



2024-25 NJSIAA Boys & Girls Fencing Tournament

NJSIAA reserves the right to adjust, change or cancel dates, times, and locations for all NJSIAA State tournaments. Schools entering the tournament will not be granted a change of date/time due to any conflicts with school trips, proms, banquets, SATs, unless agreed upon by both schools. During the spring tournament season, we will make every effort to accommodate schools that have a conflict with their graduation.

Member schools will not be eligible to participate in any NJSIAA Tournaments if it has violated the NJSIAA Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Policies, or Procedures. Any student-athlete who transfers after the competition start date will not be eligible for this tournament (Bylaws, Article V, Section 4.K. 5).

Schools are to be reminded of the 3-team DQ rule for state tournament eligibility, which states “Any varsity team accumulating three or more player or coach disqualifications prior to the team’s participation in the state tournament will not be permitted to participate in the state tournament.”

The NJSIAA will follow the procedure below for schools that are disqualified from state tournament competition:

1. If a school is disqualified, either for the use of an ineligible player or violating the 3-team DQ rule, from state tournament competition after the tournament has been seeded but prior to the bracket being final, then the bracket will be reseeded and the next ranked school who entered the tournament will be included.
2. If a school is disqualified, either for the use of an ineligible player or violating the 3-team DQ rule, from state tournament competition after the tournament has been seeded and after the bracket is final, then the bracket will not be reseeded, and no additional school will be included.
3. If a school is disqualified from state tournament competition due to the use of an ineligible player during the state tournament, then the school will be removed from the tournament immediately and their last opponent will advance in their place.

Schools participating in any NJSIAA tournament are responsible for the actions and behaviors of their spectators. Schools are required to provide adequate staff security to ensure there is proper oversight of their spectators. In addition, schools are financially responsible for any damages to the property or premises caused by their student-athletes, staff, or spectators (spectators include, but are not limited to, cheerleaders, marching band participants, students, and other fans).

NJSIAA requires Certified Athletic Trainers at all its tournament events. The ATC must document all injuries on an injury report form. This form must be available to the NJSIAA upon request.

Member schools not willing or able to comply with these tournament regulations and any relevant procedures found in the Operating Procedures Handbook should not enter the tournament. Member schools are encouraged to review these tournament regulations with the school administration. Coaches must have a copy of these regulations as well as a copy of the Rule Modifications (if any) for this tournament available at all contests. Copies of these documents are available on the NJSIAA website.

New for This Year’s State Tournament:

1. Individual Fencing Tournament – Alternate Qualifiers – See page 5, #9.

NJSIAA Fencing Tournament Staff

Director of Fencing

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Tournament Director

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Tournament Assignor

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Fencing Important Dates

Event	Boys Dates	Girls Dates
Tryout Period:	November 25 - 27, 2024	November 25 - 27, 2024
First Practice:	December 2, 2024	December 2, 2024
Competition Start:	December 9, 2024	December 9, 2024
Entry Forms Open	January 1, 2025	January 1, 2025
Conflict of Interest Form Due:	January 10, 2025	January 10, 2025
District Team Entry Closes (12:00pm):	January 10, 2025	January 10, 2025
District Independent Entry Closes (12:00pm):	January 10, 2025	January 10, 2025
Individual Entry Closes (12:00pm)	February 4, 2025	February 4, 2025
Individual Petition Form Closes (12:00pm)	February 4, 2025	February 4, 2025
Regular Season Competition Ends:	March 9, 2025	March 9, 2025
District State Championships	Boys Dates	Girls Dates
District 1 @ PCTI	January 26, 2025	January 26, 2025
District 2 @ PCTI	January 26, 2025	January 26, 2025
District 3 @ Vorhees	February 2, 2025	February 2, 2025
District 4 @ Vorhees	February 2, 2025	February 2, 2025
District 5 @ West Winsor South	February 9, 2025	February 9, 2025
District 6 @ West Winsor South	February 9, 2025	February 9, 2025
Team State Championships	Boys Dates	Girls Dates
Preliminary Round @ Higher Seed	February 11, 2025	February 11, 2025
Round 1 @ Higher Seed	February 13, 2025	February 13, 2025
Round 2 @ Higher Seed	February 21, 2025	February 21, 2025
State Semifinals @ Higher Seed	February 25, 2025	February 25, 2025
State Finals @ Morris Hills H.S.	February 27, 2025	February 27, 2025
Individual State Championships	Boys Dates	Girls Dates
Hunterdon Central H.S.	March 1, 2025	March 1, 2025

All tournament rounds that are contested at a higher seeded school, are **PLAY ON** dates. Schools can mutually agree to move these dates, however If schools do not agree, then it must be played on the date listed. If any date is moved by mutual agreement, the potential next round opponents must be notified ASAP.

District Tournament Schedule

District 1: PCTI	District 2: PCTI
Check-in Closes at 8:00am	Check-in Closes at 1:00pm
Meet Director: George Janto	Meet Director: George Janto
Phone: 973-289-1753	Phone: 973-289-1753
gjanto@verizon.net	gjanto@verizon.net
District 3: Vorhees	District 4: Vorhees
Check-in Closes at 8:00am	Check-in Closes at 1:00pm
Meet Director: George Janto	Meet Director: Mike Griffin
Phone: 973-289-1753	Phone: 267-872-3834
gjanto@verizon.net	mgriffin@hcrhs.org
District 5: West Windsor South	District 6: West Windsor South
Check-in Closes at 8:00am	Check-in Closes at 1:00pm
Meet Director: George Janto	Meet Director: George Janto
Phone: 973-289-1753	Phone: 973-289-1753
gjanto@verizon.net	gjanto@verizon.net
Independent Fencer Qualifier: Voorhees	Independent Fencer Qualifier: Voorhees
Girls Check-in Closes at 1:00pm	Boys Check-in Closes at 9:00am
Meet Director: George Janto	Meet Director: George Janto
Phone: 973-289-1753	Phone: 973-289-1753
gjanto@verizon.net	gjanto@verizon.net

Entry Procedure

- All varsity schedules & rosters must be entered in www.njschoolsports.com by the start of the season. Rosters must be checked and updated by the start of the tournament. ALL ROSTERS MUST BE UPDATED ! We cannot guarantee any roster changes made after the start of the tournament will make it into the tournament program. If you encounter problems, please contact hssupport@njadvancemedia.com.
- ALL COACHES MUST REPORT BOTH THE TEAM RESULTS AND STATISTICS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL FENCERS WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE COMPLETION OF A MATCH TO www.njschoolsports.com. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN TEAMS BEING WARNED AND THEN PENALIZED.
- All teams must submit their full team roster to <http://bit.ly/SantCetr> by the date listed above. Any subsequent additions to a school's roster can be made at check-in for their assigned District Championship.
- Starting line-ups for each gender and for each weapon will be declared at time of check-in to District Championships.
- All entry forms must be completed online by the dates listed above. The NJSIAA may impose a late fee if an entry form is received after the published due date.
- The Officials Conflict of Interest form must be completed by the date listed above.

Entry Fees

- District Tournament - \$50 per weapon/per gender. (max of \$150 per gender)
- Team Tournament (Sweet 16) - \$90 per team/per gender
- Individual & Independent Fencers - \$16 per fencer/per weapon
- Payable to the NJSIAA (Please note Fencing Tournament).

Tournament Rules & Information

1. The NCAA FENCING rules along with any NJSIAA FENCING rule modifications will govern this tournament.
2. Each school participating in the tournament shall be responsible for the care and treatment of their athletes within the school's policy as in effect during the regular season. When meets are scheduled at predetermined sites, visiting schools should not assume that the home school trainer will be available. NJSIAA may assign athletic trainers for the state final events to assist with emergencies.
3. When severe weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances necessitate postponement, the site manager will make the final decision and should have an outlined procedure to inform potential opponents, media, nj.com at hssupport@njadvancemedia.com, working personnel, assigned officials, the NJSIAA, and the tournament director.
4. Schools participating in the team tournament must provide appropriate security personnel at all rounds as well as provide an administrator or designee at all rounds the participating school qualifies for.
5. All schools entered in the team FENCING championships will be held responsible for the conduct of their coaching staff, athletic trainers, fencers, other bench personnel, cheerleaders, students, and spectators.
6. Member schools cannot expect the NJSIAA to assume responsibility for improper conduct at tournament events.
7. The site manager and/or the official, have the authority to address and correct any action of intimidation unethical, or unsportsmanlike conduct.

District Championship Information

1. Any school sponsoring an interscholastic team will be permitted to enter District Championships, provided the provisions of Rule 2, Section 18 of the NJSIAA Constitution and Bylaws are met. There shall be no appeal or waiver for advancement from one level of the tournament to the next regardless of reason (e.g. from Districts to State Championships). All entrants must compete to advance. No date changes due to any school conflicts with trips, dances, banquets, testing programs, proms, and the like, will be allowed.
2. All fencers must be officially entered on the roster at check-in for the District Championships to compete in subsequent championships. Eligible participants must have competed in at least fifty percent (50%) of the school's total interscholastic competitions, up to and including the cut-off date. Fencers returning from medical leave or ineligible fencers becoming eligible must compete in 50% of the remaining competitions. If there is an odd number remaining, then the fencer must compete in the greater number. Fencers, who were not able to compete in Districts due to extraordinary circumstances may petition the NJSIAA to compete in subsequent championships. Petitions will be denied for fencers who choose to participate in national, regional, or non-NJSIAA competitions in conflict with any NJSIAA championship.
3. Score sheets are official once signed by a responsible party and white copy submitted to the Bout Committee. Score changes may be made after the submission to the BC; "[These] requests for scoring changes must be made before the beginning of the next round or within 15 minutes of the time announced by the Bout Committee."
4. ALL SCHOOLS AND INDIVIDUALS MUST ARRIVE NO LATER THAN 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE CHECK IN CLOSING TIME. A school arriving after the close of check-in will be disqualified from the competition. Possible entry is at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Fencing will begin within thirty (30) minutes of the close of check-in.
5. All team rosters must be verified and starting line-ups submitted to the Bout Committee no later than the close of check-in.
6. All fencers participating must be on the Team Roster. Any bout fenced with an ineligible fencer (fencer not on the Team Roster as submitted to the Bout Committee at check-in) will be voided, and any victory awarded to the opponent.

District Championships Rules & Format

1. All districts will use the same computer scoring program: The latest version of Fencing Time (includes New Jersey High School Fencing).
2. There will be one (1) 5-touch round-robin pool fenced for each weapon and each gender. School order will be announced before the competition begins.
3. The final standings of each weapon squad competition will be determined by the total squad (A + B + C) wins. Squad ties will be broken based on indicators following USA Fencing Rules:

- a. Total touches scored minus touches received.
- b. The greatest number of touches scored.
- c. In the case of a complete tie, placement will be determined by the winner of the head-to-head in the pool bout.
4. Sweet "16" qualifying schools are determined by the total wins of the respective school's three-weapon squads. Ties will be broken as above.
5. Fencing Order
 - a. Fencers are required to fence in their pools in their designated position (e.g., "A" strip, "B" strip, or "C" strip).
 - b. No credit will be given for bouts fenced in the wrong lineup position.
 - c. Fencing in the wrong position will result in a 0-0 defeat for the offending fencer.
 - d. Any subsequent squad violations will result in that squad's elimination from the tournament, and the loss of any win-loss records for both the squad and its individual members.
 - e. The bout order will be fenced C-C, B-B, A-A.
6. Timeouts/Bout Stoppage
 - a. Non-injury timeouts are not permitted during the five-touch bouts.
 - b. For any injury or cramp or other acute medical incidents that occur during a bout and which are properly attested to by the designated sports medicine professional on duty, the Referee will allow a break in the bout lasting no longer than 5 minutes.
 - c. This break shall begin immediately when the designated sports medicine professional renders his opinion and be strictly reserved for the requisite treatment.
 - d. If the designated sports medicine professional considers, before or at the end of the 5-minute break, that the fencer is incapable of continuing the bout, the fencer must withdraw and/or be replaced, if possible, by an available and eligible substitute.
7. Injury Withdrawal & Replacement
 - a. In the case of a bona fide injury, a substitution must be made immediately, and the injured fencer shall not be eligible to return for the remainder of the competition (however note that each dual/or squad meet is considered a separate competition).
 - b. If the bout has already commenced, the substitute will assume the score and the bout will be fenced to completion.
 - c. The result will be credited to the substitute and not the original fencer.
 - d. If the team is unable to provide a substitute, the bout is over.
 - e. If the opponent is ahead at that time, the final score will be what it was at the time of the withdrawal and shall count towards each athlete's individual record.
 - f. In all other cases, the score of the bout shall be V0/D0, and any such forfeit victories shall not count towards either athlete's individual record, but the victory will be credited to the Team with the active and available participant.
 - g. Any bout unable to be fenced because neither team has an available athlete shall not count towards either team's record.
8. Substitutions
 - a. Any number of substitutes may be used.
 - b. Substitutions are permitted at all positions (A, B, C).
 - c. Substitutes must report directly to the referee on the strip.
 - d. The substitute shall remain in the reported position unless a subsequent change is made.
 - e. No fencer, starter, or substitute can change positions (i.e., A, B, C) once they have competed on that level, but they may re-enter the competition on the same level multiple times.
9. Participants on Venue Floor
 - a. Due to the mandated social distancing requirement, only the three active fencers and one substitute fencer/scorekeeper per squad per gender will be allowed on the venue floor.
 - b. The substitute fencer can be replaced by a non-participant manager or scorekeeper; however, no school shall have more than 4 students per weapon, per gender, 1 coach per weapon, and a head coach on the venue floor during the competition (28 people)
 - c. All other students, coaches, and spectators must remain off the floor.
 - d. This rule will be strictly enforced. Violators are subject to Black Cards and ejection from the Venue.
10. Coaches
 - a. Only one (1) Board-approved coach for each squad will be credentialed.

- b. Tournament Directors will disqualify any school that is accompanied by someone in a coaching capacity who is not properly certified in accordance with NJSIAA regulations and appointed by their respective Board of Education.
 - c. A properly appointed coach will thereafter be subject to the rules and regulations regarding Out-of-Season Practice.
 - d. If a substitute coach is used, written authority from the school's Principal must be presented.
11. Post-District Results Reporting (Results will be posted at www.njifa.com)
- a. Full Results - Create a PDF for each gender containing:
 - 3-weapon results (OVERALL RESULTS button)
 - Final tabular results for each team weapon (FINAL RESULTS tab)
 - Full team pool (ROUND #1 tab)
 - Final tabular results for each individual weapon (FINAL RESULTS tab)
 - Send these PDF(s) to njifasecretary@gmail.com, astumpf@njsiaa.org
 - b. All-State Points
 - In each event, click the INDIVIDUAL RESULTS button
 - Export to a CSV
 - Send these CSVs to njifasecretary@gmail.com

To qualify for the Team & Individual Tournament

1. Teams must be competing on a varsity interscholastic basis and sixty percent (60%) of the contests on or before the cutoff date must be against New Jersey schools.
2. Any member school sponsoring an interscholastic fencing team will be permitted to enter District Championships.
3. ALL COACHES ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BOTH THE TEAM RESULTS AND STATISTICS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL FENCERS WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE COMPLETION OF A MATCH TO www.njschoolsports.com. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN TEAMS BEING WARNED AND THEN PENALIZED.
4. All teams & individual fencers must be officially entered. Eligible participants must have competed in at least fifty percent (50%) of the school's total interscholastic dual competitions, up to and including the cut-off date. Fencers returning from medical leave or ineligible fencers becoming eligible must compete in 50% of the remaining competitions. If there is an odd number remaining, then the fencer must compete in the greater number.
5. Individual fencers unable to compete in the District Championship due to extraordinary circumstances may petition the NJSIAA to participate in the Individual state championships. Petitions will be denied to fencers who opt to participate in national, regional, International or ANY non-NJSIAA competition in conflict with NJSIAA championships.
6. Team qualifiers to the NJSIAA "Sweet 16" Team Tournament will be the top three (3) overall teams from each of the six (6) Districts Championships.
7. Individual qualifiers to the NJSIAA State Individual Championships will be the top three (3) fencers on the A strip, top two (2) fencers on the B strip, and top one (1) fencer on the C strip in each weapon from each of the six (6) District Championships, and up to 4 independents who qualify via qualifying competition to be held at District 3-4 Championships.
8. ****ALTERNATE QUALIFIERS****: ATHLETES FINISHING 4-6 IN THE "A" POOL, 3-4 IN THE "B" POOL AND 2ND IN THE "C" POOL WILL BE DESIGNATED AS ALTERNATES. If any qualifier withdraws or fails to register by the published registration deadline, an invitation will be extended to the next highest -ranking alternate in the same pool. Uninvited alternate(s) may make their presence known at the Individual Championships, and they may replace any athletes from the same district, weapon and pool who may have been scratched.
9. Any fencer with two (2) or more disqualifications in the current season, before the start of the tournament, will be unable to compete in the state tournament.
10. Any varsity team accumulating three (3) or more player or coach disqualifications before the start of the tournament will not be permitted to participate in the state tournament. Seeded teams will forfeit their right to compete if a disqualification limit is reached before the start of the tournament for the team.

Independent Athletes

An Independent athlete is a student enrolled in a NJSIAA member school that does not sponsor a particular sports program and would like to enter a state individual tournament. Independent athletes are permitted, provided the school follows all independent entry requirements listed in the tournament regulations for their sport. In addition to the sports-specific tournament entry regulations, the following general procedures for all sports must be followed.

Independent Athlete Procedures

1. All independent athletes must be accompanied by a certified faculty member (chaperone), or a coach approved by the schools administration.
2. The independent athlete will be disqualified if they are not accompanied by a certified faculty member (chaperone), or a coach approved by the schools administration.
3. The chaperone must have with them written authority from the school's administration and remain with the athlete throughout all contests.
4. Independent athletes will not be able to check-in to the event with a parent, a coach/chaperone must be present at the time of check-in.
5. Any properly appointed "coach" will be subject to all out-of-season practice rules.
6. The school district must be able to certify the independent athlete has met the required six (6) practices.
7. The school district must be able to certify the independent athlete has a completed physical on file.
8. The penalty for failure to comply will be the disqualification of the athlete.
9. If you compete on a co-ed team, you cannot be an independent athlete. You will have to follow the tournament regulations on how to qualify as an individual.
10. Member schools with independent fencers may enter the individual tournament at the district level. There is a maximum of 3 per gender, per school. They will be assigned a district at a later date.

State Team Tournament (Sweet 16) Information

1. All teams must have been officially entered into their respective District Championships to compete in the team championships.
2. The top three (3) overall team finishers from each of the six (6) District Qualifying Tournaments (18 Teams per gender) qualify for the "Sweet 16" State Team Championship.
3. The six (6) District champions will be seeded 1-6 according to their finish at the Centrulo/Santelli Tournament.
4. All other teams will be seeded according to their finish in the Centrulo/Santelli Tournament.
5. Teams seeded 15-18 must compete in a play-in to fill the 15 and 16 slots.
6. There will be third-place medals awarded to both losing semi-final teams. No fence-off for third place will take place.
7. The host school is responsible for paying the NJSIAA assigned referee up to, but not including the final match; the NJSIAA is responsible for paying the referees for the Final matches.

Meet of Champions Information

1. Individual qualifiers to the Meet of Champions will be the top three (3) fencers on A strip, top two (2) fencers on B strip, and top one (1) fencer on C strip in each weapon and each gender from each of the 6 District Championships, and up to 4 independents who qualify.
2. All fencers competing in the Individual Championships must have been officially entered in the District Championships.
3. Under extraordinary circumstances, a fencer who was not able to compete in their District Championship may petition NJSIAA to compete in the State Individual Championships.
4. Any fencer failing to appear for the Individual Championships after having qualified at the District Championships may be subject to penalties available by the NJSIAA, including, but not limited to, no participation in the following years' Championships unless extraordinary circumstances caused such unforeseen withdrawal, and the fencer is granted a waiver by the NJSIAA.

5. Check-in times:
 - 8:00am: Girls Epee, Girls Foil, Girls Sabre
 - 9:00am: Boys Epee,
 - 10:00am: Boys Foil
 - 11:30am: Boys Sabre
6. A fencer arriving after the close of check-in can be disqualified from the competition, at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
7. Fencing will begin within thirty (30) minutes of the close of check-in.
8. All fencers competing in the Individual State Championships must have been available to fence and listed on the team's district roster and must be present in the venue dressed and prepared to fence, the only exception is a fencer granted a "certified absent petition," approved by NJSIAA.
9. Any bout fenced with an ineligible fencer (any fencer not on the official team roster, signed and submitted to the Bout Committee before the close of check-in) will be voided, and any victory awarded to the opponent.
10. Only Board-approved coaches will be credentialed.
11. Tournament Directors will disqualify any school that is accompanied by someone in a coaching capacity who is not properly certified in accordance with NJSIAA regulations and appointed by

Officials Assignments & Fees

District Championships

- The NJSIAA will assign and pay all officials for the District Championships.

Team Tournament - Preliminaries, Rounds 1 & Round 2

- The NJSIAA will assign all officials for these rounds.
- The higher seeded school will pay for all officials.
- Officials for this round will be paid at the area agreed-upon rate.

Team Tournament - State Semifinals

- The NJSIAA will assign and pay all officials for this round.

Team Tournament - State Finals

- The NJSIAA will assign and pay all officials for this round.

Individual State Finals

- The NJSIAA will assign and pay for all officials for this round.

Awards

District Champions:

- A team trophy and 15 certificates to each District Champion.
- Medals to the top 3 squads in each weapon (5 medals to each squad).

State Group Championships:

- A team trophy and 15 certificates for the State Champion.

Individual Meet of Champions

- Medals to the top 8 places in each weapon