2026-27 NJSIAA Boys & Girls Fencing 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.

Fencing Tournament Staff

Director of Fencing	**Boys Tournament Director**	**Girls Tournament Director**
Al Stumpf	Stephen Olson	Mike Griffin
(609) 259-2776	(908) 391-9777	(908) 672-9143
astumpf@njsiaa.org	solson1776@gmail.com	mgriffin@hcrhs.org
Tournament Assignor	**Rules Interpreter**	
Marilyn Bellantoni	Ted Li	
(908) 581-6723	(908) 337-1214	
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Fencing Important Dates

Event	**Boys Dates**	**Girls Dates**
Tryout Period:	November 23-25, 2026	November 23-24, 2026
First Practice:	November 30, 2026	November 30, 2026
Competition May Begin:	December 7, 2026	December 7, 2026
Independent Fencers Entries Close (12:00pm):	January 8, 2027	January 8, 2027
Independent Fencers Qualifier	January 16, 2027	January 17, 2027
Conflict of Interest Form Due:	January 25,2027	January 25, 2027
Team Entry Forms Open:	January 25, 2027	January 25, 2027
Team Entry Closes (12:00pm):	February 6, 2027	February 6, 2027
Cut- Off Date:	February 6, 2027	February 6, 2027
Power Points Close (12:00pm):	February 7, 2027	February 7, 2027
Tournament Seeding:	February 8, 2027	February 8, 2027
Individual Fencer Petitions Close (12:00pm):	February 19, 2027	February 19, 2027
Individual Entry Closes (12:00pm):	February 22, 2027	February 22, 2027
Competition End Date:	March 7, 2027	March 7, 2027

Fencing Tournament Dates

Team State Championships	**Boys Dates**	**Girls Dates**
Round 1 @ Higher Seed	February 10, 2027	February 9, 2027
Round 2 @ Higher Seed	February 12, 2027	February 11, 2076
Round 3 @ Higher Seed	February 18, 2027	February 17, 20267
Sectional Finals @ Higher Seed	February 23. 2026	February 22, 2027
State Finals @ Morris Hills H.S.	February 25, 2027	February 25, 2027
Individual State Championships	**Boys Dates**	**Girls Dates**
Hunterdon Central H.S.	February 27, 2027	February 27, 2027

*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.

Information for this Year's State Tournament: ** IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ***

1. **There will be no District Championship Tournaments.**
2. Individual Fencing Tournament (**NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS HAS BEEN INCREASED)** – Top 54 Fencers in each discipline as ranked by Touch-by-Touch system will qualify. All coaches must report each fencer's match results to Touch by Touch within 24 hours of the completion of the match. **Scores must still be reported to nj.com within 24 hours as well as T b T. ONLY REGULAR SEASON DUAL, TRI and QUAD TEAM MATCHES WILL BE CALCULATED. IN SEASON TOURNAMENT MATCHES WILL NOT BE CALCULATED.**
3. Team Tournament – Teams will be classified into a North Section and a South Section, the top 16 teams in each section based on their 12 best power-pointed matches by the cut-off date will qualify for the team championship.
4. The North Sectional Champion will fence the South Sectional Champion for the State team Championships.
5. Independent Fencers (fencers whose schools do not sponsor fencing teams) will qualify at Drew University during the Cetrulo/Santelli Tournament.
6. Coaches are encouraged to review the explanation and calculation formula used by the Touch-by-Touch Rankings that will be posted on the NJSIAA website
7. 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 fencing 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 the North section and South sections 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 matches to be played by the cutoff date is 12.
4. Teams that play less than 12 games will still be eligible for the tournament based on their total power points achieved at the cutoff, divided by 12.
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 during the time period listed above.
2. All varsity schedules & rosters must be entered in njschoolsports 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 conflict of Interest form for officials must be completed by the date listed above. If there is no conflict of interest, you do not have to complete this form.

Tournament Seeding

1. The qualifying schools in 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 (Team)

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

1. The PowerPoint procedure for soccer will be using the 12 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 12 games played.
3. Teams that play less than 12 games will still be eligible for the tournament based on their total power points achieved at the cutoff.

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.

Co-ed Team Clarification

1. All schools must declare their intention as a co-ed team by the competition begin date.
2. A co-ed team is considered a boys team for all intents and purposes.
3. Co-ed teams may not separate for any contest once they have declared that they are co-ed.
4. Co-ed teams may only compete against other co-ed teams or boys only teams.
5. Co-ed teams may not compete against a girls only team.
6. Co-ed teams will only be eligible to compete as a boys team in the state tournament.
7. Co-ed teams cannot enter both the boys and girls team tournaments.
8. Separate boys and girls teams cannot combine into one team for the state tournament.

To Qualify for the Individual Tournament- ***MUST HAVE FENCED IN A MINIMUM OF 12 BOUTS.***

1. The top 54 fencers in each discipline and gender will qualify based on the Touch-by-Touch (TbT) ranking system.
2. The number of fencers in each discipline and gender may be increased to 60 depending on the number of independent qualifiers.
3. The TbT ranking system will be based on the fencers performance during the regular season team matches only. Tournaments such as the Cetrulo/-Santelli results will not be calculated into this ranking.
4. Independent fencers that have qualified from the qualifying Tournament will not bounce out any of the 54 individual qualifiers.
5. If a ranked fencer cannot participate in the Individual Championship, their spot will be offered to the next ranked fencer in the Touch-by-Touch rankings.

Entry Procedure (Individual Tournament)

1. There is no entry form required for the individual tournament.
2. All teams must submit their full team roster to **Touch by Touch** by the start of the season.
3. All individual results from dual, tri, or quad meets must be reported to Touch-by-Touch (TbT) ranking system within 24 hours.
4. Please be advised that all individual scores must be entered even if an individual is not going to participate.
5. ***GIRLS WHO FENCE ON A CO-ED (BOYS TEAM) MUST ENTER AS INDEPENDENT FENCERS TO BE ABLE TO QUALIFY FOR THE INDIVIDUAL FENCING CHAMPIONSHIP.***

Independent Athletes

An Independent athlete is a student enrolled in a NJSIAA member school that does not sponsor a particular sports program and would like to enter a state individual tournament. Independent athletes are permitted, provided the school follows all independent entry requirements listed in the tournament regulations for their sport. In addition to the sports-specific tournament entry regulations, the following procedures for all sports must be followed:

1. All independent athletes must be accompanied by a certified faculty member (chaperone), or a coach approved by the schools administration.
2. The independent athlete will be disqualified if they are not accompanied by a certified faculty member (chaperone), or a coach approved by the schools administration.
3. The chaperone must have with them written authority from the school's administration and remain with the athlete throughout all contests.
4. Independent athletes will not be able to check-in to the event with a parent, a coach/chaperone must be present at the time of check-in.
5. Any properly appointed “coach” will be subject to all out-of-season practice rules.
6. The school district must be able to certify the independent athlete has met the required six (6) practices.
7. The school district must be able to certify the independent athlete has completed physical on file.
8. The penalty for failure to comply will be the disqualification of the athlete.

To Qualify Independent Fencers

1. The top six (6) fencers in each discipline and gender from the qualifier meet will move on to the individual championships.
2. If a fencer does not enter the qualifier meet, they will not be able to participate in the individual championships.

To Enter Independent Fencers

1. The entry form must be completed on the NJSIAA website by the date listed above.
2. Schools may enter a maximum of 2 fencers per discipline per gender**.**
3. Independent fencers do not use the TbT ranking system

Independent Boys Fencer Qualifier	**Independent Girls Fencer Qualifier**
Drew University	Drew University
Date; January 16, 2027	Date; January 17, 2027
Check In Time:	Check in Time:
Epee- 10:00 am	Epee- 10:00 am
Foil- 12:00 noon	Foil: 12:00 noon
Sabre- 2:00 pm	Sabre- 2:00 pm

Entry Fees – Schools will be invoiced by the NJSIAA

1. Team Tournament - $ 150 per team/per gender
2. Individual & Independent entries - $25 per fencer/per discipline.
3. Payable to the NJSIAA (Please note Fencing Tournament).

Note: Only fencers that compete at the individual championships will be charged the entry fee.

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 Rules & Information

1. The NCAA FENCING rules along with any NJSIAA FENCING rule modifications will govern this tournament.
2. Each school participating in the tournament shall be responsible for the care and treatment of their athletes within the school's policy as in effect during the regular season. When matches are scheduled at predetermined sites, visiting schools should not assume that the home school trainer will be available. NJSIAA may assign athletic trainers for the state final events to assist with emergencies.
3. When severe weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances necessitate postponement, the site manager will make the final decision and should have an outlined procedure to inform potential opponents, media, nj.com at hssupport@njadvancemedia.com, working personnel, assigned officials, the NJSIAA, and the tournament director.
4. Schools participating in the team tournament must provide appropriate security personnel at all rounds as well as provide an administrator or designee at all rounds the participating school qualifies for.
5. All schools entered in the team FENCING championships will be held responsible for the conduct of their coaching staff, athletic trainers, fencers, other bench personnel, cheerleaders, students, and spectators.
6. Member schools cannot expect the NJSIAA to assume responsibility for improper conduct at tournament events.
7. The site manager and/or the official, have the authority to address and correct any action of intimidation unethical, or unsportsmanlike conduct.

Team Championship Information

1. Any school sponsoring an interscholastic team will be permitted to enter the tournament, provided the provisions of Rule 2, Section 18 of the NJSIAA Constitution and Bylaws are met. There shall be no appeal or waiver for advancement from one level of the tournament to the next regardless of reason. All entrants must compete to advance. No date changes due to any school conflicts with trips, dances, banquets, testing programs, proms, and the like, will be allowed.
2. All fencers must be officially entered on the roster at check-in for each of the Sectional Rounds to compete in subsequent championships. Eligible participants must have competed in at least fifty percent (50%) of the school's total interscholastic competitions, up to and including the cut-off date. Fencers returning from medical leave or ineligible fencers becoming eligible must compete in 50% of the remaining competitions. If there is an odd number remaining, then the fencer must compete in the greater number. Petitions will be denied for fencers who choose to participate in national, regional, or non-NJSIAA competitions in conflict with any NJSIAA championship.
3. Score sheets are counted as official once they are signed by the bout official. Score changes may be made after the submission to the Match Referee. The requests for scoring changes must be made within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the event.
4. All team rosters must be verified and starting line-ups submitted to the opposing coach at least 15 minutes prior to the start of each round of the Sectional match.
5. All fencers participating must be on the Team Roster. Any bout fenced with an ineligible fencer (fencer not on the Team Roster as submitted at check-in will be voided, and any victory awarded to the opponent.

State Sectional Tournament Information

1. All teams must have been officially entered into the tournament by the due date listed above.
2. The top **16 teams** based on Power Point rankings from each of the two Sections (North and South) qualify for the State Team Championship.
3. There will be 16 teams from North Bracket and 16 teams from South Bracket. The Higher Seeded team will be the host school.
4. The winner of the North Bracket will fence the winner of the South Bracket for the State Team Championship.

5. Schools should contact the State Assignor to have officials assigned to their state matches.
6. The host (higher seed) school is responsible for paying the NJSIAA assigned referee for the first three rounds. The NJSIAA is responsible for paying the referees for the sectional final matches and the state team championship match.

Individual Championship Information

1. All fencers competing in the Individual Championships must be ranked in the Top 54 positions in the Touch-by-Touch system ranking for their gender and discipline. This ranking will be based on their performance during the regular season team matches. Only regular season dual, tri and quad match data will be tabulated for Individual T b T Rankings. Tournaments such as the Cetrulo/-Santelli results will not be calculated into this ranking.
2. Individual fencers unable to compete in the regular season due to extraordinary circumstances may petition the NJSIAA to participate in the Individual state championships. Petitions will be denied to fencers who opt to participate in national, regional, International or ANY non-NJSIAA competition in conflict with NJSIAA championships.
3. Any fencer failing to appear for the Individual Championships after having qualified, and who does not notify the NJSIAA in advance may be subject to penalties by the NJSIAA, including, but not limited to, not being able to participate in the following years' Championships unless extraordinary circumstances caused such unforeseen withdrawal, and the fencer is granted a waiver by the NJSIAA.
4. If a ranked fencer cannot participate in the Individual Championship, their spot will be offered to the next ranked fencer in the Touch-by-Touch rankings.
5. Check-in times:
   - **TBD: Boys Foil, Girls Epee**
   - **TBD: Boys Sabre**
   - **TBD: Girls Foil**
   - **TBD: Boys Epee**
   - **TBD: Girls Sabre**
6. A fencer arriving after the close of check-in can be disqualified from the competition, at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
7. Fencing will begin within thirty (30) minutes of the close of check-in.
8. All fencers competing in the Individual State Championships must have been available to fence and listed on the team's Sectional roster and must be present in the venue dressed and prepared to fence, the only exception is a fencer granted a "certified absent petition," approved by NJSIAA.
9. Any bout fenced with an ineligible fencer (any fencer not on the official team roster, signed and submitted to the Bout Committee before the close of check-in) will be voided, and any victory awarded to the opponent.
10. Only Board-approved coaches will be credentialed.
11. Tournament Directors will disqualify any school that is accompanied by someone in a coaching capacity who is not properly certified in accordance with NJSIAA regulations and appointed by

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

Rounds 1, 2 & 3

- All officials are **assigned** by the NJSIAA.
- Higher-seeded schools pay all officials for rounds 1, 2 & 3 (see fees below).

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
$100	$100	$100

State Sectional Finals:

- The NJSIAA will assign and pay all officials for this round.

Team Tournament - State Finals

- The NJSIAA will assign and pay all officials for this round.

Individual State Finals

- The NJSIAA will assign and pay for all officials for this round.

Awards
State Sectional Championships:

- A team trophy and 15 certificates for the two (2) Sectional Champion.

State Team Championships:

- A Team trophy and 15 certificates for the State Champion.

Individual Meet of Champions

- Medals to the top 8 places in each weapon