

- (i) 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) 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.
    - (ii) Between 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. if the visiting team is over 100 miles one-way.
- (j) Admission - See Ticket Pricing Chart (page 115)
- (k) Protest Committee - The competing teams are required to coordinate a protest committee that includes a minimum of three school administrators prior to playing. The committee will act on any protest at the time it may occur and its decision is final.  
**Note** - Parents are not allowed to serve on this committee.
- (l) 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.
- (m) Team Expenses and Financial Arrangements - The NCHSAA receives 0% of the net gate from the first round; 15% of the net gate from second and third round; 20% from fourth round games; and 25% of the net 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 designated reporting platform.
- (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 2 - 3, 2023.
- (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 - See Ticket Pricing Chart (page 115). 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(k).
- (f) Officials - Will be assigned by the Supervisor of Officials.
- (g) Radio and TV Fee - See 2.2.18.
- (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 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, NCHSAA Clinic Dates, Body Paint and Noisemakers are found under General Requirements for Interscholastic Activities (See 4.1).
- (b) Date of First Practice - October 31 (October 24 for non-football playing schools).
- (c) Preseason Scrimmages - See 4.1.5
- (d) Date of First Game - November 18 (November 7 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, 22 games. A student-athlete is limited to one game a day. Junior varsity tournament games are part of the 22-game limit.
  - (2) Varsity conference tournament games are considered part of the state playoffs.
  - (3) Teams may participate in one tournament with up to three games, counting that tournament as a single contest relative to the season limitation of 22 games. Any games above and beyond the allowable three games in a single tournament must be counted toward the season limitation.
  - (4) Special Note for non-football playing schools - Six additional basketball games may be played, for a total of 28. These games must be completed prior to the first playing date for football-playing schools. Those six games will count for seeding purposes.
- (f) Tournaments - Tournaments are governed by daily, weekly and seasonal game limitations.
- (g) Five Quarter Participation Pilot Program - Freshmen and sophomores only will be allowed to participate in five (5) quarters of basketball on the same day. Participation in up to five quarters of basketball on a single day will be considered a participation in single game toward the daily, weekly, and seasonal limitations for a student-athlete. A student-athlete is not allowed to participate in more than five (5) quarters in one day and is not allowed to exceed the seasonal limitation of games. The five (5) quarter rule does not apply to conference tournaments and state playoff games. Participation for any length of time in a quarter will constitute the student-athlete having played a full quarter. Overtime periods will be considered an extension of the previous quarter.
- (1) The intent of the rule is to give coaches some alternatives for ninth and tenth graders to continue to gain valuable game experience at the junior varsity level and still be available as a backup in the varsity game.
  - (2) The following conditions must be met
    - (i) The NCHSAA Basketball Five Quarter Reporting Form must be accurately completed prior to the start of the varsity contest;
    - (ii) Head coaches of both teams must verify the form with a signature; and,
    - (iii) The reporting form will be kept on file with the school's athletic director.
- (h) Health and Safety Guidelines - Reference General Requirements for Interscholastic Athletic Activities for a listing of Guidelines (See 4.1.20) and Health and Safety Guidelines (See 2.3) for all the information.
- (i) Required Equipment
- (i) Red lights behind the backboard synchronized with the time clock buzzer are required.
  - (ii) Balls must have the authenticating NFHS ball mark.  
NOTE: Use of NCHSAA adopted balls is strongly recommended for regular season play. In first round of playoff events through state finals, the adopted balls will be required to ensure consistency and fair play.
  - (iii) 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. Cheerleaders may not battle.
- (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 3.3.5(b)(2)].
- (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 2.2.7(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 - See 2.5.3(a)
- (r) Filming, Videotaping or Video Streaming - See 2.2.17.
- (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 4.1.11).
- (c) Qualifiers - See 4.1.17 (Playoff Berths/Qualification) for selection criteria.
- (d) Seeding - See 4.1.18
- (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 7:00 p.m. for single games or 6:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. for doubleheaders at a site. By mutual agreement a doubleheader may be played at 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. If travel is greater than 100 miles one-way, game times shall be 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. with the game involving the visiting team with the greatest travel distance being played at 6:00 p.m.
  - (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 17 (11:59 p.m.). Seeding is February 18.
 

First round	February 21	Fourth Round	February 28
Second round	February 23	Regional	March 4
Third round	February 25	State	March 11
- (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 championships.
- (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 Assistant Commissioner for Officiating.
- (k) Banners - Banners, placards, and signs are prohibited during playoffs (permissible by cheerleaders during timeouts).
- (l) Financial Arrangements - For any first round through third round games, 15% of the net revenue goes to the NCHSAA; for any 4th round game, 20% of the net revenue goes to the NCHSAA, with the remainder being shared equally after game expenses. 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.
- (m) Ticket Accountability and Financial Forms - All forms can be found on the designated reporting platform.
- (n) Admission - See Ticket Pricing Chart (page 115)
- (o) Team Expenses - The NCHSAA receives 15% of the net gate from first, second, third round games and 20% from 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 Assistant Commissioner for Officiating.
  - (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 - See Ticket Pricing Chart (page 115)
  - (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 7, 2023.
- (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 penalty and possible forfeiture of complimentary tickets/VIP passes for the event, according to NCHSAA Board policy.
  - (d) The championships will be held on March 11, 2023. Classifications and sites TBD.
  - (e) Game times will be 12:00 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
  - (f) Complimentary Tickets - A school will receive 10 complimentary tickets at the information session/press conference.
  - (g) Officials - Will be assigned by the NCHSAA Assistant Commissioner for Officiating.
  - (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 - See Ticket Pricing Chart (page 115)
  - (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, Body Paint and Noisemakers are found under General Requirements for Interscholastic Activities (4.1).
- (b) Date of First Practice - August 1
- (c) Preseason Scrimmages - See 4.1.5
- (d) Date of First Contest - August 15
- (e) Number of Regular Season Contests - No more than three may be scheduled per week. An student-athlete 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 student-athlete and team.
- (f) Health and Safety Guidelines - Reference General Requirements for Interscholastic Athletic Activities