a geographical basis starting with the schools in western Nebraska and working east. North to south directions were used in some cases in order to decrease the distance between the schools within a district. The highest seeded team will be given first choice to host the district. Class B sub-districts will be Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and/or Thursday. The District final is Saturday of Week 44.

- A. The winning team in each sub-district will qualify for the district final round.
- B. Eight additional teams will also qualify on the basis of the wild card selection procedure.
- C. Sixteen teams will be seeded according to NSAA wild card points and play a district final game at the highest seed. The eight winners of district final matches will advance to the state tournament.
- D. Using a sixteen team bracket, the previously approved NSAA wild card point system and wild card point system tiebreaker will be used to seed the 16 qualifying teams.
- E. According to the point system and point system tiebreaker rules, the eight remaining teams will be re-seeded after the district final round for the state tournament.

One additional boys' teams and one additional girls' teams in Class A which fail to qualify by winning the district will qualify as wild card teams. *See Wild Card Criteria.*

Team Entries. Soccer district tournament entries and statistics are to be completed online using the school login code provided to each head soccer coach. The entries must be submitted online by midnight April 22nd. Each team is allowed to list 24 athletes on the district entry form, but may only dress 22 of them. Any **changes due to injury or illness** after April 22nd will need to be called into the NSAA. **Disqualified/ejected players** may not be replaced.

Admission. Admission prices shall be \$4.00 for students and \$5.00 for adults per session. District contests are considered NSAA activities not local activities. Student admission waivers under the student fees statutes will not be permitted.

Complimentary Passes. The host school will provide passes for, or arrange for admittance of, twenty-two players, two coaches, two student managers, and one trainer. Eight additional passes will be provided for administrative and supervisory personnel.

Determination of Home Team and Team Benches. If possible, both team benches and team areas should be located on the same side of the field, separated by officials' area.

- The home team shall be the higher seeded team of each paired bracket.
- The home team's bench or team area shall be the bench or area located to the left as you face the official's area and the home team shall warm up on that end of the field. The visiting team's area or bench shall be to the right of the official's area, and the visiting team shall warm up on that end of the field.

Dates of Tournament. The district tournaments are scheduled for April 29-May 4, 2019.

Game Ball. Baden courtesy ball

Uniforms. The home team (higher seeded team of each paired bracket) shall wear white jerseys and stockings. The visiting team shall wear dark jerseys and stockings.

Bands & Artificial Noisemakers.

1. Bands are permitted during District, and State contests.
2. Band members **MUST** pay regular admission price for District, and State contests.
3. The use of artificial noisemakers is prohibited. (Examples: air horns, whistles, bells, etc.) Megaphones are to be used by cheerleaders only.
4. Band instruments, including drums, are not to be played at any time other than when the entire band is playing. Bands should not be permitted to play except prior to the game, at intermissions and time-outs.

Cheerleaders & Drill Teams.

1. Due to potential liability in case of injury, mounts and pyramids by cheerleaders and drill teams during the District, and State tournaments are prohibited. A mount is defined as any stunt where one individual is supported above the level of the floor by another individual or individuals. The height of the mount or pyramid, or the number of people involved, has no bearing on the type of stunt performed.
2. Cheerleaders and drill team members **MUST** pay regular admission price for District, and State events.

Radio & Television.

Media – Student Media, Media Credentials & Broadcasting

1. All media operations (admission, access and accommodations) for **Regular Season** contests are at the Host School discretion.
2. The NSAA Media Manual outlines policies for Media Credentials, Student Media, Broadcasting Policies and other specifics surrounding NSAA post-season contests.
3. Post-season contests include: Districts, Districts, District final, Playoffs and State Championships.
4. The Media Manual is posted on the NSAA website's Media Page.
<http://nsaahome.org/media-info/>

District Soccer Director's Responsibilities

Authority. The director of the tournament is granted full authority for the conduct and management of the tournament and is responsible for the administration of rules, regulations and accounting of all finances.

Officials. The NSAA will assign all officials; the director shall be responsible for payment to the officials. Only those officials registered with the NSAA shall be contracted. The fee for officials shall be **\$55.00 per game per official**. Mileage shall also be paid. Check the official's contract for specific information.

Schedule.

- The director shall determine the time schedule of each game.
- The district host (#1 seed) will have the option to play the early game or the late game on the day that there are two games scheduled.

Brackets.

- a. **A four-team district will be scheduled on two days.**
 - Day 1 - Match 1–Seeds 1 vs. 4; Match 2–Seeds 3 vs. 2
 - Day 2 - Match 3 –Championship
- b. **A five-team district will be scheduled in three days.**
 - Day 1 – Match 1–Seeds 4 vs. 5
 - Day 2 - Match 2–Seed 1 vs. winner 4 vs. 5, Match 3–Seeds 3 vs. 2
 - Day 3 – Match 4 Championship

Seeding and Pairings.

The NSAA is responsible for seeding and pairings.

The tournament shall be seeded based on wild card point averages of matches played through Monday, **April 22nd**. **The district assignments/seeds will be released on the NSAA website: Wednesday, April 24.**

If teams in the district tournament have identical wild card point totals, the following tie breaker will be used to determine seeding.

1. If two teams are tied with identical point averages and have played each other, the results of the competition between these schools will be considered and the team winning the majority of contests between the two teams will be given the higher seed.
2. If a tie still exists, or if more than two teams are tied, the team or teams playing the greatest number of first division teams in their classification will be selected. If two teams are still tied, criteria (1) will apply before going to step (3).
3. If a tie still exists, total the sum of the tied teams' opponents' wins and losses. The team whose opponents have the higher winning percentage will receive the higher seed. If two teams remain tied, criteria (1) will apply before going to step (4).
4. If a tie still exists, the higher seed will be decided by a coin flip in the NSAA office.

Division of Gate Receipts. The gate receipts shall be used to pay tournament expenses including official's fees and mileage. Prior to deducting tournament expenses, 10% percent of the gross receipts shall be sent to the NSAA for catastrophic insurance premium fees. The NSAA shall be sent 25% of the remaining receipts. If the receipts are not sufficient to pay the expenses, each school participating in the tournament shall be assessed a prorated share, based on the number of matches played. The insurance premium is not to be deducted.

Awards. Plaques will be presented to the boys' and girls' teams placing first and second in each district. In addition, in Class A one boys' team and one girls' team qualifying as "wild card teams" will be awarded plaques. Class B district final, plaques will be awarded for the runner-up and championship teams. **These plaques will be mailed to each respective school directly from Awards Unlimited.**

Inclement Weather. Inclement weather may force the postponement of a district tournament. The meet director has the sole authority to determine the postponement and rescheduling of the tournament. If the tournament director feels a postponement is necessary, he/she must contact the NSAA Executive Director before postponing the day's activities. Once the tournament is postponed, the director shall be responsible for setting the new date, time, site, and notifying officials and competing teams. The previously agreed upon schedule may need to be changed to complete the contest(s) by the required date. The district director should confer with the officials regarding their availability for the postponed dates and times.

Class B Soccer District Final: Saturday, Week 44, May 4, 2019

Dates. The State Championship will be played May 8-11, 13-14, 2019.

Site. The State Championship will be held at Creighton University in Omaha.

Placement of teams on the bracket for each class took place by the following procedure:

- a. There was a draw to see if Nos. 1-8 and Nos. 4-5 played in the upper half of the bracket or the lower half.
- b. Nos. 2-7 and 3-6 were assigned to the half bracket not drawn by Nos. 1-8 and Nos. 4-5.
- c. Games involving the Nos. 1-2 seeded teams were assigned to the earlier game time in that half of the bracket.

Practice will not be allowed on any state tournament fields between district and state competition.

STATE TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

State Tournament Instructions. Qualifying teams will be provided a packet that contains players', coaches', and administrators' tickets and instructions for the coach and team. (Depending when districts finish, instructions for coaches and administrators will be emailed to each school. Otherwise, packets may be picked up at the site.)

Pairings/Seeding. The State Tournament shall be seeded based on wild card point averages through districts and Class B District final.

The No. 1 seed will play No. 8; No. 2 vs. 7; No. 3 vs. 6; and No. 4 vs. 5.

If teams in the state tournament have identical wild card points, the following tiebreaker will be used to determine seeding:

1. If two teams are tied with identical point averages and have played each other, the results of the competition between these schools will be considered and the team winning the majority of contests between the two teams will be given the higher seed.
2. If a tie still exists, or if more than two teams are tied, the team or teams playing the greatest number of first division teams in their classification will be selected. If two teams are still tied, criteria (1) will apply before going to step (3).

3. If a tie still exists, total the sum of the tied teams' opponents' wins and losses. The team whose opponents have the higher winning percentage will receive the higher seed. If two teams remain tied, criteria (1) will apply before going to step (4).
4. If a tie still exists, the higher seed will be decided by a coin flip in the NSAA office.

Officials. Officials will be assigned to each game. The officials shall be a head referee, two assistant referees, and a fourth official assisted by a timer, scorer, and four ball holders.

Spectator Tickets. Tickets will be \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students. Pre-Sale Tickets will also be available on the NSAA website.

Cheerleaders & Drill Teams.

1. Due to potential liability in case of injury, mounts and pyramids by cheerleaders and drill teams during the District, and State tournaments are prohibited. A mount is defined as any stunt where one individual is supported above the level of the floor by another individual or individuals. The height of the mount or pyramid, or the number of people involved, has no bearing on the type of stunt performed.
2. Cheerleaders, drill team, and pep club members MUST pay regular admission price for District, and State events.

Bands & Artificial Noisemakers.

1. Bands are permitted during District, and State contests.
2. Band members MUST pay regular admission price for District, and State contests.
3. The use of artificial noisemakers is prohibited. (Examples: air horns, whistles, bells, etc.) Megaphones are to be used by cheerleaders only.
4. Band instruments, including drums, are not to be played at any time other than when the entire band is playing.
5. Bands should not be permitted to play except prior to the game, at intermissions and time-outs.

Reimbursements to Teams. Mileage reimbursements will be based on the number of participants and one coach. (Note: Student managers will not be included.) A school's mileage reimbursement will be figured using the following formula: [(#miles one way x #trips) – 50 miles] x amount.

Amount per mile	Number of participants/coaches
\$0.85	1-6
\$1.70	7-12
\$2.55	13-18
\$3.40	19-24

If lodging is used, \$15 per participant and one coach will be paid based on the following criteria: (Note: Times listed are scheduled competition start times)

*Night before competing:

Before 10:00 a.m., 76+ miles away

Between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., 150+ miles away

At or after 3:00 p.m., 250+ miles away

*Night of (still competing in tournament)

76+ miles away

*Final Night (day eliminated)

5:00 p.m. or later, 200+ miles away

If lodging is used, \$15 per participant and one coach will be paid based on the following criteria:
(Note: Times listed are scheduled competition start times)

*Night before competing:

Before 10:00 a.m., 76+ miles away

Between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., 150+ miles away

At or after 3:00 p.m., 250+ miles away

*Night of (still competing in tournament)

76+ miles away

*Final Night (day eliminated)

5:00 p.m. or later, 200+ miles away

Warm-Up. Each team will be given a minimum of twenty minutes warm-up prior to their game. The full warm-up time may not be on the game field unless there are twenty minutes or more before the next scheduled game.

A team shall warm up on the end of the field nearest its team bench or area.

Game Ball. Baden courtesy ball

Team Bench or Area. The team bench or area for both teams will be located on the same side of the field. An official's area will be located between the team areas. The home team shall be the higher seeded team of each paired bracket and shall occupy the team bench or area located to the left facing the official's area.

Home Team and Uniforms. The home team shall be the higher seeded team of each paired bracket and shall wear white jerseys and stockings, the visiting team shall wear dark jerseys and stockings

Number of Players Permitted. A team shall not dress more than 22 players for state tournament competition.

Players' and Coaches' Passes. Each team qualifying for the State Soccer Tournament will be placed on a pass list determined by the roster submitted to the NSAA. Six additional tickets will be provided for administrators and supervisors from each participating school. These passes must be presented at the admittance gate to gain admittance.

Programs. Each qualifying team will receive two souvenir programs.

Awards. Each member of the championship boys' and girls' team will receive a gold medal (22 per team). Each member of the runner-up boys' and girls' team will receive a silver medal (22 per team).

- ❖ The championship and runner-up boys' and girls' team will receive a trophy.
- ❖ The head coach of the championship boys' and girls' team will receive a coach's award.
- ❖ An awards ceremony will follow the completion of the championship game in each division.
- ❖ In the realm of good sportsmanship all participants are expected to remain clothed during the awards ceremony.

2019 Boys Soccer Classifications

If schools are tied in enrollment for the last position or positions of a class, the following tie-breaker will be applied: (1) The first tie-breaker will be a three-year average of enrollment which includes the year on which the current year's classification is based and the two previous years. The higher three-year average will be in the larger class. (2) If the tie still exists, then the school with the higher immediate previous year's enrollment will be placed in the larger class. (3) If a tie still exists, it will be decided by a coin flip in the NSAA office.

#	CLASS A BOYS SOCCER TEAMS	Enroll
1	Grand Island	1069
2	Omaha South	1060
3	Millard West	963
4	Millard North	940
5	Omaha Central	940
6	Millard South	892
7	Lincoln North Star	817
8	Omaha North	797
9	Lincoln Southeast	796
10	Lincoln East	785
11	Lincoln Southwest	765
12	Creighton Preparatory School	764
13	Omaha Bryan	763
14	Omaha Westside	759
15	Lincoln High	757
16	Omaha Burke	748
17	Papillion-LaVista	686
18	Fremont (Archbishop Bergan)	662
19	Omaha Northwest	651
20	Papillion-LaVista South	648
21	Lincoln Northeast	646
22	Bellevue West	635
23	Kearney	582
24	Omaha Benson	578
25	Bellevue East	548
26	Elkhorn South	500
27	Norfolk	496
28	Gretna	487
#	CLASS B BOYS SOCCER TEAMS	Enroll
1	Elkhorn	471
2	Lincoln Pius X	456
3	Columbus	452
4	South Sioux City	446
5	North Platte	445
6	Ralston	421
7	Hastings	406
8	Scottsbluff	387

9	Lexington	360
10	Omaha Skutt Catholic	291
11	Northwest	281
12	Blair	280
13	Norris	267
14	Beatrice	266
15	Gering (Minatare)	262
16	Nebraska City (Lourdes Central Catholic, Johnson County Central)	256
17	Schuyler	245
18	Bennington	237
19	Waverly	237
20	Crete	230
21	Plattsmouth	228
22	Omaha Roncalli Catholic (Omaha Brownell Talbot)	227
23	Gross Catholic (Cornerstone Christian)	192
24	Seward	182
25	Kearney Catholic (Amherst, Gibbon)	181
26	Mount Michael Benedictine	180
27	York	173
28	Lincoln Lutheran/Raymond Central	159
29	Platteview	157
30	Aurora	153
31	Grand Island Central Catholic (Heartland Lutheran, Wood River)	153
32	Holdrege	138
33	**Boys Town	119
34	Omaha Concordia	117
35	Lutheran High/Norfolk Catholic	116
36	Columbus Lakeview	113
37	Columbus Scotus	90
38	Conestoga	89
39	Madison	68
40	**Nebraska Lutheran (JV only)	42
41	**Omaha Christian Academy (Omaha Street School)-JV Only	39
42	**College View Academy (JV only)	31

****Waiving the right to compete in Districts**

2019 Girls Soccer Classifications

If schools are tied in enrollment for the last position or positions of a class, the following tie-breaker will be applied: (1) The first tie-breaker will be a three-year average of enrollment which includes the year on which the current year's classification is based and the two previous years. The higher three-year average will be in the larger class. (2) If the tie still exists, then the school with the higher immediate previous year's enrollment will be placed in the larger class. (3) If a tie still exists, it will be decided by a coin flip in the NSAA office.

#	CLASS A GIRLS SOCCER TEAMS	Enroll
1	Omaha Central	1043
2	Millard North	975
3	Omaha South	946
4	Millard West	921
5	Millard South	891
6	Grand Island	880
7	Lincoln High	809
8	Lincoln Southeast	764
9	Lincoln North Star	754
10	Lincoln East	753
11	Papillion-La Vista South	712
12	Omaha Westside	704
13	Omaha Burke	699
14	Lincoln Southwest	687
15	Omaha Bryan	686
16	Papillion-La Vista	666
17	Omaha North	651
18	Omaha Northwest	638
19	Bellevue West	611
20	Lincoln Northeast	595
21	Fremont (Archbishop Bergan)	554
22	Omaha Marian	541
23	Kearney	534
24	Omaha Benson	519
25	Bellevue East	509
26	Norfolk	487
27	Gretna	485
28	Lincoln Pius X	480
#	CLASS B GIRLS SOCCER TEAMS	Enroll
1	Columbus	470
2	North Platte	469
3	Elkhorn South	459
4	Elkhorn	441
5	South Sioux City	418
6	Hastings	393

7	Ralston	391
8	Scottsbluff	363
9	Northwest (Grand Island Central Catholic)	349
10	Lexington	300
11	Omaha Concordia (Omaha Brownell Talbot, Omaha Christian Academy, Douglas County West)	296
12	Omaha Skutt Catholic	280
13	Omaha Mercy	266
14	Nebraska City (Lourdes Central Catholic, Johnson County Central)	250
15	Norris	250
16	Omaha Duchesne Academy	250
17	Blair	249
18	Gering (Banner County)	239
19	Beatrice	234
20	Waverly	226
21	Crete	215
22	Bennington	214
23	Schuyler	201
24	Plattsmouth	196
25	Seward	189
26	Kearney Catholic (Amherst, Gibbon)	168
27	York	161
28	Omaha Gross Catholic	146
29	Aurora	144
30	Holdrege	144
31	Lincoln Lutheran/Raymond Central	136
32	Platteview	133
33	Columbus Lakeview	121
34	Omaha Roncalli Catholic	114
35	Auburn	87
36	**Boys Town	87
37	Lutheran High/Norfolk Catholic	84
38	Columbus Scotus	76
39	Conestoga	70

****Waiving the right to compete in Districts**