

- (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 **SOCCKER**

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-

ended, then the game ends in a tie. If one team is ahead when the game is suspended, then it is the winner.

- (m) Tie Games - If a tie score exists at the end of regulation play during each conference varsity game, there will be two complete 10-minute periods (not sudden victory). If the score is still tied at the conclusion of the two 10-minute overtime periods, the game will result in a tie.
 - (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 Tiebreaking 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
- (n) Junior Varsity Game Format - Two 35-minute halves with no overtime period.
- (o) Uniformed Police Officer - See 2.5.3(a).
- (p) Schedules - Schools are required to submit varsity and junior varsity schedules to their appropriate regional supervisor by May 15 (men) and January 15 (women).
- (q) Uniform Changing - Not allowed in area of competition. Must use locker room facilities; disqualification may occur.
- (r) 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: 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.
- (s) Filming, Videotaping or Video Streaming - See 2.2.17.

4.8.2 **Playoffs**

- (a) Representatives and Ties in Standings - See 4.1.11.
 - (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.)
- (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 may result in a penalty to the conference.
 - (4) Check the NCHSAA website for additional information.
- (c) Qualifiers - See 4.1.17 (Playoff Berths/Qualification) for selection criteria.
- (d) Seeding - See 4.1.18.
- (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 | October 26, 11:59 p.m. | May 9, 11:59 p.m. |
| Seeding | October 27 | May 10 |
| First round | October 30 | May 13 |
| Second round | November 2 | May 16 |
| Third round | November 6 | May 20 |
| Fourth round | November 9 | May 23 |
| Regional | November 14 | May 28 |
| State Championship | November 17-18 | May 31 - June 1 |
- (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 Assistant Commissioner for Officiating.

- (3) Regional officiating assignments will be determined by the NCHSAA and host schools shall follow up with the assigned regional supervisor.
 - (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.
 - (ii) 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) Game Ball - NCHSAA adopted balls are required for all playoff events to ensure consistent and fair play. The Wilson Forte II (WTE 9905), the Wilson Veza and the Wilson Vivido are approved for playoff events.
 - (l) Postponed Games - Postponed games must be played the next day, including Saturday.
 - (m) Admission - See Ticket Pricing Chart (page 115)
 - (n) Team Expenses and Financial Arrangements
 - (1) The NCHSAA receives 0% of the net gate for men's and women's soccer 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 the officials are paid by the host school rather than from gate receipts.
 - (6) All concession rights are retained by 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.
 - (o) Ticket Accountability and Financial Forms - All forms can be found on the NCHSAA designated platform.
 - (p) 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 17-18 (men); May 31 - June 1 (women).
 - (b) Admission - See Ticket Pricing Chart (page 115). 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 - 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 eighteen (18) players, one (1) coach and one (1) 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 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 Vivido is the official adopted 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, 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