



2026

Soccer

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2026 Soccer Tournament

1. TENTATIVE TOURNAMENT DATES

Cut-off Date: November 3, 2026
Bracket Release: November 5, 2026
*Tournament Begins: November 6, 2026
Anticipated State Finals: November 20-21, 2026
-Dates subject to change

2. QUALIFYING CRITERIA

1. A school must schedule and compete in a minimum of 50% of the season competition limits per Handbook Rule 34 to be eligible for tournament play.
2. Only the first three (3) games played between two (2) schools count towards qualification. League play-off games count.
3. All team sports will qualify the top 32 teams by division
4. Teams not power seeded in the top 32 but meeting 50% qualifying criteria will be eligible for the tournament
5. All team sports will be seeded by power ranking system
6. Top 4 seeded teams placed in four brackets (1,2,3,4)
7. The rest of bracket positions 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
8. All games will be at home site of higher seed for the Preliminary Play in games, Round of 32, Round of 16 and Round of 8

3. FORFEITED CONTESTS

Any forfeited contest – whether a result of a canceled season, rule violation, or forfeit awarded for an unplayed contest – will be removed from the initial calculation of the power rankings. By doing so, a forfeited game will not have a “ripple” effect on all teams across the state. The Margin of Victory component of the formula will be adjusted after the initial calculation for only the teams involved in the forfeited contest, with the final score equivalent to the Margin of Victory cap for that sport.

4. 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.



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4. Pairings and Tournament Information will be available on MIAA website, <http://www.miaa.net> throughout the tournament.
5. Tournament match results should be called in to the Tournament Director by the winning team, as soon as possible, from the game site.

5. SITE INFORMATION

1. All matches will be at the home site of higher seed for the Preliminary Play-in Games, Round of 32, Round of 16 and Round of 8.
2. Site Determination Information
All games will be at home site of higher seed for the Preliminary Play-in games, Round of 32, Round of 16, and Round of 8.

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 Director will place game at an acceptable site within

MIAA site policy The MIAA will provide sites for State Semi Finals (round of 4) and State Finals as defined by TMC Site policy.

Refer to tournament formats for venue standards such as:

- Condition of playing surface
- Crowd Control
- Seating capacity
- Ticket sales control
- Locker rooms
- Acceptable lights for night games

3. If the home team site does not meet the above standards the following will apply:
 - a. Home AD must find an alternate site that meets the above standards.
 - b. The Lower Seed will host the match.
 - c. If both sites do not meet the standards, then the Tournament Director will place the match at a site that meets the standards.
4. The MIAA will provide sites for Final 4 and State Finals.

6. RULES

National Federation Soccer Rules for Boys' & Girls' will be followed - Unless otherwise modified by MIAA.

7. REGULATION PLAYING TIME

Each team will be granted a minimum of 20-minutes on-field warm-up time. The time of the game will be two (2) 40-minute halves. There will be no stop time unless indicated by the officials. Half-time will be 10 minutes. Official time is kept on the field by the referee.

8. TIE BREAKING METHOD

1. 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.
2. Procedure
 - a. There will be a ten-minute sudden victory overtime period. **In the State Final ONLY, this overtime period will be fifteen (15) minutes.**
 - b. A coin toss shall be held as in National Federation Soccer Rule 5-2-2(d) (3).
 - c. If a tie still exists after the first ten-minute sudden victory period, a second ten-minute sudden victory period will be played and teams will change ends. **In the State Final ONLY, this second overtime period will be fifteen (15) minutes.**



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- d. If the score still remains tied all coaches, officials, and team captains shall assemble at the halfway line to review the procedure outlined below:
 - A. The referee(s) shall choose the goal at which all of the kicks from the penalty line shall be taken.
 - B. Each coach will select any 5 players from his/her final roster (excluding those who may have been disqualified) for the first round of kicks. These five selected players will all shoot, unless a winner can be determined in 3 shots, in any order according to the coach's decision. The coach may substitute for any or all players in this original group, **prior to their turn.**
 - C. A coin toss shall be held as in rule 5-2-2(d)(3).. The team winning the toss shall have the choice of kicking first or second.
 - D. Teams will alternate kickers. There is no follow-up on the kick.
 - E. The defending team may change the goalkeeper prior to each penalty kick.
 - F. Following five kicks for each team, the team scoring on the greatest number of these kicks shall be declared the winner.
 - G. 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 tie breaker system.
- f. If the score remains tied after each team has had five kicks:
 - A. Each coach will select another five eligible players, who did not participate in the preceding round. This group may shoot in any order and be substituted for, prior to their turn, as determined by their coach. This round is in "Sudden Victory" mode, unlike the first round. The team with the most goals after an equal number of attempts is declared the winner.
 - B. If a tie exists after this round is complete, each coach will select ANY five shooters for Round #3. They may shoot in any order and be substituted for as in paragraph 5a. This round continues in "Sudden Victory" mode.
 - C. If a tie still exists, each coach will select five players for Round #4 who did not shoot in the preceding round. They, too, may shoot in any order and be substituted for by any eligible player who did not shoot in Round #3. "Sudden Victory" mode continues.
 - D. If a tie still exists, the sequence repeats as written in paragraph 5b above (the numbers of these "Rounds" are to be changed appropriately). A winner is declared when one team has more goals and an equal of fewer shooter attempts.
 - E. It is important to note that in every odd numbered round of kicks, ALL players on the roster, excluding those who have been disqualified, are eligible to participate. In every even numbered round, players who just participated in the preceding round are NOT eligible.
- g. During the tie-breaker penalty kicks, the ball remains alive until its momentum is spent, it goes out of bounds, or it is retouched by the kicker.

9. STARTING TIME

All tournament games on school days will begin no earlier than 2:00 p.m. On Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays, the time will be set by the Tournament Director. Schools are asked to check evening preference should lights be available at their home site.



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10. ADVERSE CONDITIONS

The officials have charge of the game from the opening whistle on and will be guided by the National Federation rules for the year in determining whether or not the game should be stopped.

(Example: Playing conditions are unfair or dangerous for players, darkness, etc.)

- A. If a tournament game is suspended in the 2nd half due to weather, both teams will return the next playable day to complete the game from where they left off on a playable field. Both Schools can mutually agree to end the game as is (eg: lopsided score in the 2nd half may warrant a team not wanting to return).

If less than one (1) half of the game has been played, the game will be replayed in its entirety the next day.

- B. If the game is tied when called in the 2nd half or the overtime periods, the two teams will return the next day to the same field and play two (2) 20-minute halves in their entirety switching ends at the end of the first 20-minute half. If after 40-minute play, the score is still tied, then the tie breaking procedure should be followed.

11. POSTPONEMENT OF GAMES

Only the Tournament administrator may decide to postpone a game. Postponed games are to be played the following day on the same field, if possible.

12. MISCONDUCT PROCEDURES:

A. Cautioned Players:

1. One of the five players selected to take a kick is cautioned after he/she takes the kick. That player is not eligible to kick again until one complete set of five kicks, for which he/she would be otherwise eligible, has been completed beyond the set of kicks in which the caution was issued.
2. One of the five players selected to take a kick is cautioned before he/she takes the kick. That player is not eligible to kick until the next set of five kicks. Another eligible player not listed in that set of kicks must take the cautioned player's original turn.
3. When a goalkeeper is issued a caution during any set of five kicks, he/she cannot re-enter until the next opponent completes his/her kick. A substitution is permitted for the cautioned goalkeeper.

B. Disqualified Players

1. Any player, including the goalkeeper, who is disqualified, may not participate any further. If his/her kick is not already completed, a substitute is permitted.

Examples:

- (1) Player "X" is one of the first five kickers, and is cautioned after taking his/her kick. Player "X" is not eligible to kick again until the set beginning with the 16th kick.
- (2) Player "Y" is one of the second set of five kickers and is cautioned after taking his/her kick. Player "Y" is not eligible to kick again until the set beginning with the 16th kick.
- (3) Player "X" is a kicker in any set of five kickers and is cautioned before taking his/her kick. Player "X" is not eligible to kick until the next set of five kicks. Player "X's" kick in the set of five in which he/she was cautioned must be taken by another eligible player is not listed in that set of kicks.

- 13. TIME OUT RULE (MIAA Handbook Rule 78.2.24):** "Each team will be allowed a one-minute timeout per half and each extended time period. The time out may be called by the coach or any player on the field during an offensive restart." Interpretation: A team with the offensive restart may



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request, and be granted a timeout during each timed overtime period, BUT NOT DURING ANY SET of overtime penalty kicks. **Either team may request a timeout after goals, cautions, or disqualifications, after an injury timeout, and at the taking of a dropped ball.** Timeouts, if not used, are NOT cumulative and may not be carried over to the next period of play.

- Time out called during the dead ball time to attend to an injured player:
 - That injured player may reenter the game after the time out.
- Time out called during the dead ball time to administer a caution to a player:
 - That player may NOT reenter the game after the time out, but must wait until the next legal sub opportunity after the game has been restarted
- If the restart is a penalty kick, then the kicker MUST be someone who was on the field when the foul was called. Therefore, the referees should ask the team taking the PK to choose a kicker PRIOR to allowing the teams to have the time out. (NOTE: clock is still stopped during all of this).

14. GAME BALLS

Tournament administrators will provide Wilson NCAA VIVIDO MATCH soccer balls for the State Semi-Finals and State Finals games.

15. UNIFORMS

The home team (higher seeded team) will wear dark jerseys, and the visiting team (lower seeded team) will wear white or light colored jerseys. Confirmation by schools to respective opponents is encouraged. Reminder, all Goalkeepers must have numbered jerseys, front and back (*NFHS Rule*).

16. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

Maximum size of a tournament team shall be consistent with State Tournament requirements, which are 30 players per team.

17. 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. However, both players and team card accumulation will begin at zero (0) in Tournament play. **Any player disqualified during tournament play, is to remain on the team bench under the direct supervision of the coach.**

18. GOALKEEPER HARASSMENT

In the interest of good sportsmanship, spectators will not be allowed to stand behind the end lines during tournament games. Officials and police will be asked to enforce this ruling. It is suggested that participating schools have faculty members and/or principal attend the games their school is playing so as to assist in enforcing all rules. Administration should make themselves known to officials prior to the game.

19. 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 and compensated by the Host School in tournament rounds at the site of the higher seeded team. The MIAA will compensate for this coverage at MIAA designated neutral sites.

20. BALL PERSONS – At neutral sites, the site director will assign ball persons. In the early rounds the home team must supply ball persons.

21. OFFICIALS

To be eligible to be assigned to an MIAA tournament game, an official must be background check approved by the MIAA and must have worked a minimum of ten (10) regular season varsity high school soccer games. . There shall be two (2) officials for all preliminary and quarter-final round games. Starting in the Round of 16 until the State Finals (boys and girls) a three person diagonal officiating system will be utilized, with one designated as the official timekeeper.



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22. 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.

23. SAT/SAT SUBJECT TESTS:

1. Soccer Tournament Games may be scheduled on a Saturday – the same date as an anticipated SAT Test Date. Schools are encouraged to be aware of this date and collaborative if scheduling a game on this date. A listing of all dates and sports that may take place on scheduled College Board exam dates can be found on the MIAA website. College Board dates can be found here - <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.



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MIAA Soccer Tournament Sportsmanship Responsibility of Competing Schools Compliance Policy & School Monitor Job Description

As part of MIAA continuing efforts to promote the concepts of sportsmanship and provide the on-site atmosphere that will keep interscholastic athletic events in an educational perspective, the Soccer Committee has adopted the following regulations relative to the participation in the MIAA Soccer Tournament

These regulations specifically provide the requirement, that all member schools who elect to enter the MIAA Soccer Tournament, after meeting the necessary requirements, will provide for the presence of school personnel that will assist the efforts of on-site management in **MAINTAINING CONTROL AND CONDUCT OF THEIR STUDENT SPECTATORS AT ALL GAMES IN THE TOURNAMENT IN WHICH THEIR TEAM IS A PARTICIPANT. THIS IS A REQUIREMENT FOR ENTRANCE INTO THE TOURNAMENT.**

These school staff members, designated as school monitors shall be appropriately identified. **They are to report by name to the Site Manager and seat themselves near their school-student section.**

- A. SIT WITH STUDENT POPULATION OF THEIR SCHOOL
- B. DISCOURAGE ALL UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR AND ACTIVITY THAT PROVOKES OR RESULTS IN UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR BY OTHERS OR IS RETALIATORY TO UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR OF OTHERS.
- C. KEEP STUDENT POPULATION IN THEIR OWN AREA.
- D. ASSIST IN ENFORCING TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS RELATED TO SIGNS, BANNERS, NOISEMAKERS, RADIOS, ETC.
- E. PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE SITE MANAGEMENT PERTAINING TO ENTRANCE AND EGRESS OF STUDENT SPECTATORS.
- F. STORMING OF THE FIELD

COMPLIANCE WITH THESE REGULATIONS IS MANDATORY:

Schools not in compliance with the minimum school monitors for their scheduled game will have this action of noncompliance subject to review by the Soccer Committee. Noncompliance may lead to ineligibility for the Soccer Tournament the following year.

This requirement for participation in the Soccer Tournament has been approved by the Board of Directors in the interest of good sportsmanship and of conducting the tournament in an educational atmosphere.

By entering the MIAA Soccer Tournament, I confirm that the Principal, Athletic Director and Coaching Staff have read and understand the Compliance Policy and will support and abide by that policy to help promote good sportsmanship.



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MIAA Soccer Tournament Sportsmanship Responsibility of Competing Schools Compliance Policy & School Monitor Job Description (Continued)

Specific Requirements

PRELIMINARY & Round of 32: (MINIMUM STAFF REQUIRED: Schools supply staff identification)

- 1 - Principal or Assistant Principal or Athletic Director or his/her designee
- TBD - Other Staff/Personnel as determined by School Administration

Round of 16 and 8: (MINIMUM STAFF REQUIRED)

- 1 - Principal or Assistant Principal or Athletic Director or his/her designee
- 1 - Other School Staff Personnel
- TBD - Other Staff/Personnel as determined by School Administration

STATE SEMI-FINALS: (MINIMUM STAFF REQUIRED)

- 1 - Principal or Assistant Principal or his/her designee
- 1 - Athletic Director or his/her designee
- 2 - Other School Staff Personnel
- TBD - Other Staff/Personnel as determined by School Administration

STATE FINALS - ALL DIVISIONS: (MINIMUM STAFF REQUIRED)

- 1 - Principal or Assistant Principal or his/her designee
- 1 - Athletic Director or his/her designee
- 3 - Other School Staff Personnel
- TBD - Other Staff/Personnel as determined by School Administration

PLEASE NOTE: The above staffing is the responsibility of the competing schools. Any compensation to these individuals is the responsibility of the competing schools.

Each Athletic Director must contact the MIAA Tournament Site Manager to advise him/her of the name of the individual(s) who will represent the school. The coach **MAY NOT** be the representative. This representative must report to the MIAA Site Manager at least 30 minutes prior to game time.

A maximum of 10 (ten) has been established for HS Soccer school monitors at any level.

Non-Discrimination Statement

MIAA does not discriminate in its educational programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, age, religion or religious creed, disability or handicap, sex or gender, gender identity and/or expression, sexual orientation, military or veteran status, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal, state or local law. Retaliation is also prohibited. *MIAA – 10/11/18*