



2025-26 NJSIAA Boys & Girls Ice 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.

Ice Hockey Tournament Staff

<u>Director of Ice Hockey</u>	<u>Tournament Director</u>	<u>Rules Interpreter</u>
Tony Maselli	Cory Robinson	Jack Lally
(609) 259-2776	(201) 794-5450	(908) 323-5781
tmaselli@njsiaa.org	crobinson@fairlawnschools.org	jmlally@gmail.com
<u>Tournament Assignor</u>	<u>Tournament Assignor</u>	
North I, North II, NP North	Central, South, NP South	
Jack Lally	TBA	
(908) 323-5781		
jmlally12@gmail.com		

Ice Hockey Important Dates

Event	Dates	
First Practice:	November 17, 2025	
Competition Start:	December 1, 2025	
Entry Form Opens:	February 1, 2026	
Entry Form Closes:	February 8, 2026	
Conflict of Interest form Due:	February 8, 2026	
Cutoff:	February 14, 2026	
PowerPoints Close:	February 15, 2026	
Seeding Meeting:	February 17, 2026	
Regular Season Competition End:	March 8, 2026	

Ice Hockey Tournament Dates

Public State Tournament (Boys)	Dates	Location
Round 1:	February 23, 2026*	Higher Seed
Round 2:	February 26, 2026*	Higher Seed
Round 3:	March 2, 2026*	Higher Seed
Sectional Finals (Public Group)	March 5, 2026	Mennen Arena
Sectional Finals (Co-Op Group)	March 5, 2026	Codey Arena
State Finals:	March 9, 2026	Prudential Center
Non-Public State Tournament (Boys)	Dates	Location
Round 1:	February 24, 2026*	Higher Seed
Round 2:	February 27, 2026*	Higher Seed
Semifinals:	March 4, 2026	Codey Arena
State Finals:	March 9, 2026	Prudential Center
State Tournament (Girls)	Dates	Location
Round 1:	February 24, 2026*	Higher Seed
Round 2:	February 27, 2026*	Higher Seed
Semifinals:	March 4, 2026	Mennen Arena
State Finals:	March 9, 2026	Prudential Center

* These dates listed for Ice Hockey 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 opponents must be notified ASAP.

Ice Hockey Tournament Schedule

Non-Public Semifinals @ Mennen Arena

March 4, 2026	March 4, 2026
Non-Public Game 1	Non-Public Game 2
Time 4:30	Time 7:00

The highest seeded team of the four (4) remaining teams will play in the game two (2) time slot. The next highest seeded team will play in the game one (1) time slot. The two (2) highest seeded teams will also be the home teams and wear dark colored uniforms.

Girls Semifinals @ Codey Arena

March 4, 2026	March 4, 2026
Girls Game 1	Girls Game 2
Time 4:30	Time 7:00

The highest seeded team of the four (4) remaining teams will play in the game two (2) time slot. The next highest seeded team will play in the game one (1) time slot. The two (2) highest seeded teams will also be the home teams and wear dark colored uniforms.

Public Co-Op Sectional Championships @ Mennen Arena

March 5, 2026	March 5, 2026
Co-Op Public South	Co-Op Public North
Time 4:30	Time 7:00

The higher seeded teams in each section will be the home team and wear dark colored uniforms.

Public Sectional Championships @ Codey Arena

March 5, 2026	March 5, 2026
Public South	Public North
Time 4:30	Time 7:00

The higher seeded teams in each section will be the home team and wear dark colored uniforms.

State Finals @ Prudential Center

March 19, 2026	
1:00pm	Girls
3:15pm	Publics
5:30pm	Non-Publics
7:45pm	Public Co-Ops

The teams in each group with the higher PowerPoint total will be the home team and wear dark colored uniforms.

New for This Year's State Tournament

1. The Power Point system will take the top 14 games for the boys and the top 10 games for the girls.
2. For out of state/mom-member opponents, the power point system will use the actual record of the opponent.
3. 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.
5. A student competing on an interscholastic ice hockey team must compete as a member of the high school team in at least 50% of the school's total meets contested starting with the first contest (not scrimmage) and ending on or before the cutoff date to be eligible for the NJSIAA State Tournament. If there is an odd number remaining, then the player must compete in the greater number.
6. Students who experience Extraordinary Circumstances, which are limited to injuries/medical reasons or return from academic ineligibility, must compete in at least 50% of the school's remaining games, up to and including the cut-off date. If there is an odd number remaining, then the player must compete in the greater number.

To Qualify for the Tournament

1. The top 16 teams from 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. The Ice Hockey minimum number of games to be played by the cutoff date is 14 for the boys and 10 for the girls.
4. If there is a tie in power points, the current NJSIAA tie-breaking procedure will break all ties.

Tournament Seeding

1. The 16 qualifying schools in each group will be seeded by the ice hockey seeding committee.
2. The seeding committee will use the following criteria: PowerPoints, team records, out-of-state opponents, winning percentage, the strength of the schedule, the history of the program, and any other factors pertinent to the sport if needed.

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 Procedure

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

1. The PowerPoint procedure for ice hockey will be using the 14 best boys and 10 best girls 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 14 boys and 10 girls games played.
3. Teams that play less than the minimum number of games will still be eligible for the tournament based on their total power points achieved at the cutoff.
4. During the regular season, games tied at the end of regulation will play one five (5) minute overtime period. If the score remains tied, the game will be declared a tie, and the teams will split the power points. If a team scores during the overtime period, the scoring team will be declared the winner and will receive all the PowerPoints.
5. In League, Conference, County or Cup tournament games that require a team to advance, regardless of the overtime procedure used, the winning team will receive all the PowerPoints.

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.

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.

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, games tied at the end of regulation will play one five (5) minute overtime period. If the score remains tied, the game will be declared a tie, and the teams will split the power points. If a team scores during the overtime period, the scoring team will be declared the winner and will receive all the PowerPoints.
5. In League, Conference, County or Cup tournament games that require a team to advance, regardless of the overtime procedure used, the winning team will receive all the PowerPoints.
6. When entering results in [njschoolsports](http://njschoolsports.com) after a win in overtime, the final score should reflect one (1) additional point for the winning team.
7. 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.
8. The officials Conflict of Interest form must be completed by the date listed above.

Entry Fee

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

Tournament Rules & Information

1. The NFHS Ice Hockey Rules along with any NJSIAA Ice Hockey rule modifications will govern this tournament.
2. Tournament rounds 1, 2, & 3 are **PLAY ON** dates. Schools can mutually agree to move these dates. 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. Due to the nature of the sport using third party facilities, we ask that schools cooperate with each other.
3. Game times for rounds 1, 2, & 3 will be designated by the higher-seeded team.
4. Game times for the sectional finals, semifinals, and state finals will be established by the NJSIAA.
5. 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.

6. 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 neutral sites.
7. 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.
8. Participating schools must assign adequate supervision for all games, home and away.
9. The home team will wear dark jerseys for all tournament games.
10. State tournament games suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue play, should be played to completion from the point of interruption. If the losing team at the point of interruption does not want to return to complete the game, the game will be considered complete.
11. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their bench.
12. Schools receiving a bye may not force their opponent to play on consecutive days.
13. The NJSIAA must be notified by the home school immediately should any problems arise in setting a date or time.
14. Sites for all rounds up to but not including the sectional finals and semifinals will be at the higher-seeded school's facility. Should the higher-seeded team be unable to secure ice time at their home facility, the visiting team will become the home team and assume all corresponding responsibilities.
15. Location and times for all games starting with the sectional finals and state semifinals will be arranged by the NJSIAA.

Officials Assignments

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

Rounds 1, 2, & 3

- 2 game officials.
- A third official may be added if both schools agree and there is availability.
- All officials are **assigned** by the NJSIAA.
- Higher-seeded schools will pay all officials (see fees below).

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
\$125	\$125	\$125

State Sectional & Semifinals

- 1 Referee
- 2 Linesman
- NJSIAA will assign and pay for the 3 officials.

State Finals

- 1 Referee
- 2 Linesman
- NJSIAA will assign and pay for the 3 officials.

Awards

Sectional Champions:

A team trophy and thirty (30) certificates will be awarded to the Sectional Champions in each of the (four) 4 sections (Public North, Public South, Public Co-Op North, Public Co-Op South).

State Champions:

A team trophy and thirty (30) certificates will be awarded to the State Champion in each of the four (4) groups (Public, Public Co-Op, Non-Public & Girls).