2026-27 NJSIAA Boys & Girls Basketball 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 Basketball Tournament Staff

Director of Basketball
Al Stumpf
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Tournament Director
Bill Vacca
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Rules Interpreter
Billy Martin
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billymartin@comcast.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
Mark Bitar
973 800-4608
mark.bitar@gmail.com

North II
Dan Basile
917 656-5044
Dbasile43@gmail.com

Central
Mike Fogarty
732 684-9152
Mikefogs99@gmail.com

South, NP South
Pat Killian
609 457-3547
pjkillz@msn.org

Sectional Assignors

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

North I, Noth II, NP North
Mark Bitar
973 800-4608
mark.bitar@gmail.com

Central, South, NP South
Pat Killian
609 457-3547
pjkillz@msn.org

State Semi-finals & Finals Assignors

The following assignors below will be assigning the remainder of the tournament after the completion of the sectional finals. All remaining games will be held at neutral site facilities.

North I, Noth II, NP North
Mark Bitar
973 800-4608
mark.bitar@gmail.com

Central, South, NP South
Pat Killian
609 457-3547
pjkillz@msn.org

Reminders for Tournament 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 be calculating the 17 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.

Important Dates

Event	Boys Date	Girls Date
Tryout Period:	November 23 - 25, 2026	November 23 - 25, 2026
First Practice:	November 30, 2026	November 30, 2026
Competition May Begin:	December 7, 2026	December 7, 2026
Entry Form Opens:	January 27, 2027	January 27, 2027
Entry Form Closes:	February 5, 2027	February 5, 2027
Conflict of Interest Form	February 5, 2027	February 5, 2027
Cutoff:	February 13, 2027	February 13, 2027
PowerPoints Close at 11:59 PM	February 14, 2027	February 14, 2027
Seeding Meeting:	February 16, 2027	February 16, 2027
Regular Season Competition Ends:	March 7, 2027	March 7, 2027

Tournament Dates

Public Tournament	Boys Date	Girls Date
Round 1 (Groups 1 & 3) at Higher Seed	February 23, 2027*	February 23, 2027*
Round 1 (Groups 2 & 4) at Higher Seed	February 24, 2027*	February 24, 2027*
Round 2 (Groups 1 & 3) at Higher Seed	February 25, 2027*	February 25, 2027*
Round 2 (Groups 2 & 4) at Higher Seed	February 26, 2027*	February 26, 2027*
Round 3 (Groups 1 & 3) at Higher Seed	March 2, 2027*	March 2, 2027*
Round 3 (Groups 2 & 4) at Higher Seed	March 3, 2027*	March 3, 2027*
Sectional Finals (Groups 1 & 3) at Higher Seed	March 5, 2027*	March 5, 2027*
Sectional Finals (Groups 2 & 4) at Higher Seed	March 6, 2027*	March 6, 2027*
State Semifinals (Groups 1 & 3)	March 9, 2027	March 9, 2027
State Semifinals (Groups 2 & 4)	March 10, 2027	March 10, 2027
State Finals (Groups 1 & 3)	March 13, 2027	March 13, 2027
State Finals (Groups 2 & 4)	March 14, 2027	March 14, 2027
Non-Public Tournament	**Boys Date**	**Girls Date**
Round 1 (Groups B only) at Higher Seed	February 25, 2027*	February 25, 2027*
Round 1 (Groups A only) at Higher Seed	February 26, 2027*	February 26, 2027*
Round 2 (Groups A & B) at Higher Seed	March 1, 2027*	March 1, 2027*
Round 3 (Groups A & B) at Higher Seed	March 4, 2027*	March 4, 2027*
Sectional Finals (Groups A & B)	March 8, 2027	March 8, 2027
State Finals (Group A & B)	March 12, 2027	March 12, 2027
Unified Tournament	**Date**	**Location**
Divisional Championships	TBD	TBD
State Championships (Group B)	March 13, 2027	Rutgers University
State Championships (Group A)	March 14, 2027	Rutgers University

*These 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 not schedule any non-tournament games on the dates listed above.

Public Sectional Finals

Boys Groups 1 & 3	Girls Groups 1 & 3
March 5, 2027	March 5 2027
At Higher Seed	At Higher Seed
Boys Groups 2 & 4	Girls Groups 2 & 4
March 6, 2027	March 6, 2027
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 ** PLEASE NOTE THAT "A" AND "B" GAMES SITES MAY BE SWITCHED BASED ON THE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF THE TEAMS INVOLVED**

North A (Boys & Girls)	North B (Boys & Girls)
March 8, 2027	March 8, 2027
Franklin H.S.	J.F.K. Paterson H.S.
Girls 6:00 pm & Boys 7:30pm	Girls 5:00 pm & Boys 7:00pm
South A (Boys & Girls)	South B (Boys & Girls)
March 8, 2027	March 8, 2027
Jackson Township H.S.	Lenape H.S.
Girls 5:00 pm & Boys 7:00pm	Girls 5:00 pm & Boys 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 1	Group 1
March 9, 2027	March 9, 2027
Franklin H.S.	Monroe H.S.
Girls 6:00pm & Boys 7:30pm	Girls 5:00pm & Boys 7:00pm
North I vs North II	**Central vs South**
Group 2	Group 2
March 10, 2027	March 10, 2027
Bloomfield H.S.	Monroe H.S.
Girls 4:30pm & Boys 7:00pm	Girls 5:00pm & Boys 7:00pm
North I vs North II	**Central vs South**
Group 3	Group 3
March 9, 2027	March 9, 2027
Elizabeth H.S.	Central Regional H.S.
Girls 5:00pm & Boys 7:00pm	Girls 5:00pm & Boys 7:00pm
North I vs North II	**Central vs South**
Group 4	Group 4
March 10, 2027	March 10, 2027
Elizabeth H.S.	Deptford H.S.
Girls 5:00pm & Boys 7:00pm	Girls 5:00pm & Boys 7:00pm

All North I & Central 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, 2027	March 12, 2027
Rutgers University	Rutgers University
Times: TBD	Times: TBD
Non-Public B (Boys)	Non-Public B (Girls)
March 12, 2027	March 12, 2027
Rutgers University	Rutgers University
Times: TBD	Times: TBD

All North 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

Boys State Finals	**Girls State Finals**
Group 1 (Boys)	Group 1 (Girls)
March 13, 2027	March 13, 2027
Rutgers University	Rutgers University
Times: TBD	Times: TBD
Group 3 (Boys)	Group 3 (Girls)
March 13, 2027	March 13, 2027
Rutgers University	Rutgers University
Times: TBD	**Times: TBD**
Group 2 (Boys)	Group 2 (Girls)
March 14, 2027	March 14, 2027
Rutgers University	Rutgers University
Times: TBD	Times: TBD
Group 4 (Boys)	Group 4 (Girls)
March 14, 2027	March 14, 2027
Rutgers University	Rutgers University
Times: TBD	Times: TBD

All North I & North II 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

State Championship
March 14, 2027
Rutgers University
10:30am

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.

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 17.
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 17.
5. If there is a tie in power points, the current NJSIAA tie-breaking procedure will break all ties.

Entry Procedure

1. The entry form must be completed online during the time listed above. If you do not wish to enter the tournament, you don't need to do anything.
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. 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

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.

PowerPoint Procedure

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

1. The PowerPoint procedure for this tournament will be using the 17 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 17 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 17.
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. When entering records for OOS/NM opponents, only enter the opponents' first 17 games. The system will not let you enter any games above 17.

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 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.