



To: NJSIAA Program Review Committee

From: Colleen Maguire, Executive Director

Date: June 5, 2023

RE: Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament – State Championship Dates

Background:

NJSIAA staff has been working with Rutgers University staff to provide a schedule that will allow all boys and girls basketball state championship games to be played at Jersey Mike's Arena on the same weekend. To accommodate all twelve basketball games (six boys and six girls), we must schedule the games on the same weekend as the men's Big 10 Tournament to ensure the Arena is available for our use for all games.

The proposed dates below reflect a schedule that will host four games on each Friday, Saturday and Sunday. In addition, the tournament start will be 2-days later than previously approved – this will ensure that the tournament never starts on President's Day and allows for one additional day between the Sectional Final, State Semifinal, and State Final rounds. The additional day in between rounds will allow extra rest for the student-athletes but also provide scheduling flexibility for inclement weather issues.

Proposed Dates:

	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Tournament Start (Wednesday)	Feb. 21 st	Feb. 26 th	Feb. 25 th	Feb. 24 th
Non-Public State Championships (Friday)	Mar. 8 th	Mar. 14 th	Mar. 13 th	Mar. 12 th
Public State Championships (Saturday/Sunday)	Mar. 9 th /10 th	Mar. 15 th /16 th	Mar. 14 th /15 th	Mar. 13 th /14 th
Start of Spring Sports Practices (Thursday)	Mar. 14 th	Mar. 13 th	Mar. 12 th	Mar. 18 th

There is an exception for the 2023-2024 season only, March 8th – 10th is the last regular season weekend for the men's basketball team – this schedule anomaly is due to the NCAA Final Four being later in April than the other years. Since NJSIAA staff does not want to push the state championship dates any later into March, if the Rutgers men's basketball team does have a home game scheduled for one of these dates, then staff will have an alternate venue available that can safely and adequately host the games scheduled for that day.

The dates starting with the 2024-2025 school year will all correspond with the men's Big 10 Tournament and there are no anticipated conflicts moving forward.