



2026

Girls Lacrosse

Information

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2026 Girls Lacrosse Tournament

1. TENTATIVE TOURNAMENT DATES*

- a) Cut-off Date: May 20, 2026
- b) Bracket Release: May 22, 2026
- c) Tournament Begins: May 24, 2026

Note: If both ADs agree, games may be played on May 23, 2026

- d) Anticipated State Finals: June 12-14, 2026

*Dates Subject to change

2. **GAME RULES:** All tournament games will be played under the rules of the **NFHS** except for those modified by the MIAA for high school use.

3. QUALIFYING CRITERIA:

- a) A school must schedule and compete in a minimum of 50% of the season competition limits per Handbook Rule 34 (9 games) to be eligible for tournament play.
- b) As many as three games with a single opponent may be played and will count toward tournament qualification. League play-off games count.
- c) All team sports will qualify the top 32 teams by division
- d) Teams not power seeded in the top 32 but meeting 50% qualifying criteria will be eligible for the tournament
- e) Top 4 seeded teams placed in four brackets (1,2,3,4)
- f) The rest of bracket positions are filled with remaining teams by power ranking system. After the top 32 teams are power seeded, the remaining teams with 50 % or better record will be seeded from the bottom of each bracket

4. **FORFEITED CONTESTS & NO CONTESTS:** When a forfeit win is awarded to a school due to the termination of their opponent's lacrosse program or failure to fulfill their contractual obligation, for power ranking purposes, the score will be entered as 7-0. Approval for forfeits that are not by rule change need to be submitted to and approved by the TMC Spring Season Seeding Committee. No contests must be submitted to the TMC Spring Season Seeding Committee.

5. SEEDING/ PAIRING ANNOUNCEMENT

- a) Seeding is to be done by a Seasonal Seeding Committee. Members of the Seasonal Seeding Committee will include one chairperson (or designee) from each sport of current season, and 4 Tournament Management Committee members. Tournament Directors and Executive Liaisons will be present but are non-voting members. All decisions made by the Seasonal Seeding Committee are final. No appeals regarding seeding decisions will be allowed.
- b) Seeding will be done by a power rating system:
 - Team's average margin of victory + average of opponents' ratings = overall rating
- c) Tie Breaking Procedure (Seeding)
 - Head-to-head Competition
 - The higher average of each team's opponents' rating, based on the power rating formula.
 - League Champion
 - Coin flip
 - Only 2 teams tied – use coin flip
 - More than 2 teams, all team names will be put into a hat. Once team name will be drawn – that team wins the tiebreaker. All other remaining teams will return to step 1.

In a tie breaker for tournament seeding every match played, including exclusion games, is counted.

Note: If a tie involves multiple teams (more than 2) and a team is eliminated, the procedure starts over at step one with the remaining teams.



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- d) Pairings and Tournament Information will be available on MIAA website throughout the tournament.
- e) Tournament contest results should be called in to the Tournament Administrator by the winning team, as soon as possible, from the game site.

6. SITE INFORMATION

- a) All matches will be at the home site of higher seed for the Preliminary Round, Round of 32, Round of 16, and Round of 8.
- b) If home team site is not acceptable the following will apply:
 - Home school AD finds an acceptable site
 - Lower seed will host the match
 - If both sites are not acceptable, Tournament administrator will place match at an acceptable site within MIAA site policy
- c) The MIAA will provide sites for State Semi Finals (round of 4) and State Finals as defined by TMC Site policy.
- d) Home field venues must meet the following standards from the MIAA handbook:
 - Condition of playing surface
 - Crowd Control
 - Seating capacity
 - Ticket sales control

7. OVERTIME PROCEDURE & SUSPENDED GAMES

- **Overtime Procedure: NFHS Rule 4-6** – When the score is tied at the end of regular playing time and overtime is to be played, both teams will have a 5-minute rest and toss a coin (visiting captain calls) for choice of ends. The alternate possession shall continue from regulation. The game will be restarted by a center draw. The winner will be decided by “sudden victory”. The team scoring the first goal wins the game. Each overtime period shall be two three-minute halves. The clock stops on official time-outs or fouls in the critical scoring area. After the first half of the overtime period, teams shall change ends with no delay for coaching. The game will be restarted by a center draw. If the teams are still tied after six minutes have elapsed, the teams will have a 3-minute rest and change ends. Play will continue with “sudden victory” until a winning goal is scored.
- **Suspended/Interrupted Game: NFHS Rule 4-4 Art. 1:** Once play begins and a game is interrupted because of events beyond the control of the responsible authorities, the following procedures shall apply:
 - a) An interrupted game continued on the same day or on another day shall be restarted from its point of interruption.
 - b) If an interrupted game cannot be resumed on the same day and the score is not tied, it is considered legal and complete if three quarters have elapsed.
 - c) An interrupted game may be modified (reduced or running time) or terminated and considered complete by mutual agreement of the opposing teams.
 - d) The score at the point of termination will be the official score of the game.
 - e) All stats from an interrupted game (goals, saves, time-outs taken, team and player penalties, etc.) carry over and shall be recorded in the scorebook even if it is resumed on a separate day.

8. GAME MANAGEMENT

- a) **Home Team:** home team shall be the top seeded team.
The home team shall provide twelve (12) identical balls. Game balls must be stamped with the label “Meets NOCSAE Standards”.



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- b) **Uniforms:** The home team shall wear light colored jerseys, and the visiting team shall wear dark jerseys.
 - c) **Clocks and Horns:** The home team shall provide clocks and horns.
9. **MEDICAL COVERAGE:** A licensed athletic trainer, physician, physician's assistant, certified EMT, or nurse practitioner will be available at all contests. This coverage will be provided by the Host School in tournament rounds at the site of the higher seeded team. The MIAA will provide coverage at the State Semi Final and State Final sites.
10. **TOURNAMENT GAME OFFICIALS:**
- a) Two MIAA enrolled Game Officials will be assigned during all preliminary, round of 32 and round of 16 games.
 - b) Beginning with the Round of 8, three MIAA enrolled Game Officials will be assigned to work in the field of play.
 - c) Beginning with the Round of 4, one additional MIAA enrolled Game Official will also be assigned as an alternate/table official to assist with the official scorebook, game time substitutions, time-outs, cards, bench personnel, injury time-outs, coaches, scoreboards, and field official injury. This alternate/table official will have a rule book, assist with misapplications of a rule, and assist with any misconduct by coaches or players on the bench. Alternate/Table Official responsibilities can be found on page 87-88 of the NFHS Official Rules for Girls Lacrosse.
 - d) The host (higher seeded team) is responsible for securing the officials (through the league assignor most likely) in the preliminary round, round of 32, round of 16 and round of 8. The state semi-finals and state finals will be assigned by the MIAA Lacrosse State Assignor.
11. **SAT/SAT SUBJECT TESTS:**
- a) Games may be scheduled for a weekend date - the same date as an anticipated SAT Test Date. Schools are encouraged to be aware of this date and collaborate if scheduling a game on this date. A listing of College Board exam dates that may take place during the Tournament can be found here - <https://www.collegeboard.org/>
 - b) The **College Board** offers an SAT® Program Alternate Test Date Policy. As stated in their published material:
The SAT Program will consider granting an alternate test date when the following criteria are met:
 - The conflicting event must be unexpected. Regularly scheduled sporting events or previously scheduled school activities, such as a prom, are not considered unexpected. An event such as an academic or athletic competition, in which students have advanced through the competition or into post-regular season competition, can be considered an unexpected event.
 - c) SAT School Day: Allows high schools to administer the SAT to students during the school day, thus avoiding weekend athletic conflicts. To date, the MA school districts that participate are Plymouth, Springfield, Revere and most recently Fitchburg. SAT School Day is contracted through the College Board with participating districts.

10. MIAA DRONE POLICY

Prohibiting the use of Drones (Unmanned Aircraft Systems or UAS's). Unless granted special permission by the MIAA Executive Director, the use of drones (UAS), for any purpose, is not permitted at any MIAA tournament event. This Prohibition applies to all fields of play, courts, arena, mats, gym floor or pool, and covers a ban on the entire facility being used as part of the MIAA event, including the spectator stands and parking area.