

54th ANNUAL CIAC FIELD HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

2026 INFORMATION PACKET

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Appendix A – CIAC Field Hockey Head Injury Surveillance Report

Appendix B – Certifications / Coaching Certifications

Tournament Director

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Officials Coordinator

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CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

FIELD HOCKEY ALERT PAGE

Rule 1-5-b Player Uniforms – The **home team** shall wear single solid **dark-colored** uniform tops front and back on the torso, and the **visiting team** shall wear single solid **white uniform** tops front and back on the torso.

Coaches Disqualification Penalty – All coaches who are disqualified at any level will be suspended for the next two games (see 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.

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.

Students with Special Needs– Coaches are reminded to inform contest officials prior to each competition of any students with special needs who could be competing in the contest when her disability could impact the individual’s performance or the conduct of the competition.

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 sites 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.

Unmanned Aerial Systems at CIAC-Sanctioned Events – The use of unmanned aerial systems, often referred to as drones, are 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 purposes of this policy, an unmanned aerial system is any aircraft without a human pilot on board.

IMPORTANT REMINDER – IN ACCORDANCE WITH NFHS RULE 1-6-5

Goggles may be worn by all field players. A face mask may be worn by field players throughout the game. The face mask must be smooth, rounded, preferably transparent or single-colored and fit flush with the face. It shall not be attached to any hard, unyielding headgear (even if padded).

Rule 1-6-5(c) and Penalties 1 Clarification:

- Players may wear a smooth, rounded wire-caged face mask while defending a penalty corner.
- Players are expected to remove the wire-caged mask at the completion of the penalty corner.
- If no suitable opportunity arises to remove the mask, the player may continue to wear it within the 25-yard area.
- **Violation** – Should a player cross the 25-yard line while still wearing the wire-caged mask, the umpire shall **stop play immediately** and award a **free hit to the opponent at the 25-yard line**.
- All standard parameters for a free hit within the 25-yard area apply in this situation.

Important Note: To prioritize player safety and risk minimization, *officials should stop play immediately if a player violates this rule, rather than waiting for the first stoppage of play*. Therefore, Rule 1-6-5 Penalty 1 (page 13), which references assessing a penalty at the first stoppage of play, does not apply in the case of a player crossing the 25-yard line while wearing a wire-caged face mask. *The player shall still be assessed a misconduct when the official stops play.*

2026 NATIONAL FEDERATION FIELD HOCKEY RULE CHANGES

- 1-6-1** Clarifies required construction and purpose of tooth and mouth protectors. Protectors must provide adequate protection to the teeth and mouth and may not include attachments or features that pose a safety or health risk.
- 4-4-3** Eliminates substitutions prior to a penalty corner, except in limited situations involving the defending goalkeeper. Substitutions may occur following completion of the penalty corner or prior to a penalty stroke.
- 10-3-3 Penalties 3** When an attacker enters the circle before the ball is played, the inserter shall be required to go beyond the center line.

2026 Editorial Changes

1-5-1f, 10-2-11

2026 Points of Emphasis

1. Penalty Corners
2. Wire-Caged Face Masks Outside the 25-Yard Line
3. Player Equipment – Tooth and Mouth Protectors
4. Authenticating Mark

CIAC FIELD HOCKEY COMMITTEE

Administrators

Dana Mulligan – Woodland Reg. High School, Beacon Falls – Chair
Tom McKenna – Parish Hill High School, Chaplin
Megan Dwyer – New Milford High School

Coaches

Kitty Palmer – Guilford High School
Maureen Perkins – Glastonbury High School
Jenna Tuccio – Stonington High School
Dot Johnson – Granby – Ex officio

Consultants

Dawn O’Neil – Willington – Tournament Director
Deborah Martin – Collinsville – Officials Coordinator
John Perosino – Cheshire High School – CAAD
Lynne Flint – Haddam-Killingworth High School, Higganum – CAAD
Cookie Bromage – West Suffield
Carol Janssen – West Suffield
Patti Klecha-Porter – Middlefield – Officials
Babby Nuhn – North Branford High School
Tara Winch - Westbrook
Dan Scavone – CIAC Liaison

2026 CIAC FIELD HOCKEY COACHES CALENDAR – DON’T MISS A DATE

Dear Field Hockey Coach:

Enclosed herewith you will find the 2026 CIAC Field Hockey tournament procedures, site information and officials’ selection forms. The following dates are listed for your ready reference and information.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Thurs., August 20 | State Coaches Meeting and Rules Interpretations – CIAC Office, Cheshire – 4:30 p.m. |
| Mon., August 24 | Practice may begin |
| Tues., September 8 | First Contest Date |
| Fri., September 18 | Site Information Form Due – via the online eligibility center |
| Thurs., October 22 | Officials Form Due – via the online eligibility center |
| Mon., October 26 | Tournament Roster – via the online eligibility center – mail entry fee to CIAC office |
| Mon., November 2 | Last Date to Count – All scores not on entry form must be reported via the online eligibility center |
| Tues., November 3 | Tournament pairings will be available on the web site (www.ciacsports.com) |
| Thurs., November 5 | Tournament Begins – Qualifying Round Divisions S and M |
| Sat., November 21 | Finals |
| | Rain date – Sunday, November 22 |
| Mon., November 23 | Head Injury Report Due – via CIAC online eligibility center |
| Tues., November 24 | Coaches Meeting – CIAC Office – 4:30 p.m. |

2026 CIAC FIELD HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

- 1.0 **TOURNAMENT DIVISIONS** -- The 2026 CIAC Field Hockey Tournament will be conducted in three divisions. Placement of schools is based on the 9-12 girl enrollment in 2025-26. Tournament divisions are available on the field hockey page at ciacsports.com. If your school is NOT listed and you plan to enter the 2026 CIAC Field Hockey Tournament, please notify the CIAC office.

L – 608 and over

M – 351-607

S – Up to 350

2.0 **PRACTICE & PLAYING DATES**

- 2.1 Member schools may start practice on, but not before Monday, August 24, 2026.
- 2.2 Member schools may play the first game on, but not before Tuesday, September 8, 2026.
- 2.3 The last date for games to count for the 2026 CIAC Field Hockey Tournament will be Monday, November 2, 2026. Games commencing after 7:30 p.m. on this date shall not count for tournament entry, regardless of the reasons for playing such games.

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

- 3.1 To be eligible for consideration in the tournament, a team must play a minimum of ten (10) games AGAINST VARSITY OPPONENTS and have won 40% of its approved scheduled games played. Only the first two games played with any single opponent will be included in the ten (10) games. Win percentage is calculated based on team receiving two points for each win, 1 point for each tie and 1 point for each overtime loss. That total is then divided by two times the number of games played.
- 3.2 Only games played with Conference member schools, American School for the Deaf, or Region I out-of-state schools who are members of their state athletic association shall be considered.
- 3.3 Games played with non-member Connecticut secondary schools shall not be considered in the rating of teams.
- 3.4 Only games listed on the original schedule will count for tournament purposes.

4.0 **FORFEITS**

- 4.1 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 qualifications and ratings. For tournament qualifications only the following reasons for a forfeit shall be accepted.
- 4.2 A team shall forfeit a game or games if through a violation it is required to do so under the CIAC Rules of Eligibility.
- 4.3 A team shall forfeit a game if the game official declares the game a forfeit as a result of a National Federation rule violation, or a team refuses to play after being instructed to do so by the game official.
- 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 Canceled Game/Forfeiture Form his/her decision 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 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.

- 4.5 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.

5.0 ENTRY PROCEDURE

- 5.1 **Schedule** – 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.

All CIAC member schools are to report their 2026 schedule for field hockey via the online eligibility center. Regular season schedule additions made after September 8, 2026, will not be counted for tournament qualification.

1. Scores of all games scheduled must appear on tournament entry form.
2. All games cancelled should be reported on tournament entry form in place of score.
3. Games not reported here will not be considered for tournament qualification.
4. Failure to submit schedule of games may result in disqualification from tournament.

- 5.2 **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 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 left hand column select “Schedules – High School”
- At the top of the page select the school and “Field Hockey” 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 field hockey
- Enter the team scores

5.3 Field Hockey Site Information

Used to determine suitability of field for all tournament games including sites of higher ranked teams.

In order to ensure that fields are of tournament quality, officials will monitor them throughout the season. Schools with questionable fields will be contacted by the committee. Schools that cannot provide a tournament quality site may be denied a home site in games through the quarter-finals. Schools that can’t charge admission for quarter-final games or cannot provide a quality tournament playing field will not be permitted to be a home site.

If your field meets the above specifications and you qualify for the tournament, your site may be considered for further tournament use. Regulation size field – 100 yards by 60 yards. Five yard area free of obstructions for team bench and spectator area. Surface smooth, unevenness or irregular heights

would cause the ball to rise in an unsafe manner or prohibit skillful play. Grass length shall be no more than 1-1/2 inches. Note: All fields with overlapping infields will be prohibited for tournament play.

PLEASE NOTE: Once you commit your field, it must remain available.

Note: The CIAC Field Hockey Committee reserves the right to select all sites. Non-submission of this form may result in loss of home site advantage.

5.4 **Team Roster** – Must be completed by Monday, October 26, 2026. **Each school will be allowed not over THIRTY (30) girls in uniform.** 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

5.5 **Submit Regular Season Scores** – 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/>
- Click the menu icon on the upper 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 “Field Hockey 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 to field hockey
- Enter the team scores

5.6 **Entry Fee** -- \$100 Entry Fee should be mailed to CIAC office, 30 Realty Drive, Cheshire, CT 06410.

CIAC Late Entry

- **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.**

5.7 FAILURE TO SUBMIT TOURNAMENT INFORMATION BY PRESCRIBED TIMELINES, OR FAILURE TO REPORT A SCORE OR CANCELLATION OF GAME, WILL RESULT IN FINES IN ACCORDANCE WITH CIAC POLICY.

Tournament Regulations Violations

If a school fails to comply with tournament regulations and such 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.

5.8 **Final Scores** – Regardless of regular season postponed games, the date of November 2, 2026 MUST BE THE FINAL DATE TO COUNT for the tournament.

6.0 **OFFICIALS**

6.1 Coaches may submit via the online eligibility center by Thursday, October 22, 2026, up to three (3) “non-preferred” officials may be designated. (See 10.0 for additional information regarding officials.)

- Go to casciac.org
- In the left-hand column click “Eligibility Center”
- Click “Officials Voting”
- At the top of the page select field hockey

7.0 **RANKING / SEEDING**

7.1 Ranking teams for inclusion and for the purpose of pairings shall use a point system. A school will receive points for each of its wins and ties based on the record of the school(s) they defeated and tied, points will be weighted based on the league of the opponent it defeated or tied to calculate power points. See table below for league weights. Lastly, calculated power points will be averaged by dividing the Power Points by the number of games played.

There must be at least ten (10) games against eligible opponents.

For each win, schools will receive 10 points for each of that opponent’s wins and 5 points for each of that opponent’s ties. Points will then be multiplied by the league weight of the opponent they defeated.

For each tie, schools will receive 5 points for each of that opponents’ wins and 2.5 points for each of that opponents’ ties. Points will then be multiplied by the league weight of the opponent they tied.

For each win against an out of state opponent, schools will receive 364 power points. For each tie against an out-of-state opponent, schools will receive 0 power points.

If a school defeats or ties a school twice, it will receive the points for that opponent’s win & ties twice.

| League | League Weight |
|--|----------------------|
| Berkshire League | 5 |
| Central Connecticut Conference | 5 |
| Eastern Connecticut Conference | 5 |
| Fairfield County Interscholastic Athletic Conference | 10 |
| Naugatuck Valley League | 5 |
| North Central Connecticut Conference | 5 |
| Shoreline Conference | 5 |
| Southwestern Conference | 5 |
| Southern Connecticut Conference | 7 |

Example: If Team A wins 8 games and ties 2 games during the season against opponents as detailed below, they will have 2507.5 Power Points.

| Game Result | Opponent's # Of Win & Ties | Points | Opponent Team's League Weight | Power Points |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Team A wins over Team B | Wins: 7 Ties:0 | 70 | 5 | 350 |
| Team A wins over Team C | Wins: 2 Ties:1 | 25 | 5 | 125 |
| Team A wins over Team D | Wins: 6 Ties:1 | 65 | 5 | 325 |
| Team A wins over Team E | Wins: 4 Ties:0 | 40 | 10 | 400 |
| Team A ties with Team F | Wins: 5 Ties:2 | 30 | 7 | 210 |
| Team A wins over Team B | Wins: 7 Ties:0 | 70 | 5 | 350 |
| Team A ties with Team D | Wins: 6 Ties: 1 | 32.5 | 5 | 162.5 |
| Team A ties with Team G | Wins: 3 Ties:0 | 30 | 7 | 210 |
| Team A wins over Team H | Wins: 5 Ties:0 | 50 | 5 | 250 |
| Team A wins over Team C | Wins: 2 Ties: 1 | 25 | 5 | 125 |
| | | | | 2507.5 |

7.2 In ranking teams by power points, ties will be broken by the following steps: 1) Total wins; 2) Most wins and ties; 3) Head-to-head; 4) By lot.

7.3 Qualifying and first round games will be held to determine the teams who will play in the quarter-finals.

7.4 The pairings will be made as follows:

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

7.5 If fewer than 16 teams qualify under the highest ranked teams will draw byes for first round.

7.6 If more than 16 teams qualify, the qualifying pairings will be as follows:

| | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| If 17 teams | If 18 teams | If 19 teams |
| 16 vs 17 | 15 vs 18 | 14 vs 19 |
| | 16 vs 17 | 15 vs 18 |
| | | 16 vs 17 |

(Additional pairings will follow this pattern.)

7.7 **Teams will maintain original ranking throughout the tournament.**

- 7.8 Ranking and pairing information will be distributed via the CIAC web site on Tuesday, November 3, 2026 – www.ciacsports.com

**INFORMATION FOR TEAMS THAT QUALIFY FOR
THE 2026 CIAC FIELD HOCKEY TOURNAMENT**

8.0 **TENTATIVE SCHEDULED PLAYING DATES FOR THE 2026 CIAC FIELD HOCKEY TOURNAMENT**

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Qualifying Round -- | S, M -- | Thursday, November 5 |
| Qualifying Round -- | L | Friday or Saturday, November 6 or 7 |
| First Round -- | S, M -- | Tuesday, November 10 |
| First Round -- | L -- | Wednesday, November 11 |
| Quarter-finals -- | S, M -- | Thursday, November 12 |
| Quarter-finals -- | L -- | Friday, November 13 or Saturday, November 14 |
| (Higher Seed Host School has final determination on the day and time) | | |
| Semi-finals -- | S, M, L -- | Tuesday, November 17 |
| Finals -- | Saturday, November 21 – Wethersfield High School Field Turf Complex Game Times – 11:00 a.m., 1:15 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. | |

Final game(s) to be played on Sunday, November 22, if inclement weather causes postponement on Saturday.

9.0 **TIME OF GAMES**

9.1 All tournament games at fields without lights shall start promptly by 2:00 p.m. Playdowns, first round and quarter-final games at fields with lights may start between the times of 2:00 – 7:00 p.m. and will be determined by the host school in conjunction with the tournament director. The time of the games scheduled on Saturday, or a holiday will be at the discretion of the tournament director. Semi-final and final game times will be determined by the tournament director.

9.2 **Warm-up Policy for Semi-final Doubleheaders Only** – The policy for CIAC field hockey semi-finals played as doubleheaders at the same site is as follows: The teams playing the second game will have a twenty (20) minute on-field warm-up which may alter the scheduled start time. This can be shortened by the mutual agreement of both head coaches. Your officials know this policy so perhaps you can meet when you get on the field to set your warm-up.

10.0 **OFFICIALS ASSIGNMENTS AND DUTIES**

- 10.1 The field hockey official's coordinator will assign officials for all games, including qualifying, first round, quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals.
- 10.2 Official fees will be paid by the host school in qualifying and first round games (See Handbook).
- 10.3 Official fees will be paid by CIAC for quarter-final, semi-final and final games.
- 10.4 Prior to each game, officials will inspect the field for safe conditions and height of grass. Officials will meet with the head coach and captain(s) from each team to verify equipment and uniform requirements.
- 10.5 The names of officials assigned will be provided to home athletic directors on game day.
- 10.6 Officials are to use common sense when ruling on cold weather clothing. (The color of any long sleeve shirt worn under the game shirt must be consistent with the team color – dark with dark / light with light.)

11.0 SITES

- 11.1 Qualifying, first round and quarter-final games will be played on the home field of the higher ranked team in the pairings. Semi-final and final games will be played at a pre-determined site.
- 11.2 If in the event the host team for a qualifying, first round or quarter-final game cannot provide a field hockey field that meets the specifications, 100 by 60 yards, grass cut, or artificial turf and of tournament quality, the game shall be played on the opponent's field, providing it does meet these standards. **The host school has the option to secure an alternate home site that meets this standard.** If neither school can provide a field that meets the standards, the tournament director will determine the game site. Fields with overlapping infield areas will not be scheduled for tournament play.
- 11.3 If weather or playing conditions cause a postponement, these games will be played on the next day. **The site director, after consulting with the tournament director, will have the authority to postpone games in the event of inclement weather or poor playing conditions and will notify the officials coordinator, game officials and the visiting team(s) by 11:00 a.m. for a 2:00 p.m. game or three (3) hours prior to scheduled game time.** Once the game has begun the officials have the sole authority in regard to suspension of play or a postponement.
- 11.4 In order to avoid delaying the tournament schedule, if the higher ranked team's field is unplayable, the tournament director will determine the game location and time.
- 11.5 **Interrupted Games – CIAC Field Hockey Tournament Rules** – Interrupted games will be postponed and play resumed at the point of interruption. Games interrupted during the second half may be decided “complete” by mutual agreement of both coaches.

Note: This does not apply to overtime games because the game was tied at the end of regulation play. If an overtime period is interrupted, the game shall be restarted at the beginning of that overtime period. Officials must not start an overtime period if they are not certain that overtime period will be concluded.

Interrupted Games – Regular Season Games -- By state adoption, interrupted games shall be resumed at the point of interruption if play is stopped prior to the completion of the first half. If play is stopped after completion of the first half, the game is considered a completed game.

Regular Season Overtime Procedure – If the score is tied at the end of regulation, a single ten-minute 7 v 7 “Sudden Victory” overtime period will be played in accordance with NFHS rules. A goal ends the game. If the score remains tied at the conclusion of the overtime period, the game will be declared a tie.

CIAC Tournament Overtime Procedure – See page 13-14

- 11.6 Schools that do not charge admission for quarter-final games will not be permitted to be a home site.

12.0 TOURNAMENT RULES / PROCEDURES

- 12.1 a) For all games except the finals, **even at pre-determined sites**, the higher ranked school shall provide seven (7) of the same Federation approved **white and yellow** field hockey balls. **In the event of inclement weather limiting visibility, the officials will decide when the yellow balls shall be used to play.**
- b) **Supply three (3) voluntary ball retrievers from each team for games played through the finals** on all field surfaces. Six (6) pinnies of the same color will be provided by the home/higher ranked team.
- 12.2 Only players and coaches on the official team roster can be on the field prior to or during the game. **All players must wear protective equipment during warm-ups for regular season and tournament games.**

- 12.3 a) For all games prior to the semi-finals the home (higher ranked) team will provide the **official timer** and provide adult supervision if the timer is a student. CIAC will provide the official timer at the semi-finals and finals.
- b) The home or higher ranked team will provide the **official scorer**. If the scorer is a student, then adult supervision must also be provided. Both team's scorekeepers can sit at the scoring table to assist each other. The scorer(s) must be at the table ten minutes prior to the start of the game.
- 12.4 **ALL GAMES INCLUDING THE FINALS, the higher ranked team will wear solid dark shirts and dark socks/sock guards, and the lower ranked team will wear solid white shirts and white socks/sock guards.** If there is a conflict in colors, the lower ranked team must change shirts or wear pinnies.
- 12.5 For all games, coaches must list in the score book their starting players, their first and last names, and uniform numbers. Substitutes must also be listed, first and last name and uniform number.
- 12.6 The higher ranked team will have the choice of sideline bench.
- 12.7 Participating schools will supply athletic trainers for all neutral site games including the finals.
- 12.8 All contests shall be governed by National Federation Rules.
- 12.9 **CIAC Tournament Tie Breaking Procedures – All tournament games, including the championship FINALS will break a tie to determine a winner by the CIAC tournament tie-breaking procedures.** See page 13-14 for the details.
- 12.10 Scouting is permitted at regular season and CIAC tournament games only. Scouting of scrimmages, practices and jamborees is prohibited.
- 12.11 CIAC rules state that videotaping or filming by spectators be for personal use and not for broadcast purposes.
- 12.12 The decision of the CIAC Field Hockey Committee relative to the operation of the tournament shall be final.
- 12.13 **THE COACH OF THE WINNING TEAM MUST TELEPHONE RESULT TO THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR, DAWN O'NEIL – Cell - (860) 377-3321, BY 8:00 P.M. ON THE DAY OF THE GAME.**
- 12.14 The “international presentation of teams” will be used for team introductions at the semi-finals and finals.

International presentation of teams – Teams will line up on their respective sideline starting with captains, followed by teammates in numerical order. The teams will then be led out in a single file to mid-field by the officials for instructions. During introductions players may step forward then back in line.

13.0 **PROTESTS**

- 13.1 **Decision by Game Officials** – Protests arising from the decisions, interpretations and misapplication of the National Federation 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.

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.

Any team leaving the contest area before the conclusion of the contest because of dissatisfaction with the officiating will render the school liable to disciplinary action by the conference.

- 13.2 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 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.

2026 CIAC FIELD HOCKEY TOURNAMENT TIE-BREAKING PROCEDURES

All NFHS Rules shall apply except as modified below:

- A tied game will be broken to determine the winner by playing up to two 10-minute **Sudden Victory** periods with teams consisting of seven players (7 v 7).
- There will be a five-minute intermission between the end of regulation and the first overtime period, and a two-minute intermission if a second 10-minute 7 v 7 period is needed.
- If the score remains tied at the end of the second 7 v 7 overtime period, a **Shoot-Out** will take place.
- The lower ranked team will call all coin tosses.
- There will be no additional team timeouts during the overtime periods. However, a team may use any unused timeouts during the 7 v 7 overtime periods.
- A player disqualified (red card) during regulation play shall not be allowed to play in any of the overtime procedures, and the team shall play short in the 7 v 7 overtime periods.
- A player suspended (green or yellow card) during regulation play shall not be replaced or returned and the team plays short in the 7 v 7 overtime period until the suspension time is completed.

Sudden Victory 7 v 7

- Each team will begin the overtime period with seven players, one of which must be a GK, unless players were disqualified or have not completed a suspension during any previous playing periods.
- The coin toss for the first overtime period will determine ball possession. The direction of play remains the same as the regulation second half.
- If a second overtime period is necessary, the teams shall switch attacking ends and the team that did not have possession at the beginning of the first overtime period will begin the second overtime period with the center pass.
- For penalty corners the defending team is permitted to have three field players and a GK behind its goal line.
- A player disqualified (red card) shall not be replaced and the team shall play short in the 7 v 7 overtime period(s).
- A player suspended (green or yellow card) during the 7 v 7 overtime period may not be replaced or returned until the suspension time is completed.
- The game is completed as soon as a goal is scored.

Shoot-Out

- Prior to the start of the Shoot-Out, there shall be a 5-minute intermission.
- A coin toss will give a team the choice to attack or defend.
- A player disqualified (red card) during the 7 v 7 is ineligible to participate in the Shoot-Out.
- A player suspended (green or yellow card) during the 7 v 7 is eligible to participate in the Shoot-Out only if the suspension period was completed before time expired.
- Teams will always begin the Shoot-Out with 5 players regardless of any disqualifications/suspensions.
- A series of five shots on goal shall be taken by individual players from each team in a one-on-one format (attacker vs GK), alternately against the same GK from the opposing team.
Note: Each coach will present a list of five players to the officials and the shots will be taken by the players in the order they are listed. If a player participates out of order, that one-on-one is over and no goal is awarded.
- There is no substitution of any player during the Shoot-Out except for injury to a player or suspension of or injury to a defending GK.
- The team scoring the highest number of goals shall be the winner.
- Once the Shoot-Out procedure is decisive, the game shall be complete and no more one-on-one attempts need to be taken.

Taking the Shoot-Out

- Team members and coaching staff are permitted to enter the field of play only in the area outside the 25-yard area used for the Shoot-Out.
- Only the player who is to take or defend a shoot-out may enter the 25-yard area.
- The GK of the team taking the shoot-out may be beyond the back line outside the circle.
- The GK starts on or behind the goal line between the posts.
- The ball is placed on the nearest 25-yard line opposite the center of the goal.
- The attacker stands outside the 25-yard line near the ball.
- The umpire blows the whistle to signal the start of the shoot-out. The attacker and GK may then move in any direction.
- The shoot-out is complete under the following conditions:
 - Eight seconds on turf or ten-seconds on grass has elapsed.
 - The attacker scores a goal.
 - The attacker fouls.
 - The ball goes out of play over the back line or sideline. (This includes the GK intentionally playing the ball over the back line – such action is not a foul in a Shoot-Out.
 - The ball simply going outside the circle a second time does not end the Shoot-Out.
- Unintentional foul by the GK – the shoot-out is retaken against the same attacker.
- Intentional foul by the GK – a penalty stroke is awarded. Any eligible player on the official roster may take the penalty stroke. The penalty stroke will take place before the next Shoot-Out. A player who has been disqualified due to a card is not eligible.
- A player may be suspended by a yellow or red card during the Shoot-Out.
- A suspended GK shall not take further part in the competition but can be replaced by any eligible player from the team. The replacement GK is allowed reasonable time to put on protective equipment.
- If an attacker is suspended during the Shoot-Out, no replacement is allowed. Any further Shoot-Out the player was entitled to take counts as no goal.

If no decision is reached after the first series of five one-on-one shoot-outs a **Sudden Victory Shoot-Out** format will be used to break the tie.

- For the second and any subsequent series of five one-on-one shoot-outs, coaches may use the same five players or select any mixture of five eligible players from the roster as well as change order. The list of five shooters must be presented to the official and the shots will be taken by the players in the order they are listed. If a player participates out of order, that one-on-one is over and no goal is awarded.
- The team that defended first in the first series will attack first in the second series. Teams will continue to alternate for any subsequent series.
- The first team awarded more goals than its opponent after an equal number of shoot-out attempts shall be the winner. One team goal is awarded to the winner of the series rather than the number of goals scored in the series.

14.0 **SUPERVISION / SPORTSMANSHIP**

- 14.1 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 and to the game officials.
- 14.2 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 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.
- 14.3 Use of tobacco products or possession of alcoholic beverages of any kind, including champagne, are not permitted on the field of play, including dugouts, or within the field or park at which a tournament game is scheduled. Many towns or fields which we use have local ordinances prohibiting the 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.
- 14.4 **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 at http://ciacsports.com/site/?page_id=10438.

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.

14.5 **Bench and Field Conduct**

Personnel – Only coaches, team members, statisticians, managers and trainers will be allowed in the bench area. Only players and coaches on the official team roster can be on the field prior to or during the game. **All players must wear protective equipment during warm-ups for regular season and tournament games.**

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

- 14.6 Team members in uniform, coaches, and managers 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 balloons or streamers are prohibited and each school principal is responsible for compliance with this regulation.

15.0 **EXPENSES / TICKETS**

- 15.1 **Expenses for qualifying and first round games will be borne by the participating teams. The host school may choose to charge admission. The CIAC Tournament Committee will assign the officials, and the host school will pay the officials.**

- 15.2 **Quarter-final games will be played at the site of the higher ranked team. The site director fee and the game officials will be paid by CIAC. In addition, CIAC will reimburse each host school’s expenses for essential personnel (i.e. ticket taker, ticket seller, etc.) submitted on the game reporting form up to a maximum of \$200.**

- 15.3 The semi-final and final games will be played at a pre-determined site. CIAC will pay the game officials fee.

- 15.4 Charges for admission to tournament games: (Subject to change)

| | |
|---|---------|
| Children five (5) and under | Free |
| Senior citizens (age 65 and older) | \$5.00 |
| Students (grades 1-12) | \$5.00 |
| Adults (all others not in the above categories) | \$10.00 |
| Military in uniform or with ID | Free |

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

15.5 During the 2026 tournament, the following passes will be honored at all games where an admission is charged.

- a) Principal (or designee) and athletic director of participating schools
- b) Press card
- c) **CIAC head varsity girls field hockey coaches tournament pass** (must be requested in writing through an email to Judy Sylvester – jsylvester@casciac.org)
- d) CIAC Officials Association – **Field Hockey membership card ONLY**
- e) No other complimentary admissions will be permitted

Each school in all divisions is allowed TEN (10) complimentary admissions to each game in which the school participates. Complimentary tickets will be sent to each home and away athletic director digitally directly from GoFan.

15.6 Schools will bear all traveling expenses.

16.0 **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>

CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
2026 CIAC Field Hockey Tournament

Dawn O'Neil
Tournament Director
10 Pinney Hill Road
Willington, CT 06279
Home (860) 377-3321
Email – pdeem@charter.net

Deborah Martin
Officials Coordinator
50 Dyer Avenue
Collinsville, CT 06019
Cell (860) 307-4188
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PLEASE PASS THIS ON TO THE PERSON WHO WILL SERVE AS SITE DIRECTOR AT YOUR SCHOOL

MEMORANDUM TO ALL SITE DIRECTORS

The Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference appreciates the use of your facilities, and the following is offered with the idea of assisting those who have been designated as Site Director. SITE DIRECTOR MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE FOR THE DURATION OF THE CONTEST and identify him/herself with team coaches and officials.

In case of inclement weather, the Athletic Director / Site Director must call the Tournament Director, the Officials Coordinator (game officials) and the visiting team(s) BY 11:00 a.m. for a 2:00 p.m. game and at least three (3) hours prior to scheduled game start.

Preparation of Playing Field

1. Line and groom the field according to Rule 1-1 (grass cut)
2. Obtain and place corner flags
3. Secure goal cages
4. Provide team benches, scoring tables, four chairs, horn and clock
5. Rope off spectator area
6. Dark Solid Color 18" boards are required for tournament play
7. Quick Dry Compound must be available at all sites
8. Provide cones to mark the team substitution area

Officials and Game Staff

The CIAC Field Hockey Committee will assign officials for ALL games. Do not include official's fees on expense sheet. For qualifying and first round games the home school will pay each official.

For all games except the finals, the higher ranked team must provide one scorer, one timekeeper, clock, stopwatch and horn and seven of the same game balls. (The timers and scorers are not to be provided by the site director and therefore will not be paid.) **If students serve as scorers or timers' adult supervision must be provided.**

NOTE: Service rendered must be stated in order for payment to be made.

The tournament director will assign all personnel for the final games.

Admission Charges

Responsibility to submit expense total to CIAC office, 30 Realty Drive, Cheshire, CT 06410, by one week after the contest.

Admission WILL NOT be charged for qualifying or first round games.

Admission **WILL BE CHARGED** for the quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals.

| | | |
|------------|---|---------|
| Tickets -- | Children five (5) and under | Free |
| | Senior citizens (age 65 and older) | \$5.00 |
| | Students (grades 1-12) | \$5.00 |
| | Adults (all others not in the above categories) | \$10.00 |
| | Military in uniform or with ID | Free |

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

Each school in all divisions is allowed TEN (10) complimentary admissions to each game in which the school participates. Complimentary tickets will be sent to each home and away athletic director digitally directly from GoFan.

Accommodation and Crowd Control

All spectators and players must remain at least five (5) yards from the sideline and team areas. *Where the facility permits spectators should be on the opposite side of the field from the teams.* Spectators may not stand on the end lines.

Lavatory facilities **MUST** be available. School buildings should be open if games are played on non-school days.

School bands are **NOT PERMITTED** on or near team benches. Other noise apparatus **MAY NOT** be used. See to it that an education program on proper crowd control behavior at games is conducted for the students over the intercom on a day when the team is scheduled for a tournament game.

It is recommended that seating be available.

Responsibilities of Competing Schools

For all games except the finals, the higher ranked school, even at pre-determined sites, shall provide seven of the same Federation approved **white and yellow** field hockey balls. **In the event of inclement weather limiting visibility, the officials will decide when the yellow balls shall be used to play.** The Tournament Director will provide game balls for the final games.

Athletic trainers will be provided by participating schools for all neutral site games including the finals.

Supply three (3) voluntary ball retrievers from each team for games through the finals played on all field surfaces.

The higher ranked team will provide six (6) pinnies of the same color for ball retrievers.

Expenses

Game officials' fees will be paid directly by CIAC except for the qualifying and first round games. (See tournament procedures)

Site directors for the quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals will be paid directly by CIAC.

SITE DIRECTORS SHOULD SEND ITEMIZED EXPENSE STATEMENT DIRECTLY TO THE CIAC SO THAT THEY MAY BE PROCESSED FOR PAYMENT.

2. **Face / Jaw / Nose** (Indicate #) _____ JV _____ V

- _____ Examined by medical professional
- _____ Surgery required
- _____ Hospitalization required
- _____ Broken bone(s)

Resulted from collision with:

- _____ Player(s)
- _____ Stick
- _____ Ball
- _____ Other _____

_____ Total number of games missed

3. **Teeth / Mouth** (Indicate #) _____ JV _____ V

- _____ Examined by medical professional
- _____ Surgery required
- _____ Hospitalization required
- _____ Broken bone(s)

Resulted from collision with:

- _____ Player(s)
- _____ Stick
- _____ Ball
- _____ Other _____

_____ Total number of games missed

4. **Eye** (Indicate #) _____ JV _____ V

- _____ Examined by medical professional
- _____ Surgery required
- _____ Hospitalization required
- _____ Broken bone(s)

Resulted from collision with:

- _____ Player(s)
- _____ Stick
- _____ Ball
- _____ Other _____

_____ Total number of games missed

Comments: