



## **DIAA State Tournament Manual – Fall Season**

**TO:** Member School Administrators and Athletic Directors; Field Hockey and Volleyball Coaches and Officials; and Members of the Media

**FROM:** David Baylor, DIAA Executive Director  
2024 DIAA Fall Sport Committees: Cross Country, Field Hockey, Football, Girls Volleyball, Boys Soccer

The 2024 DIAA Fall State Tournament Manual is intended to provide you with detailed information concerning the organization and administration of these State Championships.

A thorough review of the general information pertinent to all of the tournaments and the specific information for each sport should familiarize you with these events.

The rules and procedures contained in this manual are applicable only to the 2024 DIAA Fall Season State Championships and are not intended to govern subsequent championships or to be binding on future committees.

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The Committees sincerely hope that these 2024 DIAA State Championships will be a tremendous success in all respects.

For the most up to date tournament information, please visit the DIAA website, [www.education.delaware.gov/diaa](http://www.education.delaware.gov/diaa)



## General Information

The following items are applicable to each of the 2024 DIAA Fall Sport State Tournaments. Items specific to the organization and administration of the specific sport Championships are located in separate sections of this manual.

### Item 1. Authorization

- A. The Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association authorized state tournament competition in boys' soccer (May 28, 1970), football (May 27, 1971), field hockey (May 24, 1973), girls' volleyball (May 22, 1975), and unified flag football (November 10, 2016) by approving each individual sport on the date indicated.

### Item 2. Management

- A. The tournaments will be managed by special committees appointed by the DIAA Board of Directors and the Executive Director.
- B. The committees in consultation with the Executive Director, are authorized to resolve any situation not covered by the regulations in the General Information or specific information sections of this manual.
- C. Changes in tournament format or the criteria and procedures for selecting and seeding the participating teams/individuals are subject to the approval of the DIAA Board of Directors.

### Item 3. Sponsorship

- A. The DIAA will organize, conduct, and underwrite the costs of the tournaments and will receive all proceeds.
- B. All expenditures must be pre-approved by the DIAA Executive Director.
  1. No vouchers will be approved unless an itemized statement of cost accompanies the request for payment.
  2. No vouchers received after the end of the fiscal year (June 15, 2025) will be paid.

### Item 4. Eligibility

- A. Eligibility rules as stipulated in the current version of the DIAA Official Handbook will be strictly enforced.

### Item 5. Contest Rules

- A. DIAA is affiliated with the National Federation of State High School Associations. The playing rules promulgated by the NFHS for field hockey, soccer, football, girls' volleyball and cross country, except as modified by the DIAA Board of Directors, will be in effect for all tournament contests.

### Item 6. Sportsmanship and Spectator Conduct

- A. Member schools are required to conduct all their athletic affairs in a spirit of good sportsmanship.
- B. The administrators, athletic directors, and coaches of the participating schools are expected to: actively promote good sportsmanship and appropriate crowd behavior, stress the importance of demonstrating respect for the contest officials and the opposing team, and emphasize the need for proper conduct by spectators at all venues. School administrators are expected to be proactive in preventing unsportsmanlike behavior and to deal with it promptly and decisively if it occurs at the contest.
- C. The coaches and athletes of the participating schools are expected to observe the highest standards of sportsmanship and ethical behavior.

#### D. Spectator Guidelines and Conduct:

1. Drones, banners, flags (with the exception of the Flag of the United States of America, and the State of Delaware), and **signs** are prohibited at all tournament contests. Other decorations that do not block spectator, press or team sightlines may be used with permission of and at the discretion of the Executive Director and the Sports Committee.
2. Streamers, confetti, and other paper debris are also prohibited.
3. Sirens, horns, bells, buzzers, whistles or any other artificial or mechanical noise-making devices are strictly forbidden at all **indoor** events.
4. The use of any noise making device that simulates game controls devices (whistles, air horns etc.) is strictly forbidden at **all** contests.
5. All cheers should stress the spirit of good sportsmanship. Use only positive cheers that encourage your team. Profane, derogatory or obscene chants and taunting will not be tolerated and may result in ejection from the event.
6. Behavior such as fans reading newspapers or turning their backs during player introductions, booing or heckling the contest officials, and being disrespectful to the opposing cheerleaders is unsportsmanlike behavior and is not to be tolerated at DIAA athletic events and may result in ejection from the event.
7. Face paint is permitted, but body paint is not. A shirt, top, etc. must be worn at all times.
8. Spectators must remain in the assigned seating section. Spectators are not permitted on the playing surface at any time. Any spectator that enters the playing surface, field and/or area will be ejected from the event.

#### **Item 7. Soliciting, Promotional Activities, and Merchandising**

- A. Soliciting and promotional activities, e.g., public address announcements, signs, banners, display or sign-up tables, and the distribution of printed materials are prohibited at all tournament playing sites without the consent of DIAA Executive Director.
- B. Only vendors authorized by DIAA Executive Director will be permitted to sell merchandise at tournament playing sites.

#### **Item 8. Raffles and 50/50 Drawings**

- A. Raffles, 50/50 drawings, and other games of chance are prohibited at all tournaments playing sites without the consent of DIAA Executive Director.

#### **Item 9. Bench and Sideline Personnel**

- A. DIAA requires that all school personnel on the sidelines or in the team bench area be members of the official team party. This includes anyone acting as a team manager. Anyone not properly credentialed may be removed from the team bench or sidelines.

#### **Item 10. Media Policy for State Tournament Events**

- A. Media Email List: Media personnel wishing to receive press releases and information regarding DIAA events must submit their name, media outlet, phone number and email address to DIAA at [diaa@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:diaa@doe.k12.de.us)
- B. Tournament Media Credentials
  1. Media personnel wishing to cover DIAA events must request working credentials from the DIAA Office in accordance with the DIAA media and media credential policy. DIAA media credentials are only authorized for DIAA State Tournament events and must abide by all sport specific rules related to restricted areas.
  2. DIAA will provide credentials to representatives of an accredited media organization recognized by DIAA for the sole purpose of providing access to cover a DIAA Tournament Event. Because of

demand, credentials will be issued on a priority system. Facility size is a determining factor. All requests may not be honored. To request credentials, complete the form on the DIAA website ([https://education.delaware.gov/diaa/diaa\\_for/media/](https://education.delaware.gov/diaa/diaa_for/media/)). Accredited media organizations should have a tax ID number and submit this requested information by completing the media credentials request form.

3. DIAA credentialing is for use solely in connection to news and editorial coverage of the event. Any non-editorial, commercial or other unauthorized use of any transmission, picture, film, videotape, audiotape, writing, drawing or other depiction of any game, game action, game information, player interview or other stadium activity, and any non-editorial or commercial use of the DIAA mark or logo is prohibited without prior specific approval of the DIAA Executive Director.
4. The DIAA may deny or revoke credentials for noncompliance with DIAA policies; and for conduct for which, there are reasonable grounds to believe, violate state or federal law, or constitute a breach of professional ethics.
5. The DIAA will identify working for the media at each event site. No member of the media without authorization of the DIAA Marketing/Communications representative and/or the Executive Director will be permitted in authorized media areas only. Anyone violating this rule is subject to having their media credential revoked and may be subject to ejection from the venue.

#### C. Broadcasting/Photographing

1. DIAA retains exclusive rights to the permission to broadcast and photograph all tournament games and no party may do so without the consent of the DIAA Executive Director. The DIAA must be contacted, in writing or by e-mail, for permission to cablecast, telecast, web cast (video stream) live or on a delayed basis, or photograph a State Tournament Event or any part of a State Tournament Event.
2. Broadcast agreements are available upon request and will be awarded to those companies that meet DIAA State Tournament broadcast criteria. Questions or concerns can be directed to the DIAA Marketing/Communications representative at 302-857-3365.
3. All broadcasting/photography must be in accordance with current NFHS Rules for that sport. All access to the field, course, and court area for the purposes of videotaping or photography will be conducted according to the current NFHS rules for that sport. Persons photographing or videotaping a State Tournament Event, and stations cable casting, telecasting, or web casting (video streaming) a State Tournament Event must remain in the areas that have been designated for spectators, sports photographers, schools, cable/television stations, or Internet video broadcasters. If that area is not known to them, they must seek out a DIAA Tournament Committee member to be shown the designated area.
4. Persons cable casting, telecasting, photographing, videotaping, or web casting (video streaming) a State Tournament Event shall not stand on any unsafe or potentially hazardous physical object or facility.
5. Persons cable casting, telecasting, photographing, videotaping, or web casting (video streaming) a State Tournament Event shall not interfere with the visibility and comfort of spectators, shall not present a safety hazard to spectators, and shall not disrupt, disturb, or interfere with the competition or with an individual competitor.

#### D. Photograph Reproduction

1. Credentialed media personnel may not sell photos and/or video from state tournaments, except by bona fide newspaper offices (or the official website of the newspapers).
2. Spectators are permitted to photograph and/or video contests for personal use only. No image of any contest may be reproduced without the written consent of the student-athlete being photographed. Photographs and/or videos taken by spectators may not be sold.
3. School personnel may photograph and/or video contests for school use only in publications such as

yearbooks, school websites, school newsletters, etc. provided they have received permission from the DIAA Executive Director and school principal.

4. Freelance photographers who are not affiliated with a bona fide media outlet will not be credentialed for state tournament contests.
  5. All other photography of DIAA tournament games is strictly for the purpose of news and editorial coverage of the event. No other photographs or any other visual material taken at a DIAA event may be sold without express written consent of the DIAA.
- E. Media Entrance: Members of the media must display current DIAA Media credentials to gain access to all State Tournament Events. Bags and equipment may be inspected for security purposes.
- F. Press Area: A designated press area will be made available for members of the media to view and report on State Tournament Events when available or possible. Members of the media should contact the site coordinator prior to an event for access to phone lines, Ethernet or wireless access. The DIAA will do its best to provide this when available.

#### **Item 11. Video by Spectators**

- A. Spectators are permitted to video contest for personal use only. The reproduction, distribution and sale of spectator video is prohibited without the consent of DIAA Executive Director
- B. Videos may be used in accordance with current NFHS Rules for that sport.
- C. Spectators will be allowed to video a game in their seat provided they use handheld camcorders and do not block the view of other spectators or interfere with the game. Tripods are only permitted in the top row of the bleachers.
- D. Neither DIAA nor the host site will be liable for theft or damage to spectator videotaping equipment or injury due to the use of such equipment.
- E. The host site is not obligated to provide power for spectator videotaping equipment.

#### **Item 12. Prohibiting the Use of Drones (Unmanned Aircraft Systems or UAS's)**

- A. Unless granted special permission by the DIAA Executive Director, the use of drones (UAS), for any purpose, is not permitted at any DIAA State 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 DIAA event, including the spectator stands and parking areas.

#### **Item 13. Transportation Reimbursement, Parking and Spectator Buses**

- A. Each participating school may be reimbursed at a rate of 75¢ per mile for one bus. Reimbursements will be made only for actual mileage traveled; no reimbursement will be made for band and spectator buses or for team meals and lodging. The school must submit a voucher to DIAA to be reimbursed for transportation. All reimbursement requests must be submitted to the DIAA office within fifteen day from the date the transportation occurred.



## 2024 DIAA GIRLS' AND BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY STATE MEET

### DIAA Cross Country Committee Members

Committee Member Name	Affiliation	Title
George Pepper	Sussex County	Public Member – Committee Chair
Jim Fischer	New Castle County	Public Member
Michelle Flanagan	N5CTA	Coaches Association Representative
Rick Schuder	Charter School of Wilmington	Coach
Patrick Castagno	The Tatnall School	Coach
Rick Shea	Padua Academy	Athletic Director
Mike Tucci	Caesar Rodney High School	Coach
Mike DiGennaro	Saint Mark's High School	Coach – Committee Secretary
Jason Stockel	Sussex Central High School	Coach
Matthew Lindell	Cape Henlopen High School	Coach – Committee Vice Chair
Czar Bloom	Kent County	Public Member
Kenny Reidel	Mariner Middle School	Coach
Lance Skinner	Milford High School	Coach

#### Specific Information

1. **Governing Rules:** The rules as stipulated in the current edition of the NFHS Cross Country Rules Book and DIAA regulations will be in effect.
  
2. **Location, Date and Starting Times**
  - a. **Meet Date:** The 2024 DIAA Girls' and Boys' Cross Country State Championships will be held on Saturday, November 9, 2024.
  - b. **Meet Location:** The 2024 Girls' and Boys' Cross Country State Championships is scheduled to be contested on the course at Killens Pond State Park (Felton, DE). The committee reserves the right to change the course location site if necessary.
  - c. **Meet Times:** The meet times are as follows and are subject to change per the Cross-Country Committee's discretion:
    - Division II Girls, 1:00 pm
    - Division I Girls, 1:40 pm
    - Division II Boys, 2:20 pm
    - Division I Boys, 3:00 pm

### 3. Entry Requirements, Fees and Procedures:

- a. **Classification:** The Cross-Country Championship crowns a Division I and Division II Champion in Boys and Girls. DIAA classifies all schools in Division I that have a DOE certified enrollment count of grades 9 through 12 equal to or greater than the school with the smallest enrollment in either the Blue Hen Conference Flight A or the Henlopen Conference North Division. That number for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school year is 1069. This count consists of all students who, if eligible, would participate at that school, including special needs students. Single gender schools have their total enrollment doubled to determine their final enrollment number. All other schools are classified as Division II.

*The Division I schools for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years are as follows:*

Appoquinimink, Cape Henlopen, Caesar Rodney, Charter School of Wilmington, Christiana, Delcastle, Dover, Middletown, Mt. Pleasant, Milford, Newark, Odessa, Padua, Polytech, Salesianum (boys), Smyrna, St. Georges, Sussex Central, Sussex Tech, and William Penn.

- b. Entry fees for the 2024 DIAA Cross Country State Championship Meet are \$100.00 per girls' team and \$100.00 per boys' team. Entry fees are to be paid by the school with their 2024-2025 Member Dues.
- c. *Each school may register and enter a maximum of seven contestants* who must be on the starting line when the starting pistol is fired. Any changes to the listing of seven pre-registered runners must be made during "check in" on the day of the meet.
- d. All contestants must be entered as members of a school-sponsored team. A team must have competed in a minimum of five regular season meets or four regular season meets and their conference championship to be eligible to participate in the state meet.
- e. All teams must meet the criteria established by DIAA Regulation 1009 to be eligible for state championship competition. Teams are expected to meet the eligibility requirements as outlined in this fall tournament manual for consideration of selection to the DIAA cross country state meet.
- f. All teams must register online at [milesplit.com](https://milesplit.com). Coaches are to use their school's milesplit usernames and passwords for access to the milesplit registration page. If assistance is needed, contact John Amery at [jamerusp@aol.com](mailto:jamerusp@aol.com) or by telephone at (302) 559- 3829.

### 4. Entry Timeline

- a. Online entry must be completed by 8:00 p.m. Monday, November 4, 2024. Late entries ***MUST*** be e-mailed to John Amery at [jamesrusp@aol.com](mailto:jamesrusp@aol.com). A \$20 late fee paid to the DIAA office before 12:00 noon Friday, November 8, 2024, for the late entry must be confirmed prior to the entry being confirmed. If you still have questions, please contact Committee Chair, George Pepper via email [coachgpepper@gmail.com](mailto:coachgpepper@gmail.com) or via phone (302) 228-1643.

### 5. Race Rules

- a. Starting positions will be determined by random draw prior to the meet.

- b. Scoring will be in accordance with the 2024 NFHS Track and Cross-Country Rules Book. Teams that have fewer than five (5) finishers will receive “incomplete” as their team score. Five (5) finishers are required in order to receive a numerical score.

#### **6. Event Admission Policy**

- a. The DIAA Executive Director and/or Cross Country Committee may set an admission price for cars entering the course area which would be in addition to the State Department of Natural Resources charging their standard park entry fee.
- b. Media representatives who are covering the meet should display their current and official DIAA media credentials.

#### **7. Awards**

- a. Team: A Team Trophy will be presented to the Championship and Runner-Up teams in each boys’ and girls’ division. Gold medals will be presented to seven (7) members of the champion team and silver medals will be presented to seven (7) members of the runner-up team in each girls’ and boys’ division.
- b. Individual: Medals will be presented to the first fifteen (15) finishers in each girls’ and boys’ division.
- c. DIAA Scholar-Athlete (All-Championship Team) Awards: Each team participating in the tournament will be eligible to nominate one player. A total of 15 boys and 15 girls student-athletes will be recognized. Criteria for award is posted on the DIAA website. Nominations must be submitted through nomination form found in the AD Portal by Monday, November 4, 2024, 5pm.
- d. No awards other than those authorized by the Committee will be presented at any time during the tournament.

#### **8. Prohibited Practices**

- a. Banners, flags, and signs that are unsportsmanlike, inappropriate, or suggestive in nature are strictly prohibited. Members of DIAA or the DIAA Cross Country Committee may confiscate these items at their own discretion, as necessary. Fans and supporters of the event are encouraged to be mindful of blocking the views of other spectators and being a distraction to event participants with the use of these items.
- b. Large music players or speaker systems are not permitted. Only small, personal music players with headphones are permitted.
- c. The use of outdoor grills in the team areas is not permitted.
- d. Footballs, soccer balls, Frisbees, etc. are not permitted in the starting, finishing, or spectator viewing areas of the course.
- e. Non-participating athletes and spectators must keep off the course. ONLY authorized media is permitted in restricted media areas.
- f. Any pets in the spectator area must be on a leash.
- g. All State Park regulations are in effect and must be followed.

**Coaches are responsible to ensure that their camp area is free of any trash prior to departing the meet. ALL Delaware State Parks are “carry in, carry-out”.**

*Rev. 9/2/2024*





**DIAA Field Hockey Tournament Manual Fall 2024**

**DIAA Field Hockey Committee Members**

<b>Committee Member Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Title</b>
Jodi Hollamon, Chair	Delmar HS	Coach
Amanda Frampton, Vice-Chair	Milford HS	Administrator
Stefany Krygier, Secretary	Middletown HS	Coach
Katy Phillips	Tatnall	Athletic Director
Vicki Rhodes	DIAA	NFHS Rules State Interpreter
Beth Bozman	SDFHOA	Official
Pam Love	Wilmington Friends School	Assistant Coach
Nancy Tribbitt		Public Member, retired
Debbie Windett	Cape Henlopen HS	Coach
Dorinda Toney	DFHUA	Official
Jessica Bloch	St. Georges Technical HS	Coach
Sarah Broehl	Caravel Academy	Coach, DFHCA Rep
Stacey Spiker	Newark Charter School	Coach
Tracey Short	Woodbridge	Public Member

**DIAA Field Hockey Tournament Manual**

**Specific Information**

**Item 1. Classification - (Division I and II)**

The Field Hockey State Tournament crowns a Division I and Division II Champion. DIAA classifies all schools in Division I that have a DOE certified enrollment count of grades 9 through 12 equal to or greater than the school with the smallest enrollment in either the Blue Hen Conference Flight A or the Henlopen Conference North Division. That number for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school year is 1069. This count consists of all students who, if eligible, would participate at that school, including special needs students. Single gender schools have their total enrollment doubled to determine their final enrollment number. All other schools are classified as Division II.

*The Division I schools for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years are as follows:*

Appoquinimink, Cape Henlopen, Caesar Rodney, Charter School of Wilmington, Christiana, Delcastle, Dover, Middletown, Mt. Pleasant, Milford, Newark, Odessa, Padua, Polytech, Salesianum (boys), Smyrna, St. Georges, Sussex Central, Sussex Tech, and William Penn.

## Item 2. Tournament Dates

- A. The 2024 DIAA Field Hockey State Tournament will be held on the following dates.

Round	Division 1	Division 2
Round One	n/a	October 30, 2024
Quarterfinals	October 31, 2024	November 2, 2024
Semifinals	November 4, 2024	November 6, 2024
Finals	November 9, 2024	November 9, 2024

- B. If a game is rained out, it will be played on the next available date provided weather conditions permit and umpires are available. The field must be approved by the Executive Director and Committee. See Item 20 for information regarding interrupted and/or suspended games.

## Item 3. Tournament Sites

- A. The Tournament Committee and DIAA will make the final decision to determine the playing sites throughout the tournament and will be announced at the field hockey seeding meeting. Higher Seed through the Quarterfinals will be given primary consideration.
- B. Field Condition  
If a field is in poor condition, it may be deemed unsuitable for tournament play even though it was used during the regular season. Alternate sites will be determined by the Committee and DIAA.
1. Fields should be 100 X 60 yards.
  2. NFHS guidelines will be followed with an emphasis on SAFETY. The following criteria, while not all inclusive, will serve as a basis for the evaluation of fields:
    - The lines must be clear.
    - Field markings, especially the circle areas, must be lined as diagrammed in the 2023 NFHS Field Hockey Rules Book.
    - Circles need to be level and free of ruts, clumps, holes etc.
  3. Goals must have top and legal facing boards and must be in good condition without sharp edges.
  4. Goal nets must be free of holes and securely fastened to the goals.
  5. Provided all other conditions are equal, preference will be given to a site where the team benches are located on the opposite side of the field from the spectators.
- C. The Committee will review the following considerations when selecting a host site:
1. Livestream capability
  2. Field meets specified requirements per NFHS Field Hockey Rules
  3. Meet the minimum event staff coverage
  4. Security of site
  5. Parking availability
  6. Spectator capacity
- D. Operations will be based on the host site facility plan.
- E. Semi-final and championship games will be played at pre-determined neutral turf sites if available.

#### Item 4. Starting Times

- A. The DIAA Executive Director and/or Committee will determine the starting time for all games.
- B. The Committee will not accept requests for preferred or alternate starting times.

#### Item 5. Tournament Field

- A. The 2024 DIAA Field Hockey State Championship consists of a Division I tournament and a Division II tournament.
  1. The Division I tournament field will be comprised of the qualifying Blue Hen Flight A Champion, the Henlopen North Champion, and six (6) at-large teams, or more if needed to fill out the 8-team bracket.
  2. The Division II tournament field will be comprised of the qualifying Blue Hen Flight B Champion, Henlopen South Champion, Independent Champion, Diamond State Champion and eight (8) at-large teams, or more if needed to fill out the 12-team bracket.
  3. The school classifications can be found in General Item #6 (page 3).
- B. Eligible Teams:
  1. All teams must meet the criteria established by DIAA Regulation 1009 to be eligible for tournament consideration.
  2. All teams must play a minimum of twelve (12) games at the varsity level to be considered for the state tournament. Only those opponents who played a minimum of 10 games at the varsity level will be included in a team's win-loss record.
  3. Team schedules will "lock down" on the first allowable date of competition (**9/3/2024**) Any changes made to a schedule after that date must be approved by the Executive Director and Tournament Chair. Otherwise, the team index will be determined by the number of games on the schedule on the lock down date.
  4. A game played on the last day of competition must have results entered by **6:00 pm**. If the game is cancelled due to weather related, unplayable conditions, natural causes, or legitimate circumstances beyond the control of the teams playing, the game may be declared a no contest by the Executive Director and Tournament Chair, and the tournament index calculation will be adjusted. Schools are urged to schedule games prior to the last date of competition if possible.
- C. Conference/Flight/Division Champions must meet the following criteria to earn the automatic berth:
  1. The conference/flight/division must consist of a minimum of 5 participating schools.
  2. The champion must possess an overall record of .500 or better.
  3. The champion must be in the top 50% of the eligible teams in the state.
  4. The conference/flight/division must determine their champion by the last date of competition. If a conference qualifier chooses not to participate in the tournament, that berth will be awarded to another at-large team.
  5. The Diamond State Conference will forfeit their automatic berth if The Charter School of Wilmington wins the conference.
  6. At-Large teams will be selected according to their team index as determined by the procedure in 5.B. below.

#### Item 6. Tournament Seeding

- A. Team Report
  1. The last competition date for field hockey is Monday October 28, 2024. It is the school's responsibility to verify that all results listed on their team's websites4sports page are accurate and complete by the last date of competition or the team may not be considered for the tournament. **Games results not reported by 6PM on October 28th, will not be used to determine tournament selection unless approved by the committee chair.**

## B. Index Calculations

Team index will be calculated according to the following procedure:

1. The team's overall win-loss percentage will be calculated by adding 3 points for each win, 1 point for each tie, and 0 points for each loss and dividing this sum by the total number of possible points (number of games played multiplied by 3).
2. An opponents' win-loss percentage will be calculated using the same formula. The team's opponents' average win-loss percentage will be calculated by adding the calculated win-loss percentage of each opponent together and dividing by the number of opponents. Opponents played twice are counted twice.
3. The team's index will be determined by adding the team's win-loss percentage and the opponents' average win-loss percentage and dividing the total by 2.

## C. Tie-Breaking Procedures:

1. If two or more teams are tied for any seed, the following tie-breaking criteria will be used in the order listed. Once a team is removed from the tie, the tie-breaker criteria will be reapplied sequentially to the teams that are still tied.
  - a. Head to Head competition. If three or more teams are tied, they must all have played each other.
  - b. Win-Loss Record of all common opponents
  - c. Win-Loss Record of all opponents
  - d. Overall Win-Loss Record of the teams
  - e. Draw conducted by committee

## D. Seeding: All of the qualifying teams will be seeded according to their calculated index and placed into a bracket accordingly.

1. If a team withdraws from the tournament after the field has been selected, that team will not be replaced, and its scheduled opponent will receive a forfeit win into the next round of play. Such a withdrawal/forfeit may subject the school to disciplinary action by the DIAA Board of Directors.

## Item 7. Official Program

- A. At the discretion of the DIAA Executive Director, DIAA may prepare an official tournament program that contains team pictures, team rosters, tournament pairings and other related information, it may be sold at all tournament playing sites.
- B. Team Photograph, Roster and Program Information - Team information for the tournament program must be on the school's websites4sports.com page by **Monday, October 14, 2024**. The team photo must be a digital print of no less than 300 DPI in a jpeg or tfi format. Electronic submission is required; hard copies will not be accepted. Schools should assume that their team is going to make the tournament and submit a roster and team photo by the date previously noted.

## Item 8. Admission Policies

### A. Paid Admission

1. All tickets will be purchased through GoFan, DIAA's official ticketing partner, unless otherwise noted.
2. Tickets for DIAA state tournament events can be found by visiting <https://gofan.co/app/school/DIAA>
3. Fans MUST have a smartphone, tablet, or mobile device to show and redeem purchased tickets for entry into DIAA Championship events. Tickets printed onto paper will not be accepted.

4. Ticket Prices
    - a. Student (grades K-12) and adult admission will be \$5 for 1st round, 2nd round, and quarterfinal games;
    - b. \$10 for semifinal and final games.
  5. These ticket prices do not include any additional fees.
  6. Children four (4) years and younger will be admitted without charge to all games.
  7. Ticket prices and fees are subject to change per approval by the DIAA Board of Directors.
  8. Tickets purchased but unused will not be refunded.
- B. Complimentary Admission
1. Participating schools will receive complimentary admission for all those members of the Official School Party listed on the official roster as submitted to the DIAA Executive Director prior to the tournament. The official school party is defined as players, coaches, managers, scorers/statisticians, and athletic trainer(s). All of these individuals should assemble together outside of the venue entrance and be admitted together as one group.
    - a. A maximum of 22 players in uniform are permitted as part of the official school party.
    - b. All other school personnel must pay the regular admission fee if they wish to enter the contest. Spouses of administrators and coaches are similarly obligated. No complimentary tickets will be issued to schools.
    - c. One (1) bus driver will be admitted free of charge upon presentation of identification as the team's driver.
- C. Media representatives who are covering the tournament will be admitted upon presentation of current and official DIAA credentials.
1. Media/photographers may stand where permitted by game manager, site director, and DIAA Field Hockey Committee. They may not be positioned in front of or behind the team benches or the official score table. No one may stand on the end lines of the field. [NFHS Rule 12-2-1]

#### **Item 9. Game Manager**

A member of the Committee will be appointed to serve as the Game Manager, who will serve as a liaison between the Committee, the host school and the participating schools. It is the Game Manager's responsibility to ensure compliance with the policies and procedures established by the DIAA Field Hockey Committee. The Game Manager will have the specific responsibilities listed below:

1. Provide the Official score book and official game balls.
2. Oversee the pre-game on-field practice.
3. Collect the score book and balls after the game has been completed.
4. In the event of a serious accident or injury to a coach, athlete, official, spectator, or game worker, notify the injured party's athletic director and the Executive Director as soon as possible.
5. In the event of a serious sportsmanship related incident, contact the Executive Director as soon as possible.

#### **Item 10. Responsibilities of Host School**

- A. Member schools agree to host events for the Tournament.
- B. Each host school designates and supervises the individuals who serve as the Site Director and support personnel. The number of support and police personnel MUST be approved by DIAA's Executive Director prior to the start of the event. Support personnel may include:
  1. Ticket seller(s)
  2. Program seller(s) (if applicable)
  3. Ticket taker(s)

4. Scorekeeper(s)
  5. Security (an individual who monitors the crowd but is not a law enforcement officer)
  6. School Police
  7. Scoreboard Operator/Announcer
  8. NATA-certified trainer or school nurse unless both participating schools will be accompanied by a trainer.
- C. The Site Director's responsibilities include:
1. The field should be lined according to current NFHS specifications.
  2. Provide seating for the game officials and players of both teams on the same side of the field and wherever space permits, on the opposite side of the field from the spectators.
    - a. Seating should be arranged for the players, coaches, managers, statisticians, and trainers.
    - b. Seating should be arranged for the official timer and scorers (a table and at least four chairs should be placed at the 50-yard line for the official score table; in addition, at least two chairs should be placed in the official score table area for suspended players.
    - c. A rope or restraining line should be placed parallel to and at least 10 yards from each side line. The purpose of the rope or restraining line is to prevent spectators from interfering with play.
  3. If possible, provide dressing room and bathroom facilities for the participating schools.
  4. Provide safe and secure passage for the officials to and from the playing area.
  5. Provide parking facilities for buses and spectators.
  6. If possible, provide seating arrangements for spectators. Contact the Game Manager three hours prior to game time if the field is not in playable condition.
  7. Be in attendance and work closely with the Game Manager.
  8. Clear with the Game Manager matters of policy or procedure.
  9. Provide an official scorer and timer unless assigned by the Field Hockey Committee and supplied by the Officials' Association.
  10. Ensure that the complimentary admission policy for all schools is followed (Item 7).
  11. Charge admission until the start of the fourth quarter.
  12. Establish a procedure for assisting disabled spectators and review the procedure with the appropriate personnel.
  13. Review the emergency action plan with the appropriate personnel.
  14. Any additional responsibilities as determined by the host school and DIAA office.
- D. The host school must consult with the DIAA office concerning security and police personnel.
1. Any expenses concerning security and police personnel must be pre-approved by DIAA's Executive Director.
  2. Police will be paid the game fee or hourly rate customarily paid at the game locale. The bill should be sent to DIAA.
- E. The host school is responsible for complying with the DIAA's ticketing administration and financial reconciliation procedures. Host schools are responsible for reporting ticket and program sales (if applicable) to the DIAA Office by the next business day after the event concludes. Unsold programs should be returned to the DIAA office in a timely manner after the event concludes.
- F. Public Address System
1. The host school will make every effort to provide a public address system and designate and supervise a responsible adult to serve as an announcer. Every effort should be made to have an announcer familiar with field hockey.
  2. The public address system, if used, will be operated by a responsible/ adult representative of

the host school.

- a. Any announcements not directly related to the game/tournament or not of an emergency nature must be approved by the Game Manager or the Executive Director.
- b. The public address announcer must be a responsible individual who will remain impartial at all times. He/she must never question or criticize the coaches or officials during the game.
- c. Introduce the players and coaches on each team beginning with the non-starters of the away team, then starters and coaches, and then the home team.

#### **Item 11. Responsibilities of Participating Schools**

- A. Each team's School/Athletic Administration is responsible for assisting DIAA in safeguarding the playing field before, during and especially after all tournament games.
- B. Provide the Site Director with a typed list of players and their positions, designating non-starters and starters, and coaches. Include the team's win-loss record and place in the conference standings. The Site Director will use this information for the pre-game introductions.
- C. CHAMPIONSHIP GAME ONLY: provide a typed list of players (22 maximum) in the order they are to be introduced to receive medals at the awards ceremony.
- D. Provide the following volunteers:
  1. One individual to assist with scorekeeping.
  2. Two individuals of at least high school age or older to serve as ball retrievers.
- E. Provide a timing device for the official score table.
- F. Arrive on time at the game site. If a late arrival is anticipated, the host school should be contacted immediately.
  - a. A school administrator and/or athletic director must be in attendance at tournament games, and upon entry should notify the Game Manager as to where they will be located during the contest.
  - b. The school administrator/AD in attendance is responsible for assisting the committee with enforcement of good sportsmanship conduct as described in the General Information Section Item 7.

#### **Item 12. Officials**

- A. Only qualifying and approved officials associations will be eligible to provide officials for state tournament games.
- B. The DIAA Executive Director and/or their designee will assign all officials for all rounds of the tournament. The officials will be chosen by the method established by the Committee with approval of DIAA.
  1. A four-person officiating crew (2 on-field, one alternate and one timer) will be used for all tournament games. All umpires, including the alternate, must be in uniform. An additional umpire may be used as a scorer at the discretion of the Committee.
- C. Officials' Fees: Officials assigned to the 2024 State Tournament will be paid according to DIAA Regulation 1043.5.1 Fees for Officiating Contests and Competitions.
  - a. For 2024, timers and scorekeepers will be paid at a rate of \$50 through quarterfinals, \$55 for semi-finals, and \$60 for finals. *(Added for clarification, 10/16/2023)*

#### **Item 13. Uniforms and Bench Assignments**

- A. The home team, higher seeded, will wear white tops with white knee socks/sock guards. The visiting team will wear dark-colored tops with dark-colored knee socks/sock guards. (As per NFHS guidelines and regulations Rule 1-5)

- B. If the participating teams have similar uniforms, vests will be used. Both teams should bring a set of vests to the game. The team with the incorrect uniform will be required to wear vests.
- C. Bench assignments for the Championship Game are at the discretion of the committee.

#### **Item 14. Dressing Rooms and Facilities**

If available, a dressing room for Officials' will be provided at the host site's discretion. Officials should be prepared to arrive dressed to officiate.

#### **Item 15. Contest Procedures, Equipment, Special Events**

- A. Pre-Game Warm-Up - Teams may begin their warm-up on the game field 45 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of the contest. They must conclude their warm-up 10 minutes prior to game time. Consequently, teams will have no more than 35 minutes of practice time on the game field. Stretching on the field prior to the official practice time is permitted when there is not enough space off the field to do so, and providing no sticks and balls are on the field until the official practice time begins.
- B. Musical Entertainment - The Committee will allow recorded music to be played prior to the start of the game, pending approval by the Site Director and Game Manager. No music is allowed during times-out, halftime or during the game.
- C. Game Balls and Score Books - The Committee will furnish game balls and a scorebook for the official scorer. The color ball that is decided upon during the pre-game meeting will be used throughout the contest.
- D. Special Events
  - 1. Special events will be confined to the official pre-match activities and the awards presentation after the championship match. The pre-match ceremonies may include:
  - 2. National Anthem - All players, coaches, game officials, and school personnel are expected to stand attentively during the presentation of the American flag and the playing of the national anthem.
  - 3. Introduction of team members, coaches, and officials.
  - 4. Other VIPs in attendance will be recognized by asking them to stand momentarily at their seats.
  - 5. The Field Hockey Committee is authorized to modify the program of special events however it deems appropriate. No school will be permitted to conduct its own program of special events.
  - 6. No school will be permitted to bring its band or other musical group. School bands will not be allowed to perform even if the members of the band provide their own transportation and purchase tickets for the game.

#### **Item 16. Awards**

The following awards will be presented:

- 1. Team: A trophy and game ball will be awarded to the Champion and Runner-Up teams.
- 2. Individual: Gold medals (22) will be presented to the champions. Silver medals (22) will be presented to the runners-up.
- 3. DIAA Scholar-Athlete Awards: Each team participating in the tournament will be eligible to nominate one player. A total of 20 players will be recognize. Criteria for award will be posted on the DIAA website. Nominations must be submitted through the AD Portal by October 28, 2024, 5PM. Players will be recognized throughout the tournament and award plaques will be distributed to the schools at the completion of the fall championships.
- 4. No awards other than those authorized by the DIAA and the Committee will be presented at any time during the tournament.



### **Item 17. Bench Assignments, Player Bench Occupants, and Sideline Personnel**

- A. Bench Assignments - At neutral sites, the Committee will determine bench assignments: the higher seeded team will be the home team and sit to the right of the scorer's table as the teams face the field.
- B. Only members of the official school party will be permitted on the sideline. Teams will be allowed a maximum of twenty-two (22) players in uniform on the bench.
- C. During a contest, the player bench area may include a maximum of 35 members of the official school party. The official school party is defined as players, coaches (approved by the local board or governing body), managers, scorers/statisticians, team medical personnel, school administrators and three (3) ball retrievers (not in uniform.)
  - 1. All occupants of the sideline/team bench area must be in the sixth grade or older.
  - 2. No more than the maximum 22 players in uniform will be permitted to enter the bench area. Any additional players will be charged admission and will be required to sit in the stands, on the spectator side of the field.
- D. All team personnel on the sideline during the Championship Game must be wearing the sideline pass. Committee members are authorized to spot-check sideline personnel for compliance. If a team is found in violation, the individuals will be removed from the sideline and possibly the stadium.
  - 1. Unauthorized duplication or counterfeiting of DIAA sidelines passes will be deemed a major infraction of the sportsmanship code and the school will be referred to the DIAA sportsmanship committee for disciplinary action.
- E. Videotaping from the bench areas is prohibited.
- F. Coaches will remain off the playing field near the side-line adjacent to their team's assigned bench and will not pass in front of the scorer's table.
  - 1. The alternate official has the authority to issue cards to the coach and/or team bench.
  - 2. If an injury time-out is called, a coach may attend to the injured player. However, neither coach may utilize this time to give instructions to any player officially entered in the game.

### **Item 18. Mercy Rule**

The Mercy Rule will be in effect during all rounds of the tournament. This applies to the second half only with a 5-goal differential.

### **Item 19. Tie-Breaking Procedures for all rounds of the Tournament**

- A. *During the overtime periods, all game rules, including those pertaining to substitutions, will apply except as stipulated below:*
  - 1. If a team did not use their time-out during regulation, it can be used during the overtime period(s).
  - 2. Only four players, including the goalkeeper, will be allowed behind the end line during penalty corners.
  - 3. A player who receives a red card during the regulation game may not participate in any of the overtime periods and her team will play short for all overtime periods.
  - 4. The first overtime period will begin with seven players unless either team is playing shorthanded due to suspension or ejection. If a player receives a red card during any of the overtime periods, her team will play short for the remainder of the game.
  - 5. A player who is serving a green or yellow card suspension when the regulation game ends must serve the remainder of her suspension during the first overtime period. She may not enter the game until her suspension has been completed. Her team will begin the overtime with less than seven players.
  - 6. A player who receives a green or yellow card during any of the overtime periods may not be

replaced. She may not return during that overtime period or any subsequent overtime period until her suspension time has been completed.

7. A player who has not completed her suspension when the second overtime period ends is ineligible to participate in the one-on-one competition.

**B. *Reduced Player Overtime Periods***

1. There will be a five-minute intermission between the end of the second half and the first overtime period.

2. **First Overtime Period**

The first sudden victory overtime period will be no longer than 10 minutes in duration. The visiting team will call the coin toss and the winner will choose either possession of the ball or goal to defend. Each team will be reduced to a goalkeeper and six field players unless either team is playing short-handed due to suspension or ejection. The overtime period will end as soon as one team scores.

3. **Second Overtime Period**

If the score is still tied after the first overtime period, a second sudden victory overtime period of 10 minutes will be played. A five-minute intermission will precede the second overtime period. The teams will change ends of the field and the team not in possession of the ball at the start of the first overtime period will take possession for the second overtime. This overtime period will end as soon as one team scores.

4. **Summary**

- a. The overtime shall be played in accordance with the procedure approved by the DIAA Board except as noted in this section.
- b. Substitutions may be made prior to and during any overtime period.
- c. Possession of the ball at the start of each overtime period will alternate and will initially be determined by a coin toss at the start of the first overtime period.
- d. There will be a five-minute intermission between overtime periods.
- e. The teams will reduce to seven players or less if playing short-handed due to an incomplete suspension or ejection.

**C. *One-on-One Competition***

1. If the game is still tied at the end of the second overtime period, the winner will be determined by One-on-One: a series of five shots on goal shall be taken by individual players in a one-on-one situation.

- a. No suspended or disqualified player may participate in the one-on-one competition.
- b. There is no substitution of any player during the one-on-one except for injury to a player or suspension of the defending goalkeeper.

2. The Committee representative(s) will ensure that the one-on-ones are taken according to the following procedures:

- a. The umpires will review the one-on-one procedures with the coach and the team captains.
- b. A coin toss will determine which team will take the first attack. The visiting team will call the coin toss and the winner will choose to either attack or defend the goal first.
- c. The coaches and eligible substitutes/remaining players will be allowed on the field behind the 25-yard line. The officials and Committee representative(s) will designate the area.
- d. Each coach will present a list (name and number) of five players to the officials. The players MUST attack in the order listed. If a player participates out of order, her attempt is over and no goal is awarded.
- e. The five players listed for each team will attempt the shots on goal on an alternate basis and the team scoring the most goals is declared the winner.
- f. A player may be suspended by a yellow or red card, but not a green card, during the one-on-

one competition.

- i. If a goalkeeper is suspended, she may not take further part in that competition, but can be replaced by any eligible player from the team. The replacement goalkeeper is allowed reasonable time to put on protective equipment.
  - ii. If an attacker is suspended during the competition, there is no replacement allowed. Any further attacks the player was entitled to take counts as no goal.
- g. If the score remains tied after the first set of one-on-one, a second set will be sudden victory. The five players listed for each team will attempt “sudden victory” shots on an alternating basis. This procedure will continue until the tie is broken. The order of players may be changed at this time. The team not starting the first one-on-one will start the sudden victory set.
3. *Taking the One-On-One*
- a. The goalkeeper/defender starts on or behind the goal line between the posts.
  - b. The ball is placed on the nearest 25-yard line opposite the center of the goal.
  - c. The attacker stands outside the 25-yard line near the ball.
  - d. The umpire blows the whistle to signal the start of the play. The attacker and the goalkeeper may then move in any direction.
4. *The One-On-One is complete under the following conditions:*
- a. 8 seconds has elapsed
  - b. the attacker scores a goal
  - c. the attacker commits an offense
  - d. the goalkeeper commits an unintentional offense (redo the attack)
  - e. the goalkeeper commits an intentional offense (PS awarded)
  - f. the ball goes out of play over the end line, side line, or outside the circle
  - g. If a penalty stroke is awarded, any eligible player on the official roster may take the penalty stroke.

#### **Item 20. Procedures for Termination of Play Before Winner Is Determined**

- A. Any tournament game interrupted due to circumstances beyond the control of the responsible administrative authorities will be completed or replayed as follows:
1. If interrupted during the first half of play, the game shall resume at the point of interruption.
  2. If interrupted after the completion of the first half, the game will either resume from the point of interruption or, by mutual agreement of the competing schools and the Committee representative(s), it will be considered a completed game.
  3. If interrupted during the overtime periods or one-on-one competition, the game will either resume from the point of interruption or, by mutual agreement of the competing schools and the Committee representative(s), it will be considered a completed game.
  4. All records, goals, penalties, warnings, suspensions, etc. will be carried over from previous play.
  5. The Committee will determine the date, starting time, and site at which the interrupted game will be completed or replayed.

#### **Item 21. Press Box**

- A. Press box space, seating, and occupants will prioritize the official statisticians and then if space is available, media representatives. The top of the press box, if possible, will be prioritized for video operators and may be available for team spotters.

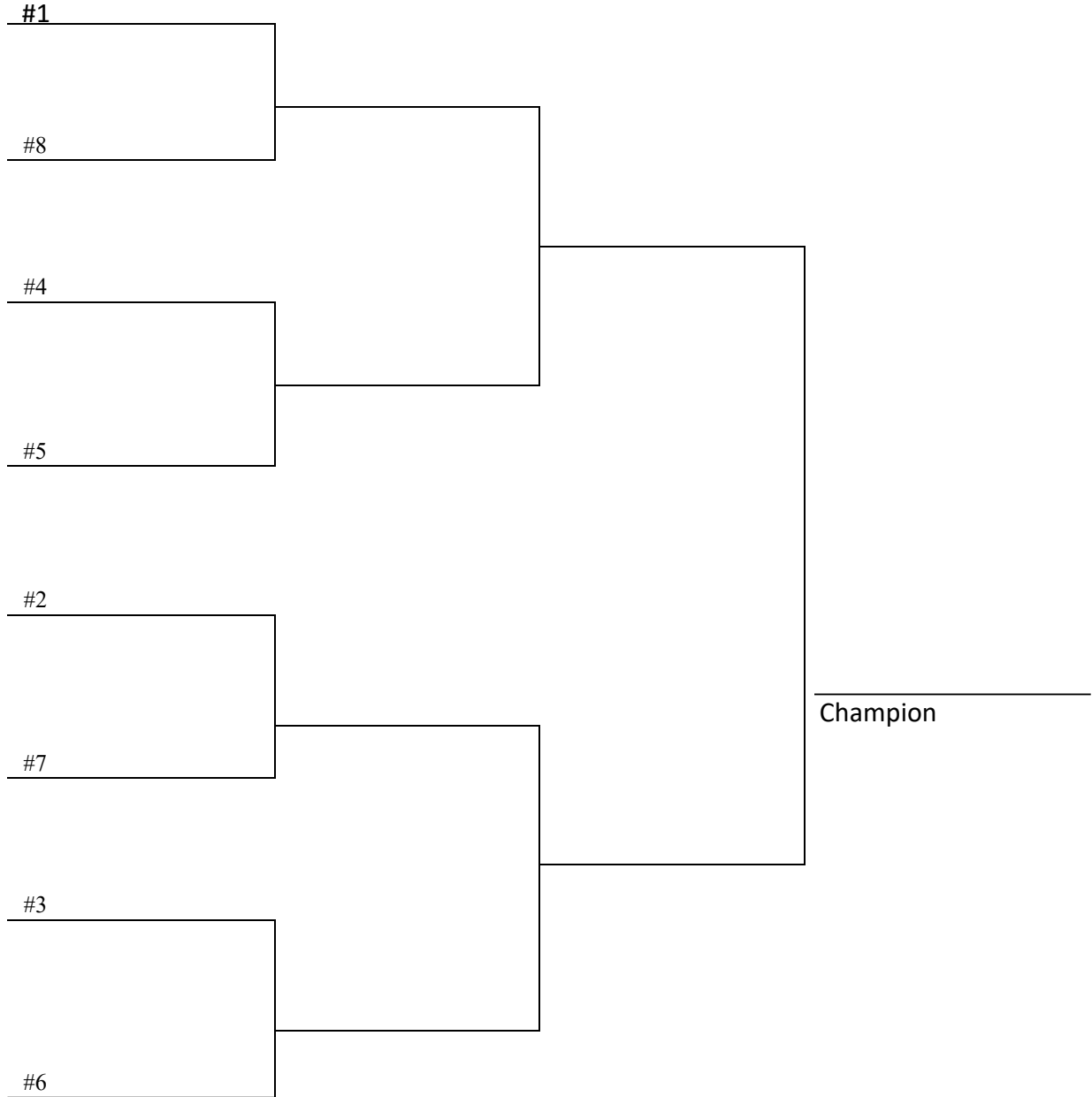
2024 DIAA FIELD HOCKEY STATE TOURNAMENT – DIVISION I

**\*The bracket is at the discretion of the DIAA Field Hockey Committee and will be finalized at the seeding meeting**

Thursday, October 31

Monday, November 4

Saturday, November 9



2024 DIAA FIELD HOCKEY STATE TOURNAMENT – DIVISION II

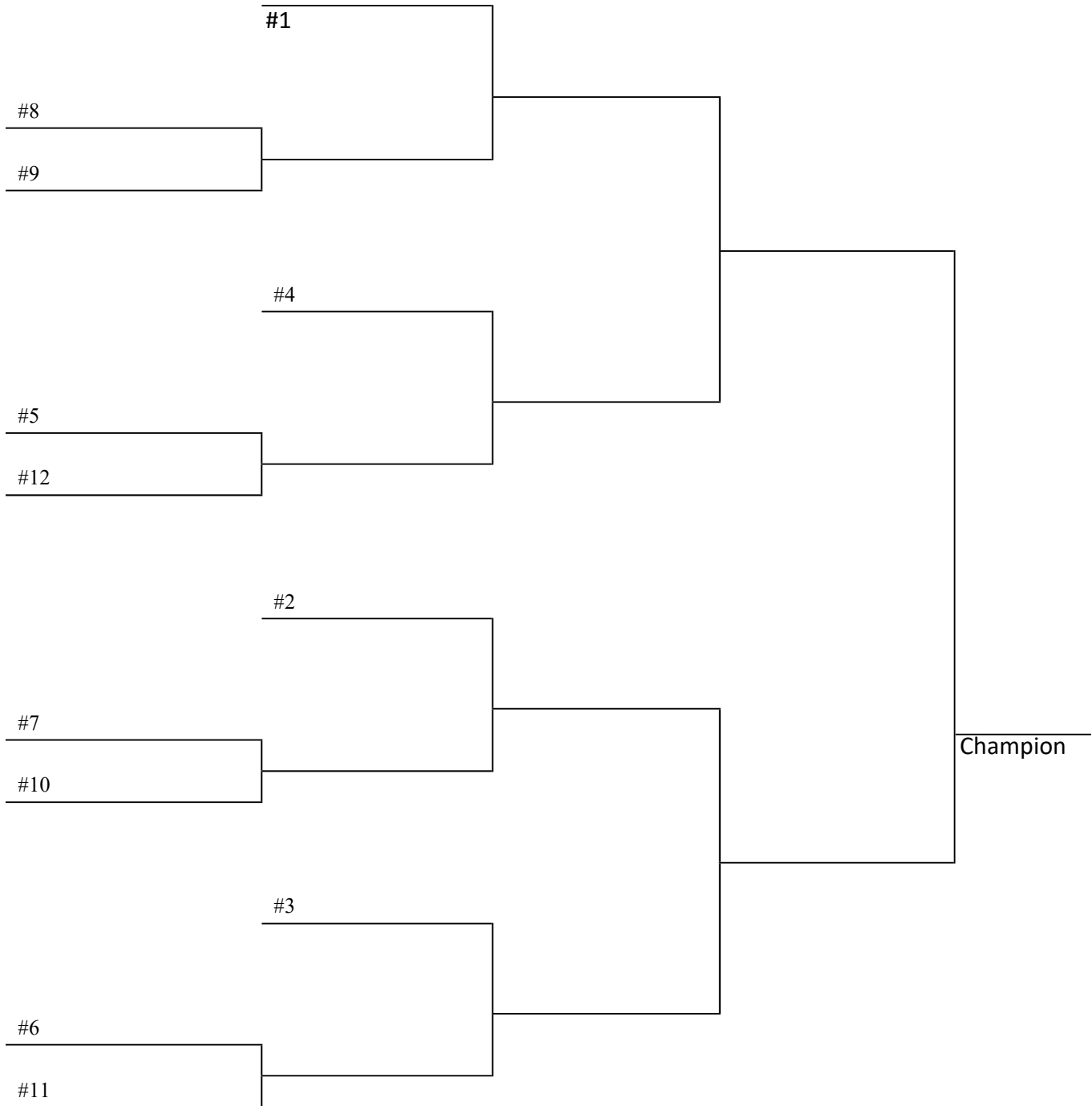
\*The bracket is at the discretion of the DIAA Field Hockey Committee and will be finalized at the seeding meeting

Wed, October 30

Sat, November 2

Wed, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, November 9





## DIAA Volleyball Committee Members

Committee Member Name	Affiliation	Title
Nancy Griskowitz-Chair	Non-Conference	Coach - Saint Mark's HS
Dana Gaetano Vice Chair	DVOA	Official
Thomas Sullivan - Secretary	New Castle County Representative	Public Member
Stacy Cook	School Administration	Principal - Smyrna HS
Wendy Kite	DIAA – State Interpreter	NFHS Volleyball State Interpreter
Sally Craig	Henlopen Conference	Coach - Selbyville MS
Tyler Coupe	Coaches Association Representative	Coach - Cape Henlopen HS
Christopher Muscara	Athletic Director	Appoquinimink HS
John Evans	Independence Conference	Coach - Tatnall HS
Dave Stover	Diamond State Conference	Ret. Coach - Charter School of Wilmington
Debbie Corrado	Public Member	Retired
Kim Habbert	Blue Hen Conference	District AD- Christina District
Laurie Lorah	Non-Conference	Coach - Caravel Academy

## DIAA Volleyball Tournament Manual – Fall 2024

### Specific Information

#### Item 1. Tournament Dates

The 2024 Volleyball Tournament will be held on the following dates:

Round	Date
Round One	Wednesday/Thursday, October 30/31
Round Two	Friday/Saturday, November 1/2
Quarterfinals	Wednesday, November 6
Semifinals	Monday, November 11
Finals	Thursday, November 14

#### Item 2. Tournament Sites

All tournament sites through the quarterfinals will be determined by the Volleyball Committee based on the seeding of teams, availability, seating capacity, parking facilities, gymnasium condition, and safety. All NFHS guidelines will be followed with an emphasis on safety. Semi-Final and Championship matches will be played at the University of Delaware.

### **Item 3. Starting Times**

All starting times will be determined by the DIAA Executive Director and/or The Volleyball Committee.

### **Item 4. Tournament Field**

- A. The tournament field will be comprised of the following teams:
  - 1. The qualifying champions from Blue Hen Flight A, Blue Hen Flight B, Independent Conference, Henlopen North, Henlopen South, and the Diamond State Conference and eighteen at-large teams, or more if needed to fill out the 24-team bracket.
- B. Eligible Teams:
  - 1. All teams must meet the criteria established by DIAA Regulation 1009 to be eligible for tournament consideration.
  - 2. A team must play a minimum of ten (10) matches at the varsity level to be eligible for tournament consideration. Only those opponents who played a minimum of eight (8) matches at the varsity level will be included in a team's win-loss record and index calculation.
    - a. Only the results of matches that consist of the best three out of five 25-point set (no cap) rally scoring or the best two out of three 25-point sets (no cap) rally scoring if played out of state will be used to determine tournament berths or seed the qualifying teams. Number of sets is by state adoption.
  - 3. Team schedules will "lock down" on the first allowable date of competition (September 6, 2024). Any changes made to a schedule after that date must be approved by the Executive Director and Tournament Chair. Otherwise, the team index will be determined by the number of games on the schedule on the lock down date.
  - 4. A match scheduled for the last day of competition that is cancelled due to weather related, unplayable conditions, natural causes, or legitimate circumstances beyond the control of the teams playing may be declared a no contest by the Executive Director and Tournament Chair and the game will not be included in the index calculation.
  - 5. No points or bonus points will be awarded to a team that forfeits a match. However, the opponent will be awarded points and bonus points.
- C. Conference/Flight/Division Champions must meet following qualifying criteria to earn the automatic berth.
  - 1. The champion must possess an overall record of .500 or better.
  - 2. The champion must be in the top 50% of the eligible teams in the state.
  - 3. The conference/flight/division must determine their champion by the end of the day on the last date of competition. If a conference qualifier chooses not to participate in the tournament, that berth will be awarded to another at-large team.
- D. At-Large teams will be selected according to their team index as determined by the procedure in 5.B.

### **Item 5. Tournament Seeding**

- A. Team Report:
  - 1. The last competition date for volleyball is Saturday, October 27, 2024. It is the school's responsibility to verify that all results listed on their team's Websites4Sports page are accurate and complete by 10pm on the last date of competition or the team may not be considered for the tournament. Games played after the last date of competition will not be used to determine tournament selection unless approved by the committee chair.
- B. Index Calculation:
  - 1. A team will receive two (2) points for each regular season win.
  - 2. A team will receive one (1) bonus point for playing an opponent with a win-loss record of .501 or better regardless of which team won. In cases where 2 teams play multiple times in the same

season, bonus points are awarded for the first 2 contests ONLY.

3. A team will receive one (1) additional bonus point for playing an opponent with a win-loss record of .701 or better regardless of which team won. Bonus points are not awarded if a team is played more than two times.
  4. The point index will be determined by dividing the total points accumulated by the number of matches played.
  5. Pool play will count as one match played with no points earned if a team fails to advance to the next round of the tournament.
- C. Tie-Breaking Procedures: If two or more teams are tied for any seed, the following tie-breaking criteria will be used in the order listed. Once a team is removed from the tie, the tie-breaker criteria will be reapplied sequentially to the teams that are still tied.
1. Head-to head competition. If three or more teams are tied, they must all have played each other.
  2. Win-loss percentage against common opponents. All games against common opponents count in percentage.
  3. Highest bonus point percentage (total bonus points divided by matches played).
  4. Win-loss percentage of all opponents
  5. Overall win-loss record of teams that are tied (higher win percentage)
  6. Draw conducted by Committee
- D. Tournament Seeding:
1. Qualifying teams will be seeded according to their calculated index and placed into a bracket accordingly. The top eight seeds will receive a bye in the first round.
  2. If a team withdraws from the tournament after the field has been selected, that team will not be replaced and its scheduled opponent will receive a forfeit win into the next round of play. Such a withdrawal/forfeit may subject the school to disciplinary action by the DIAA Board of Directors.

## **Item 6. Official Program**

- A. At the discretion of the DIAA Executive Director, if DIAA prepares an official tournament program which contains team pictures, team rosters, tournament pairings and other related information, it may be sold at all tournament playing sites.
- B. Team Photograph, Roster and Program Information - Team information for the tournament program must be on the school's website's sports page by October 16, 2024. The team photo must be a digital print of no less than 300 DPI in a jpeg or tiff format. Electronic submission is required; hard copies will not be accepted.
  1. Schools should assume that their team is going to make the tournament and submit a roster and team photo by the date listed in Item 6, B. Program information as outlined in Item 6 must be submitted by October 16, 2024.

## **Item 7. Admission Policies**

### **A. Paid Admission**

1. All tickets will be purchased through GoFan, DIAA's official ticketing partner, unless otherwise noted.
2. Tickets for DIAA state tournament events can be found by visiting <https://gofan.co/app/school/DIAA>
3. Fans MUST have a smartphone, tablet, or mobile device to show and redeem purchased tickets for entry into DIAA Championship events. Tickets printed onto paper will not be accepted.
4. Ticket Prices
  - i. Student (grades K-12) and adult admission will be \$5 for 1st round, 2nd round, and quarterfinal games;



- ii. \$10 for semifinal and final games.
  - 5. These ticket prices do not include any additional fees.
  - 6. Children four (4) years and younger will be admitted without charge to all games.
  - 7. Ticket prices and fees are subject to change per approval by the DIAA Board of Directors.
  - 8. Tickets purchased but unused will not be refunded.
- B. Complimentary Admission
- 1. Participating schools will receive complimentary admission for all those members of the Official School Party listed on the official roster as submitted to the DIAA Executive Director prior to the tournament. The official school party is defined as players, coaches, managers, scorers/statisticians, and athletic trainer(s). All of these individuals should assemble together outside of the venue entrance and be admitted together as one group.
    - i. A maximum of 15 players in uniform are permitted as part of the official school party.
    - ii. All other school personnel must pay the regular admission fee if they wish to enter the contest. Spouses of administrators and coaches are similarly obligated. No complimentary tickets will be issued to schools.
    - iii. One (1) bus driver will be admitted free of charge upon presentation of identification as the team's driver.
  - 2. A maximum of 23 cheerleaders in uniform and one adult sponsor will receive complimentary admission. Additional cheerleaders and/or adults must purchase a ticket or make arrangements in advance to have their school billed for any admission in excess of 23 cheerleaders and one adult.
    - i. No mini-trampolines or basket tosses will be permitted. Stunts will be allowed if performed in accordance with the 2024 NFHS Spirit Rules Book.
- C. Media representatives who are covering the tournament will be admitted upon presentation of current and official DIAA credentials. See General Information #11.

### **Item 8. Game Manager**

- A. A member of the Volleyball Committee will be appointed to serve as the Game Manager. They will serve as a liaison between the Committee, the host school and the participating schools. The Game Manager is responsible for ensuring compliance with the policies and procedures established by the DIAA Volleyball Committee. The Game Manager will have the specific responsibilities listed below:
  - 1. Provide the official game balls.
  - 2. Scoring sheets [DIAA generated].
  - 3. Present a game ball to the losing team.
  - 4. From Round 2 of the tournament on, present the game ball to the losing team.
  - 5. Collect the game balls after the game has been completed.
- B. In the event of a serious accident or injury to a coach, athlete, official, spectator, or game worker, notify the injured party's athletic director and the Executive Director as soon as possible.
- C. In the event of a serious sportsmanship related incident, contact the Executive Director as soon as possible.

### **Item 9. Responsibilities of Host School**

- A. Member schools agree to host events for the Tournament.
- B. Each host school designates and supervises the individuals who serve as the Site Director and support personnel. The number of support and police personnel MUST be approved by DIAA's Executive Director prior to the start of the event.
 

Support personnel may include:

  - 1. Ticket seller(s);
  - 2. Program seller(s); (if applicable)

3. Ticket taker(s);
  4. Security (an individual who monitors the crowd but is not a law enforcement officer);
  5. School Police;
  6. Scoreboard Operator/Announcer; and
  7. NATA-certified trainer or school nurse unless both participating schools will be accompanied by a trainer.
- C. The Site Director's responsibilities include:
1. Assuring the court and bench areas are set up according to NFHS specifications. NOTE: The first three rows in the bleachers will be designated for team use only.
  2. Confirm that dressing room and bathroom facilities are available for the participating schools (if possible).
  3. Provide safe and secure passage for the officials to and from the playing area.
  4. Provide parking facilities for buses and spectators.
  5. If possible, provide seating arrangements for spectators. No front row seating by spectators.
  6. Contact the Game Manager three hours prior to game time if the site is not playable.
  7. Be in attendance and work closely with the Game Manager and DIAA.
  8. Clear with the Game Manager matters of policy or procedure.
  9. Provide score table personnel unless assigned by the Volleyball Committee and supplied by the Officials' Association.
  10. Ensure that the complimentary admission policy for all schools is followed (Item 7).
  11. Ensure music played during contest is approved and appropriate.
  12. Charge admission through the third set of the final match.
  13. Establish a procedure for assisting disabled spectators and review the procedure with the appropriate personnel.
  14. Review the emergency action plan with the appropriate personnel.
  15. Any additional responsibilities as determined by the host school and DIAA Office.
- D. The host school must consult with the DIAA office concerning security and police personnel.
1. Any expenses concerning security and police personnel must be pre-approved by DIAA's Executive Director.
  2. Police will be paid the game fee or hourly rate customarily paid at the game locale. The bill should be sent to DIAA.
- E. The host school is responsible for complying with the DIAA's ticketing administration and financial reconciliation procedures. Host schools are responsible for reporting ticket and program sales to the DIAA Office by the next business day after the event concludes. Unsold programs should be returned to the DIAA office in a timely manner after the event concludes.
- F. Public Address System
1. The host school will make every effort to provide a public address system and designate and supervise a responsible adult to serve as an announcer. Every effort should be made to have an announcer familiar with volleyball.
  2. The public address system, if used, will be operated by a responsible/ adult representative of the host school.
    - i. Any announcements not directly related to the game/tournament or not of an emergency nature must be approved by the Game Manager or the Executive Director.
    - ii. The public address announcer must be a responsible individual who will remain impartial at all times. He/she must never question or criticize the coaches or officials during the game.
    - iii. Introduce the players and coaches on each team in whatever order the coach submits.

### **Item 10. Officials**

- A. Only qualifying and approved associations will be eligible to provide all officials for the State Tournament.
- B. The officiating assignments for all rounds of the tournament including the Championship will be determined by the DIAA Executive Director and/or their designee at the Volleyball Seeding Meeting.
- C. The officiating crew will consist of the following officials for all Tournament matches; R1, R2, 2 Line Judges, scorer and libero tracker.
- D. Officials' Fees: Officials assigned to the 2024 State Tournament will be paid according to DIAA Regulation 1043.5.1 Fees for Officiating Contests and Competitions.
- E. Officials' Table: The following priority list will determine seating at the officials' table:
  - 1. Scoreboard Operator/Announcer
  - 2. Official Scorer
  - 3. Libero Tracker
  - 4. Scorer from each participating team

### **Item 11. Uniforms**

- A. Team Uniforms will meet all requirements of the NFHS 2024-25 Volleyball Rules Book.

### **Item 12. Dressing Rooms and Facilities**

- A. Facility operations will be based on the host site facility plan.
- B. If a dressing room is available at the host site, the coaching staff is responsible for supervising the team dressing room and offending schools will be held accountable for any theft or damage.
- C. If available, a dressing room for Officials' will be provided at the host site's discretion. Officials should be prepared to arrive to the game site dressed.

### **Item 13. Contest procedures, Equipment, Special Events**

- A. All Tournament matches will be played using the 2024-25 NFHS Volleyball Rules, and any adoptions approved by DIAA.
- B. Practice Sessions - No team will be permitted to practice or scrimmage at a tournament playing site unless that site is its home court.
- C. Pre-Match Warm Up Session
  - 1. **A maximum of 15 players in full uniform may participate in the warm up.**
  - 2. The participating teams must provide their own volleyballs for the warm-up session. Teams are permitted to have shaggers during warm-ups. Shaggers must wear appropriate rubber soled shoes and be in compliance with the jewelry regulations while shagging volleyballs during the warm-up.
  - 3. Teams may begin warming up with balls on their side of the net thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the match for a single match or for the first match of a double header. For the second match of a double header teams may begin warming up with balls on their side of the net as soon as the floor is cleared.
  - 4. The official warm-up session will begin after the pre-game conference which is 25 minutes before the start of the match. The official warm-up session will consist of five (5) minutes of combined passing followed by six (6) minutes of each team's court time which includes serving. The home team (higher seed) will have the court for the first six-minute session.
  - 5. While a team is on the court, the opposing team may run a controlled drill (3 balls or less) in a safe, unused area of the gym. It is imperative that players and the balls not interfere with the on-court team's six-minute session.

#### D. Pre-Match Conference

1. The pre-match conference will be conducted 25 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the first match.
  - a. The visiting team will call the coin toss.
  - b. The winner of the coin toss may choose to serve first or to receive serve. If a fifth game is necessary, another coin toss will be conducted with the home team calling the toss.

#### E. Game Balls and Scorebooks

1. The Committee will furnish game balls. Officials will provide scoresheets and libero tracking sheets for each match. Participating schools must provide scorebooks for their own scorekeepers.
2. The Committee will provide Spalding TF VB5 game balls for all tournament matches.

#### F. Special Events

1. Special events will be confined to the official pre-match activities and the awards presentation after the championship match.
2. The pre-match ceremonies may include:
  - a. National Anthem - All players, coaches, game officials, and school personnel are expected to stand attentively during the presentation of the American flag and the playing of the national anthem.
  - b. Introduction of team members (15 players in uniform), coaches, and officials.
  - c. Other VIPs in attendance will be recognized by asking them to stand momentarily at their seats.
3. The Volleyball Committee is authorized to modify the program of special events however it deems appropriate.
4. No school will be permitted to conduct its own program of special events.

- G. Host Site Floors: In respecting the host site floors, coaches are not permitted to wear high heel shoes on the court or on the sideline in all rounds of the tournament.

#### **Item 14. Awards**

The following awards will be presented:

1. Team: Trophies will be presented to the Championship team, the Runner-Up team.
2. Individual: Gold medallions (15) will be presented to the champions. Silver medallions (15) will be presented to the runners-up.
3. Game Ball: Each participating team will receive a game ball.
4. DIAA Scholar-Athlete Awards: Each team participating in the tournament will be eligible to nominate one player. A total of 24 players will be recognize. Criteria for award will be posted on the DIAA website. Nominations must be submitted through the AD Portal by October 27, 2024, 5PM. Players will be recognized throughout the tournament and award plaques will be distributed to the schools at the completion of the fall championships.
5. No awards other than those authorized by the DIAA and the Committee will be presented at any time during the tournament.

#### **Item 15. Player Bench Occupants and Bench Assignments**

- A. During a match, the player bench may be occupied by a maximum of 17 members of the official school party as defined in Item 7.B.. The total travel party size is 21 members and no more than 5 administrators.
- B. For scoring purposes, the higher seeded team will be designated as the home team and shall select their team bench.

**Item 16. Paint, Glitter, and Temporary Tattoos on Players**

- A. The players of the participating teams will not be permitted to wear any temporary decorations such as face/hair/body paint, glitter, tattoos, etc. due to the possibility of these substances getting on the ball or floor.

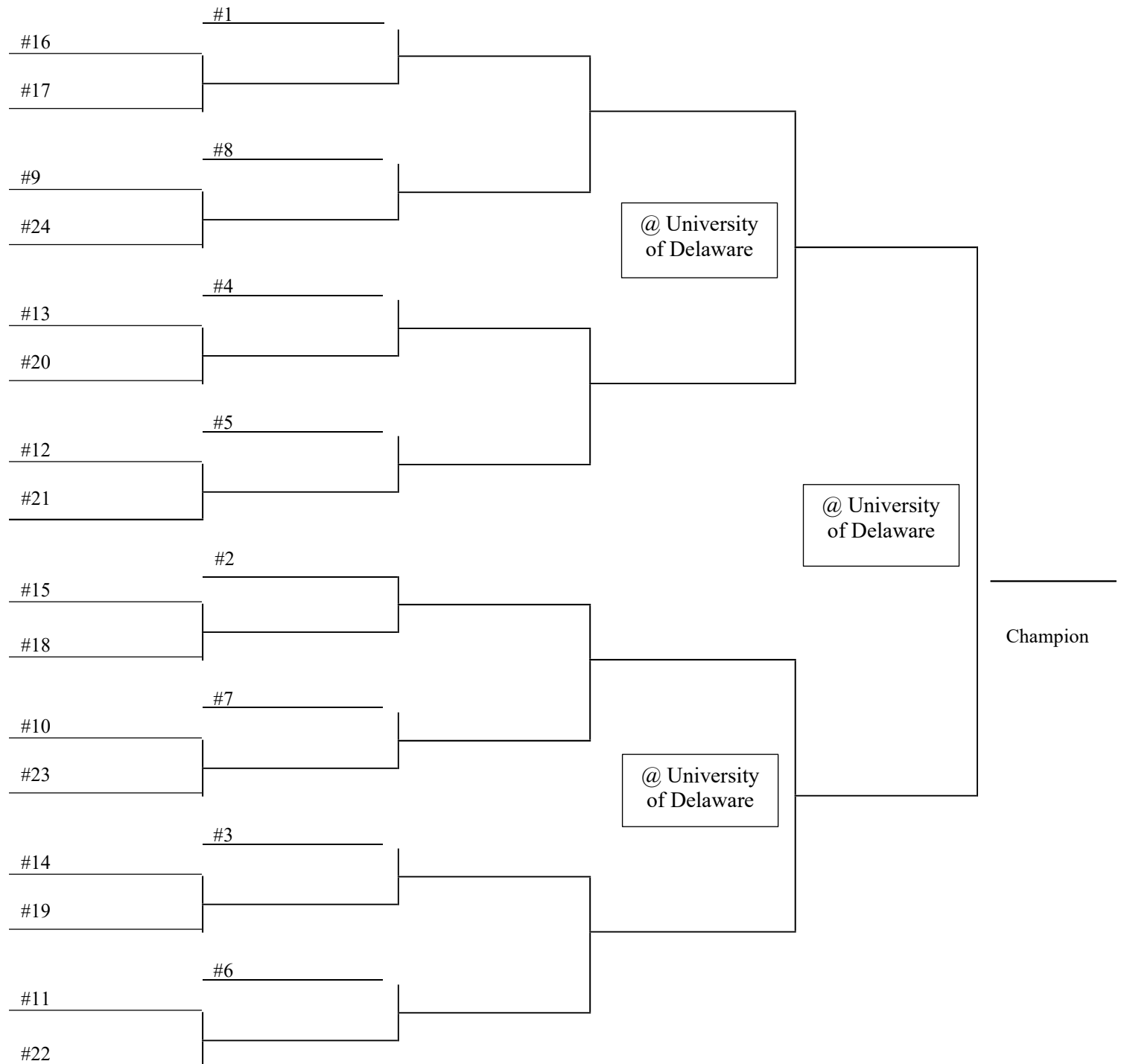
**Item 17. Music and Noisemakers**

- A. The Volleyball Committee will allow the playing of recorded music at an appropriate volume if approved by the site director. Bands or musical groups with one or more instruments, sirens, horns, bells, buzzers, whistles, and other artificial or mechanical noisemakers are prohibited. It is the responsibility of the principal and athletic director of each participating school to inform their student body and community of this regulation.

**2024 DIAA VOLLEYBALL STATE TOURNAMENT**

**\*bracket is at the discretion of the DIAA Volleyball Committee and will be finalized at the seeding meeting**

<b>Round 1</b>	<b>Round 2</b>	<b>Quarterfinals</b>	<b>Semifinals</b>	<b>Final</b>
Wed/Thurs, October 30/31	Fri/Sat, November 1/2	Wednesday, November 6	Monday, November 11	Thursday, November 14





**DIAA Boys Soccer – Fall 2024**



**2024-2025 DIAA Soccer Committee Members**

<b>Committee Member Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Title</b>
Todd Lehman	Delcastle HS	Coach
Robert Cordrey	DIAA	NFHS State Soccer Rules Interpreter
David DuHadaway	Caravel Academy	Coach
Tyler Edelman	DSOA	Officials Association Rep.
Michael Incitti	DSSOA	Officials Association Rep.
Joe Manlove, Interim-Chair	DHSSCA	Coaches Association President
Justin Null	St. George's	Coach
Mathew Carroll	St. Andrew's	Coach
John Myers	Public Member	Retired
Bill Schultz, Vice-Chair	Smyrna HS	Athletic Director
Leo Marianiello	Conrad School of Sciences HS	Coach
Scott Myers	Milford HS	Coach
Duncan Smith	Sussex Academy HS	Administrator
Vacant		

**DIAA Soccer Tournament Manual**

**Specific Information**

**Item 1. Classification (Division I and II)**

A. The Boys Soccer Tournaments crown Division I and Division II Champions. DIAA classifies all schools in Division I that have a DOE certified enrollment count of grades 9 through 12 equal to or greater than the school with the smallest enrollment in either the Blue Hen Conference Flight A or the Henlopen Conference North Division. That number for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school year is 1069. This count consists of all students who, if eligible, would participate at that school, including special needs students. Single gender schools have their total enrollment doubled to determine their final enrollment number. All other schools are classified as Division II.

*The Division I schools for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years are as follows:*

Appoquinimink, Cape Henlopen, Caesar Rodney, Charter School of Wilmington, Christiana, Delcastle, Dover, Middletown, Mt. Pleasant, Milford, Newark, Odessa, Padua, Polytech, Salesianum (boys), Smyrna, St. Georges, Sussex Central, Sussex Tech, and William Penn.

## **Item 2. Tournament Dates**

- A. The 2024 DIAA Boys' Soccer State Tournament will be held for each Division on the following dates.

\*Please note, these dates are subject to change. \*

<b>Round</b>	<b>Division I</b>	<b>Division 2</b>
Round One	N/A	Wednesday, November 6
Quarterfinals	Thursday, November 7	Saturday, November 9
Semifinals	Tuesday, November 12	Wednesday, November 13
Finals	Saturday, November 16	Saturday, November 16

## **Item 3. Tournament Sites**

- A. Game sites for all rounds of the tournament will be chosen by the Committee.

## **Item 4. Starting Times**

- A. The DIAA Executive Director and/or Committee will determine the starting time for all games.  
B. The Committee will not accept requests for preferred or alternate starting times.

## **Item 5. Tournament Field**

- A. The 2024 DIAA Soccer State Championships will consist of a Division I tournament and a Division II tournament.
1. The Division I tournament field will be comprised of the qualifying Blue Hen Flight A Champion, the Henlopen North Champion, and six (6) at-large teams or more if needed to fill out the 8-team bracket.
  2. The Division II tournament field will be comprised of the qualifying Blue Hen Flight B Champion, Henlopen South Champion, Independent Champion, Diamond State Champion and eight (8) at-large teams or more if needed to fill out the 12-team bracket.
  3. The school classifications can be found in General Item #6 page 2.
- B. Eligible Teams:
1. All teams must meet the criteria established by DIAA Regulation 1009 to be eligible for Tournament consideration.
  2. A team must play a minimum of ten (10) games at the varsity level in order to be considered for the tournament. Only those opponents who played a minimum of 10 games at the varsity level will be included in a team's index calculation and record.
    - a. Team schedules will "lock down" on 9/3/2024. Any changes made to a schedule after that date must be approved by the Executive Director and Tournament Chair. Otherwise, the team index will be determined by the number of games on the schedule on the lock down date.
  3. Teams are expected to meet the eligibility requirements as outlined in this fall tournament manual for consideration of selection to the DIAA boys' soccer tournament field.



- C. Conference Champions: Each conference will determine their champion. The Diamond State Conference will forfeit their automatic berth if The Charter School of Wilmington wins the conference. If a conference qualifier chooses not to participate in the tournament, that berth will be awarded to another at-large team.
- D. At-Large teams will be selected according to their team index as determined by the procedure in 5.B.

## Item 6. Tournament Seeding

### A. Team Report

1. The last competition date for boys' soccer is Thursday, October 31, 2024. It is the school's responsibility to verify that all results listed on their team's Website4Sports page are accurate and complete by the last date of competition or the team may not be considered for the tournament. Games played after the last date of competition will not be used to determine tournament selection unless approved by the committee chair.
2. It is each school's responsibility to send all Out-of-State opponent's contact information to the committee chair and DIAA by October 14, 2024.

### B. Tournament Index Calculation

1. The team's win-loss percentage will be determined by adding 3 points for each win, 1 point for each tie, and 0 points for each loss divided by the total number of possible points (number of games played multiplied by 3).
2. An opponents' win-loss percentage will be calculated using the same formula. The team's opponent's average win-loss percentage will be calculated by adding the calculated win-loss percentage of each opponent together and dividing by the number of opponents. Opponents played twice are counted twice.
3. The team's index will be determined by adding the team's win-loss percentage and the opponents' average win-loss percentage and dividing the total by 2.

### C. Tie-Breaking Procedures (updated for 2024 Season): If two or more teams are tied for any seed, the following tie-breaking criteria will be used in the order listed. Once a team is removed from the tie, the tie-breaker criteria will be reapplied sequentially to the teams that are still tied.

1. head-to-head competition during the regular season
2. win-loss percentage against common opponents during the regular season
3. Carry out the decimal in the index past until tie is broken
4. If teams remain tied, the Committee will make the final determination based on the criteria established prior to beginning the tie-breaking procedure.

### D. Seeding

1. The teams in each division will be seeded according to their calculated index. The top eight (8) teams in Division I and the top twelve (12) teams in Division II will be identified and placed into the bracket accordingly.
2. If a team withdraws from the tournament after the field has been selected, that team will not be replaced and its scheduled opponent will receive a forfeit win into the next round

## Item 7. Official Program

- A. At the discretion of the DIAA Executive Director, if DIAA prepares an official tournament program which contains team pictures, team rosters, tournament pairings and other related information, it may be sold at all tournament playing sites.
- B. Team Photograph, Roster and Program Information - Team information for the tournament program must be on the school's websites4sports.com page by Monday, October 17, 2024. The team photo must be a digital print of no less than 300 DPI in a jpeg or tfi format. Electronic submission is required; hard copies will not be accepted.

1. Schools should assume that their team is going to make the tournament and submit a roster and team photo by the date listed in Item 6, B. Program information as outlined in above must be submitted by October 14, 2024.

## **Item 8. Admission Policies**

### **A. Paid Admission**

1. All tickets will be purchased through GoFan, DIAA's official ticketing partner, unless otherwise noted.
2. Tickets for DIAA state tournament events can be found by visiting <https://gofan.co/app/school/DIAA>
3. Fans MUST have a smartphone, tablet, or mobile device to show and redeem purchased tickets for entry into DIAA Championship events. Tickets printed onto paper will not be accepted.
4. Ticket Prices
  - a. Student (grades K-12) and adult admission will be \$5 for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd rounds, and quarterfinal games;
  - b. \$10 for semifinal and final games.
5. These ticket prices do not include any additional fees.
6. Children four (4) years and younger will be admitted without charge to all games.
7. Ticket prices and fees are subject to change per approval by the DIAA Board of Directors.
8. Tickets purchased but unused will not be refunded.

### **B. Complimentary Admission**

1. Participating schools will receive complimentary admission for all those members of the Official School Party listed on the official roster as submitted to the DIAA Executive Director prior to the tournament. The official school party is defined as players, coaches, managers, scorers/statisticians, and athletic trainer(s). All of these individuals should assemble together outside of the venue entrance and be admitted together as one group.
  - a. A maximum of 22 players in uniform are permitted as part of the official school party.
  - b. All other school personnel must pay the regular admission fee if they wish to enter the contest. Spouses of administrators and coaches are similarly obligated. No complimentary tickets will be issued to schools.
  - c. One (1) bus driver will be admitted free of charge upon presentation of identification as the team's driver.

### **C. Media representatives who are covering the tournament will be admitted upon presentation of current and official DIAA credentials.**

1. Media/photographers may stand where permitted by game manager, site director, and DIAA Boys Soccer Committee. They may not be positioned in front of or behind the team benches or the official score table. No one may stand on the end lines of the field. [NFHS Rule 12-2-1]

## **Item 9. Game Manager**

A member of the Committee will be appointed to serve as the Game Manager, who will serve as a liaison between the Committee, the host school and the participating schools. It is the Game Manager's responsibility to ensure compliance with the policies and procedures established by the DIAA Field Hockey Committee. The Game Manager will have the specific responsibilities listed below:

1. Provide the Official score book and official game balls.
2. Oversee the pre-game on-field practice.
3. Collect the score book and balls after the game has been completed.
4. In the event of a serious accident or injury to a coach, athlete, official, spectator, or game worker, notify the injured party's athletic director and the Executive Director as soon as possible.
5. In the event of a serious sportsmanship related incident, contact the Executive Director.

## Item 10. Responsibilities of Host School

- A. Member schools agree to host events for the Tournament.
- B. Each host school designates and supervises the individuals who serve as the Site Director and support personnel. The number of support and police personnel MUST be approved by DIAA's Executive Director prior to the start of the event. Support personnel may include:
  - 1. Ticket seller(s)
  - 2. Program seller(s), if applicable
  - 3. Ticket taker(s)
  - 4. Scorekeeper(s)
  - 5. Security (an individual who monitors the crowd but is not a law enforcement officer)
  - 6. School Police
  - 7. Scoreboard Operator/Announcer
  - 8. NATA-certified trainer or school nurse unless both participating schools will be accompanied by a trainer.
- C. The Site Director's responsibilities include:
  - 1. The field should be lined according to current NFHS specifications.
  - 2. Provide seating for the game officials and players of both teams on the same side of the field and wherever space permits, on the opposite side of the field from the spectators.
    - a. Seating should be arranged for the players, coaches, managers, statisticians, and trainers.
    - b. Seating should be arranged for the official timer and scorers (a table and at least four chairs should be placed at the 50-yard line for the official score table; in addition, at least two chairs should be placed in the official score table area for suspended players.
    - c. A rope or restraining line should be placed parallel to and at least 10 yards from each side line. The purpose of the rope or restraining line is to prevent spectators from interfering with play.
  - 3. If possible, provide dressing room and bathroom facilities for the participating schools.
  - 4. Provide safe and secure passage for the officials to and from the playing area.
  - 5. Provide parking facilities for buses and spectators.
  - 6. If possible, provide seating arrangements for spectators. Contact the Game Manager three hours prior to game time if the field is not in playable condition.
  - 7. Be in attendance and work closely with the Game Manager.
  - 8. Clear with the Game Manager matters of policy or procedure.
  - 9. Provide an official scorer and timer unless assigned by the Field Hockey Committee and supplied by the Officials' Association.
  - 10. Ensure that the complimentary admission policy for all schools is followed (Item 7).
  - 11. Charge admission until the start of the fourth quarter.
  - 12. Establish a procedure for assisting disabled spectators and review the procedure with the appropriate personnel.
  - 13. Review the emergency action plan with the appropriate personnel.
  - 14. Any additional responsibilities as determined by the host school and DIAA office.
- D. The host school must consult with the DIAA office concerning security and police personnel.
  - 1. Any expenses concerning security and police personnel must be pre-approved by DIAA's Executive Director.
  - 2. Police will be paid the game fee or hourly rate customarily paid at the game locale. The bill should be sent to DIAA.
- E. The host school is responsible for complying with the DIAA's ticketing administration and financial reconciliation procedures. Host schools are responsible for reporting ticket and program sales (if

applicable) to the DIAA Office by the next business day after the event concludes. Unsold programs should be returned to the DIAA office in a timely manner after the event concludes.

F. Public Address System

1. The host school will make every effort to provide a public address system and designate and supervise a responsible adult to serve as an announcer. Every effort should be made to have an announcer familiar with field hockey.
2. The public address system, if used, will be operated by a responsible/ adult representative of the host school.
  - a. Any announcements not directly related to the game/tournament or not of an emergency nature must be approved by the Game Manager or the Executive Director.
  - b. The public address announcer must be a responsible individual who will remain impartial at all times. He/she must never question or criticize the coaches or officials during the game.
  - c. Introduce the players and coaches on each team beginning with the non-starters of the away team, then starters and coaches, and then the home team.

**Item 11. Responsibilities of Participating Schools**

- A. Each team's School/Athletic Administration is responsible for assisting DIAA in safeguarding the playing field before, during and especially after all tournament games.
- B. Teams must arrive at the game site at least 45 minutes prior to game time.
  1. A school administrator and/or athletic director must be in attendance at tournament games, and upon entry should notify the Game Manager as to where they will be located during the contest.
  2. The school administrator/AD in attendance is responsible for assisting the committee with enforcement of good sportsmanship conduct as described in the General Information Section Item 7.
- C. Provide the Site Director with four (4) neatly printed copies of the official tournament roster which must include:
  1. the name, position and grade of each player,
  2. the names of coaches, managers, trainers and other official team personnel
  3. the current team won-loss record and the team's finish in their conference if applicable.
  4. only players listed on the submitted official team roster to DIAA Executive Director are permitted to participate in DIAA Boys Soccer tournament contest.
  5. if there are any changes to the official tournament roster at any time during the tournament after it's been submitted to the Executive Director upon request, it is the head coach's responsibility to report those changes of the official tournament roster to the DIAA Executive Director and Committee Chair.
  6. This information is necessary for pre-game introductions and the official DIAA score sheet. Copies are needed for the referees, opposing coach, PA announcer and official scorekeeper.
- D. Provide the following volunteers:
  1. Provide one individual to assist the official scorekeeper in identifying players who score goals, assists on goals and/or receive cautions or ejections.
  2. Two or three ball holders for each soccer contest during the tournament.
    - a. Ball holders are under the direct supervision of the officials whom they assist by carrying an extra game ball and retrieving balls which cross boundary touchlines.
    - b. Ball holders must be in the 6th grade or older, they shall wear 'pinnies' provided by the schools in a color that contrasts with those of the opposing teams. 'Pinnies' are to be

- worn at all times during the match.
- c. Ball Holders must meet with the referee fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start of the game.

#### **Item 12. Officials**

- A. Only qualifying and approved associations will be eligible to provide all officials for the State Tournament.
- B. The officiating assignments for all rounds of the tournament including the Championship will be determined by the DIAA Executive Director and/or their designee at the Soccer Seeding Meeting.
- C. A four-person officiating crew will be used for all tournament games. Three officials will be on-field and the fourth official will assist the referee and act as the official DIAA scorekeeper with duties as assigned by the committee per NFHS Rule 5.3.3.
- D. Officials' Fees: Officials assigned to the 2024 State Tournament will be paid according to DIAA Regulation 1043.5.1 Fees for Officiating Contests and Competitions.

#### **Item 13. Home Team and Uniforms**

- A. The higher seeded team (host school) will be designated as the home team and wear dark jerseys and dark socks. The visiting team will wear solid white jerseys and solid white socks. [NFHS Soccer Rule 4-1-1A]
- B. Players from each team will wear the legal uniform designated by 2024 NFHS Soccer Rule Book.
  1. When an illegally uniformed team is unable to correct the situation, the coach will be issued a yellow card to start the game. The school may be required to appear before the DIAA Sportsmanship Committee.

#### **Item 14. Dressing Rooms and Facilities**

- A. Facility operations will be based on the host site facility plan.
- B. If dressing rooms are available at the host site, the coaching staff is responsible for supervising the team dressing room and offending schools will be held accountable for any theft or damage.
- C. If available, a dressing room for Officials' will be provided at the host site's discretion. Officials should be prepared to arrive to the game site dressed.

#### **Item 15. Contest Procedures, Equipment and Facilities**

- A. Game Balls
  1. The committee will provide a minimum of three game balls with the required NFHS authenticating mark for each contest. The **Wilson Veza [WTE9705XB]** is the official game ball.
  2. The eight teams that advance to the quarterfinals will each receive a game ball.
- B. Musical Entertainment - The Committee will allow recorded music to be played prior to the start of the game, pending approval by the Site Director and Game Manager.
- C. Special Events
  1. The national anthem will be played prior to all games unless it is the second game of a double header.
  2. Special events will be confined to the opening ceremonies before the championship game and the presentation of awards after the championship game.
  3. The opening ceremonies may include the following:
    - a. national anthem
    - b. introduction of DIAA Executive Director, Soccer Committee Chairperson and Soccer Committee Members
    - c. Introduction of other special guests
    - d. Introduction of players, coaches, administrators, and game officials

4. The committee is authorized to modify the pre-game and post-game activities however it deems appropriate.

#### **Item 16. Awards**

- A. The following awards will be presented:
  1. Team: A trophy and game ball will be awarded to the Champion and Runner-Up teams.
  2. Individual: Gold medals (22) will be presented to the champions. Silver medals (22) will be presented to the runners-up.
  3. DIAA Scholar-Athlete Awards: Each team participating in the tournament will be eligible to nominate one player. A total of 20 players will be recognize. Criteria for award will be posted on the DIAA website. Nominations must be submitted through the AD Portal by October 31, 2024, 5PM. Players will be recognized throughout the tournament and award plaques will be distributed to the schools at the completion of the fall championships.
  4. No awards other than those authorized by the Committee will be presented at any time during the tournament.

#### **Item 17. Bench Assignment/Warm Up, Player Bench Occupants and Sideline Personnel**

- A. Bench Assignment/Warm Up
  1. The home team, the higher seeded team, will sit to the right of the scorer's table as the teams face the playing field.
  2. At neutral sites, the Committee will determine bench assignments.
  3. The teams will warm up on the half of the field that corresponds to their player bench assignment. Only players in uniform, bona fide coaches and team managers are allowed on the field for warm-ups.
  4. The on-field warm-up with the use of balls will be a maximum of 30 minutes prior to the start of the contest, unless approved by the Game Manger and the participating teams.
- B. Player Bench Occupants and Sideline Personnel
  1. Only members of the official school party will be permitted on the sideline. Teams will be allowed a maximum of twenty- two (22) players in uniform on the bench and a maximum of 32 members of the official school party. The official school party is defined as players, coaches (approved by the local board or governing body), managers, scorers/statisticians, team medical personnel and school administrators.
  2. All team personnel must be listed on the official game roster as submitted to the DIAA Executive Director in order to be eligible to be in the team bench area.
    - a. If a team has more than the maximum 22 in uniform, admission will be charged for the extra players.
    - b. The extra players must sit on the spectator side of the field and must purchase tickets.
  3. All personnel are under the authority of the game referee, subject to his/her rulings and must comply with his/her directions and decisions.
- C. All team personnel on the sideline during the Championship Game must be wearing the sideline pass. Committee members are authorized to spot-check any and all sideline personnel for compliance. If a team is found in violation, the individuals will be removed from the sideline and possibly the stadium.
  1. Unauthorized duplication or counterfeiting of DIAA sidelines passes will be deemed a major infraction of the sportsmanship code and the school will be referred to the DIAA sportsmanship committee for disciplinary action.

#### **Item 18. Practice Sessions**

- A. No team will be permitted to practice at a tournament-playing site unless that site is the team's home field.

### **Item 19. Game Tie-Breaking Procedure**

- A. If a regulation game ends in a tie, the teams will play a maximum of (2) sudden victory 10-minute overtime periods.
- B. If the score is still tied at the end of the second sudden victory overtime period, the game will be decided by alternating penalty shots. Only players listed on the DIAA official championship roster as submitted to the DIAA Executive Director are permitted and eligible to be selected as shooters.
  1. Each team will select five players as shooters. Substitutions are permitted per NFHS 2024-2025 Soccer Rule 3-3 ART 1.
  2. The penalty shots will be taken alternately at the same goal as chosen by the officials. The officials will conduct a coin toss to determine which team will take the first penalty shot. The visiting team will call the coin toss and the winner will choose to either shoot or defend the goal first.
  3. The penalty shots will end as soon as one team has a goal advantage that cannot be overcome by the opposing team.
  4. If the score remains tied after the first set of penalty shots, a second set will be taken. The team not starting the first set of penalty shots will start the second set. The same five players who shot in the first set must shoot in the second set and in the same order.
  5. If the tie is not broken after the second set of penalty shots, the third set will be sudden death. The first team to score more goals than its opponent, after an equal number of shots, will be declared the winner. The team starting the first set of penalty shots will begin the third set. The same five shooters who shot in the second set must shoot again and in the same order.
  6. If the goalkeeper is injured and is unable to play or he receives a red card, he may be replaced by any eligible player in uniform. The injured or disqualified goalkeeper may not return to the game.
  7. If the goalkeeper receives a yellow card, he must be replaced for at least the next shot. They may be replaced by any eligible player in uniform and may reenter the game at any time after the next shot.
  8. If a shooter is injured and is unable to play or he receives a red card, he must be replaced by a player who was on the field at the end of the last overtime period. The injured or disqualified shooter may not return to the game.
  9. If a shooter receives a yellow card, he must be replaced for at least his next shot in the rotation. He must be replaced by a player who was on the field at the end of the last overtime period. He may reenter the game at any time after her next shot in the rotation.

### **Item 20. Interrupted Game**

- A. Any tournament game interrupted due to circumstances beyond the control of the committee and the responsible administrative authorities will be completed or replayed according to the following guidelines:
  1. After waiting a reasonable period of time and after consulting with the game officials and the other committee members in attendance, the Game Manager will order that play either be resumed or terminated.
  2. If the decision is made to terminate play and the game was interrupted during the first half, the entire game will be replayed.
  3. If the decision is made to terminate play and the game was interrupted after the completion of the first half, the game will resume from the point of interruption, unless by mutual agreement of the competing schools and the Game Manager, it is to be considered a completed game.
  4. All records, goals, penalties, warnings, suspensions, etc. will be carried over from the

interrupted game if it is to be completed.

5. The committee will determine the date, starting time, and site at which the interrupted game will be completed or replayed in its entirety.

**Item 21. Press Box**

- A. When space is available, press box space, seating, and occupants will prioritize the official statisticians and then if space is available, bona fide media representatives at the DIAA's discretion. The top of the press box, if possible, will be prioritized for video operators and may be available for team spotters.

**Item 22. Site Selection Procedures**

- A. The Boys' Soccer Committee will give preference to all weather turf fields for site selection when selecting sites for the 2024 tournament and will use their ultimate discretion to select game sites for the 2024 tournament. The following criteria will be considered:
  1. The field must meet all NFHS specifics per the 2024-25 NFHS Soccer Rule Book.
  2. Goals must meet or exceed NFHS guidelines and must be in good condition without sharp edges.
  3. The stadium should be enclosed by a fence and have proper lighting for night games.
  4. Parking facilities and spectator seating areas should be conducive to the anticipated attendance.
  5. The stadium should also have a public address system available for use and consideration of a concessions stand.
  6. Locker rooms should be available for use during doubleheaders and in case of inclement weather.
  7. All game sites will be chosen by the committee based upon availability, field conditions, geographic location, and the seeding of the participating teams

*Rev. 9/17/2024*



# 2024 DIAA BOYS' SOCCER STATE TOURNAMENT – DIVISION I

\*bracket is at the discretion of the DIAA Soccer Committee and will be finalized at the seeding meeting

Thursday, November 7

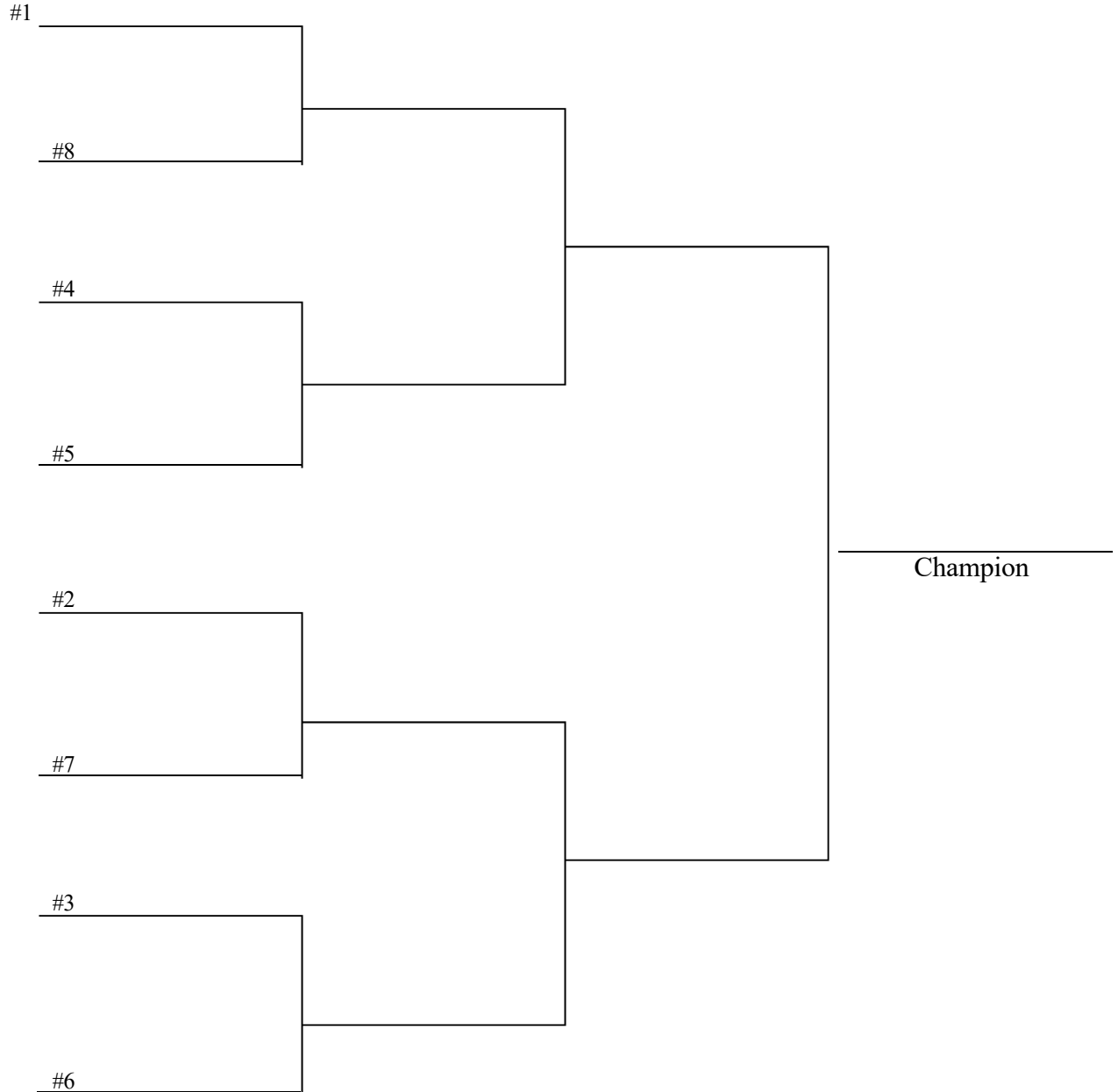
Tuesday, November 12

Saturday, November 16

QUARTERFINALS

SEMIFINALS

FINALS



# 2024 DIAA BOYS' SOCCER TOURNAMENT – DIVISION II

\*bracket is at the discretion of the DIAA Boys Soccer Committee and will be finalized at the seeding meeting

Wed., November 6

Saturday,  
November 9

Wednesday,  
November 13

Saturday, November 16

**ROUND 1**

**QUARTERFINALS**

**SEMIFINALS**

**FINALS**





## **DIAA Football Tournament Manual 2024**

TO: Member School Administrators and Athletic Directors; Football and Unified Flag Football Coaches and Officials; and Members of the Media

Colleagues:

The 2024 Football State Tournament Manual is intended to provide you with detailed information concerning the organization and administration of the DIAA Football and Unified Flag Football State Tournament Games.

The rules and procedures contained in this manual are applicable only to the 2024 DIAA Football and Unified Flag Football State Championships and are not intended to govern subsequent championships or to be binding on future committees.

Football Tournament Manual  
Football Tournament Bracket (all Classes)  
Unified Flag Football Tournament Manual  
Unified Flag Football Tournament Bracket

The Football Tournament crowns Class 1A, 2A, and 3A Champions. Member schools were placed in three classifications consisting of districts. Districts were determined by geographic location. The member school classifications can be found in the Football Tournament Manual under Item 4. Tournament Field. Unified Flag Football is classified into a north and south division which crowns one state champion.

The Committees sincerely hope that the 2024 DIAA Football and Unified Flag Football State Championships will be a tremendous success in all respects.

For the most up to date tournament information, please visit the DIAA website,  
[www.education.delaware.gov/diaa](http://www.education.delaware.gov/diaa)

Thank you,

Football Committee

Unified Sports Committee

## DIAA Football Committee Members

Andrew Bero	DIAA State Football Rules Interpreter
Jeff Braxton	Coach, First State Military Academy
Matt Carre	Coach, Delaware Military Academy
Dave Collins	Athletic Director/Coach, Hodgson Vo-Tech High School
Dean Culver	Official, Delmarva Football Official Association
Blair Newman	Principal, First State Military Academy
John Patterson	Official, Northern Delaware Football Officials Association
Mark Quillin	Athletic Director, Sussex Tech High School
Daniel Ritter, Vice Chair	Athletic Director/Coach, Howard High School
Jody Russell	Coach, Newark Charter High School
Kevin Smith, Secretary	Athletic Director, Cape Henlopen High School
Eric Torbert, Chair	Public Member, Kent County
John Wilson	Coach, St. Georges Vo-Tech High School and Delaware Interscholastic Football Coaches Association

## DIAA Football Tournament Manual

### Specific Information

#### Item 1. Tournament Dates

- A. The 2024 DIAA Football State Tournament will be held for each Division on the following dates:

ROUND	CLASS 1A	CLASS 2A	CLASS 3A
Quarterfinals	Nov. 15 and 16		
Semi-Finals	Nov. 22 and 23		
Finals	Nov. 30		Nov. 29

- B.** The DIAA Executive Director and/or The Committee reserves the right to make changes due to weather or other circumstances that would prevent playing the games as originally scheduled.
- C. The Committee reserves the right to make any scheduling adjustments it deems appropriate.
- D. The Committee will not accept requests for alternate dates due to a conflict with the SAT. It is incumbent on all schools to inform their players that registering to take the SAT on the weekend of the Championship Games will conflict with their participation in the championship game.

#### Item 2. Game Sites

- A. The game sites will be determined by the committee.
- B. Operations will be based on the host site facility plan. The Committee will select the site for the Championship game in each classification.
- C. The Committee reserves the right to select the site and determine the starting time for all tournament games.

**Item 3. Starting Times**

- A. The starting times for all rounds of the tournament will be determined by the DIAA Executive Director and/or the committee and announced no later than the Monday preceding the games unless there are extreme extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the committee.
- B. The committee will not accept requests for alternate starting times due to a conflict with the SAT. It is incumbent on all schools to inform their players that registering to take the SAT on the weekend of the Championship Games will conflict with their participation in the championship game.

**Item 4. Tournament Field**

- A. The 2024 DIAA Football State Championships will consist of a Class 1A, Class 2A, and Class 3A tournament.
- B. Win percentage will be used for inter-district rankings.
- C. If a team plays an inter district team twice, only the first game played will be used in the win percentage calculations.
- D. Inter-district tie-breaking for playoff berth:
  - a. If there is a district tie for a **playoff berth**, the tie-breaking criteria listed below will be used.
  - b. Ties for final standings in all Districts will be settled using the following procedure. *Note: When breaking a 3-way or multiple ties, follow the procedure until one tie is broken and return to top and begin the procedure again with the remaining teams.*
    1. Head-to-head record
    2. Fewest points per game allowed in district games (Points allowed divided by number of games played)
    3. Opponents highest win percentage (Includes cross-district and cross-class opponents. Ties count as one- half of a win.)
    4. Highest tournament seeding index
    5. Coin toss
- E. The Class 1A tournament field will be composed of 8 teams with each District being represented by the top two (2) teams, based on in-district win percentage. The additional four (4) at-large teams will be selected by the best seeding index among the remaining twelve (12) teams. District winners will be seeded #1 and #2 based on their seeding index (see Item 5.) and the remaining six (6) teams will be seeded #3 through #8 based on their seeding index.

<b>Class 1A – District 1</b>	<b>Class 1A – District 2</b>
Christiana	Brandywine
Dickinson	Conrad
Glasgow	Early College
McKean	First State Military Academy
St. Andrews	Indian River
St. Elizabeth	Polytech
Tatnall	Seaford
Wilmington Charter	St. Andrews

- F. The Class 2A tournament field will be composed of 8 teams with each District being represented by the top team from each district based on in-district win percentage. The additional five (5) at-large teams will be selected by the best seeding index among the remaining fourteen (14) teams. District winners will be seeded #1, #2, and #3, based on their seeding index (see Item 5.) and the remaining five (5) teams will be seeded #4 through #8 based on their seeding index.

<b>Class 2A – District 1</b>	<b>Class 2A – District 2</b>	<b>Class 2A – District 3</b>
Caravel	Archmere	Delmar
Concord	Howard	Lake Forest
Delaware Military Academy	Mt. Pleasant	Laurel
Delcastle	Odessa	Milford
Newark	Tower Hill	Sussex Tech
Red Lion Christian Academy	Wilmington Friends	Woodbridge

G. The Class 3A tournament field will be composed of 8 teams with each district being represented by the top two (2) teams, based on in-district win percentage, The additional four (4) at-large teams will be selected by the best seeding index among the remaining eight (8) teams. District winners will be seeded #1 and #2 based on their seeding index (see Item 5.) and the remaining six (6) teams will be seeded #3 through #8 based on their seeding index.

Class 3A – District 1	Class 3A – District 2
Appoquinimink	Caesar Rodney
Hodgson Vo-Tech	Cape Henlopen
Middletown	Dover
Salesianum	Smyrna
St. Marks	St. Georges
William Penn	Sussex Central

H. Eligible Teams

1. All teams must meet the criteria established by DIAA Regulation 1009 to be eligible for Tournament consideration.
2. A team must play a minimum of 70% of games possible at the varsity level to be considered for the tournament. Forfeits will count toward satisfying this requirement.
3. Any school which does not wish to be considered for the tournament must notify the Football Committee Chair by **November 1, 2024** so as not to be considered for seeding. Once the committee seeds the tournament, any team that withdraws may be subject to DIAA disciplinary action and that tournament berth will not be filled.
4. For the DIAA state football tournament, the regular season is defined as a school’s first ten (10) regular season varsity football games and they must be completed by **Saturday, November 9, 2024**. Competition against in-state and out-of- state school teams must be completed by **Saturday, November 9, 2024**.

**Item 5. Tournament Seeding**

A. Team Report

1. The last date of competition for football is **Saturday, November 9, 2024**. It is the school’s responsibility to verify that all results listed on their team’s website4sports page are accurate and complete by midnight on the last date of competition, **Saturday, November 9, 2024**, or the team may not be considered for the tournament.

B. Index Calculation

1. A school’s seeding point index is determined by adding together the total number of points accumulated and then dividing by the number of games played.
2. Points are awarded for wins, ties, and losses as follows:

Seeding Criteria Points System	
Win v. Opponent in any Class or Out of State	4 Points
Tie	2 points
Loss v. Opponent in any Class or Out of State	0 Points

Strength of Schedule Bonus Points for playing teams with final records as listed to the right <i>(Teams must be tournament eligible to generate bonus points for indexes)</i>	Final Record of team
One (1) Strength of Schedule Bonus Point	.500 - .699
Two (2) Strength of Schedule Bonus Point	.700 - .899
Three (3) Strength of Schedule Bonus Point	.900 – 1.000

<b>Playing up 1 Class &amp; Out of State Competition</b>	
Playing up a Class IN STATE ONLY	2 Points Regardless of Win or Loss
<p><i>*Any Out of State Games will not generate any type Automatic Points for playing a Class Higher because they are classified differently</i></p> <p><i>* Out of State Opponents win/loss record will be used for calculating Strength of Schedule Bonus Points based on the criteria above</i></p> <p><i>*For out-of-state opponents, the first 10 games that they play in the 2024 season will constitute their 10 game schedule for the purposes of their final record. This may include playoff or tournament games completed by midnight on the last date of competition, Saturday, November 9, 2024</i></p>	

C. Tie Breaking for Index Seeding Procedures

1. If two or more teams are tied for any seed, the following tie-breaking criteria will be used in the order listed. For ties involving three or more teams, once a team is removed from the tie, the tie-breaker criteria will be reapplied sequentially to the teams that are still tied.
  - i. Head-to-Head competition among tied teams.
  - ii. A win percentage of all opponents (**cross-classification games included**).
  - iii. The team who had the fewest points allowed per game (NOTE: games won by forfeit are NOT included in the fewest points allowed per game calculation).
  - iv. If a tie still exists, the committee will choose by a coin toss.

D. Qualifying teams will be seeded according to their calculated index, index points earned/number of games played, and placed into a bracket accordingly. If a team withdraws from the tournament after the field is selected, that team will not be replaced, and its scheduled opponent will receive a forfeit win into the next round of play. Such a withdrawal/forfeit may be subject to disciplinary action by the DIAA Board of Directors.

E. A member of the Committee will be responsible for contacting the out-of-state opponents of each school in contention for a tournament berth. Schools that play out-of-state opponents need to send the out of state school's contact information to the Football Chairperson, Eric Torbert, by **November 1, 2024**. (Eric.Torbert@capital.k12.de.us).

**Item 6. Official Program**

- A. At the discretion of the DIAA Executive Director, if DIAA prepares an official tournament program which contains team pictures, team rosters, tournament pairings and other related information, it may be sold at all tournament playing sites.
- B. Team Photograph, Roster and Program Information - Team information for the tournament program must be on the school's website4sports site by **October 15, 2024**. The team photo must be a digital print of no less than 300 DPI in a jpeg or tfi format. Electronic submission is required; hard copies will not be accepted.
  1. Schools should assume that their team is going to make the tournament and submit a roster and team photo by the date listed above.

**Item 7. Admission Policies**

A. Paid Admission

1. All tickets will be purchased through GoFan, DIAA's official ticketing partner, unless otherwise noted.
2. Tickets for DIAA state tournament events can be found by visiting <https://gofan.co/app/school/DIAA>
3. Fans MUST have a smartphone, tablet, or mobile device to show and redeem purchased tickets for entry into DIAA Championship events. Tickets printed onto paper will not be accepted.
4. Comprehensive DIAA Championship ticketing policies are included in General Information, Item 6, page 2.
5. Ticket Prices
  - a. Student (grades K-12) and adult admission will be \$5 for 1st round, 2nd round, and quarterfinal games;

- b. \$10 for semifinal and final games.
- 6. These ticket prices do not include any additional fees.
- 7. Children four (4) years and younger will be admitted without charge to all games.
- 8. Ticket prices and fees are subject to change per approval by the DIAA Board of Directors.
- 9. Tickets purchased but unused will not be refunded.
- A. Complimentary Admission
  - 1. Participating schools will receive complimentary admission for only those members of the Official School Party listed on the official roster as submitted to the DIAA Executive Director prior to the tournament. The official school party is defined as players, coaches, managers, scorers/statisticians, and athletic trainer(s). All of these individuals should assemble together outside of the venue entrance and be admitted together as one group.
    - a. A maximum of 60 players in uniform are permitted as part of the official school party.
    - b. All other school personnel must pay the regular admission fee if they wish to enter the contest. Spouses of administrators and coaches are similarly obligated. No complimentary tickets will be issued to schools.
  - 2. One (1) bus driver will be admitted free of charge upon presentation of identification as the team's driver. A maximum of 23 cheerleaders in uniform and one adult sponsor will receive complimentary admission. Additional cheerleaders and/or adults must purchase a ticket or make arrangements in advance to have their school billed for any admission in excess of 23 cheerleaders and one adult.
    - a. No mini-trampolines or basket tosses will be permitted. Stunts will be allowed if performed in accordance with the 2024 NFHS Spirit Rules Book.
- B. The schools who qualify for the State Tournament may arrange for up to two (2) members of their coaching staff as listed on their official school roster to scout potential opponents. The Athletic Director of each school must request from DIAA by email [diaa@doe.k12.de.us] for arrangements for complimentary admission for these coaches. Once the request is received and approved by the DIAA Executive Director, the requested coaches will be placed on the comp list at the entrance ticket gate for admission to the event.
- C. Media representatives who are covering the tournament will be admitted upon presentation of current and official DIAA credentials. See General Item #11.

### **Item 8. Game Manager**

- A. A member of the Football Committee will be appointed to serve as the Game Manager. They will serve as a liaison between the Committee, the host school and the participating schools. The Game Manager is responsible for ensuring compliance with the policies and procedures established by the DIAA Football Committee. The Game Manager will have the specific responsibilities listed below:
  - 1. Provide the official game balls
  - 2. Collect the game balls after the game has been completed.
  - 3. In the event of a serious accident or injury to a coach, athlete, official, spectator, or game worker, notify the injured party's athletic director and the Executive Director as soon as possible.
  - 4. In the event of a serious sportsmanship related incident, contact the Executive Director as soon as possible.

### **Item 9. Responsibilities of Host School**

- A. Member schools agree to host events for the Tournament.
- B. Each host school designates and supervises the individuals who serve as the Site Director and support personnel. The number of support and police personnel MUST be approved by DIAA's Executive Director prior to the start of the event.
 

Support personnel may include:

  - a. Ticket seller(s);
  - b. Ticket taker(s);
  - c. scorekeeper(s);
  - d. Security (an individual who monitors the crowd but is not a law enforcement officer);
  - e. School Police;
  - f. Scoreboard Operator/Announcer; and



- g. NATA-certified trainer or school nurse unless both participating schools will be accompanied by a trainer.
- C. The Site Director's responsibilities include:
  1. Set up the field and bench areas according to current NFHS specifications.
    - a. The field should be lined according to current NFHS specifications.
  2. If possible, provide dressing room and bathroom facilities for the participating schools.
  3. Provide safe and secure passage for the officials to and from the playing area.
  4. Provide parking facilities for buses and spectators.
  5. If possible, provide seating arrangements for spectators.
  6. Contact the Game Manager three hours prior to game time if the field is not in playable condition.
  7. Be in attendance and work closely with the Game Manager.
  8. Clear with the Game Manager matters of policy or procedure.
  9. Provide a scoreboard operator unless assigned by the Football Committee and supplied by the Officials' Association.
  10. Ensure that the complimentary admission policy for all schools is followed (Item 7).
  11. Charge admission until the start of the fourth quarter.
  12. Establish a procedure for assisting disabled spectators and review the procedure with the appropriate personnel.
  13. Review the emergency action plan with the appropriate personnel.
  14. Any additional responsibilities as determined by the host school and DIAA office.
- D. The host school must consult with the DIAA office concerning security and police personnel.
  1. Any expenses concerning security and police personnel must be pre-approved by DIAA's Executive Director.
  2. Police will be paid the game fee or hourly rate customarily paid at the game locale. The bill should be sent to DIAA.
- E. The host school is responsible for complying with the DIAA's ticketing administration and financial reconciliation procedures. Host schools are responsible for reporting ticket and program sales to the DIAA Office by the next business day after the event concludes.
- F. Public Address System
  1. The host school will make every effort to provide a public address system and designate and supervise a responsible adult to serve as an announcer. Every effort should be made to have an announcer familiar with football.
  2. The public address system, if used, will be operated by a responsible/ adult representative of the host school.
    - a. Any announcements not directly related to the game/tournament or not of an emergency nature must be approved by the Game Manager or the Executive Director.
    - b. The public address announcer must be a responsible individual who will always remain impartial. He/she must never question or criticize the coaches or officials during the game.
    - c. Introduce the players and coaches on each team beginning with the non-starters of the away team, then starters and coaches, and then the home team.
- G. Concessions
  1. With the exception of games at non-school venues, all food and drink concessions will be operated by the host school and all proceeds will be retained by that school.

**Item 10. Responsibilities of Participating Schools**

- A. Each team's School/Athletic Administration is responsible for assisting DIAA in safeguarding the playing field before, during and especially after all tournament games. A member of the School/Athletic Administration must report to the Game Manger so as to coordinate game ending security procedures. Failure to comply with this provision may result in referral to the DIAA Sportsmanship Committee and further disciplinary actions that are not limited to but may include future prohibition from Tournament eligibility, forfeiture of future contests, fines and probation.

**Item 11. Officials**

- A. Only qualifying and approved officials associations will be eligible to provide officials for state tournament games.
- B. The officiating assignments for all tournament games including the Championships will be determined by the DIAA Executive Director and/or their designee at the football seeding meeting.
- C. When possible, a seven (7) person on-field crew and a three (3) person chain crew will be used for all tournament games. If the scoreboard clock is official, the officials' association will also provide a qualified Electronic Clock Operator.
- D. Officials' Fees: Officials assigned to the 2024 State Tournament will be paid according to DIAA Regulation 1043.5.1 Fees for Officiating Contests and Competitions.

**Item 12. Uniforms and Bench Assignments**

- A. Players from each team will wear the legal jersey designated by NFHS Football Rule 1-5-1 [2024 NFHS Football Rule Book]
- B. If a game is played at a neutral site, the higher seeded team will be designated as the home team on the scoreboard and will occupy the bench area assigned to them by the Football Committee. The lower seeded team will be designated as the visiting team on the scoreboard and occupy the bench area designated to them by the Football Committee.
- C. For the Championship Game, the team that is the highest seed will be designated as the home team and wear their dark jerseys. Bench assignments for the Championship Game are at the discretion of the committee.

**Item 13. Dressing Rooms and Facilities**

- A. Facility operations will be based on the host site facility plan and will comply with all State and Delaware Division of Public Health guidelines.
- B. If available, a dressing room for Officials' will be provided at the host site's discretion. Officials should be prepared to arrive to the field dressed.

**Item 14. Contest Procedures, Equipment, Special Events**

- A. Official Game Ball
  1. The committee will provide a minimum of three **Wilson GTS [WTF1003]** DIAA logo footballs for each game. These footballs and only these footballs will be the official game balls.
  2. Officials will supply one official game ball (with DIAA logo) for each contest. Each participating school will also provide one official game ball (with DIAA logo) for each contest.
- B. Tournament Game Schedule
  1. Teams are not to arrive at the tournament game site more than two (2) hours before the scheduled kick-off time.
  2. On field pre-game warm-up will begin one hour and forty-five minutes before kickoff and teams are limited to seventy-five minutes practice time on the field. All team personnel must be off of the playing field 30 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time unless otherwise notified by the Game Manager.
  3. Each team must warm-up on its designated half of the field. Teams may not warm-up or practice between the 40-yard lines of the field. Special consideration may be given to place kickers ONLY (who may be accompanied by one coach) if both teams agree and after review by the Game Manager. The Game Manager will monitor compliance with this regulation until the Game Officials assume authority of the contest 30 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time.
  4. Teams may not practice at the Championship site at any time other than on the time designated by the committee on the day of the Championship Game.
- C. Halftime Intermission
  1. The halftime intermission will be 20 minutes in length unless shortened by mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the Game Manager. Following the halftime intermission, there will be a mandatory three-minute warm up prior to the second-half kickoff.

#### D. Overtime

1. No tournament game will be permitted to end in a tie. The ten-yard line overtime procedure described in the 2024 NFHS Football Rules Book [pages 87-90] will be used to determine the winner of any tournament game which is tied at the end of regulation play.

#### E. Bands

1. Musical entertainment will be provided by high school bands only. Band members must be in their school uniforms and accompanied by the school band director. The band will be limited to the number of students who ordinarily performed at games during the regular season.
2. The Committee Chairperson and DIAA Executive Director must be notified, at minimum, five (5) business days advance of the game if a participating school band desires to perform.
3. For all tournament rounds except the championship game:
  - a. The designated visiting team band will take the field 20 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the game. They will be allowed 15 minutes to perform and should be in position to play the national anthem five minutes prior to the opening kick-off., unless other arrangements are made by the two bands and the Football Committee. The designated home team band will be given 15 minutes to perform at halftime.
4. Band procedures for the Championship Game will be set by the Football Committee.
5. The field clock will be used to determine the start and finish of the band performances.
6. The Committee will assign seating areas to the participating school bands. Whenever possible, the bands will be seated in the permanent stands.
  - a. It is the responsibility of the band sponsors to arrive at the game site in sufficient time to prevent spectators from sitting in the seats reserved for the band.
  - b. Parents assisting with band equipment must wear appropriate identification in order to receive free admission. The number of band volunteers receiving free admission will be limited to the number of individuals who ordinarily performed such duties at games during the regular season.

#### Item 15. Awards

- A. The following awards will be presented:
  1. Team: A trophy and game ball will be awarded to each Championship team. A trophy and game ball will be awarded to each runner-up team.
  2. Individual: Gold medals (60) will be presented to the champions. Silver medals (60) will be presented to the runners-up.
  3. No awards other than those authorized by the Committee will be presented at any time during the tournament.
  4. DIAA Scholar-Athlete Awards: Each team participating in the tournament will be eligible to nominate one player. A total of 24 players will be recognized (8 players in each classification). Criteria for award will be posted on the DIAA website. Nominations must be submitted through the AD Portal by November 10, 2024, 5PM.

#### Item 16. Sideline Personnel and Player Bench Occupants

- A. Only members of the official school party will be permitted on the sideline.
  1. The official school party is defined as players, coaches (approved by the local board or governing body), managers, scorers/statisticians, team medical personnel, team videographers and school administrators. The official school travel party may not exceed 81 members and may include no more than 60 players in uniform.
  2. All occupants of the sideline/team bench area must be in the sixth grade or older.
- B. For the Championship Game, each team will be issued 21 sideline passes. All team personnel on the sideline during the Championship Game must be wearing the sideline pass. Committee members are authorized to spot-check any and all sideline personnel for compliance. If a team is found in violation, the individuals will be removed from the sideline and possibly the stadium.
  1. Unauthorized duplication or counterfeiting of DIAA sidelines passes will be deemed a major infraction of the sportsmanship code and the school will be referred to the DIAA sportsmanship committee for disciplinary action.

### Item 17. Press Box

- A. When space is available press box space, seating, and occupants will prioritize the official statisticians and then if space is available, media representatives. The top of the press box, if possible, will be prioritized for video operators and may be available for team spotters.

### Item 18. Publicity

- A. All notices and releases to the media will be the responsibility of the DIAA Executive Director

### Item 19. Radio and Television

- A. Broadcast privileges will be awarded according to the following criteria and procedures:
  1. The local (same county as participating school) radio station that regularly broadcasts the games of a potential playoff team may receive exclusive privileges to broadcast that team's first and second round games by submitting a written [email note is acceptable] request and a \$100.00 fee.
  2. If no local radio station regularly broadcasts the games of a potential playoff team but a local station broadcasts a "game of the week", that station may receive rights to broadcast the aforementioned team's first and/or second round game by submitting a written [email note is acceptable] request and a \$100.00 fee. If two local stations broadcast a "game of the week", both stations may broadcast the aforementioned team's first and/or quarterfinal game provided the host school's press box can accommodate both broadcast crews. If the host school's press box cannot accommodate both crews, the DIAA Football Committee will determine which radio station will receive broadcast privileges.
  3. If no local radio station regularly broadcasts the games of a potential playoff team and no local station broadcasts a "game of the week", the station in closest proximity to the aforementioned school may receive the broadcast privileges by submitting a written [email note is acceptable] request and a \$100.00 fee.
  4. The written [email note is acceptable] request and \$100.00 fee must be received in the DIAA office by Monday, November 11, 2024 for first round games and Monday, November 18, 2024 for the quarterfinal and semi-final round(s). The \$100.00 fee will be refunded if the team whose game the local radio station has expressed an interest in broadcasting does not qualify for the playoffs. If a local station that broadcasts a "game of the week" submits a written [email note is acceptable] request and \$200.00 in fees to broadcast the first and/or semi round games of two potential playoff teams, \$100.00 will be refunded if those teams play each other.

**Submit request to:** Executive Director, DIAA  
35 Commerce Way, Suite 1, Dover, DE 19904  
Fax: 302-739-1769  
Email: [diaa@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:diaa@doe.k12.de.us)
  5. The same criteria and procedures that were used as stated above in Item 19 will be used for the championship games. However, the written [email note is acceptable] request must be received by 12:00 noon on Monday, November 25, 2024 and the broadcast fee, which may be submitted separately from the written request, will be \$250.00.
- B. Live telecasts or web streaming of playoff games will not be permitted. All games must be telecast on a minimum 48-hour delayed basis. The telecast fees will be \$100 for a first, quarterfinal, and semifinal round games and \$250 for a championship game.
- C. All radio and television stations must indicate in their written requests that no commercials associated with the use of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products will be aired and that ample time for DIAA advertisements and public-service announcements will be allotted.

**Item 20. Cheerleading**

- A. Only cheerleaders in uniform and a mascot in costume will be permitted on the sideline. The cheerleading squad will be limited to those cheerleaders who ordinarily performed at varsity games during the regular season.
- B. No mini-trampolines or basket tosses will be permitted. Stunts will be allowed if performed in accordance with the 2024 NFHS Spirit Rules Book.

**Item 21. Mercy Rule**

- A. The following “mercy rule” was approved by the DIAA Board of Directors and will be in effect for all tournament games:
  - 1. If, at any time during the second half, one team is leading its opponent by 35 or more points, the timing procedures will be modified as listed below.
    - a. The clock will be stopped only in the following situations:
      - i. A charged time-out.
      - ii. An officials’ time-out for safety reasons, i.e. player appears to be injured, unusual heat or humidity creates health risk for players, player needs equipment repair, non-participant enters playing field, or other situations deemed to be safety related.
      - iii. An official’s time-out to administer a penalty.
      - iv. A one-minute intermission between the third and fourth periods.
    - b. If the differential is reduced to fewer than 35 points, regular timing procedures will again be used.

**Item 22. Site Selection**

- A. Field Condition
  - 1. The field should be in good condition with grass covering the entire playing surface.
  - 2. The field shall be lined in accordance with the regulations set forth in the 2024 NFHS Football Rules Book.
- B. Facilities
  - 1. The football field should be separated from the bleachers by a fence and the entire stadium complex should be surrounded by a fence to facilitate game management and crowd control.
  - 2. Adequate locker room facilities should be available for both teams and separate facilities should be available for the game officials.
  - 3. Seating capacity should be sufficient to accommodate the anticipated crowd.
  - 4. Adequate restroom facilities should be available to accommodate the anticipated crowd.
  - 5. Having adequate parking facilities for the anticipated crowd will be taken into consideration.
  - 6. Concession stand capabilities may be a consideration.

*Revised 9/17/2024*

# 2024 DIAA Football State Tournament Bracket Class 1A, 2A and 3A

**NOTE: Brackets are at the discretion of the DIAA Football Committee and will be finalized at the seeding meeting.  
Time and location of all games are TBA.**

**Quarter-Finals**  
November 15 & 16

**Semi-Finals**  
November 22-23

**Championships**  
November 29 & 30





## UNIFIED FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

### Unified Sports Committee Members

- Jon Buzby, Chair .....Special Olympics Delaware
- Gary Cimaglia.....Special Olympics North America
- Kevin Charles ..... Public Member, DIAA Executive Director, Retired
- Layne Drexel .....Official, IAABO 11, DIAA State Unified Basketball Rules Interpreter
- Jerry Kobasa ..... Athletic Director, Retired
- Pete Celiberti .....Official, DFOA, DIAA State Unified Flag Football Rules Interpreter
- Bob Beron.....Athletic Director, Caesar Rodney High School
- Dr. Matt Voltz ..... Medical Professional, Delaware Orthopaedics Specialists
- Brian Mattix..... Principal, McKean High School
- Chris Muscara ..... Athletic Director, Appoquinimink High School
- Theresa Repole..... Coach, Newark Charter High School
- Nate Threatts.....Special Olympics Delaware
- Andrew Layton ..... Coach, Woodbridge High School
- Stark Schaeffer ..... Coach, William Penn High School
- Todd Furhmann .....Athletic Director/Athletic Trainer, Indian River High School

### Specific Information

#### Item 1. Governing Rules

- A. The rules as stipulated in the 2024 Unified Flag Football DIAA Rules and DIAA regulations.

#### Item 2. Tournament Dates

- A. The 2024 SODE/DIAA Unified Flag Football State Tournament will be on the following dates:

Round	Dates
Quarterfinals	November 14
Semifinals	November 20
Championship	November 30

- B. The Committee along with the participating schools reserve the right to make changes due to weather or other circumstances that would prevent playing the games as originally scheduled.
- C. The Committee reserves the right to make any scheduling adjustments it deems appropriate.
- D. The Committee will not accept requests for alternate dates due to a conflict with the SAT. It is incumbent on all schools to inform their players that registering to take the SAT on the weekend of the Championship Games will conflict with their participation in the championship game.

#### Item 3. Game Sites

- A. The quarterfinal and semifinal round games will be played on the home field of the highest seeded teams in each division. (lowest number seed) If the field and/or facilities of the higher seeded team are deemed unsuitable for tournament competition, the Committee will select an appropriate game site which could be the home field of the lower seeded team.
- B. The Unified Sports Committee reserves the right to select the site and determine the starting time for all tournament games.

#### Item 4. Starting Times

- A. The starting times for all rounds of the tournament will be determined by the Committee along with the participating schools and announced no later than the Friday preceding the games unless there are extreme extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the Committee.
- B. The Committee will not accept requests for alternate starting times due to a conflict with the SAT. It is incumbent on all schools to inform their players that registering to take the SAT on the weekend of the Championship Games will conflict with their participation in the championship game.

#### Item 5. Tournament Field

- A. The 2024 SODE/DIAA Unified Flag Football State Championship will include the top 8 teams according to the seeding index.
- B. Eligible Teams:
  1. All teams must meet the criteria established by DIAA Regulation 1006.2.4 to be eligible for Tournament consideration.
  2. The following schools make up the 2024 SODE/DIAA Unified Flag Football participants:

##### SCHOOLS

Appoquinimink	Caesar Rodney	Cape Henlopen	Dover
Indian River	McKean	Middletown	Mount Pleasant
Newark Charter	Smyrna	Sussex Central	William Penn

3. Any school which does not wish to be considered for the tournament must notify the Football Committee Chair by November 3rd, 2024, so as not to be considered for seeding. Once the committee seeds the tournament, any team that withdraws may be subject to DIAA disciplinary action and that tournament berth will not be filled.
4. For the DIAA State Unified Flag Football tournament, the regular season is defined as a school's first ten (10) regular season varsity football games and they must be completed by Thursday, November 7, 2024. Competition against in-state and out-of-state school teams must be completed by Thursday, November 7, 2024.
5. A team must play a minimum of 5 games at the varsity level to be considered for the tournament. Forfeits will count toward satisfying this requirement.

#### Item 6. Tournament Seeding

- A. Team Report: The last competition date for flag football is November 7, 2024. It is the school's responsibility to verify that all results listed on their team's website4sports page are accurate and complete by the last date of competition November 7, 2024.
- B. Index Calculation
  1. A school's seeding point index is determined by adding together the total number of points accumulated and then dividing them by the number of games played.
  2. Points are awarded for wins, ties, and losses as follows:
    - a. (2) points for a win
    - b. (1) points for a tie
    - c. (0) points for a loss
    - d. Bonus Points
      - i. (2) points for playing a team with .701 or higher winning percentage
      - ii. (1) points for playing a team with .501 - .700 winning percentage
- C. Tie Breaking for Index Seeding Procedures
  1. If two or more teams are tied for any seed, the following tie-breaking criteria will be used in the order listed. Once a team is removed from the tie, the tie-breaker criteria will be reapplied sequentially to the teams that are still tied.
    - i. Overall Record
    - ii. Head-to-Head Competition
    - iii. Record Against Common Opponents
    - iv. If a tie still exists, the Committee will select the order by vote.



### **Item 7. Official Program**

- A. DIAA will prepare an official Football Tournament Program which will contain team pictures, team rosters, tournament pairings and other related information. Schools will not receive complimentary programs at the conclusion of the tournament.
- B. Team Photograph, Roster and Program Information. Team information for the tournament program must be on the school's website4sports site by October 16, 2024. The team photo must be a digital print of no less than 300 DPI in a jpeg or tifi format. Electronic submission is required; hard copies will not be accepted.
  - 1. Schools should assume that their team is going to make the tournament and submit a roster and team photo. Program information MUST be submitted for Coaches to receive a complimentary Tournament Pass. (See Item 7. A. 3)

### **Item 8. Admission Policies**

- A. Admission is only charged at the Championship game. Student (grades K-12) and adult admission is \$10 for the championship game. Preschool children will be admitted without charge to all games.
  - 1. Tickets purchased but unused will not be refunded.
- B. Complimentary Admission
  - 1. Participating schools will receive complimentary admission for all those members of the Official School Party listed on the official roster found in the 2024 DIAA State Tournament Program. The official school party is defined as players, coaches, managers, scorers/statisticians, trainer, and administrators. All of these individuals should assemble together outside of the venue entrance and be admitted together as one group.
    - a. A maximum of 15 players in uniform are permitted as part of the official school party.
    - b. All other school personnel must pay the regular admission fee if they wish to enter the contest. Spouses of administrators and coaches are similarly obligated. No complimentary tickets will be issued to schools.
    - c. One (1) bus driver will be admitted free of charge upon presentation of identification as the team's driver.
  - 2. A maximum of 23 cheerleaders in uniform and one adult sponsor who must have attended the 2024 DIAA Spirit Rules Clinic will receive complimentary admission. Additional cheerleaders and/or adults must purchase a ticket or make arrangements in advance to have their school billed for any admission in excess of 23 cheerleaders and one adult.
    - a. No mini-trampolines or basket tosses will be permitted. Stunts will be allowed if performed in accordance with the 2024 NFHS Spirit Rules Book.
- D. Media representatives who are covering the tournament will be admitted upon presentation of proper credentials. See General Item #11.

### **Item 9. Game Manager**

- A. A member of the Committee will be appointed to serve as the Game Manager. He/she will serve as a liaison between the Committee, the host school and the participating schools. The Game Manager is responsible for ensuring compliance with the policies and procedures established by the Unified Sports Committee. The Game Manager will have the specific responsibilities listed below.
  - 1. Provide the following items:
    - a. Game balls.
  - 2. Collect the game ball from the winning team after the game has been completed.
  - 3. In the event of a serious accident or injury to a coach, athlete, official, spectator, or game worker, notify the injured party's athletic director and the Executive Director as soon as possible.
  - 4. In the event of a serious sportsmanship related incident, contact the Executive Director as soon as possible.

### **Item 10. Responsibilities of Host School**

- A. Member schools agree to host events for the Tournament.
- B. Each host school designates and supervises the individuals who serve as the Site Director and support personnel. The number of support and police personnel MUST be approved by DIAA's Executive Director prior to the start of the event.
- C. The Site Director's responsibilities include:

1. Set up the field and bench areas according to current Unified Flag Football specifications.
    - a. The field should be lined according to current Unified Flag Football specifications.
  2. If possible, provide dressing room and bathroom facilities for the participating schools.
  3. Provide parking facilities for buses and spectators.
  4. Provide safe passage for the officials to and from the playing area
  5. If possible, provide seating arrangements for spectators.
  6. Contact the Game Manager three hours prior to game time if the field is not in playable condition.
  7. Be in attendance and work closely with the Game Manager.
  8. Clear with the Game Manager matters of policy or procedure.
  9. Provide a scoreboard operator unless assigned by the Committee and supplied by the Officials' Association.
  10. Ensure that the complimentary admission policy for all schools is followed (Item 8).
  11. Establish a procedure for assisting disabled spectators and review the procedure with the appropriate personnel.
  12. Review the emergency action plan with the appropriate personnel.
  13. Any additional responsibilities as determined by the host school.
- D. The host school must consult with the DIAA office concerning security and police personnel.
1. Any expenses concerning security and police personnel must be pre-approved by DIAA's Executive Director.
  2. Police will be paid the game fee or hourly rate customarily paid at the game locale. The bill should be sent to DIAA.
- E. Public Address System
1. The host school will make every effort to provide a public address system and designate and supervise a responsible adult to serve as an announcer. Every effort should be made to have an announcer familiar with football.
  2. The public address system, if used, will be operated by a responsible/ adult representative of the host school.
    - a. Any announcements not directly related to the game/tournament or not of an emergency nature must be approved by the Game Manager or the Executive Director.
    - b. The public address announcer must be a responsible individual who will remain impartial at all times. He/she must never question or criticize the coaches or officials during the game.
    - c. Introduce the players and coaches on each team beginning with the non-starters of the away team, then starters and coaches, and then the home team.
- F. Concessions
1. Unless otherwise agreed upon by the DIAA and the host site, all food and drink concessions will be operated by the host school and all proceeds will be retained by that school.

### **Item 11. Responsibilities of Participating Schools**

- A. Each team's School/Athletic Administration is responsible for assisting DIAA in safeguarding the playing field before, during and especially after all tournament games. A member of the School/Athletic Administration must report to the Game Manger so as to coordinate game ending security procedures. Failure to comply with this provision may result in referral to the DIAA Sportsmanship Committee and further disciplinary actions that are not limited to but may include future prohibition from Tournament eligibility, forfeiture of future contests, fines and probation.

### **Item 12. Officials**

- A. Only qualifying and approved officials associations will be eligible to provide officials for state tournament games.
- B. Assignments will be determined by the DIAA and the Unified Committee
- C. A crew of 3 to 4 persons on-field and a 1 person down marker will be used for all tournament games. The down marker will be the responsibility of the home team except for the State Championship game. If the scoreboard clock is official, the host school/committee will also provide a qualified Electronic Clock Operator.
- D. All officials will be paid according to the rates set by the SODE/DIAA Partnership with the Officials' Association as determined by the Unified Sports Committee.

### **Item 13. Uniforms and Bench Assignments**

- A. Players from each team will wear the legal uniform approved by the Unified Sports Committee (Review 2024 Unified Flag Football DIAA Rules).
- B. If a game is played at a neutral site, the higher seeded team will be designated as the home team on the scoreboard and will occupy the bench area assigned to them by the Committee. The lower seeded team will be designated as the visiting team on the scoreboard and occupy the bench area designated to them by the Committee.
- C. For the Championship Game, the team that is the highest seed (lowest seed number) will be designated as the home team and wear their dark jerseys. Bench assignments for the Championship Game are at the discretion of the Committee.

### **Item 14. Contest Procedures, Equipment, Special Events**

- A. Official Game Ball
  - 1. A game ball will be provided at the start of the allotted warm-up time to each school. Schools should also bring their own balls to use during warmups.
- B. Tournament Game Schedule
  - 1. Teams are not to arrive at the tournament game site more than two (2) hours before the scheduled kick-off time.
  - 2. For the State Championship game: On-field pre-game practice will begin after the conclusion of the DIAA State Championship game preceding the Unified Flag Football State Championship Game.
  - 3. Teams may not practice at the Championship site at any time other than the time designated by the Committee on the day of the Championship Game.
- C. Halftime Intermission
  - 1. The halftime intermission will be 5 minutes in length unless changed by mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the Game Manager. Following the halftime intermission, there will be a three-minute warm-up prior to the second half beginning.
- D. Overtime
  - 1. No tournament game will be permitted to end in a tie. Unified Flag Football Rules on overtime will govern all overtime situations.
- E. Bands
  - 1. Musical entertainment will be provided by high school bands only. Band members must be in their school uniforms and accompanied by the school band director. The band will be limited to the number of students who ordinarily performed at games during the regular season.
  - 2. Band procedures for the Championship Game will be set by the Committee.
  - 3. The Committee will assign seating areas to the participating school bands. Whenever possible, the bands will be seated in the permanent stands.
    - a. It is the responsibility of the band sponsors to arrive at the game site in sufficient time to prevent spectators from sitting in the seats reserved for the band.
    - b. Parents assisting with band equipment must wear appropriate identification in order to receive free admission. The number of band volunteers receiving free admission will be limited to the number of individuals who ordinarily performed such duties at games during the regular season.

### **Item 15. Awards**

- A. The following awards will be presented:
  - 1. Team: A trophy and game ball will be awarded to each Championship team. A trophy and game ball will be awarded to each runner-up team.
  - 2. Individual: Gold medals will be presented to the champions. Silver medals will be presented to the runners-up.
  - 3. No awards other than those authorized by the Committee will be presented at any time during the tournament.

**Item 16. Sideline Personnel and Player Bench Occupants**

- A. Only members of the official school party will be permitted on the sideline.
  - 1. The official school party is defined as players, coaches (approved by the local board or governing body), managers, scorers/statisticians, team medical personnel, and school administrators.
  - 2. All occupants of the sideline/team bench area must be in the sixth grade or older.
- B. For the Championship Game, each team will be issued 5 sideline passes. All team personnel on the sideline during the Championship Game must be wearing the sideline pass. Committee members are authorized to spot-check any and all sideline personnel for compliance. If a team is found in violation, the individuals will be removed from the sideline and possibly the stadium.
  - 1. Unauthorized duplication or counterfeiting of DIAA sidelines passes will be deemed a major infraction of the sportsmanship code and the school will be referred to the DIAA sportsmanship committee for disciplinary action.

**Item 17. Press Box**

- A. Press box occupants should include media representatives and the official statisticians. The top of the press box, if possible, will be available for team spotters and video operators.

**Item 18. Publicity**

- A. All notices and releases to the media will be the responsibility of the DIAA Executive Director and Special Olympics Delaware.

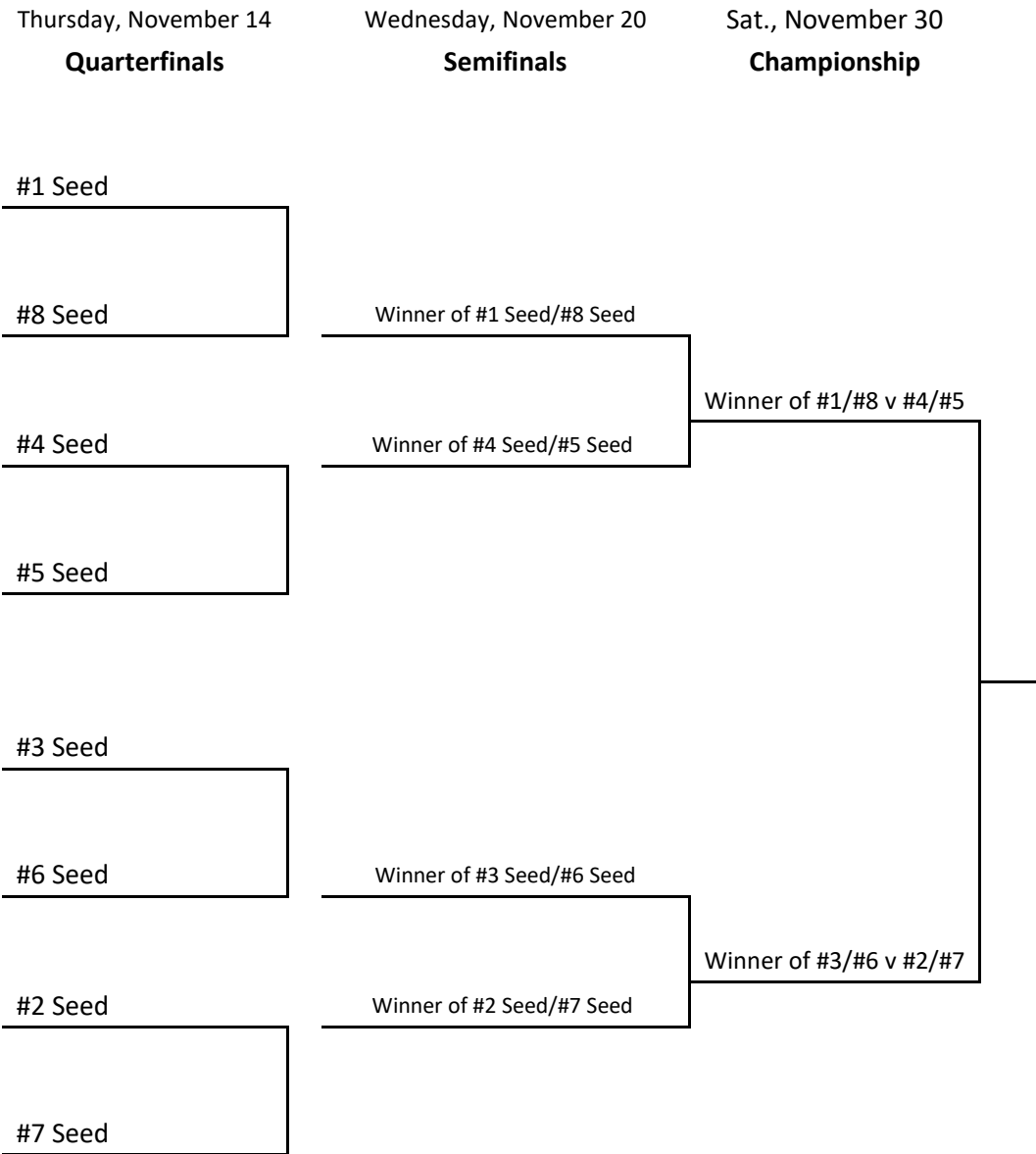
**Item 19. Cheerleading**

- A. Cheerleading squads will only be permitted to be in attendance on the sidelines if the Head Coach has completed the 2024 DIAA Spirit Rules Clinic.
- B. Only cheerleaders in uniform and a mascot in costume will be permitted on the sideline. The cheerleading squad will be limited to those cheerleaders who ordinarily performed at varsity games during the regular season.
- C. No mini-trampolines or basket tosses will be permitted. Stunts will be allowed if performed in accordance with the 2024 NFHS Spirit Rules Book.

**Item 20. Site Selection**

- A. Field Condition
  - 1. The field should be in good condition with grass covering the entire playing surface.
  - 2. The field shall be lined in accordance with the regulations set forth in the 2024 Unified Flag Football Rules Book.
- B. Facilities
  - 1. The football field should be separated from the bleachers by a fence and the entire stadium complex should be surrounded by a fence to facilitate game management and crowd control.
  - 2. Adequate locker room facilities should be available for both teams and separate facilities should be available for the game officials (where applicable).
  - 3. Seating capacity on both sides of the field should be sufficient to accommodate the anticipated crowd.
  - 4. Adequate restroom facilities should be available to accommodate the anticipated crowd.
  - 5. Having adequate parking facilities for the anticipated crowd will be taken into consideration.

# 2024 SODE/ DIAA Unified Flag Football State Tournament



**Bracket subject to change based on number of teams in tournament.**