2026-27 NJSIAA Boys & Girls Team Swimming 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.

Important Dates

Event	Date
First Practice:	November 16, 2026
Competition May Begin:	November 30, 2026
Entry Form Opens:	January 4, 2027
Team Entries Close:	January 18, 2027
Conflict of Interest Due	January 18, 2027
Team Cutoff:	January 23, 2027
PowerPoints Close at 11:59 PM:	January 24, 2027
Team Seeding:	January 26, 2027
Hy-Tek Individual Entries Open:	January 30, 2027
Individual Cutoff:	February 13, 2027
Hy-Tek Individual Entries Close:	February 14, 2027
Deadline for wildcard entries:	February 22, 2027
Deadline to update seed times:	February 22, 2027
Regular Season Competition Ends:	March 7, 2027

Tournament Dates

Public Team Tournament	Date	Location
Play-In Round	January 27 - 30, 2027*	Higher Seed
Round 1:	February 1 - 3, 2027*	Higher Seed
Round 2:	February 4 - 8, 2027*	Higher Seed
Round 3:	February 9 - 12, 2027*	Higher Seed
Public Sectional Finals:	**Date**	**Location**
Girls North - Groups B, A, C:	February 16, 2027	PCTI
Girls South - Groups B, A, C:	February 16, 2027	GCIT
Boys North - Groups B, A, C:	February 17, 2027	PCTI
Boys South - Groups B, A, C:	February 17, 2027	GCIT
Public State Finals:	**Date**	**Location**
Girls / Boys:	February 20, 2027	Neptune
Non-Public Team Tournament	**Date**	**Location**
Round 1:	February 1 - 3, 2027*	Higher Seed
Round 2:	February 4 - 8, 2027*	Higher Seed
Round 3:	February 9 - 12, 2027*	Higher Seed
Non-Public Sectional Finals:	**Date**	**Location**
Girls North:	February 15, 2027	Neptune
Girls South:	February 15, 2027	Neptune
Boys North:	February 15, 2027	Neptune
Boys South:	February 15, 2027	Neptune
Non-Public State Finals:	**Date**	**Location**
Girls / Boys:	February 20, 2027	Neptune

*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 for all rounds up to and including round 3 within the parameters listed above. 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.

Tournament Staff

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New for This Year's State Tournament

1. Team Championships will be swum in a double dual format with Girls' events followed by Boys' events with one length of pool warm downs after each swim.
2. This tournament is restructured into a north/south format. North 1 and North 2 sections will be combined into one North section. South and Central sections will be combined into one South section.

Points of Interest for this Year's State Tournament

1. Backstroke ledges – Please see information regarding the implementation of backstroke ledges on the NJSIAA website under swimming.
2. All Teams in Finals must present a Hy-Tek file to BeSmartt Inc with full team roster by the date listed above.
3. Lane assignments - Higher seeded teams will swim in the even numbered lanes and lower Seeded Teams will swim in odd number lanes. For 8 or more lane pools, higher seeded teams will swim in Lanes 2-4-6 and lower seeded teams will swim in Lanes 3-5-7
4. Teams will present a line-up sheet with swimmers' names and lane assignments for finals to the tournament director upon arrival to enable presentation on scoreboard during meet.
5. Coaches maintain the right to make line-up changes during the meet.
6. The team entries become final when the entry card is presented to the officials prior to event.

Tournament Eligibility

1. Teams must be competing on a varsity interscholastic basis and sixty percent (60%) of the games played on or before the cutoff date must be against New Jersey schools.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. A student competing on an interscholastic swim 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 game (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.
5. Students who experience Extraordinary Circumstances, which are limited to injuries/medical reasons or return from academic ineligibility, must play 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.

To qualify for the Team Tournament

1. The NJSIAA swimming power point system will be used to qualify all teams for the tournament.
2. The 8 highest power point totals from each section and each group will qualify for the tournament.
3. The PowerPoint calculation for swimming will be using the **top 3** PowerPointed contests regardless of how many you swam up to and including the cutoff.
4. Girls participating on a boys teams will use the boys power point scale for PowerPoint calculations.
5. Meets contested after the cutoff date will not count toward tournament qualification.
6. If there is a tie in PowerPoints, the current NJSIAA swimming tie-breaking procedure will break all ties.
7. Co-ed teams will only be eligible to compete in the tournament as boys' teams.

Entry Procedure

1. The team entry form must be completed online during the time period listed above.
2. must be checked and updated 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@njadvancemedia.com.
4. The coaches of both teams shall report the results to www.njschoolsports.com following the contest. Failure to do so may result in penalties being imposed by the NJSIAA. First-time warning, second-time $150 fine, third-time possible elimination from the tournament.
5. 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.
6. Girls on co-ed teams will be PowerPointed using the boy's PowerPoint calculations.
7. The Officials Conflict of Interest form must be completed by the date listed above.

Entry Fee

- $150.00 per team, Payable to the NJSIAA (Please note swim Tournament).
- Forward all entry fees to the NJSIAA, 1161 Route 130 North, Robbinsville, NJ 08691

Tournament Seeding

1. The qualifying schools in each group and each section will be seeded using the NJSIAA swimming power point system.
2. PowerPoint calculation for swimming will be using the **top 3** PowerPointed contests regardless of how many you swam up to and including the cutoff. The top 3 PowerPointed meet totals will be averaged by dividing the total by 3. If there is a tie in PowerPoint for seeding, we will use the current NJSIAA tie-breaking procedure.
3. Seeds 9-16 will compete in the play-in round, seeds 5-8 will compete starting with round 1
4. A team's PowerPoint total will be carried throughout the tournament. Sectional contests will **not** be PowerPointed. Original PowerPoints will be used to seed the sectional finalists for the semifinal contests. The winners of the Semifinals will advance to the State Championship contests.
5. The Tournament Director reserves the right to disqualify submitted times when they cannot be verified.

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.

Tie-breaking procedure for all tournament contests

When a meet ends in a tie the meet shall be power pointed using the most current NISCA power point tables to determine the winner (including exhibition swimmers if any). If the meet remains tied after the power point procedure, the tie will be broken in the following order:

1. Fewer number of sixth (6^{th}) places
2. PowerPoints of A, B & C relays
3. Greater number of first (1^{st}) places
4. Greater number of second (2^{nd}) places
5. Greater number of third (3^{rd}) places
6. Greater number of fourth (4^{th}) places
7. Greater number of fifth (5^{th}) places

After the tie is broken, using the above procedures, add one team point to the winning team's score – and please use the "Add Notes" field in njschoolsports.com to explain which criteria was used to break the tie.

Tournament Rules & Information

1. The NFHS Swimming Rules along with any NJSIAA swimming rule modifications will govern this tournament.
2. All contest scoring will be according to the current NFHS Swimming Rules, as amended by the NJSIAA.
3. State team swim contests may be scheduled on any date but must be completed by the next round date.
4. It is expected that all schools will work together to accommodate teams with only one coach, but if an agreement cannot be reached, the school with only one coach will have to arrange for coverage.
5. Each team will provide three (3) timers (one per lane) with stopwatches at all contests and a team scorer at the Table. Cell phones are not considered timing devices. Timers must be positioned in the starting are for all races.

6. Lane assignments - Higher seeded teams will swim in the even numbered lanes and lower Seeded Teams will swim in odd number lanes. For 8 or more lane pools, higher seeded teams will swim in Lanes 2-4-6 and lower seeded teams will swim in Lanes 3-5-7
7. Entry Cards are required for each contest (First & Last Name with lane assignment)
8. All entry cards for all state contests become official once they are handed to the official designee.
9. A competitor shall be permitted to enter a maximum of four (4) events, no more than two (2) of which may be individual events.
10. Any postponements, please contact the tournament staff listed on page one. The NJSIAA will set the date for a postponement if the two schools cannot agree on a date.
11. If a meter pool is used, advance notification to the opponent is mandatory at the time the meet is scheduled.
12. Timers must be assigned to all lanes and all timers must have stopwatch, pencils, clipboards, and paper.\
13. Cell phones are not acceptable forms of a timing device.
14. There are no cell phones permitted on the pool deck during the competition.
15. No face paint is permitted on the pool deck.
16. Because of the indoor conditions, bands will not be admitted to the site.
17. Please inform swimmers that no food is allowed in the immediate pool area. Teams will be held responsible for their conduct. Please ask everyone to help keep the pool area, locker room area, and campus clean. Coaches should insure their area is clean prior to departing.
18. If during a meet, where it is not possible to complete all events due to unforeseen circumstances, the NJSIAA Director of Swimming and the NJSIAA Tournament Director upon conferring with coaches, will make a determination as to how to best proceed.

Meet Procedures (Regular & Post- season):

1. The power-pointing procedure must be followed for all meets. There is no difference between power-pointed meets and non-power-pointed meets anymore. Whatever your lineup is for that particular meet is your lineup.
2. The meet sheets can be done in pencil or pen. All cross outs must be initialed by the referee.
3. The first and last names of all contestants must appear on all forms. The leadoff swimmer on relays must be circled.
4. Entry cards are required during the state tournament for each event (First & Last Name with lane assignments).
5. Entry cards become official once they are handed to the official designee.
6. Any changes to meet sheets must be initialized by a meet referee.
7. At the conclusion of the meet, both coaches must agree on the final score before the referee signs the meet sheet.
8. All meet sheets must be signed by the referee at the conclusion of the meet.
9. Any unsigned meet sheet is invalid.
10. All meet sheets must be available for the NJSIAA to review in case of discrepancies.
11. Coaches are free to use any type of meet sheet, there is no standard NJSIAA sheet.
12. Each coach is to input all their school's meet information, including all three times for each event into njschoolsports.com.
13. The home team will input the team score.
14. Coaches are urged to check for accuracy throughout the season.
15. All schools must provide backup timers for each lane.

Disqualifications

1. Participation by any ineligible swimmer in any contest during the regular season results in the forfeiture of all points achieved by the ineligible swimmer, and final results will be adjusted accordingly.
2. If a school is seeded in the tournament and such forfeit(s) would have caused the school's failure to qualify for the team tournament, the school will be disqualified from the tournament and the tournament will be re-seeded.
3. Participation by any ineligible swimmer in the tournament will result in forfeiture of all points achieved by the ineligible swimmer and final results will be adjusted accordingly. If the recalculation of the results determined that the team with the ineligible swimmer would not have won the contest, then the opponent will advance.

Exhibition Swimmers

An exhibition Swimmer (NFHS Rule 1 - Section 2):

1. Must been designated by the coach to the officials as an exhibition swimmer/s before each event.
2. Is a non-scoring contestant in all regular season events.
3. May use the performance for individual qualifying times.
4. Must adhere to all rules regarding event form, starting, judging, timing, and conduct.
5. Events do count toward the number of events a competitor may enter.
6. Are permitted in all state tournament team events.
7. Performance will be used when a tie meet goes to power-pointing to break the tie.

Co-ed Team Clarification

1. All schools must declare their intention to swim 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 swim against other co-ed teams or boys only teams.
5. Co-ed teams may not swim against a girls' only team.
6. Girls on co-ed teams will be PowerPointed using the Boys' PowerPoint calculations.
7. Girls performances during a co-ed meet will count for qualifications for the individual championships.
8. Co-ed teams will only be eligible to compete as a boys team in the state tournament.
9. Co-ed teams cannot enter both the boys and girls team tournaments.
10. Separate boys and girls teams cannot combine into one team for the state tournament.

Tournament Costs & Officials Assignments

Public & Non-public rounds 1, 2 & 3

1. Contests will be conducted at the site of the school with the higher PowerPoints. The higher-seeded school will be considered the home team regardless of the facility the contest is taking place in.
2. The time of the contest will be at the discretion of the host school/facility.
3. The higher-seeded team will arrange for 3 officials from their local assignor.
4. The home school will pay all assigned officials at the rates listed below.
5. The host school will assume the cost of pool rental and site maintenance.
6. All sites must meet National Federation specifications, with a minimum of six lanes, and starting platforms.
7. Electronic timing is highly recommended. If electronic timing is not an option, then each team must have 2 timers per lane with stopwatches.
8. Each team must provide scorers and backup timers.
9. Contests can be held as combined dual meet if the schools involved are all in agreement, however, the official's fees are still doubled (see below).

Meet Type	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
Single Gender Meet	$94	$94	$94
Dual Gender Meet	$188	$188	$188

Public & Non-public Sectional Finals

1. Contests will be conducted at a predetermined site paid for by the NJSIAA.
2. Four (4) officials will be assigned and paid for by the NJSIAA.
3. The host facility will provide an official scorer, announcer, electronic timing operator, and two (2) ticket scanners to be paid for by the NJSIAA.
4. All sites must meet NFHS specifications, with a minimum of six lanes, starting platforms, and electronic timing.
5. Competing schools are required to have 1 back up timer per assigned lane. Team scorekeepers to maintain score sheets is optional.

Public & Non-Public State Finals

1. Contests will be conducted at a predetermined site paid for by the NJSIAA.
2. Six (6) officials will be assigned and paid for by the NJSIAA.
3. The host facility will provide an official scorer, announcer, electronic timing operator, and two (2) ticket scanners to be paid for by the NJSIAA.
4. All sites must meet NFHS specifications, with a minimum of six lanes, starting platforms, and electronic timing.
5. Competing schools are required to have 1 back up timer per assigned lane. Team scorekeepers to maintain score sheets is optional.

NFHS Swimsuit Rules

This tournament will be conducted under NFHS rules and therefore will follow all NFHS swimsuit rules.

Swimsuit Transgender Clarification:

- Pursuant to NJ law and NJSIAA policy is that the student decides what swimsuit is appropriate. We permit the student to make the decision.
- NFHS Swim Rules-boys swim, we permit the Transgender Male to wear a men's suit, a women's suit, or a men's suit with covering (sports bra, etc.)
- Full bodysuits are not permitted.
- Long or short sleeve "rash guard" shirt is permitted.
- Transgender females may wear either.

Swimsuit Religious Clarification:

Swimmers are permitted to wear "compression shirts/Rash Guard" type apparel **under** their school uniform because of religious reasons, as long as the apparel is not designed to enhance the performance of the swimmer. Full body suits are not permitted.

Awards

Sectional Champions:

A team trophy and twenty-five (25) certificates to each Sectional Championship in each Group.

State Champions:

A team trophy and twenty-five (25) certificates to the State Champion in each Group. In the event of a tie, we will award both teams a trophy.

2026-27 Swim Tournament Schedule

Non-Public Sectional Finals	**Date**	**Time**	**Site/Director**
Boys Non-Public South*	15-Feb	10:00am	Site Director – Sara Palumbo
Boys Non-Public North*		11:30am	732-833-5969
Girls Non-Public South*		1:00pm	spalumbo@neptune.k12.nj.us
Girls Non-Public North*		2:30pm	Neptune Aquatics Center
*Times subject to change based on qualifying teams			55 Neptune Boulevard
			Neptune, NJ 07753
Public Sectional Finals			
Passaic County Technical Institute			Site Director - Bill Vacca
North	16-Feb		973-389-2032
Girls Division B		4:00pm	wvacca@pcti.tec.nj.us
Girls Division A		5:30pm	
Girls Division C		7:00pm	PCTI
			45 Reinhardt Road
North	17-Feb		Wayne, NJ 07470
Boys Division B		4:00pm	wvacca@pcti.tec.nj.us
Boys Division A		5:30pm	
Boys Division C		7:00pm	
Gloucester County Institute of Technology			Site Director - Linda DuBois
South	16-Feb		856-981-6101
Girls Division B		4:00pm	lnddbs@gmail.com
Girls Division A		5:30pm	
Girls Division C		7:00pm	GCIT
			1360 Tanyard Road
South	17-Feb		Sewell, NJ 08080
Boys Division B		4:00pm	
Boys Division A		5:30pm	
Boys Division C		7:00pm	
State Team Finals	20-Feb		
Neptune Aquatic Center			Meet Director – Paul Welsh
Girls & Boys Public B		10:30am	609-947-8040
Girls & Boys Public A		1:00pm	pwwelsh6@gmail.com
Girls & Boys Non-Public		3:30pm	Site Director – Sara Palumbo
Girls & Boys Public C		6:00pm	732-833-5969
			spalumbo@neptune.k12.nj.us

All warm-ups will begin ½ hour before the meet start time or when meet management announces it.