
Girls Lacrosse Post Season Meeting

June 29, 2026, 10:00am

1. Welcome and Introductions: Cindy Beradino (tournament director), Anne Mucci (Executive Board Rep), Lisa McCarthy (Officials Assignor), Rich Dodd (Shawnee AD), Jessica Blake (Haddonfield Coach), Maureen Dzwil (Rules Interpreter)
2. Review of previous post-season minutes:
 - A. Structure of tournament seeding committee meeting... write-out instructions and continue to meet in-person.
 - B. Priority, find a university facility for state championships
 - C. Shot clock, narrow vote by the body of the NJSIAA and what that means (more information in the minutes below)
 - D. Coaches workshop/Promoting the sport Not accomplished
 - E. Coaches Association needed, statewide.... Not accomplished
3. Review of Regular Season: Didn't have issues, the weather cooperated, we need more officials. The heat became an issue for a few games, the AD's, ATC's and officials need to be in agreement as they follow the guidelines and implement modifications, especially during the state tournament.
4. Review Post Season:
 - a. The officials were placed well during the tournament, the finals demonstrated the highest caliber of officiating in NJ. The championship venue was discussed in Correspondence.
 - b. Inform all coaches about footwear for the State Championship Game. The State Championship games will remain at TCNJ
 - c. Heat Participation Guidelines and modifications during the State Championship Games. The modifications utilized at the State Championship games were effective, we didn't experience any heat related issues.
5. Correspondence:
 - A. Dead time for non-public regular season and beginning of state tournament: With the date changing every year for Memorial Day, the NJSIAA cannot move the start date of the season. Some schools leave room in their schedule to play a game during that "dead" period to keep "game-ready". That is the recommendation to all schools if this is a concern.
 - B. A student-athlete goes down and the official stops the clock, the ruling says that the athlete must leave the field. The committee is ok with the official using the stopped clock to make sure the athlete is ok and deem that they could continue play or must leave the field. The concern is that the officials will hesitate to stop play because the athlete will have to leave the field. The interpreter will need to address this issue and possibly propose a modification if applicable. Please refer to the newly released NFHS rule modifications listed on their website.
 - C. State playoff alignment for non-public schools. Could the NJSIAA consider changing the structure from one bracket to two brackets that would represent two non-public state champions. The NJSIAA will evaluate the request and make a decision.

6. Review Important Dates for Next Season:

First Practice: March 8, 2027

Competition Starts: March 15, 2027

Cutoff: May 18, 2027

Power Points Close: May 19, 2027

First Date of State Tournament: May 26 and 27, 2027

7. Review Current Tournament Rules and Regulations, any proposed changes for next season, including regular season rule modifications and changes: A complete listing of the girls lacrosse rules changes will be available on the NFHS website at www.nfhs.org. Click on "Sports" at the top of the home page and select "Girls Lacrosse" and then "Rules."
- States may adopt a 90-second possession clock next year for Girls Lacrosse
 - Uniforms, beginning January 1, 2031, home team jerseys must be white.
 - Another significant revision concerns pocket stringing. The change provides more detailed guidance on equipment, clarifying that the pocket must be attached directly to the head through stringing holes.
 - Clarifying language was also added to the illegal switching of sticks. The revised rule explicitly states that players may not switch sticks with another player on the field or receive a stick from the bench area during live play without properly entering and exiting through the substitution area. Stick changes remain permitted after a goal is scored and during time-outs.
 - Allowing players suspected of injury to remain in the game when it is determined that no health-care provider or coach is needed to enter the field and attend to the player
8. Old Business: None
9. New Business:
- It is with strong encouragement that the lacrosse coaches across the entire state of NJ gather and form a coach's association for representation.
 - Promote growth of the sport