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 Nov. 14-15, men; May 30 for women. Site for the championships is TBA.
(b) Admission: $8.00 at gate (includes one-dollar charge for Endowment).
(c) Officials: Will be assigned by the Supervisor of Officials.
(d) Radio and TV Fee: Reference 2.3.17.
(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 18 players, plus a coach and manager, shall be allowed at the rate designated by the NCHSAA (see basketball section Reference 4.3.3.e).
(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 each).
(h) Game Ball: The Wilson Forte Hybrid WTH (9905XP) 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 16
(c) Preseason Scrimmages: Reference 4.1.3
(d) Date of First Game: March 2
(e) Health and Safety Guidelines: Reference General Requirements for Interscholastic Athletic Activities for a listing of guidelines (4.1.14) and Health and Safety Guidelines (2.5) 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) Team and individuals are limited to two games a day.
(5) Junior varsity conference tournament games must count toward the 23-game limit.
(6) Varsity conference tournament games are considered part of the state playoffs.

(g) Endowment Games: Reference 4.1.4
(h) Starting Time: During the regular season, a time no earlier than 5 p.m. is recommended unless facilities dictate otherwise, e.g. no lights.
(i) Tournaments: Tournaments are governed by daily, weekly and seasonal limitations.
(j) Equipment:
(1) Balls must have the authenticating NFHS ball mark. Teams shall use a 12-inch softball with a Co-efficient of Restitution not exceeding .47. Conferences are encouraged to adopt the same kind of softball for use throughout their league play.
(2) Bats must meet ASA-bat performance standards and have a certifying stamp on each bat.
(k) Ten-Run Rule: The ten run rule has been adopted by the NCHSAA for softball; if a team is ahead by 10 runs after five complete innings, the game is terminated.
(l) Doubleheaders: Permitted when mutually agreed upon by teams involved.
(1) Doubleheaders are two back-to-back games between the same teams with a reasonable (30 minutes) time between contests.
(2) Split doubleheaders are also permissible--two separate games.
Suspended Games: North Carolina has adopted the suspended game rule, mandatory in all regular season and state playoff games. “A game called for any reason, where a winner cannot be determined will be treated as a suspended game.

1. If the game is to be completed it will be continued from the point of suspension, with the lineup and batting order of each team the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules of the game.

2. If more than 4 1/2 innings have been played and a winner cannot be determined, the game is over (including playoff games).”

3. After 5 innings, if the visiting team scores a tying or go-ahead run in their top half of the inning and the home team does not have an opportunity to bat or complete its time at bat, the game is treated as a suspended game.

4. If a game is called prior to the completion of a full inning after the fifth inning, the game becomes a suspended game in the following situation: the visiting team has scored one or more runs to tie the score or to take the lead, and the home team has not tied the score or retaken the lead.

   i. PLAY - The sixth inning begins with score H-6, V-5. Visitors score two runs in their half of the inning. Game is called because of rain with (a) two outs in the bottom of the sixth and the score H-6, V-7; or (b) following the completion of the home team’s turn at bat with the score H-6, V-7.

   RULING: In (a) the game is suspended and resumed on the next possible date at the point of interruption. In (b) the game is official, with the final score H-6, V-7.

5. A suspended game does not count against the weekly limitations in the week in which it is completed.

Rain-Out Games: If any rained-out softball game which would affect the winning of a conference title is to be played, it shall be rescheduled on the same field (exception: suspended games do not have to be rescheduled on the same field), unless changed by mutual agreement of the two schools.

Postponed Games: Postponed games must be made up in order of postponement on the next possible date (Excluding Sunday).

   1. In the regular season, Saturday will not be used as a make-up day unless mutually agreed upon by both teams. (Revised: May 2014)

   2. In the playoffs, Saturdays must be used. If one team will not play, the game is forfeited to the opponent. (Revised: May 2014)

Protest: Each conference is to establish a softball protest committee. The committee’s decision on any properly protested conference softball game will be final.

Schedules: Schools are required to submit varsity and junior varsity schedules to their appropriate regional supervisor by January 15.

Filming, Videotaping or Video Streaming: Reference 4.1.17.

Playoffs

(a) Representatives and Ties in Standings: If two or more of the conference’s teams are tied for a playoff berth at the end of the regular season, (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 2.4.8).

(b) Qualifiers: The number-one seed from a conference will be the regular season champion with the number-two seed the winner of the conference tournament.

   i. If a team below number two in the conference wins the conference tournament, it becomes the number-two seed.

   2. All other berths are determined by regular-season standings.

(c) 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 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.

(d) Playoff Berths/Qualification: Reference 4.1.10.
(e) Seeding: Reference 4.1.11.
(f) Playoff Brackets: Reference 4.1.12.
(g) Schedule: Deadline for reporting qualifiers: May 9 (6 a.m.)
   First Round        May 13        Fourth Round    May 22
   Second Round       May 16        Regional      May 26-30
   Third Round        May 19        State        June 5-6
   (1) All games are single elimination, with the exception of the regional and state championship series, which are the best two out of three games.
   (2) Competing teams should contact each other to work out details for their contest.
   (3) Deadlines are set for completion of each round, but competing schools may play on an earlier date by mutual consent.
(h) Reporting Playoff Advancement:
   (1) After schools have qualified for the playoffs, it is their responsibility to report advancement by the appropriate method and deadline as designated by the NCHSAA.
   (2) Failure to report a playoff advancement will result in a $400 fine to the school. Teams must report advancement no later than 6 a.m. the day following each win.
   (3) Postponements should also be reported.
(i) Officials:
   (1) For the first two rounds of state playoffs, umpires are to be assigned by the local officials association of the higher seeded team.
   (2) After the first two rounds, umpires must come from a neutral association or from association mutually agreed upon.
   (3) Assignments for regional and state championship games will be made by the NCHSAA office.
(j) Game Times: On fields with lights, game time will be 7:00 p.m., unless mutually agreed upon to play at 6:00 p.m.
   (1) Any other exceptions, such as field with no lights, must be approved by the NCHSAA.
   (2) Where the distance is more than 100 miles for the visiting team, game time will be 6:00 p.m.
   (3) Game times for playoff games on Saturday can be set by mutual agreement.
(k) Admission: $6.00 for all (site must be conducive to charging admission, includes one-dollar surcharge for Endowment) in first, second, third and fourth round games; $7.00 for all at each game of regional series (includes one-dollar surcharge for Endowment). See appropriate forms on the NCHSAA website for financial reporting.
(l) Protest Committee: The competing teams will determine a five-person protest committee prior to play. The committee will act on any protest at the time it may occur and its decision is final.
(m) Postponed Games: Must be rescheduled on the next day (except on Sunday). Both schools and the NCHSAA must be involved in the decision to postpone any playoff contest.
(n) Team Expenses and Financial Arrangements: The NCHSAA receives 15% of the gross gate from second, third and fourth round games, and receives 25% of the gross gate from each game in the regional playoff series. In all rounds prior to the state championship, participating schools will divide the remainder equally after applying the following expense formula:
   (1) 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 umpires are to be paid from gate receipts.
(2) Where the distance is more than 100 miles, the same plan should be followed except that the umpires are paid by the host school, rather than from gate receipts.

(3) All concession rights belong to the host school.

(4) Participating schools are responsible for dividing any deficit or net.

(5) The principal of the host school, or appointed game manager, must forward the financial report and ticket accountability form to the NCHSAA within 10 days after the contest.

(o) Ticket Accountability and Financial Forms: All forms can be found on the NCHSAA website.

(p) Regional Awards: Team plaques will be presented to the regional champion and regional runner-up.

4.9.3 **State Championship Series**

(a) Dates: June 5-6, 2015

(b) Required Information: Teams qualifying for the state championships must submit their roster and team information (see NCHSAA website) no later than Monday at noon prior to the state championship series.

(c) Series: The state finals shall be a best two out of three game series. Game times and sites will be established by the NCHSAA. The Eastern representative is the home team in game one; Western will be home team for game two; if game three, coin flip.

(d) Admission: $8.00 for each session (includes one-dollar surcharge for Endowment). Each team will receive five complimentary tickets.

(e) Protest Committee: See 4.9.2.l.

(f) Officials: Will be assigned by the Supervisor of Officials.

(g) Radio and TV Fee: Reference 2.3.17.

(h) Gate Receipts: The net balance will be divided as follows: 20% to each of the competing teams and 60% to the NCHSAA.

(i) Team Expenses: Travel and expenses for 18 players plus a coach and manager, shall be allowed at the rate designated by the NCHSAA (see basketball section Reference 4.3.3.e).

(j) Awards: Plaques will be presented to the championship and runner-up team in all classes. Members of the championship and runner-up teams will receive individual awards (a total of 25).

(k) Game Ball: The Wilson A9011 B-NCHS with .47 COR for fast-pitch, with the NFHS authenticating ball mark, is the official ball for the state championships.

**4.10** **SWIMMING AND DIVING**

4.10.1 **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: October 29.

(c) Preseason Scrimmages: Reference 4.1.3.

(d) Date of First Meet: November 17.

(e) Number of Regular Season Contests: No more than three may be scheduled per week. An individual is limited to one contest a day.

(f) Participation Clarification: Reference 4.10.2.c.1.i.

(g) Outside Participation: Swimmers and divers may not choose to participate in outside competition and then join the school’s regular season team for participation in the state playoffs.

(1) Once a school calls for practice and competition begins, the swimmer/diver must join and participate with the school team.

(2) An athlete may not swim in an outside competition and then join the school team at a later date (if the school has a regular season team).

(h) Health and Safety Guidelines: Reference General Requirements for Interscholastic Athletic Activities for a listing of guidelines (4.1.14) and Health and Safety Guidelines (2.5) for all the information.

(i) Filming, Videotaping or Video Streaming: Reference 4.1.17.

4.10.2 **Regional Information**

(a) Dates: February 6-7, 2015.