2027 Rugby Information

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2027 Rugby Tournament

Rules – Laws of the Game Rugby Union.

A. ANTICIPATED TOURNAMENT DATES*:

a. Cut-off Date: Saturday, May 29, 2027
b. Bracket Release: Tuesday June 1, 2027
c. Tournament Begins: Thursday June 3, 2027
Note: if both ADs agree, games may be played on June 2, 2027
d. State Finals: *May be played between Thursday, June 17th & Saturday, June 19th
**Dates subject to change*

B. QUALIFYING CRITERIA

1. A school must schedule and compete in a minimum of 50% of the season competition limits per Handbook Rule 34 (4 contests) to be eligible for tournament play.
2. As many as three games with a single opponent may be played and will count toward tournament qualification.
3. For the sport of Rugby, the top 50% of power ranked teams within each division will qualify. For the Girls Rugby Tournament, a minimum of four teams will qualify.
4. Teams that are not power ranked in the top 50% but have achieved a winning percentage of 50% or greater will be eligible for tournament consideration. However, no more than 8 teams will qualify for the postseason in each division. In the event of a tie for the final seed(s), the tiebreaking process outlined in item C-3 below will be followed.

   For Example:
   - If a division has 7 total teams, the top 4 power ranked teams qualify, plus those .500 or better will be eligible for tournament consideration. However, a maximum of 8 teams can qualify overall.
   - If a division has 12 total teams, the top 6 power ranked teams qualify, plus those .500 or better will be eligible for tournament consideration. However, a maximum of 8 teams can qualify overall.

5. All team sports will be seeded by power ranking system
6. For the sport of Rugby, all games will be at the home site of the higher seed until the State Finals.

Since the MIAA is the only State Association to recognize rugby as an official varsity sport, competition versus out of state high schools will NOT count towards tournament record. Out of state teams are considered club teams" in the sport of rugby. However, those games will count towards the school's weekly and seasonal limitations.

B. FORFEITED CONTESTS

When a forfeit win is awarded to a school due to the termination of their opponent's rugby program or failure to fulfill their contractual obligation, for power ranking purposes, the score will be entered as **10-0**.

C. SEEDING/ PAIRING ANNOUNCEMENT

1. 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.
2. Seeding will be done by a power rating system:
   - Team's average margin of victory + average of opponents' ratings = overall rating
3. Tie Breaking Procedure (Seeding)
   a. Head-to-head Competition

b. The higher average of each team's opponents' rating, based on the power rating formula.
c. League Champion
d. 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 are 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.

4. Pairings and Tournament Information will be available on MIAA website, throughout the tournament.
5. Tournament match results should be called in to the Tournament Administrator by the winning team, as soon as possible, from the game site.

D. SITE INFORMATION

1. All games will be at home site of higher seed until the State Finals.
2. All tournament matches are **recommended** to be played on a field size of a minimum of 55 yards wide and 100 yards long at the Sectional Semi-Finals and Finals as well as the State Semi-Finals and Finals.
3. It is recommended that all fields for tournament play have a minimum of 5 yards of surface parallel to the touch lines.
4. If home team site is not acceptable the following will apply:
   - Home school AD finds an acceptable site
   - Lower seed will host the game
   - If both sites are not acceptable, Tournament Administrator will place game at an acceptable site within MIAA site policy
5. Home field venues must meet the following standards from the MIAA handbook:
   - Condition of playing surface
   - Crowd Control
   - Seating capacity
   - Ticket sales control
   - Locker rooms
   - Acceptable lights for night games

E. ASSIGNMENT OF TOURNAMENT GAME OFFICIALS

1. All officials must be enrolled with the MIAA in order to receive a tournament assignment.
2. Umpires must have officiated a minimum of three (3) MIAA high school games during the regular season.
1. When possible, three (3) officials must be assigned for all tournament games. This includes a referee and two assistant referees, with the referee as the official timekeeper. Every attempt should be made to also have a match manager.

F. ROSTERS - NUMBER OF PLAYERS

Maximum size of a tournament team shall be consistent with State Tournament requirements. Match rosters may not exceed 23 players per team. **Front row qualified players must be identified (pg 34-35, Law 3).**

G. SUBSTITUTIONS

When a player has an injury, that player leaves the field of play and may be temporarily replaced. The injured player may return to play as soon as the medical staff has assessed/treated the injury, and cleared the player to return. A player may only be temporarily replaced once during the match, regardless of subsequent injuries. If a player is not available to return to the field of play within 15 minutes (actual time) of leaving the playing area, the replacement becomes permanent. (MIAA Rule 76.1.1)

H. GAME BALLS

For the State Semi-Finals and Finals, the Rugby ball must be a **Rugger Kooga All Weather Rugby** match ball

I. POSTPONEMENT OF GAMES

Home site Athletic Director and MIAA Tournament Administrator may collectively decide to postpone a game. Postponed games are to be played the following day on the same field, if possible.

J. REGULATION PLAYING TIME

The time of the game will be two (2) 35-minute halves. There will be no stop time unless indicated by the officials. Half-time will be 5 minutes. Official time is kept on the field by the referee. *Teams will be allowed on the field thirty (30) minutes prior to game time.*

K. TIE BREAKING METHOD

A. When the score is tied at the end of regulation time, the referee will instruct both teams to return to their respective team boxes. There will be a five-minute rest period where teams may confer with their coaches; and the head referee will instruct both teams as to the proper procedure.

B. Procedure

1. One (1) ten-minute (10) overtime period will be played, which may end in sudden victory (first to score). Possession is to be determined by a coin flip. If the score remains tied after the overtime period, there will be a five-minute rest period and the game will go into kicks
2. Order of kicks will be determined by a coin flip and **all kicks must be drop kicks**. Three (3) kickers representing each team would kick from the 22-meter line (25 yards). **The kickers would have to be on the field at the time of the final whistle.** *Note: The drop kicks are to be 25 yards from the field goal post, thus if game is played on a football field, drop kicks should take place from the 15 yard line.*
3. Teams would alternate kicks until all six kickers (3 per team) had an opportunity. The winner would be the team that had converted the most kicks
4. If after three (3) kickers, per team, the tie is not broken, the three would kick again from 5 meters back (5 yards). If all players miss, the distance is not changed.
5. Teams would then alternate kicks until a winner is found. So team *A* makes first kick, team *B* misses first kick, team *A* wins.
6. Any player who is disqualified, may not participate any further.

L. **PLAYERS' CLOTHING/UNIFORM** *(Laws of the Game Rugby Union)*
Players' must wear their official school uniform. The sleeve of a jersey must extend at least half way from the shoulder point to the elbow.

1. All items of clothing must comply with World Rugby Regulation 12, unless modified by the MIAA. http://playerwelfare.worldrugby.org/reg12
2. A player wears a jersey, shorts and underwear, socks and boots. The sleeve of a jersey must extend at least half-way from the shoulder point to the elbow.

3. **Additional items are permitted. These are:**
    1. Washable supports made of elasticated or compressible materials.
    2. Shin guards.
    3. Ankle supports worn under socks, not extending higher than one third of the length of the shin and, if rigid, from material other than metal.
    4. Mitts (fingerless gloves).
    5. Shoulder pads.
    6. **Mouth guard are required** or dental protector.
    7. Headgear.
    8. Bandages, dressings, thin tape or other similar material.
    9. Goggles (global law trial).
    10. Studs, including those of moulded rubber, on the soles of their boots.

**** Boys have the option to wear cotton blend long tights, with single inside leg seam under their shorts and socks. Tights must be the same solid color throughout the team.** *(Approved by MIAA Board of Directors 16-0 on 3/7/18 but now an USA Rugby Law).*

4. **In addition, women may wear:**
    1. Chest pads.
    2. Cotton blend long tights, with single inside leg seam under their shorts and socks. **Tights must be the same solid color throughout the team.**
    3. Headscarves, providing they do not cause a danger to the wearer or other players.

5. **A player may not wear:**
    1. Any item contaminated by blood.
    2. Any sharp or abrasive item.
    3. Any items containing buckles, clips, rings, hinges, zippers, screws, bolts or rigid material or projection not otherwise permitted under this law.
    4. Jewelry.
    5. Gloves.
    6. Shorts with padding sewn into them.
    7. Any item that is normally permitted in law but, in the referee's opinion, is liable to cause injury.
    8. Communication devices.

6. The referee has the power to decide at any time that part of a player's clothing is dangerous or illegal. In this case, the referee must order the player to remove the item. The player must not take part in the match until the item is removed or rendered harmless.
7. If, at an inspection before the match, a match official tells a player that an item banned under this law is being worn and the player is subsequently found to be wearing that item on the playing area, that player is sent off for misconduct. Sanction: Penalty.

The referee must not allow any player to leave the playing area to change items of clothing, unless they are bloodstained.

World Rugby Regulation 12 can be found at: http://playerwelfare.worldrugby.org/reg12

N. SPORTSMANSHIP RULES

All athletes serving game suspension(s) as a result of infractions during the regular season will have the remainder of their suspension continued into Tournament play. ***Any player disqualified during tournament play, is to remain on the team bench under the direct supervision of the coach.***

O. MEDICAL COVERAGE

A licensed physician, licensed trainer or certified EMT must be in attendance and on duty for all interscholastic rugby games. The medical person shall be responsible for both teams unless the visiting team has its own medical coverage. His/her judgment will be final with regard to the condition of a player after injury. No player may continue to play against the medical person's advice. The penalty for violation of this provision is forfeiture of the game. 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 semifinal and state final sites.

P. 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 areas.

Q. SAT/SAT SUBJECT TESTS:

1. Tournament Games may be scheduled for the same date of the SAT and SAT Subject Tests. Tournament games may also be scheduled for **June 5, 2027**, the same date of the ACT. Please tell all coaches & student-athletes now so alternative plans may be made. A listing of all dates and sports that may take place on schedule College Board exam dates can be found at: *https://www.collegeboard.org*

2. The **College Board** offers a ***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.**

3. **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. Contact Info: **Alan Bernstein, Senior District Director**, K-12 Services, New England Regional Office, The College Board, 1601 Trapelo Road, Suite 12, Waltham, MA 02451;, K-12 Services, New England Regional Office, The College Board, 1601 Trapelo Road, Suite 12, Waltham, MA