

New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association
Route 130, P.O. Box 487 Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691

FIELD HOCKEY COMMITTEE

December 4, 2019

AGENDA

MEMBERS

Present:

Tournament Staff: Janet Schillig, Tournament Director; Linda Alimi, Assignor and Asst. Director; Maureen Dwill, Assignor; Charlotte Heenan, NJSIAA Field Hockey Rules Interpreter.

Executive Committee: Frank Torcasio

Coaches: Lindsay Kocher, Haddonfield; Sarah Pallino, Millburn.

Athletic Directors: Tom Kaechele, Northern Valley Old Tappan

Non-Voting: Kim DeGraw-Cole, NJSIAA Staff

Jill Cosse, West Essex Coach; Ali Good, Oak Knoll Coach

Unable to attend: Rebecca Fantry, Danielle Senior; Jennifer Badami and Harry Chebookjian.

Motion by Maureen Dzwil, second by Linda Alimi, to accept the 2018 Minutes of the Field Hockey Committee. Motion passed 7-0.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Bernards, Mike Hoppe: We all agree an effort should be made by NJSIAA, schools, coaches and all involved in the sport, to encourage an influx of officials.

Clearview, Mike Vincente: Play by dates; TOC games at neutral sites. Travel to Oak Knoll due to emergent weather situation on 11/13/19.

Mainland, Mike Gately: Play by dates and Saturday testing dates. More Flexibility.

Oak Knoll, Kelly Childs: Seeding of the T of C.

West Essex: T of C site this year and the 2 pm start due to the emergent weather situation. T of C seeding by power points not winning %. T of C relevance.

NJSIAA: The position statement "NJSIAA Rescheduling of the Field Hockey and Soccer Championship Events (Nov. 12, 2019) provided to all schools.

DISCUSSION:

Officials: Janet Schillig and Charlotte Heenan provided a detailed description of the efforts being made to bring consistency across the state. The Rules stay the same the conditions around the ball change constantly and making every effort to work through our local chapter rules interpreters through regional meetings to get all chapter officials on the same page. The Rules Interpreters will be meeting at 12:00 today to debrief and review observations from the 2019 season. The NJSIAA will be providing input to the NFHS Field Hockey Rules Committee. The NFHS solicits input from our coaches and officials, links were sent to all chapters and through the Athletic Director Forum for coaches to complete. The NJSIAA sent rule change proposals to the NFHS Field Hockey Committee.

Play on/play by Dates: Considerable discussion relative to play on dates versus play by dates. The tournament staff and assignors understand the request for play by dates, but unfortunately the ability to provide state tournament level officiating requires the play on date format. Prior to NJSIAA assigning the tournament, each school was able to secure officials services and play by dates worked, this is not the case. The committee rotates the tournament dates through the groups, as the Saturday play on date is always a concern. Most (not all) of the NJSIAA tournaments are play on dates. The staff would appreciate the position of having numerous qualified officials available to officiate any day of the week. The assignors take real pride in providing the best officials for state tournament play, they do a tremendous job.

Group Finals/State Semi-Finals and Tournament of Champions: SITES
Discussion centered around “neutral” versus “pre-determined” sites. Field Hockey utilizes pre-determined sites. Thanks to AL Johnson HS, Boonton HS, Hightstown HS, and Egg Harbor Twp. HS for hosting the state semi-finals; to Bordentown HS for hosting the 5 group championship games; to Rancocas Valley HS for hosting the T of C play in games; to Eastern HS and Oak Knoll for hosting the T of C semi-final games due to emergent weather conditions; and to Kean University for hosting the T of C championship game. The committee would like to explore alternatives to the high school sites for groups and tournament of champions. Some of the coaches believe they may have contacts who will help. If the present structure exists as indicated with the dates below (no change to classification), the state semi-finals may need to be played at the site of the designated home team (North I/Central or North II/South) as defined in alternate years.

PLEASE NOTE: 2020 All Sectional Finals must be held on Turf Fields.

First Practice Date: August 17, 2020

First Scrimmage Date: August 24, 2020

Opening Day: September 8, 2020

Cutoff & Tournament Refusal: October 19, 2020

Seeding: October 21, 2020

2020 Public Section: North I, North II, Central and South

Round 1: Groups 1 & 2	October 26
Round 1: Groups 3 & 4	October 27
Round 2: Group 1	October 28
Group 2	October 29
Group 3	October 30
Group 4	October 31
Round 3: Group 1 & 2	November 2
Group 3 & 4	November 3
Sectional Finals: Groups 1 & 2	November 5-Must be on Turf Fields
Groups 3 & 4	November 6-Must be on Turf Fields
State Semi-Finals Gr. 1 & 2	November 10 (designated home field-North I & Central)*
Gr. 3 & 4	November 11 (designated home field-North I & Central)*

*under consideration as opposed to the pre-designated sites.

Non-Public Dates

Round 1: by October 30

Round 2: on November 4

Round 3: by November 7

Sectional Finals: on November 11

Public and Non-Public Group Finals @ Bordentown HS on November 14, 2020

Tournament of Champions Dates: November 16, 18 and 20

Please note Dates are for planning purposes only and subject to change.

Tournament Dates: TENTATIVE (please note dates below will be established if field hockey is classified with a North & South classification in 2020.

Dates are staggered due to the availability of tournament officials and will be moved only if deemed necessary by the Sectional Assignor. Rain Date must be played by (home, alternate site or opponent site).

Public North and South Classification Dates

PUBLIC DATES

1 st Round	October 26	Rain Date – October 27	Group 1
1 st Round	October 27	Rain Date – October 28	Group 2
1 st Round	October 28	Rain Date – October 29	Group 3
1 st Round	October 29	Rain Date – October 30	Group 4
2 nd Round	November 2	Rain Date – November 3	Group 1 & 2
2 nd Round	November 3	Rain Date – November 4	Group 3 & 4
3 rd Round	November 5	Rain Date – November 6	Groups 1 & 2
3 rd Round	November 6	Rain Date – November 7	Groups 3 & 4

****SECTIONAL FINALS - Turf Field, Mandated in 2020**

November 10	Rain Date – November 11	Groups 1, 2, 3, 4
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NON-PUBLIC DATES

1 st Round	October 30	Rain Date October 31
2 nd Round	November 4	Rain Date November 5
3 rd Round	November 7	Rain Date November 9
Sectional Final	November 11 (NP Sectional Final must be on a TURF FIELD!) Rain Date Nov. 12	

GROUP FINALS – Public & Non-Public

Date:	Saturday, November 14 (All games will be played, Rain or Shine) Rain Date Nov. 15 (extenuating)
Site:	Bordentown Regional High School*
Re:	TURF FIELD – REGULAR Footwear MAY BE WORN

GAME TIMES-Group Finals

Group 1	10:00AM	South Teams	Home <i>White</i> Uniforms
Non-Public	Noon	North Teams	Away <i>Dark</i> Uniforms
Group 2	2:00PM	Non-Public South Team	Home <i>White</i> Uniforms
Group 3	4:00PM		
Group	6:00PM		

TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

PLAY-IN	Monday, November 16 th	Rancocas Valley HS*	6:30PM
SEMIFINALS	Wednesday, November 18 th	Rancocas Valley HS*	5:30 PM/7:15PM
TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS FINALS		November 20 th	
Kean University*		*alternate site possible at the discretion of NJSIAA	
Game Time		6:30PM	
Higher Seed Wears Home <i>White</i>		Lower Seed Wears Away <i>Dark</i>	

Discussion continued:

Tournament of Champions continue and seeding:

NJSIAA shared the results of the survey of athletic administrators, tournament of champions indications favorable. The committee discussed eliminating the tournament of champions however, no motion, no change. The committee discussed seeding at length, and the need to be consistent with the means the tournament is seeded from the onset.

Sarah Pallino motioned that the Tournament of Champions be seeded by power points based on the first 16 games, second by Maureen Dzwil. Motion passed 7-1.

In order to be consistent

Classifications:**The NJSIAA Classification Committee provided a detailed documentation of Classification****Analysis and Recommendations:****Field Hockey**

Recommendation:

No changes to the number of Groups (4 Public, 1 Non-Public) but all Groups should have two Sections, North and South. For public schools, there will be approximately 24 schools/Section. The Committee realizes that seeding a 16-team bracket will significantly decrease the participation percentage from 88% to approximately 67%. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the Field Hockey seeding committee consider play-in games by seeding 20 to 22 schools, which represents 80% to 90% of participating schools. For non-public schools, there will be approximately 14 schools/Section; therefore, any team wishing to participate may be seeded. The Field Hockey Committee can also consider one state-wide bracket for the 28 non-public schools in order to eliminate many first round byes and partially-filled brackets.

Rationale:

Based on the total number of participating schools (50% of the total NJSIAA membership), the Committee recommends two Sections per Group, and by eliminating a state semi-final round the participation percentages can remain consistent by allowing play-in games to advance into the 16-team bracket without extending the length of the tournament.

The Field Hockey Committee discussed the recommendations at length but did not endorse the concepts indicated and therefore believe that the current structure is the best for field hockey and the student-athletes participating. NJ has a tremendous talent pool, elite, programs and so many programs that just view and goal set for a Sectional title that to eliminate the chance for emerging programs to win a like school sectional title ex. North I, group 1, would be to the detriment of the sport. The committee understands that this may move forward through the NJSIAA process with or without their endorsement. The coaches would like to provide a position statement on behalf of the sport that will be provided to the NJSIAA after speaking with other coaches.

During the recent years, the seeding process has been smooth, teams that want to participate play in first round somewhat competitive games and the top teams receive a bye, providing students with an opportunity to play in the state tournament. This has worked well for field hockey once the non-public division was established and the public sectional classification was developed.

Review of 2019:

The NJSIAA wishes to thank Janet Schillig, Linda Alimi and Maureen Dzwil for an outstanding tournament, some of the best officiating and field hockey to date.

IMPORTANT:**Other:****ONE-ON-ONE TIE BREAKER (SHOOTOUT)**

Charlotte Heenan led the discussion and provided a draft for the use of the "shootout" in place of "strokes".

A motion by Linda Alimi, second by Maureen Dwill that the One-On-One Tiebreaker (shootout) will be utilized for tournament play (when a winner is needed to advance) in the 2021 season. During the 2020 season the one-on-one tie breaker should be practiced at the beginning of all varsity scrimmages, for the purpose of providing a proving ground for coaches, players and officials. Motion passed 8-0. Details will be provided in future communications.

Motion to adjourn by Frank Torcasio, second by Tom Kaechele. Motion passed 8-0.