

Winter Tournament Information for Schools

As winter tournaments are about to begin, NJSIAA would like to send out a few reminders:

The "[Tournament Operating Procedures Handbook](#)" and the sports-specific tournament regulations covers all pertinent information regarding tournament procedures. We urge all schools to read these documents before their tournaments start.

Points of Emphasis

1. Schools that are not participating in a particular state tournament are prohibited from scheduling any games during the first round of those tournaments.
2. Sectional Trophies – These trophies will be mailed out to all #1 seeds ASAP after the brackets become final. If you are a #1 seed, please be on the lookout for the trophy and make sure it is at every game. If you lose, please be sure and give it to the winning team.
3. Trophies for sectional championships conducted at neutral sites will be mailed to the site.
4. Celebratory events (i.e., senior night, homecoming, teacher recognition, etc.) are not permitted during pregame, postgame, or halftime at any NJSIAA state tournament events.
5. All NFHS half-time rules will be strictly enforced.
6. Steroid Testing – Be advised that the NJSIAA will be conducting random steroid testing starting with the tournament seasons. You will be contacted by “Drug Free Sport,” who will perform the testing if you are chosen.

Officials Fees

The officials’ fees for the first three (3) rounds of the state tournament will be determined by the State Officials Fee Committee recommendations. Please refer to the tournament regulations for more specific information. Starting with the Sectional Finals, the fees will be established by the NJSIAA.

Ticketing

NJSIAA will be selling tickets online via “HomeTown Tickets”. Detailed instructions will be sent to all schools hosting when we know them. The instructions can also be found on our website under the AD’s menu.

The following NJSIAA events will be utilizing online ticket sales via “HomeTown Tickets.”

- Basketball Sectionals – Public & Non-public
- Basketball State Semifinals - Public
- Ice Hockey Sectionals – Boys Public & Boys Public Co-Op
- Ice Hockey State Semifinals – Boys Non-Public & Girls
- Swimming Sectional Finals – Public & Non-Public
- Swimming State Semifinals - Public
- Swimming Individuals (MOC) – Prelims & Finals
- Winter Track State Relays – Public & Non-Public
- Winter Track Sectionals - Public
- Winter Track State Groups – Public & Non-Public
- Winter Track Meet of Champions – Public & Non-Public
- Wrestling Sectionals (boys/girls) - Public
- Wrestling State Semifinals – Public (Boys only)
- Wrestling Regions – Boys & Girls

Events taking place at Rutgers, Prudential Center, and Boardwalk Hall will go through their respective ticketing departments.

Designating Home Teams for State Finals

The home team for the state finals will be pre-determined and will rotate every year. Please refer to the tournament regulations for more specific information.

Uniform Colors

All home teams in all rounds will wear dark uniforms for Basketball and Ice Hockey. Grey colored uniforms cannot be used as the white (away) uniform color.

Practice sessions during the tournament

No practice sessions will be permitted at any neutral site facilities, unless the host school is playing in that round.

Bench Personnel during the tournament

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.

Broadcast Information

All preliminary rounds (any rounds prior to the sectional finals) may be broadcast at the discretion of the participating schools. In rare instances, an NJSIAA rights broadcasting partner may request to broadcast a preliminary round game. If this occurs, schools will be required to accommodate the rights partner.

Schools hosting sectional finals or semifinals will be notified by NJSIAA if an approved media or outlet will be broadcasting the event. In such cases, hosts must adhere to all NJSIAA broadcasting rules. Anyone (schools, third-party affiliates, news platforms, etc.) wishing to broadcast a sectional final or state semifinal must submit their request through the form on NJSIAA's website (<https://www.njsiaa.org/inside-njsiaa/broadcast-rights>) within 48 hours of the event. If an event falls on a Sunday or Monday, requests must be submitted by 10am on Friday prior to the event.