

2.2.3 Facilities:

- (a) **Court and Field Diagrams:** The NCHSAA has adopted the playing rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations for most sponsored sports.
 - (1) Diagrams for the court or field for each sport are contained in the respective rulebooks.
 - (2) The National Federation also publishes a Court and Field Diagram Guide covering all sports.
 - (3) A copy of rule books for individual sports or of the comprehensive guide may be obtained directly from the National Federation.
- (b) **Lighting Standards:** The Board of Directors has adopted standards for the lighting of events sponsored by the NCHSAA or any member school.
 - (1) These standards incorporate the most current data available regarding the lighting, electrical and structural issues that apply to the installation and maintenance of safe, effective lighting systems.
 - (2) These standards were developed by a Standards Advisory Committee made up of experienced engineers, architects, electrical contractors, attorneys and insurance underwriters.
 - (3) They are divided into recommended minimums and desirable features. The minimums establish criteria which are important to the safe conduct of sponsored activities. The desirable features are intended to provide guidelines for lighting systems that give added values of durability, energy-efficiency, environmental sensitivity and cost effectiveness.
 - (4) NCHSAA playoff events are intended to be held at sites that meet the minimum standards.
 - (5) A copy of the revised lighting standards may be viewed on the NCHSAA website.
- (c) **Drones Policy:** The use of drones will be prohibited within the confines of stadiums, fields and arenas during NCHSAA contests. This policy includes not only the restricted playing area of the venue(s), but also the physical confines of the entire stadium, field, arena and/or structure.
- (d) **NCHSAA Hosting of Playoffs and Championships:** In order to host NCHSAA Playoffs in any sport, member schools' facilities must:
 - (1) Have measures in place that ensure the safety and protection of the well-being of all participants and spectators;
 - (2) Maintain seating for participants and spectators, with one-third (1/3) of the available seating reserved for the visiting team's spectators. These specifications are recommended for regular season games in all sports, with the exception of football, which provides its own minimum seating regulations;.
 - (3) Comply with requirements mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA);
 - (4) Have restroom facilities available for both spectators and participants;
 - (5) Provide areas for teams and game officials to dress for competition;
 - (6) Be conducive to the charging of admission; and
 - (7) Be able to show, upon request, that facility lighting meets minimum NCHSAA lighting standards. (see Rule 2.2.3.b) and the NCHSAA website for lighting standards).

Note: The abovementioned facility requirements, are recommended for regular season contests in all sports.

2.2.4 Starting Time:

The starting time for all regular season games in all sports shall be determined by the home team, within certain limits.

- (a) A contest may not usually begin until after the last regularly scheduled instructional period.
- (b) Recommended starting time in regular season is no earlier than 5:00 pm for baseball, lacrosse, softball, volleyball and soccer.
- (c) Unless otherwise noted, if an event is held on campus or on school property, the host team is considered the "home" team.
- (d) Unless otherwise noted, if an event is held off campus (golf course, etc.), the host team is designated the home team.
 - (1) The contest may begin before the last regularly scheduled period if a "host" team is involved, but schools are still urged to minimize loss of school time.
 - (2) This rule is designed to be used only if the operator of the facility dictates an early starting time to the host school.
- (e) Playoff games are under the auspices of the NCHSAA and are set for 7 p.m. with the exception of football, which is 7:30 p.m.
 - (1) Teams may play at 6 p.m. if mutually agreed upon. Any deviation from this must be approved by the NCHSAA.
- (f) Schools may play earlier than the playoff date designated on the bracket by mutual agreement, and Saturday playoff games may be played earlier than those times listed here by mutual agreement.

2.2.5 Practice Time:

There shall be no athletic practice during the regular school day. This means no individual or team practice may begin until after the last regularly scheduled instructional period.