



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

500 Charleston Street, Suite 1
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-1119
402-489-0386

TO: [Athletic Director/Coach of 2024 State Soccer Championship Qualifiers](#)

FROM: Ron Higdon, NSAA Assistant Director

SUBJECT: State Championship Instructions

DATE: May 2024

Congratulations to you and your team for qualifying to compete in the State Soccer Championships!
Included in this email:

[State Championship Bracket](#)

Administrator Instructions

Team Instructions

Directions

Map of Morrison Stadium

Please make sure your Team information for the Championship Program has been completed through the NSAA website following the conclusion of your district/district final. Email Jakub VanWesten jvanwesten@nsaahome.org to verify that we received your information for the program.

The Athletic Director of the qualifying school will be emailed a link from Creighton Ticket Office/Ticketmaster to 6 courtesy e-tickets that may be used by Administrators & Supervisors. These e-tickets can be transferred via email.

****NEW** FOR THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Each of the last several years it has become more and more difficult to get people willing to be ball shaggers. Even when we have people commit, they sometimes end up not showing up. Therefore, we are asking each qualifying team to bring (3) people that can shag for your respective game. Each time you play, the team host will give you (3) additional passes for these individuals to get into the games for that day. This can be lower-level players, other students, younger brothers/sisters or even adults.

Coach Conduct/Communication

1. Coaches are permitted to stand and move in the technical area for the purpose of instructing players.
2. **ONLY** the Head Coach is allowed to communicate with the referee or other members of the referee crew.
3. Coaches are NOT to approach Officials at half-time or the end of game for any reason.



2024 STATE SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Admission Tickets.** All admission tickets will be sold electronically through the Creighton University ticket office – Ticketmaster.
2. **Administrator Passes.** To receive the six courtesy passes, you will be emailed a link directly from the Creighton ticket office to order your electronic tickets to use for school administrators, supervisory personnel, bus drivers, athletic trainers, etc.
3. **Participant/Coach Admittance.** Participant and coaches passes **WILL** be issued and will be **given in your team packet when you arrive**. A maximum of 28 players/coaches/team personnel will be given credentials. Within this 28 you can have 24 suited players and the remaining personnel can include coaches, trainers, managers or other (non-suited) players. Athletic trainers will not receive free admittance without being included in your allotted 28. Teams traveling with more than 28 will be required to purchase tickets for any additional personnel. Participants and coaches must use the designated pass gate located on the north end of the stadium.
4. **Sideline personnel.** Each team will be allowed a **total number of 30 personnel** on the sideline which will NOT include your athletic trainers (maximum of two). However, please remember that you can only have 24 suited players on the sideline. **The total number of sideline personnel is the monitoring responsibility of a designated school administrator from each respective school.**
5. **Student Media Passes.** **NEW THIS YEAR** – Activities Directors or Journalism Advisers will be responsible for providing, in advance, the names of the student(s) that will be serving as student media for their school. Jeff Stauss jstauss@nsaahome.org, will be sending out a Google Sheet for the AD/Journalism Advisor to fill out. Student media will be required to show a matching Student ID or license at the sign-in area to receive their credential. If students do not have a matching ID to the name(s) provided by the school, they will not be given a credential.
 - a. Each qualifying **team** can obtain **two** student media credentials. Credentials provide free admission and access to media areas. A Journalism or Yearbook adviser will be allowed one credential for yearbook & school publication purposes **only if no students will be using credentials**. Parents, community members, etc. **will not** be issued a student media credential. Credentials should be kept for the entirety of the championship. Lost credentials **will not** be replaced.
 - b. **[The full NSAA Student Media Policy is available on page 11 of the NSAA Media Manual](#)** – please have your students review prior to attending the event.

6. **Filming, Video Taping & Photographers.** Schools are permitted to film or videotape the games in which their team participates. There is a designated filming platform on the mezzanine level of Morrison Stadium. Filming and videotaping future opponents is prohibited. Please contact site supervisor to request accommodations. Only NSAA credentialed photographers/media will be allowed access to the field.
7. **Supervision. *EACH PARTICIPATING SCHOOL MUST HAVE SUPERVISION PRESENT AT THE CONTEST.*** Please have someone from your supervision staff check-in with the Site Director when arriving at the site. Please advise your students and parents that no one will be permitted on the playing field or along the sidelines except players, coaches, and championship officials. *Supervisors are required to be on the field at the conclusion of their schools' matches and are expected to keep their respective student fans off the field. Failure to meet this expectation could result in school sanctions from the NSAA. A school supervisor is responsible for ensuring (the 30 on the sidelines).*
8. **Spectator Seating.** At Creighton Stadium seating is on a first come first serve basis, with Home team fans sitting at the south end of the west stands and the Visiting team fans on the north end of the west stands. The Home team is the higher seed.
9. **Bands/Artificial Noisemakers/Banners/Flags.** Bands are permitted during State contests. Members **MUST** pay regular admission to State contests. The use of artificial noisemakers is prohibited. (Examples: air horns, whistles, bells, etc.) 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 and at intermissions. Hand held signs will be permitted inside the stadium provided they are appropriate and not derogatory. *Banners, yard signs, large flags will not be permitted.*
10. **Cheerleaders & Drill Teams. Cheerleaders, drill team, and student cheering sections members **MUST** pay regular admission to State events.** Due to potential injury liability, mounts and pyramids by cheerleaders and drill teams during the State championships are prohibited. A mount is defined as any stunt where another individual or individuals support one individual above the level of the floor. The height of the mount or pyramid, or the number of people involved, has no bearing on the type of stunt performed. *If you plan to bring a bus load of students, please contact the NSAA in advance so that we can accommodate them at the ticket gate.*
11. **Certificates of Participation.** Participation certificates are available for download on your AD login page.
12. **Food and Beverages.** Outside food, beverages, and coolers will not be allowed at the facility. *Gum and sunflower seeds are prohibited on the field turf at Creighton. If teams bring food, they will be asked to eat outside of the stadium fencing. Outside food will not be allowed in the stadium.*
13. **Inclement & Severe Weather.** In the event of severe weather, all in attendance will be evacuated to the designated shelter (Ryan Center – north of the stadium) or be asked to return to their vehicle.



TEAM INSTRUCTIONS – 2024 STATE SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. **Game Times.** Please refer to the enclosed championship bracket for the time of your game.
2. **Admission/Team Parking.** No player or coaches passes are issued. Players and coaches must enter through the pass gate located on the north side of the stadium. Only players and coaches listed on the official team roster, as submitted to the NSAA will be allowed access to Morrison Stadium free of charge through the pass gate. The pass gate opens 1 hour before the first match of the session. **A MAXIMUM of 28 players/coaches/team personnel are allowed free admittance. Teams traveling with more than 28 personnel will be required to purchase tickets and enter through the ticket gate on the west side of the stadium. (Refer to Page 2 for team drop off site.)**
3. **Programs.** Each team will receive two programs before their first game of the championship.
4. **Home Team.** The ***higher seed*** of each paired bracket is the ***home team*** and shall wear ***dark shirts and dark socks***. The other team shall be considered the visiting team and shall wear ***solid white shirts and solid white socks***.
5. **Players should NOT remove shirts/jerseys when on or in the area of the playing field.**
6. **Team Benches.** Team Benches. The home team is on the South bench, and the away team is on the North bench. Water will be provided for each team. Bench players will be required to wear contrasting color pinnies.
7. **Sideline Personnel.** The only individuals permitted on the playing field and sidelines are coaches, the players on your championship roster, student managers, team athletic trainers, and championship officials. ***A team shall not dress more than 24 players. REMINDER: ONLY THOSE 24 SUITED PLAYERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO WARM UP PRIOR TO THE GAME. Please do not request to have additional people in your team area. A total of 30 will be allowed.***
8. **Locker Rooms.** No locker room facilities will be available at Creighton. **Creighton and the NSAA are NOT responsible for your valuables.**
9. **Food and Beverages.** Outside food, and beverages, and coolers will **not** be allowed at either facility. **Gum and sunflower seeds are prohibited on the field turf at Creighton.**
10. **Spectator Seating.** At Creighton seating is on a first come first serve basis, with Home team fans sitting at the south end of the west stands and the Visiting team fans on the north end of the west stands.
11. **Team Photos.** Callam Photography is the official photographer of the NSAA. Professional photographs will be taken of each state qualifying team on the north side of the field prior to team warm-up at the Rasmussen Center. Photographs of teams playing in the first match of the day will be taken one hour prior to match time. Championship and runner-up team photos will also be taken at the conclusion of the final match. These photographs will be available for purchase. Parents/spectators will not be allowed on the field at the conclusion of the match for photographs.

12. **QUARTERFINALS & SEMIFINALS.** The NFHS Network will webcast the quarterfinals and semifinals. The link can be found through our website nsaahome.org. Scroll down and click on the NFHSnetwork.com/NSAA logo.
13. **FINALS.** Our broadcasting partner Nebraska Public Media will televise the finals of both the boys and the girls Class A and B Final matches (See Championship Bracket for times). There will also be a one-minute TV timeout after the first 20 min. of the finals games.
14. **COACH QUESTIONNAIRE.** Please have coaches fill out the corresponding form in the links below. These will be used in the Championship Coverage provided by Nebraska Public Media.

Boys Coach Questionnaire: <https://forms.gle/A5SVJJ8cUDjb3SRS6>

Girls Coach Questionnaire: <https://forms.gle/e8UcPZvUTEAZ9wbt8>

15. **Warm-Up.** Teams will be allowed to warm-up at the Rasmussen Center located north of the stadium. Please do not warm-up in this area until the teams playing the next game have gone to the playing field. Portable goals will be available in the warm-up area.
 - a. Depending upon the time when the game in progress is completed, teams may or may not have time to warm-up on the game field. Every attempt will be made to provide at least 20 minutes of warm-up on the game field. Teams will not be allowed to warm-up on the playing field until the game in progress is over.
 - b. When warming up on the playing field, each team will warm up on the end of the field nearest its team bench. **Only the 24 players listed on the submitted roster for that game can participate in the warmup.**
 - c. Help protect the turf! Teams shall refrain from a TEAM WARM-UP inside the 18 yard box such as a possession drill and other small sided warmups. At no time should the entire team be warming up inside the 18 yard box. Teams should limit any shooting drills to less than 8 minutes. Goalkeeper warmups are allowed inside the penalty area but all ballhandling, stretching and other warmups that do not require a goal should be off to the side and not in the goal area.
16. **Officials.** Four officials will be used for each game.
17. **Introduction of Players and Coaches.** Immediately following the coin-toss, teams will line up in front of their respective benches in numerical order (lowest to highest) followed by the coaches (only the 24 players suited for the match will be introduced). Teams will then walk out single-file at the midfield line and then turn to face the grandstand (World Cup format). The visiting team and coaches will be introduced first, then the home team and coaches. At the conclusion of the introductions teams will return to their benches and be ready to begin play immediately. The National Anthem will be played prior to the first game of each session. Please send a team representative to the announcer's booth to assist with pronunciations.
18. **Suspension of Play.** If a game is suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue play, the on-site championship director, head referee, and NSAA staff member 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 game 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 shall 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.

19. **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.
20. **Awards.** Following the championship game in both the girls' and boys' championships, awards will be presented to the runner-up and team champions. Each member of the runner-up team will receive silver medallions. The runner-up team will receive a trophy. Each member of the championship team will receive gold medallions, and the championship team will receive a trophy. To receive the awards, each team will line up on the sideline in front of the grandstand. Twenty-four medals will be given out to the players listed on the roster at the beginning of the game. As each individual's name is called, he/she will step forward to receive the award. **Parents/spectators will not be allowed on the field at the conclusion of the match for photographs. Participants must be clothed during the awards presentation! Coaches are expected to enforce this rule!**

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.

DIRECTIONS TO CHAMPIONSHIP SITE

Creighton University, Michael G. Morrison, S.J. Stadium 19th & Cass, Omaha

Morrison Stadium is located between 17th and 19th Streets to the north of Cass Street, on the east side of the Creighton University campus in downtown Omaha. The main entrance and ticket window is located on the west side, at the intersection of California and Florence Blvd. (19th Street).

From Interstate 80: Take Interstate 80 to the I-480 interchange. Follow I-480 North to I-480 East, take the Capitol/Civic Auditorium exit. Turn left on 19th Street (Florence Blvd.) at the light signals and follow to the facility.

From Interstate 29: Take Interstate 29 to the I-480 interchange in Iowa. Go west on I-480 across bridge into Omaha. Take the 14th Street exit which will run into Cass Street. Follow Cass Street to the facility.

From the Airport: From the airport, make a left onto Abbott Drive. Follow Abbott Drive toward downtown, Abbott Drive will change into Cuming Street. Follow Cuming Street to 17th Street. Turn left on 17th Street and follow to the facility.

Team Drop Off Procedure

Teams will be dropped off NORTH of Morrison Stadium from 17th street. (See map enclosed). Please have the bus driver come down 17th street from the north and stop at the NE entrance to Morrison Stadium. Team buses will park in the center lane of 17th Street.

Contact Mark Matthews (402-686-9940) prior to arrival and we will arrange a team host to greet you at the drop off area.

If your players are traveling on their own, please notify them that the **player entrance is on the north side of the stadium**. They will not get admittance to the stadium from any other entrance throughout the championships. We will have the team rosters at that entrance and anyone that wants to come through the team entrance must be listed on the team roster that was submitted to the NSAA.

