



NSAA Mission and Purpose

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

- To formulate and make policies which will cultivate high ideals of citizenship, fair competition, sportsmanship and teamwork which will complement 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

Who is the NSAA?

The Other Half of Education

- The NSAA is a non-profit organization, comprised of 309 public and non-public member high schools in the State of Nebraska. Member schools voluntarily agree to conduct NSAA-sanctioned activities consistent with the rules established locally and the rules established collectively as members of the NSAA.
- The NSAA sanctions 24 sports and 5 performing arts activities and directs 28 State Championships for nearly 100,000 student-activity participants annually.
- The NSAA Constitution and Bylaws, Activity Manuals and policies form the governance structure of the organization. These regulations are approved and changed only by member schools and a member-elected Board of Directors through the legislative process initiated and driven by member schools. Unless otherwise noted, NSAA rules and regulations apply to current 9th thru 12th grade students.
- NSAA rules set baselines for participation such as: academic requirements; attendance requirements; transfer eligibility; sportsmanship.
- The primary functions of the NSAA Staff are to: assist member schools with compliance questions related to eligibility, transfers and playing rules; enforce the rules established by the member schools; and administer NSAA State Championship events.
- The NSAA honors and recognizes students, coaches and volunteers for their excellence and achievements through multiple awards programs.
- The NSAA annually registers officials and judges. Member schools are responsible for hiring officials and judges during the regular season.
- When parents, families, students, or community members have questions or concerns related to NSAA-sanctioned activities, those must be directed first to the administration of the member school.
- Staffing, playing time, and team rules are decisions made by the member school, not the NSAA. The NSAA has no authority to interfere with these member school decisions.

This SOCCER MANUAL has been prepared and designed to provide general information for use in the administration of NSAA soccer competitions. 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.

Associate Director, Jeff Johnson, is the NSAA staff member responsible for administering Soccer and is the contact person for schools with questions regarding this activity. He can be reached at jjohnson@nsaahome.org or through Jakub VanWesten at jvanwesten@nsaahome.org.

2024-25 NSAA Changes

Class A District games played on Saturday of week 43 will only be play-in games.

All head and assistant coaches are required to be CPR/AED certified once every two years.

2024-25 NFHS Soccer Rule Changes

4-1-4d – Clarifies there is no limitation on the color of tape or sock worn at or below the ankle under the competition sock. Any tape or similar material used above the ankle must match the sock's color.

Rule 12 – Reorganized Fouls and Misconduct Rule for clarity and consistency of use. A new section was added addressing Stopping a Promising Attack, language was added to Denial of an Obvious Goal-Scoring Opportunity that all conditions must be met for DOGDO to be applied, and the section on Ejections now lists the offenses by severity.

2024-2025 NFHS Soccer Major Editorial Changes

3-4-3 – Removes clock operation language to match Rule 7-4.

6-2-3 – Clarifies clock operation language to match Rule 7-4.

12-5-1f – Clarifies caution language to match the reorganization of fouls and misconduct found in Rule 12.

2024-2025 NFHS Soccer Points of Emphasis

Official's Toolbox for Game Management

A referee's "toolbox" for game management consists of various skills, techniques and strategies they can employ to effectively officiate a match and maintain control over the players, coaches and game environment. By utilizing these tools effectively while managing emotions and remaining calm and composed, referees can promote fair play, ensure player safety, and contribute to a positive and enjoyable experience for everyone involved in the game.

Stopping a Promising Attack

The inclusion of the considerations for a promising attack serves as a crucial clarification in the rules, specifically addressing what was previously referred to as "tactical fouls".

After a Goal

After a goal is scored, officials must stay alert as there are several important considerations and tasks to manage. In addition to lower priority administrative tasks, officials must be vigilant after a goal for any signs of escalating tension or potential misconduct and address any issues promptly to prevent situations from escalating.

Important Dates

Date of First Practice	March 3 rd , 2025
Schedules Due	March 11 th , 2025
Date of First Contest	March 20 th , 2025
District Entries Due	April 28 th , 2025
Class B Sub District Seeding Released	April 30 th , 2025
Class A District Seeding Released	May 1 st , 2025
Class A District Tournaments	May 3 rd - May 8 th , 2025
Class B Sub-District Tournaments	May 3 rd -May 8 th , 2025
Class B District Finals	May 10 th , 2025
State Championships	May 12 th -May 17 th , May 19 th - May 20 th , 2025

Future Dates

Year	First Practice Monday Week 35	First Contest Thursday Week 37	District/Sub-District Tournaments Week 43-44	State Championships Monday-Thursday Week 45-46
2026	March 2 nd	March 19 th	May 2 nd , 4 th -7 th	May 11 th -16 th , 18 th -19 th
2027	March 1 st	March 18 th	May 1 st , 3 rd -6 th	May 10 th -15 th , 17 th -18 th
2028	February 28 th	March 17 th	April 29 th , May 2 nd -5 th	May 9 th -14 th , 16 th -17 th

NSAA BYLAWS AND APPROVED RULINGS GOVERNING SOCCER

For a complete listing of NSAA Bylaws and Approved Rulings, please refer to the [NSAA Constitution & Bylaws](#).

Rules Meetings. The NSAA presents rules meetings in order to inform and educate coaches, officials, and judges about NFHS playing rules and rules changes, NSAA guidelines and approved rulings, and to discuss health and safety issues related to activities participation. All head coaches are required to attend an NSAA Rules Meeting or complete an NSAA Rules Meeting online annually. Online rules meetings are initially offered at no cost to coaches or officials followed by a period with a \$50 “Late” Fee. Failure to complete the rules meeting will result in possible late fees and suspension penalties, as stated below. Additional sanctions and fees are applicable to those coaches who fail to complete the rules meeting by the expiration of the “Late” Fee period, [as detailed in the Constitution & Bylaws](#).

2024-25 Soccer Rules Meeting Schedule

February 14th-March 9th – No Charge to Head Coaches

March 10th-11th – Late/Penalty \$50 Fee – Head Coaches

APPROVED RULING 2.1.2 - Medical Personnel at Regular Season Games

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.

APPROVED RULING 2.12 – Required NFHS Courses for Coaches & CPR/AED Certification

*All coaches, activity sponsors, and volunteers are required to complete the NFHS [Concussion in Sports](#), [Heat Illness Prevention](#), and [Sudden Cardiac Arrest](#) Training courses at least once every three years. These courses should be taken prior to any preseason 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. **All first-year coaches are required to complete all three courses prior to the start of the activity season which they are to coach.***

CPR/AED Certification

All head coaches/sponsors and assistant coaches/sponsors are required to be CPR/AED certified once every two years. Certification should be completed prior to any pre-season or regular season physical workouts that the respective coach/sponsor would be present for or involved in administering. All first-year head coaches/sponsors and assistant coaches/sponsors are required to complete certification prior to the start of the activity season which they are to coach. Coaches aides and volunteer coaches are not required to be CPR/AED certified.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Each state association may, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities and/or special needs, as well as those individuals with unique and extenuating circumstances. In order to determine if the NSAA can authorize such an accommodation, the school administration should contact the NSAA to request an accommodation hearing.

APPROVED RULING 3.1.1, C. - End of Season for Outside Participation

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 postseason 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.

3.2.1 – School-Year, Out-of-Season Programs

A member school shall not provide support, hold an organized practice or enter students in any non-high school competition in NSAA sponsored sports outside of the defined NSAA season.

APPROVED RULING 3.2.1

Faculty vs. student, alumni vs. student, or parent vs. student contests are not permissible during the season of the sport involved. If such contests are held out-of-season, the organized practice rule must be followed.

3.2.2 – “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 the first day of fall practice 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 Memorial Day 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.

3.2.3 – “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 competitions.

3.2.4, B. - 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 shall mean more than seven students under the direct supervision of a sponsor (as defined in AR 3.2.4). If more than one group is practicing at the same time, it shall be called an organized practice.

APPROVED RULING 3.2.4

Any individual who served as a school’s head coach, assistant coach, coach’s aide, or volunteer coach shall not coach athletes from that member school in non-high school competition if the number of athletes from the school which the individual served exceeds the number permitted for an organized practice in the sport involved.

3.2.5 - Conditioning Program

A member school may organize and supervise a “school year, out-of-season” conditioning program to include weightlifting, running, and exercising for its members in accordance with the following provision:

- A) Such a conditioning program shall be general in nature and may include only exercises designed to promote physical fitness.
- B) Sport-specific drills are not allowed, and sport-specific equipment may not be used.
- C) The conditioning session shall be no longer than 60 minutes in length, and no student shall participate in more than one such session per day.
- D) Conditioning programs shall be voluntary. No coach or school representative may directly or by implication direct a student to attend conditioning sessions as a prerequisite for membership or restrict the level of team participation within the high school program.

APPROVED RULING 3.2.5

Conditioning sessions organized and run by members of the school’s coaching staff are subject to the 60-minute limitation. Students, for example, who work out on their own at the school facility in

weightlifting, general calisthenics, running, or agility-type exercises shall not be considered to be involved in an organized conditioning program.

3.2.6 - Open Gym

It is permissible for students to be involved in NSAA activities of a school's open gymnasium program during the "school year, out-of-season" period under the following conditions:

- A) The gym is open for all individuals and all activities.
- B) Schools may not designate sport specific times.
- C) Coaching or instruction is not provided.
- D) School employees who are present shall restrict their duties to supervision of the facility.
- E) Open gym shall be voluntary. No coach or school representative may directly or by implication direct a student to attend open gym as a condition for membership or restrict the level of team participation within the high school program.

3.2.7 - Camps & Clinics Definitions

Camp Definition: Camps include planned physical participation that is of a competitive nature where actual

games are played or simulated by camp attendees. Participation shall mean physically taking part in the sport activity in which instruction is offered in the camp or school.

Clinic Definition: A clinic includes planned activities of instruction or demonstration directly related to the

teaching of individual skills. There shall be no competition between athletes who are in attendance.

3.2.7.1 - "School-Year, Out-of-Season" Camps & Clinics

Athletes and coaches may attend professional or commercial sports camps/clinics sponsored by non-member high schools. During the "school-year, out-of-season" period, the organized practice rule for the sport in which instruction is being given shall apply. No more than the limit permitted for organized practice may attend and receive instruction. Attendance to "school-year, out-of-season" clinics shall be voluntary. No coach or school representative may directly or by implication direct a student to attend a clinic as a condition for membership on the high school team or restrict the level of team participation within the high school program.

APPROVED RULING 3.2.7 and 3.2.7.1

The athlete and/or his/her parents shall pay the fees and expenses for attendance to such camps or schools. The school, booster clubs, individuals and/or other organizations shall not provide expenses, or support for individuals participating in clinics. Team fundraisers may be used to finance summer league and camp/clinic activities. The school may provide transportation for individuals participating in camps/clinics with prior approval from the district's Board of Education.

3.2.8 - Summertime Participation

"Summertime" shall be defined as the Tuesday following Memorial Day to July 31. During the "summertime" there shall be no restrictions on the amount of contact between students and high school coaches. Attendance shall be voluntary, and coaches/school representative may not directly or by implication require a student to attend "summertime" activities as a condition for membership on a high school team or restrict the level of team participation within the high school program.

3.2.8.1 - NSAA Catastrophic Insurance does not cover coaches/students/schools during the summertime period.

3.2.8.2 - Summertime School-Sponsored Camps/Clinics

A school may organize a camp or clinic in any sport from the Tuesday following Memorial Day through July 31. The camp shall be limited to no more than ten days starting with the first date of the camp/clinic.

3.2.8.3 - Summertime Conditioning Program

A member school may organize and supervise a summer conditioning program to include weightlifting, running, and exercising. Conditioning sessions shall be no longer than 75 minutes in length per day or no more than 5 hours per week, and no student shall participate in more than one such session per day.

APPROVED RULING 3.2.8.3

Conditioning sessions organized and run by members of the school's coaching staff are subject the 75-minute limitation. Students, for example, who work out on their own at the school facility in weightlifting, general calisthenics, running, or agility-type exercises shall not be considered to be involved in an organized conditioning program.

3.2.8.4 - Summertime Open Gym/Facilities

It is permissible for students to be involved in NSAA activities of a school's open training program during the summertime. Permitting the participation by non-high school students (graduates, adults, or individuals not a member of the school) shall be determined by the district's Board of Education policy.

3.2.8.5 - Summertime Regulations for Athletes and Coaches

From the Tuesday following Memorial Day or final day of school (whichever is later) until July 31, there shall be no restrictions on the contact between students and high school coaches.

3.2.8.6 - Summertime Leagues/Competitions

High school coaches are permitted to coach students from their school in summer league competition and games, provided there is no direct support from the school.

3.2.8.7 - Summertime Use of School Facilities

Member schools may permit the use of their facilities in accordance with the district's Board of Education policy.

3.2.8.8 - Summertime Use of School Equipment

Member schools may permit the use of school equipment, other than school-issued game uniforms in accordance with the district's Board of Education policy.

3.2.9 - Summertime College/Professional/Commercial Team Sport Camps/Clinics

High school coaches are permitted to accompany students from their school to college, professional, or commercial sports specialized team camps/clinics during the summer.

3.2.10 - Summertime Individual Commercial Camps/Clinics

During the summer, students may attend any individual skill/technique camps or clinics.

3.3.2 – Scrimmage

Prior to the first contest date for the Spring season, only intra-squad matches or scrimmages are permitted. After the first contest date for winter sports, a school may have inter- or intra-squad matches and scrimmages.

Note: Alumni matches/scrimmages or matches/scrimmages with non-high school teams are not allowed.

APPROVED RULING 3.3.7 - Eligibility for Sub-District/District/State Competition

- A) *In all athletic activities, teams wishing to enter a sub-district, district, or state contest shall have participated in a minimum of five interschool varsity contests prior to the sub-district, district, or state contest.*
- B) *In order to participate in a sub-district, district or state tournament, a student is required to have been a member of the school's team for at least twenty school days prior to the first day of the sub-district, district, or state tournament.*
- C) *To be eligible to participate in a sub-district, district and/or state contest, a student shall have been a member of a school's team and shall have been "available to participate" in at least thirty*

percent (30%) of the school's scheduled interschool contests.

- 1) *Exceptions to the requirements for a student who has not been available to participate in at least (30%) of the school's varsity interschool contests would be considered if an individual was unable to participate because of illness, injury, transfer from another high school, or if weather conditions forced a cancellation of scheduled contests.*
 - 2) *When determining whether a student has been available for (30%) of the school's varsity interschool contests, one would divide the number of varsity interschool contests for which the student was available by the school's total number of varsity interschool contests; all decimals .1 or above would be rounded up to the next higher whole number.*
 - 3) *The term "available to participate" means that the student was a bona fide member of the team eligible to participate for the school at some level of competition in the sport and is not suspended from participation in activities by virtue of NSAA rules.*
- D) For situations pertaining to eligibility to participate in district or state contests that are not specifically addressed by these guidelines, the Executive Director shall have the authority to waive membership and participation requirements on a case-by-case basis.*
- E) If a school takes its team off the playing field prior to the completion of a contest or prior to the suspension or termination of a game by the game officials, and the contest is forfeited because of the refusal of the school's team to continue play, the school shall be subject to a penalty set by the Board of Directors. The penalty may be the exclusion from participation in sub-district, district, playoffs, or state contests.*

Note: If a match between two Nebraska schools is not completed (i.e. deciding set in best of 3 is not played to 25 points), it shall be considered an incomplete match and no wildcard points will be awarded.

3.3.7.2 - State Championship Travel

The Executive Director is granted the authority to require schools to alter travel plans to arrive the day prior to the scheduled state contest if weather conditions so warrant.

3.3.8 – Out-of-State Contests

Members of the NSAA may compete with schools outside the state, provided the out-of-state school is a member in good standing in its own state association.

Note: Refer to Section 1.8.5 for procedure to follow when competing in interstate competition.

3.3.9 - Sunday Contest

No high school that is a member of the NSAA shall be permitted to engage in any interschool contest on Sunday. When weather conditions and facilities cause a change in a state tournament schedule, Sundays may be used for competition after 12:00 noon local time as determined by the Executive Director.

3.3.10 – Supervision

The superintendent, principal, or an authorized representative of the faculty shall accompany and supervise the team or individuals to all contests.

3.3.10.1 – Supervision

Neither a team nor individual shall be permitted to compete in a sub-district or district tournament, playoff contest nor state contest unless the team or individual(s) is accompanied by the head coach, school administrator, or certificated faculty member.

3.5.1 - Outside Participation

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

Note: This rule applies to club soccer, independent leagues, and matches where contestants are selected at random, etc.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.5.1, I – Non-School Participation

To be eligible to participate in a district and/or state contest, a student shall have been a member of the school's team and shall have been available to participate in at least eighty percent (80%) of the school's scheduled interschool contests because of participating in non-high school competition. A student may participate as an individual, without loss of interscholastic eligibility, under certain conditions.

3.5.2 – Individual Instruction

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

3.7.1 – Amateur Rule

A student shall be an amateur in all sports sponsored by the Nebraska School Activities Association. A student may be declared ineligible if he/she:

- A) Accepts merchandise, compensation of any nature, or illegal awards for competing in Association-sponsored activities.
- B) Enters into any agreement or contract to compete in professional sports.
- C) Permits, with or without actual endorsement, the use of name, picture, and/or personal appearance as an athlete in the promotion of a commercial or profit-making event, item, plan, or service (this does not prevent a student's picture or name from being included in programs); or,
- D) Receives merchandise or compensation of any nature for coaching any NSAA approved sport during the season of the sport in his/her school.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.7.1, C – Name, Image & Likeness (NIL)

Under Bylaw 3.7.1.c, the term "with or without actual endorsement" requires that the student or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) have knowledge that the student's name, picture, and/or personal appearance are being used by another person or entity.

Note: For commonly asked NIL Questions, [view these NIL Q&A's](#).

For a complete listing of NSAA Bylaws and Approved Rulings, please refer to the [NSAA Constitution & Bylaws](#).

REGULAR SEASON

Classification of Schools

- 1) Schools shall be divided into two classes for soccer competitions.
- 2) This classification is based on grades 9-11 enrollment from September of the year which immediately precedes the classification period. Class A will be classified based on a total enrollment of 850 and above with the total enrollment figures being doubled for unisex schools. The remaining schools will be placed in Class B.
- 3) Classifications will be done on a yearly basis, except for Class A, which is classified for a two-year period. ***2024-25 is the 1st year of the two-year Class A classification period. No schools will be added or removed to Class A during this period, regardless of enrollment in the subsequent year.***
- 4) If schools are tied in enrollment for the last position or positions of a class, the following tie-breaker will be applied:
 - A) The 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.
 - B) If the tie still exists, then the school with the higher immediate previous year's enrollment will be placed in the larger class.
 - C) If a tie still exists, it will be decided by a coin flip in the NSAA office.
- 5) Opting Up – a school may opt up one classification. The deadline for submitting a request to the NSAA is one week from when classifications are released. No team will move up to fill the void made by a school opting up.

Varsity Schedules

All varsity schedules must be submitted on the NSAA website by **Tuesday, March 11th**. After the season begins, there will be NO additions. Cancellations or postponements due to weather must be emailed or called into the NSAA office. All scheduled and postponed regular season varsity contests must be played prior to the start of District and State competition. Once District and State competition begins, no regular varsity contests shall be permitted.

Contest Limitations

No soccer team (varsity or non-varsity) representing a member school shall participate in more than **thirteen soccer games**, excluding 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.

An athlete may participate in no more than one soccer game per day, with two exceptions:

- In tournaments/engagements, an athlete may participate in two soccer games per day (maximum of 2 games per day: 2 Varsity, 2 JV, or 1 Varsity and 1 JV).
- 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. Overtime is an extension of the 2nd half.

Matches Not Permitted During the State Championship

No soccer matches in any class, other than the state championship matches, are permitted during the State Championships. This includes regular season matches, non-varsity tournaments, and conference tournaments or playoffs.

Permissible Contests

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. A school that violates the team match limitation or the student match limitation may be disqualified from district and state tournament competition. No contest may be held with any team not belonging to the NSAA or its own state high school association.

Soccer Tournament & Engagement 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.

- Any and all date changes due to weather must be communicated to the NSAA office. If you have a cancelation or postponement after a tournament has been seeded and bracketed, any rescheduled contests for that tournament must follow the original bracket and format.
- 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.

Teams are allowed to participate in two games in one day OR TWO CONSECUTIVE DAYS that are not in a tournament format; this format is considered an “engagement”.

- Each game has a predetermined opponent.
- Each engagement would count as one of the thirteen permitted matches.

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.

Playing Rules

All contests shall be conducted under the official soccer rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

Varsity Rosters

No more than 24 athletes can be listed on the roster for sub-districts, districts, district finals and state. Regular season contests are excluded from this limitation.

Match Format

In all Varsity competitions, two equal halves of 40 minutes shall be played. In lower-level competitions, match length and overtime procedures may be modified.

Mercy Rule

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

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.**

Reporting Scores

All Varsity match scores and stats are to be reported to MaxPreps.com.

Detailed instructions on how to submit scores/stats to MaxPreps.com will be sent to each member school.

Both schools involved in the contest are encouraged to verify the final score as well as submit statistics.

NSAA Member schools that compete against out-of-state schools are required to submit match results.

Suspended Game Policy

In the event a game must be suspended, and the game cannot be resumed that day, the head referee may 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.

WILD CARD CRITERIA

1. The results of only those games played against varsity teams 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 teams will be considered when calculating the point totals.
 - c. The results of all such contests played through all 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 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 all out-of-state schools 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. Class A schools will be awarded 2 bonus points when competing against other Class A schools.
11. In competition with schools one classification above yours, 2 bonus points will be awarded.
12. A team's point average will be determined by dividing the total number of points by the number of contests played.

13. 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.
14. 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 and the teams have played each other, the team that won the contest or the majority of contests between the two teams in question wins the tiebreaker.
 - b. In Class A, 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. In Class B, if the two teams have not played each other or if more than two teams are tied, step D will be used to determine the seed.
 - c. In Class A, 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, step (a) will apply before going to step (e).
 - d. In Class B, 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 will be selected. If two teams are still tied, step (a) will apply before going to step (e).
 - e. 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 wins the tiebreaker.
 - f. If a tie still exists, the winner will be decided by a coin flip in the NSAA office.
15. Out-of state matches will be included through the Friday of Week 44: May 2nd, 2025.
16. The state brackets will be released Saturday after the Class B District Final.
17. Schools must report out-of-state records to the NSAA, Jakub VanWesten at jvanwesten@nsaahome.org. Win-loss records not reported to the NSAA will be recorded as a fourth-division team until such information is provided.
18. 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.

DISTRICT TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Boys & Girls Soccer: Schools with a total enrollment of 850 and above will be in Class A, and the remaining schools will be placed in Class B.

Class A will be classified on a two-year basis. 2024-2025 is the 1st year of the two-year classification cycle for Class A. All remaining soccer schools will be placed in Class B.

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

CLASS A DISTRICTS

Soccer: 4 team districts play on Monday and Wednesday. Only games played on Saturday are play in games. Class A schools will be divided into seven districts. The teams with the highest wildcard point averages will have the opportunity to host districts. Class A districts will be Saturday (Week 43), Wednesday (Week 44) or Saturday (Week 43), Thursday (Week 44). All seven districts will be determined using a serpentine method (not modified), based upon the NSAA wild card point system after the games WEDNESDAY of Week 43. The winning boys' team and the winning girls' team in each district will qualify for the State Championship. One additional boys team and one additional girls' team will also qualify for the State Championship based on the wild-card team selection procedure. The top 14 teams will have the opportunity to host the first night of district

competition. The district championship would be hosted by the highest remaining seed. District dates and times would be established before district competition starts. The top-seeded team in each district would be responsible for establishing district schedules. In a 5-team district, the play-in games will be played on Saturday (week). In a 4-team district, the district games will begin on Monday or Tuesday depending on the date established by the top seeded team.

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

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
29	30	31				

CLASS B DISTRICTS

Class B schools will be placed into eight sub-districts composed of boys' teams and eight sub-districts composed of girls' teams. Both the boys' and the girls' sub-districts will be composed of either four, five, or six-team sub-districts. The winner of each sub-district will qualify for the district final round. The schools will be assigned to SUB-districts on a geographical basis starting with the schools in western Nebraska and working east. North to south directions will be used in some cases to decrease the distance between the schools within a SUB-district. Teams will be seeded based upon the NSAA wildcard point system after the games TUESDAY of Week 43. The highest seeded team will be given first choice to host the sub-district. Class B sub-districts will be Saturday of week 43, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of week 44. The district final will be Saturday of week 44.

- A. The winning team in each sub-district will qualify for the district final round.
- B. Eight additional teams will 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 the district final match will advance to the state tournament.
- D. The wild card point system and tie breaker will be used to seed the 16 teams qualifying for the district final.
- E. The 8 remaining teams after the district final round will be reseeded for the state tournament.

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 28th, 2025. Each team is allowed to list 24 athletes on the district entry form. Any **changes due to injury or illness** after April 28th will need to be called into the NSAA. **Disqualified/ejected players** may not be replaced.

Admission. Admission prices shall be \$5.00 for students and \$6.00 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.

Complementary Passes. The host school will provide passes for, or arrange for admittance of, 24 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 the 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.

Class A District Tournaments: Week 43 and 44, May 3- May 8th, 2025

Class B Sub-District Tournaments: Week 43 and 44, May 3rd - May 8th, 2025

Class B District Final: Saturday, Week 44, May 10th, 2025

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

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.

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 **\$70.00 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
- c. A six-team district will be scheduled in three days.
Day 1- Match 1seeds 4vs. 5, Match 2 seeds 3 vs. 6

Day 2- Match 3 seeds 1 vs. winner of 4vs. 5 seeds. Match 4 seed 2 vs. winner of 6 vs. 3 seeds.
Day 3 Match 5 Championship

Seeding and Pairings.

The NSAA is responsible for seeding and pairings.

FOR CLASS B: The tournament shall be seeded based on wild card point averages of matches played through **Tuesday, April 29th.** **The district assignments/seeds will be released on the NSAA website: Wednesday, April 30th.**

FOR CLASS A: The tournament shall be seeded based on wild card point averages of matches played through **Wednesday, April 30th.** **The district assignments/seeds will be released on the NSAA website: Thursday, May 1st.**

Out of State (OOS) Opponents will have records submitted with matches played through the following dates-

Class B Sub-District/Class A District Out of State Records: April 28th, 2025

Class B District Final Seeding: May 6th, 2025

State Championship Seeding: May 9th, 2025

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.

- Each host school will receive a \$100 host allowance in June with their Summer reimbursement check*

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 10th, 2025.

Dates. The State Championship will be played May 12-17th, and 19-20th, 2025.

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 on when districts finish, instructions for coaches and administrators will be emailed to each school.

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 only 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. In Class A, 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 (4).
3. In Class B, 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 will be selected. If two teams are still tied, criteria (1) will apply before going to step (4).
4. 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 (5).
5. 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 \$8.00 for adults and \$6.00 for students.

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) .

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

2025

NSAA Soccer Championship Schedule

Monday, May 12th - Quarterfinals

Session 1

12:00 PM - Class A Girls

2:00 PM - Class A Girls

Session 2

5:30 PM - Class A Girls

7:30 PM - Class A Girls

Tuesday, May 13th - Quarterfinals

Session 3

12:00 PM - Class A Boys

2:00 PM - Class A Boys

Session 4

5:30 PM Class A Boys

7:30 PM Class A Boys

5:30 PM Class A Boys

7:30 PM Class A Boys

Wednesday, May 14th - Quarterfinals

Session 5

12:00 PM - Class B Girls

2:00 PM - Class B Girls

Session 6

5:30 PM Class B Girls

7:30 PM - Class B Girls

Thursday, May 15th - Quarterfinals

Session 7

12:00 PM Class B Boys

2:00 PM Class B Boys

Session 8

5:30 PM Class B Boys

7:30 PM Class B Boys

Friday, May 16th - Semifinals

Session 9

12:00 PM Class A Girls

2:00 PM Class A Girls

Session 10

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 Perfection Thermo ST7

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 dark jerseys and socks, the visiting team shall wear solid white jerseys and socks.

Number of Players Permitted. A team shall not dress more than 24 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. Eight 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 (24 per team). Each member of the runner-up boys' and girls' team will receive a silver medal (24 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.

EXPECTED BEHAVIORS AT AWARDS CEREMONIES

Saturday, May 17th - Semifinals

Session 11

12:00 PM - Class B Girls

2:00 PM - Class B Girls

Session 12

5:30 PM Class B Boys

7:30 PM Class B Boys

Televised on Nebraska Public Media

Monday, May 19th - Finals

Session 13

5:30 PM Class B Girls

8:00 PM Class A Girls

Televised on Nebraska Public Media

Tuesday, May 20th - Finals

Session 14

5:30 PM Class B Boys

8:00 PM Class A Boys

All semifinal games will be streamed on NFHS Network.

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Media – Credentials & Broadcasting

- 1) All media operations (admission, access and accommodations) for Regular Season contests are at the discretion of the host school.
- 2) The NSAA Media Manual outlines policies for Media Credentials, Broadcast Policies and other specifics surrounding NSAA Postseason contests.
- 3) Postseason contests include: Districts, Sub-Districts, District Finals, and the State Championships.
- 4) The [NSAA Media Manual is posted on the NSAA website's Media Page](#).

Note: Please visit the NSAA Media page and review the current Media Manual for additional information.

Music Licenses

Generally, music used for contests (warm-up, half-time, video production, cheer/dance 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 NFHSLearn.com to view the video course: *Understanding Copyright and Compliance*.

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:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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.

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 of 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 & 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 Teaching & Modeling Behavior 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 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.
10. If the ejection takes place in the final game of the season, the suspension will carry over to the following season.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. Officials are asked to be specific in listing the reason(s) for an ejection.
15. Affiliated officials (officials registered from contiguous states) will also be required to perform this reporting function.
16. There is no appeal process for ejections for unsportsmanlike conduct.
17. The Executive Director shall reserve the right to consider the length of suspension when some levels of competition are scheduled on an irregular basis (e.g., three weeks between regularly scheduled non-varsity contests).

In the realm of good sportsmanship, it is the expectation that all student spectators to wear shirts for all sub-district, district, district final and state events. Each individual school shall be responsible for assuring that student spectators are appropriately attired. Participants must keep their uniforms on while in the competition area.



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, live animals

The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), also known as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any person at any NSAA post-season tournament venues. For purposes of this policy, a UAV is any aircraft without a human pilot aboard this device. This prohibition applies to all fields of play, courts, arena, mats, gym floor or pool, and includes a ban on the entire facility being used as part of the NSAA event, including the spectator areas and parking areas. Tournament management shall refuse admission or entry to anyone attempting to use a UAV; and if necessary, Tournament management shall remove anyone attempting to use a UAV and/or confiscate the UAV. An exception to this policy, in writing, may be made in specific cases for NSAA broadcast partners, provided the Management of the tournament facility permits the presence of UAVs for broadcast purposes under the control of the NSAA (2015).

Regulations listed are subject to facility restrictions.

SPORT	BA	BB	CC	FB	GO	SO	SB	SW	TE	TR/ UTR	BO/ UBO	VB	WR
-------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	------------	------------	----	----

Balloons	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
One School Banner per school	Yes	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	Yes
Megaphones (school recognized cheerleaders only)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	Yes
Shirts on student spectators (required) AR 3.3.11	Yes	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	Yes
Team Introduction Run-throughs or Break Away Banners	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes
Pompoms, spirit towels	Yes	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	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
School bands	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes
Carried school flags (Running/taunting prohibited)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	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, UBO-Unified Bowling, BO-Bowling, VB-Volleyball, WR-Wrestling, N/A-Not Apply