

- (m) 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.
- (n) Ticket Accountability and Financial Forms: All forms can be found on the NCHSAA website.
- (o) Regional Awards: Team plaques will be presented to the regional champion and regional runner-up.

4.2.3 **State Championship Series:**

- (a) Dates: June 4-5, 2021.
- (b) Required Information: Teams qualifying for the state championships must submit their roster and team information (see 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 higher seeded team will be designated as the home team for games 1 and 3. If equal seeds meet, the NCHSAA will draw to determine the home team.
- (d) Admission: \$20.00 all-session pass, \$8.00 for each session 1, \$12.00 for session 2 & 3 combined, and \$8.00 for session 3 (includes one dollar surcharge for endowment). May be amended due to weather. Each team will receive 8 complimentary tickets/ passes (5 VIP and 3 School Administrator).
- (e) Protest Committee: See 4.2.2.j.
- (f) Officials: Will be assigned by the Supervisor of Officials.
- (g) Radio and TV Fee: Reference 2.2.19.
- (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.c).
- (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).

4.3 **BASKETBALL**

4.3.1 **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: November 2 (October 26 for non-football playing schools).
- (c) Preseason Scrimmages: Reference 4.1.5
- (d) Date of First Game: November 21 (November 9 for non-football playing schools).
- (e) Number of Regular Season Contests: No more than three per week. During any two weeks of the regular season, four games may be played, provided the fourth game is on a non-school day.
 - (1) Total, 23 games. An individual player is limited to one game a day. Junior varsity tournament games are part of the 23-game limit.
 - (2) Varsity conference tournament games are considered part of the state playoffs.
 - (3) Special Note for non-football playing schools: Six additional basketball games may be played, for a total of 29. These games must be completed prior to the first playing date for football-playing schools. Those six games will not count for seeding purposes.
- (f) Endowment Games: Reference 4.1.6
- (g) Tournaments: Tournaments are governed by daily, weekly and seasonal game limitations.
- (h) 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.
- (i) Required Equipment: Red lights behind the backboard synchronized with the time clock buzzer are required. Balls must have the authenticating NFHS ball mark. NOTE: NCHSAA Approved balls are required for all playoff events beginning with the 2020-2021 athletic year. The NCHSAA strongly recommends their adoption for regular season play. If Precision Time System is available, it can be used.

- (j) Pep Bands: Organized music by a pep band at a basketball game is permissible only under the direct supervision of a school music director or other school personnel. The band may play only during dead-ball situations.
- (k) Cheerleaders: Cheerleaders must remain seated while the ball is in play, which includes after the free throw shooter is handed the ball. Cheerleaders may not come onto the floor during 30-second timeouts. The use of signage is allowed during timeouts.
 - (1) If on floor level (floor or first row of bleachers), cheerleaders must remain seated while the ball is in play, which includes after the free throw shooter is handed the ball.
 - (2) If on the second row of bleachers or higher, cheerleaders may stand to cheer while the ball is in play.
- (l) Net Removal: Nets may not be cut down or removed following a game at any time. See penalty code 3.2.2.d.3.
- (m) Postponed Games: Must be rescheduled on the next possible date (excluding Sunday). Both schools and the NCHSAA must be involved in the decision to postpone any playoff contest.
- (n) Suspended Games: The NCHSAA plays by the suspended game rule in all sports (see 2.2.8.c).
- (o) Mercy Rule: Once the score reaches a 40 point differential at halftime or thereafter, the game will resort to a running clock, including the administration of free throws or all other dead ball situations, except for timeouts called by a coach or official; the game can be terminated by mutual agreement.
- (p) Schedules: Schools are required to submit varsity and junior varsity schedules to their appropriate regional supervisor by September 30.
- (q) Uniformed Police Officer: Reference 2.5.3.a.
- (r) Filming, Videotaping or Video Streaming: Reference 4.1.25.
- (s) Required Tournament Information: Fact sheet, roster forms for tournament play, requests for photo and other information forms can be found on the NCHSAA website. Note deadlines for submission of material. This is mandatory for playoff qualifiers. Check NCHSAA website.

4.3.2 Playoffs:

- (a) Conference Tournaments: Do not report berths to the NCHSAA. Tournaments, if played, should end on the Friday night prior to the seeding date.
- (b) Representatives and Ties in Standings: If two or more of the conference's teams are tied at the end of the regular season, (1) the team that won from the other(s) during the season gets the higher seeding, or (2) if the teams split during the regular season, the approved tiebreaking system shall be used (See 4.1.13).
- (c) Qualifiers: See 4.1.18 (Playoff Berths/Qualification) for selection criteria.
- (d) Seeding: Reference 4.1.19
- (e) Brackets and Schedule:
 - (1) In all classifications, playoff games are played on the home court of the higher seed or at mutually agreed upon neutral sites.
 - (2) Game times are 7 pm for single games or 6:30 pm and 8 pm for doubleheaders at a site. By mutual agreement a doubleheader may be played at 6 pm and 7:30 pm. If travel is greater than 100 miles one-way, game times shall be 6 pm and 7:30 pm with the game involving the visiting team with the greatest travel distance being played at 6 pm.
 - (3) By mutual agreement a game time of 6:00 p.m. is permissible.
 - (4) All games will be scheduled on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.
 - (5) 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.
- (f) Playoff Brackets: Will be posted on NCHSAA Website after seeding is complete.
- (g) Schedule: Deadline for reporting qualifiers is February 19 (11:59 p.m.)

First round	February 23	Fourth Round	March 2
Second round	February 25	Regional	March 6
Third round	February 27	State	March 13
- (h) Uniform Color: The home team will wear white uniforms.
- (i) **Game Ball:** The Wilson Evo NXT Basketball (WTB0900 for men and WTB0901 for women) is the official ball for the playoffs and championship.
- (j) Officials: For the first two rounds of the state playoffs, officials are to be assigned by the local regional supervisor of the higher seed. After the first two rounds, officials will be assigned by the NCHSAA Supervisor of Officials.
- (j) Banners: Banners, placards, and signs are prohibited during playoffs (permissible by cheerleaders during timeouts).

(k) Financial Arrangements: For any first round through fourth round games, 15% of the gross revenue goes to the NCHSAA, with the remainder being shared equally after game expenses.

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

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

(m) Admission:

1st through 3rd Round: \$7.00 for single game, \$8.00 for two games at a single site (both include one dollar surcharge for the Endowment).

4th Round: \$8.00 for single or \$9.00 for double-header.

(n) Team Expenses: The NCHSAA receives 15% of the gross gate from first, second, third and fourth round games. In all rounds prior to the regional 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 officials 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 officials 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.

4.3.3 **Regional Championship:** Winners of the fourth round games will participate in the Eastern or Western Championship game.

(a) Officials: Assignments will be made by the NCHSAA Supervisor of Officials.

(b) Uniform Colors: Higher seeded teams wear white jerseys.

(c) Team Expenses: Travel will be computed by the NCHSAA, based on 75 cents per mile round-trip. Each team will be allowed expenses for a coach, assistant coach, manager and 12 players.

(1) Teams will be allowed \$5.00 for each person for breakfast, \$6.00 for lunch and \$8.00 for dinner. Hotel allowances and meal expenses will be authorized by the NCHSAA.

(2) Teams within a radius of 150 miles will be allowed transportation to and from each game and a meal allowance.

(3) Teams outside a radius of 150 miles, will pay their lodging bill and the NCHSAA will reimburse the school up to \$11.00 dollars per person for a maximum of 15 people. Each school will be responsible for any damage which might occur in rooms occupied by team members (allowance based on four per room).

(4) Total expenses for the tournament are to be paid from gate receipts, and the net balance after expenses is to be divided with 60% to the NCHSAA and 40% to the competing teams.

(d) Practice: No team shall practice in the gymnasium where the game is played.

(e) Entertainment: Music, etc., shall be planned and approved by the tournament director, and must meet NFHS and NCHSAA rules.

(f) Admission: Ticket prices will be posted on the NCHSAA Website (includes \$1.00 surcharge for Endowment).

(g) Complimentary Tickets: A school will receive 10 complimentary tickets for the game it plays.

(h) Balls: Practice balls are furnished, and the Wilson Evo NXT Basketball (WTB0900 for men and WTB0901 for women) is the official ball for the championship.

(i) Awards: Team plaques will be presented to the champion and runner-up teams.

4.3.4 **State Championships:** An information session/press conference preceding the championships will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

(a) All regional champions who qualify for the state finals are asked to bring their superintendent, principal, athletic director, head basketball coach and members of the media who cover their team.

(b) Attendance at this information session/press conference is mandatory.

(c) Failure to comply will include a fine and forfeiture of complimentary tickets/VIP passes for the event, according to NCHSAA Board policy.

(d) The championships will be held on March 13, 2021. Classifications and sites TBD.

(e) Game times will be 12:00 noon, 2:30 pm, 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm.

(f) Complimentary Tickets: A school will receive 10 complimentary tickets at the information session/press conference.

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

(h) Uniform Colors: The Eastern champion will be the home team and will wear the white uniforms.

(i) Team Expenses: See regional section above (team expenses as determined by the NCHSAA 4.3.3 (c)). The net balance is to be divided, with 60 percent to the NCHSAA and 40 percent to be divided by the competing teams.

- (j) Entertainment: Pep bands of participating schools are allowed with permission and under the guidelines of the NCHSAA.
- (k) Admission: \$15.00 at the gate (includes one-dollar surcharge for Endowment). Participating schools may retain one-dollar for each presale ticket sold.
- (l) Balls: Practice balls will be furnished and the Wilson Evo NXT Basketball (WTB0900 for men and WTB0901 for women) is the official ball for the state championship.
- (m) Awards: Team plaques will be presented to the champion and runner-up teams, and individual awards will also be given to members of the champion and runner-up teams (up to 20 individual awards).

4.4 CROSS COUNTRY

4.4.1 General:

- (a) Information on Mailings, Classifications, Payment of Officials, Eligibility Sheets, Ejections, Playoff Declaration, Unpaid Fines, Body Paint and Noisemakers are found under General Requirements for Interscholastic Activities (4.1).
- (b) Date of First Practice: August 1
- (c) Preseason Scrimmages: Reference 4.1.5
- (d) Date of First Contest: August 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 (no season limit). If a cross country team participates in separate events on the same day, each meet will count towards the daily and weekly limitations for the individual and team.
- (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) Practice Rule: Men and women runners may practice together, individually, or as a team; however, if the women run with or against men in any regular season meet, they are regarded as members of the men's team and are not eligible to compete in a women's cross country meet (regular season, regional or state).
 - (1) Separate men's and women's races may have the same starting times and may be over the same course if the meet director so chooses, provided the scoring is kept separately.

4.4.2 Regionals:

- (a) Date: October 31, 2020.
- (b) Regional Assignments: Regional assignments, along with the most current information about regional sites, dates and times, are posted on the NCHSAA website.
- (c) Entries: The regional directors should receive entries no later than 3:00 pm, October 23.
 - (1) Regional directors, site information and entry instructions can be found on the cross country page of the NCHSAA website.
 - (2) There is a maximum entry of seven individuals per school.
 - (3) Late entries may be submitted to the NCHSAA and must be in by 3 p.m. the Monday prior to the regional. No entries after this deadline will be accepted.
 - (i.) Use the form on the NCHSAA website.
 - (ii.) A \$50 fee will be assessed for each individual entry.
- (d) Race Format: Men will run the first race, followed by the women. The prescribed course distance for both men and women is 5,000 meters.
- (e) Uniform: Each team member shall wear a uniform (jersey and trunks) that is compliant with NFHS regulations.
 - (1) A competitor shall wear the assigned contestant number, when numbers are used.
 - (2) For illegal uniforms, the competitor is disqualified from the event.
- (f) Coaches' Meeting: Each regional site is responsible for conducting a coaches' meeting prior to the start of the race to verify entries and announce substitutions.
 - (1) Failure to announce substitutions at the meeting may result in disqualification of the substitute runner.
- (g) Regional Site Determination: At the regional meet, a meeting of coaches must be held to select a site and a director for the upcoming season.
 - (1) This is a mandatory meeting that will be conducted by the current regional director.
 - (2) The current director will then notify the NCHSAA office within 10 days after the completion of the tournament, of the host school and director for the next season.
- (h) Supervision: All individuals participating in state playoff competition must be properly supervised or will not be allowed to participate. Coaches are responsible for seeing that team members remain at the site and are supervised at all times.
- (i) Qualifiers to State: The top twenty-five percent (25%) of teams, or top four teams, whichever is greater, in each classification from each regional will qualify to the state meet.