



**2026 FIELD HOCKEY
TOURNAMENT MANAGERS MANUAL**

KEY REVIEW POINTS

- Schools will be assigned to one of four Regionals.
- The first round of Regionals shall be played Oct. 14-17, with the Quarterfinals and Semifinals scheduled from Oct. 19-24. The Regional Finals shall be played Oct. 26.
- Regional champions will advance to MHSAA Semifinal games conducted on Oct. 28 at a single site.
- The MHSAA Final will be played Oct. 31.
- The MHSAA will assign officials for all rounds of the Field Hockey Tournament (including first-round Regional games).
- For Regionals, the home team is the team on the top line of the bracket.
- Regional managers will receive Eligibility Lists and Rosters directly from the MHSAA on Oct. 9th.
- Regional managers must file financial reports to the MHSAA starting at the Regional Semifinal games. Revenue and expenses of Regional First-Round and Quarterfinal games are handled locally.
- Participating teams at the Regional level must submit Master Eligibility Lists and Rosters to the MHSAA at fieldhockey@mhsaa.com by the Opt-Out due date of Oct. 8. Late submission of materials is subject to a \$50 late fee.



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(alphabetical by topic)**

ADMISSION – Starting with the Regional Semifinal game, GoFan digital tickets are required. Ticket prices for MHSAA Field Hockey Tournament games are \$8 for Regional games, \$11 for the State Semifinal games and \$12 for the State Final game.

For the first two rounds of Regionals, host schools sell tickets using the same method as a regular season home game. If you are a GoFan school or would like to use GoFan to sell tickets, you can set up the ticket yourself or we can help you. Whether you sell GoFan or cash tickets, the ticket price is \$8. If you sell via GoFan, be sure to set “Attendee pays fee” to off (which will result in a lower net fee to the host).

Service Animals - The policies of the local host site shall prevail with respect to pets/animals. In the absence of local host policy, animals or pets shall not be permitted to enter MHSAA tournament venues; including spectator and team areas. However, properly marked or documented service animals that are leashed or harnessed at all times may accompany spectators paying admission or attending with other approved team or school personnel. Individuals who bring service animals are asked to bring their own waste disposal bags and request special seating in advance of the event if this is needed.

AED – MHSAA tournament host sites must have an AED within visible distance (within 1-3 minutes) of the event.

BENCH AREAS – Teams shall be in designated team bench areas on one side of the field of play.

COMMUNICATION WITH PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS – Managers must prepare information packets for participating teams at all levels as follows:

Regional – The MHSAA will determine the draw/bracket 5 days before the start of Regionals. Managers should determine the date, time, and location of the Regional Semifinals and Finals prior to the draw, preferably at the beginning of the season. When the Regional draw is determined, managers should work with schools to gather game dates and times for First-Round games and immediately give them to the MHSAA (the following Monday at the latest). In addition, managers should provide information to competing schools regarding the time schedule, location of the field, directions, locker room access (or lack of) and all other pertinent details of the tournament.

Semifinal/Final – Managers must prepare a winning team packet for each Regional Manager to give to the winning team. The packet should include directions/map to the Semifinal/Final field location, time schedule, location of dressing rooms, parking arrangements for school vehicles and host school facility rules. Make sure the winning team packet is at the Regional site for distribution by the manager to the winning teams prior to the Regional Championship game.

CONCUSSION PROTOCOLS – “Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health care professional.” The language above, which appears in all National Federation sports rule books, reflects a strengthening of rules regarding the safety of athletes suspected of having a concussion. This language reflects an increasing focus on safety and acknowledges that the vast majority of concussions do

not involve a loss of consciousness. This protocol is intended to provide the mechanics to follow during the course of contests when an athlete sustains an apparent concussion.

1. The officials will have no role in determining concussion other than the obvious one where a player is either unconscious or apparently unconscious. Officials will merely point out to a coach that a player is apparently injured and advise that the player should be examined by a healthcare professional for an exact determination of the extent of injury.
2. If it is confirmed by the school's designated health care professional that the student did not sustain a concussion, the head coach may so advise the officials during an appropriate stoppage of play and the athlete may reenter competition pursuant to the contest rules.
3. Otherwise, if competition continues while the athlete is withheld for an apparent concussion, that athlete may not be returned to competition that day but is subject to the return to play protocol.
 - a. The clearance may not be on the same date on which the athlete was removed from play.
 - b. Only an M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner may clear the individual to return to activity.
 - c. The clearance must be in writing and must be unconditional. It is not sufficient that the M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner has approved the student to begin a return-to-play progression. The medical examiner must approve the student's return to unrestricted activity.
 - d. Individual school, districts and leagues may have more stringent requirements and protocols including but not limited to mandatory periods of inactivity, screening and post-concussion testing prior to the written clearance for return to activity.
4. Following the contest, an Officials Report shall be filed with a removed player's school and the MHSAA if the situation was brought to the officials' attention.
5. Member schools are required to complete and submit the forms designated by the MHSAA to record and track head injury events in all levels of all sports.
6. In cases where an assigned MHSAA tournament physician (MD/DO/PA/NP) is present, his or her decision to not allow an athlete to return to activity may not be overruled.

[Return to Activity & Post-Concussion Form](#)

DATES/TIME SCHEDULES – Teams are encouraged to arrive one hour before game time. Failure to be ready for play by twenty-five minutes after the scheduled starting time will result in forfeiture. (In emergency situations and when a delay has been reported, the manager may delay the start time.)

Unlighted Fields – Regional doubleheaders are not to be played on fields without lights. Regional hosts without lights will host each Semifinal on consecutive days, with the championship game scheduled for the following Monday, unless the Regional Final is played on that Saturday. In that case, both Regional Semifinal games may be played on the same day. If playing on an unlighted field, games should be scheduled early enough so an OT game can be completed before conditions become too dark. A 4:30 pm start time should be the latest for an unlighted field.

Regional Schedule – Regional tournament assignments will be posted on the MHSAA website following the draw date. Only schools assigned to a Regional tournament by the MHSAA are eligible to participate.

The First-Round Regional games shall be scheduled for the Wednesday-Saturday prior to the week of the Quarterfinal and Semifinal (Oct. 14-17). Quarterfinals and Semifinals will be played from Monday-Saturday (Oct. 19-24). The Finals will be played on the following week Monday, (Oct. 26).

For all First-Round games, the two competing teams must work together to determine the day and starting time. By mutual agreement, First-Round games could be played on Monday or Tuesday. Start times for Regional Semifinal and Final games are determined by the host tournament manager and/or host school.

Once the schedule is posted, game dates, times and locations cannot be changed without MHSAA approval. If schools competing in Regional & Semifinal play are more than 200 miles from the host one way, the MHSAA may become involved in selecting a neutral site or modifying the time of the originally scheduled contest between the affected competing schools.

Regional Hosting Options - Regional host managers are responsible for hosting the Regional Semifinal and Regional Final.

The Regional manager also has the option to host all rounds of the Regional tournament. If they decline, all Regional First-Round games and Regional Quarterfinals will be held at the team on the top line of the bracket. In ALL cases, the Regional host's team may play ALL of its games at home, regardless of its position on the bracket. The host team, if on the bottom line, will wear white away jerseys, even though the game is played on its home field.

NOTE to Regional Hosts: MHSAA guarantees officials' expenses and host revenue share for Regional Semifinal & Final game only. The Tournament Financial Form is for the Regional Semifinal and Final only.

DRAW PROCEDURES – Regional hosts do not need to host a draw meeting. The Regional bracket will be determined by the MHSAA and posted to the MHSAA website on Friday, Oct. 9, 5 days prior to the tournament. Prior to that date, typically at the beginning of the season, Regional hosts are asked to notify the MHSAA of the date, time and location of the semifinals and finals. Within one business day after the Regional draw has been posted, hosts should finalize First-Round game days, times and locations and [email](#) to the MHSAA. There is a very short time to assign officials for these games, so this needs to be done in a timely manner.

- The top four statewide seeds will be determined by the Michigan Power Rating formula (see the MPR section later in this document). The placement of the top four statewide seeds will remain fixed on the bracket year-to-year: Seed #1 in Regional A, Seed #2 in Regional C, Seed #3 in Regional D, Seed #4 in Regional B.
- The four Regional hosts will be randomly assigned to Regional A, B, C or D. A new random draw will be conducted each year.
 - Exception #1: If a statewide seeded team is also serving as a Regional host, their placement will be determined by their seed.
 - Exception #2: Statewide seeded teams will be placed in their natural geographic Regional. If there is more than one seeded team in a geographic area, a random draw will determine which school will remain in their natural geographic Regional.
- Next, all other teams will be assigned to one of the four Regionals based on geographic location.
- Each Regional will also include a #2 seed, based on the highest MPR among teams within that Regional (excluding the top four statewide seeds).

- For each Regional, the statewide seed will be placed on line 1 and the #2 seed will be placed on line 5 – this will guarantee placement on the top line and could give them a home game when the game is not played at the designated host school.
- A random formula will then specify where to place the non-seeded teams on the bracket. Go to the MICHIGAN POWER RATING portion of this document to read about how MPR is calculated.

Other draw notes:

- The top line teams are considered the home team and will wear dark shirts and socks. If the Regional host is on the bottom line of the bracket, it is considered the visiting team and will wear white. It can, however, use its traditional home bench, locker room, and scoreboard position.
- Every attempt should be made to avoid a situation in which only one of the two teams in a game plays on successive days or nights.

DRONE POLICY – For the purposes of this policy the word “drone” applies to all Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. The policy is written for all MHSAA tournament contests. Local laws and policies control all regular-season contests.

Drones are prohibited for all indoor tournament contests in all sports. For outdoor sports, local, state, and federal laws govern the use of drones. Drones may never be flown over spectators, athletes, or the playing surface. All drones must stay outside of the “restraining line” or the normal footprint of the playing surface. This includes never flying over bleachers, press box, or anywhere that spectators sit or gather for a contest. The operator of the drone must be registered with the FAA and follow local, state, and federal law when flying the drone. [Register Your Drone.](#)

Drones can never be used for the purposes of scouting opponent’s games or practices. Facilities reserve the right to restrict drones on their property. An exception to this policy may be made in specific cases for MHSAA broadcast partners, provided the management of the tournament facility permits the presence of UAVs for broadcast purposes under the control of the MHSAA.

ELIGIBILITY LISTS/ROSTERS – Each manager must email or fax the winning team Roster and Master Eligibility List to the next level tournament manager immediately after the conclusion of the final game. It is imperative that the next level manager be made aware of, as soon as possible, what teams have progressed in the MHSAA Tournament.

FACILITY REQUIREMENTS - It is paramount that game fields and the surrounding areas are playable and have minimal risk. There must be designated team areas, anchored goal nets, a correctly marked and mowed grass field no taller than 1.5 inches. Any drain areas or track pits should be covered or protected if they come into play on or off the field. Enforce a 5 yards distance from boundary line for spectators and team benches.

It is recommended that a rope, fence or other means is used to keep spectators the required distance away from the boundary line. Tournament management may request that spectator sections not stand during play if standing will block the view of other spectators. If possible, policies that prohibit spectator sections from standing during play should be communicated to participating teams in advance of their arrival at the tournament site.

FINANCES/EXPENSES – Managers must fill out and submit to the MHSAA the appropriate Financial Report form following the completion of the tournament. Once the financial report is received by the MHSAA, our office will provide a reimbursement payment to the host school for the game officials fees and mileage, if applicable.

Revenue and expenses of games prior to the Regional Semifinal & Final are not to be included in the MHSAA Financial report.

In the Regional First-Round and Quarterfinal games held at the top line sites prior to Regional Semifinals, administrative expenses are borne by the home team. These schools are responsible for:

- a. Notifying the MHSAA of game date and time so officials may be contracted.
- b. Paying two officials the set fee of \$115. (Beginning with the 51st mile, mileage will be reimbursed at 40 cents per roundtrip mile.)
- c. Charging admission at \$8 per person for First-Round and Quarterfinal game.
- d. Retaining all gate receipts and paying all other expenses including scorer and timer.
- e. Notifying the Regional Manager and the MHSAA of the game results.

Audit of Tournament Host Reports – All MHSAA tournament sports sites are subject to audit. These sites are to be randomly selected and require documentation of all income and expenses. Tournament expenses different from regular season host site expenses in that same sport will require justification before said expenses are approved for payment to or retention by the host site.

FORFEITURES/USE OF INELIGIBLES – Teams that are 25 or more minutes late for the start of a contest without prior communication with tournament management are subject to forfeiture. Managers may start games late at their discretion if communication has taken place with teams experiencing legitimate travel delays.

Individuals or teams that are defeated by an ineligible opponent or teams which allowed one or more ineligible students to participate, or teams or individuals found to be in violation of contest limitations or maximums do not advance in MHSAA tournaments. If placements in MHSAA tournaments are vacated as a result of an individual being ineligible or a team allowing one or more ineligible students to participate, other individuals or teams neither advance to those placements or receive awards for those places.

GAME BALL - The Tournament Manager is requested to inform competing teams of the brand and style of field hockey ball that will be used at your tournament site. The distinction between a smooth or ball with indentations is significant to competing teams. The MHSAA will not reimburse host schools for the cost of a game ball. The MHSAA will provide game balls for all Semifinal and Finals games.

INJUNCTION OR RESTRAINING ORDER PROCEDURE - Managers are reminded of the following statement adopted by the Representative Council and which is in effect for all MHSAA tournaments: "In the interest of fairness to all participants, if an injunction or restraining order is served or presented at an MHSAA tournament site and such purports to require the eligibility of or participation by a student or team which a school and/or the MHSAA has ruled to be ineligible under MHSAA regulations, the on-site tournament manager is to suspend the entire competition (team competition) or events in which that student is intending to participate (individual competition)." If the meet has begun, it shall be completed.

MEDIA NOTES – For information on credentials, locker room privacy policy, microphones, photographers, flash photography, postgame interviews, press box, results, streaming (audio and video), and videotaping, go to this [Media/Streaming Information PDF](#).

Here are a few important sections, some specific to field hockey:

- **PHOTOGRAPHY** - Photographers should not be positioned within two yards of any sideline or endline. If on the end line, they may not be inside the goal box area.

- **RESULTS/SCORE REPORTING** – Tournament results should be reported to the MHSAA immediately after games, not the next morning. Scores of bracketed tournaments should be entered in the Score Center on the MHSAA web site or emailed to results@mhsaa.com. Host schools are responsible for informing local media and the major daily newspapers.
- **STREAMING – AUDIO & RADIO** – Outlets are required to submit a broadcast application for postseason events with the MHSAA. Approval or denial emails will be sent to both the outlet and host school. Outlets are encouraged to check with the host school before applying to check on space/equipment needs. There is no limit to the number of outlets that may stream audio – as long as the host can accommodate them. In the regular season, outlets do not need to submit broadcast applications but need permission from the host school to provide an audio stream.
- **STREAMING - VIDEO (REGULAR SEASON)** – Video streaming during the regular season is allowed by the home/host school in a couple of different ways. If the home/host school is a member of the NFHS Network, they must stream games to the NFHS Network first and foremost. They can also produce a stream to broadcast on a school-controlled page (separate from the NFHS stream). Additionally, NFHS Network members can partner with local media to broadcast regular season home games on the media outlet's channel/website. Schools that are not members of the NFHS Network can stream regular season home games to a school-controlled webpage. Refer to the Multimedia Regulations for more information.
- **STREAMING - VIDEO (POSTSEASON)** - The broadcast and streaming rights of MHSAA postseason tournament events belong exclusively to the NFHS Network, the MHSAA, and those media outlets that have pre-arranged to secure those rights. Teams participating in MHSAA Tournaments are prohibited from streaming live video of any portion of an event over the Internet - including using social media platforms or any other method. Likewise, individual spectators are also prohibited from live streaming video through any means. Participating schools are responsible for informing their students, parents, and other fans of this policy and to assist the MHSAA upon request in enforcing it.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY POLICY - Host school Tournament Managers should follow all local school district policies regarding medical emergencies for participating athletes, coaches, students and adult spectators for competition conducted in school facilities. It is advised that AED devices be readily available during tournament competition. In addition:

- Trainers are an allowed expense for the tournament host and are encouraged but not required.
- If your school requires immediate and continuous attention, you are encouraged to bring your own certified athletic trainer (at your school's expense) to cover your team's needs and to also assist in the event if called upon. Your school's certified medical professional may not overrule certified medical professionals provided by tournament management.
- All MHSAA concussion protocols will be followed.
- MHSAA policy on tornado watches and warnings shall be followed.
- MHSAA policy on managing heat and humidity shall be followed.

When MHSAA tournament contests are conducted at non-school facilities, plans should be developed for the following needs and/or circumstances:

- Student, coach and spectator shelter for outdoor events.
- Host facility emergency equipment, such as AED's, fire escape, etc.
- Emergency communications, i.e. phone numbers, school administration contact.
- Coordination with facility management regarding evacuation, first aid, on-site responsibilities.
- Medical transport or first responder contact procedures.
- Proximity/directions of nearest medical facility.

- If your school requires immediate and continuous attention, you are encouraged to bring your own certified athletic trainer (at your school's expense) to cover your team's needs and to also assist in the event if called upon. Your school's certified medical professional may not overrule certified medical professionals provided by tournament management.

IMPORTANT NOTE: For all MHSAA tournaments conducted at either school or non-school facilities, an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is required to be within visible distance of the event.

MERCHANDISING - Concession stands, whether operated by school or non-school groups, must confine sales to non-alcoholic beverages, edible items, and general school spirit items that were available at regular-season home contests. The selling of tournament-related merchandise is limited to programs offered by the MHSAA and its authorized vendors, which may be in contact with you regarding their availability. Such programs may include, but are not limited to, the following categories: T-shirts, DVDs and photography. Regardless of the availability of such authorized programs, schools may not produce their own tournament-specific merchandise items to sell at MHSAA tournament sites.

MICHIGAN POWER RATING (MPR) – The Michigan Power Rating (MPR) formula will be used for boys and girls basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, boys and girls lacrosse, boys and girls soccer and girls volleyball. MPR is simply winning percentage times 25%, plus opponents' winning percentage times 50%, plus opponents' opponents' winning percentage times 25%. Ties count as half a win and half a loss.

The only games calculated for MPR are games played between teams that will play in the MHSAA tournament. Games that do not count include games against out-of-state schools, games versus JV teams, games against varsity B teams, games against non-school club teams, and games against MHSAA schools that are not playing in the tournament.

MPR only looks at who won and who lost – or who tied. MPR does not look at scores or margin of victory. It does not matter if you are home or away. Games at the beginning of the season are weighed the same as games at the end of the season. Scrimmages are not used in the calculation.

For field hockey, games in multi-team tournaments count toward MPR as long as they are at least 25 minutes long. If multi-team tournament games are decided by one on ones, those are wins and losses—not ties. In addition, games forfeited also count as a loss for one team and a win for the other.

The most current MPR for each school can be found at <https://www.mhsaa.com/sports/field-hockey/mpr>. This page updates every 5 minutes, so after a score is entered into the system visitors will quickly be able to see how the result affects each team's MPR.

Schools must enter game schedules to MHSAA.com prior to the season. Games entered into Arbiter, BigTeams and Eventlink should automatically migrate to the MHSAA website. All other games can be manually entered. Schedules can also be edited throughout the season. Call the MHSAA if you are having issues.

Upon the completion of each game, the final score must be submitted. If no score is submitted three hours after the scheduled start time, an email reminder will be sent to both athletic directors and coaches. This is a crowd-sourced system – anyone with an MHSAA login can enter a game score. Schools should take advantage of this and instruct an assistant coach, or a parent, or a student to make sure all scores are posted to the system.

Only games played and scores reported through the Regional reporting period, 5 days before the tournament, will be included in calculations. Unreported scores and games played but missing from the published schedules will not be included.

Only teams with at least eight results will be seeded, followed by the schools with less than eight games.

The formula needs some time to start making sense. There will be many anomalies at the beginning of the season, but once each team has about 10 results reported, the MPR numbers will start to fall into place. Remember to be patient early in the season.

OFFICIALS – The MHSAA will assign officials for all rounds of the Field Hockey Tournament (including first-round Regional games). Tournament Managers are responsible for paying game officials. **Fees are \$115 per Regional game, and \$125 for State Semifinal and State Final games, with \$0.40/mile roundtrip mileage after a 50-mile deductible.** Schools will be reimbursed by the MHSAA only for the Regional Semifinal and Final, and State Semifinal/Final game officials by reporting the expense on the financial report form. Managers must also notify each official of the time and place of their game.

When assigning postseason officials, MHSAA staff uses the main MHSAA Arbiter group -- #107891. If you have not had access to this group in the past, you will see an invitation to be added in the upper right-hand corner of your page in the dropdown menu once you've logged in. Please accept that invitation in order that you can view and pay the officials assigned to your games.

OPT OUT DATE/ENTRY MATERIALS - Each participating school must supply a Master Eligibility List and roster to the MHSAA at fieldhockey@mhsaa.com by the Opt-Out Due Date. Late submission of materials is subject to a \$50 late fee. Eligibility lists may be updated any time prior to the first MHSAA tournament date. A complete roster (first & last name, and number of each player) and list of all personnel that are going to be in the team box must be submitted to the scorer at least 5 minutes prior to game time.

PLAYING RULES/OVERTIME – All National federation playing rules will be followed during the MHSAA Tournament, including the following:

Duration of Game - All regular season varsity and MHSAA tournament competitions shall be played in four, fifteen-minute quarters.

Warm-Up – Teams should be given a minimum of 20 minutes to warm up on their half of the field. Teams are not to encircle the entire field of play at any time prior to the warm-up or the game.

Completed Game - Once the second quarter has been completed, the game shall end when a team is behind 8 goals or more in any game at any level of the MHSAA tournament.

Running Clock - The clock becomes a running clock at a six-goal differential (only stopping on injury or time out). The game clock will revert to normal timekeeping if the goal differential becomes five.

Tied Game - See the following MHSAA tournament procedures:

1. Play a 10-minute sudden victory overtime period with a team of six field players and one goalkeeper. Teams do NOT change goals at the end of the regulation game. The winner of the coin toss shall choose to be on offense or defense to begin the overtime period. On a penalty corner, there shall be 3 defensive players and a goalkeeper behind the end line.

2. If the game remains tied after the 10-minute period is played, then it will go to the one-on-one overtime procedure. A series of five shots on goal shall be taken by individual players in a one-on-one situation (attacker vs. goalkeeper). To begin this procedure, the attacker stands on the 25-yard line and the goalkeeper stands on the goal line. Play continues for 8 seconds (10 seconds on a grass field) with follow-up shots permitted.

NOTE: A foul or violation by the attacker ends the procedure. For an unintentional foul by the goalkeeper, the one-on-one shall be retaken. For an intentional foul by the goalkeeper, a penalty stroke shall be awarded. Any player on the approved roster may take the penalty stroke. The procedure also ends when: (1) the 8 (or 10) seconds have elapsed; (2) a goal is scored; (3) the ball goes out of play over the end line, sideline.

PRACTICE ON TOURNAMENT GAME FIELDS - During the weeks of Regionals or Semifinal games, teams may not practice on the respective game fields (except the host school on its home field).

PUBLIC ADDRESS ANNOUNCER - Only public address announcements relevant to the tournament and the MHSAA should be made during your games. Additional scripts may be provided to the Finals announcer on the day of the event by the MHSAA. The Public Address Announcements may be found on the field hockey web pages at www.MHSAA.com.

REFUND POLICY – Refunds on admission tickets or parking are not provided by the MHSAA for postponed or suspended MHSAA tournament meets or contests, or for such meets or contests that are terminated before their normal conclusion for any reason. Tickets shall be honored for admission to a rescheduled or resumed contest.

RESCHEDULING POLICY – If an MHSAA tournament or meet is postponed or suspended because the facility becomes unavailable or a result of acts of persons or nature, and the playing rules require that the meet or contest must be played or resumed, the meet or contest must be played or completed on the first available subsequent date at the same facility.

SCOREBOARD - When available, the home school's scoreboard (stadium) clock is to indicate official time. If necessary, the official shall direct the adjustment of time on the visual clock if timing discrepancies occur. Do not turn off the visible clock. The stadium clock is the official time and the end of the game will be designated when time expires on the visible clock.

SEEDING – The top two teams in each Regional will be determined by the Michigan Power Rating formula (see MPR section earlier in this document). To be seeded, teams must have played at least eight MPR-eligible games. Seeds will be determined on the Friday, 5 days prior to the beginning of the tournament, with Regional brackets posted to MHSAA.com. All results through Thursday's games will count.

SPECTATOR POLICIES - The following general policies apply to spectators at MHSAA Field Hockey Tournament events. Tournament managers may also have additional school, facility or institutional restrictions and/or policies.

- Banners are allowed with Meet Manager approval.
- Noisemakers must be approved by the Meet Manager. Air horns, whistles and vuvuzelas are not allowed.
- Pep bands are allowed as long as they do not interfere with the officials' adjudication of the game. Instruments that could potentially be confused with the official's whistle or the scoreboard horn should not be used.
- Body paint is not allowed.
- Smoking is not allowed at the tournament site.

- Tournament management may request that spectator sections not stand during play if standing will block the view of other spectators. If possible, policies which prohibit spectator sections from standing during play should be communicated to participating teams in advance of their arrival at the tournament site.
- Spectators may tape games from their normal seating area but are not to interfere with the view of other spectators or news media personnel covering the activity. A manager is not required to provide electrical hook-ups; or tripod space and may arrange spectator videotaping from a designated location(s).
- [CHART: MHSAA Guidelines For Spectators & Teams](#) (includes noisemakers and music/speakers)

SPORTSMANSHIP – MHSAA Regulation V, Section 3 applies in all tournament contests, including the following provisions:

Unsportsmanlike Conduct in Previous Contest - A player or coach who is ejected during a contest for sportsmanlike conduct shall be withheld by his/her school for at least the next day of competition for that team. If a school fails to enforce the subsequent disqualification with respect to one of its students or coaches, the tournament managers or any registered official or representative of a member school who becomes aware of the violation shall report it to the MHSAA, which shall prohibit the school from the remainder of the current tournament. Disqualified players and coaches must also complete the NFHS Sportsmanship Course before returning to play.

Player Suspension - A suspended player is treated as an ineligible player, which means that student shall not participate. It is permissible, but is not recommended, that the player may sit with the team, even in uniform. The minimum requirement is that the suspended student shall not enter the contest as a participant. **Coach Suspension** - Suspension from coaching requires at least that the coach not be at or near the team bench before, during or after the contest, not be in or near the locker room before, during or after the contest, and not give instructions directly or indirectly to coaches or players from any position in or near the gymnasium or field of play.

Multiple Disqualifications/Abuse of Officials - Any coach who is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct two or more times during a season, any player who is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct three or more times during a season, is not eligible to participate in the MHSAA tournament for that sport that season. If the tournament disqualifying ejection for that individual occurs during the MHSAA tournament, that player or coach is ineligible for the remainder of that tournament.

The school of the disqualified coach or player must prohibit that person from being present on the property of the tournament venue for the remainder of the tournament series. If that school fails to enforce this, the tournament manager, any registered official or representative of a member school who becomes aware of the violation shall report it to the MHSAA, which shall prohibit the school from the remainder of the current tournament.

Taunting - In all sports, officials are to consider taunting a flagrant unsportsmanlike foul that disqualifies the offending bench personnel or contestant from the contest/day of competition (and the next contest/day of competition). A warning may be given but is not required before ejection.

Taunting includes any actions or comments by coaches, players or spectators which are intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule or demean others, whether or not the deeds or words are vulgar or racist. Included is conduct that berates, needles, intimidates or threatens based on race, gender, ethnic origin or background, and conduct that attacks religious beliefs, size, economic status, speech, family, special needs or personal matters.

At all MHSAA tournament venues, tournament management may give spectators one warning for taunting. Thereafter, spectators who taunt others are to be ejected by security.

Team Spectator Sports Celebrations - During contests, officials will penalize under applicable sportsmanship or playing rules student-athletes or coaches who leave the field of play and contact or approach spectator areas for celebrations.

Each school shall assign an acceptable number of adult crowd control supervisors to be stationed in front of its student cheering sections. These individuals are to be admitted free into the contest, enforce this policy and include a school administrator. Each tournament manager or the MHSAA Staff will determine the acceptable number of crowd supervisors necessary for each school dependent on the situation.

At the conclusion of contests, prior to or after awards are presented athletes shall not enter spectator areas or physically contact spectators in the stands. After awards are presented, athletes may approach their spectators (e.g. stand in front of their sections while on the field of play) but for safety reasons athletes are not to enter or physically contact spectators in the stands. Crowd supervisors are to ensure that spectators do not press the facility and possibly cause damage.

The cost for repair or replacement to facilities damaged as a result of celebrations shall be paid by the school involved directly to the host facility within 30 days of the bill being submitted to the school. MHSAA reimbursement or revenue sharing will be withheld until paid by the offending school. Future tournament hosting privileges or school reimbursements to offending schools may be withheld if payment is not made.

SUSPENDED/POSTPONED GAMES – Tournament managers and host facility personnel are the sole authority for making decisions regarding delay of start times and when to start a contest. Once the game officials assume authority for the contest under the prescribed playing rules for the sport, decisions regarding suspension, delays, resumption or cancellation of play shall be made in consultation between the tournament manager and the game officials. Every effort should be made to complete play on the originally scheduled tournament date. MHSAA policies apply regarding suspension of competition when thunder or lightning is present and tornado policies as stated in the MHSAA Handbook.

However, MHSAA tournament weather delay timeframes (e.g. how long to wait) do NOT follow the regular-season guidelines. For example, games may be delayed by more than 90 minutes in an MHSAA tournament scenario. Common sense and discussion with participating team administrators will dictate the maximum length of a delay.

In addition, the following MHSAA tournament suspension regulation applies:

- *Note: This is different than the NFHS playing rules and regular-season regulations.*
- If interrupted at any point during the game, the game shall resume at the point of interruption.
- An interrupted game can be considered a completed game by mutual agreement of both teams.
- If conditions make it impossible to finish any game:
 - It is considered an official game after two complete quarters have been played and the difference in score is three or more goals.
 - If fewer than two complete quarters have been played, it is a suspended game.
 - If two complete quarters have been played but the difference in score is less than three goals, it is a suspended game.
 - If the game goes to overtime, the entire overtime period must be played.

- I. On threatening days, game management should consult with contest officials about steps to be followed if conditions worsen.
- II. When lightning has been observed or thunder is heard, the contest must be suspended. Officials and game management may consult weather applications to make suspension, resumption and continuation decisions using the following policies:
 - a. If lightning has not been observed and thunder has not been heard, the contest must be suspended if independently validated lightning-detection devices or mobile weather applications indicate a lightning strike within 10 miles of the event location.
 - b. At night, under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it may be safe to continue an event before the full 30-minute suspension has expired. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low on the horizon, the storm may not pose a further threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty.
 - c. Severe weather with precipitation (rain or snow) may make the field unplayable.
- III. When a contest is suspended, the home school administration shall attempt to arrange for the security of all participants.
 - a. When a contest is suspended, the home school administration shall attempt to arrange for the security of all participants. Contestants and support personnel shall be moved to appropriate indoor facilities.
 - b. When the contest is suspended, contestants shall not return to the playing field until lightning has been absent from the local sky and thunder has not been heard for 30 minutes unless the resumption criteria in Item II-B above have been satisfied.
 - c. Spectators shall be advised of the action being taken to seek shelter. (Some hosts may be able to offer shelter to spectators but are not required to do so.)
 - d. The final decision shall consider liability and conditions of facilities as well as future schedules, the need to play the contest, and finally, the quality of all other options.

TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL POLICY - Use of alcohol or tobacco, including e-cigarettes or other smoking devices, is prohibited at MHSAA tournament events by players, coaches and spectators. Managers should stress in coaches meetings that they are not to use tobacco at the tournament venue.

TROPHIES/MEDALS - Tournament managers will receive both trophies and medals together in one shipment from ESCO. The box containing the trophies and medals should be opened immediately upon delivery and inspected for accurate amounts, engraving, etc. Tournament managers should contact ESCO directly (not the MHSAA) at 800-852-4266 with any questions or problems regarding trophy and medal shipments.

Distribution—Twenty-five individual members of the winning team in each division at each Regional, as well as the Final championship and runner-up teams, will receive medals. Regional champion teams also receive trophies.

Tournament Managers are encouraged to have a short trophy and medal presentation immediately following the Championship Games. Persons making the presentations should be limited to faculty members of the host school, the Tournament Managers, members of the Representative Council, or members of the MHSAA staff. Only MHSAA-approved awards are to be presented to student-athletes at MHSAA meets and tournaments.

To order extra medals, use this [Extra Medal Order form](#).

WITHDRAWAL POLICY - If a school withdraws or fails to show for scheduled competition after the draw is completed for team sports, (or after the pairings, heat assignments or flights are determined for individual sports) of the first level of the MHSAA tournament in a sport; the MHSAA staff person responsible for the sport will request from the school principal a written explanation for the no-show/withdrawal. If the reason is determined to be unacceptable by MHSAA staff, the MHSAA Executive Director will place the school on probation for the next two school years. A second offense within the two-year probationary period will cause the school to be prohibited from tournament play in that sport for the two years following the second offense.

YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY - During the MHSAA Tournament events, the MHSAA expects all designated managers, volunteer or paid staff assisting in the event, officials, or any other personnel to follow local school district policy and state statute regarding the mandatory reporting of child abuse, bullying, hazing and sexual harassment. A report of such activity shall be made to legal authorities and to the MHSAA Executive Director or his designee.

50/50 RAFFLE - MHSAA tournament hosts can conduct 50/50 raffles provided the host site manager requests and receives the appropriate license from the State of Michigan. [Charitable Gaming Raffle License](#)



Regional Field Hockey Schedule – Dates, Times and Locations

REGIONAL NO. _____

HELD AT _____

Regional First-Round tournament games are played at the home site (team on top of bracket) or regional site. If any regional games are not played at the regional site, all administrative expenses are to be borne by the home team (top line of bracket) but the home team also keeps the entire gate. Each team will assume its own expenses for competition in the tournament as all levels of play.

DATE _____
Regional First-Round
Oct. 14-17, 2026

DATE _____
Regional Quarterfinal
Oct. 19-24, 2026

DATE _____
Regional Semifinals
Oct. 19-24, 2026

DATE _____
Regional Finals
Oct. 26, 2026

At: _____ Time: _____	At: _____ Time: _____	At: _____ Time: _____	Time _____
At: _____ Time: _____	At: _____ Time: _____	At: _____ Time: _____	
At: _____ Time: _____	At: _____ Time: _____	At: _____ Time: _____	
At: _____ Time: _____	At: _____ Time: _____	At: _____ Time: _____	

EMAIL fieldhockey@mhsaa.com once dates and times have been determined.

Your Cooperation Please...

Fans are reminded that the broadcast and streaming rights of this event belong exclusively to the N-F-H-S Network, the M-H-S-A-A, and those media outlets which have pre-arranged to secure those rights. Any individual streaming of this event is strictly prohibited.

