



2025-26 NJSIAA Field Hockey Tournament

NJSIAA reserves the right to adjust, change or cancel dates, times, and locations for all NJSIAA State tournaments. Schools entering the tournament will not be granted a change of date/time due to any conflicts with school trips, proms, banquets, SATs, unless agreed upon by both schools. During the spring tournament season, we will make every effort to accommodate schools that have a conflict with their graduation.

Member schools will not be eligible to participate in any NJSIAA Tournaments if it has violated the NJSIAA Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Policies, or Procedures. Any student-athlete who transfers after the competition start date will not be eligible for this tournament (Bylaws, Article V, Section 4.K. 5).

Schools are to be reminded of the 3-team DQ rule for state tournament eligibility, which states “Any varsity team accumulating three or more player or coach disqualifications prior to the team’s participation in the state tournament will not be permitted to participate in the state tournament. The 3-team DQ rule is not applicable during participation in the state tournament.

The NJSIAA will follow the procedure below for schools that are disqualified from state tournament competition:

1. If a school is disqualified, either for the use of an ineligible player or violating the 3-team DQ rule, from state tournament competition after the tournament has been seeded but prior to the bracket being final, then the bracket will be reseeded and the next ranked school who entered the tournament will be included.
2. If a school is disqualified, either for the use of an ineligible player or violating the 3-team DQ rule, from state tournament competition after the tournament has been seeded and after the bracket is final, then the bracket will not be reseeded, and no additional school will be included.
3. If a school is disqualified from state tournament competition due to the use of an ineligible player during the state tournament, then the school will be removed from the tournament immediately and their last opponent will advance in their place.

Schools participating in any NJSIAA tournament are responsible for the actions and behaviors of their spectators. Schools are required to provide adequate staff security to ensure there is proper oversight of their spectators. In addition, schools are financially responsible for any damage to the property or premises caused by their student-athletes, staff, or spectators (spectators include, but are not limited to, cheerleaders, marching band participants, students, and other fans).

NJSIAA requires Certified Athletic Trainers at all its tournament events. The ATC must document all injuries on an injury report form. This form must be available to the NJSIAA upon request.

Member schools that are not willing or able to comply with NJSIAA tournament regulations and any relevant procedures found in the state tournament operating procedures handbook should not enter the tournament. Member schools are encouraged to review NJSIAA tournament regulations with the school administration. Coaches must have a copy of the tournament regulations as well as a copy of the rule modifications (if any) available at all contests. Copies of these documents are available on the NJSIAA website.

NJSIAA Field Hockey Tournament Staff

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Field Hockey Important Dates

Event	Dates
First Practice:	August 18, 2025
Competition Start:	August 25, 2025
Entry Form Opens:	October 1, 2025
Entry Form Closes:	October 15, 2025
Conflict of Interest Form:	October 15, 2025
Cutoff:	October 25, 2025
PowerPoints Close at Noon	October 26, 2025
Tournament Seeding:	October 28, 2025
Regular Season Competition Ends:	November 23, 2025

Field Hockey Tournament Dates

Public Tournament	Dates	Location
Round 1 (Groups 2 & 3):	November 3, 2025*	Higher Seed
Round 1 (Groups 1 & 4):	November 4, 2025*	Higher Seed
Round 2 (Groups 2 & 3):	November 5, 2025*	Higher Seed
Round 2 (Groups 1 & 4):	November 6, 2025*	Higher Seed
Round 3 (All Groups):	November 10, 2025*	Higher Seed
Sectional Finals:	November 12, 2025*	Higher Seed (Turf Field) #
State Finals:	November 15, 2025	Bordentown Regional HS
Non-Public Tournament	Dates	Location
Round 1 (Non-Public South):	November 3, 2025*	Higher Seed
Round 1 (Non-Public North):	November 4, 2025*	Higher Seed
Round 2 (Non-Public South):	November 5, 2025*	Higher Seed
Round 2 (Non-Public North):	November 6, 2025*	Higher Seed
Round 3 (North & South):	November 10, 2025*	Higher Seed
Sectional Finals:	November 12, 2025*	Higher Seed (Turf Field) #
State Finals:	November 15, 2025	Bordentown Regional HS

*These tournament dates listed for field hockey can be moved only upon mutual agreement by both schools. The earliest a tournament game can be moved to is October 30, 2025. If schools do not agree, then it must be played on the date listed. If any date is moved by mutual agreement, the potential next round opponents must be notified ASAP.

All sectional final games must be played on a turf field.

New for This Year's State Tournament

1. The power points for field hockey will go back to calculating the 12 best power-pointed games from opening day to the cutoff date regardless of how many games were played. We will no longer average all the games as we did last year.
2. For contests against out-of-state or non-member opponents, we will use the actual record of the opponent as of the cutoff date. It is imperative that coaches continue to update their out of state/non-member opponents records in highschoolsports.com throughout the season.

Tournament Schedule

State Finals	
Bordentown High School 318 Ward Ave, Bordentown, NJ 08505	
November 15, 2025	
Group 2	10:00am
Group 3	12:00pm
Group 4	2:00pm
Group 1	4:00pm
Non-Public	6:00pm

All Public and Non-Public South teams will wear Home Uniforms (Dark Jersey & Dark Socks) for this year's tournament. This will rotate every year.

Tournament Eligibility

1. Teams must be competing on a varsity interscholastic basis.
2. Sixty percent (60%) of the games played on or before the cutoff date must be against New Jersey schools.
3. Any player with two (2) or more disqualifications in the current season, prior to the start of the tournament, will be unable to compete in the state tournament.
4. Any varsity team accumulating three (3) or more player or coach disqualifications prior to the start of the tournament will not be permitted to participate in the state tournament.

To Qualify for the Tournament

1. The top 16 teams from each section and each group will qualify for this tournament using the PowerPoint system.
2. Games played after the cutoff date will not count toward the PowerPoint calculation even if they were started before the cutoff date.
3. If there is a tie in power points, the current NJSIAA tie-breaking procedure will break all ties.
4. The field hockey minimum number of games to be played by the cutoff date is 12.

PowerPoint Procedure

The NJSIAA power point system will be used for all qualifying and seeding purposes.

1. The PowerPoint procedure for soccer will be using the 12 best power-pointed games from opening day to the cutoff date regardless of how many games were played.
2. The residual points earned from opponents will be calculated using your opponent's first 12 games played.
3. Teams that play less than 12 games will still be eligible for the tournament based on their total power points achieved at the cutoff.

Out of State / Non-Member Opponents (OOS / NM)

Contests against out-of-state or non-member opponents will count for power points and will follow the same calculation procedure as games against member schools. We will use the actual record of the OOS/NM opponent as of the cutoff date. It is imperative that coaches continue to update their OOS/NM opponents records in highschoolsports.com throughout the season.

Entry Procedure

1. The entry form must be completed online during the time period listed above.
2. All varsity schedules & rosters must be entered in [njschoolsports](http://njschoolsports.com) by the start of the season. Rosters must be checked and updated, if necessary, by the start of the tournament. We cannot guarantee any roster changes made after the start of the tournament will make it into the tournament program.
3. All varsity scores must be reported to www.njschoolsports.com as soon as possible after each contest. If you encounter problems, please contact hssupport@njadvancemedia.com.
4. During the **regular season**, when a game ends in a tie after overtime, it shall be recorded as a tie and the teams will split the PowerPoints.
5. For all **regular season** County, Conference, or league tournaments that require a team to advance, the advancing team shall be recorded as the winner regardless of the overtime procedure used. The advancing team shall receive all the PowerPoints. When entering the results in [njschoolsports](http://njschoolsports.com), the final score should reflect one (1) additional point for the advancing team.
6. PowerPoints will be downloaded from the [njschoolsports](http://njschoolsports.com) website on the date listed above at noon. Coaches are reminded that all team information must be totally up to date and checked for accuracy before the data is downloaded.
7. The officials Conflict of Interest form must be completed by the date listed above.

Entry Fee

- \$90.00 Payable to the NJSIAA (Please note Field Hockey Tournament).
- Forward all entry fees to: NJSIAA, 1161 Route 130 North, Robbinsville, NJ 08691

Tournament Seeding

1. The qualifying schools in each group and each section will be seeded by the tournament staff.
2. Teams will be seeded based on their PowerPoint totals.
3. If there is a tie in power points for seeding, we will use the current NJSIAA tie-breaking procedure.
4. Seed jumping will be used, please see the procedure below.

The media may post brackets following the completion of the seeding meeting. Brackets do not become official until 12:00pm on the day after seeding.

Seed Jumping Procedure

1. The seed jumping procedure will start from seed # 1 and work downward.
2. Seed jumping will take place when a lower-ranked team has defeated the team ranked immediately above them.
3. Any split of head-to-head matches will be dropped from the discussion.
4. Movement in the seed may occur one step at a time on the basis of the head-to-head criterion (i.e., If 6th in rank has defeated 5th in rank/seed, then they switch positions; if 6th in rank defeats both #5 and #4 then a double jump.

PowerPoint Tie Breaking Procedure

1. Head-to-Head Competition. Any ties involving 3 or more teams, move to step #2
 2. Average quality points per game.
 3. Average residual points per game.
 4. Average OOWP for all opponents.
 5. Common opponent winning percentage
 - a. Example: Team A is 3-0 (100%) vs. team C and team B is 2-0 (100%) vs. team C, go to #6
 - b. Example: Team A is 2-1 (.667%) vs. team C and team B is 1-1 (.500%) vs. team C, Team A wins Tiebreaker
 6. Team total winning percentage
 7. Coin Toss
- The tie breaking procedure above includes all contests from the competition start date to the cutoff date.

Tournament Rules & Information

1. The NFHS Field Hockey Rules along with any NJSIAA field hockey rule modifications will govern this tournament.
2. All tournament rounds are **PLAY ON** dates. Schools can mutually agree to move tournament dates except for the state finals. If schools do not agree, then it must be played on the date listed. If any date is moved by mutual agreement, the potential next round opponents must be notified ASAP.
3. Game times for all rounds up to and including the sectional finals will be designated by the higher-seeded team. The recommended start times are:
 - a. No lights: 3:00pm up to the eastern standard time change, then it is 2:00pm.
 - b. With lights: 4:00pm.
 - c. Non-School Days: Times to be established by the home team.
4. The NJSIAA may need to establish the start times if there is any disagreement between schools.
5. All game times are pending the official's availability. Athletic Directors must communicate consistently throughout all rounds up to and including the sectional finals regarding start times and field locations.
6. Game times for the state finals will be established by the NJSIAA.
7. All games that cannot be played on the designated date because of the weather, the game must be played on the following day. Teams must adhere to the deadline of the succeeding round, even though games may be played on consecutive days.
8. When conditions prevent a game from being played at the site of the higher seeded team in a reasonable amount of time, the tournament director may choose an alternate site, which may include the lower seeded teams' field.
9. Higher-seeded schools hosting tournament games must provide an athletic trainer for both teams. Each school will be asked to provide its own athletic trainer when tournament games are not held at a higher-seeded school.
10. The winning school must notify njschoolsports.com immediately after each game, and the competing schools must notify the local newspapers to keep the media informed as to the tournament progression.
11. Participating schools must assign adequate supervision for all games, home and away.
12. The higher seeded team (Home Team) will wear dark jerseys for all games up to and including the sectional finals.
13. Any tournament game interrupted due to events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority shall be completed as follows (NFHS Rule 4, Section 1, Article 4):
 - a. If interrupted prior to the completion of the second quarter, the game shall be resumed at the point of interruption.
 - b. If interrupted at halftime, or after the start of the third quarter the game could be resumed at the point of interruption, or by mutual agreement be considered a completed game.
14. Each school must provide three (3) new white multi-turf balls for all games up to and including the sectional finals. All balls must be marked with the NFHS seal. An alternate color ball may be used at the discretion of the official and with agreement from both coaches, because of environmental circumstances and playing field colors. The NJSIAA will provide all the balls for the state finals.
15. Each school must provide three (3) ball-persons for all games. Coaching by the ball persons is forbidden. Fifteen (15) minutes prior to game time the ball person from each team will meet with the official for instructions.
16. The five (5) goal running clock modification will also be used throughout the tournament.
17. All sectional final games must be played on turf fields.

Overtime Procedure

For all tournament rounds, if a tie exists at the conclusion of regulation play, up to two (2) ten (10) minute “sudden victory” reduced player (7 v 7) overtime periods shall be played. When a valid goal is scored during any 10-minute “sudden victory” OT periods, the game is complete. If no goals are scored during the 10-minute OT periods, the game shall proceed to the One-on-One tiebreaker procedure.

Officials Assignments

The NJSIAA will assign all officials for all rounds of the tournament.

Rounds 1, 2 & 3

- 2 Field officials.
- All officials are **assigned** by the NJSIAA.
- Higher-seeded schools pay both officials at the area agreed-upon rate.

Sectional Finals

- 2 Field officials.
- 1 Sideline Official.
- All officials are **assigned and paid** by the NJSIAA.

State Finals

- 2 Field officials.
- 1 Sideline Official.
- 1 Official Timer.
- All officials are **assigned and paid** by the NJSIAA

Awards

Sectional Champions:

A team trophy and twenty-five (25) certificates for each Sectional Championship in each Group.

State Champions:

A team trophy and twenty-five (25) certificates for the State Champion in each Group.