

Playoff Info

SECTION 2 PLAYOFF RULES

1. Playoff Eligibility-

1.1. By Sport:

- 1.1.1. Six member schools must register intent to play in a state playoffs before the NCISAA will conduct a state playoff in a specific sport.
- 1.1.2. If fewer than eight teams appear at any NCISAA event within two consecutive years, that event will be dropped from the playoff calendar until sufficient interest is demonstrated.
- 1.1.3. Under special circumstances, the NCISAA Office may make exceptions to this rule.
- 1.1.4. For seeded playoffs, the number of teams participating in a given sport will be selected for the playoffs by a Seeding and/or Selection Committee.
- 1.1.5. If the number of teams in any state playoffs drops drastically, the NCISAA Office may combine playoffs.

1.2. By Team/School:

- 1.2.1. Any team must play a minimum of four varsity contests on four separate dates of a given sport to be eligible to participate in state playoff competition.
- 1.2.2. Hardship cases, i.e. injury, weather, or travel constraints, may be appealed to the NCISAA Office.
- 1.2.3. A school may decline participation in any playoff event if declared by the summer Board of Advisors meeting.
- 1.2.4. A team failing to fill a commitment to a playoff berth will be subject to a fine up to \$2,500 payable to the NCISAA and an additional fine of \$1,000 payable to their opponent.
- 1.2.5. Any team or individual failing to fill a commitment to a playoff berth will serve a one year probation and will not be eligible for any play-off in that sport for the subsequent school year.

1.3. By Conference:

- 1.3.1. For each conference containing 4 teams, automatic bids will be given in all sports other than those having open playoffs, qualifying times or the USGA index.
- 1.3.2. The remaining playoff teams will be selected at-large by a committee who seed the overall playoffs.

2. Host Site Standards-

2.1. Preliminary Site Approval

- 2.1.1. Site approval should be requested at least two months in advance of the playoffs.
- 2.1.2. Playoff sites must meet minimum standards according to National High School Federation rules.
- 2.1.3. Site Location Criteria-
 - 2.1.3.1. Predetermined state playoff host sites are neutral and are required to provide equal amenities to all teams.
 - 2.1.3.2. Basic criteria for host sites include:
 - 2.1.3.2.1. proper field specifications for the sport

- 2.1.3.2.2. cost
- 2.1.3.2.3. support staff availability
- 2.1.3.2.4. locker rooms
- 2.1.3.2.5. seating capacity
- 2.1.3.2.6. safety conditions of the site
- 2.1.3.3. All state playoffs should be held at NCISAA member school facilities unless other sites are donated free of charge.
- 2.1.3.4. Secondary options include:
 - 2.1.3.4.1. A modern public facility.
 - 2.1.3.4.2. A modern college facility.
 - 2.1.3.4.3. Either secondary option must be approved by the NCISAA Office.
- 2.1.3.5. Playoff sites should be located within the central corridor between I-95 in the East and I-77 in the West not to exceed thirty minutes travel beyond the Interstates.
- 2.1.3.6. Geographic rotations are in place for some playoffs.
- 2.1.3.7. In certain circumstances or in playoffs held at the site of the higher seed, the NCISAA Office may approve sites outside the central corridor.
- 2.1.3.8. Any site charging facility rental must be approved by of the NCISAA Office.
- 2.1.3.9. All state playoff sites must must allow admission to be collected.
- 2.1.3.10. If any of these criteria are in question before or at the time of the event, contact the Sport Director and/or the NCISAA Office for an immediate decision concerning that game.

3. Sport Rules & Officiating-

3.1. Rule Book:

- 3.1.1. Unless otherwise specified, National High School Federation rules will be followed.
- 3.1.2. Schools may find rule books, annual rule changes and pertinent sport info at www.nfhs.org.
- 3.1.3. Non NFHS sport rules can be found at the following websites:
 - 3.1.3.1. Golf- USGA-
<http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules/rules-and-decisions.html#!rule-01>
 - 3.1.3.2. Tennis- USTA-
<https://www.usta.com/en/home/about-usta/who-we-are/national/officiating-rules-and-regulations.html>

3.2. Booking Agents:

- 3.2.1. Booking Agents serving member schools must be approved by the NCISAA Office.
- 3.2.2. Booking Agents wishing to be approved by the NCISAA must contact the NCISAA Office. A list of approved Booking Agents for each appropriate sport may be found under the Handbook tab at www.ncisaa.org.

3.3. Officiating:

- 3.3.1. Officials must be certified by a NC regional assignor or Booking Agent.
- 3.3.2. Protests:
 - 3.3.2.1. There will be no appeals or protests involving referees' judgment calls.

- 3.3.2.2. Any other appeal or protest arising during the course of a competition must be directed to the Site Director.
- 3.3.2.3. A decision concerning the appeal or protest must be made immediately by a protest committee of three which is established by the host school prior to each playoff contest.
- 3.3.2.4. In the event that a committee has not been formed at the time of the appeal or protest, the playoff contest will be suspended until such a committee is formed and can rule on the issue.
- 3.3.3. Coaching Continuance Throughout An Athletic Event:
 - 3.3.3.1. It is mandatory that all teams be under the direct supervision and guidance of an adult coach at all times while participating in NCISAA sanctioned athletic events.
 - 3.3.3.2. In the event that a head coach is ejected, becomes incapacitated and no assistant coach is available to continue coaching duties, the game shall continue only if there is a school employee or an adult designate to assume the role of the coach.
 - 3.3.3.3. If no replacement coach is available, the game shall immediately end by forfeit.
 - 3.3.3.4. Any replacement coach is required to coach within the spirit of the NCISAA ideal of "Sportsmanship, Integrity, and Fair Play."

4. Scheduling Items-

4.1. Dates & Times:

- 4.1.1. Playoff schedules should be altered only when necessary. This should be initiated by site director and approved by the NCISAA Office. In case of inclement weather:
 - 4.1.1.1. Teams are asked to anticipate weather which may delay arrival at the playoff site.
 - 4.1.1.2. Traveling on the previous day should be considered as an option when bad weather is likely.
 - 4.1.1.3. The following scenarios may be the result of inclement weather and should be ranked in order of possible action by the playoff directors.
 - 4.1.1.3.1. Game start delay.
 - 4.1.1.3.2. Game played at an alternate site.
 - 4.1.1.3.3. Two games played on the same day.
- 4.1.2. All NCISAA contests may not begin before the published time unless approved by the NCISAA Office.

4.2. Delays, Postponements & Cancellations:

- 4.2.1. Games in Progress-
 - 4.2.1.1. Games may be delayed by the presence of thunder or lightning detected by:
 - 4.2.1.1.1. Electronic devices,
 - 4.2.1.1.2. Sight and sound determinations,
 - 4.2.1.1.3. Officials and/or site administration.
 - 4.2.1.2. In the event conditions indicate a game should be discontinued, the following will be considered.
 - 4.2.1.2.1. Game and school officials from each team must attempt to restart the game for a minimum of 30 minutes.

- 4.2.1.2.2. One half of the contest will have been completed.
- 4.2.1.2.3. At the conclusion of the agreed upon delay, both schools must agree to the declaration of game completion or rescheduling.
- 4.2.1.2.4. In the event both schools' officials cannot agree, the game will be cancelled.

4.2.2. Cancellation & Rescheduling-

- 4.2.2.1. When the Site Director determines that game postponement is appropriate he/she should consult with the NCISAA Office in order to reach a decision concerning the next available playing date.
- 4.2.2.2. If a state playoff event in any sport is suspended before it is considered officially complete, it will be resumed at the point of interruption at the earliest possible time determined by the NCISAA Office.
- 4.2.2.3. Once postponement of a playoff event is decided in team playoffs, all Heads of Schools of the schools involved must agree in order to reschedule the event on Sunday.
- 4.2.2.4. To prepare for any cancellation or rescheduling, the Site Director will poll the Heads of Schools to determine their willingness to play on Sunday.
- 4.2.2.5. If all Heads of Schools are in agreement to play on Sunday, playoffs must not be resumed until after 1:00 P.M.
- 4.2.2.6. Decisions to cancel a NCISAA event will be made by the NCISAA Office.

5. Visual Image Policy:-

5.1. Visual Image Policy:

- 5.1.1. By virtue of participating in athletic events at NCISAA member schools, student athletes might be photographed by spectators or others.
- 5.1.2. In allowing their child(ren) to participate, parents accept that their child(ren) 's image may be captured and even published without further express permission.
- 5.1.3. Such publication may or may not include further identification of the student.

5.2. Filming Games:

- 5.2.1. No school may video any contest in which it is not actively playing. Any NCISAA school found in violation of this rule will be fined \$1000.