

championship:

- (1) Top 3 teams of 5 student-athletes each automatically qualify with the best 3 scores.
 - (2) Top 17 individuals not on a qualifying team.
 - (3) If a school does not finish in the top 3, but qualifies at least 3 individuals, that school will also score at the state championship as a team.
- (m) Men's State Championship Qualifiers - A maximum of 24 golfers per regional will advance to the state championship.
- (1) Top 3 teams of 5 student-athletes each automatically qualify with the best 4 scores.
 - (2) Top 9 individual student-athletes not on a qualifying team.
 - (3) If a school does not finish in the top 3, but qualifies at least 4 individuals, that school will also score at the state championship as a team.

4.6.3 State Championship

- (a) Dates and Sites - The women's state tournaments will be held in all classes on October 30-31. The men's state tournament will be May 13-14. Sites TBA on NCHSAA website.
- (b) Pairings and Starting Times - The pairings will be made in the NCHSAA office. Tee times will not be available until Wednesday after 3:00 p.m. prior to the tournament.
- (c) Conditions of Competition - Please refer to the NCHSAA website for specific conditions of competition for state championship play.
- (d) Format - Thirty-six (36) holes, stroke play.
- (e) Team Scores
 - (1) The four lowest men's individual scores from a five-player team shall be totaled to determine the team score.
 - (2) The three lowest women's individual scores from a five player team will be totaled to determine the women's team score.
 - (3) Team members may be substituted for, but not after the round has begun.
- (f) Awards - The winning and runner-up teams and individuals will be given plaques. Individual awards will be given to members of the winning and runner-up teams (6 women's and 6 men's medals) as well as the third-place and fourth-place individuals.
- (g) Team Expenses - Teams will either split a share of net ticket revenue (gross ticket revenue less event expenses) or travel will be reimbursed at the rate of five cents per mile for each qualifier, including coach, up to a maximum of 35 cents, whichever revenue share method is higher for member schools.

4.7 LACROSSE

4.7.1 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 - February 14
- (c) Preseason Scrimmages - See 4.1.5
- (d) Date of First Game - February 26
- (e) 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.
- (f) Number of Regular Season Contests - No more than three per week may be scheduled.
 - (1) Teams are limited to 24 games.
 - (2) A student-athlete is limited to no more than one game per day.
 - (3) Junior varsity conference tournament games count toward the 24-game limit.
 - (4) Varsity conference tournament games are considered part of the state playoffs.
- (g) Starting Time - A time no earlier than 5:00 p.m. is recommended, unless facilities dictate otherwise, e.g. no lights.
- (h) Tournaments - Tournaments are governed by daily, weekly and seasonal limitations.
- (i) Uniformed Police Officer - See 2.5.3(a).
- (j) Schedules - Schools are required to submit varsity and junior varsity schedules to their appropriate regional supervisor by January 15.
- (k) Uniform Changing - Not allowed in area of competition. Must use locker room facilities; disqualification may occur.
 - (l) Suspended Game - See NFHS Rules Book(s)
 - (n) Filming, Videotaping or Video Streaming - See 2.2.17.

4.7.2 Playoffs

- (a) Conferences - Any school not currently fielding a team but wishing to participate should contact the

NCHSAA office no later than September 9. Schools should also notify the NCHSAA if they plan to drop programs by this date. The 2023 Lacrosse conferences can be found on the NCHSAA website.

- (b) 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 4.1.11.)
- (c) Reporting Playoff Qualifiers - For reporting potential qualifiers to state playoffs, conference presidents are required to submit the appropriate information on the NCHSAA designated platform 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.
 - (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 may result in a penalty to the conference.
- (d) Qualifiers - For selection criteria, see 4.1.17 (Playoff Berths/Qualification)
- (e) Playoff Brackets - Will be posted on the NCHSAA Website once complete.
- (f) Schedule - Deadline for reporting: April 28 (11:59 p.m.). Seeding: April 29

Dates -	First round	May 1	Fourth round	May 10
	Second round	May 4	Regional round	May 14
	Third round	May 7	State	May 17-18

 - (1) Deadlines are set for completion of each round, but competing schools may play on an earlier date by mutual consent.
- (g) Competing Schools - Competing teams should contact each other to work out details for their contest.
- (h) Officials
 - (1) For the first two rounds of state playoffs, officials are to be assigned by the local officials association of the higher seeded team.
 - (2) After the first two rounds, officials must come from a neutral officials association or from an association mutually agreed upon.
 - (3) Assignments for regional and state championship games will be made by the NCHSAA office.
- (i) Game Times - Game time will be 7:00 p.m. unless mutually agreed upon to play at 6:00 p.m.
 - (1) Where the distance is more than 100 miles for the visiting team, game time will be 6:00 p.m.
 - (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.
 - (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) Team Expenses and Financial Arrangements
 - (1) The NCHSAA receives 0% of the net gate for men's and women's lacrosse in first round games.
 - (2) The NCHSAA receives 15% of the net gate from second and third round games.
 - (3) The NCHSAA receives 20% of the net gate from fourth round games.
 - (4) The NCHSAA receives 25% of the net gate from regional games.
 - (5) In all rounds prior to the state championship, participating schools will divide the remainder equally after applying the following expense formula:
 - (i) 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.
 - (ii) 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.
 - (iii) All concession rights belong to the host schools.
 - (iv) Participating schools are responsible for dividing any deficit or net 50-50.
 - (v) 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.
- (l) Ticket Accountability and Financial Forms - All forms can be found in the designated reporting platform.
- (m) Regional Awards - Team plaques will be presented to champion and runner-up.

- (a) Dates and Sites - The dates for the championship (men's and women's) are set for May 17-18. Site for the championship is TBA.
- (b) Admission - See Ticket Pricing Chart (page 115)
- (c) Officials - Will be assigned by the NCHSAA Assistant Commissioner for Officiating.
- (d) Radio and TV Fee - See 2.2.18.
- (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 student-athletes, plus a coach and manager, shall be allowed at the rate designated by the NCHSAA [See 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, NCHSAA Clinic Dates, Body Paint and Noisemakers are found under General Requirements for Interscholastic Activities (See 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 - July 31 (men) and February 14 (women).
- (d) Preseason Scrimmages - See 4.1.5
- (e) Date of First Game - August 14 (men); February 26 (women).
- (f) 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.
- (g) Number of Regular Season Contests - No more than three per week may be scheduled.
 - (1) Teams are limited to 24 games.
 - (2) A student-athlete is limited to no more than one game per day.
 - (3) Junior varsity conference tournament games count toward the 24-game limit.
 - (4) Varsity conference tournament games are considered part of state playoffs.
- (h) Starting Time - A time no earlier than 5:30 p.m. is recommended, unless facilities dictate otherwise.
- (i) Tournaments - Tournaments are governed by daily, weekly and seasonal limitations.
- (j) **Yellow Card Tracking and Ejections - Coaches and athletic directors will be responsible for tracking yellow cards accumulated by their student-athletes and all team personnel (including coaches). Coaches are required to enter all yellow and red cards received by student-athletes and/or coaches into MaxPreps within 24 hours following the conclusion of the contest.**
 - (1) **Five yellow cards accumulated by the same individual 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 individual (season total of 10) will result in an ejection.**
 - (3) **The individual 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, the individual is suspended for next game.**
 - (7) **A total of five yellow cards means the individual 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.**
- (k) 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.
- (l) 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 sus-