



2025-26 NJSIAA Boys & Girls Basketball 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 Basketball Tournament Staff

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Basketball Important Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Boys Dates</u>	<u>Girls Dates</u>
Tryout Period:	November 24 - 26, 2025	November 24 - 26, 2025
First Practice:	December 1, 2025	December 1, 2025
Competition Starts:	December 8, 2025	December 8, 2025
Entry Form Opens:	January 28, 2026	January 28, 2026
Entry Form Closes:	February 6, 2026	February 6, 2026
Conflict of Interest Form	February 6, 2026	February 6, 2026
Cutoff:	February 14, 2026	February 14, 2026
PowerPoints Close (12:00pm)	February 15, 2026	February 15, 2026
Seeding Meeting:	February 17, 2026	February 17, 2026
Regular Season Competition Ends:	March 8, 2026	March 8, 2026

Basketball Tournament Dates

<u>Public Tournament</u>	<u>Boys Dates</u>	<u>Girls Dates</u>
Round 1 (Groups 2 & 4) at Higher Seed	February 25, 2026	February 25, 2026
Round 1 (Groups 1 & 3) at Higher Seed	February 26, 2026	February 26, 2026
Round 2 (Groups 2 & 4) at Higher Seed	February 27, 2026	February 27, 2026
Round 2 (Groups 1 & 3) at Higher Seed	February 28, 2026	February 28, 2026
Round 3 (Groups 2 & 4) at Higher Seed	March 2, 2026	March 2, 2026
Round 3 (Groups 1 & 3) at Higher Seed	March 3, 2026	March 3, 2026
Sectional Finals (Groups 2 & 4) at Higher Seed	March 5, 2026	March 5, 2026
Sectional Finals (Groups 1 & 3) at Higher Seed	March 8, 2025	March 8, 2026
State Semifinals (Groups 2 & 4)	March 10, 2026	March 10, 2026
State Semifinals (Groups 1 & 3)	March 11, 2026	March 11, 2026
State Finals (Groups 2 & 4)	March 14, 2026	March 14, 2026
State Finals (Groups 1 & 3)	March 15, 2026	March 15, 2026
<u>Non-Public Tournament</u>	<u>Boys Dates</u>	<u>Girls Dates</u>
Round 1 (Groups A & B) at Higher Seed	February 27, 2026	February 27, 2026
Round 2 (Groups A & B) at Higher Seed	March 2, 2026	March 2, 2026
Round 3 (Groups A & B) at Higher Seed	March 5, 2026	March 5, 2026
Sectional Finals (Groups A & B)	March 9, 2026	March 9, 2026
State Finals (Group A & B)	March 12, 2026	March 12, 2026
<u>Unified Tournament</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Locations</u>
State Championships (Group A)	March 15, 2026	Rutgers University
State Championships (Group B)	March 14, 2026	Rutgers University

*These tournament dates listed for basketball can be moved only upon mutual agreement by both schools. The earliest a tournament game can be moved to is February 19, 2026. 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 opponent must be notified ASAP.

Public Sectional Finals

Boys Groups 2 & 4	Girls Groups 2 & 4
March 5, 2026	March 5, 2026
At Higher Seed	At Higher Seed
Boys Groups 1 & 3	Girls Groups 1 & 3
March 8, 2026	March 8, 2026
At Higher Seed	At Higher Seed

Highest remaining seed will host and be the home team wearing dark uniforms. Grey colored uniforms cannot be used as the white (away) uniform color. If feasible, please bring both home and away uniforms to the game.

Non-Public Sectional Finals

North A (Boys & Girls)	North B (Boys & Girls)
March 9, 2026	March 9, 2026
Franklin H.S.	J.F.K. Patterson H.S.
Boys 5:00pm & Girls 7:00pm	Boys 5:00pm & Girls 7:00pm
South A (Boys & Girls)	South B (Boys & Girls)
March 9, 2026	March 9, 2026
Lenape H.S.	Jackson Liberty H.S.
Boys 5:00pm & Girls 7:00pm	Boys 5:00pm & Girls 7:00pm

Highest remaining seed will be the home team and will wear dark uniforms. Grey colored uniforms cannot be used as the white (away) uniform color. If feasible, please bring both home and away uniforms to the game.

Public State Semifinals

North I vs North II	Central vs South
Group TBA	Group TBA
March 10, 2026	March 10, 2026
Bloomfield H.S.	Monroe H.S.
Boys 4:30pm & Girls 7:00pm	Boys 5:00pm & Girls 7:00pm
North I vs North II	Central vs South
Group TBA	Group TBA
March 10, 2026	March 10, 2026
Elizabeth H.S.	Deptford H.S.
Boys 5:00pm & Girls 7:00pm	Boys 5:00pm & Girls 7:00pm
North I vs North II	Central vs South
Group - TBA	Group TBD
March 11, 2026	March 11, 2026
Franklin H.S.	Monroe H.S.
Boys 6:00pm & Girls 7:30pm	Boys 5:00pm & Girls 7:00pm
North I vs North II	Central vs South
Group TBA	Group TBD
March 11, 2026	March 11, 2026
Elizabeth H.S.	Central Regional H.S.
Boys 5:00pm & Girls 7:00pm	Boys 5:00pm & Girls 7:00pm

All North II & South schools (boys & Girls) will be the home teams and will wear dark uniforms. Grey colored uniforms cannot be used as the white (away) uniform color. If feasible, please bring both home and away uniforms to the game.

Non-Public State Finals

Non-Public A (Boys)	Non-Public A (Girls)
March 12, 2026	March 12, 2026
Rutgers University	Rutgers University
Times: TBD	Times: TBD
Non-Public B (Boys)	Non-Public B (Girls)
March 12, 2025	March 12, 2026
Rutgers University	Rutgers University
Times: TBD	Times: TBD

All South schools (boys & Girls) will be the home teams and will wear dark uniforms. Grey colored uniforms cannot be used as the white (away) uniform color. If feasible, please bring both home and away uniforms to the game.

Public State Finals

<u>Boys State Finals</u>	<u>Girls State Finals</u>
Group 2 (Boys)	Group 2 (Girls)
March 14, 2026	March 14, 2026
Rutgers University	Rutgers University
Times: TBD	Times: TBD
Group 4 (Boys)	Group 4 (Girls)
March 14, 2026	March 14, 2026
Rutgers University	Rutgers University
Times: TBD	Times: TBD
Group 1 (Boys)	Group 1 (Girls)
March 15, 2026	March 15, 2026
Rutgers University	Rutgers University
Times: TBD	Times: TBD
Group 3 (Boys)	Group 3 (Girls)
March 15, 2026	March 15, 2026
Rutgers University	Rutgers University
Times: TBD	Times: TBD

All Central & South schools (boys & Girls) will be the home teams and will wear dark uniforms. Grey colored uniforms cannot be used as the white (away) uniform color. If feasible, please bring both home and away uniforms to the game.

No practice sessions will be permitted at any neutral site facilities, unless the host school is playing in that round. All bench personnel for all games must be approved by the school district. Fans, private coaches or club coaches are not permitted within the bench area.

Unified State Championships

Group B	Group A
March 14, 2026	March 15, 2026
Rutgers University	Rutgers University
Times: TBD	Times: TBD

New for This Year:

1. Mercy Rule- "Upon the start of the third quarter, if the score differential reaches 35 points or more, the clock will stop only for a time out, injury, technical foul or when requested by the officials. Normal timing will not resume during the remainder of the game" In the event that the game goes into an overtime period, regular timing will resume for the overtime period. This mercy rule will be in place for all VARSITY interscholastic contests excluding the state finals. This mercy rule will supersede any previous rules adopted by a league and/or conference. For sub-varsity competition, leagues conferences are allowed to adopt this mercy rule or may modify the rule at their discretion.
2. The power points for basketball will go back to calculating the 16 best power-pointed games from opening day to the cutoff date regardless of how many games were played.
3. 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.
4. Officials' fees for the first three (3) rounds of the state tournament will be determined by the State Officials Fee Committee recommendations. Starting with the Sectional Finals, the fees will be established by the NJSIAA.

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 basketball minimum number of games to be played by the cutoff date is 16.

PowerPoint Procedure

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

1. The PowerPoint procedure for basketball will be using the 16 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 16 games played.
3. Teams that play less than 16 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 listed above.
2. All varsity schedules & rosters must be entered in 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. 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.
5. The officials conflict of Interest form must be completed by the date listed above. If there is no conflict of interest, you do not have to complete this form.

Entry Fee

- \$90.00 per team, Payable to the NJSIAA (Please note basketball 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.

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.

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
6. 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 Basketball Rules along with any NJSIAA Basketball rule modifications will govern this tournament.
2. The higher seeded school will host all rounds up to and including the sectional finals. However, the NJSIAA reserves the right to change the site when the home facility is deemed inappropriate for the anticipated crowd.
3. If a gymnasium is unsuitable for a tournament game, the higher-seeded school must secure a substitute site. If for any reason the higher seeded school cannot secure a suitable site, the game shall then be played at the home gymnasium of the opposing school.
4. Game times for the first three (3) rounds and the sectional finals will be designated by the higher seeded school. All game times are pending officials' availability. Athletic Directors must communicate consistently through the first three rounds of the tournament regarding start times. The NJSIAA and the tournament director will determine the start times for the first three rounds and the sectional finals if there is any disagreement with start times between schools.
5. Game times for the state finals will be established by the NJSIAA and the Tournament Director. Any adjustment to the established times must be approved by the Tournament Director.
6. All games will be played on the date designated for that round with the following day as a weather day even though games may be played on consecutive days.
7. Schools will be asked to provide their own athletic trainers throughout the tournament.
8. Basketballs – the host schools will provide NFHS approved basketball balls. The ball must be of a molded type of leather or composition-covered basketball. The approved color shall be an orange shade or natural tan. The Wilson Evolution “EVO NXT” Ball will be used in the Boys and Girls Tournament, starting with the Group Finals.
9. **Uniforms – The home team MUST WEAR DARK uniforms for all rounds up to and including the sectional finals. Please see the separate “Tournament Schedule” document on the basketball website for the rest of the tournament.**
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's progression.
11. In accordance with NJSIAA policy, banners will NOT be permitted to be hung at game sites, including the State Final sites. Please notify fans that hand-held signs and noisemakers will not be permitted.
12. As per National Federation rules, no electrical or electrical communication devices are permitted.
13. Participating schools must assign adequate supervision for all games, home and away.
14. Postponements - Up to and including the Sectional Finals, the host school will handle all details for the postponement; however, all schools must assist in keeping the media informed. The Central Office will handle all details relative to postponements for the State Semifinals and State Group Final games. If postponement becomes necessary, schools must be prepared to play games on consecutive days.
15. The NJSIAA prohibits schools competing in the tournament at a predetermined designated site, from any practice session(s) at said gymnasium after official notification of the game has been sent to those competing schools, or a notice of the game appears in any newspaper. Schools that do not abide by this regulation may be withdrawn from the tournament.
16. The NJSIAA prohibits the awarding of basketball nets to either of the two teams participating in a tournament contest. Nets may not be cut down.

Officials Assignments

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

Rounds 1, 2 & 3

- Three (3) game officials will be assigned by NJSIAA.
- Higher seeded schools will pay all officials for the first three (3) rounds (see fees below).

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
\$104	\$104	\$104

Sectional Finals

- Three (3) game officials and one (1) alternate official will be assigned and paid for by the NJSIAA.

State Semis-Finals (public schools only)

- Three (3) game officials and one (1) alternate official will be assigned and paid for by the NJSIAA.

State Finals

- Three (3) game officials and one (1) alternate official will be assigned and paid for by the NJSIAA.

Awards

Sectional Champions:

A team trophy and twenty (20) certificates to each Sectional Champion in each section & group.

State Champions:

A team trophy and twenty (20) certificates to the State Champion in each group.

Unified Champions:

A team trophy and twenty (20) certificates to the State Champion in each group.

Medals for the first and second place teams from SONJ.