2026-27 NJSIAA Boys & Girls Ice Hockey 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.

Tournament Staff

Director of Ice Hockey	Tournament Director	Rules Interpreter
Tony Maselli	Cory Robinson	Jack Lally
(609) 259-2776	(201) 794-5450	(908) 323-5781
tmaselli@njsiaa.org	crobinson@fairlawnschools.org	jmlally@gmail.com
Tournament Assignor	Tournament Assignor	
North I, North II, NP North	Central, South, NP South	
Jack Lally	John Holmes	
(908) 323-5781	(732) 245-1213	
Jmlally12@gmail.com	Jmholmes51@hotmail.com	

Important Dates

Event	Date	
First Practice:	November 16, 2026	
Competition May Begin:	November 30, 2026	
Entry Form Opens:	February 1, 2027	
Entry Form Closes:	February 8, 2027	
Conflict of Interest form Due:	February 8, 2027	
Cutoff:	February 13, 2027	
PowerPoints Close at 11:59 PM:	February 14, 2027	
Seeding Meeting:	February 15, 2027	
Regular Season Competition End:	March 7, 2027	

Tournament Dates

Public State Tournament (Boys)	**Date**	**Location**
Round 1:	February 17 - 21, 2027*	Higher Seed
Round 2:	February 22 - 24, 2027*	Higher Seed
Round 3:	February 25 - March 1, 2027*	Higher Seed
Sectional Finals (Public Group)	March 4, 2027	Codey Arena
Sectional Finals (Co-Op Group)	March 4, 2027	Mennen Arena
State Finals:	March 8, 2027	Prudential Center
Non-Public State Tournament (Boys)	**Date**	**Location**
Round 1:	February 22 - 24, 2027*	Higher Seed
Round 2:	February 25 - March 1, 2027*	Higher Seed
Semifinals:	March 3, 2027	Mennen Arena
State Finals:	March 8, 2027	Prudential Center
State Tournament (Girls)	**Date**	**Location**
Round 1:	February 22 - 24, 2027*	Higher Seed
Round 2:	February 25 - March 1, 2027*	Higher Seed
Semifinals:	March 3, 2027	Codey Arena
State Finals:	March 8, 2027	Prudential Center

*The above dates are play-by dates. Due to the complexities of securing a third-party facility for this sport, the higher seeded (home team) will set the date and time within the parameters listed above for each round. If the away team cannot make that date or time, the match will be forfeited to the home team unless there are extenuating circumstances approved by the NJSIAA. Schools may play on Sunday only if both schools agree.

Ice Hockey Tournament Schedule

Non-Public Semifinals @ Mennen Arena

March 3, 2027	March 3, 2027
Non-Public Game 1	Non-Public Game 2
Time 4:30	Time 7:00

The highest seeded team of the four (4) remaining teams will play in the game two (2) time slot. The next highest seeded team will play in the game one (1) time slot. The two (2) highest seeded teams will also be the home teams and wear dark colored uniforms.

Girls Semifinals @ Codey Arena

March 3, 2027	March 3, 2027
Girls Game 1	Girls Game 2
Time 4:30	Time 7:00

The highest seeded team of the four (4) remaining teams will play in the game two (2) time slot. The next highest seeded team will play in the game one (1) time slot. The two (2) highest seeded teams will also be the home teams and wear dark colored uniforms.

Public Co-Op Sectional Championships @ Mennen Arena

March 4, 2027	March 4, 2027
Co-Op Public South	Co-Op Public North
Time 4:30	Time 7:00

The higher seeded teams in each section will be the home team and wear dark colored uniforms.

Public Sectional Championships @ Codey Arena

March 4, 2027	March 4, 2027
Public South	Public North
Time 4:30	Time 7:00

The higher seeded teams in each section will be the home team and wear dark colored uniforms.

State Finals @ Prudential Center

March 8, 2027	
1:00pm	Publics
3:15pm	Non-Publics
5:30pm	Public Co-Ops
7:45pm	Girls

The home team for the non-public and girls teams will be the higher seeded team
The home team for the public and public co-ops will be the team with the higher PowerPoint total.
All home teams will wear dark colored uniform.

New for This Year's State Tournament

1. The Power Point system will take the top 15 games for the boys and the top 11 games for the girls.
2. For out of state/mom-member opponents, the power point system will use the actual record of the opponent.
3. 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 ice hockey 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 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 15 for the boys and 11 for the girls.
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 either 15 or 11 based on the gender.
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. 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 Ice Hockey Tournament).
- Forward all entry fees to the 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 will be seeded by the ice hockey seeding committee.
2. The seeding committee will use the following criteria: PowerPoints, team records, out-of-state opponents, winning percentage, the strength of the schedule, the history of the program, and any other factors pertinent to the sport if needed.

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 purposes.

1. The PowerPoint procedure for this tournament will be using the 15 best boys and 11 best girls 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 15 boys and 11 girls 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 either 15 or 11 based on the gender.
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 Ice Hockey Rules along with any NJSIAA Ice Hockey rule modifications will govern this tournament.
2. Tournament rounds 1, 2, & 3 are play-by dates. Due to the complexities of securing a third-party facility for this sport, the higher seeded (home team) will set the date and time within the parameters listed above for each round. If the away team cannot make that date or time, the match will be forfeited to the home team unless there are extenuating circumstances approved by the NJSIAA. Schools may play on Sunday only if both schools agree.
3. Game times for rounds 1, 2, & 3 will be designated by the higher-seeded team.
4. Game times and locations for the sectional finals, semifinals, and state finals will be established by the NJSIAA.
5. All games that cannot be played on the designated date because of the weather, the game must be played on the following day. Teams must adhere to the deadline of the succeeding round, even though games may be played on consecutive days.
6. Higher-seeded schools hosting tournament games in rounds 1, 2 and 3 for public schools and rounds 1 and 2 for non-public and girls teams, must provide an athletic trainer for both teams.
7. Each school will be asked to provide its own athletic trainer when the tournament games move to the sectional, semifinal and final rounds.
8. 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.
9. Participating schools must assign adequate supervision for all games, home and away.
10. The home team will wear dark jerseys for all tournament games.
11. 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.
12. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their bench.
13. Schools receiving a bye may not force their opponent to play on consecutive days.
14. The NJSIAA must be notified by the home school immediately should any problems arise in setting a date or time.
15. Sites for all rounds up to but not including the sectional finals and semifinals will be at the higher-seeded school's facility. Should the higher-seeded team be unable to secure ice time at their home facility, the visiting team will become the home team and assume all corresponding responsibilities.
16. 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.

Ice Cuts

1. **Regular season** – The home team or the home teams facility will determine when the ice cut will take place. The home team must communicate to both the officials and the visiting team upon their arrival as to when the ice cut will take place. If there is overtime, there will be NO ice cut after the third period.

2. **Tournament** (All rounds except the finals) – The ice cut will take place after the first period at all NJSIAA tournament games. If there is overtime, there will be an ice cut after the third period.

3. **Tournament Finals** (Prudential Center) – The ice cut will take place after every period. If there is overtime, the ice cut will take place after the third period, after the first 15-minute overtime period, and after two 7 ½ minute overtime periods.

Tournament Overtime Procedure (For all rounds except the finals):

1. At the end of the third period, there will be a 15-minute intermission which includes an ice cut.
2. The overtime will start with One 15-minute sudden victory overtime period.
3. Teams shall change ends prior to the overtime period.
4. Each team will be awarded a single timeout for this overtime period. There will be no carryover of unused timeouts from the end of regulation.
5. If the score remains tied after the 15-minute overtime period, a shootout will take place after a 5-minute rest period with no ice cut
6. The choice to shoot first shall be determined by the higher seeded team.
7. The first five (5) players from each team alternate attempts at a penalty shot. No list needs to be obtained by the referee. Referees will keep track of who shoots for each team.
8. The team scoring the most goals at the end of the five (5) player shootout will win the game.
9. If score is tied after the five (5) player shootout, then it becomes a sudden victory shootout.
10. The next five (5) players will attempt a sudden victory shootout on a paired basis. This will continue until a team has won.
    - Example 1 - If player #6 on team A scores and player #6 on team B does not score, game is over and team A wins.
    - Example 2 - If player #6 on team A does not score and player #6 on team B scores, game is over and team B wins.
    - Example 3 - If player #6 on team A scores and player #6 on team B scores, the shootout will continue to player #7.
    - Example 4 - If player #6 on team A does not score and player #6 on team B does not score, the shootout will continue to player #7.
    - A player cannot shoot a second time until ten (10) different players from their team have attempted a shot.
    - No player may shoot a third time until (10) more players from their team have attempted a shot.
11. During the shoot-out, both teams shall remain at their benches and defend their goal.
12. Penalized players, whose penalty does not expire by the end of the overtime, cannot shoot, and shall be replaced prior to the start of the shoot-out.
13. Any injured player may be replaced prior to the start of the shoot-out.

Tournament State Finals Overtime Procedure (For the state finals only):

1. At the end of the third period, there will be a 15-minute intermission which includes an ice cut.
2. The overtime will start with One 15-minute sudden victory overtime period.
3. Teams shall change ends prior to the overtime period.
4. Each team will be awarded a single timeout for this overtime period. There will be no carryover of unused timeouts from the end of regulation.
5. If the score is tied after the first overtime period, there will be a 15-minute intermission which includes an ice cut.
6. Then a 7 ½ minute sudden victory overtime period will be played with each team playing 4 v 4 (plus the goaltender).
7. If the score remains tied after the first 7 ½ minute overtime period, then a 5-minute rest period will take place.
8. The game shall continue with subsequent 7 ½ minute sudden victory overtime periods and 5-minute rest periods until a goal is scored.
9. Teams shall change ends prior to each overtime period.
10. After every two 7 ½ minute OT periods, there will be a 15-minute intermission which includes an ice cut.

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

Rounds 1, 2, & 3
- 2 game officials.
- A third official may be added if both schools agree and there is availability.
- All officials are **assigned** by the NJSIAA.
- Higher-seeded schools will pay all officials (see fees below).

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
$114	$114	$114

State Sectional & Semifinals
- 2 Referees
- 1 Linesman
- NJSIAA will assign and pay for the 3 officials.

State Finals
- 2 Referees
- 1 Linesman
- NJSIAA will assign and pay for the 3 officials.

Awards
Sectional Champions:
A team trophy and thirty (30) certificates will be awarded to the Sectional Champions in each of the (four) 4 sections (Public North, Public South, Public Co-Op North, Public Co-Op South).

State Champions:
A team trophy and thirty (30) certificates will be awarded to the State Champion in each of the four (4) groups (Public, Public Co-Op, Non-Public & Girls).