



DIAA COMPETITION COMMITTEE STATE TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES

**Approved by the DIAA Board of Directors
June 11, 2026**

OBJECTIVE / VISION:

“To create a state system of Championships in each Team sport that is consistent, increases the amount of participation, is based on objective criteria and provides for a method to appeal decisions or placement.”

1. **Establish (when appropriate based on # of schools) separate division championships for each team sport.**

- All team sports (total of 11 - Boys & Girls Volleyball, Boys & Girls Soccer, Boys & Girls Basketball, Boys & Girls Lacrosse, Field Hockey, Softball and Baseball) will be divided into 2 divisions.

2. **Develop a Division/Classification System** based on a consistent, transparent formula that considers multiple factors beyond enrollment alone, with clearly defined classification criteria, established procedures, and a formal appeals process. Schools are placed into classifications (Division I or Division II) based on:

- Enrollment numbers (single sex school's enrollment is doubled).
- Competitive balance formula:
 - 4 year winning percentage
 - 2 year winning percentage
 - Formula is 20% enrollment, 40% last 4 year winning percentage and 40% last 2 year winning percentage.
- Classifications are set for a 2-year cycle.
- Data to be used for 2027-28 Classifications:
 - 2025-2026 school enrollment numbers
 - Use Winning % from the following years:
 - 2022-2023 school year
 - 2023-2024 school year
 - 2024-2025 school year
 - 2025-2026 school year
- A school with a newly established program shall be assigned to Division II during its first classification cycle.

a. Appeal Process - Schools may appeal if they believe:

- Fall within the bottom 10% of Division I
- Enrollment data is incorrect
- Competitive balance calculations were incorrect
- Compelling safety issues that are supported with data
- They want to move up voluntarily

b. Filing the Appeal - The school must:

- Submit a formal written appeal by the Principal or Head of Schools to the DIAA Executive Director within 30 days of the release of Divisions.
- Provide detailed documentation to support the request.
- Appear at a hearing with a review subcommittee made up of 3 members from the DIAA Board of Directors, appointed by the Board Chair.
- All appeals are public.
- All decisions made by the DIAA Board of Directors Subcommittee are final.

c. **Hearing Process - At the hearing:**

- The school presents its case.
- Competition Committee staff present the data used.
- Subcommittee members ask questions.
- Subcommittee enters into deliberations for discussion of information that is presented.
- The committee votes.
- The decision made by the subcommittee is final.

d. **After a Decision**

- If approved → School is reassigned.
- If denied → School remains in original classification.
- Decisions are final for that 2-year cycle.

3. **Implement a Consistent Tournament Selection and Seeding Format for All Sports.**

a. **The Tournament Seeding Index Calculation**

- The team's win-loss percentage will be determined by adding one point for each win, one half point for each tie, and zero (0) points for each loss divided by the total number of possible points (number of games played). **$(W \times 1) + (T \times .5) / \text{Total Number of Games}$**
- A bonus factor will also be added in for D2 teams that elect to play up DI teams
- 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.
- 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 two (2).
- **INDEX = (Team win/loss + Opponents win/loss) / 2 and taken out 3 decimals**
- A Division II team shall receive a 0.010 index bonus point for each contest played against a Division I opponent. The cumulative bonus shall be added to the team's final index.

b. **Tie Breakers**

- If two (2) 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. If three (3) or more teams are tied, they must all have played each other - ***unless one team has played ALL the teams that are in the tiebreaker and is unbeaten against all the teams. In that case, said team wins the tiebreaker even though not all teams may have played each other.*** For example, pretend TEAM A, TEAM B and TEAM C are tied. TEAM A played and beat TEAM B & C. But TEAM B didn't play TEAM C. TEAM A should get the first tie breaker since they beat both schools.
 2. Common Opponents W/L percentage.
 3. Opponents W/L percentage taken out to the necessary decimal place to break the tie.

c. **Additional Procedures**

Determining the Number in the Tournament for Each Division

- Start with the total number of Teams in the Tournament and divide by 2. If there is an odd number of teams, Division 2 should have the extra Team.
- Once the cutoff line is drawn, look at the index of the two schools that are on it.
 - If there is equal to or greater than 1 point differential, there is no change.
 - If there is less than 1 point differential, proceed to move up the indexes until there is a 0.5 difference between the teams. Once you get to this point – draw the new cutoff line.

		School	Wifleball	Index			School	Bocce Ball	Index
		School 1	1	1.6			School 1	1	4.2
		School 2	1	4.6			School 2	1	4.6
		School 23	1	23.8			School 23	1	22.0
		School 24	1	24.8			School 24	1	25.8
NO CHANGE		School 25	1	25.4	NEW CUTOFF		School 25	1	26.6
		School 26	2	27.2			School 26	2	27.4
		School 27	2	29.0			School 27	2	27.8
		School 28	2	30.0			School 28	2	28.0
		School 29	2	30.2			School 29	2	28.2
		School 51	2	49.2			School 51	2	46.8
		51					School 52	2	47.0
		A = Division 1 = 25, Division 2 = 26					School 53	2	48.0
							School 54	2	48.4
							School 55	2	50.8
							55		
							A = Division 1 = 27, Division 2 = 28		

Equal to
or greater
than 1

C Up to .5
differential

d. Determining the Number of Slots for Each Tournament

- In keeping with the purpose of the committee each sport will have more teams and athletes able to compete by expanding the Tournaments.
- Increase the number of additional schools while incorporating first-round byes. This approach may also help reduce the number of lopsided first-round scores.
- Based on the above numbers the Number of Teams in each Tournament will be as follows:

Sport	# of Schools	# of Tournament Slots	% of Schools in Tournament	# of Tournament Games
Field Hockey Div I	24	12	50%	11
Field Hockey Div II	24	12	50%	11
Boys Soccer Div I	26	14	54%	13
Boys Soccer Div II	27	14	52%	13
Girls Volleyball Div I	28	14	50%	13
Girls Volleyball Div II	26	14	54%	13
Boys Basketball Div I	30	14	47%	13
Boys Basketball Div II	26	14	54%	13
Girls Basketball Div I	27	14	52%	13
Girls Basketball Div II	26	14	54%	13
Baseball Div I	25	14	56%	13
Baseball Div II	26	14	54%	13
Boys Lacrosse Div I	20	10	50%	9
Boys Lacrosse Div II	19	10	53%	9
Girls Lacrosse Div I	18	10	56%	9
Girls Lacrosse Div II	17	10	59%	9
Girls Soccer Div I	30	14	47%	13
Girls Soccer Div II	25	14	56%	13
Softball Div I	24	14	58%	13
Softball Div II	23	14	61%	13
Boys Volleyball Div I	16	8	50%	7
Boys Volleyball Div II	17	8	47%	7
	524	276	53%	254

Tournaments that will have 10, 12, or 14 teams will have First Round Byes

e. **Winning Record** – Teams do not have to have more than a .500 record to be eligible for the tournament.

f. **Automatic Bids** – For Blue Hen Flight A, Blue Hen Flight B, Henlopen North, Henlopen South, Diamond State and Independent conferences, each one would receive an automatic bid, but you must win the conference/flight to qualify, and each conference gets a maximum of 1 automatic bid per Division.

For example: Henlopen North and Henlopen South would not get two (2) automatic bids in Division I. The conference would decide who their automatic bid would be awarded to.

g. **Forfeits** – The policy for how forfeits will be calculated into the win/loss formula will be provided by DIAA Regulations.

h. **Lock Down Dates for Schedules** – The schedules for all sports will be locked down on the first date of competition. Should any changes (additions or deletions) need to be made, they must be approved by DIAA.

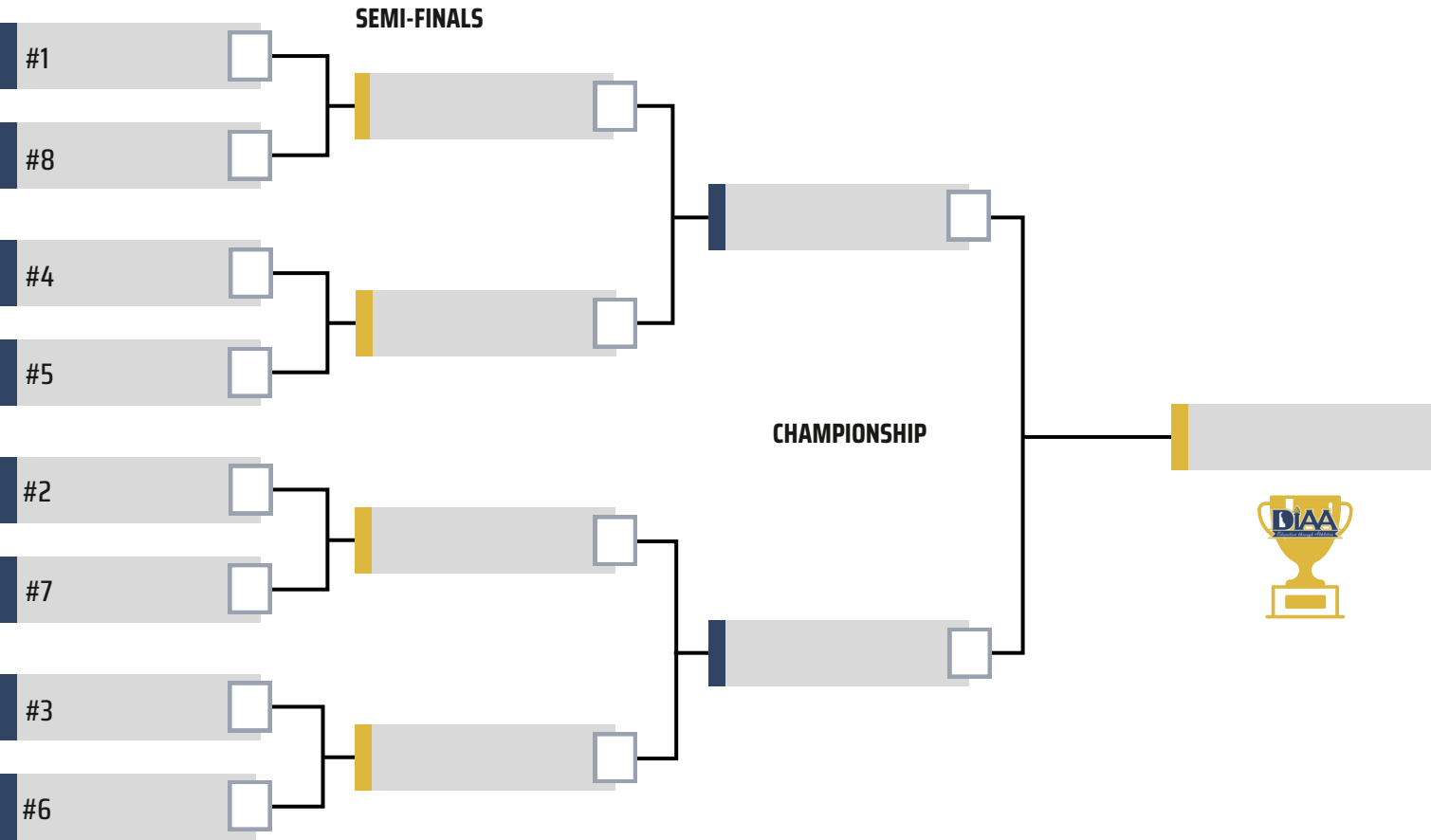
i. **Minimum Number of Games** – The minimum number of games a school must play is 75% of the maximum amount of game allowed (rounded down) and the maximum number of games an opponent must play is 65% of the maximum games allowed. (See chart below.)

School Minimum – 75% of Allowed Games		
	# of Games	75% GP Team Min
Boys Soccer	15	11
Girls Volleyball	15	11
Field Hockey	15	11
Basketball	20	15
Baseball	18	14
Softball	18	14
Girls Soccer	15	11
Girls Lacrosse	15	11
Boys Lacrosse	15	11
Boys Volleyball	15	11

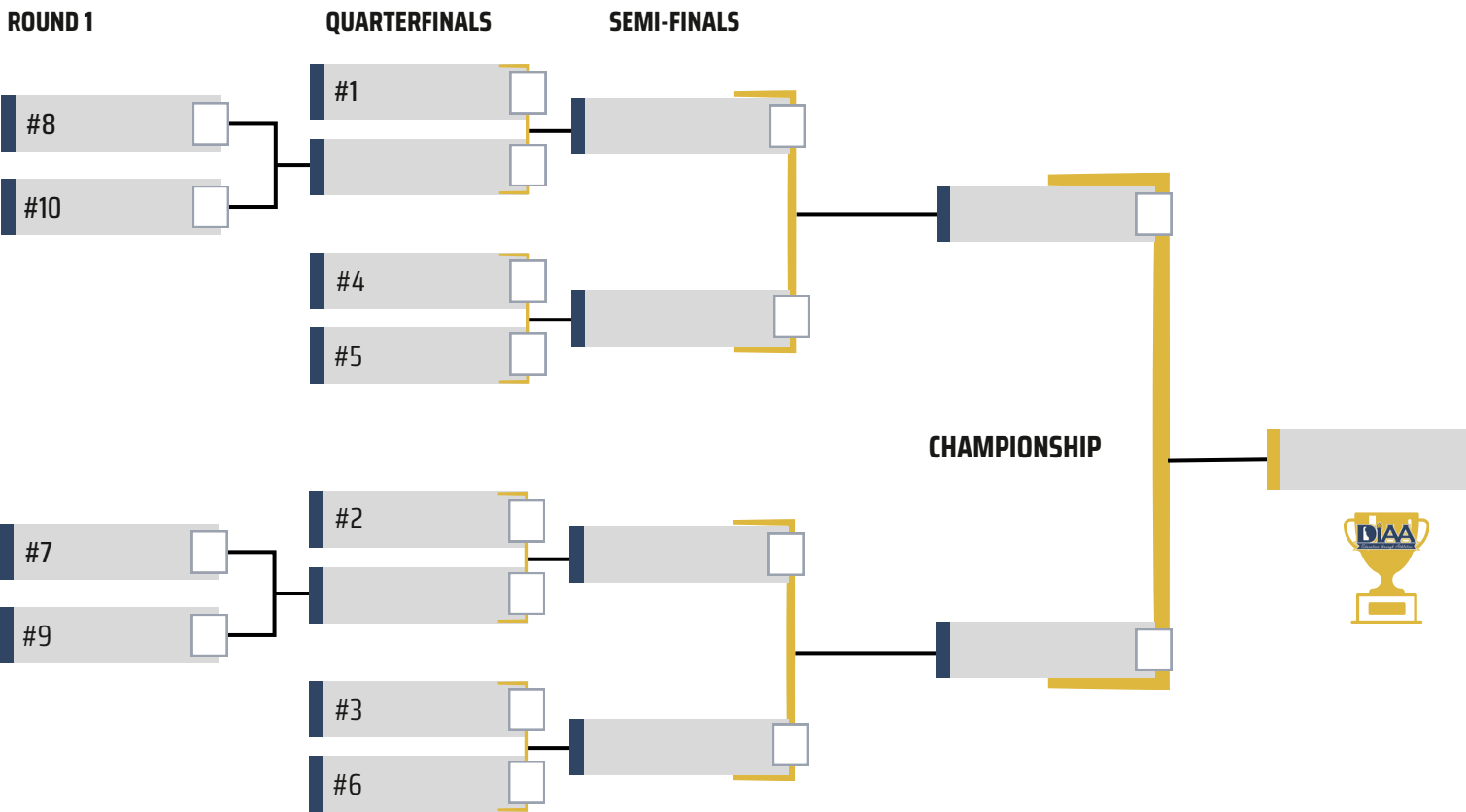
Opponents Minimum – 65% of Allowed Games		
	# of Games	65% GP Team Min
Boys Soccer	15	10
Girls Volleyball	15	10
Field Hockey	15	10
Basketball	20	13
Baseball	18	12
Softball	18	12
Girls Soccer	15	10
Girls Lacrosse	15	10
Boys Lacrosse	15	10
Boys Volleyball	15	10

8 TEAM BRACKET

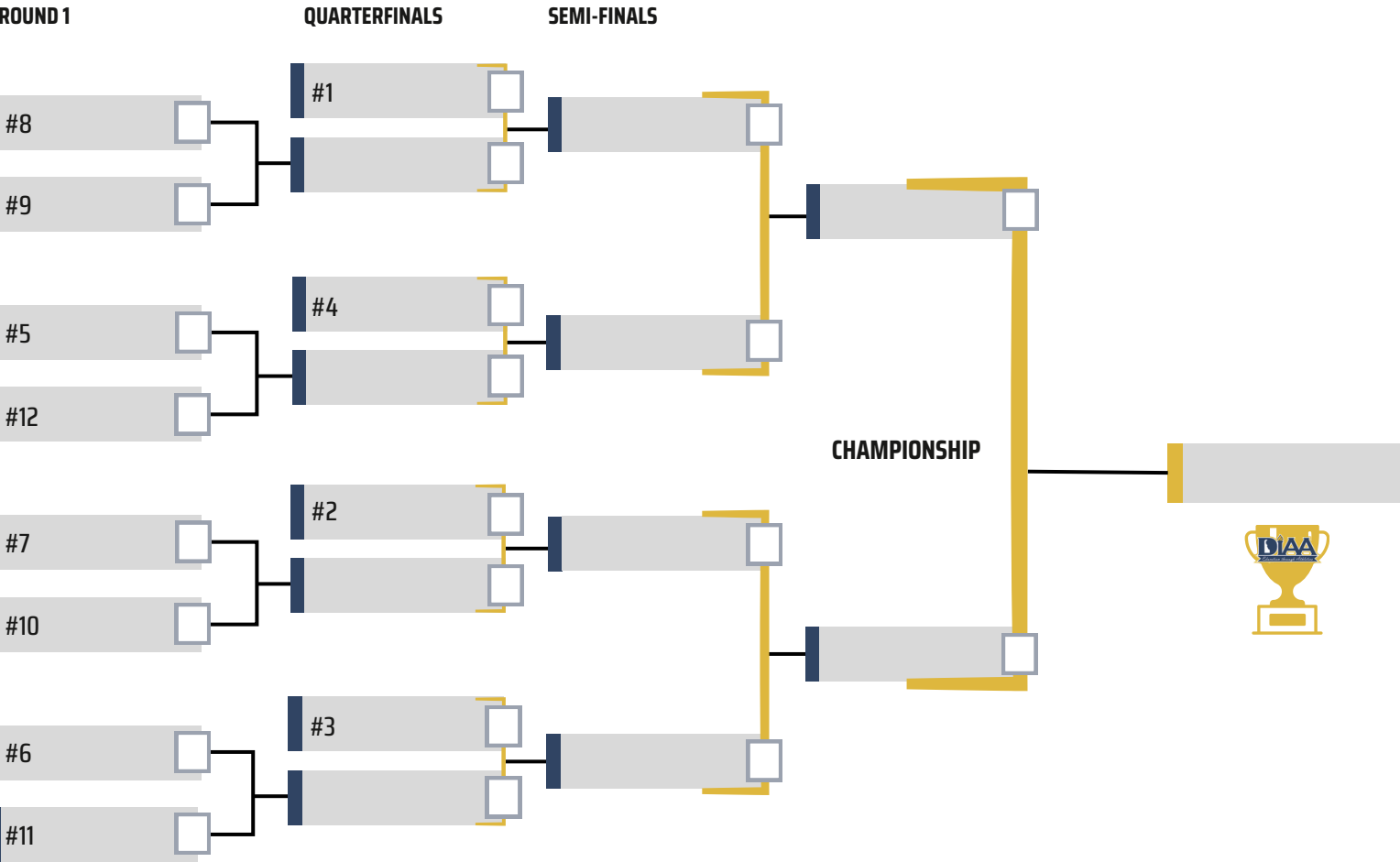
QUARTERFINALS



10 TEAM BRACKET



12 TEAM BRACKET



14 TEAM BRACKET

