

CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
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22nd ANNUAL 2026 CIAC GIRLS LACROSSE PACKET

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PLEASE TAKE NOTE: 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.

- **The Girls Lacrosse Committee voted to allow schools to opt up to the LL Division for a one-year period. For the 2026 season the deadline for schools to notify the CIAC is Friday, February 6, 2026.**
- **The Girls Lacrosse Committee will continue to use LaxNumbers to rank/seed each of the four tournament divisions.**

All scheduled games against out-of-state teams who are members of their state association will count for CIAC tournament qualification. See page 121 of the CIAC Handbook – Rules for Out-of-State Contests.

Regular Season Games – If ended after 75% of the game has been completed, it will be declared an official game. If the score is tied after 80% of the game has been completed, it will be declared an official tie game. **If interrupted (suspended) before the completion of 75% (36 minutes) the game must be played from the point of interruption.** However, a suspended game may be terminated and considered a complete game by mutual agreement of both schools.

Regular Season Overtime Procedure – After a five-minute rest and coin toss called by the visiting captain for choice of ends, six minute (two three-minute periods) of “sudden victory” (first goal wins). Game clock will not stop on every whistle in the last two minutes of each half. The clock only stops on official time-outs or fouls in the critical scoring area unless a team is leading by 10 or more goals. Same in the overtime procedures. The clock stops on official time-outs or fouls in the critical scoring area. **By state adoption**, if the overtime period ends in a tie, the game will be declared an official game.

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 may be terminated and considered a complete game by mutual agreement of both schools and with the approval of the CIAC Tournament Director.

CIAC Tournament “Sudden Victory” Overtime Procedure – The first “sudden victory” overtime period in the CIAC tournament is the same as in the regular season (first goal wins). If, at the conclusion of the first overtime, the teams remain tied, after a three-minute rest the teams will change ends. If the score remains tied, the “sudden victory” overtime will continue until the winning goal is scored.

The host school in the first round, second round, and quarter-final games must call Pat Javorski, Coordinator of Officials, and request that officials be assigned. The officials fee for the first round through the quarter-final round is \$124.61.

Expenses for first round 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.

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.

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

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 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 “Girls 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 girls lacrosse
- Enter the team scores

Tournament Rosters / Entry / Officials – Can be submitted on the Online Eligibility Center. Rosters must be submitted by May 18, 2026. 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

Athletes 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.

CIAC Ticket Policy - ALL TICKET SALES FOR CIAC TOURNAMENT GAMES WILL BE SOLD AND REDEEMED VIA DIGITAL TICKETS.

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.

Promoting Sportsmanship – 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.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

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 found on this link: <https://ciac.fpsports.org/TenantHTML.aspx?D=Resources&F=Class%20Act%20Schools.html>

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 school year, schools should make their teams aware of the CIAC tournament schedule that is posted three 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. **Note: June 14 will be the date of the 2026 Championships.**

ACT Test Dates
February 14, 2026
April 11, 2026
June 13, 2026

SAT Test Dates
March 14, 2026
May 2, 2026
June 6, 2026

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 persons 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 purposes of this policy, an unmanned aerial system is any aircraft without a human pilot on board.

2026 GIRLS LACROSSE RULE CHANGES

- 4-1-2** Stick checks may be requested at any point during a quarter break, halftime, a team time-out, prior to the start of an overtime period, prior to the start of a draw, and immediately following goals in regulation and overtime periods.
- 2-8-3 (New) & Penalty** No on-field player can wear an audio or video device during the game.
- 4-3-3d** If a possession time-out is called when the goalkeeper has possession of the ball in the goal circle, play will resume at the closest dot and any player may restart play.
- 5-2 Penalty 1** When one player draws illegally, the free position may be taken by any player on the opponent’s team at the spot of the ball.

7-3 Penalties 1a, 3a When a goal circle foul is committed; the offending player shall move 4 meters away from the player taking the free position instead of behind.

2026 Girls Lacrosse Editorial Changes

2-2-4; 2-7-1a, 4 & 5 (New); 2-7-6; 4-4; 5-4-1 & 2; 7-1-3; 8-1-1 Note; 10-1 Penalties; 10-1 Penalties 6; 10-1 Penalties 13b; 11-1-1; 11-2 Penalties 2 thru 6; 12-3-2; 12-8 Misconduct Penalties 3e; 12-8 Coach Misconduct Penalties 2; 13 Flag; 13 Restraining Line

2026 Girls Lacrosse Points of Emphasis

1. Identifying and Managing Fouls During Scoring Plays
2. Efficient Draw Administration
3. Delay of Game/Use of the Green Card

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1.0 DIVISIONS

1.1 Only members of the CIAC may enter this tournament which will be divided into four (4) divisions based on the 9-12 girl enrollment for preceding year. A listing of tournament divisions are available on the girls lacrosse page at ciacsports.com.

LL – 665 and Over L – 461-664 M – 321-460 S – Up to 320

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. Games cannot be added to the schedule after April 4, 2026.
- 2.3 The maximum games per week is two (2). However, member schools may schedule and play three (3) games per week four (4) times during the 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 girls’ lacrosse tournament will be Wednesday, May 27, 2026. Games played after this date shall not count for tournament entry, regardless of the reason 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 teams. Sites for the semi-finals and final games will be pre-determined by the tournament director.

Tournament Game Dates / Times

First Round	Friday/Saturday, May 29, 30	TBA
Second Round	Tuesday, June 2	5:00 p.m.
Quarter-finals	Friday, June 5	5:00 p.m.
Semi-finals	Tuesday, June 9	Time – TBA
Finals	Saturday, June 13	Time – TBA
Finals – Rain Date	Monday, June 15	Time - TBA

Any first round game, with mutual agreement, can be moved from Friday, May 29 to Saturday, May 30.

If two games are played back-to-back at the same site, the second game will start no later than 30 minutes following the conclusion of the first game.

Time changes to be reviewed by the Tournament Director. The site director shall confirm with the tournament director before any site/time change has been proposed. The tournament director has the final authority in these cases.

- 2.7 **Inclement Weather** – 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 finals would be Monday, June 15, 2026.

3.0 ENTRY PROCEDURE / QUALIFYING

3.1 **Game Results** – All regular season scores must be entered online on the day of the game as soon as possible following the game’s completion. Regardless of regular season postponed games, Wednesday, May 27, 2026 is the final date to count games for tournament play.

- Scores must be entered on the new CIAC website at <https://ciac.fpsports.org/>
- In the lefthand column select “Schedules – High School”
- At the top of the page select the school and “Girls 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 girls lacrosse
- Enter the team scores

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 **Tournament Rosters** – Must be submitted on the Online Eligibility Center. Rosters must be submitted by Monday, May 18, 2026. 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

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

3.4 To qualify for the CIAC tournament, a team must play a minimum of ten (10) varsity games and have a **winning percentage of 40% or better** against CIAC member teams or out-of-state schools who are members of their respective state association. If more than 16 teams qualify, the first round will occur.

3.5 All varsity games against CIAC member schools and out-of-state games whose schools are members of their respective state association shall count for CIAC tournament qualification. Only the first two (2) games against an opponent during the regular season shall count toward CIAC tournament qualification.

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

4.0 EXPENSES / TICKETS

4.1 **Expenses for first round 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 officials and site director**. All tickets in these rounds will be sold digitally.

4.5 Charges for admission to the quarter-final, semi-final and final games will be: *(Subject to change)
\$5.00 – Senior Citizens (age 65 and older) / 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.

**Championship Games – All tickets will be \$10.00. Free – children five (5) and under.
Free – Military in uniform or with I.D.**

ALL TICKET SALES FOR CIAC TOURNAMENT GAMES WILL BE SOLD AND REDEEMED VIA DIGITAL TICKETS.

4.6 During the 2026 tournament, the following passes will be honored at all games where admission is charged:

- CIAC head varsity girls lacrosse coaches pass (must request by email to Judy Sylvester – jsylvester@casciac.org)
- Principal or designee and athletic director of competing schools
- Press Card
- CIAC Officials Association membership card – Lacrosse officials ONLY
- No other complimentary admissions will be permitted

5.0 FORFEITS / DISQUALIFICATIONS PER CIAC HANDBOOK

5.1 Member schools will be required to submit regular season schedules via the Online Eligibility Center. Determination of forfeitures will be based on this schedule.

A forfeit game shall count as a victory for the team declared the winner and as a loss for the team declared a loser in determining tournament qualification and rating. For tournament qualification, 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 NFHS rule violation, or a team refuses to play after being instructed to do so by the game official.

5.4 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 Canceled 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 Chair of the sports committee affected and the principal 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 rating 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.

6.0 OFFICIALS

6.1 By Wednesday, May 13, 2026 each head coach must submit a list of eight (8) officials who in her/his opinion are tournament caliber officials. At the same time you may select 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 girls lacrosse

6.2 The coordinator of officials, Pat Javorski, will assign USAL certified officials for all tournament games using the Master list of Officials and the modified school list as the source.

Two officials will be assigned to first and second round games.

Three officials will be assigned to quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals.

6.3 **The home team will pay the officials fees through the second round. The fee is \$124.61.**

6.4 Identity of the officials assigned games by the assigner will not be disclosed prior to the game.

6.5 Only USAL certified officials will be used for regular season games to count toward tournament play.

7.0 PROTESTS – CIAC

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. NFHS lacrosse or CIAC game rule interpretations and judgments by the game officials cannot be protested. The protest committee for each sport shall consist of the Associate Executive Director for CIAC, the Chair of the tournament committee, an administrator member of the sports committee, the tournament director, and the coaches’ chair 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 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 chair of the CIAC Board of Control, the Executive Director of CIAC, and the chair 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 scorer at conclusion of the contest is final unless an error is discovered. Such error shall be corrected as covered by specific contest rules.

7.4 **Decisions by Game Officials** – Protests arising from the decisions, interpretations and misapplication of the NFHS 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 CIAC.

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.

*LaxNumbers 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 divide 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 in a numeric representation of team performance.

- 8.2 **Tournament Format** – (See 3.4 for specific qualifying standards)

The pairings for the first round are contingent on the number of teams qualifying for the tournament. All teams with a 40% or better record will qualify and compete in the tournament if they so choose. If more than sixteen (16) teams qualify, teams will play off in the first round. If less than sixteen (16) teams qualify, byes in the first round will be assigned, starting with the top seed on down.

- 8.3 Rankings and pairings will be available via the CIAC web site 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 principal of the participating schools or his/her designee must 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 by the rules, the game may not continue until the 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 coaching responsibilities.

- 9.4 Use of tobacco or possession of alcoholic beverages of any kind, including champagne, and all other illegal substances are not permitted on the field of play or within the field or park at which a tournament game is scheduled. 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, 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 to the games. Bands and other musical groups, noisemakers that might interfere with the performance of the game, and banners or streamers are prohibited. Each school is responsible for compliance with this regulation.

10.0 **TOURNAMENT RULES / PROCEDURES**

10.1 **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 requests 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.

- 10.2 **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 after 75% of the game has been completed may be ruled an official game by the mutual agreement of both coaches.

- 10.3 In CIAC tournament play, overtime games will follow the “sudden victory” procedure outlined on the Alert page.

- 10.4 In the event of any situation not covered in these rules, the decision of the tournament committee shall be final.

- 10.5 Awards – Winner and runner-up plaques will be presented at the final game. Each varsity player and coach on the winning and runner-up teams will receive a medallion.

11.0 **RESPONSIBILITIES OF TOURNAMENT SITE DIRECTORS**

The site director shall confirm with the tournament director before any site/time change has been proposed. The tournament director has the final authority in these cases.

It shall be the duty of the Site Director to see that the following facilities are available 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 2026 Rulebook. A field diagram can be accessed on the girls’ lacrosse page on the ciacsports.com web site. Each goal (properly padded) should be provided with a playable net. For semi-finals and finals, the distance between goals shall be 100 yards.

- 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 An experienced scorer and adult timer will be provided by the Site Director, and a sufficiently large scorer and timer table with bench or chairs will be made available for the game. **Also, a visible scoreboard is required. An air horn is required.**
- 11.4 Suitable timing devices – The conventional time clock will be available to signal the start and expiration of playing time. If the facility has a scoreboard clock, the clock will remain in use during the entire playing time (four 12-minute quarters, with 2 minutes in between quarters, and all overtime periods).
- 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 **The CIAC will arrange for athletic trainer/medical services at all championship final games only when the participating schools cannot provide them. The school must contact the tournament director if they cannot obtain a trainer. Home/higher seeded teams shall provide athletic trainer services up through the semi-final games.**
- 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 that has more than fifteen miles to travel.
- 11.8 If a field is 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 yet be suitable for play.)
- 11.9 **The scores of tournament games will be telephoned immediately after the conclusion of the game by the winning coach to the tournament director.**
- 12.0 **RESPONSIBILITIES OF TOURNAMENT COACHES**
- 12.1 Directions on how to reach the field.
- 12.2 All weekday games to start as outlined. (Section 2.6)
- 12.3 The higher ranked team will wear white jerseys unless agreed upon.
- 12.4 Visiting teams arrange and pay for busses.
- 12.5 Games are to be played on home field of the higher ranked team in the pairings unless the field is not regulation by NFHS rule book.
- 12.6 **Before a Game** – Arrive in adequate time with your team. Always stay with your players during the pre-game period.
- 12.7 **During the Game** – Conduct yourself (and assistants) in a proper manner at all times. Set a good example for your players and followers. Do not engage in theatrics or any unsportsmanlike conduct of any type that might tend to incite fans to behave badly.
- 12.8 **After the Game** – Escort your team as a group from the playing surface. Make sure nothing is left behind and the area is cleared of trash.

- 12.9 Coaches and officials by the very nature of their positions exert a tremendous influence over the game. This influence on the game must be exerted in a most positive manner by showing complete respect for officials.
- 12.10 Alcohol for celebration (usually brought by spectators) is prohibited. A word from you to your athletes, prior to the game, may be enough to control this situation and avoid embarrassing the team and tainting their achievement.
- 12.11 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 over school intercom.

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

Cooperate with your school 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 discuss plans for the smooth running of the game.

- 13.2 **During the Game** – Position yourself strategically where the conduct of your coach(es), 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 the 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 all buildings.

14.0 2026 GIRLS LACROSSE CALENDAR

- * March 21 (Saturday) First practice date
- * April 4 (Saturday) First game date
- * May 13 (Wednesday) Tournament officials selection form due via Online Eligibility Center
- * May 18 (Monday) Team roster form due via Online Eligibility Center
- * May 27 (Wednesday) Last date for regular season games to count for state tournament
- * May 28 (Thursday) Rankings and pairings distributed via CIAC web site
- * May 29/30 (Fri/Sat) First round
- * June 2 (Tuesday) Second round
- * June 5 (Friday) Quarter-finals
- * June 9 (Tuesday) Semi-finals
- * June 13 (Saturday) Finals
- * June 15 (Monday) Finals – Rain date

Any first round game with mutual agreement can be moved from Friday, May 29 to Saturday, May 30.

15.0 CIAC GIRLS LACROSSE COMMITTEE

Administrators

Terra Tigno, Principal, Newington High School – CH
Georgia Robert, Assistant Principal, Simsbury High School
Catherine Xeller, Assistant Principal, Holy Cross High School
Brian Jehning, Assistant Principal, Pomperaug High School, Southbury

Coaches

Lori Connelly, North Branford High School
Terri Ziemnicki, Granby Memorial High School
Maura Fletcher, Newtown High School
Phil Schneider, East Lyme High School
Dan Crowley, Berlin High School

Consultants

Cindy Dysenchuk, Glastonbury High School – Tournament Director
Pat Javorski, Windsor Locks – Coordinator of Officials
Tim McCluskey, Tolland High School – CAAD
Chris Farrell, Daniel Hand High School, Madison – CAAD
Jenn Whelan, Rocky Hill – Officials
Margaret Williamson, Simsbury

APPENDIX A

2026 Girls Lacrosse Team Roster / Game Results

Tournament roster is due Monday, May 18, 2026 via the Online Eligibility Center. 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.

The final date to count for tournament play is Wednesday, May 27, 2026. 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/>
- * In the lefthand column select “Schedules – High School”
- * At the top of the page select the school and Girls Lacrosse 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 girls lacrosse
- * Enter the team scores

Roster – Any number of eligible players may be used.

Games that are postponed or suspended shall be played on the next available date (excluding Sundays). Postponed or suspended FINAL games shall be played on Sunday.

All varsity games vs CIAC member schools and out-of-state schools who 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 Connecticut schools will not count toward tournament play. Only the first two games against any opponent shall count for CIAC tournament qualification.

APPENDIX B

Tournament Officials Selection

Due May 13, 2026 via the Online Eligibility Center - 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 girls lacrosse

APPENDIX C

Coaching Certifications

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

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

