

- (b) Admission: \$10.00
- (c) Officials: Will be assigned by the Supervisor of Officials.
- (d) Radio and TV Fee: Reference 2.2.19.
- (e) Gate Receipts: The net balance will be divided as follows: 20% to each of the competing teams and 60% to the NCHSAA.
- (f) Team Expenses: Travel and expenses for 20 players, plus a coach and manager, shall be allowed at the rate designated by the NCHSAA (see basketball section Reference 4.3.3.c).
- (g) Awards: Plaques will be presented to the championship and runner-up teams. Members of the championship and runner-up teams will receive individual awards (40 per each men's team, 30 per each women's team).

4.8 SOCCER

4.8.1 General:

- (a) Information on Mailings, Classifications, Payment of Officials, Eligibility Sheets, Ejections, Playoff Declaration, Unpaid Fines, NCHSAA Clinic Dates, Body Paint and Noisemakers are found under General Requirements for Interscholastic Activities (4.1).
- (b) Conferences: Any school not currently fielding a team but wishing to participate should contact the NCHSAA office no later than March 1 in men's soccer and September 15 in women's soccer. Schools should also notify the NCHSAA if they plan to drop programs by these same dates. All soccer conferences can be found on the NCHSAA website.
- (c) Date of First Practice: August 1 (men) and February 12 (women).
- (d) Preseason Scrimmages: Reference 4.1.5
- (e) Date of First Game: August 19 (men); March 2 (women).
- (f) Health and Safety Guidelines: Reference General Requirements for Interscholastic Athletic Activities for a listing of Guidelines (4.1.22) and Health and Safety Guidelines (2.3) for all the information.
- (g) Number of Regular Season Contests: No more than three per week may be scheduled.
 - (1) Teams are limited to 23 games.
 - (2) An individual is limited to no more than one game per day.
 - (3) Junior varsity conference tournament games count toward the 23-game limit.
 - (4) Varsity conference tournament games are considered part of state playoffs.
- (h) Endowment Games: Reference 4.1.6
- (i) Starting Time: A time no earlier than 5:30 pm is recommended, unless facilities dictate otherwise.
- (j) Tournaments: Tournaments are governed by daily, weekly and seasonal limitations.
- (k) Yellow Card Tracking and Ejections: Coaches and athletic directors will be responsible for tracking yellow cards accumulated by their players and all team personnel (including coaches).
 - (1) Five yellow cards accumulated by the same player will result in a suspension (miss next contest at that level and all contests in the interim). No report should be submitted to the NCHSAA.
 - (2) An additional five yellow cards accumulated by the same player (season total of 10) will result in an ejection.
 - (3) The player will be suspended from all sports for the remainder of that sports season on the 15th yellow card (or second ejection). This should be reported to the NCHSAA both after 10 and after 15.
 - (4) A red card disqualification that is not an ejection is the equivalent of two yellow cards.
 - (5) Yellow cards are reset to zero once state playoffs begin (after conference tournament); however, all previous penalties must be served.
 - (6) With three yellow cards in playoffs, player is suspended for next game.
 - (7) A total of five yellow cards means player is out for remainder of playoffs and may carry over to other sports.
 - (8) Penalties are enforced at the conclusion of the game, and an ejection report must also be filed at the appropriate time for accumulation of yellow cards.
- (l) Nine-goal Rule: If a goal differential of nine is reached by halftime or at any time in the second half, the game shall be terminated.
- (m) Suspended Game: If a game is suspended due to bad weather, light failure, etc.:
 - (1) If suspended in the first half, even if one team is ahead, the game is picked up from the point of interruption unless coaches agree to end it.
 - (2) If suspended at half time or beyond, the game is over. If the score is tied when the game is suspended, then the game ends in a tie. If one team is ahead when the game is suspended, then it is the winner.
- (n) Tie Games: Ties must be broken in all conference matches, which would include a conference tournament if one is held. If a tie score exists at the end of regulation play during each conference varsity

game, there will be two, complete five (5)-minute overtime periods--not sudden victory. If the score is still tied at the conclusion of the two five (5)-minute overtime periods, the tie will be broken by kicks from the penalty mark.

- (1) All regular season, non-conference games that are tied at the end of regulation will result in a tie.
- (2) In non-conference tournament play and NCHSAA Playoffs, tied games must be resolved by the NFHS Tie-Breaking Procedure, and those decisions count in a team's won-loss record. One goal is added to the winning team's score, and an asterisk may be placed by the team advancing to indicate advancement was the result of the progression format.

(3) Junior varsity teams do not play overtime periods

(o) Junior Varsity Game Format: Two 35-minute halves with no overtime period.

(p) Uniformed Police Officer: Reference 2.5.3.a.

(q) Schedules: Schools are required to submit varsity and junior varsity schedules to their appropriate regional supervisor by May 15 (men) and January 15 (women).

(r) Uniform Changing: Not allowed in area of competition. Must use locker room facilities; disqualification may occur.

(s) Equipment: The alternating dark and light color horizontal stripe socks ("bumblebee") are not legal (NFHS rule). Balls must have the authenticating NFHS ball mark. NOTE: NCHSAA approved balls are required for all playoff events beginning with the 2020-2021 season. The NCHSAA strongly recommends their adoption for regular season play.

(t) Filming, Videotaping or Video Streaming: Reference 4.1.25.

4.8.2 Playoffs:

(a) Representatives and Ties in Standings: Reference 4.1.13.

(1) the team that won from the other(s) during the season gets the berth, or

(2) if the teams split during the regular season, the approved tie breaking system shall be used (see 4.1.13.)

(b) Reporting Playoff Qualifiers: For reporting potential qualifiers to state playoffs, conference presidents are required to submit the appropriate information on the NCHSAA website immediately upon conclusion of the regular season.

(1) The information includes overall won-loss record and winning percentage for all conference schools. This must be submitted prior to the appropriate deadlines. The overall winning percentage and finish in conference standings will be considered when determining which schools qualify for wild-card berths in playoffs.

(2) Upon conclusion of the conference tournament, the conference president will immediately submit the adjusted overall records of all teams. These are the records that will be listed on the brackets themselves when playoff qualifiers are posted.

(3) Failure to comply with the initial reporting procedure will result in a \$400 fine to the conference.

(4) Check the www.nchsaa.org website for additional information.

(c) Qualifiers: See 4.1.18 (Playoff Berths/Qualification) for selection criteria.

(d) Seeding: See 4.1.19.

(e) Brackets and Schedule: In all classifications, games are played on the home field of the higher seed.

(f) Playoff Brackets: Will be posted on the NCHSAA Website once seeding is complete.

(g) Schedule:	Men	Women
Reporting deadline	November 2, 11:59 p.m.	May 9, 11:59 p.m.
Seeding	November 4	May 11
First round	November 6	May 12
Second round	November 9	May 15
Third round	November 13	May 20
Fourth round	November 16	May 23
Regional	November 19	May 26
State Championship	November 22-23	May 29-30

(h) Competing Schools: Competing teams should contact each other to work out details for their contest.

(i) Officials:

(1) For the first two rounds of the state playoffs, officials will be assigned by the local officials association of the higher-seeded team.

(2) After the first two rounds, officials will be assigned by the NCHSAA Supervisor of Officials.

(3) Regional officiating assignments will be determined by the NCHSAA and host schools meet to follow up with booking agents.

(j) Game Times: Game time will be 7:00 p.m., unless mutually agreed upon to play at 6 p.m.

(1) Where the distance is more than 100 miles for the visiting team, game time will be 6:00 p.m. Any other exceptions must be approved by the NCHSAA.

- (2) Saturday: Teams may play at any time if mutually agreed upon.
 - (i) If teams cannot mutually agree, the higher seeded team may choose a starting time between 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
 - (a) Between 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. if the visiting team is over 100 miles one-way.
- (3) Games may be played earlier than the assigned date above if mutually agreed upon.
- (k) Postponed Games: Postponed games must be played the next day, including Saturday.
- (l) Admission: \$7.00 prior to the regionals and \$8.00 at the regionals (both include a one-dollar surcharge for the Endowment).
- (m) Team Expenses and Financial Arrangements:
 - (1) The NCHSAA receives 15% of the gross gate for men's and women's soccer from second round third and fourth-round games.
 - (2) The NCHSAA receives 25% of the gross gate from regional playoff games.
 - (3) In all rounds prior to the state championship, participating schools will divide the remainder equally after applying the following expense formula:
 - (4) Where the distance between the competing schools is 100 miles or less, the visiting school will pay its own transportation and meals and the host school will provide the playing facility, ticket takers, security and balls at no charge. The officials are to be paid from gate receipts.
 - (5) Where the distance is more than 100 miles, the same plan should be followed except that the officials are paid by the host school rather than from gate receipts.
 - (6) All concession rights belong to the host schools.
 - (7) Participating schools are responsible for dividing any deficit or net 50-50.
 - (8) The principal of the host school or appointed game manager will forward a copy of the financial report and ticket accountability form to the NCHSAA within 10 days after the contest.
- (n) Ticket Accountability and Financial Forms: All forms can be found on the NCHSAA website.
- (o) Regional Awards: Team plaques will be presented to champion and runner-up.

4.8.3 **State Championship:**

- (a) Dates and Sites: Dates for the championships are set for November 22-23 (men); May 29-30 (women).
- (b) Admission: \$10.00 at gate (includes one-dollar charge for Endowment). Each team will receive 8 complimentary tickets/passes (5 VIP and 3 School Administrator).
- (c) Officials: Will be assigned by the Supervisor of Officials.
- (d) Radio and TV Fee: Reference 2.2.19.
- (e) Gate Receipts: The net balance will be divided as follows: 20% to each of the competing teams and 60% to the NCHSAA.
- (f) Team Expenses: Travel and expenses for eighteen (18) players, one (1) coach and one (1) manager, shall be allowed at the rate designated by the NCHSAA (see basketball section Reference 4.3.3.c).
- (g) Awards: Plaques will be presented to the championship and runner-up teams in all classes. Members of the championship and runner-up teams will receive individual awards (25 medals for women, 30 medals for men).
- (h) Game Ball: The Wilson Forte Hybrid II (WTE 9906) is the official ball of the state soccer championship.

4.9 **SOFTBALL**

4.9.1 General

- (a) Information on Mailings, Classifications, Payment of Officials, Eligibility Sheets, Ejections, Playoff Declaration, Unpaid Fines, NCHSAA Clinic Dates, Body Paint and Noisemakers are found under General Requirements for Interscholastic Activities (4.1).
- (b) Date of First Practice: February 12
- (c) Preseason Scrimmages: Reference 4.1.5
- (d) Date of First Game: March 2
- (e) Health and Safety Guidelines: Reference General Requirements for Interscholastic Athletic Activities for a listing of guidelines (4.1.22) and Health and Safety Guidelines (2.3) for all the information.
- (f) Number of Regular Season Contests: Total 23 games (including any games played in invitational tournaments).
 - (1) No more than four per week, provided fourth single game is on a non-school day for both.
 - (2) Four games in three days is still permissible without using a non-school day (e.g. doubleheader on a school day).
 - (3) It is permissible for an athlete to participate in a junior varsity and varsity game in the same day; however, any athlete is still subject to the weekly and seasonal limitations (four games a week, not to exceed three days, total of 23).
 - (4) Teams and individuals are limited to two games on a school day. The limitation extends to four games, if on a non-school day.