2026-27 NJSIAA Boys & Girls Soccer Tournament

NJSIAA reserves the right to adjust, change or cancel dates, times, and locations for any round of competition during 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.

State tournament sites will not be declared unsuitable merely because conditions are less than perfect unless Leagues or Conferences have ruled such sites unsuitable for League or Conference play. However, NJSIAA reserves the right to move an event to another facility if the playing conditions are not considered suitable for that competition, or if the facility will significantly limit anticipated attendance at the event.

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 Soccer Tournament Staff

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Tournament Assignors
Ed Seavers
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Tournament Assignors
Teri Connor
(732) 598-4148
ptkak.con@verizon.net

Regional Assignors

The following regional assignors will assign the first three (3) rounds of the tournament. If you are the home team, please reach out to the appropriate assignor as to the game date, time and location ASAP.

North I & NP-North Schools
Ed Seavers
201-315-3711
edseavers@ncsanj.com

Central, NP-South Schools
Teri Connor
(732) 598-4148
ptkak.con@verizon.net

North II Schools
Eric Balis
(908) 672-5103
ericbalis@optonline.net

South Schools
John Mauger
(856) 264-4633
maugers@comcast.net

Sectional Assignors

The following sectional assignors will assign the sectional finals, please reach out to the appropriate assignor as to the game date, time and location ASAP.

North I, North II & NP-North
Ed Seavers
201-315-3711
edseavers@ncsanj.com

Central, South & NP-South
Teri Connor
(732) 598-4148
ptkak.con@verizon.net

New for This Year's State Tournament

1. The NJSIAA will assign the officials for all rounds of the tournament.
2. When a game ends in a tie after overtime, it shall be recorded as a tie. In any tournament game that requires a team to advance, the advancing team shall be recorded as the winner regardless of the overtime procedure used. The final score should reflect one (1) additional point for the advancing team.
3. The NJSIAA will continue to use the "Mercy Rule" for both boys and girls soccer for all Varsity interscholastic contests excluding the state championship final game. ***The game will end at the 20-minute mark of the second half if the goal differential is six (6) or more goals. After the 20-minute mark of the second half, the game will end once the goal differential becomes six (6) or more goals.
4. The power points for soccer will be calculated using the 13 best power-pointed games from opening day to the cutoff date regardless of how many games were played.
5. 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.

Soccer Important Dates

Event	Dates		
First Practice:	August 17, 2026		
Competition Start:	August 24, 2026		
Entry Form Opens:	October 1, 2026		
Entry Form Closes:	October 15, 2026		
Conflict of Interest Form Due:	October 15, 2026		
Cutoff:	October 24, 2026		
PowerPoints Close at Noon	October 25, 2026		
Tournament Seeding:	October 28, 2026		
Regular Season Competition Ends:	November 22, 2026		

Soccer Tournament Dates

Public Tournament	Dates (Boys)	Dates (Girls)	Location
Round 1 - All Groups:	November 4, 2026*	November 3, 2026*	Higher Seed
Round 2 - All Groups:	November 7 or 6, 2026**	November 6 or 7, 2026**	Higher Seed
Round 3 - All Groups:	November 11, 2026*	November 10, 2026*	Higher Seed
Sectional Finals:	November 14 or 13, 2026**	November 13 or 14, 2026**	Higher Seed
State Semifinals:	November 18, 2026***	November 17, 2026***	Power Points
State Finals:	November 22, 2026	November 21, 2026	Franklin H.S.
Non-Public Tournament	**Dates (Boys)**	**Dates (Girls)**	**Location**
Round 1 - All Groups:	November 2, 2026*	November 2, 2026*	Higher Seed
Round 2 - All Groups:	November 5, 2026*	November 5, 2026*	Higher Seed
Round 3 - All Groups:	November 9, 2026*	November 9, 2026*	Higher Seed
Sectional Finals:	November 12, 2026*	November 12, 2026*	Higher Seed
State Finals:	November 15, 2025	November 15, 2026	Franklin H.S.

*The tournament dates listed above can be moved only upon mutual agreement by both schools. 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. Schools may play on Sunday only if both schools agree. Schools that did not qualify for the tournament, have been eliminated or have a bye should avoid scheduling any non-tournament games on the dates listed above.

** For the public schools round 2 and the sectional finals, those games may be played on either of the dates listed, only if you have a conflict with a home football game. The home team will determine which date to play on, and no mutual agreement is required.

*** For the public state semi-finals, the game day may be moved upon mutual agreement. If schools cannot agree on the date, the game will be played on the scheduled date above. Game times for the state semi-finals will be set at 2:00pm (no lights) and 4:00pm (with lights). These game times cannot be moved unless approved by the NJSIAA.

Non-Public State Finals

Boys State Finals	Girls State Finals
November 15, 2026	November 15, 2026
Location – Franklin H.S.	Location – Franklin H.S.
Non-Public A – Time TBD	Non-Public A - TBD
Non-Public B – Time TBD	Non-Public B -TBD
North Schools will wear Dark Jerseys	North Schools will wear Dark Jerseys
South Schools will wear White Jerseys	South Schools will wear White Jerseys

No practice sessions will be permitted at the final facilities. There are no restrictions on schools practicing at other artificial turf sites if they can secure the facility.

All bench personnel for the State Finals must be approved by the school district. Each school must provide two (2) ball runners, and one (1) Athletic Trainer. Fans, private coaches or club coaches are not permitted on the sidelines.

Public State Semifinals

Boys State Semifinals	Girls State Semifinals
November 18, 2026	November 17, 2026
North I vs. North II - Central vs. South	North I vs. North II - Central vs. South
Host Teams: Higher Power Points	Host Teams: Higher Power Points
The host schools will wear dark (home) uniforms.	The host schools will wear dark (home) uniforms.

Game date may be moved upon mutual agreement. If schools cannot agree on the date, the game will be played on the scheduled date above. Game times for the state semi-finals will be set at 2:00pm (no lights) and 4:00pm (with lights). These game times cannot be moved unless approved by the NJSIAA.

Public State Finals

Boys State Finals	Girls State Finals
November 22, 2026	November 21, 2026
Franklin H.S.	Franklin H.S.
Group 1 @ 10:00 AM	Group 1 @ 10:00 AM
Group 2 @ 12:30 PM	Group 2 @ 12:30 PM
Group 3 @ 3:00 PM	Group 3 @ 3:00 PM
Group 4 @ 5:30 PM	Group 4 @ 5:30 PM
North I / North II will wear Dark Jerseys	North I / North II will wear Dark Jerseys
Central / South will wear White Jerseys	Central / South will wear White Jerseys

No practice sessions will be permitted at the final facilities. There are no restrictions on schools practicing at other artificial turf sites if they can secure the facility.

All bench personnel for the State Finals must be approved by the school district. Each school must provide two (2) ball runners, and one (1) Athletic Trainer. Fans, private coaches or club coaches are not permitted on the sidelines.

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 soccer 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.

Tournament Qualifications

1. The top 16 teams from each section & 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 minimum number of games to be played by the cutoff date is 13.
4. 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 divided by 13.
5. If there is a tie in power points, the current NJSIAA tie-breaking procedure will break all ties.

Tournament Entry Procedure

1. The entry form must be completed online by the date 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@nj.com.
4. PowerPoints will be downloaded from the njschoolsports 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. 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. If a team scores during the overtime period, the scoring team will be declared the winner and will receive all the PowerPoints.
6. 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. When entering results in njschoolsports after a win in overtime, the final score should reflect one (1) additional point for the winning team.
7. 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 Soccer Tournament).
Forward all entry fees to: NJSIAA, 1161 Route 130 North, Robbinsville, NJ 08691

Withdrawal Policy for Tournament Participation

1. Schools that withdraw from the tournament before seeding will not be subject to any penalty.
2. Schools that withdraw from the tournament after having been seeded will be subject to a fine, unless truly extraordinary circumstances are present.
3. Schools that withdraw from the tournament after the brackets have become official will be subject to a fine, unless truly extraordinary circumstances are present. In addition, the program will be placed on probation for one year.
4. Schools that withdraw from the tournament at any point while on probation will be fined and barred from participating in the tournament for the following school year, unless truly extraordinary circumstances are present. In addition, the program will be placed on an additional year of probation.
5. Schools that repeatedly withdraw from tournaments across multiple sports may be referred to the NJSIAA for review and may be subject to Athletic Department probation.

Tournament No-Show

Any school that fails to appear for an NJSIAA tournament contest will forfeit the contest, and the opposing team will advance to the next round. The school that fails to appear will be subject to a fine, unless truly extraordinary circumstances warrant otherwise. In addition, the program will be placed on probation for a period of one year.

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.

Tournament PowerPoint Procedure

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

1. The PowerPoint procedure for this tournament will be using the 13 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 13 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 divided by 13.
4. 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.

Tournament Rules & Information

1. The NFHS Soccer Rules along with any NJSIAA soccer 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: 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. If any circumstance causes postponement, the match must be played on the next day. If the next day is a Sunday, the match may be played if both schools agree; otherwise, the match must be played on Monday. Teams must adhere to the deadline of the succeeding round, even though matches may be played on consecutive days. Non-NJSIAA tournament games must be moved.
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. 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.
14. Each school must provide three (3) NFHS approved soccer balls for all games and the officials will decide which are to be used.
15. Each school must provide two (2) ball runners for all games. Coaching by ball runners is forbidden. Fifteen (15) minutes prior to game time the ball runners from each team will meet with the official for instructions.
16. The Wilson Verza soccer ball is the official soccer ball of the NJSIAA tournament. The NJSIAA will provide 6 Wilson Verza soccer balls to be used in all state finals games.
17. All bench personnel for this tournament must be approved by the school district. Fans, private coaches or club coaches are not permitted on the sidelines.

Overtime Procedure

Any tournament game that ends in a tie, the overtime procedure will be as follows:

1. There shall be up to two (2) ten (10) -minute "sudden victory" overtime periods.
   - Coin toss shall be held as in Rule 5-2-2(d)(3).
   - Teams shall change ends if a second overtime period is required.
   - There shall be a two (2)-minute interval between periods.
2. If the score remains tied:
   - The head referee shall choose the goal at which all of the kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken.
   - Each coach will select five (5) players, on or off the field (except those who have been disqualified), to take the kicks.
   - A coin toss shall be held as in Rule 5-2-2(d)(3). The team winning the toss shall have the choice of kicking first or second.
   - Teams will alternate kickers. There is no follow-up on the kick.
   - The defending team may change the goalkeeper prior to each kick.
   - Following five (5) kicks for each team, the team scoring on the greatest number of these kicks shall advance. The kicks shall end at the point where the advancing team has been determined.

3. If the score remains tied after each team has taken five (5) kicks:
    - Each coach will select any five (5) players, whether or not a player participated in the initial five (5) kicks, to take another set of five (5) kicks in the same team order in a sudden victory situation, wherein if one team scores and the other team does not score, the game is ended without more kicks being taken.
4. If the score remains tied after the second set of five kicks, the process will continue to repeat until a winner is determined.

Officials Assignments

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

Rounds 1 & 2
- Two (2) game officials will be assigned by NJSIAA.

Round 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
- 1 Referee
- 2 Linesman
- All officials are **assigned and paid** by the NJSIAA.

State Semis-Finals
- 1 Referee
- 3 Linesman
- All officials are **assigned and paid** by the NJSIAA.

State Finals
- 1 Referee
- 3 Linesman
- 1 Official Timer
- All officials are **assigned and paid** by the NJSIAA.

Awards

Sectional Champions:
A team trophy and thirty (30) certificates to each Sectional Champion in each Group.

State Champions:
A team trophy and thirty (30) certificates to each State Champion in each Group.