

CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

32nd ANNUAL 2026 CIAC BOYS LACROSSE PACKET

ALERT PAGE

- **LACROSSE BALLS** - All game balls must include labeling which states “meets NOCSAE standard”.
- **Coaches Disqualification Penalty** – All coaches who are disqualified at any level will be suspended for the next two games (see page 96 in the CIAC Handbook), take two NFHS coaching courses (“Teaching and Modeling Behavior” and “Sportsmanship”) and the school will pay a \$50 fine. In addition to the two-game suspension and fine, the CIAC reserves the right to review any incident that results in a coach’s disqualification and may assess additional game suspensions up to and including a one-year ban. The fine and proof of taking the coaching courses must be submitted to the CIAC office before the coach can resume his/her coaching responsibilities.
- **The Boys Lacrosse Committee voted to apply a success in tournament factor when placing schools* that draw students from outside their school district boundaries in tournament divisions. The Committee will first place schools in their divisions by enrollment and then use success in tournament to move schools up in division and then rebalance the divisions. Schools of choice will receive points for each level of success in the state tournament over the past three years. These points will be added together and applied to an approved scale to determine division movement.**

A team reaching the semi-finals receives 3 points.

A team reaching the championship game receives 5 points.

A team winning a state championship receives 8 points.

3 – 7 points – Move up one division

8-16 points – Move up two divisions

Each year the committee will review results from the past three years and adjust as appropriate.

*Charter, magnet, parochial, vocational technical, vocational agricultural and Project Choice schools that have more than 25 each of male/female students from out-of-district.

- **The Boys Lacrosse Committee will continue to use LaxNumbers to rank/seed each of the four tournament divisions.**
- **OPT UP OPTION** – A school may opt up to the Class LL Division for a one year period. Written notification must be made to the CIAC (email Dan Scavone at dscavone@casciac.org) by the following deadline: February 6, 2026.
- **OUT-OF-STATE GAMES** – All out-of-state games against teams that are members of their state association will count toward tournament qualification, regardless of what playing rules they use. (see page 121 of the CIAC Handbook – Rules for Out-of-State Contests). However, games versus out-of-state opponents played here in Connecticut during the regular season must be played by NFHS rules.
- **BY STATE ADOPTION IN REGULAR SEASON GAMES** – If a regular season game is suspended before three (3) full quarters have been completed, the game shall be continued from the point of interruption. **Except** if three (3) full quarters have been completed and a winner can be determined, the game is over and is considered an official game. A suspended game may be terminated before three periods of play and considered an official game by mutual agreement of both schools.

- **BY STATE ADOPTION IN CIAC TOURNAMENT PLAY** – A game suspended either in the first half or the second half will be continued from the point of suspension with the score the same as when the game was suspended. A suspended game in either the first or second half may be ruled an “official game” by mutual agreement of both schools and with the approval of the tournament director.
- **ALL TICKET SALES FOR CIAC TOURNAMENT GAMES (QUARTER-FINALS, SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS) WILL BE SOLD AND REDEEMED VIA DIGITAL TICKETS.**
- **REGULAR SEASON AND CIAC TOURNAMENT OVERTIME PROCEDURE** – In the event of a tie at the end of the regulation game, play shall be continued, after a two-minute intermission, using sudden-victory overtime procedures. In sudden victory overtime, the teams shall play periods of four minutes each until a goal is scored. The game ends upon the scoring of the first goal. There will be a two-minute intermission between periods.
- The host school in the first and second round games must call their commissioner of officials and request that officials be assigned. Each commissioner will be made aware of this request. The officials’ fees for the first and second round is \$124.61.
- Expenses for first and second round games will be borne by the participating teams. The host team will pay game expenses including officials and shall provide the site director who should be someone other than the coach and the trainer or other medical coverage.
- **SCRIMMAGES** – Teams must have a minimum of three (3) days of practice prior to scheduling a full team scrimmage. All sports teams and individual athletes must have a minimum of ten (10) physical/exertional practice days with their school before the date of the first scheduled competition. No team/athlete shall practice/compete with their school more than six (6) consecutive days to provide a day of rest. Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays may be used unless prohibited by local board policy. Sunday practices may be counted to fulfill the 10-day requirement.
- **PROMOTING SPORTSMANSHIP**

Points of Emphasis – In an effort to continue to promote good sportsmanship the CIAC Lacrosse Committee would like to emphasize the following regulations which apply to all CIAC schools in all sports.

- Any CIAC team that accumulates five (5) or more disqualifications during the regular season including the league’s tournament will be barred from CIAC post-season competition.
- Any athlete upon receiving two (2) disqualifications, either for initiating a fight or retaliating in a fight (as determined by the game official), will be declared ineligible for the remainder of the season.
- In addition, if there is a pattern of unsportsmanlike conduct exhibited by a member school team or lacrosse program, at any level of play, the school’s principal, athletic director, and coach could be requested to meet with the CIAC Lacrosse Committee which may result in further sanctions. The school will be required to present a written action plan to the committee that addresses the conduct and sportsmanship of their team and program since the school administration is ultimately responsible for the conduct of their players, coaches, and team followers.
- **CIAC TOURNAMENT SITE MEDIA POLICY** – The CIAC places tremendous value on the role the media plays in promoting and highlighting high school sports. To that purpose CIAC tournament venues and hosts should make every effort to provide a working environment conducive to all media (print, broadcast and internet based) covering our events. The following are **minimum standards**, developed in consultation with the CIAC Media Advisory Committee, which should be provided for working media at all CIAC tournament sites.
 1. A minimum of one hour following the conclusion of post-game interviews to write in the press box, press area or a suitable facility in close proximity to the site of the event (i.e. office, classroom, etc.)

2. Access to electric power (shared power strip, etc.).
3. Access to wireless internet service.

Site directors should communicate these requirements to any staff person who may be responsible for the administration of the event. If for some reason a site will not be able to provide these items for a contest, a site representative should inform the CIAC in advance and work with the media on site before the game and work to provide a reasonable solution to the issue. Members of the media who will be covering events are directed to contact the appropriate site as far in advance as possible to inform them they will be at the event and discuss what arrangements will be made for working media at the site.

- **STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS** – Coaches are reminded to inform contest officials prior to each competition of any student with special needs who could be competing in the contest when his/her disability could impact the individual’s performance or the conduct of the competition.
- **REPORTING REGULAR SEASON SCORES** – In order to ensure that standings and rankings on both the CIAC’s websites and other sites which draw their data from us are timely and accurate, all regular season scores must be entered online on the day of the game as soon as possible following the game’s completion.
 1. **New! Regular Season Scores** – All regular season meet scores MUST be entered online on the day of the game as soon as possible following the game’s completion.
 - Scores must be entered on the new CIAC website at <https://ciac.fpsports.org/>
 - Click the menu icon on the left part of the page to show the menu
 - In the left hand column select “Schedules – High School”
 - At the top of the page select the school and “Boys Lacrosse Varsity” as the sport, then the team’s schedule will be displayed
 - Click on the green score entry button to make the entries
 - Only logged in users with security permission to enter scores for this sport will see the score entry button for their school’s meets
 - The system will display a score entry screen that is specific for Boys Lacrosse
 - Enter the team scores
- **TEAM ROSTERS** – Can be submitted on the Eligibility Center. Select “team roster/tournament roster”. Check off each player that is on your roster. Coaches need an access log-in from your athletic director to complete the form. To complete the team roster form:
 - Go to the CIAC website at casciac.org
 - Click the menu icon on the upper left of the website
 - In the lefthand column select “Eligibility Center”
 - Select “Team Roster/Tournament Roster”
 - Check off each player that is on your roster
- **UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS AT CIAC-SANCTIONED EVENTS** – The use of unmanned aerial systems, often referred to as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any person(s) at all CIAC-sanctioned events. This policy includes not only the restricted playing area of the venue(s), but also the physical confines of the entire stadium / field / arena structure. For the purpose of this policy, an unmanned aerial system is any aircraft without a human pilot on board.
- **2025-2026 NATIONAL TESTING DATES – CIAC HANDBOOK** – Please be advised that because there are many options for student-athletes to take the SAT and ACT tests during the course of the school year, schools should make their teams aware of the CIAC tournament schedule that is posted two years in advance to avoid a conflict. In most sports, it is necessary for CIAC to schedule multiple games on the same day and a morning game on the day of an SAT or ACT test cannot be avoided. Please plan ahead.

ACT Test Dates
February 14, 2026
April 11, 2026

June 13, 2026 (Championships)

Morning, mid-day and early afternoon
games will be scheduled – Plan ahead

SAT Test Dates
March 14, 2026
May 2, 2026

June 6, 2026 * (Boys QF – Higher Seed)

*NOTE – These dates will conflict with CIAC tournaments – plan accordingly.

- **SPORTSMANSHIP** -- Member schools are expected to conduct their relations with each other at all levels of competition in a spirit of good sportsmanship. The school administration is responsible for the athletic program, including the policies and procedures relating to sportsmanship and the conduct of activities in the school. The CIAC "Class Act" standards will be used in all CIAC contests. The CIAC Standards for Sportsmanship as defined in the Class Act program are: <https://ciac.fpsports.org/TenantHTML.aspx?D=Resources&F=Class%20Act%20Schools.html>

2026 NFHS BOYS LACROSSE RULE CHANGES

- 1-2-12d** Requires a cone be placed at the corner of the coaches area and the team area to clearly mark the team area.
- 1-9-1b (4 & 5)** Eliminates the restrictions on color and prohibits items attached to the tooth and mouth protector that do not support the function of protecting the team and/or mouth.
- 1-9-1h (3)** Modifies uniform number size on the back of the jersey by decreasing the minimum height to 8 inches – matching the minimum height requirement on the front of the jersey.
- 1-12** Requires a working horn to be accessible at the sideline table.
- 3-5-1 & 2 (New)** Establishes that an interrupted game that cannot be resumed on the same day is considered complete if three quarters have elapsed while maintaining that state associations may modify game-ending procedures.
- 4-3-3e** Allows an official to assess a delay-of-game penalty if player positioning on the faceoff must be adjusted repeatedly.
- 4-8** Clarifies that a goal is scored if the ball is or becomes loose behind the plane regardless of who caused the ball to cross the line.
- 4-18-4 Penalty; 5-6-2 (New)** Reclassifies the foul for a player, other than the properly equipped goalkeeper, that enters the crease with the intent to block a shot as a personal foul for illegal equipment.
- 4-22-1c** Eliminates the five seconds awarded to a goalkeeper to re-enter the crease on any restart.
- 6-3-2c** Adds hooking, lifting or pinning an opponent's body with the crosse in describing illegal actions related to holding.
- 6-5-2y** Establishes that the loss of a helmet is an illegal procedure unless it is due to direct contact to the head by an opponent.
- 7-3** Establishes consistency in penalty administration by moving the restart to laterally outside the goal area when the ball crosses the end line before or after the penalty occurs.

2026 Boys Lacrosse Major Editorial Changes

- 1-2-9** Requires all equipment to be kept in the bench area at least 6 yards away from the sideline.
- 1-3-2, 1-4** Recommends a flat-iron goal for all surfaces keeping up with trends in equipment and minimizing risk of injury.
- 1-7-3 thru 6** Reorganizes crosse construction rules by clearly identifying what is illegal and what must be fixed without penalty.
- 1-9-2a(1)** Allows undergarments on the top or bottom to be white, gray, black or one of the team's official colors.
- 2-5-2** Updates the recommended officials uniform.

- 4-3-1 Exception Note (New)** Adds new note to rule exception for a faceoff clarifying where the ball is awarded when the offended team has three players serving penalty time.
- 4-19-1** Clarifies that a goal will be disallowed if a player jumps without possession, catches a pass, shoots and lands in the crease.
- 4-24** Restructures language for clarity.
- 7-6** Restructures language for clarity.
- Official Lacrosse Signals** Adds new signal for check involving the head / neck or defenseless player.

2026 Boys Lacrosse Editorial Changes

1-2-7; 1-5; 1-6-3; 1-7-1; 1-9-1e; 1-9-1g; 1-9-1h Note; 1-9-1h(9); 1-10-1c; 2-10-2; 4-3-3b; 4-3-3l, m, n; 4-6-2 thru 4; 4-13e; 5-4-1 & 2; 5-4-5; 5-4-6; 5-4-7 Penalty; 5-5- Note; 5-6; 5-8; 5-10 Penalty; 6-5-2t; 6-6-2; 6-12; 7-2e; 7-2f

2026 Boys Lacrosse Points of Emphasis

1. Properly Wearing Equipment
2. Personal Foul – Contact with the Head/Neck
3. Sportsmanship and Role of Head Coach
4. Pregame Responsibilities

32nd ANNUAL 2026 CIAC BOYS LACROSSE TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

1.0 DIVISIONS

1.1 Only members of the CIAC may enter this tournament which will be divided into four (4) divisions –

LL – 722 and Over L – 505-721 M – 345-504 S – Up to 344

CIAC member school teams will be placed into one of four divisions based on the boy enrollment for grades 9-12 the preceding year and **tournament success factor**. A listing of tournament divisions are available on the boys lacrosse page at ciacsports.com.

2.0 SITES / DATES / TIMES

2.1 Member schools may start practice on, but not before, Saturday, March 21, 2026

2.2 Member schools may play the first game on, but not before, Saturday, April 4, 2026.

2.3 Member schools may schedule and play three (3) games per week four times during regular season.

2.4 Member schools may not schedule more than sixteen (16) games during the regular season.

2.5 The last date for games to count for the 2026 Boys Lacrosse Tournament will be Wednesday, May 27, 2026. Games played after this date shall not count for tournament entry, regardless of the reasons for playing such games.

2.6 **Tournament Sites** – First round, second round and quarter-final games will be played at the home field of the higher ranked team. Sites for the semi-finals and final games will be determined by the tournament director.

Game Dates / Times

First Round (if necessary)	Friday, May 29*	TBA
Second Round	Wednesday, June 3	4:30 p.m.
Quarter-finals	Saturday, June 6	3:00 p.m.
Semi-finals	Wednesday, June 10	Time TBA
Finals	Sunday, June 14	Time TBA
Finals – Rain Date	Monday, June 15	

*First round game can be played on Saturday, May 30, 2026 by mutual agreement and approval of the tournament director.

Semi-final and final games will be held at pre-determined sites.

2.7 **Inclement Weather / Tournament Games** – In the event of inclement weather, the Site Director has the authority to postpone the game. **THE SITE DIRECTOR WILL IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR.** The postponed game will be played on the next day including Sunday. The rain date for the championship final would be Monday, June 15, 2026.

2.8 **NO SCHEDULE OR TIME CHANGES WILL BE PERMITTED WITHOUT THE EXPRESSED APPROVAL OF THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR OR THE CIAC STAFF.**

3.0 ENTRY PROCEDURES / QUALIFYING

3.1 **Team Roster Form** – Rosters must be submitted by Friday, May 15, 2026. You need an access log in from your athletic director to complete the form. To complete the team roster form:

- Go to the CIAC website at casciac.org
- Click the menu icon on the upper left of the website
- In the lefthand column select “Eligibility Center”
- Select “Team Roster/Tournament Roster”
- Check off each player that is on your roster

Enter Scores/Game Results/Submit Scores – In order to ensure that standings and rankings on both the CIAC’s web sites and other sites which draw their data from us are timely and accurate, all regular season scores must be entered online on the day of the game as soon as possible following the game’s completion.

- Scores must be entered on the new CIAC website at <https://ciac.fpsports.org/>
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- Click on the green score entry button to make the entries
- Only logged in users with security permission to enter scores for this sport will see the score entry button for their school’s meets
- The system will display a score entry screen that is specific for Boys Lacrosse
- Enter the team scores

Regardless of regular season postponed games, Wednesday, May 27, 2026 is the final day to count games for tournament play. All games must be completed and scores submitted online by Wednesday, May 27, 2026.

Member schools must make every effort to complete their season as scheduled, including make-up games. Any effort to gain an advantage in tournament play by not playing a game is unacceptable and is subject to action by the CIAC Board of Control. Cancellation of any regular season contest/make-up to play in a league tournament will not be allowed.

3.2 **Entry Fee** – An entry fee of \$100 payable to CIAC must be mailed to the CIAC, 30 Realty Drive, Cheshire, CT 06410.

3.3 To qualify for the CIAC boys lacrosse tournament, a team must play a minimum of TEN (10) games AGAINST VARSITY OPPONENTS and have a winning percentage of 40%.

3.4 All varsity games against CIAC member schools and **out-of-state games whose schools are members of their respective state association shall count for tournament qualification regardless of what playing rules they use.** (See page 121 of the CIAC Handbook – Rules for Out-of-State Contests) However, games versus out-of-state opponents played here in Connecticut during the regular season must be played by NFHS rules. Only the first two (2) games against an opponent during the regular season shall count toward CIAC tournament qualification.

3.5 The CIAC disqualification rules shall prevail throughout the tournament for team players and coaches.

4.0 EXPENSES / TICKETS

- 4.1 **Expenses for first and second round games will be borne by the participating teams.** The host team will pay game expenses including officials and shall provide the Site Director who should be someone other than the coach.
- 4.2 Schools will bear all traveling expenses.
- 4.3 Host schools may charge admission fees during any first and second round games. If an admission is charged, the host school should notify the principal and athletic director of the visiting school in advance. The monies collected may be used by the host school to defray game expenses. Any monies collected will not be sent to the CIAC.
- 4.4 The CIAC will pay all game expenses directly associated with the staging of the quarter-finals, semi-finals and final tournament games. For quarter-final games, the host school will be reimbursed **up to \$200.00 for costs and the CIAC will pay the official and site director.** All tickets in these rounds will be sold digitally.
- 4.5 Charges for admission for tournament games: (*Subject to change)
- \$5.00 – Senior citizens (age 65 and older)
 - \$5.00 – Students (grades 1-12)
 - \$10.00 – Adults (all others not in the above categories)
 - Free -- Children five (5) and under
 - Free – Military in uniform or with I.D.

All Championship game tickets will be \$10.00. Free for children five (5) and under and Free for military in uniform or with ID.

- 4.6 During the 2026 tournament, the following passes will be honored at all games where admission is charged.
- a. CIAC complimentary boys lacrosse tournament pass (head boys varsity lacrosse coaches only -- written requests ONLY by emailing Judy Sylvester – jsylvester@casciac.org)
 - b. Principal (or designee) and Athletic Director of the competing schools
 - c. Gold Pass (retirees and lifetime CIAC)
 - d. Press Card
 - e. CIAC Officials Association Membership Card – (Lacrosse Officials ONLY)
 - f. No other complimentary admissions will be permitted

5.0 FORFEITS / DISQUALIFICATIONS

- 5.1 Member schools will be required to submit regular season schedules the same as for all sports controlled by CIAC in which member schools participate. Determination of forfeitures will be based on this schedule.

A forfeit game shall count as a victory for the team declared the winner and a loss for the team declared a loser in determining tournament qualifications and ratings. For tournament qualifications only the following reasons for a forfeit shall be accepted.

- 5.2 A team shall forfeit a game or games if through a violation it is required to do so under the CIAC Rules of Eligibility.
- 5.3 A team shall forfeit a game if the game official declares the game a forfeit as a result of a National Federation High School rule violation, or a team refuses to play after being instructed to do so by the Game Officials.

- 4.4 Forfeitures will be honored by each CIAC sports committee when there is mutual agreement between the principals of the two schools involved in the game not played. Each principal must submit on the official CIAC Cancelled Game—Forfeiture Form his/her decision relative to the status of the game and it must be received in the CIAC office within 72 hours following the time of the scheduled contest. On the eve of a tournament when there is not sufficient time for normal administrative procedures (72 hours) if a question of team forfeiture arises the Executive Director or his designee, in consultation with the Chairman of the sports committee affected and the principals of the two schools will make an appropriate ad hoc decision in consideration of the best interests of the tournament as a whole.
- 5.5 All games listed on the original schedule and submitted to the CIAC which are not played and have not been forfeited in accordance with this policy, will be considered by each sport committee as No Contest and shall not count for tournament qualification and ratings unless it affects the minimum number of games required to qualify for tournament participation. In this instance the sport committee shall review the evidence submitted by the teams involved and may grant an exception from the minimum game number requirement. The minimum winning percentage as determined by the individual sports committee must be met under all circumstances.
- 5.6 CIAC ejection and disqualification rules for players and coaches shall be in effect for all games.

6.0 OFFICIALS

- 6.1 By May 13, 2026, each varsity head coach MUST submit a list of EIGHT (8) officials who are tournament caliber officials. At the same time, they may indicate TWO (2) officials whose services they prefer not to have. From this list, a MASTER LIST OF OFFICIALS will be developed.
- Go to casciac.org
 - In the left-hand column click “Eligibility Center”
 - Click “Officials Voting”
 - At the top of the page select “Boys Lacrosse”
- 6.2 The Tournament Director will coordinate the assignment of officials to all tournament games.
- 6.3 The host school in the first and second round games must call their Commissioner of Officials and request that officials be assigned. Each Commissioner will be made aware of this request. **The host school will pay all officials fees in the first and second round games.**
- 6.4 The Officials Coordinator will assign officials for all quarter-final, semi-final and final games using the Master List of Officials as the source.
- 6.5 Identity of the officials assigned games by the Officials Coordinator will not be disclosed prior to the game.
- 6.6 The Tournament Director will notify the Officials Assigning Commissioner(s) of any changes in scheduled tournament games. Schools failing to follow the proper game change procedures outlined in 2.7 and 2.8 are expected to pay the FULL officials fees.
- 6.7 **Officials Assignments**
- 1) **First Round / Second Round**
 - a. Two officials will be used for each game.
 - b. Site of the higher ranked team will decide the team of officials.
 - 2) **Quarter-finals**
 - a. Three officials will be used for each game.
 - b. Site of the higher ranked team will decide the team of two (2) officials and the visitor’s team section – one (1) official.

3) **Semi-finals**

- a. If two teams in the same section are involved, a team of two (2) officials from the same section will be selected and one (1) official from the opposite section.
- b. If teams are from different sections, officials will be assigned using the following “FINALS” formula.

4) **Finals**

- a. Teams of three (3) officials and one (1) alternate will be used for the championship game in all divisions.
- b. **Even Year** – Two (2) WCLOA officials will be assigned for each of the championship games.

One (1) CLOA official and one (1) alternate official will be assigned for each of the championship games.

Odd Year – On odd years the reverse procedure will be used to assign the officials teams.

- c. The selection of officials will be made by the assigning commissioners from the WCLOA and CLOA Officials Associations and the Tournament Director. The officials selected will be made from those nominated by the head lacrosse coaches.

7.0 **PROTESTS**

- 7.1 Each sports committee will establish a Protest Committee whose purpose will be to adjudicate all protests relating to the operation of the tournament, including the application and administration of tournament regulations. National Federation or CIAC game rule interpretations and game judgments by the game officials cannot be protested. The Protest Committee for each sport shall consist of the Associate Executive Director for CIAC, the Chairman of the Tournament Committee, Administrative Member of the Sports Committee, the Tournament Director, and the Coaches’ Chairman on the Sport Committee. All Protest Committee decisions are appealable to the CIAC Board of Control as provided in the CIAC by-laws.
- 7.2 On the eve of a tournament game when there is not sufficient time for normal administrative procedures and Board of Control hearings, if a question of interpretation of tournament regulations or the operation of the tournament arises, the Chairman of the CIAC Board of Control, the Executive Director of CIAC, and the Chairman of the Tournament Committee in question will make an appropriate ad hoc decision in consideration of the best interest of the tournament as a whole.
- 7.3 The record of the official scorekeeper at the conclusion of the contest is final unless an error is discovered. Such errors shall be corrected as covered by specific contest rules.
- 7.4 **DECISION BY GAME OFFICIALS** – PROTESTS ARISING FROM THE DECISIONS, INTERPRETATIONS AND MISAPPLICATION OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION HIGH SCHOOL LACROSSE OR CIAC GAME RULES BY OFFICIALS DURING THE CONTEST WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. THE DECISIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS OF THE RULES BY THE OFFICIALS ARE FINAL.
- 7.5 ANY TEAM LEAVING THE CONTEST AREA BEFORE THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONTEST BECAUSE OF DISSATISFACTION WITH THE OFFICIATING WILL FORFEIT THE GAME AND RENDER THE SCHOOL LIABLE TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE.

8.0 RANKING / SEEDING

- 8.1 **Seedings** – Once all qualifiers are determined by 3.4 – Teams will then be seeded in their divisions by using the LaxNumbers* formula.

*LaxNumber Formula – LaxNumbers ratings are computed mathematically, with no subjective weighting or human determined values. LaxNumbers algorithm computes an overall average performance rating for teams based upon how well they play against other teams and how good those teams are. A team’s overall rating then determines a team’s ranking position based on the national, regional, state, and/or sub-state ranking categories a team is placed in. The two main factors in the algorithm are “AGD” or “average goal differential” and SCHED” or “strength of schedule”. AGD is currently calculated by accumulating the goal differential of each game, to a maximum of 10, and divided it by the number of games played. The strength of schedule is computed by averaging the rating of each game opponent. AGD and SCHED are added together to compute a team’s rating. A team’s overall rating is typically not reflective of the team’s best or worst games, but a mathematically computed average performance rating that translates game scores into a numeric representation of team performance.

8.2 **Tournament Format**

- a. If MORE than sixteen (16) teams qualify, teams will playoff in a first round.
- b. If LESS than sixteen (16) teams qualify, byes in the first round will be assigned starting with the top seed on down.

16 @ 1	13 @ 4	10 @ 7
15 @ 2	12 @ 5	9 @ 8
14 @ 3	11 @ 6	

- 8.3 **Ranking and pairings information will be distributed via the CIAC web site – www.ciacsports.com -- on Thursday, May 28, 2026.**

9.0 SUPERVISION / SPORTSMANSHIP

- 9.1 Players and coaches disqualified in a game will be required to serve the additional penalty as outlined in the CIAC regulation on “disqualification”.
- 9.2 In the interest of crowd control and proper supervision the CIAC Board of Control has approved the tournament regulation requiring the principal of the participating schools or his/her designee to attend all tournament games. The school administrator should identify him/herself to the Site Director.
- 9.3 When a member school’s coach is ejected from a game for an infraction as prescribed the rules, the game may not continue until the member school replaces the ejected coach with a certified coach. If this cannot be accomplished within 15 minutes after the ejection, the official-in-charge will declare a forfeit win for the opposing team. **Coaches Disqualification Penalty – All coaches who are disqualified at any level will be suspended for the next two games (see page 96 in the CIAC Handbook), take two NFHS coaching courses (“Teaching and Modeling Behavior” and “Sportsmanship”) and the school will pay a \$50 fine. In addition to the two-game suspension and fine, the CIAC reserves the right to review any incident that results in a coach’s disqualification and may assess additional game suspensions up to and including a one-year ban. The fine and proof of taking the coaching courses must be submitted to the CIAC office before the coach can resume his/her coaching responsibilities.**
- 9.4 Use of tobacco products or possession of alcoholic beverages of any kind, including champagne, are not permitted on the field of play, or within the field or park at which a tournament game is scheduled. Many towns, or fields which we use have local ordinances prohibiting use of tobacco products or possession of alcoholic beverages. The principal or his/her designee at the game shall see that this rule is enforced and adhered to by the teams.

9.5 **Bench and Field Conduct**

Personnel – Only coaches, players, other team members, statisticians, managers and trainers will be allowed in the bench area.

Conduct – The above identified personnel shall not be outside the vicinity of the designated bench area.

9.6 Team members in uniform, coaches, managers and up to 20 cheerleaders accompanying the team will be admitted free-of-charge to each game. Bands and other musical groups, noisemakers that might interfere with the performance of the game, and banners or streamers are prohibited. Each school principal and athletic director is responsible for compliance with this regulation.

10.0 **TOURNAMENT RULES / PROCEDURES**

10.1 **The home team must provide FOUR “BALL PERSONS” WITH HELMETS for each tournament game. Each team will provide two ball persons if the game is played at a neutral site. No ball people should be behind the goal.**

10.2 In all cases where a coin toss may be required, **the higher ranked team** will have the privilege of call on the coin.

10.3 Entering schools are reminded that in the event of severely inclement weather, it may be necessary to play the lacrosse FINALS on Monday, June 15, 2026.

10.4 By state adoption, in CIAC tournament play, a game suspended either in the first half or the second half will be continued from the point of suspension with the score the same as when the game was suspended. A suspended game in either the first or second half may be ruled an “official game” by mutual agreement of both schools and with the approval of the tournament director.

10.5 **CIAC Late Entry Policy**

- No tournament entries will be accepted after the established deadline except those approved by the CIAC Board of Control.
- Corrections requested by a school to an entry form that was submitted by the established deadline but prior to seeding/pairing data being published on the web site, will be assessed a fee of \$50 per correction to a maximum of \$250.
- All requests for corrections must be submitted on a support ticket via the online eligibility center. No phone request will be considered.

Tournament Regulations Violations – If a school fails to comply with tournament regulations which requires the CIAC tournament sports committee, central office staff, or the CIAC Board of Control to redo any portion of the tournament pairings or such non-compliance adversely impacts the management of the tournament, an administrative violation fee of \$500 will be imposed upon the school before entry into the tournament will be allowed.

10.6 CIAC tournament terminated games not covered by CIAC tournament rules or NFHS lacrosse rules will be resolved by the CIAC.

10.7 **Awards** – Winning and runner-up team plaques will be presented at final games. Medals will be awarded to each member of these two teams.

LL Division	45 medals
L Division	45 medals
M Division	45 medals
S Division	45 medals

- 10.8 In the event of any situation not covered in these rules, the decision of the Lacrosse Committee or its representatives shall be final.
- 10.9 **Withdraw from the tournament** – Athletic Directors wanting to withdraw their team from the tournament must send a letter (email) to Dan Scavone – dscavone@casciac.org. It must be received by Wednesday, May 27, 2026.

11.0 RESPONSIBILITY OF TOURNAMENT SITE DIRECTORS

It shall be the duty of the Site Director to see that the following facilities are available well in advance of the start of the game.

- 11.1 The field should be freshly lined, following official dimensions with field markings in agreement with the most recent National Federation high school rule book. Corner, mid-line, tables and markers, are to be in place and each goal should be provided with a playable net.
- 11.2 A restraining barrier of some sort should be placed to keep spectators at least fifteen feet from the playing surface at all points. Only properly equipped ball persons shall be allowed behind the goals. In most cases crowd ropes will be considered suitable.
- 11.3 A scorer, an ADULT timer and an ADULT penalty timer will be provided by the site director and a sufficiently large scorer's and timer's table with bench or chairs will be made available for the game.
- 11.4 Suitable timing devices – the conventional time clock and air horn will be available to signal the start and expiration of playing time and appropriate substitutions.
- 11.5 Sufficient security personnel as may be deemed necessary will be on duty to control the anticipated crowd AND PROVIDE FOR THE SAFETY OF THE GAME OFFICIALS.
- 11.6 **Higher seeded teams shall provide athletic trainer services up through the quarter-finals games. For semi-final and finals, schools are expected to provide their own athletic trainer. The CIAC will arrange for athletic trainer/medical services at all semi-final and final games, ONLY WHEN THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS CANNOT PROVIDE THEM.**
- 11.7 Suitable benches and drinking water should be provided for players. If a request is made, dressing facilities should be provided for any team which has more than fifteen miles to travel.
- 11.8 In the event that a field is absolutely unfit for play because of excessive water, the tournament director should be notified as soon as possible. (After a rain most fields may not be perfectly dry but would be suitable for play.)
- 11.9 The scores of tournament games will be telephoned to the tournament director immediately at the conclusion of the game.
- 11.10 A list of expenses which includes all fees should be sent to CIAC, 30 Realty Drive, Cheshire, CT 06410.
- 11.11 Teams members, coaches, manager and up to 20 cheerleaders accompanying the team will be admitted free of charge to each game.

12.0 RESPONSIBILITIES OF TOURNAMENT COACHES

Coaches check the following items with each other:

- 12.1 Directions how to reach field.

- 12.2 All weekday games to start as outlined – Section 2.6
- 12.3 The higher ranked team is required to supply twenty (20) official white game balls through the quarter-final round. **If a game is played at a neutral site, each team provides six (6) balls at their end, two (2) opposite their benches and two (2) at the table. Total of ten (10)**
- 12.4 The higher ranked team shall wear **white** jerseys.
- 12.5 **When games are played at neutral sites, each team will provide two (2) ball persons.**
- 12.6 Visiting teams arrange and pay for busses.
- 12.7 Games to be played on home field of the higher ranked team in the pairings unless the home field is not a minimum of 53-1/3 x 110 yards.
- 12.8 **Home team must call in scores to Tournament Director, at the conclusion of the game.**
- 12.9 Coaches are requested to inform all site directors to honor the special game passes which are issued to Lacrosse Committee members who will act as observers during the tournament.
- 12.10 **Before a Game** – Arrive in adequate time with your team. Stay with your players at all times during the pre-game period.
- 12.11 **During A Game** – Conduct yourself (and assistants) as gentlemen at all times. Set a good example for your players and followers. Do not engage in theatrics or unsportsmanlike conduct of any type that might tend to incite your fans to bad behavior.
- 12.12 **After a Game** – Escort your team as a group from the playing surface to your assigned locker room. Stay with them in the locker room to see that all is well, win or lose. Accompany players (and any other personnel) to the bus. Travel back with them to your school.
- 12.13 Coaches and officials by the very nature of their positions exert a tremendous influence over the control of a game. This influence on the game must be exerted in a most positive manner by showing a complete respect for all official judgment calls and interpretations.
- 12.14 Although most of you have the situation well under control with your student-athletes, alcohol has shown up on the field after some championship games (brought in by spectators, but nonetheless, on the field). A word from you prior to the game to your athletes may be enough to control this situation and avoid embarrassing the team and tainting their achievement.
- 12.15 **No coach should make negative comments to the media regarding the officials. Public criticism of officials is unethical and contrary to CIAC rules.**

13.0 RESPONSIBILITIES FOR TOURNAMENT ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

- 13.1 **Before a Game** – Announce and/or publish directions for getting to the game site through local media and announce same over the school intercom.

Arrange for transportation for the team, cheerleaders and spectators from his/her school.

Cooperate with your Principal and other school administrators in briefing and educating the student body about proper behavior and good sportsmanship at tournament games.

The Athletic Director and/or his/her designated representative shall arrive at the game site well in advance of the game time and identify him/herself to the Site Director and confer with him/her as to the game-to-be. An identifying badge or tag may be issued.

13.2 **During a Game** – Sit strategically where the conduct of your coach(s), team and students can be observed. Be alert for any disruptive acts or potential trouble and do all you can to aid the Site Director in such a case.

13.3 **After a Game** – Stay afterward long enough to make certain, and satisfy yourself, that your team, coaches, cheerleaders, students, etc., are safely off the playing field and out of the building.

14.0 LACROSSE CALENDAR

March 21	(Saturday)	First day of practice
April 4	(Saturday)	First regular season game day
May 13	(Wednesday)	Officials tournament selection due
May 15	(Friday)	Completed tournament roster due
May 27	(Wednesday)	Last regular season game to count for state tournament
May 28	(Thursday)	Ranking and pairings will be distributed to the competing schools via the CIAC web site – www.ciacsports.com – Possible qualifying round games
May 29	(Friday)	First Round – (Can be played on Saturday, May 30, by mutual agreement)
June 3	(Wednesday)	Second Round
June 6	(Saturday)	Quarter-finals
June 10	(Wednesday)	Semi-finals
June 14	(Sunday)	Finals (Rain date – June 15)

15.0 2025-26 BOYS LACROSSE COMMITTEE

Administrators:

Ralph Mayo –Chair	(203) 667-9724
Jim O’Connor, Mary Tisko School, Branford	(203) 407-7194
Scott Rohwedder, AP, New Fairfield High School	(203) 915-5681
Dan Donovan, Principal, Danbury High School	(203) 797-4800
Jim Wygonik, Principal, Lyme-Old Lyme High School	(860) 434-1651

Coaches:

Brian White, Guilford High School	(203) 430-0371
Chip Buzzeo, New Canaan High School	(917) 734-1362
Ken McCarthy, Somers High School	(860) 966-6883
Brian Adkins – Foran High School, Milford	(203) 285-4422
Rich Pulisciano, Cheshire High School – Ex officio	(203) 317-0025

Athletic Directors:

Doug Marchetti, Norwalk High School	(203) 838-4481
Jake Jarvis – Guilford High School	(203) 453-2741

Consultants:

David Leete – Tournament Director	H - (860) 742-1128 / W – (860) 742-1315 / C – (860) 424-2694
John Hackett – Officials	H – (860) 647-0508 / C – (860) 212-2673
Lew Socci – Officials	C – (203) 994-3670

APPENDIX A

2026 Boys Lacrosse Team Roster

Must be submitted by May 15, 2026. You need an access log in from your athletic director to complete the form. To complete the team roster form:

- Go to the CIAC website at casciac.org
- In the lefthand column select “Eligibility Center”
- Select “Team Roster/Tournament Roster”
- Check off each player that is on your roster

The final date to count for tournament play is Wednesday, May 27, 2026 – ALL GAMES MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE:

- Scores must be entered on the new CIAC website at <https://ciac.fpsports.org/>
- Click the menu icon on the upper left part of the page to show the menu
- In the lefthand column select “Schedules – High School”
- At the top of the page select the school and “Boys Lacrosse Varsity” as the sport, then the team’s schedule will be displayed
- Click on the green score entry button to make the entries
- Only logged in users with security permission to enter scores for this sport will see the score entry button for their school’s meets
- The system will display a score entry screen that is specific for Boys Lacrosse
- Enter the team scores

Roster – Any number of eligible players may be used.

Schools will bear their own transportation expenses. All games will be played according to National Federation High School lacrosse Rules. Games that are postponed or suspended shall be played on the next available date (including Sundays). Postponed or suspended FINAL games shall be played on Monday, June 15.

All varsity games vs CIAC member schools and out-of-state games whose schools are members of their respective state association shall be considered for tournament qualification. Teams must play a minimum of TEN (10) games and have a winning percentage of 40%. Games played with non-CIAC member schools will not count toward tournament play. Only the first two games against any opponent shall count for CIAC tournament qualification.

List size of home field (Width / Length) -- Minimum field is 53-1/3 x 110 yards
List condition of field for tournament play -- Excellent / Good / Fair / Poor / Lights
Location or name of field if other than high school field

APPENDIX B

Tournament Officials Selection

Due May 13, 2026 A master list of lacrosse officials will be drawn up by the Tournament Director.

List eight (8) officials considered by the coach to be most qualified to work tournament games. Include the officials board. If you list less than eight, the Tournament Director will assign from the Master List. You may also list two (2) officials whose services you prefer NOT to have.

- Go to casciac.org
- In the lefthand column click “Eligibility Center”
- Click “Officials Voting”
- At the top of the page select Boys Lacrosse

COACHING CERTIFICATIONS

For a list of all coaching certifications and links to forms go to:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KnzXy81GK9x88bY1-5JBSuP-8SY34sdc/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=104830910406558409235&rtopf=true&sd=true>

Volunteer Coaches – The State of Connecticut Department of Education does not distinguish between volunteer or paid coaches when considering certifications or responsibilities. All coaches who are responsible for or instruct students in any way must follow Connecticut State Law for certifications and responsibilities. Therefore, volunteer coaches are required to obtain the same certifications as all other coaches.

CIAC TOURNAMENT SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS (INCLUDING PARENTS)

Positive Cheering and Behavior

- Spectators will cheer positively to support their team, not negatively against the opponent. “No Negatives, No Names, No Numbers”.
- Spectators will show respect for the game officials and their decisions.
- Spectators will respect CIAC tournament/site directors, tournament staff, and security when behavior is addressed and if asked to leave the event.

Dress Code

- For CIAC tournament contests, all spectators should be appropriately attired according to their school’s policy. No attire with visible degrading or demeaning writings/logos is permitted.

Signs, Banners, Flags and Powder

- Any signs must be positive in nature, reference only the school supported by the sign maker, be small enough not to obstruct the view of other spectators and be pre-approved by the school’s athletic director reference in the sign. Spectators are not permitted to bring flags for safety reasons. When asked to remove a sign, banner, or flag, participating schools will respect and follow the direction of any CIAC tournament/site director, tournament staff, or security personnel.
- All signs, banners, and flags may be restricted pending facility usage requirements or at the discretion of the CIAC tournament director. CIAC tournament directors/staff will notify the athletic director when such restrictions are necessary.
- Powder or powder-like substances are prohibited at all visiting and neutral sites.

Noisemakers

- **Outdoor Sports** – No air horns, horns of any kind, or whistles will be used. Any other noisemakers may be allowed with approval from the host athletic/site director and the spectator’s school athletic director. Noisemakers can only be used during “dead ball” situations to celebrate good play.
- **Indoor Sports** – No noisemakers will be allowed. Pep bands are allowable with the prior approval of the CIAC tournament and site director, provided the school band has adult supervision, and the band only plays during “dead ball” situations.

Tailgating

- Tailgating is prohibited on the grounds of any CIAC tournament or championship event.

Streaming

- CIAC championships are streamed on the NFHS Network. Any streaming, broadcasting, or reproduction of a CIAC tournament game or championship without the expressed written consent of the CIAC is strictly prohibited.