



# 2021 Soccer Manual





## **Nebraska School Activities Association**

500 Charleston Street – Suite 1, Lincoln, NE 68508-1119  
402.489.0386-----FAX-402.489.0934

### **NSAA MISSION STATEMENT**

***The public and non-public high schools of Nebraska voluntarily agreed to form the Nebraska School Activities Association for the following purposes:***

- ***To formulate and make policies which will cultivate high ideals of citizenship, fair competition, sportsmanship and teamwork which will compliment the member schools' curriculum programs.***
- ***To foster uniformity of standards in interscholastic activity competition***
- ***To organize, develop, direct and regulate an interscholastic activity program which is equitable and will protect and promote the health and physical welfare of all participants.***

This SOCCER MANUAL has been prepared and designed to provide general information for use in the administration of NSAA soccer competition. It will serve as a guide to the participating schools and will provide for greater consistency between games. The regulations in this manual shall be considered official unless the schools are notified of a change.

All coaches and athletic directors are urged to read this manual thoroughly and to save it for future reference.

Assistant Director Ron Higdon is the NSAA staff member responsible for administering soccer. He can be reached at [rhigdon@nsaahome.org](mailto:rhigdon@nsaahome.org).

### **KEY DATES**

**Spring Sports Registration Deadline:** Friday, Week 26, January 1, 2021  
**Date of First Practice:** Monday, Week 35, March 1, 2021  
**Varsity Schedules Due Online:** Wednesday, Week 37, March 17, 2021  
**Date of First Contest:** Thursday, Week 37, March 18, 2021  
**Eligibility Due:** Thursday, Week 37, March 18, 2021  
**District Entries Due:** Monday, Week 43, April 26, 2021  
**District Assigning/Seeding Released:** Wednesday, Week 43, April 28, 2021  
**Class A District Tournaments:** Saturday, Week 43, May 1-5, 2021  
**Class B Sub-District Tournaments:** Saturday, Week 43, May 1-6, 2021  
**Class B Soccer District Final:** Saturday, Week 44, May 8, 2021  
**State Championship:** Tuesday-Wednesday, Week 45 & 46, May 11-15, 17-19, 2021

## FUTURE DATES

SCHOOL YEAR	Season Begins	First Contest
2021-2022	February 28	March 17
2022-2023	February 27	March 16
2023-2024	February 26	March 14

## INDEX

KEY DATES.....	1
FUTURE DATES .....	2
<b>NEW FOR 2021</b> .....	3
<b>NSAA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAW CHANGES</b> .....	3
<b>NFHS 2019-20 SOCCER RULES CHANGES</b> .....	5
APPROVED RULING 2.1.2 .....	6
APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.12 .....	6
RULES MEETINGS .....	7
2021 ONLINE SOCCER RULES MEETINGS.....	7
NSAA ATHLETIC BYLAWS GOVERNING SOCCER .....	8
APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.1.1 .....	8
CONTEST LIMITATIONS .....	9
TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES.....	9
3.2.1 “SCHOOL-YEAR, OUT-OF-SEASON” DEFINITION .....	10
3.5--PARTICIPATION ON NON-HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS AND IN NON-HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION .....	11
APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.5.1 .....	11
APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.5.2 .....	13
3.12 OFFICIALS—APPENDIX 4--NSAA POLICY ON COMMENTS AND NEGATIVE ACTIONS .....	13
AGAINST OFFICIALS AND JUDGES .....	13
SOCCER SCHEDULES.....	14
MUSIC LICENSES.....	14
STEROID POLICY.....	14
NSAA SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDELINES AND EJECTIONS .....	14
FAN/SPECTATOR SUPPORT ITEMS .....	16
WILD CARD CRITERIA.....	17
REPORTING SCORES.....	19
MERCY RULE/VICTORY MARGIN.....	19
OVERTIME PROCEDURE FOR GAMES TIED AT THE END OF REGULATION PLAY .....	19
PENALTY KICK TIE-BREAKER PROCEDURE.....	19
TOURNAMENT/ENGAGEMENT PLAY .....	20
SUSPENSION OF PLAY .....	20
DISTRICT TOURNAMENT INFORMATION .....	21
CLASS B DISTRICTS .....	21
DISTRICT SOCCER DIRECTOR’S RESPONSIBILITIES .....	23
STATE TOURNAMENT INFORMATION .....	24
STATE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE.....	246
EXPECTED BEHAVIORS AT AWARDS CEREMONIES.....	27
2021 BOYS SOCCER CLASSIFICATIONS.....	28
2021 GIRLS SOCCER CLASSIFICATIONS.....	29

## **NEW FOR 2021**

### **NSAA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAW CHANGES**

**CLASS B SUB-DISTRICTS & DISTRICTS:** Class B schools will be placed into eight sub-districts composed of boys' teams and eight sub-districts composed of girls' teams. Both the boys' and the girls' sub-districts will be composed of either four-team sub-districts or five-team SUB-districts. The winner of each sub-district will qualify for the district final round. The schools will be assigned to SUB-districts on a geographical basis starting with the schools in western Nebraska and working east. North to south directions will be used in some cases to decrease the distance between the schools within a SUB-district. The highest seeded team will be given first choice to host the sub-district. Class B sub-districts will be Saturday of week 43, Monday & Tuesday of week 44. The district final will be Saturday of week 44.

A. The winning team in each sub-district will qualify for the district final round.

B. Eight additional teams will qualify on the basis of the wild card selection procedure.

C. Sixteen teams will be seeded according to NSAA wild card points and play a district final game at the highest seed. The eight winners of the district final match will advance to the state tournament.

D. The wild card point system and tie breaker will be used to seed the 16 teams qualifying for the district final.

E. The 8 remaining teams after the district final round will be reseeded for the state tournament.

Beginning in 2020-21, Class A will be classified on a two-year basis. All remaining soccer schools will be placed in Class B.

### **NFHS 2020-21 SOCCER RULES CHANGES**

**2-2-4: SECTION 2 BALL SPECIFICATIONS ART. 4...**If the ball becomes deflated during play, it is declared dead and the game is resumed by a drop ball at the spot where it was last played. If the ball becomes deflated within the goal area, then the ball is dropped subject to the provisions of Rule 9-2-2 and 9-2-3. Ball deflated during a penalty kick results in retaken kick.

**4-1-1a: SECTION 1 REQUIRED EQUIPMENT ART. 1a...**The visiting team shall wear solid white jerseys and solid white socks, and the home team shall wear dark jerseys and socks (dark is defined as any color which contrasts with white).

**4-2-7e, f: SECTION 2 OTHER EQUIPMENT ART. 7...**A tooth and mouth protector (intraoral), if worn, shall:

**9-1-1b: SECTION 1 BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY ART. 1...**The ball is out of play when: a. it has completely crossed the goal line or touch line, whether on the ground or in the air; b. the ball touches an official and remains on the field; and 1. a team starts a promising attack; 2. goes directly into the goal; 3. possession changes.



**9-2-1: SECTION 2 DROP BALL ART. 1...**The game is restarted with a drop ball: a. when the ball is caused to go out-of-bounds by two opponents simultaneously; b. when the ball becomes deflated; c. following a temporary suspension of play for an injury or unusual situation; (except as noted in 14-1-7) d. when simultaneous fouls of the same degree occur by opponents; or e. when the ball touches an official as per 9-1-1b.

**9-2-3: SECTION 2 DROP BALL ART. 3...**The ball is dropped by an official from waist level to the ground. The referee drops the ball to one player of the team that last possessed the ball at the position where it was last touched by a player(s), an outside agent or match official. If when play was stopped, the ball was in the penalty area or the last touch, by either team, was in the penalty area, the ball is dropped to the defending team's goalkeeper with all opposing players outside the penalty area. In all cases, all other players must remain at least 4 yards from the ball until it is in play.

**Other Rules Affected: 9-2-2: SECTION 2 DROP BALL ART. 2...**The ball should be dropped at the location where it became dead unless this is within the goal area, in which case, it shall be dropped on that part of the goal-area line which runs parallel to the goal line nearest the location where the ball was when play was stopped. If the ball was caused to go out of bounds by two opponents simultaneously, the ball is dropped five yards inside the boundary line to one player of the team in possession of the ball prior to the simultaneous touch, unless this is the goal area. (See 9-2-3)

### **9-3: DELETE SECTION 3 TEMPORARY SUSPENSION**

#### **13-2-3b: DELETE SECTION 2 WHEN AWARDED ART. 3b...**

**13-3-1: SECTION 3 HOW TAKEN ART. 1...**Players opposing the kicker shall be at least 10 yards from the ball until it is kicked, unless they are standing on their own goal line between the goal posts. If the free kick is awarded to the defending team in its penalty area, players opposing the kicker shall be outside the penalty area at least 10 yards from the ball and shall remain there until the ball is in play. Where 3 or more defending team players form a wall, all attacking team players must remain at least 1 yard from the wall until the ball is in play.

**13-3-2: SECTION 3 HOW TAKEN ART. 2...**The ball shall be kicked while it is stationary on the ground at the spot specified by the official. To be in play, the ball shall be moved in any direction. Failure to kick the ball as specified shall result in a rekick.

**13-3-4: NEW SECTION 3 HOW TAKEN NEW ART. 4...**For indirect kicks, the referee shall signal an indirect kick (using Official NFHS Soccer Signals Rule 5-3-1b) by raising an arm above the head; this signal shall be maintained until the kick is taken and the ball touches another player or goes out of play. If the referee fails to signal the kick is indirect and the ball goes directly into the opponent's goal, the kick shall be retaken.

**14-1-3: SECTION 1 PENALTY KICK ART. 3...**The opposing goalkeeper shall stand with at least one foot on or in-line with the goal line, facing the kicker, between the goal posts, and shall not be touching the goal posts, crossbar, or nets, until the ball is kicked. Lateral or forward movement is allowed, but the goalkeeper is not permitted to come off the line with both feet until the ball is in play.

**16-1-2: SECTION 1 GOAL KICK ART. 2...**Players opposing the kicker shall remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play.

**16-1-3 SECTION 1 GOAL KICK ART. 3...**Once spotted, the ball shall be kicked from the ground from any point within the goal area by a player of the defending team. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.

**16-1-4: SECTION 1 GOAL KICK ART. 4...**After the goal kick is properly taken, the ball may be played by any player except the one who executes the goal kick. The kicker may not play the ball until it has been touched by another player.

## **NFHS SOCCER RULES CHANGES FROM 2019-20**

**3-4-3 NEW:** The clock shall be stopped when a substitute by the team in the lead is beckoned on the field in the final five minutes of the second period only.

**Rationale:** Rule affected by change in 7-4-3.

### **4-3: Improperly Equipped Players (18-1-1u)**

Cautions will not be issued for improperly equipped player(s). If not immediately correctable, improperly equipped player(s) shall be instructed to leave the field of play when the ball next ceases to be in play. The player(s) may be replaced. The removed player(s), if not replaced, may re-enter at the next dead ball only after reporting to an official, who shall be satisfied the player's equipment and uniform are in order. Play shall not be stopped for an infringement of this rule except that the referee may stop play immediately where there is a dangerous situation.

**Rationale:** The change corrects an injustice. For the far more serious infringement of illegal equipment, the offending team does not play shorthanded. For the less serious offense of improper equipment, they are required to play shorthanded. The change addresses this inequity.

### **5-3-1d: The officials shall:**

(d) call out "play on" and, with an underswing of one or both arms, indicate a foul which was observed but shall go unpenalized because penalizing the offending team would give an advantage to the offending team. If the referee applies the advantage, which was anticipated but does not develop at that time, the referee shall penalize the original offense.

**Rationale:** This change permits the use of one arm to signal advantage.

**7-4-3 NEW:** The clock shall be stopped when a substitute by the team in the lead is beckoned onto the field in the final five minutes of the second period only.

**Rationale:** Coaches in the lead will make multiple substitutions in the later stages of the match. This tactic is being used as a time-wasting play. Adding this rule will help the game to be decided by the players and not a coach who is wasting time when in the lead. These substitutes are usually players from the far side of the field that take more time off the clock. This addition would stop this practice.

### **9-2-1: The game is restarted with a drop ball:**

- a. when the ball is caused to go out of bounds by two opponents simultaneously;
- b. when the ball becomes deflated;
- c. following temporary suspension of play for an injury or unusual situation and a goalkeeper is not in possession of the ball
- d. when simultaneous fouls of the same degree occur by opponents.

**Rationale:** This rule changes the awarding of a free kick to a drop ball thereby possibly creating a scoring opportunity for a team undeserving.

**9-2-3: The ball is dropped by an official from waist level to the ground.**

Any number of players may contest a dropped ball (including the goalkeepers); a referee cannot decide who may contest a dropped ball or its outcome.

**Rationale:** This addition helps to provide clarity in the application of this rule.

**9-2-5 NEW: ART. 5 . . .** The ball shall be dropped again if it touches a player before it touches the ground or leaves the field of play after it touches the ground without touching a player.

**Rationale:** This addition helps to avoid confusion and allow the rule to be more equitable under the circumstances.

**9-2-6 NEW: ART. 6 . . .** If a dropped ball enters the goal without touching at least two players, play is restarted with a goal kick if it enters the opponent's goal or a corner kick if it enters the team's own goal.

**Rationale:** This addition helps to avoid confusion and allow the rule to be more equitable under the circumstances.

**9-3:** In case of a temporary suspension due to injury or any unusual situation the game shall be started by a drop ball at the point where the ball was when the play was suspended (except as noted in 14-1-7), provided the ball was not in the goal area and not in the possession of the goalkeeper. 12-8-2

**Rationale:** This change will eliminate free kick opportunities that often create scoring opportunities that are not deserved.

**APPROVED RULING 2.1.2  
(Medical Personnel at Regular Season Games)**

Severe injuries, sudden illnesses and other critical incidents do not often occur during school activities, but it is important for every school to have an emergency action plan (EAP) for administrators, faculty, coaches and staff members to follow should emergencies occur. Due to lack of universal availability of medical coverage and other logistical reasons, NSAA does not require that schools have a physician, trainer or ambulance on-site at regular season activities; however, each school should have a plan in place should there be an emergency involving athletes, coaches, officials or spectators requiring medical attention.

**APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.12**

**Concussion in Sports, Heat Illness Prevention, Sudden Cardiac Arrest Education**

All coaches and volunteers are required to complete the NFHS Concussion in Sports, Heat Illness Prevention, and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training courses at least once every three years. These courses should be taken prior to any pre-season or regular season physical workouts that the respective coach would be present for or involved in administering. Any course taken after May 1 would be considered valid for the following school year.

**Obtaining a Special Services Certificate for Coaching**

1. Complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course that also will meet the Nebraska Human Relations requirement.
2. Complete a course in NFHS First Aid, Health and Safety for Coaches.
3. Complete finger print cards to meet the State Patrol requirement if the applicant has not resided continuously in Nebraska for the past five years. A check for the cost of fingerprinting of \$50 should be submitted with the application. The coach has been a resident for the past five years, a record of the addresses should be placed on the application.

4. Online application/fee should be completed at [www.education.ne.gov/TCERT](http://www.education.ne.gov/TCERT).
5. Submit original certificates indicating completion of the NHFS Fundamentals of coaching, NFHS First Aid for Coaches, and/or the transcript from a college showing completion of the human relations requirement.
6. A Special Services certificate will be sent electronically to the individual's email address included on the application. The certificate will be valid for five years and can be renewed following standards found in NAC 92, Chapter 21.
7. All head coaches are required to attend an NSAA Rules Meeting or complete an NSAA Rules Meeting online annually. Failure to do so will result in possible late fees and suspension penalties.

## **RULES MEETINGS**

Online rules meetings are initially offered at no cost to coaches or officials, followed by a period with a \$25 "Late" Fee, followed by a period with a \$50 "Delinquent" Fee. The following sanctions and fees are applicable to those coaches who fail to complete the rules meeting by the expiration of the "Delinquent" Fee period.

Absence from the required rules meeting OR FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE ONLINE RULES MEETING will result in the following sanctions:

### **First Offense in Three-Year Period**

The head coach will be suspended from coaching in any competition in that activity until

- (1) The head coach COMPLETES THE NSAA'S ONLINE RULES MEETING OFFERED AT THE LATE FEE of \$100; and
- (2) the head coach successfully completes the open book test for officials/judges of that activity (70% or higher); and the school's administration verifies that the coach has read all the supporting NSAA, National Federation, and safety information.

During this regular season suspension period, the head coach may continue to coach the team at practices.

### **Second and Subsequent Offenses in Three-Year Period**

The head coach will be suspended from coaching in all NSAA end-of-season play (sub-districts, districts, playoffs, and state competition).

- (1) The head coach COMPLETES THE NSAA'S ONLINE RULES MEETING OFFERED AT THE LATE FEE of \$200; and
- (2) the head coach successfully completes the open book test for officials/judges of that activity (70% or higher); and the school's administration verifies that the coach has read all the supporting NSAA, National Federation, and safety information.

During this regular season suspension period, the head coach may continue to coach the team at practices.

## **2021 ONLINE SOCCER RULES MEETINGS**

February 12-27, 2021	No Charge to Officials & Head Coaches
February 28-6, 2021	Basic \$25.00 Fee - Officials & Head Coaches
March 7-9, 2021	Late/Penalty \$50.00 Fee - Officials & Head Coaches



### 2.12.3 Coaches' Aides

Schools may contract non-certificated personnel to assist with their activities programs, but such personnel shall be coaches' aides.

2.12.3.1 The individuals must have a job description.

2.12.3.2 The individual shall not initiate nor change instruction given by the head coach and must carry out specific directions given by the head coach.

2.12.3.3 The individual may assist in starting, executing, and completing the specific plan of the learning experience as defined and directed by the head coach.

2.12.3.4 The aide should be specifically prepared for duties assigned, to include the handling of emergency situations that arise in the course of his/her work.

2.12.3.5 Coaches' aides are not to be given the sole responsibility of directing or supervising students during practice. The head coach should be in the immediate practice area.

2.12.3.6 When traveling to and from and participating in interschool competition, the team or individuals are to be accompanied by the head coach/sponsor, assistant coach/sponsor, or in case of an emergency, a certificated faculty member.

### NSAA ATHLETIC BYLAWS GOVERNING SOCCER

1. Boys and girls soccer shall be conducted during the spring sports season.
2. The soccer season shall begin the first day of practice as permitted by NSAA rules and shall end with the state championships:

<b>Week 35</b>	<b>March 1, 2021</b>	<b>First Practice</b>
<b>Week 37</b>	<b>March 18, 2021</b>	<b>First Contest</b>
<b>Week 43-44</b>	<b>May 1-5-CLASS A; May 1-8-CLASS B</b>	<b>District Tournaments Sub-District/Districts</b>
<b>Week 45, 46</b>	<b>May 11-15, 17-19, 2021</b>	<b>State Championships</b>

### APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.1.1

1. A season begins on the first day of allowable practices for that sport, as designated in 3.1.1.2. The season officially ends with the conclusion of the State Championship in that sport. Students may not participate in outside group instruction or competition once the season officially begins, and outside group instruction or competition may not commence until the school varsity team has been completely eliminated from further participation in that sport.
  2. All scheduled and postponed regular season varsity contests must be played prior to the start of sub-district, district or state competition. Once sub-district, district or state competition begins, no regular varsity contests shall be permitted.
  3. Students who are not listed on the NSAA District Entry form may participate in outside group instruction or competition of the same sport before the varsity school team has been completely eliminated from post-season competition. Those students who have participated in outside group instruction or competition following their regular season schedule would not be eligible to be placed on the district or state entry form of the same sport and would not be allowed to practice with the varsity team.
- 3.1.1.1 A season begins the day of opening practice as permitted by the NSAA rules rather than the first day of interscholastic competition.

- 3.1.1.2 The division of sports seasons shall be as follows: No school shall register more than one varsity team per sport and no student shall participate simultaneously in more than one sport per season.

**Note: Week designations are for the standardized calendar. The standardized calendar usually begins with the first full week in July.**

### **CONTEST LIMITATIONS**

1. No soccer team (varsity or non-varsity) representing a member school shall participate in more than thirteen soccer games, excluding the district and state tournaments. If a school is involved in a conference tournament, the conference tournament is to be counted as one of the thirteen game limit. Participation in any soccer tournament/engagement shall count as one of the thirteen permitted games.
2. An athlete may participate in no more than one soccer game per day, with two exceptions:
  - a. In tournaments/engagements, an athlete may participate in two soccer games per day (maximum of 2 games per day: 2 varsity, 2 jv, or 1 varsity and 1 jv).
  - b. In varsity and junior varsity competition played on the same day, students are limited to three halves of soccer competition and the participation can be split between the varsity and junior varsity games. Any participation in a half counts as one half of competition regardless of the amount of time played. Overtime is an extension of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half.
3. No contest may be held with any team not belonging to the NSAA or its own state high school association.
4. No contest in any class, other than the state tournament contests, are permitted during the dates of the State Soccer Championships. This includes regular season contests, non-varsity tournaments, and conference tournaments or playoffs.
5. No game or scrimmage may be held with any team before the opening game of the season. Each interschool scrimmage played on or after the first date permitted for sports contests shall count as a game played (one of the thirteen games allowed). The penalty for participation in an illegal scrimmage or game may be suspension from the NSAA for one season of that sport. This does not prohibit intra-squad scrimmages.
6. A school that violates the team match limitation or the student match limitation may be disqualified from district and state tournament competition.

### **TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES**

A tournament is defined as a contest involving four or more teams in which the winner continues to advance and compete until a single winner is determined. Tournaments cannot be in round-robin format.

#### **Soccer Engagements (classics, invitationals, etc.)**

1. Any and all date changes due to weather must be communicated to the NSAA office. If you have a cancelation or postponement after a tournament has been seeded and bracketed, any rescheduled contests for that tournament must follow the original bracket and format.
2. If a team participates in more than one tournament, each tournament in excess of the one permitted tournament shall count as one of the thirteen permitted matches. A tournament is defined as a contest involving four or more teams in which the winner

continues to advance and compete until a single winner is determined. Tournaments cannot be in round-robin format.

3. Teams are allowed to participate in two games in one day that are not in a tournament format; this format is considered an “engagement”.
  - a. Each game has a predetermined opponent.
  - b. Each engagement would count as one of the thirteen permitted matches.
4. A school team shall not participate in a high school indoor soccer competition until the first date permitted for interschool competition. Any soccer competitions on or after that date, whether indoors or outdoors, shall count as one of the permitted thirteen games.

### **3.2.1 “SCHOOL-YEAR, OUT-OF-SEASON” DEFINITION**

“School-year, out-of-season” is defined as that period of time during the school year in which no organized practice can be conducted. The “school-year, out-of-season” period begins on August 10 and runs until the first allowable date of practice in that sport, and the period after a team or individual has been eliminated from further competition during the championship series of district and state tournaments/meets through May 31 or the end of the school year, whichever is later. For non-varsity competition, “school year, out-of-season” begins the day following the last date of interscholastic competition or the last date of the varsity season, whichever is later.

### **3.2.2 “School-Year, Out-of-Season” Participation**

Except during the season of the sport involved, a student may be a member of a non-high school team and compete unattached in non-high school competition. Students are prohibited from wearing high school uniforms during non-high school sponsored competition.

### **3.2.3 Organized Practice**

**Organized Practice.** No organized practice in any sport shall be held during the “school-year, out-of-season” period. An organized practice shall be defined as follows:

- a. **Soccer.** An organized practice in soccer shall mean more than seven students under direct supervision of a sponsor.
- b. If more than one group is practicing at the same time, it shall be called an organized practice.

**3.2.7 Summer Activities.** From the Tuesday following Memorial Day to July 31, a member school may not sponsor a team or individual, provide uniforms, individual player equipment (except football, baseball, and softball protective equipment for commercial camps), or otherwise be responsible for a student in summer competition. Attendance at summer activities shall be voluntary. No coach or school representative may directly or by implication direct a student to attend summer activities as a condition for membership on a high school team or restrict the level of team participation within the high school program.

### **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.2.7**

#### ***Applicable to Coaches During The Summer.***

The school year out-of-season period begins on the date of the official start of fall practices. Summer activities are regulated between the Tuesday following Memorial Day and July 31. Between the end of the summer activities period and the start of the school year, out-of-season period (August 1 through the official start of fall practices), the following shall apply:

- (1) The organized practice rule shall be in effect;
- (2) Conditioning programs may be held;
- (3) Attendance at commercial camps and clinics is permissible, but the organized practice rules shall be in effect for such camps and clinics; and
- (4) No school-sponsored clinics or camps may be held.
- (5) Due to safety concerns, schools may permit the use of football helmets and softball and baseball protective equipment for summer leagues, camps, clinics, and other summer activities.

### **3.5 PARTICIPATION ON NON-HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS AND IN NON-HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION**

3.5.1 Any student who participates in any athletic contest other than as a representative of his/her high school during the season of the sport involved becomes ineligible to represent his/her school in that sport for one or more contests or the remainder of the season.

#### **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.5.1**

1. To be eligible to participate in a district and/or state contest, a student shall have been a member of the school's team and shall have been available to participate in at least eighty percent (80%) of the school's scheduled interschool contests because of participating in non-high school competition.
  - a. The term "available to participate" means that the student was a bona fide member of the team, eligible to participate for the school at some level of competition in the sport, and not involved in outside participation activities (exception: Olympic Development Program or national team activities as approved by the NSAA.)
  - b. The term, "school's scheduled interschool contests," is defined as those contests which appear on the school's varsity schedule at the beginning of the season. An exception to this requirement will be considered if a student was unable to participate because of injury, illness, or had transferred from another high school.
2. During the season of a particular sport, athletes participating in that sport for a high school may attend, but may not physically take part, either as an individual or as a member of a team, in the sport activity in which instruction is being offered in the clinic, camp, or school.
3. At no time during the high school sport season can a student who is a member of the school squad in that sport compete in non-school organized competition in any skill of the sport.
4. A person may be considered to be a participant without being an official entry in the competition.
5. The phrase "compete in non-school organized competition in any skill of the sport" is interpreted to mean to take part in any skill of the sport of season. For example, a student out for cross country or track would become ineligible to represent the high school if he/she participates in a road race or a marathon. A student on the high school basketball team would become ineligible if he/she participates in a free throw contest, 1-on-1, 2-on-2, 3-on-3, 4-on-4 basketball contest, or other similar contest. A student out for high school football will become ineligible if he competes in a punt, pass and kick contest. A wrestler shall not participate in a non-school takedown tournament during the wrestling season. An exception to this rule may be granted by the Executive Director for special circumstances.
6. Schools must contact the Executive Director in advance of the event to determine whether an activity would qualify under this exception.
7. If prizes or awards are provided for such participation, such awards need to be in compliance with NSAA guidelines. Awards to individuals for activity participation in the form of cash, merchandise certificates, or any negotiable instrument are not allowed.
8. Halftime free-throw or three-point contests or other such halftime skill contests used as fundraisers by a school-related group shall no longer impact the eligibility of students out for

- the sport, providing the award is not in the form of cash, merchandise certificates or any negotiable instruments, and providing that the full retail value of the symbolic or merchandise award does not exceed the value set by the Board of Directors (currently \$50).
9. A student may participate as an individual, without loss of interscholastic eligibility under the following conditions:
    - a. As a member of a national team (and the actuals direct tryouts) which is defined as one selected by the National Governing Body of the sport on a national qualification basis, either through a defined selective process of actual tryout for the purpose of international competition which requires entries to officially represent their respective nations.
    - b. In an Olympic Developmental Program, which is defined as a training program or competition.
      - 1) Conducted or sponsored by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), or
      - 2) Directly funded and conducted by the USOC member national governing body on a national level (e.g. NGB national championship and direct qualification therefore); or
      - 3) Specifically authorized by a national governing body involving only athletes previously identified by some qualifying procedure by the national governing body as having potential for future participation in regional, national, or international competition in the sport involved.
      - 4) Coaches from schools involved with an Olympic Development Program must adhere to the organized practice rule.
    - c. While representing the National Federation as a member of its United States national entry in an International School Sport Federation event.
    - d. In an athletic contest sponsored by a non-high school organization, provided the individual has qualified prior to the sports season through actual competition in a meet or series of meets which were designated in advance by the sponsoring organization as qualifying meets. Times, distances, placement, or performance in high school competition shall not be considered as qualifying criteria.
    - e. Provided in a, b, c, and d, such participation has been approved by the high school principal and the Nebraska School Activities Association.
  10. The high school principal and the coach of the sport involved must approve the request for a waiver of Section 3.5. The school then may request a waiver from the Nebraska School Activities Association, including documentation on how prequalification was met, with a maximum of one (1) non-school event per season for an individual student.
  11. If the student(s) has not qualified for the competition through actual competition in a meet or series of meets which were designated in advance by the sponsoring organization as qualifying meets, or the competition is not a part of the United States Olympic Development Program, a waiver may be granted provided the student(s) does not represent his/her school in varsity competition of the sport involved for the same number of days in which he/she participated in the non-school competition.
  12. Request for the certification of distances or times attained in state meet competition shall be submitted by the individual along with information on how these marks are to be used. In order to be considered, the use of such marks must meet established minimum qualifying standards and competition must be open to any athlete meeting such standards. Certification of times or distances will not be given if qualification is based upon placement in a contest sponsored by the membership of the Nebraska School Activities Association.
  13. NSAA Bylaw 3.1.1.2 specifies that no student shall participate in more than one sport per season. An exception would be that such dual participation would be approved for students participating in Unified Sports®. Students in NSAA member schools that participate in Unified Sports® may also participate on an interscholastic athletic team during the Unified Sports season. This does NOT apply to other NSAA sports.



14. Outside participation is approved for students participating in Unified Sports®. As an example, students in NSAA member schools that participate in Unified Sports® may also participate on their “club” bowling team during the NSAA Unified Sports®, Bowling season. (exception to Bylaw 3.5.1) This does NOT apply to other NSAA sports.

**3.5.2 Individual Instruction.** During a season of a sport, a student is permitted to take individual instruction from a person other than the high school coach at times other than scheduled high school practice sessions, but such instructions shall not interfere with, nor be substituted for the high school coaching, practice sessions, or contest.

### **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.5.2**

During a season of a sport, a student is permitted to take individual instruction from a person other than the high school coach. Group instruction, practices with outside teams, and tryouts for outside teams other than as part of a college or university recruiting visit, however, are not permitted.

### **3.12 OFFICIALS—Appendix 4 NSAA POLICY ON COMMENTS AND NEGATIVE ACTIONS AGAINST OFFICIALS AND JUDGES**

The National Federation of State High School Associations has devised Code of Ethics guidelines for high school coaches. The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. The coach or sponsor shall respect and support contest officials and judges. The coach or sponsor shall not indulge in conduct that would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials, judges or players is unethical. The Nebraska School Activities Association has embraced that Coaches Code of Ethics and has established policies and standards that will cultivate the ideals of good sportsmanship, professionalism and conduct. It shall be the responsibility of each member school to ensure that all individuals directly associated with the interscholastic program conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike and professional manner.

The high school coach or director is a representative of the school at interscholastic activity events. It is the responsibility of all coaches and directors to serve as role models for students and the public. It is the expectation that all coaches, directors, administrators and student participants shall refrain from negative criticism of NSAA member institutions, officials, adjudicators, judges, etc. in public statements before, during or after interscholastic events. The appropriate public response to media questions at all venues regarding officiating/judging is “per NSAA policy, I am unable to comment.” Any other response is a violation of this board policy and is subject to penalty. It would be considered a violation of this NSAA policy to include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. Making degrading and/or critical remarks about officials or adjudicators or the officiating or judging before, during or after an event either on or off-site, via social media, or through any public means.
- b. Detaining the officials/adjudicators/judges during or following the event to request a ruling or explanation of actions or evaluation by the official(s)/adjudicator(s)/judges.
- c. Entering the officials dressing area following the contest.

Negative actions by an individual directly associated with the program shall be reported to the NSAA office by the school and/or by the head contest official, adjudicator, judge, or manager. The school shall document the results of their investigation and actions taken, where necessary

and appropriate. The NSAA Executive Director shall determine the appropriate penalties for violation of this board policy.

### **SOCCER SCHEDULES**

1. Schedules need to be entered on the NSAA website by March 17, 2021.
2. Please follow the instructions sent to the schools when entering schedules.
3. The schedules will be posted on the NSAA website ([www.nsaahome.org](http://www.nsaahome.org)).
4. Contests may not be added after March 9, 2021. Please notify the NSAA with any postponements or cancellations. Submit schedule changes to Jeff Stauss, [jstauss@nsaahome.org](mailto:jstauss@nsaahome.org).
5. All contests MUST be played prior to the start of districts, Class A-May 1, 2020; Class B May 1, 2020.

### **MUSIC LICENSES**

Generally, music used for contests (warm-up, half-time, “walk-up” music, etc.) needs to be licensed. Some music may be in public domain; however, most music is not and will require a license. This season, take the necessary time to verify your music is licensed through the proper entities. Visit [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com) for additional resources.

### **STEROID POLICY**

The Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), strongly oppose the abuse of anabolic steroids and other performance-enhancing substances by high school student-athletes. Such use violates legal, ethical and competitive equity standards, and imposes unreasonable long-term health risks.

The NSAA and the NFHS support prohibitions by educational institutions, amateur and professional organizations and governmental regulators on the use of anabolic steroids and other controlled substances, except as specifically prescribed by physicians for therapeutic purposes.

### **NSAA SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDELINES AND EJECTIONS**

1. Enforcement of the “sit-out rule” for ejections from high school contests for unsportsmanlike conduct is a responsibility of the member school. Failure to properly enforce this rule could result in other sanctions by the NSAA.
2. Administrators will be expected to promptly file a report with the NSAA whenever a participant or coach from their school has been ejected from any high school contest. Such filing must be done online under the AD login section of the NSAA webpage.
3. A participant or coach ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next athletic contest at that level of competition and any other athletic contest at any level during the interim.
4. Enforcement of the “sit-out rule” is expected to begin immediately, regardless whether it is regular-season or tournament play.
5. Any participant ejected a second time during a season from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next two contests at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to other penalties the NSAA or school may assess.

6. Any participant ejected a third time during a season from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next three contests at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to other penalties the NSAA or school may assess.
7. During the time of their "sit-out" suspension, athletes who are ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct may not suit up or participate, but it is the school's discretion whether such athlete is able to travel with the team or sit on the team bench.
8. Coaches who are ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct may not coach in any contest or be present at the contest site during the time of their "sit-out" suspension. Coaches who are ejected will also be required to successfully complete the NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior online course within 10 days of the ejection. Failure to successfully complete the course will result in a suspension from coaching for the remainder of the season. In those situations in which the ejection of the coach occurs near the end of the season or during the NSAA end-of-season play, the coach will be required to successfully complete the NFHS Sportsmanship online course before being able to coach the following season or year.
9. Coaches who are ejected a second time in a season will be required to sit-out the next two contests at that level, plus all other contests at other levels during the interim. Coaches may not be present at the contest site during the time of their "sit-out" suspension. Any coach ejected a second time will also be required to successfully complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching online course within 10 days of the ejection. Failure to successfully complete the course will result in a suspension from coaching for the remainder of the season. In those situations in which the ejection of the coach occurs near the end of the season or during the NSAA end-of-season play, the coach will be required to successfully complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching online course before being able to coach the following season or year.
10. If the ejection takes place in the final game of the season, the suspension will carry over to the following season.
11. When schools have students or coaches with multiple ejections, the school shall submit to the NSAA a written management plan on how they plan to remediate the problem.
12. Officials will be expected to file with the NSAA an ejection report for any ejection of a player or coach from a contest online. Any unusual situation that occurs prior to, during, or after a contest should also be reported.
13. Prompt reporting to the NSAA office by the official is necessary. Officials are asked to submit their electronic report or call the NSAA office by the day following the ejection.
14. Officials are asked to be specific in listing the reason(s) for an ejection.
15. Affiliated officials (officials registered from contiguous states) will also be required to perform this reporting function.
16. There is no appeal process for ejections for unsportsmanlike conduct.
17. The Executive Director shall reserve the right to consider the length of suspensions when some levels of competition are scheduled on an irregular basis (e.g., three weeks between regularly scheduled non-varsity contests).

**\*\*Note: Any red card issued to a player or coach constitutes an ejection.**

## FAN/SPECTATOR SUPPORT ITEMS

In the Chart below, ONLY those items marked “Yes” will be allowed as fan/spectator support items at all NSAA Sub-District, District, State Playoffs and State Championships. Sportsmanlike vocal cheering and support from the team bench area are encouraged. The items indicated on this page are for use by fans/spectators.

Prohibited items: Confetti/shredded paper, powder (baby, talc, etc.), Laser light/pointer, flashing objects, miniature sports balls, objects or candy thrown into the crowd, Artificial noise makers, (included but not limited to horns, cow bells, bells, buzzers, clickers, thunder sticks, rattles, instruments not part of a band), whistles, air horns, sirens, cannons/muskets/guns/fireworks or live animals.

**Regulations listed are subject to facility restrictions.**

SPORT	BA	BB	CC	FB	GO	SO	SB	SW	TE	TR	VB	WR
Balloons	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
One School Banner per school	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hand held signs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Megaphones (school recognized cheerleaders only)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Shirts on student spectators (required) AR 3.3.11	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shirts on general spectators	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Team Introduction Run-throughs or Break Away Banners	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pompoms, spirit towels	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Prerecorded music that has been approved by the Host Administration may be played during pre-contest warm ups provided that a high school band is not available to play during that time.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
School bands	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes
Carried school flags (Running/taunting prohibited)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**Key:** BA-Baseball, BB-Basketball, CC-Cross Country, FB-Football, GO-Golf, SO-Soccer, SB-Softball, SW- Swimming & Diving, TE-Tennis, TR-Track & Field, VB-Volleyball, WR-Wrestling, NA-Not Apply

## WILD CARD CRITERIA

1. The results of only those games played against varsity teams of schools in Nebraska and of varsity teams in states contiguous to Nebraska will be used to:
  - a. Calculate point averages.
  - b. To determine the win and loss record for designating a team as a first, second, third or fourth division team.
2. All games played by a school's varsity team, regardless of the location of the opposing school, will count toward the number of permitted contests in a particular sport.
3. Seven Class A teams will qualify for the state championships by winning the championship of their respective district tournaments.
4. One additional Class A team, which fails to qualify through district tournament competition, will be chosen to complete the eight-team tournament field.
5. These teams will be selected in the following manner:
  - a. In order to be considered as a wild card qualifier, a team must have played a minimum of 10 varsity contests, which includes district contests and out of state games.
  - b. Only the contests between varsity Nebraska teams and varsity teams from states contiguous with Nebraska will be considered when calculating the point totals.
  - c. The results of all such contests played through the District Final contests shall be used.
  - d. This includes regularly scheduled contests, tournament contests, and district contests.
  - e. This includes non-completed, suspended games without a winner determined. No points will be awarded but the number of games will include this match.
6. **FORFEITS:** A contest that is forfeited because of extenuating circumstances (such as weather) between schools shall count as a loss for the team forfeiting, and the forfeiting team shall receive wild card points for the forfeited loss.
  - a. Schools that are required to forfeit a game or games shall count such contests as one of the permissible contests under the contest limitation requirement of that sport, but such mandated forfeitures shall count as loss wild card points.
  - b. When a school's varsity team is unable to complete the season, those remaining teams on than school's regular season schedule shall receive forfeit wins for those scheduled contests and shall be awarded wild card points for those forfeit wins. Wild card points will be determined by the forfeiting team's record at the time of seeding for postseason competition.
7. Varsity teams of schools located in contiguous states will be converted to a Nebraska classification using enrollment figures obtained from that state's activities association.
8. The following point evaluation scale will be used to determine a team's total points:

POINT EVALUATION SCALE	1st Division Team	2nd Division Team	3rd Division Team	4th Division Team
Victory Over--	50	47	44	41
Loss To--	39	36	33	30



- ♦ A first division team is a team, which has won at least **75%** of its matches played.  
(**Example: 20-0, 19-1, 18-2, 17-3, 16-4, 15-5.**)
- ♦ A second division team is a team, which has won at least **50%** but less than **75%** of its matches played. (**Example: 14-6, 13-7, 12-8, 11-9, 10-10.**)
- ♦ A third division team, which has won at least **25%** but less than **50%** of its matches played.  
(**Examples: 9-11, 8-12, 7-13, 6-14, 5-15.**)
- ♦ A fourth division team is a team, which has won less than 25% of its matches played.  
(**Examples: 4-16, 3-17, 2-18, 1-19, 0-20.**)

9. No points are deducted for playing teams, which are, classified below your classification.
10. In competition with schools one classification above yours, 2 bonus points will be awarded.
11. A team's point average will be determined by dividing the total number of points by the number of contests played.
12. The teams failing to qualify through district competition in their class, but having the highest point average based on the year's record after the completion of all the district tournaments will be selected as the wild card qualifiers. \*Class A will qualify one wild card team.
13. If a tie exists for one or both of the qualifying spots, the following procedure will be used to select the team or teams:
  - a. If only two teams have identical point averages and are tied for one of the qualifying spots and the teams have played each other, the team that won the contest or the majority of contests between the two teams in question will qualify for the state tournament.
  - b. If the two teams have not played each other or if more than two teams are tied, step C will be used to determine which team qualifies for the state tournament.
  - c. If two or more teams have identical point averages and are tied for one or both of the remaining qualifying spots, the team or teams playing the greatest number of first division teams will be selected. If only two teams remain after this step and the two teams tied have played each other, step A will be used to determine the qualifier for the state tournament.
  - d. If a tie still exists, the team's opponents' wins and losses will be totaled and the winning percentages calculated. The team whose opponents have the highest percentage based on this calculation will be chosen.
  - e. If a tie still exists, the representative will be decided by a coin flip in the NSAA office.
14. Out-of state matches will be included through the Friday of Week 44.
15. The state brackets will be released Saturday after the Class B District Final.
16. Schools must report contiguous out-of-state records to the NSAA, Jeff Stauss at [jstauss@nsaahome.org](mailto:jstauss@nsaahome.org). Win-loss records not reported to the NSAA will be recorded as a fourth-division team until such information is provided.
17. When determining the classification of an out-of-state school for wild card purposes, if the school's three-grade enrollment is less than the lowest enrollment in a particular class, the out-of-state school shall be classified in the immediate lower class. The enrollment of Nebraska schools opting up to play in a higher class will not be considered when comparing out-of-state schools for classification purposes.
18. If two or more schools are tied for the final place in a particular class, the tie is broken by using the schools' three-year average enrollment for the most recent three years. When determining the classification of an out-of-state school for wild card purposes, if the out-of-state school's three-grade enrollment is identical to the enrollments shared by schools in two different classes, the out-of-state school shall be placed in the higher class.

## REPORTING SCORES

Report all VARSITY game scores to: [MAXPREPS.COM](http://MAXPREPS.COM)

Teams who compete against schools in contiguous states are responsible for reporting all contiguous state opponents' current win-loss records to the NSAA throughout the season and prior to districts and state seeding.

### **DURATION OF GAME & LENGTH OF PERIODS**

#### **VARSITY MATCHES**

Two equal halves of 40 minutes shall be played.

**40 + 10 + 40**

Periods may not be shortened.

#### **BELOW VARSITY LEVEL**

Match lengths may be modified.

Overtime procedures may also be modified.

### **MERCY RULE/VICTORY MARGIN**

The match shall end when one team has established a 10 goal differential at the end of the first half or during the second half. The margin of victory rule does not apply prior to completion of the first half of play.

### **OVERTIME PROCEDURE FOR GAMES TIED AT THE END OF REGULATION PLAY**

**Due to the use of the point system in determining "wild card" qualifiers for the state tournament, it is necessary that no game end with a tied score.**

#### **Games that are tied at the end of 80 minutes of play--**

1. Two overtime periods of 10 minutes each.
2. A coin shall be flipped prior to the first overtime period. The visiting team captain shall call the coin while it is still in the air. The winner of the toss shall choose a goal to defend or to kick off first. The loser of the toss shall be given the remaining choice.
3. The interval between the second half and the first overtime period shall be 5 minutes.
4. The interval between the first and second overtime period shall be 2 minutes.

#### **If a tie still exists at the end of the second overtime period--**

1. The two teams shall participate in a penalty kick tiebreaker procedure.
2. The interval between the second overtime period and the beginning of the penalty kick procedure shall be 5 minutes.

### **PENALTY KICK TIE-BREAKER PROCEDURE**

1. The two head coaches, officials, and team captains shall assemble at midfield to review the procedure.
2. The head referee shall choose the goal at which all of the penalty kicks shall be taken.

3. Each coach will select any five players, including the goalkeeper, on or off the field (except those who may have been disqualified) to take the penalty kicks.
4. A coin toss shall be held. The team winning the toss shall have the choice of kicking first or second.
5. The kicks shall be attempted from the penalty mark.
6. Teams will alternate kickers. There is no follow-up on the kick.
7. Following five kicks for each team, the team scoring on the greatest number of these kicks shall be declared the winner.
8. Add one goal to the winning team score and credit the team with a victory. An asterisk (\*) may be placed by the team advancing to indicate the advancement was the result of a tiebreaker system.

**If the score remains tied, after each team has had five penalty kicks:**

1. Each coach will select five different players other than the first five who already have kicked to take the penalty kicks in a sudden victory situation, wherein, if one team scores and the other team does not score, the game is ended without more kicks being taken.
2. If the score remains tied, continue the sudden victory penalty kicks with the coach selecting any five players other than the preceding players to take the next set of alternating penalty kicks.
3. If a tie still remains, repeat sudden victory procedure.

### **TOURNAMENT/ENGAGEMENT PLAY**

In tournament/engagement competition where each team could potentially play two games on the same day, the following procedure may be used: If the game is tied at the end of 80 minutes, the overtime periods may be shortened to 5 minute periods OR if the coaches reach a mutual agreement prior to the game, the penalty kick tie breaker may be used immediately following the completion of regulation. The tournament/engagement host should determine the overtime procedure and notify all participating schools and officials in advance. **All games in the tournament must use the same overtime procedure.**

### **SUSPENSION OF PLAY**

In the event a game must be suspended and the game cannot be resumed that day, the head referee shall declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been completed and the score is not tied. If less than one-half of the game has been played or if more than one-half of the game has been played and the score is tied, the game will resume at the point of interruption. If a game is resumed from the point of interruption, and one team is clearly in possession, the game will be restarted by an indirect free kick by the team in possession at the point where the ball was when play was suspended. If there is no clear possession, there will be a drop ball at the spot where the ball was declared dead, provided the ball is not in the penalty area.

## DISTRICT TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

**Boys & Girls Soccer:** Schools with a total enrollment of 850 and above will be in Class A, and the remaining schools will be placed in Class B.

Beginning in 2020-21, Class A will be classified on a two-year basis. All remaining soccer schools will be placed in Class B.

**District Assignments.** Please refer to the NSAA website, [nsaahome.org](http://nsaahome.org) for current district information.

**Class A Districts:** Class A schools will be divided into seven districts. The teams with the highest wild card point averages will have the opportunity to host districts. Class A districts will be Saturday (Week 43), Wednesday (Week 44) or Saturday (Week 43), Thursday (Week 44). All seven districts will be determined using a serpentine method (not modified), based upon the NSAA wild card point system after the games Monday of Week 43. The winning boys' team and the winning girls' team in each district will qualify for the State Championship. One additional boys' team and one additional girls' team will also qualify for the State Championship on the basis of the wild card team selection procedure. The top 14 teams will have the opportunity to host the first night of district competition. The district championship would be hosted by the highest remaining seed. District dates and times would be established before district competition starts. The top-seeded team in each district would be responsible for establishing district schedules.

One additional boys' teams and one additional girls' teams in Class A which fail to qualify by winning the district will qualify as wild card teams. See *Wild Card Criteria*.

District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14	13	12	11	10	9	8
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
28	27	26	25	24	23	22

## CLASS B DISTRICTS

Class B schools will be placed into eight sub-districts composed of boys' teams and eight sub-districts composed of girls' teams. Both the boys' and the girls' sub-districts will be composed of either four-team sub-districts or five-team SUB-districts. The winner of each sub-district will qualify for the district final round. The schools will be assigned to SUB-districts on a geographical basis starting with the schools in western Nebraska and working east. North to south directions will be used in some cases to decrease the distance between the schools within a SUB-district. The highest seeded team will be given first choice to host the sub-district. Class B sub-districts will be Saturday of week 43, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of week 44. The district final will be Saturday of week 44.

- A. The winning team in each sub-district will qualify for the district final round.
- B. Eight additional teams will qualify on the basis of the wild card selection procedure.
- C. Sixteen teams will be seeded according to NSAA wild card points and play a district final game at the highest seed. The eight winners of the district final match will advance to the state tournament.

D. The wild card point system and tie breaker will be used to seed the 16 teams qualifying for the district final.

E. The 8 remaining teams after the district final round will be reseeded for the state tournament.

**Team Entries.** Soccer district tournament entries and statistics are to be completed online using the school login code provided to each head soccer coach. The entries must be submitted online by midnight April 27th. Each team is allowed to list 24 athletes on the district entry form, but may only dress 22 of them. Any **changes due to injury or illness** after April 27th will need to be called into the NSAA. **Disqualified/ejected players** may not be replaced.

**Admission.** Admission prices shall be \$4.00 for students and \$5.00 for adults per session. District contests are considered NSAA activities not local activities. Student admission waivers under the student fees statutes will not be permitted.

**Complementary Passes.** The host school will provide passes for, or arrange for admittance of, twenty-two players, two coaches, two student managers, and one trainer. Six additional passes will be provided for administrative and supervisory personnel.

**Determination of Home Team and Team Benches.** If possible, both team benches and team areas should be located on the same side of the field, separated by officials' area.

- The home team shall be the higher seeded team of each paired bracket.
- The home team's bench or team area shall be the bench or area located to the left as you face the official's area and the home team shall warm up on that end of the field. The visiting team's area or bench shall be to the right of the official's area, and the visiting team shall warm up on that end of the field.

**Dates of Tournament.** The district tournaments are scheduled for May 1, 2021.

**Game Ball.** Baden courtesy ball

**Uniforms.** The home team (higher seeded team of each paired bracket) shall wear dark jerseys and stockings. The visiting team shall wear solid white jerseys and stockings.

**Bands & Artificial Noisemakers.**

1. Bands are permitted during District, and State contests.
2. Band members **MUST** pay regular admission price for District, and State contests.
3. The use of artificial noisemakers is prohibited. (Examples: air horns, whistles, bells, etc.) Megaphones are to be used by cheerleaders only.
4. Band instruments, including drums, are not to be played at any time other than when the entire band is playing. Bands should not be permitted to play except prior to the game, at intermissions and time-outs.

**Cheerleaders & Drill Teams.**

1. Due to potential liability in case of injury, mounts and pyramids by cheerleaders and drill teams during the District, and State tournaments are prohibited. A mount is defined as any stunt where one individual is supported above the level of the floor by another individual or individuals. The height of the mount or pyramid, or the number of people involved, has no bearing on the type of stunt performed.
2. Cheerleaders and drill team members **MUST** pay regular admission price for District, and State events.

**Radio & Television.**

**Media – Student Media, Media Credentials & Broadcasting**



1. All media operations (admission, access and accommodations) for **Regular Season** contests are at the Host School discretion.
2. The NSAA Media Manual outlines policies for Media Credentials, Student Media, Broadcasting Policies and other specifics surrounding NSAA post-season contests.
3. Post-season contests include: Districts, Districts, District final, Playoffs and State Championships.
4. The Media Manual is posted on the NSAA website's Media Page.  
<http://nsaahome.org/media-info/>

## **DISTRICT SOCCER DIRECTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Authority.** The director of the tournament is granted full authority for the conduct and management of the tournament and is responsible for the administration of rules, regulations and accounting of all finances.

**Officials.** The NSAA will assign all officials; the director shall be responsible for payment to the officials. Only those officials registered with the NSAA shall be contracted. The fee for officials shall be **\$55.00 per game per official**. Mileage shall also be paid. Check the official's contract for specific information.

### **Schedule.**

- The director shall determine the time schedule of each game.
- The district host (#1 seed) will have the option to play the early game or the late game on the day that there are two games scheduled.

### **Brackets.**

- a. **A four-team district will be scheduled on two days.**  
**Day 1 - Match 1–Seeds 1 vs. 4; Match 2–Seeds 3 vs. 2**  
**Day 2 - Match 3 –Championship**
- b. **A five-team district will be scheduled in three days.**  
**Day 1 – Match 1–Seeds 4 vs. 5**  
**Day 2 - Match 2–Seed 1 vs. winner 4 vs. 5, Match 3–Seeds 3 vs. 2**  
**Day 3 – Match 4 Championship**

### **Seeding and Pairings.**

The NSAA is responsible for seeding and pairings.

The tournament shall be seeded based on wild card point averages of matches played through **Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> for Class A and Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> for Class B. The district assignments/seeds will be released on the NSAA website: Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.**

If teams in the district tournament have identical wild card point totals, the following tie breaker will be used to determine seeding.

1. If two teams are tied with identical point averages and have played each other, the results of the competition between these schools will be considered and the team winning the majority of contests between the two teams will be given the higher seed.
2. If a tie still exists, or if more than two teams are tied, the team or teams playing the greatest number of first division teams in their classification will be selected. If two teams are still tied, criteria (1) will apply before going to step (3).
3. If a tie still exists, total the sum of the tied teams' opponents' wins and losses. The team whose opponents have the higher winning percentage will receive the higher seed. If two teams remain tied, criteria (1) will apply before going to step (4).

4. If a tie still exists, the higher seed will be decided by a coin flip in the NSAA office.

**Division of Gate Receipts.** The gate receipts shall be used to pay tournament expenses including official's fees and mileage. Prior to deducting tournament expenses, 10% percent of the gross receipts shall be sent to the NSAA for catastrophic insurance premium fees. The NSAA shall be sent 25% of the remaining receipts. If the receipts are not sufficient to pay the expenses, each school participating in the tournament shall be assessed a prorated share, based on the number of matches played. The insurance premium is not to be deducted.

**Awards.** Plaques will be presented to the boys' and girls' teams placing first and second in each district. In addition, in Class A one boys' team and one girls' team qualifying as "wild card teams" will be awarded plaques. Class B district final, plaques will be awarded for the runner-up and championship teams. **These plaques will be mailed to each respective school directly from Awards Unlimited.**

**Inclement Weather.** Inclement weather may force the postponement of a district tournament. The meet director has the sole authority to determine the postponement and rescheduling of the tournament. If the tournament director feels a postponement is necessary, he/she must contact the NSAA Executive Director before postponing the day's activities. Once the tournament is postponed, the director shall be responsible for setting the new date, time, site, and notifying officials and competing teams. The previously agreed upon schedule may need to be changed to complete the contest(s) by the required date. The district director should confer with the officials regarding their availability for the postponed dates and times.

**Class B Soccer District Final:** Saturday, Week 44, May 9, 2020.

**Dates.** The State Championship will be played May 11-15, 17-19, 2021.

**Site.** The State Championship will be held at Creighton University in Omaha.

Placement of teams on the bracket for each class took place by the following procedure:

- a. There was a draw to see if Nos. 1-8 and Nos. 4-5 played in the upper half of the bracket or the lower half.
- b. Nos. 2-7 and 3-6 were assigned to the half bracket not drawn by Nos. 1-8 and Nos. 4-5.
- c. Games involving the Nos. 1-2 seeded teams were assigned to the earlier game time in that half of the bracket.

Practice will not be allowed on any state tournament fields between district and state competition.

## **STATE TOURNAMENT INFORMATION**

**State Tournament Instructions.** Qualifying teams will be provided a packet that contains players', coaches', and administrators' tickets and instructions for the coach and team. Depending when districts finish, instructions for coaches and administrators will be emailed to each school.

**Pairings/Seeding.** The State Tournament shall be seeded based on wild card point averages through districts and Class B District final.

The No. 1 seed will play No. 8; No. 2 vs. 7; No. 3 vs. 6; and No. 4 vs. 5.

If teams in the state tournament have identical wild card points, the following tiebreaker will be used to determine seeding:

1. If two teams are tied with identical point averages and have played each other, the results of the competition between these schools will be considered and the team winning the majority of contests between the two teams will be given the higher seed.
2. If a tie still exists, or if more than two teams are tied, the team or teams playing the greatest number of first division teams in their classification will be selected. If two teams are still tied, criteria (1) will apply before going to step (3).
3. If a tie still exists, total the sum of the tied teams' opponents' wins and losses. The team whose opponents have the higher winning percentage will receive the higher seed. If two teams remain tied, criteria (1) will apply before going to step (4).
4. If a tie still exists, the higher seed will be decided by a coin flip in the NSAA office.

**Officials.** Officials will be assigned to each game. The officials shall be a head referee, two assistant referees, and a fourth official assisted by a timer, scorer, and four ball holders.

**Spectator Tickets.** Tickets will be \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students.

#### **Cheerleaders & Drill Teams.**

1. Due to potential liability in case of injury, mounts and pyramids by cheerleaders and drill teams during the District, and State tournaments are prohibited. A mount is defined as any stunt where one individual is supported above the level of the floor by another individual or individuals. The height of the mount or pyramid, or the number of people involved, has no bearing on the type of stunt performed.
2. Cheerleaders, drill team, and pep club members **MUST** pay regular admission price for District, and State events.

#### **Bands & Artificial Noisemakers.**

1. Bands are permitted during District, and State contests.
2. Band members **MUST** pay regular admission price for District, and State contests.
3. The use of artificial noisemakers is prohibited. (Examples: air horns, whistles, bells, etc.) Megaphones are to be used by cheerleaders only.
4. Band instruments, including drums, are not to be played at any time other than when the entire band is playing.
5. Bands should not be permitted to play except prior to the game, at intermissions and time-outs.

**Reimbursements to Teams.** Mileage reimbursements will be based on the number of participants and one coach. (Note: Student managers will not be included.) A school's mileage reimbursement will be figured using the following formula: [(#miles one way x #trips) – 50 miles] x amount.

Amount per mile	Number of participants/coaches
\$0.85	1-6
\$1.70	7-12
\$2.55	13-18
\$3.40	19-24

If lodging is used, \$15 per participant and one coach will be paid based on the following criteria: (Note: Times listed are scheduled competition start times)

\*Night before competing:

Before 10:00 a.m., 76+ miles away

Between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., 150+ miles away

At or after 3:00 p.m., 250+ miles away

\*Night of (still competing in tournament)

76+ miles away

\*Final Night (day eliminated)

5:00 p.m. or later, 200+ miles away

If lodging is used, \$15 per participant and one coach will be paid based on the following criteria:  
(Note: Times listed are scheduled competition start times)

\*Night before competing:

Before 10:00 a.m., 76+ miles away

Between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., 150+ miles away

At or after 3:00 p.m., 250+ miles away

\*Night of (still competing in tournament)

76+ miles away

\*Final Night (day eliminated)

5:00 p.m. or later, 200+ miles away

## 2021 NSAA State Soccer Schedule

### **Tuesday, May 11th-**

#### *Quarterfinals*

A- Boys—10 am

A- Boys—1 pm

A- Boys—4 pm

A- Boys—7 pm

### **Saturday, May 15th-**

#### *Semifinals*

A- Girls—10 am

A- Girls—1 pm

A- Boys—4 pm

A- Boys—7 pm

### **Wednesday, May 12th-**

#### *Quarterfinals*

A- Girls—10 am

A- Girls—1 pm

A- Girls—4 pm

A- Girls—7 pm

### **Monday, May 17th-**

#### *Semifinals*

B- Girls—10 am

B- Girls—1 pm

B- Boys—4 pm

B- Boys—7 pm

### **Thursday, May 13th-**

#### *Quarterfinals*

B- Boys—10 am

B- Boys—1 pm

B- Boys—4 pm

B- Boys—7 pm

### **Tuesday, May 18th-**

#### *Finals*

A- Girls—5 pm

A- Boys—8 pm

### **Friday, May 14th-**

#### *Quarterfinals*

B- Girls—10 am

B- Girls—1 pm

B- Girls—4 pm

B- Girls—7 pm

### **Wednesday, May 19th-**

#### *Finals*

B- Girls—5 pm

B- Boys—8 pm

**Warm-Up.** Each team will be given a minimum of twenty minutes warm-up prior to their game. The full warm-up time may not be on the game field unless there are twenty minutes or more before the next scheduled game.

A team shall warm up on the end of the field nearest its team bench or area.

**Game Ball.** Baden courtesy ball

**Team Bench or Area.** The team bench or area for both teams will be located on the same side of the field. An official's area will be located between the team areas. The home team shall be the higher seeded team of each paired bracket and shall occupy the team bench or area located to the left facing the official's area.

**Home Team and Uniforms.** The home team shall be the higher seeded team of each paired bracket and shall wear dark jerseys and stockings, the visiting team shall wear solid white jerseys and stockings

**Number of Players Permitted.** A team shall not dress more than 22 players for state tournament competition.

**Players' and Coaches' Passes.** Each team qualifying for the State Soccer Tournament will be placed on a pass list determined by the roster submitted to the NSAA. Six additional tickets will be provided for administrators and supervisors from each participating school. These passes must be presented at the admittance gate to gain admittance.

**Programs.** Each qualifying team will receive two souvenir programs.

**Awards.** Each member of the championship boys' and girls' team will receive a gold medal (22 per team). Each member of the runner-up boys' and girls' team will receive a silver medal (22 per team).

- ❖ The championship and runner-up boys' and girls' team will receive a trophy.
- ❖ The head coach of the championship boys' and girls' team will receive a coach's award.
- ❖ An awards ceremony will follow the completion of the championship game in each division.
- ❖ In the realm of good sportsmanship all participants are expected to remain clothed during the awards ceremony.

### **EXPECTED BEHAVIORS AT AWARDS CEREMONIES**

Education-based activities give students the ability to train, participate and compete in a structured setting. With that, students often learn lessons that are sometimes not taught in the traditional academic classroom. Some of those lessons includes learning to win and lose with dignity and grace. As such, the following guidelines have been developed for awards ceremonies at the conclusion of sub-district, district and state contests.

Only one team can win a district or state championship, yet the NSAA provides trophies, plaques and medals to the losing teams in many of the postseason activities. It shall be the expectation that both team shall accept their medals and trophies in a sporting and willing manner. Some losing teams have been reluctant to step forward and accept their awards, and coaches and administrators need to assure sporting behaviors for their student athletes. It is natural to be disappointed in losing the contest, but stepping forward at this time of disappointment is a life lesson that helps mold proper and sporting behaviors. It is the expectation!

The executive director or the NSAA Board of Directors shall determine the type and severity of sanctions to schools that do not comply with these expectations.



## 2021 BOYS SOCCER CLASSIFICATIONS

If schools are tied in enrollment for the last position or positions of a class, the following tie-breaker will be applied: (1) The first tie-breaker will be a three-year average of enrollment which includes the year on which the current year's classification is based and the two previous years. The higher three-year average will be in the larger class. (2) If the tie still exists, then the school with the higher immediate previous year's enrollment will be placed in the larger class. (3) If a tie still exists, it will be decided by a coin flip in the NSAA office.

#	CLASS A BOYS SOCCER TEAMS	Enroll
1.	Omaha South	2226
2.	Omaha Central	2094
3.	Grand Island	1970
4.	Millard North	1923
5.	Millard South	1903
6.	Lincoln High	1754
7.	Lincoln East	1734
8.	Millard West	1687
9.	Lincoln North Star	1623
10.	Omaha North	1584
11.	Creighton Preparatory School	1562
12.	Lincoln Southeast	1557
13.	Lincoln Southwest	1557
14.	Omaha Burke	1547
15.	Omaha Westside	1462
16.	Papillion-LaVista South	1447
17.	Omaha Bryan	1439
18.	Papillion-LaVista	1381
19.	Omaha Northwest	1316
20.	Lincoln Northeast	1278
21.	Kearney	1215
22.	Fremont (Archbishop Bergan)	1202
23.	Bellevue West	1145
24.	Bellevue East	1123
25.	Gretna	1121
26.	Elkhorn South	1076
27.	Omaha Benson	1076
28.	Norfolk	1038
29.	Columbus	965
30.	Lincoln Pius X	898
31.	North Platte	896

#	CLASS B BOYS SOCCER TEAMS	Enroll
1.	South Sioux City	849
2.	Northwest (GICC, Wood River)	812
3.	Scottsbluff	797
4.	Hastings	787
5.	Ralston	745
6.	Elkhorn	713
7.	Lexington	705
8.	Bennington	609
9.	Omaha Skutt Catholic	543
10.	Norris	532
11.	Nebraska City (Johnson County Central, Lourdes Central Catholic)	510
12.	Blair	500
13.	Waverly	484
14.	Beatrice	477
15.	Crete	461
16.	Schuyler	447
17.	Gering	427
18.	Seward	412
19.	Gross Catholic (Cornerstone Christian)	405
20.	Plattsmouth	383
21.	Kearney Catholic (Amherst, Gibbon)	382
22.	Elkhorn North	364
23.	Omaha Roncalli Catholic (Omaha Brownell Talbot)	348
24.	York	332
25.	Aurora	305
26.	Platteview	301
27.	Lincoln Lutheran/Raymond Central	277
28.	Omaha Concordia (Omaha Christian Academy)	248
29.	Holdrege	245
30.	Columbus Lakeview	225
31.	Lutheran High/Norfolk Catholic	207
32.	<b>**Boys Town</b>	192
33.	Columbus Scotus	191
34.	Mount Michael Benedictine	177
35.	Conestoga	146
36.	Madison	122
37.	<b>**College View Academy (Parkview Christian)</b>	72
38.	Nebraska Lutheran	40

**\*\*Waiving the right to compete in Districts**

## 2021 GIRLS SOCCER CLASSIFICATIONS

If schools are tied in enrollment for the last position or positions of a class, the following tie-breaker will be applied: (1) The first tie-breaker will be a three-year average of enrollment which includes the year on which the current year's classification is based and the two previous years. The higher three-year average will be in the larger class. (2) If the tie still exists, then the school with the higher immediate previous year's enrollment will be placed in the larger class. (3) If a tie still exists, it will be decided by a coin flip in the NSAA office.

#	CLASS A GIRLS SOCCER TEAMS	Enroll
1.	Omaha South	2226
2.	Omaha Central	2094
3.	Grand Island	1970
4.	Millard North	1923
5.	Millard South	1903
6.	Lincoln High	1754
7.	Lincoln East	1734
8.	Millard West	1687
9.	Lincoln North Star	1623
10.	Omaha North	1584
11.	Lincoln Southeast	1557
12.	Lincoln Southwest	1557
13.	Omaha Burke	1547
14.	Omaha Westside	1462
15.	Papillion-LaVista South	1447
16.	Omaha Bryan	1439
17.	Papillion-LaVista	1381
18.	Omaha Northwest	1316
19.	Lincoln Northeast	1278
20.	Kearney	1215
21.	Fremont (Archbishop Bergan)	1202
22.	Bellevue West	1145
23.	Bellevue East	1123
24.	Gretna	1121
25.	Elkhorn South	1076
26.	Omaha Benson	1076
27.	Omaha Marian	1048
28.	Norfolk	1038
29.	Columbus	965
30.	Lincoln Pius X	898
31.	North Platte	896

#	CLASS B GIRLS SOCCER TEAMS	Enroll
1.	South Sioux City	849
2.	Northwest (GICC, Wood River)	812
3.	Scottsbluff	797
4.	Hastings	787
5.	Ralston	745
6.	Elkhorn	713
7.	Lexington	705
8.	Bennington	609
9.	Omaha Concordia (Omaha Brownell Talbot, Omaha Christian Academy, Douglas County West)	552
10.	Omaha Skutt Catholic	543
11.	Norris	532
12.	Nebraska City (Johnson County Central, Lourdes Central Catholic)	510
13.	Blair	500
14.	Waverly	484
15.	Beatrice	477
16.	Crete	461
17.	Gering (Banner County)	450
18.	Schuyler	447
19.	Seward	412
20.	Gross Catholic (Cornerstone Christian)	405
21.	Plattsmouth	383
22.	Kearney Catholic (Amherst, Gibbon)	382
23.	Elkhorn North	364
24.	York	332
25.	Aurora	305
26.	Platteview	301
27.	Omaha Mercy	290
28.	Lincoln Lutheran/Raymond Central	277
29.	Omaha Duchesne Academy	254
30.	Omaha Roncalli Catholic	253
31.	Holdrege	245
32.	Columbus Lakeview	225
33.	<b>**Boys Town</b>	192
34.	Columbus Scotus	191
35.	Auburn	179
36.	Conestoga	146

**\*\*Waiving the right to compete in Districts**