SPRING 2026 Soccer (Girls)

Soccer (Girls)

TOURNAMENT PROCEDURE

ASSIGNMENT OF SCHOOLS WILL BE ON A GEOGRAPHICAL BASIS IN FOUR DIVISIONS (1-2-3-4)

- a. The largest 64 schools sponsoring soccer are in Division 1, the next largest 64 schools sponsoring soccer are in Division 2, with the remaining schools divided equally between Divisions 3 and 4.
- b. Cooperative teams are placed into divisional competition on the basis of the combined enrollment of the schools involved.
- c. Schools may be allowed to play up one division in any sport (except football) from where its enrollment would otherwise place it if an application is submitted prior to July 1. This will not cause other schools to be displaced.

Note: Please refer to tournament performance factor and procedures outlined in the Constitution. Article III, 3B and Appendix N.

2. THE TOURNAMENT PLAN - LEVELS OF COMPETITION, DATES, PAIRINGS AND SITES - IS AS FOLLOWS:

Note: In the event scheduled classes are interrupted or terminated due to infectious/communicable disease, refer to WIAA Bylaws, Article II, Section 6-A. (p. 25) of WIAA SENIOR HIGH HANDBOOK.

- a. Schools are assigned to one of four sectionals in all divisions.
 - (1) Each regional and/or sectional will be seeded by the coaches in that group.
 - Note: Sectional #1, in all divisions, will be split into two groups, geographically, prior to seeding.
- Regional Matches
 - (1) Divisions 1-2 are scheduled for Tuesday, June 2 and Saturday, June 6.
 - Note: When a play-in match is necessary, the match will be played on Saturday, May 30 or on a mutually agreed upon date before the next match (June 2).
 - (2) Divisions 3-4 are scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, Thursday, June 4 and Saturday, June 6.
 - Note: When a play-in match is necessary, the match will be played on Saturday, May 30 or on a mutually agreed upon date before the next match (June 2).
- c. Sectional semifinal matches will be played on Thursday, June 11.
- Sectional final matches will be played on Saturday, June 13.
- e. Each grouping will be seeded by the coaches in that grouping.
 - (1) The higher seeded team will host through the sectional semifinal match provided that school has a facility, or has access to a facility on the approved site list.
 - Note: A school may prearrange to host at another facility, BUT that facility must still be listed on the approved site list.
 - (2) If the higher seeded team does not have access to a field on the approved site list, the opponent will be given the opportunity to host under the same criteria.
 - (3) If neither team is able to secure a field on the approved site list, the higher seeded team will host.

Note: Criteria for Approved Site List (must be updated annually) deadline Friday, September 19.

- (a) Minimum of 65 x 110 field.
- (b) Artificial turf football fields are acceptable.
- (c) If agreed upon by participating schools prior to the day of the game, a shared football and soccer field can be used.
- (d) Able to charge admission.
- f. Sectional final matches will be played on sites predetermined by the WIAA.

Note: Special consideration will be given to hosting applicants whose field dimensions are at least 110 x 75.

- g. Final approval of all sites will rest with the WIAA.
- h. State Tournament
 - (1) Winners of the four sectionals in each division participate in the State Tournament on Thursday-Friday-Saturday, June 18-19-20.
 - (2) The four Division 1 head coaches of qualifying teams along with the four Division 2 head coaches and a Wisconsin Soccer Coaches Association designee will seed the Division 1 and 2 State brackets.
 - (3) The four Division 3 head coaches of qualifying teams along with the four Division 4 head coaches and a Wisconsin Soccer Coaches Association designee will seed the Division 3 and 4 State brackets.
 - (4) If a team is disqualified from the State Tournament and replaced by the last defeated opponent, teams will be reseeded using the specific sport state seeding criteria if the disqualification occurs 24 hours prior to the start of the first match of the State Tournament series (regardless of division).
 - Anytime after the 24 hour deadline, a replacing team will be placed in the bracket where the disqualified team was originally seeded.

3. RULES GOVERNING COMPETITION

All specifications of Numbers 8 and 15 under SEASON REGULATIONS (pages 18-20) will apply with these exceptions and additions:

Athletes who are ineligible during the WIAA Tournament (for any reason) may not appear in uniform, participate in warm-ups, and may not participate in the awards ceremony at the WIAA Tournament. Exception: An injured athlete will be allowed to participate in the awards ceremony provided he/she is included in the roster allotment for that match.

EXCEPTIONS

a. 15. b. and c. under National Federation Allowed Adaptations do not apply.

ADDITIONS

- a. A school may not compete in the tournament program if it has participated in more than 24 matches.
- b. A school must participate in a minimum of four matches in the regular season to be eligible for tournament competition.

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c. Any varsity team whose players and coaches, during the regular season, collectively receive a total of 24 or more yellow cards (including all second yellow/red cards) will be prohibited from participating in the WIAA State Tournament series. This ruling may be appealed by the school involved.

This rule does not apply to yellow cards received during the tournament series.

- d. Host schools are not permitted to allow participating schools to practice on their facilities prior to the tournament.
- e. It is recommended that fields be a minimum of 65 x 110 yards. Special consideration will be given to applications to host sectional final matches where field dimensions are at least 75 x 110.
- f. The maximum number of participants for each tournament match is 25. Each participating school will be allowed a maximum of 25 players in full uniform for each tournament match.

Note: Each team will be allowed a total of 35 personnel in their team box at the State Tournament.

Noncompliance with this regulation, once competition has begun, shall be regarded as flagrant, unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the head coach resulting in his/her immediate ejection (leave premises) when brought to the attention of the match officials.

Note: If no other coach or faculty member of that school is present to supervise the team, the match shall be forfeited and the team disqualified from further participation in the tournament series.

- (1) A school may change its team make-up from one tournament match to the next.
- (2) Schools are expected to provide tournament managers a list of its participants for program purposes.
- g. Jersey Colors
 - (1) Higher seeded team will wear dark uniforms and be designated as the home team throughout the WIAA tournament series.
 - Note 1: For the sectional final game, if equal seeds, the first school alpha will wear dark uniforms and be designated as home team on the scoreboard.
 - Note 2: If sectional final host school is not the higher seed, the host school will wear white jerseys and be recognized as the home school on the scoreboard.
- Both teams shall be located on the same side of the field.
- i. Yellow Cards

At the start of the WIAA tournament series, a player will start with a clean slate if they have accumulated less than five yellow cards during the regular season. During the tournament series, once a player accumulates three yellow cards, they are suspended for the next match; three more yellows, suspended for two matches, etc.

If a player enters the tournament series having accumulated five or more yellow cards during the season, their yellow card count continues. Once they reach eight total cards (regular season and WIAA tournament series) they are suspended for two matches, eleven yellows - suspended for three matches, etc.

- j. If a tournament contest is suspended at any point it will be continued from the point of suspension on the next available date, unless both coaches agree to let the recorded score stand.
- k. Length of Periods (7-1-1)

During the WIAA tournament series, all matches will be played in two forty (40) minute halves, two (2) full ten (10) minute overtimes (no sudden victory) and then penalty kicks if the match is still tied.

- (1) There shall be two 10-minute overtime periods. (No sudden victory).
 - (a) A coin toss shall be held as in Rule 5-2-2(e) (2).
 - (b) At the end of the first overtime period, teams shall change ends. There shall be a two-minute interval between periods.
- (2) If the score still remains tied, all coaches, officials and team captains shall assemble at the halfway line to review the procedure as outlined below:
 - (a) The head referee shall choose the goal at which all of the penalty kicks shall be taken.
 - (b) 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.
 - (c) A coin toss shall be held. 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) Following five kicks for each team, the team scoring on the greatest number of these kicks shall be declared the winner.
 - (f) If the score remains tied after each team has had five penalty kicks, each coach will select five different players 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 match is ended without more kicks being taken.
 - (g) Credit each team with a tie and include the final score of the shootout in parenthesis, e.g. 1-1 (5-4).
- (3) After 60 minutes of play, if there is a score differential of eight or more goals the match shall end.
- I. WIAA Tournament UAV Policy

The Board of Control has approved a policy for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles or drones at outdoor WIAA State Tournament series events. UAVs are prohibited at all WIAA indoor tournaments. Drone operation requires a Remote Pilot Command license. Operators must also receive written consent from the WIAA executive office at least 24 hours in advance, as well as approval of the host facility event management. The complete policy for UAVs is located on page 51 of the Senior High Handbook. Contact the WIAA office with all requests to operate drones at WIAA Tournament events.

m. For information about non-school participation, refer to Rules of Eligibility, Article VI, Section 1 of the Senior High Handbook and consult with Athletic Administration.

SEEDING PROCEDURES

- a. Before the Seeding Meeting
 - (1) Seeding meetings must be conducted prior to 10 p.m. Sunday, May 24.
 - (2) All seeding meetings will be face to face or virtual. If meeting is face to face, a virtual option must be provided if necessary.

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- (3) The sectional final host will be the seeding meeting host ONLY if no one within the grouping volunteers to host the seeding meeting.
- (4) Each coach shall provide their Season Summary to every other school in their regional grouping and to the individual conducting the Seeding Meeting by the date designated by the seeding meeting host. The WIAA Season Summary form must be used.

(5) Seeding meeting host will be paid \$70 by the WIAA.

- b. At the Seeding Meeting
 - (1) Coaches are required to participate in seeding meetings.
 - (2) Each school will designate one person to speak on behalf of their school.
 - (3) If a school is not represented at the seeding meeting, their school may still be seeded, if appropriate. If the school is not deserving of a seed, they may be ranked/positioned last.
 - (4) Each coach will update his/her Season Summary to include any matches played after form was submitted.
 - (5) All groupings will meet together and seed as a complete group. The grouping will not be split into top eight in one room and remaining schools in a different room.
 - (6) Prior to the start of the meeting, have the coaches draw to determine the order of presentations. Each coach should be allowed three minutes to discuss their season.
 - (7) Coaches should consider these factors when determining their seeds (factors are not listed in any order of preference):
 - (a) Coaches comments.
 - (b) Head-to-head competition against teams in their regional grouping.
 - (c) Comparative scores against like opponents.
 - (d) Conference standings
 - (e) Relative strength of schedule.
 - (f) Overall win-loss record.
 - (g) Other special factors (e.g., injury of a key player, etc.).
 - (8) Once everyone has had the opportunity to speak, coaches should complete their Ranking Sheet. Coaches are not allowed to rank their own team.
 - (9) After all Ranking Sheets are turned in, the individual conducting the Seeding Meeting will record the ballots of each school alphabetically in a visible manner (e.g., chalkboard, chart, overhead, etc.).
 - (10) The rankings shall be tallied and the team with the lowest number will be the #1 seed, the team with the second lowest number shall be the #2 seed, etc., until all seeds are determined.

c. Breaking Ties

If a tie results during seeding, move to the tie-breaking procedure below:

- (1) The coaches involved in the tie shall have one minute to state his/her claims to the higher seeded position.
- (2) All coaches not involved in the tie will have one vote to determine which team gets the higher seeded position. The Seeding Meeting host will ask coaches to vote for the team that should receive the higher seeded position. No coach is allowed to abstain from voting.
- (3) After all ballots are turned in the Seeding Meeting host will record the ballots in a visible manner.
- (4) The team with the most votes receives the higher seeded position.
- (5) If the vote results in a tie, repeat this procedure.
- (6) If after two attempts, the tied vote remains, a coin flip will determine the higher seeded team.

d. Appeal Procedure

If a team feels it should have received a higher seeded position, once the votes have been tabulated, it may appeal its position relative to that of any other team. The following procedures shall be used:

- (1) Appeals may NOT be made for a lower seed. Always start from the bottom and work toward the top seed when working through the appeal process.
- (2) The coach making the appeal shall have one minute to state his/her claims to the higher seeded position. The coach of the team being challenged will then have one minute to state his/her claim to that position.
- (3) All coaches NOT involved in the appeal will have one vote to determine which team gets the higher seeded position. No coach is allowed to abstain from voting.
- (4) A request/appeal for a higher seed and a subsequent concede must go to a vote (it is not an automatic change).
- (5) After all ballots are turned in, the individual conducting the Seeding Meeting will record the ballots of each school alphabetically in a visible
- (6) The team with the most votes receives the higher seeded position.
- (7) A team may make any number of appeals, but an appeal between the same teams cannot be repeated. Teams may only appeal one seed higher at a time.
 - Example: School is seeded 6 and feels they should be the 4 seed. First, they must appeal for the 5 seed. If successful in obtaining the 5 seed, they could then appeal for the 4 seed.
- (8) If when voting on an appeal a tie vote occurs, the original placement shall stand.
- (9) If this is an attempt to break a tie from the original placement of teams, continue to hash it out until the vote determines the placement of teams. Use a coin flip only when it appears there is no way to break the tie.
- (10) A team cannot appeal a tie-breaking vote.
- (11) All disagreements regarding seeding must be settled at this meeting. Once the meeting is over, the seeds are final. The WIAA will not change the results of your seeding meeting or hear appeals.
- e. During regional and sectional play, if a disqualifying violation is confirmed after brackets have been seeded, the opponent of the disqualified team shall advance regardless of their bracket position and no other adjustments shall be made within the bracket.

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4. REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

- a. Scheduling of Competition
 - (1) Weekday contest times will be 4 p.m. or 7 p.m. Matches may start earlier than 4 p.m. only with WIAA approval.
 - (2) Weekend contest times will be 1 p.m., 4 p.m. or 7 p.m.

Note: The host school manager will determine the start time and are instructed to keep in mind travel for competing schools and daylight. Requests for alternative times will be handled by the WIAA on a case by case basis.

- b. Officials
 - (1) The WIAA will contract three officials for all regional matches.
 - (a) Opt outs of forfeits after WIAA has contracted officials may require school to pay for official fees.
 - (2) Officials should be paid according to the following schedule:
 - Referee \$90 Assistant Referees (2) \$80
 - (3) Officials will be paid 55¢ per mile (round trip) for travel.
 - (4) Officials shall travel together when geographically feasible with mileage paid to one official. If officials choose to travel separately, the mileage for the longest trip may be split between the officials.
- c. Awards
 - (1) Plaque to championship team.
- d. Finances
 - (1) Host School Allowances
 - (a) A financial report provided by the WIAA must be filed by each school conducting an event.
 - (b) The following items are authorized for payment out of tournament receipts only if admission is charged for the event. If no admission is charged, the host school is responsible for these expenses.
 - 1) Fees and expenses of officials.
 - 2) Host School \$255 per match, including manager fee \$90 per match.
 - (c) If a balance remains after payments are made as listed above, the WIAA and the host school will share equally (50-50) in this amount.
 - (d) If tournament receipts do not cover items listed in (b) above, the WIAA will subsidize the difference.
 - (2) Allowance to Participating Schools
 - (a) There is no allowance of any kind for participating schools.
 - (3) Ticket Prices Child/Student/Adult \$6

Host schools may sell, if their facilities permit, single admission tickets for \$1 for children under 6 years of age.

- (4) Admission Policies
 - (a) Free admissions will be provided for (29 total):
 - Twenty-five members of the team.
 - Two support staff (managers, trainers, etc.).
 - Head coach and one assistant coach.
 - (b) Maximum of six cheerleaders.
 - (c) A maximum of eight individuals designated by the participating schools. It is expected that staff members from that pool will be available for any assistance associated with contest management. Whether a program is a stand-alone or part of a multi-school coop, a maximum of eight individuals will be provided free admission. The same allotment may be applied to host schools which are not playing in the tournament.

5. SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT

- a. Scheduling of Competition
 - (1) Weekday contest times will be 4 p.m. or 7 p.m. Matches may start earlier than 4 p.m. only with WIAA approval.
 - (2) Weekend contest times will be 1 p.m., 4 p.m. or 7 p.m.

Note: The host school manager will determine the start time and are instructed to keep in mind travel for competing schools and daylight. Requests for alternative times will be handled by the WIAA on a case by case basis.

- b. Officials
 - (1) The WIAA will contract three officials for all sectional matches.
 - (2) Officials should be paid according to the following schedule:

Referee - \$100 Assistant Referees (2) - \$90

- (3) Officials will be paid 55¢ per mile (round trip) for travel.
- (4) Officials shall travel together when geographically feasible with mileage paid to one official. If officials choose to travel separately, the mileage for the longest trip may be split between the officials.
- Official Ball: Select Royale.
 - (1) Six balls will be provided to every sectional final site.
- d. Awards
 - (1) Plaque to championship team.
 - (2) Medals to members (25) of championship and runner-up teams.
- e. Finances
 - (1) Host School Allowances
 - (a) A financial report provided by the WIAA must be filed by each school conducting an event.

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(b) The following items are authorized for payment out of tournament receipts only if admission is charged for the event. If no admission is charged, the host school is responsible for these expenses.

- 1) Fees and expenses of officials.
- 2) Host School \$255 per match, including manager fee \$90 per match.
- (c) If a balance remains after payments are made as listed above, the WIAA and the host school will share equally (50-50) in this amount.
- (d) If tournament receipts do not cover items listed in (b) previous page, the WIAA will subsidize the difference.
- (2) Allowance to Participating Schools
 - (a) There is no allowance of any kind for participating schools.
- (3) Ticket Prices Child/Student/Adult \$7

Host schools may sell, if their facilities permit, single admission tickets for \$1 for children under 6 years of age.

- (4) Admission Policies
 - (a) Free admissions will be provided for (29 total):
 - 25 members of the team.
 - Two support staff (managers, trainers, etc.).
 - Head coach and one assistant coach.
 - (b) Maximum of six cheerleaders.
 - (c) A maximum of eight individuals designated by the participating schools. It is expected that staff members from that pool will be available for any assistance associated with contest management. Whether a program is a stand-alone or part of a multi-school co-op, a maximum of 8 individuals will be provided free admission. The same allotment may be applied to host schools which are not playing in the tournament.

6. STATE TOURNAMENT

- a. Scheduling of Competition
 - (1) Contests will be played in the order indicated below.
 - (2) This is the schedule for the State Tournament: All matches will be played at Southeast Sales Powersports Stadium at Uihlein Soccer Park in Milwaukee.

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Thursday, June 18
                               Division 2 Semifinals
     11 a.m.
                                   #1 Seed vs. #4 Seed
     1:30 p.m.
                                   #2 Seed vs. #3 Seed
                               Division 1 Semifinals
                                   #1 Seed vs. #4 Seed
     4:30 p.m.
                                   #2 Seed vs. #3 Seed
     7 p.m.
Friday, June 19
                               Division 4 Semifinals
                                   #1 Seed vs. #4 Seed
      11 a.m.
     1:30 p.m.
                                   #2 Seed vs. #3 Seed
                               Division 3 Semifinals
     4:30 p.m.
                                   #1 Seed vs. #4 Seed
                                   #2 Seed vs. #3 Seed
     7 p.m.
Saturday, June 20
                               Championships
     11 a.m.
                                   Division 2 Championship
                                   Division 1 Championship
      1:30 p.m.
     4:30 p.m.
                                   Division 4 Championship
                                   Division 3 Championship
     7 p.m.
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- b. Officials
 - (1) The WIAA will contract officials to work the State Tournament.
 - (2) Officials should be paid according to the following schedule:

Referee - **\$140** Assistant Referees (2) - **\$100**

- (3) Officials will be paid 55¢ per mile (round trip for travel).
- (4) Officials shall travel together with mileage paid to one official. If officials choose to travel separately, the mileage for the longest trip may be split between the officials.
- (5) Officials will receive reimbursement for necessary food and lodging expenses.
- c. Official State Tournament Ball: Select Royale.
- d. Awards
 - (1) Trophy to championship and runner-up teams.
 - (2) Medals to members (25) of championship and runner-up teams.
- e. Finances
 - (1) Participating Schools Allowance
 - Schools will receive an allowance for lodging that is necessary for when they are competing only. Once a school is eliminated from the tournament, the expenses incurred will become the responsibility of the school. The following factors will be used to determine the amount each school receives:
 - (a) Travel to and from State Tournament city (each day if necessary) at the rate of 52 per mile. No allowance will be paid to schools located in the State Tournament city.

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(b) Meals at the daily rate of \$10 for breakfast, \$10 for lunch and \$12 for dinner for each player in uniform, plus two other persons.
 Note: The amount of meal allowance received is contingent upon departure time to State Tournament site and arrival time from State Tournament site, but the minimum meal allowance will be \$10 each day.

- (c) Lodging at the rate of \$35 per night for each player in uniform, plus two other persons. Schools less than 50 miles from Milwaukee will not be reimbursed for lodging.
- (2) Ticket Prices Child/Student/Adult Children two and under do not require a ticket

- *On-line ticket sales subject to processing and handling fees.
- (3) Admission Policies
 - (a) Free admissions will be provided for:
 - 25 members of the team.
 - 10 additional individuals (coaches, managers, athletic trainers, etc.).
 - (b) For WIAA team championships, where space is available, two complimentary ticket will be provided to the athletic director and principal of participating schools for their personal use. These tickets are not transferable and will be provided upon request.
 - (c) There is no provision for free admissions for bands or cheerleaders.