



2026 FIELD HOCKEY PARTICIPATING SCHOOL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

1. TOURNAMENT FORMAT

The MHSAA Field Hockey tournament is conducted in a single division. Each school is assigned to one of four Regional tournaments as determined by MHSAA staff based on Michigan Power Ratings (MPR), geography and travel considerations. The Regional assignment will be finalized and posted on Friday, October 9, 2026. A “Tournament Notification Form” will be emailed to all member schools and can be found in the School Administrative Services section online. Each Regional champion advances to one of two Semifinal games at a single neutral site. Regional host schools are determined by MHSAA staff based on hosting requests, rotation, facility specifications and hosting ability. The Championship game will be played at Northville High School, Tom Holzer field.

Week	Round	Dates
0	Regional First-Round*	October 14-17
1	Regional Quarterfinal	October 19-24
	Regional Semifinal	October 19-24
2	Regional Final	October 26
	MHSAA Semifinal	October 28
	MHSAA Final	October 31

** A Regional First-Round will be necessary if a Regional includes more than eight teams.*

2. TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

Communication – It is the home team’s responsibility to contact the visitors for First-Round Regional and Regional Quarterfinal games played at the home site of the top team on the bracket in advance to arrange game dates, sites, and times within the allowed dates. The home team must also notify the MHSAA and Regional Tournament Manager as soon as possible of the game details.

Only those schools assigned to a tournament site are allowed to compete. Any other requests for entry must be referred to the MHSAA office before the privilege of competition is granted. If any additions or deletions are to be made, the MHSAA office will notify the tournament management.

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.

Contestants/Coaches/Admissions – Individuals or teams shall be accompanied to the event by the coach, administrator or appointee of the school in order to participate in a MHSAA event.

It is suggested a separate area be set up to allow entrance and registration of competing teams, coaches, team athletic trainers, etc. Teams should be encouraged to enter all team-related personnel at the same time without admission being charged. Only those team members who are eligible to compete with their team are to be admitted without charge. Parents and fans are expected to enter the spectator gate and pay an admission charge. Arrangements for the admission of a limited number of school administrators serving as chaperones may be made in advance with the tournament management and enter at the team entrance.

Game Dates & Starting Times – See Item # 5 Time Schedule below.

Home/Visiting Team Designation – The team in the upper half of the brackets shall wear DARK jerseys as the HOME team, and the team in the lower half will wear WHITE jerseys and be the VISITING team. Exceptions may be made only by prior arrangement with the tournament manager and the opponents.

Passes - League passes, coaches' passes, local booster club passes, officials' association passes, etc., are not to be honored at any tournament. There are no passes to be honored except those distributed by the local management for supervision purposes. There is to be no free admission for college coaches.

Practice on Host Fields – During the weeks of Regional or Semifinal games, teams may not practice on the respective game fields (except the host school on its home field).

Pregame Warmups – 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.

3. OPT OUT POLICIES, ELIGIBILITY LISTS, ROSTERS

Schools must see that the MHSAA receive an accurate Master Eligibility List and Team Roster by the Opt-Out Due Date. These forms are available at mhsaa.com. Failure to fulfill the above obligations by the specified Opt-Out Due Date will result in MHSAA penalties as stipulated in the MHSAA Handbook. Following the completion of the Regional brackets, the MHSAA will distribute the completed forms to the appropriate Regional host.

For field hockey, the Opt-Out Due Date is Thursday, October 8, 2026. Schools must notify the MHSAA at fieldhockey@mhsaa.com by the Opt-Out Due Date if they DO NOT intend to participate in a MHSAA tournament.

Additions or updates to the Master Eligibility list (except transfer students who enroll after the dates in Regulation I, Section 9 [F]) may be accepted by the MHSAA or Tournament Manager if submitted and received prior to the start of competition for ANY team in the first level of that tournament to which the school is assigned.

Use of ineligible - Individuals or teams which are defeated by an ineligible opponent or teams which allowed one or more ineligible students to participate 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 nor receive awards for those places.

Each team must provide a complete line-up (first and last name and number) and names of all other bench personnel. The starting lineup must be submitted to the scorer at least ten minutes prior to game time.

4. 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. 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. (More information about MPR can be found in the [Tournament Managers Manual](#) and [MHSAA.com](#)).
- 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.

Other draw notes:

- The top line hosts 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.

5. TIME SCHEDULE

All Regional and Semifinal game times shall be determined by the Tournament Manager with consideration given to team travel and the opportunity for spectators to be present.

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.

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.)

All Regional Semifinals and Regional Finals will be conducted at the Regional site.

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.

6. AWARDS

The winning school in each division at each Regional Tournament will receive a trophy. The runner-up team and championship team at the Final Tournament will receive a trophy. Twenty-five medals will be awarded to members of winning teams at Regional and Final Tournaments. The same number of medals will be awarded to runner-up teams at the Final Tournament. By Representative Council action, only MHSAA-approved awards may be presented. If additional medals are desired by winning schools, they may be ordered through the MHSAA at the school's expense using the [Extra Medal Order form](#).

7. LIMITS OF COMPETITION

Teams and individuals may have a maximum of 18 games during the regular season. MHSAA tournament dates do not count against season maximums. An athlete may participate in five quarters on the same day, including on two different levels (JV/Varsity, for instance). MHSAA tournament dates do not count against season maximums.

For multi-team tournaments, an athlete may participate in no more quarters/halves than what is being played by the school's highest team level in the tournament that day.

A student or team may participate in a multi-team tournament where the event counts as one of 18 regular season contests. The event format could consist of up to two regulation games, or a format in which the total allowable playing time for any team is no more than 150 minutes (with a maximum of 25-minute halves). All multi-team tournament games that are at least 25 minutes long will count toward MPR/Seeding purposes.

8. FINANCES

Ticket prices for all spectators for the MHSAA Field Hockey Tournament are \$8 for Regional games, \$11 for the Semifinal games and \$12 for Final games.

Starting with the Regional Semifinal games, digital tickets will be sold via GoFan. 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).

Each team assumes all costs/expenses of participation at all levels of the MHSAA Field Hockey Tournament.

9. OFFICIALS SELECTION/ASSIGNMENTS

The MHSAA will assign officials for all rounds of the Field Hockey Tournament (including first-round Regional games). Officials are assigned using the main MHSAA Arbiter group (#107891) for postseason assignments. 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 have logged in. Please accept that invitation in order to view and pay the officials assigned to your games.

10. PLAYING RULES/ADAPTATIONS

All National Federation field hockey playing rules will be used with the MHSAA adaptations and points of emphasis listed in the [2026 Field Hockey Rules Supplement](#).

Overtime Procedures – Prior to the start of overtime, there shall be a five-minute intermission.

1. The officials shall meet with the team captains for a coin toss. The visiting team captain shall call the coin in the air. In subsequent tie-breaking procedures requiring a coin toss, the call of the toss shall always be the visiting team.
2. Players may confer with coaches and substitutions may be made.
3. If a combination of overtime procedures is used, there shall be a five-minute intermission between each procedure to provide for meeting with the team captains (including the coin toss).
 - I. 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.
 - II. 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 has elapsed; (2) a goal is scored; (3) the ball goes out of play over the end line, sideline.

Goal-Differential Rule

1. The 8-goal differential rule is in effect for the MHSAA Tournament and regular-season varsity play. It is optional for leagues and schools to adopt this for subvarsity regular-season competition. A game shall be terminated when a team is ahead by 8 goals or more any time after the second quarter is completed. (Note: officials must be aware of this adoption by schools or leagues before the contest begins). This game counts toward one of the 18 allowed contests.
2. When there is a 6-goal differential:
 - a. The clock becomes a running clock at a six-goal differential (only stopping on injury or time out).
 - b. The game clock will revert to normal timekeeping if the goal differential becomes five.

Tournament Procedures - If an MHSAA Tournament game is suspended and cannot be resumed, it is considered an official game after two complete quarters have been played, provided the difference in score is three or more goals.

11. 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](#).

Souvenir Program Policies - Teams winning Regional titles in selected sports must fill out and e-mail program information and a team photograph to the MHSAA office to be used in the souvenir program for the Semifinals and the Finals in the event the team qualifies for Final round play. Complete directions for filling out and submitting information and photographs is included with each kit. All program information and photographs must be submitted by e-mail.

Information For Regional/Semifinal Tournaments - Teams competing in MHSAA Regional and Semifinal tournaments shall provide, upon request, team rosters, photographs and other information as necessary, to local tournament managers so that a souvenir program may be assembled for the event.

Merchandising/Promotion Policies - Use of MHSAA logo – The MHSAA logo and acronym are registered trademarks. MHSAA tournament trophy designs are also copyrighted. Use of these legally protected marks requires written permission of the MHSAA. Contact the MHSAA Communications Director for additional information.

Postgame Interviews - Coaches should also be readily available to meet with the media shortly after the conclusion of a contest. It is recommended that approximately five minutes after the game, managers provide a location other than the team locker rooms for postgame interviews with coaches and/or players the coach may wish to designate for interviews. Locker room access should never be allowed to media. Inasmuch as many media outlets are often on deadline following contests, interviews should be granted before any lengthy team meetings occur.

12. SPORTSMANSHIP

When a student is disqualified during a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, that student shall be withheld by his/her school for the remainder of that day of competition and for at least the next day of competition for that team. Disqualified players and coaches must also complete the NFHS Sportsmanship Course before returning to play. When a coach is disqualified during a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct, that coach shall be prohibited by his/her school from coaching for the remainder of that day of competition and from coaching at or attending at least the next day of competition for that coach's team.

Failure of the school for any reason to enforce this regulation will prohibit the school from entry in the next MHSAA tournament for that sport, or from the remainder of the current tournament if the disqualification occurs during an MHSAA tournament or during the last regular-season contest.

Disqualifications from one season carry over to the next season in that sport for undergraduates and coaches, or the next season in any sport for seniors. If the playing rules for a sport specify an additional penalty or more rapid progression, or use of such a progression for other violations, the playing rules apply.

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.

If a team is removed from competition in protest, the contest is forfeited to the opponent, and the coach and principal of the removed team must appear before the Executive Committee to indicate why additional action should not be taken. The Executive Committee may also require the appearance of personnel from other schools and game officials.

If the coach is ejected from the contest and an assistant coach, or an assigned school representative is not available to continue as the coach the event is terminated and forfeited to the opponent.

When a contest is interrupted or it ends prematurely because of breakdown of proper sportsmanship and whether or not the on-site officials forfeit the contest to one team, one or both schools may be subjected to any or all, but not limited to, the following: censure, probation with competition, probation without competition, forfeiture, loss of privilege of revenue sharing, expulsion. In addition, it may be required of

one or both schools that their coaches and administrators appear before the Executive Committee to indicate why additional action should not be taken.

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 of 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.

13. WEATHER POLICIES, SUSPENSIONS, POSTPONEMENTS

When teams are delayed in arriving at tournament sites due to inclement weather, management is encouraged to consider delaying competition for a few hours and/or playing games/matches within brackets of teams/individuals who are present and prepared to participate. If, after a reasonable delay, fewer than 60% of the scheduled teams/individuals have not arrived, the tournament must be rescheduled. If 60% or more of the scheduled teams/individuals are present, the tournament will be conducted on the scheduled day.

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 many cases, MHSAA tournament regulations differ from NFHS playing rules and regular-season guidelines. However, when contests are interrupted due to weather, it is imperative to know what NFHS playing rules and MHSAA tournament regulations require regarding resumption of play and weather-shortened regulation contests which become official. If playing rules allow, interrupted games shall resume at the point of suspension. Also know that an interrupted game can be considered a complete/official game by mutual agreement of both teams.

14. INJUNCTION, RESTRAINING ORDER, PROTESTS

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.

Protests will not be reviewed by the MHSAA. All disputes must be decided at the site before the game proceeds. The officials will make the final decision regarding game events. The Tournament Manager will resolve all next game concerns.

15. 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.

Tobacco: It is not intended that a violation of the tobacco policy should lead to the immediate ejection of a coach. He or she should be reminded of the policy and report to his or her school administration after the contest. Only if the coach is unwilling to comply promptly shall he or she be disqualified from coaching at the event. Officials should be reminded of the tobacco policy and reported in writing by the tournament manager to the MHSAA.

Alcohol: Historically, officials promptly disqualified coaches, and tournament managers immediately replaced officials who were under the influence of alcohol, and no change in such procedures is intended by these policies.

16. 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.

17. 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 that 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).
- 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.

- [CHART: MHSAA Guidelines For Spectators & Teams](#) (includes noisemakers and music/speakers)

18. LOCKER ROOM PRIVACY POLICY

Using devices of any kind to capture or transmit images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, dressing areas, training rooms, weigh-in rooms, showers, restrooms, or other areas where there is an expectation of privacy during MHSAA tournament events. Tournament managers or athletic directors that discover such use should move immediately to have the device removed and inform the head coach or athletic director of the identity and nature of the activity of the person involved.

19. UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE (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.

20. RETURN TO ACTIVITY & POST-CONCUSSION CONSENT FORM

[Return to Play Form](#)

21. 50/50 POLICY

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](#)