



2026 FLAG FOOTBALL BULLETIN



CHSAA Contacts
Arin Dunn, Asst. Commissioner
Marisa Tenorio, Coordinator of Sport





Colorado High School Activities Association

"Seeking Excellence in Academics, Activities and Athletics"



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July 2026

Dear Flag Football Head Coaches, Athletic Directors, and Officials,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you had a great summer. As I head into my second season as Assistant Commissioner, I want to start by saying how much I valued the opportunity to work alongside each of you last year. Your dedication, professionalism, and passion for growing this sport made a lasting impression, and I am genuinely looking forward to building on that partnership in the season ahead.

Last year marked an exciting milestone for the sport, as it was the first full year under the NFHS Flag Football Rule Handbook. Our member schools and officials adapted seamlessly, and that steady groundwork continues to set the standard for how the game is coached, played, and officiated across the state.

The postseason delivered plenty of excitement as well. Mountain Vista claimed back-to-back 5A state championships, while The Classical Academy earned its place as a new 4A state champion. Both storylines reflected the growing depth and competitiveness of flag football throughout Colorado.

This year looks to carry that momentum forward. We're excited to welcome new flag football programs into the fold, alongside the start of new league alignments for this cycle — developments that will continue to strengthen competition and expand opportunities for student-athletes statewide.

Please note that the **CHSAA Flag Football Bulletin** is now available online. This annual resource includes essential information on regular and postseason play, key dates, and CHSAA and NFHS rules and procedures. I encourage you to take the time to review it closely and ensure you and your programs are familiar with all outlined expectations.

Should any questions arise at any point during the season, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly. You can also find ongoing updates and resources at www.CHSAANOW.com.

Thank you for your continued commitment to Colorado high school athletics. Best of luck to all seventy-four CHSAA member schools participating in flag football this fall. I look forward to a safe, competitive, and successful season for all.

Sincerely,
Arin Dunn
Assistant Commissioner
Colorado High School Activities Association
adunn@chsaa.org



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CHSAA MISSION STATEMENT

"Seeking Excellence in Academics, Activities, and Athletics"

In pursuit of excellence, the Colorado High School Activities Association strives to create a positive and equitable environment in which all qualified student participants are challenged and inspired to meet their highest potential.

To fulfill this mission the Colorado High School Activities Association will:

- Act as an integral component of the educational process.
- Administrate, interpret, and seek compliance with the CHSAA By-laws as needed to promote fair play within Colorado activities and athletics.
- Provide diverse and equitable opportunities for participation that encourages all qualified students to take part in the activity/athletic experience.
- Provide an environment that enhances personal development through sporting behavior, character education, teamwork, leadership, and citizenship while increasing values that partner the educational standards of the State of Colorado.
- Recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Colorado athletes, teams, coaches, and administrators through our academic and activity awards programs.

THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT

Please note: All rules and policies contained within this bulletin are subject to the ADA's requirement to provide reasonable modifications for a disabled student(s). A reasonable modification(s) shall provide a disabled student with equally effective access [to the activity] unless the provision of such reasonable modification would constitute a fundamental alteration of the essential elements of the activity involved. Please refer to CHSAA bylaw 500 for more detailed information.

SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

For all CHSAA sports medicine policies, procedures, and protocols, please visit the [Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Handbook](#).



Lightning, Heat Acclimatization and Safety Priorities, and other environmental concerns policies and procedures can be found on the CHSAA Sports Medicine website. [HERE](#)

SPORTSMANSHIP

[CHSAA Game Management & Sportsmanship Expectation Guide](#)

BECOMING AN OFFICIAL

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming an official, please contact Monica Tillman in the CHSAA official's office at mtillman@chsaa.org or fill out Becoming an Official form [HERE](#).

PERSONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHIES

You can find the link for the Personal Trophy information [HERE](#)

2026 FLAG FOOTBALL CALENDAR

August 10	First Practice
August 15	First Scrimmage First Contest
August 22	SAT test date
September 12	SAT test date
September 14	Flag Football Academic eligibility regain date Restricted Varsity eligibility regain date
September 19	ACT test date
October 3	SAT test date
October 10	End of Regular Season
October 11	State Seeding Meeting/State Pairings posted on chsaanow.com
October 12	Roster/gate lists due to CHSAA
October 13-14	4A/5A First Round games (higher seed hosts)
October 16	Second Round and Quarterfinals Planning Meeting (via Zoom)
October 17	4A/5A Second Round and Quarterfinal games at TBD ACT test date
October 20	Semifinals Planning Meeting (via Zoom)
October 21	4A Semifinal games at TBD 5A Semifinal games at TBD
October 23	Finals Planning Meeting (via Zoom)
October 24	4A/5A Championships at TBD

All playoff competition in each round must be completed on the scheduled date(s).

SECOND ROUND (Date/time/location subject to change)

Saturday, October 17

4A Second Round at TBD

- Game 1- 9:00 am
- Game 2- 10:45 am
- Game 3- 12:30 pm
- Game 4- 2:15 pm

4A Second Round at TBD

- Game 5- 9:00 am
- Game 6- 10:45 am
- Game 7- 12:30 pm
- Game 8- 2:15 pm

5A Second Round at TBD

- Game 1- 9:00 am
- Game 2- 10:45 am
- Game 3- 12:30 pm
- Game 4- 2:15 pm

5A Second Round at TBD

- Game 5- 9:00 am
- Game 6- 10:45 am
- Game 7- 12:30 pm

- Game 8- 2:15 pm

QUARTERFINALS (Date/time/location subject to change)

Saturday, October 17

4A Quarterfinals at TBD

- Game 1- 4:15 pm
- Game 2- 6:15 pm

4A Quarterfinals at TBD

- Game 3- 4:15 pm
- Game 4- 6:15 pm

5A Quarterfinals at TBD

- Game 1- 4:15 pm
- Game 2- 6:15 pm

5A Quarterfinals at TBD

- Game 3- 4:15 pm
- Game 4- 6:15 pm

SEMIFINALS (Date/time/location subject to change)

Wednesday, October 21

4A Semifinal Game 1 at TBD- 5:00 pm

4A Semifinal Game 2 at TBD- 7:15 pm

5A Semifinal Game 1 at TBD- 5:00 pm

5A Semifinal Game 2 at TBD- 7:15 pm

CHAMPIONSHIPS (Date/time/location subject to change)

Saturday, October 24 at TBD

4A Final- 4:00 pm

5A Final- 6:45 pm

In case of inclement weather in the first round, the host school will make all decisions regarding playability of the field before the scheduled match time and shall notify CHSAA of any decisions. All attempts to stay on the tournament schedule should be made and not jeopardize the safety of the participants.

Important Reminders:

1. Each coach must certify that players are properly and legally equipped.
2. Each player must have **3 days** of practice before participating in a game or Foundation Game.

CHSAA CONTACTS

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Flag Football Rules Interpreter

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2026-2027 CHSAA FLAG FOOTBALL COMMITTEE

ANNE RICE (CHAIR) – THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL (1ST term - 26-27)

BRYNN THOMAS – CHERRY CREEK HIGH SCHOOL (26-27)

JOSH STEPHENSON – GOLDEN HIGH SCHOOL (26-27)

KYLIE RUSSELL – ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOL DISTRICT (26-27)

JOHN EVERHART – ELIZABETH HIGH SCHOOL (26-27)

DAVID BENEDICT – SMOKY HILL HIGH SCHOOL (26-27)

DAWN ROBERTS – JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (27-28)

BEN PETERSON – HOLY FAMILY HIGH SCHOOL (28-29)

BRAD WIIDAKAS – DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (28-29)

TIM TEST – MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH SCHOOL (28-29)

The 2026-2027 Flag Football Committee meeting is Thursday, February 4, 2027.

MAJOR FLAG FOOTBALL COMMITTEE REPORT CHANGES:

There were no major changes to the 2025-2026 Flag Football report by the committee. A reminder on changes from the previous report with changes is below.

I. MAJOR CHANGES FROM 2024-2025 REPORT:

A. Adjusting the Mercy Rule to allow rushing the quarterback during the regular season.

II. RATIONALE:

A. Currently, teams are not allowed to rush the quarterback once the Mercy Rule is in effect during the regular season. This change would allow schools to continue to run their defense normally, even once the Mercy Rule is in play. Additionally, this would align the regular season rule with the postseason rule. Schools were asking for consistency here.

COMMITTEE PROPOSALS

If you plan on bringing a proposal to the committee you must submit a CHSAA Committee Proposal form through the CHSAA School Center that has been approved by a league and signed off by the league president. This form is due **one week** prior to the committee meeting.

HOW TO GET RECOMMENDED FOR A COMMITTEE:

Contact your league president, athletic director or Legislative Council Representative in February for a recommendation.

2026-2027 CHSAA MAJOR BYLAW CHANGES



MAJOR CHANGES 2026-2027

ELIGIBILITY LISTS

Constitution & Bylaws, Article 17, Rules 1730.1
Page 60

RESTRICTED VARSITY TIMELINE

Constitution & Bylaws, Article 18, Rule 1800.47
Page 78

CLARIFYING RECRUITING DEFINITION

Constitution & Bylaws, Article 19, Rules 1900.11
Page 86

CONTACT WITH NON-HIGH SCHOOL AGED STUDENTS

Constitution & Bylaws, Article 19, Rules 1900.5
Page 87

SPECTATOR BEHAVIOR

Constitution & Bylaws, Article 2200, Rule 2240
Page 103

Please note that the CHSAA staff continually updates the CHSAA Constitution and Bylaws as needed.
The most updated document can be found at CHSAANOW.com,

2026-2027 NFHS FLAG FOOTBALL RULES CHANGES

1-1-2, TABLE 1-7 (1), Field Diagrams #4 (NEW) – Added a new fourth field option to be used for flag football. This option would be through state association adoption.

1-1-3 – Standardized that all teams must start the game with 7 players.

1-1-9, 1-3-7 NOTE (NEW), TABLE 1-7 (9) (NEW) – Added the use of instant replay during state postseason games only through state association adoption.

2-18 (NEW) – Added a new definition for hurdling as it was not previously defined but yet it was listed as an illegal personal contact foul in 2025-26.

2-35-10, 3-4-3I (NEW), 4-1-1, 8-3-9 EXCEPTION (NEW), 8-4-3 EXCEPTION (NEW) – The committee approved a procedure to allow for the team trailing in score to attempt a high risk play in order to maintain possession following a score.

3-5-1 – Increased the total number of charged time-outs per half from two to three so as to give each team an extra opportunity to stop play each half with an additional time-out.

4-1-1, 8-5-5 – Following a safety, the team whose goal line was involved shall put the ball in play by a scrimmage kick from it's own 20-yard line.

9-7-4 – Further clarified what cannot be done to the ball that is in player possession.

Rules Reminders:

1-5-1d(5)a - 4, 5 (NEW) — Committee clarifies and restricts attachments on tooth and mouth protectors, effective with the 2026 season.

1-5-2d (NEW), 1-5-3c(6) — Arm sleeve specifications developed to guide manufacturers, players and coaches effective with the 2027 season.

2026-27 Flag Football Editorial Changes

1-1-8; 1-5-1c(1)a - 4, 5; 1-5-1d; 1-5-1f; 1-5-3a(1)a; 1-5-3a(2); 1-5-3c(4); 2-13; 2-19-3; 2-27-5; 3-3-1; 3-4-3k; 3-4-4e; 3-5-7f; 3-5-7g; 4-1-2; 4-2-3f(3) (NEW); 4-2-2h; 5-3-1; 6-1-1; 6-1-8; 6-2-1; 6-3-1a; 7-1-2; 7-1-3a; 7-5-6; 8-3-3; 9-2-1; 9-2-2a; 9-2-3c; 9-2 PENALTY; 9-8-1g(3); 9-8-1g(4); 9-8-1h; 9-8 PENALTY; 9-9 PENALTY; 10-4-2; 10-4-2b; 10-4-2h (NEW); 10-4-4a; 10-4-5a; 10-5-3; NFHS OFFICIAL FOOTBALL SIGNALS.

2026-2027 NFHS POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Screen Blocking
2. Flag Belts and Flag Pulls
3. Kicking

COLORADO STATE RULE ADOPTIONS

Number of Officials - Regular season varsity games shall be played under the supervision of three officials and four will be used for playoffs.

EXCEPTION: Games played on a modified (shortened) field may be played under the supervision of two officials. Lower-level games and in situations where three officials are not available may also be played under the supervision of two officials.

Interruption of Game During Regular Season - A game is considered legal and complete if 75% (three quarters) of playing time has elapsed. An interrupted game continued on the same day shall be restarted from its point of interruption.

If a suspended game (one in which less than 75% of playing time has elapsed) is replayed on another day, it must be played from the point of interruption. A suspended game may be terminated and considered complete by mutual agreement of the opposing coaches. If a suspended game (less than three quarters completed) is not replayed, the game would be considered a no contest.

Mercy Rule - The clock will continue to run once a team is ahead by at least 30 points, except during time-outs, at the end of a quarter, and during an injury time-out.

Overtime - Unless moved by penalty, each team shall start first and goal from the opponents 10-yard line. The object will be to score a touchdown. An overtime period consists of a possession by each team consisting of a series of four (4) downs (unless a new series is awarded by rule). If the first team which is awarded possession of the ball scores, they will declare for a 1 or 2-point Try. The opponent, however, still has a chance to tie or win the game. The team which is awarded the ball second will start first and goal at the 10-YARD LINE following the Try attempt (unless moved by penalty).

If the score is still tied after one overtime period, play will proceed to a second period with first and goal from the opponents 10-yard line. If the first team awarded the ball scores, the opponent shall still have a chance to tie or win the game. If the score is still tied after the second overtime period, the overtime process will continue until a winner is decided. In any overtime period, when the defense secures possession, the ball is dead, and the series is over.

NOTE: Teams may attempt either a 1 or 2 point Try after scoring a Touchdown in the first three overtime periods. Beginning in the fourth overtime period, teams must attempt a 2 point Try after scoring a Touchdown.

Each team is entitled to only one time-out during the entire overtime.

NOTE: For example, if Team A calls time-out in the first overtime and play is extended to a second overtime, Team A will have no remaining time-outs for all remaining overtime periods.

Ejected Player/Coach Penalty – A player or coach ejected will be subjected to the CHSAA player/coach ejection policy, By-law 2200 and 2210.

Student/Team Practice Requirement - Each student competing in an interscholastic sports program must have had a minimum practice period of three days in his/her/their sport(s) (exclusive of Sundays) before representing his/her/their school in an interscholastic contest or scrimmage. A student must have a minimum of nine days of practice in football. Receiving school must have written verification on file if transfer of schools is involved.

Field Dimensions: The field shall be 40 yards wide and 80 yards long. Facilities that are lined for boys' lacrosse will use the restraining lines and wing area for their sidelines (measurement is exactly

40 yards in width). The length of the field must always be 80 yards long and both end zones must always be 10 yards deep.

EXCEPTION: Modifications to field dimensions can be made for lower-level games and “Regular Season Invitational Tournament” play only. Field dimensions of no less than 30 yards wide and no less than 60 yards long may be used for lower level and Regular Season Invitation formats (end zones must always be 10 yards deep). All Postseason contests must be played on a field that is 40 yards wide and 80 yards long.

Field Goals and Hash Marks: CHSAA will NOT adopt the use of field goals and hash marks.

Flag Belt: Each player shall wear a one-piece quick release belt, without any knots, at the waistline with three flags permanently attached, one flag on each side and one in the center of the back. The flags should be of a contrasting color to the opponent’s flags and contrasting color to the player’s pants/shorts.

EXCEPTION: By mutual agreement of both teams during the regular season only, Pop Socket RCX Flags or USA Football Flags or custom that have two flags may be used. If teams do not mutually agree, each player shall wear a one-piece quick release belt, without any knots, at the waistline with three flags permanently attached.

Regulation Time: The length of the game shall be 48-minutes, divided into four (4) periods of 12 minutes each, with a 10-minute halftime interval. Games can be shortened by mutual agreement of both teams and for lower levels

FLAG FOOTBALL UNIFORMS

Jersey.

Players of opposing teams must wear contrasting solid-colored jerseys, without pockets, numbered on the front and rear.

- A. The jersey must be worn in a fashion in which the flag belt is visible and unobstructed at all times.
- B. It is required that players of the visiting team wear WHITE jerseys.
- C. It is required that players of the home team wear DARK jerseys in a color that contrasts with white.
 - i. It is recommended that each participating team bring to the competition site two sets of jerseys (one dark, one light) with identical numbers.
- D. Each jersey must be numbered on the front and back using Arabic numbers 0-99.
 - i. Numbers must be the same color on the front and back of the jersey.
 - a) The number on the front of the jersey must be a minimum of six (6) inches in height and centered.
 - b) The number on the back of the jersey must be a minimum of eight (8) inches in height and centered.
 - c) Numbers must be of solid color contrasting with the color of the shirt.
 - d) The number may have a contrasting color border, which shall not exceed 1/4 inch.
 - e) The color and style of the number shall be the same on the front and back.
 - f) No players on the same team shall wear identical numbers.

Pants/Shorts.

Each player shall wear pants/shorts without any belt(s), belt loops or exposed drawstrings.

- A. No pockets of any type are permitted. Pockets cannot be covered "taped".
- B. The pants/shorts must be a different (contrasting) color than the flags being worn. Ex. Navy Blue shorts and black flags would not be considered contrasting.
- C. The pants/shorts must be a single solid color. Ex. No stripes, patterns etc.
- D. The flag belt may not be rolled with the waistband of the shorts and must be visible and unobstructed at all times.

For more information, please refer to the NFHS Flag Football Rule Book, pages 13-19.

SPORTSMANSHIP PROTOCOL AT ALL CHSAA CONTESTS AND ACTIVITIES

1. Cheerleaders/Fans/Spectators

- o It is recommended that there be positive cheers only.
- o Only cheerleaders may use megaphones.
- o All patrons must wear shirts and shoes. Face painting is allowed.
- o Cheer and tumbling routines must be in front of your team's student body. Routines that spill into the area of the opposing team are prohibited.
- o Cheer squads may perform under the basket area outside the free vertical lane lines at all times.

2. Banners

- o One cloth or vinyl banner may be used, but must be sanctioned by the game management, principal, and/or athletic director before the contest. Note: Some facilities, including venues used for CHSAA playoffs, may not allow any banners.
- o Paper banners are not allowed at CHSAA sponsored playoff events. The words and graphics on banners must be positive: i.e. "beat", "outscore", "conquer", etc.; Negative banners: i.e. "kill", "maim", "scalp", etc., will be confiscated and may result in no future use of banners.
- o Banners must not block the view of others.

3. Noisemakers

- o All artificial noisemakers are prohibited. This includes: cowbells, drums, whistles, horns, plastic clackers, thunder sticks, etc. Exception: bleacher kicking is permitted if the facility management allows it.
- o An air horn or cannon may be used on the field and only if supervised by a school designee. It should never be disruptive to the playing of the game and used only during dead ball periods at the end of playing action.
- o No musical instruments and/or amplified music, including drums, shall play while the game clock is running or when a 'live-ball' situation is applicable by rule, whether the game is indoor or outdoor. This includes fanfares, drum rolls, etc. The only time the game, once started, is not "in progress" is during a timeout or intermission. This applies to the use of outdoor, in-gym, or in-arena sound systems and public address announcements. The announcer is an integral member of game administration and is a reporter of information not necessarily obvious to spectators. Great care must be exercised to see that neither team gains an advantage from announcements over the public address system. Announcers are not "play-by-play" announcers.
- o There shall be no amplified instruments at any CHSAA playoff events.

4. A list of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors can be found on CHSAAnow.com under Activities>Sportsmanship in the Game Management and Sportsmanship Expectation Guide.

5. CHSAA Venue Sportsmanship Expectation Poster

All schools are strongly encouraged to post the poster/flyer at all school contest venues, with or without using the card system protocols. The Sportsmanship Expectation Poster provides a consistent message for our schools to fans and spectators in our gyms about how to treat referees, judges, umpires, and other sports officials. Any size of the poster/flyer will do. Download the 8 ½ x 11 version at Chsaanow.com.

CHEER FOR YOUR TEAM AND NOT AGAINST THE OPPONENT!!

Message from Colorado Flag Football Officials (CFFO)

Developing Officials. Serving Schools. Growing the Game.

The **Colorado Flag Football Officials (CFFO)** is a volunteer organization proudly entering its **third-year** officiating CHSAA-sanctioned Flag Football. We are excited to build upon past years' success and continue growing the sport across Colorado. 🎉

Our Board of Directors remains focused on **recruiting, training, and ranking officials for assignments**, while promoting a safe and positive environment for players, coaches, and officials alike. ❤️

Training and Development

The Board continues to emphasize standardized training, similar to previous seasons, anchored by:

- A strong understanding of the rules through the **RefReps** platform
- Comprehensive classroom instruction
- Hands-on field clinics
- Consistent mechanics and game management training

Our goal is to help every official perform at their very best on the field. ⭐

In addition to hosting our yearly in-person **Master Clinic** for the membership, CFFO conducted a **Referee Camp** designed to develop more Referees and create greater consistency at the position. A nationally recognized flag football official served as the lead instructor for the camp, providing valuable insight and expertise. 🏆

Our Commitment

CFFO officials are committed to providing:

- Safe officiating
- Fair and impartial judgment
- Consistent rule enforcement
- Professional game management

These efforts are guided by the values of **sportsmanship, personal responsibility, and teamwork**. We also prioritize open communication with coaches to ensure consistent application of the rules across every game. 📢

🚩 Looking Ahead

We look forward to another exciting and rewarding season ahead—for players, coaches, and officials alike! Thank you to everyone who contributes to the continued growth and success of Colorado high school flag football. 🏈

Sincerely,



Greg Holstine

CFFO Chairperson

www.COFlagFBOfficials.org



COLORADO FLAG FOOTBALL OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

2026 COMMITTEE & OFFICIALS ASSIGNERS

CFFO COMMITTEE

Greg Holstine- Chairperson
Amy Rask- Vice Chairperson
Scott Gottelman- Secretary/Treasurer
Kurt Carpenter- North Area Director
Bobby Purify- Denver Area Director
Marcus Freeman- Member at Large
Bob Pace- South Area Director

OFFICIALS ASSIGNER

Jerry Letofsky
303) 368-8005 or (720) 300-8737
aleto38676@aol.com

OFFICIALS' REMINDERS

OFFICIALS' FEES

Officials' game fees for the 2026 season:

Varsity - \$85.00

Sub-varsity - \$60.00

MILEAGE - 60 cents per mile round trip, zip code to zip code. Exception see note 1. Note 1: The Confluence (except Campion); The 5280 (except Gilpin County); The Colorado 7 (except Conifer, Fort Lupton, Fort Morgan, Weld Central); The Jefferson County (except Evergreen), Denver, Continental, East Metro, Front Range (except Fort Collins, Loveland, Poudre and Rocky Mountain), Frontier (except Bennett, Clear Creek, Lake County, Middle Park and Platte Canyon), Metropolitan, and Centennial leagues and Broomfield, Denver Academy, and Denver Christian schools will not pay mileage between league cities, but will pay a mileage travel stipend of \$10 to each official between league cities per day of assignments. Colorado Springs schools will pay mileage travel stipend of \$10 per day of assignments to officials selected from the Colorado Springs Officials' Association. An official that is assigned to two or more contests at a given site on the same day shall be paid one travel stipend or reimbursement.

Only ONE driver will be paid the mileage reimbursement for each contest. It will be paid to the official on the crew who travels the farthest. Issues with multiple drivers must be solved between the officials and the assignor prior to the game. Crews are expected to carpool when traveling from area to area (for example from area 1 to area 2).

In lieu of per diem, a rider fee of \$10 is paid to officials, non-drivers only, who are riding on trips of 75 miles or more one-way.

It is RECOMMENDED that, during the regular season only, assigners assign officials to a contest whose travel miles to a school is less than or equal to 75 miles round trip, thus resulting in a payment of no more than \$30 for travel. If an official travels miles more than 75 miles round trip the official should be paid at the \$.50/mile rate as listed above unless other arrangements are made with the officials by the school.

Individual Mileage Buffer - No mileage will be paid to an official whose town of residence is 20 miles or closer to the host school. Full mileage (including the first 20 miles) will be paid to officials who travel over 20 miles. This does not apply to the metro area officials described above that receive the \$10 travel stipend.

EVALUATE YOUR OFFICIALS

Coaches are asked to evaluate the crew of officials after each game. The CHSAA and the Colorado Flag Football Officials Association value your input on officiating in our state. You can find the [Rate Your Contest Official form here](#) or on the CHSAA Now Officials page. It is important that coaches approach this with the mindset that constructive criticism is the best way to improve officiating in Colorado.

VOTING FOR POSTSEASON OFFICIALS

CFFO will work to continue to bring you the best officials from their organization. To work postseason games, officials must submit an application by September 28 to be considered. Official postseason selection is based on voting by Coaches, Athletic Directors, Assigners, and Area Directors that will be conducted October 1-8. **Coaches and Athletic Directors** - it is imperative that you participate in the voting which is done online through a link that will be provided to you from the CHSAA office.

BECOMING AN OFFICIAL

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming an official, please contact the CHSAA official's office at mtillman@chsaa.org.

CHSAA REGULAR SEASON GAME MANAGEMENT

1. All regular season games will be played according to the NFHS and be completed by **Saturday, October 10, 2026, for all schools.**
2. **Student/Parent Information** – Completed and signed documentation that parents and participants have been informed, understand and acknowledge basic CHSAA eligibility rules and knowledge of the risk of participation must be on file with the school prior to any student participating in an athletic practice, scrimmage or contest.
3. **Physical Exam/Parent Consent** - No student shall represent his/her schools in interscholastic athletics (practice or contest) until there is on file with the school administration a statement signed by his parent or legal guardian and a practicing physician certifying he/she has passed an adequate physical examination within the past year (12 calendar months) and is physically fit to participate in high school athletics and has the consent of his parents or legal guardian to participate.
4. **Trainer's Kit** - The CHSAA recommends that a trainer's kit, with all the necessary medical supplies needed for your sport, be available at all practices and contests.
5. **Language** - Coaches are reminded that the CHSAA focuses on exemplary behavior. The use of bad language may be penalized by disqualification. Work with your athletes at the beginning of the season to understand that whenever the uniform is worn, they represent their school and the philosophies of the CHSAA.
6. **Taunting** - Taunting is considered any action(s) or comments by coaches, players, or spectators which are intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule or demean others, whether or not the deeds or words are vulgar or racist. Game officials shall, in all sports, follow the rules set forth by the National Federation for each sport. Penalties under these rules may include ejection or other penalties for flagrant unsporting-like behavior-like offenses. Taunting in all sports and/or activities is an unsporting-like behavior-like offense that may result in a game ejection with penalties as outlined in the student ejection policy in the CHSAA Handbook.
7. **Sunday Contact** – In accordance with Bylaw 2310.5, no high school interscholastic contests, practices for interscholastic contests, camps, nor association between participants and coaches/directors of any CHSAA sanctioned sport from the student's school shall take place on Sundays during the competitive high school season (start of official practice through the state tournament). The Commissioner may, when deemed advisable, allow postponed state-level events to be played on Sunday. Teams playing on Monday in district, regional or in a state-culminating event will be exempt from this rule.
8. MaxPreps is the official site we use to collect data for regular season scores and statistics. Please report all game information and team rosters to this site (www.maxpreps.com). More information and a user guide may be found on the CHSAA homepage: www.chsaanow.com. All scores must be posted in MaxPreps by the home team within 24 hours of the end of the game.

NOTE: All schools competing against an out-of-state opponent must submit an out-of-state opponent's form (located on the School Center) which must be submitted before the date of the game.

9. **Team Box Areas** - The team box, or bench, area is defined as the area two yards off the sideline and extends from the 20-yard line to the 20-yard line. When both team boxes are on the same side of the field, the area will be from the 20-yard line to the 35-yard line on either side of the midfield area. Non-playing team personnel must remain in their team bench area. Violation of this rule will be assessed as a misconduct foul.

10. Field Markings - The CHSAA asks that you work with your maintenance and field staff to make sure your field of play is marked as per the NFHS rule book guidelines, which are found in the NFHS rule book on **page 5**. Located there is the diagram for marking a flag football field. It is the responsibility of each school and their athletic department, in cooperation with their grounds staff, to ensure their field is marked in accordance to the rules of the game.
11. Game Administration – A visible clock (scoreboard) is recommended, but not required. Host sites may opt to use a scorer's/timer's table at midfield to keep time using any applicable device. An accurate and visible score should be continuously displayed but is not required. Host sites may opt to use a scorer's/timer's table at midfield to record the score, even if it is not visible. If the official timer is not seated at field level (ie. press box), the home team must ensure that direct two-way communication is always available between the press box and the scorer's table.

The field shall be 40 yards wide and 80 yards long. Facilities that are lined for boys' lacrosse will use the restraining lines and wing area for their sidelines (measurement is exactly 40 yards in width). The length of the field must always be 80 yards long and both end zones must always be 10 yards deep.

EXCEPTION: Modifications to field dimensions can be made for lower-level games and "Regular Season Invitational Tournament" play only. Field dimensions of no less than 30 yards wide and no less than 60 yards long may be used for lower level and Regular Season Invitation formats (end zones must always be 10 yards deep). All Postseason contests must be played on a field that is 40 yards wide and 80 yards long.

Yard lines shall be marked at the 20-yard lines and the 40-yard line. These lines constitute the Zone Lines to Gain (ZLTG). Goal lines shall be marked to delineate each end zone and the entire width of the goal line shall be part of the end zone so the edge toward the field of play and its vertical plane is the actual goal line.

NOTE: Any field without solid lines must mark with either paint, tape, cones, or pylons, the area where the lines would otherwise be.

12. The Teams – The game shall be played between two teams of seven players each. Five players per team are required to start a game and to avoid a forfeit. The game may be continued with less than five players until it is obvious that there is no chance to win.
13. Officials will record the starting lineups of both teams 10 minutes prior to the game and make sure the numbers of the players on the field correspond to the numbers in the book. Changes to the lineup cannot be made until the game starts. A roster with the names and numbers of all players must be at the scorer's table prior to the start of the game.
14. Uniforms – See **page 9** of this bulletin for complete NFHS uniform guidelines.
15. Mercy Rule – The clock will continue to run once a team is ahead by at least 30 points, except during time-outs, at the end of a quarter and during an injury time-out.
16. Suspended Game - If a weather element affects the field condition or safety of the athletes, the home site management has responsibility to determine if the game is to be started. Once the game has started, the game referee then has sole responsibility to continue or terminate the contest. A game is considered legal and complete if 75 percent of playing time has elapsed. An interrupted game continued on the same day shall be restarted from its point of interruption.

If a suspended game (one in which less than 75% of playing time has elapsed) is replayed on another day, it must be played from the point of interruption. A suspended game may be terminated and considered

complete by mutual agreement of the opposing coaches. If a suspended game (less than three quarters completed) is not replayed, the game would be considered a no contest.

17. Length of Game - The length of the game shall be 48-minutes, divided into four (4) periods of 12 minutes each, with a 10-minute halftime interval. Games can be shortened by mutual agreement of both teams and for lower levels.
18. Overtime Procedure - When the score is tied at the end of regular playing time and overtime is to be played, both teams will have a five-minute rest and toss a coin (visiting captain calls) for choice of offense, defense or direction. The loser of the coin toss makes the remaining choice.

All overtime periods are played towards the same goal. Unless moved by penalty, each team shall start first and goal from the opponents 10-yard line. An overtime period consists of a possession by each team consisting of a series of four (4) downs (unless a new series is awarded by rule).

If the first team which is awarded possession of the ball scores, they will declare for a 1 or 2-point Try. The opponent, however, still has a chance to tie or win the game. The team which is awarded the ball second will start first and goal at the 10-YARD LINE following the Try attempt (unless moved by penalty).

If the score is still tied after one overtime period, play will proceed to a second period with first and goal from the opponents 10-yard line. If the first team awarded the ball scores, the opponent shall still have a chance to tie or win the game. If the score is still tied after the second overtime period, the overtime process will continue until a winner is decided. In any overtime period, when the defense secures possession, the ball is dead, and the series is over.

Teams may attempt either a 1 or 2 point Try after scoring a Touchdown in any overtime period. Beginning in the fourth overtime period, teams must attempt a 2 point Try after scoring a Touchdown.

Each team is entitled to only one time-out during the entire overtime.

19. JV Overtime - NO Overtime for JV/Sub-Varsity: If tied at the end of regulation, the game will end in a tie.
20. Maximum Student Participation - A student may not participate in more than 72 quarters (across all levels) exclusive of the state tournament. Example: A player who played 36 JV quarters and 40 Varsity quarters would've violated this rule.
21. Maximum Team Contests - No member school shall permit its Flag Football team to participate in more than 15 regular season games. Further, no member school shall permit its Flag Football team as a representative of the school to play after the state championship tournament has been completed (CHSAA Bylaw 2300.1 & 3920).
22. JV Schedules - If some member schools elect to play junior varsity schedules only, they will not be included in the CHSAA state post season tournaments.
23. Forfeits - If the offended team is ahead the score stands; if the offended team is behind or tied, the official score shall be offended team 1, opponent 0.
24. Ejected Player Penalty - Any player ejected from a contest (regular or post-season) by an official will be removed from that contest and will be ineligible for the next contest. The athlete may not take part in any other games at any level during this time (CHSAA By-law 2200.11). **If a player disqualification occurs, it is the responsibility of the coach and school to declare the individual ineligible for the next contest(s) of that level regardless of whether you have been notified by the CHSAA.** Failure to do so

and allowing a disqualified player to participate in the next contest(s) of that level could result in a forfeiture and possible playoff restriction for the team.

If a player receives a game disqualification in the last regular season contest, the player must miss the first game of the playoffs. If you have questions about potentially ineligible participants, seek answers from CHSAA before allowing the individual to compete interscholastically. NOTE: Sitting out scrimmages or foundation games does not satisfy the penalty for player ejections.

Any player ejected from a second contest during the same season shall be suspended from competition for the next two matches or contests of the same level. Any player ejected from a third contest during the same season shall be subject to a penalty to be determined by the Commissioner.

If a player ejection occurs in the final contest of the season, then the player shall be ineligible for the first contest of the next season of sport that player elects to play. In satisfying the penalty, the player must sit out a game in a sport in which the player completes the season. See the CHSAA Handbook for more information.

25. Ejection of a Coach - CHSAA By-laws require that a credentialed (registered) coach under contract with the school must assume supervisory responsibility for all interscholastic contests. If a coach is ejected and no credentialed (registered) person from that school is available, the contest shall be forfeited.

A coach ejected from a contest for committing an unsportsmanlike act shall be suspended from coaching for 10% (2 games) of the season's regularly scheduled matches or contests of the same level (CHSAA Bylaw 2210.1). He/she/they may not coach in any other contest at any level during this time. A coach ejected from a second contest during the same season shall be suspended from coaching for 20% (3 games) of the season's contests of the same level (CHSAA Bylaw 2210.3). **If a coach ejection occurs, it is the responsibility of the coach and school to declare the individual ineligible for the next contest of that level regardless of whether you have been notified by the CHSAA.**

CHSAA By-law Article 22, Rule 2210.21 - A coach ejected from a game is required to complete the following courses offered on-line by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS): Sportsmanship; Teaching and Modeling Behavior. These courses shall be completed before he/she will be removed from probation and must be finished in a reasonable amount of time during the season to be determined by the school's athletic director.

A coach ejected from two contests during a five-year period shall be required to appear at a hearing before the Commissioner or his/her/their designee and shall be subject to a penalty to be determined by the Commissioner (CHSAA Bylaw 2210.4). A coach ejected from three contests in a five-year period shall be placed on restriction (no playoffs) per CHSAA Bylaw 2210.5.

26. Reporting Ejections for Athletes & Coaches - Game Officials are responsible for submitting game reports to notify the CHSAA Assistant Commissioner in charge of Flag Football when an athlete or member of the coaching staff at a school is ejected. CHSAA will notify schools of the reports for both coaches and athletes; the coach/school is responsible for implementing the penalty regardless of notification from CHSAA.
27. Protests/Appeals - NO protests involving the judgment or possible misapplication of a rule by a game official will be considered by the CHSAA. However, coaches may direct questions to the game officials as they pertain to possible misapplication of the rules at the time of the occurrence, in accordance with the CHSAA rules. Once a game has been declared as completed, the outcome is final and official. Coaches and Administrators are encouraged to use the [official evaluation form](#) available on CHSAANow.com for evaluation of all contests.

28. ALL Registered Coaches - Carefully review CHSAA Bylaw 1620 in the CHSAA Handbook regarding the qualification of coaches. Do not allow your athletes to receive instruction from anyone who does not meet the requirements established in CHSAA Bylaw 1620. Assistant coaches must be registered by the school's AD in accordance with CHSAA policy and must be under contract to the school. To allow a "volunteer" who is not under contract to work with your athletes exposes the "volunteer", the head coach and the school to increased liability and is a **CHSAA violation**.
29. Out of State Travel - A school group, team, or individual representing a school in athletic competition may travel outside of the state to compete upon recommendation of the school district administration and upon written approval of the CHSAA Liaison. Schools may fill out the form for out of state travel on the School Center.
30. The host school has the responsibility to ensure that an event is governed in a manner that emphasizes the educational values inherent in interscholastic activities. It is the host school's responsibility to remove any individual(s) creating a disturbance, which disrupt(s) the educational goals of the event and does not keep in mind the positive aspect of sporting behavior. Individuals, who by their actions, have become a constant disruption to the orderly governance of a high school activity shall be barred indefinitely by the school's principal, or his/her designee, from attending all high school activities at member school(s) and all sectional, district, region, and state playoff events. The CHSAA, the league, and offender must receive written notification of such action (CHSAA Bylaw 2240).
31. CHSAA Drone Policy - "The use of drones, also known as unmanned aerial vehicles, is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at all CHSAA-sanctioned events, unless express written permission is obtained: 1) from the host school district during regular season contests, or 2) the CHSAA for any postseason/playoff contest. 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, a drone is any aircraft without a human pilot on board."

OFFICIALS

Dressing Room - The officials' dressing room shall be used as a changing area for game officials only and should have the most direct access to the playing field. No other individuals shall have access to this area for any purposes unless they can be identified as game management. The room should be stocked with water.

Security - It is the responsibility of game management to provide security escort for game officials to and from the playing field. If possible, the officials should be escorted to the parking lot.

Arrival at Site - Game officials are required to arrive at the game site per their officiating association's policy.

Communication with Officials - Except for contact as is necessary by game management all others are prohibited from talking to the officials before, during, at halftime or after games concerning matters related to the game. Officials are asked to report any such violations to the CHSAA office.

Halftime - Game officials will delay leaving the playing field until players and coaches have left at halftime. A security escort is to be provided to take officials to their dressing room and prevent contact or conversation between coaches and officials.

CHSAA POSTSEASON GUIDELINES

The following information is relative to the 2026 Flag Football Playoff Season. It is expected that coaches and Athletic Directors will review and become familiar with all information contained within.

In each classification, the results of regular season play will determine automatic qualifiers and respective seeds in the postseason. Leagues may use the results of their regular season schedule, or a system developed and approved by the league membership. This qualifying system must be submitted to the CHSAA office by the league prior to August 15, 2026.

If ties exist within the league, either the CHSAA qualifying point system or a tiebreaker developed by the league and submitted to the CHSAA office prior to August 15, 2026, or a regular season game or league Bylaws must be used to break the tie. The committee recommends that each league review their tie-breaking procedures prior to the beginning of the season. In the event a league does not file a tiebreaker system, or have it listed in the league Bylaws, the CHSAA universal tiebreaker will be used to break the tie (see CHSAA Constitution and Bylaws).

Regular season matches must be completed and reported in MaxPreps by Saturday, October 10, 2026. All postseason qualifiers must be determined no later than Saturday, October 10, 2026, with the pairings being determined on Sunday, October 11, 2026. The CHSAA staff can approve alternate dates in extreme situations.

It is the responsibility of each league representative to correctly list the Automatic Qualifiers from their respective league in applicable classifications and verify that they appear on the tournament bracket.

LEAGUE STANDINGS AND TIE-BREAKER:

If no other method has been established, league standings will be established by awarding 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss.

Leagues that break ties in the standings without additional play will do so by the league's adopted tiebreaker system, a copy of which is to be on file with the CHSAA office for review. In the event a league does not file a tiebreaker system, it must break ties in the following manner:

1. Head-to-head (record against each of the teams involved).
2. Record against top team in the league.
3. Record against the next highest common league opponent above tie.
4. Record against next lower common league opponent below the tie.
5. Points given up against varsity teams within the league.
6. Points given up against varsity teams against teams in the same classification.
7. Points given up in all varsity contests.
8. Coin flip by CHSAA Assistant Commissioner in charge of Flag Football.

Tie Breaker for Seeding Based on Division Play Only

- A. If two teams have the same point total, the tie will be broken by the following procedure:
 1. Head-to-Head result between the two tied teams in League Play.
- B. If more than two teams have the same point total, the tie will be broken by the following procedure:
 1. Head-to-Head result between the tied teams only in League Play. *Example: If Team A beat both B and C, their point total would be 4. If Team B beat C, but lost to A, their point total would be 2. Team C would have 0 points. In this example, Team A would be the highest seed. B and C would revert back to #A above to be seeded.*
 2. If the tie remains unbroken, the highest seed will be the team(s) which gave up the fewest points in League Play between the tied teams. The remaining tied teams (if necessary) would revert to #A

above and proceed through the steps listed until the tie is broken. *Example: If A, B and C are still tied. "A" gave up 2 points when playing B and 3 points when playing C for a total of 5 points scored against. "B" had a total of 4 points scored against and "C" a total of 6 points scored against. "B" would be the highest seed among the tied teams. A & C would revert back to #A above to be seeded.*

3. If the tie remains unbroken, the highest seed will be the team, which gave up the fewest points in their game against the next highest seeded conference opponent. If unbroken, the points given up against the next highest league opponent would break the tie proceeding through as many conference teams as necessary to break the tie. The remaining tied teams would revert to #A above and proceed through the steps listed until the tie is broken.
4. If the tie remains unbroken, a coin flip will identify one team as the highest seed among the tied teams. The remaining tied teams would revert to #A above and proceed through the steps listed until the tie is broken.

QUALIFYING FORMAT AND ASSIGNMENT BY CLASS:

The seeding committee will be made up of one (1) administrator from each league in each classification. The administrator shall be selected by the league president and nominated to the CHSAA office for approval.

Starting in 2026-27, the MaxPreps rankings published on CHSAANow.com will serve as the official postseason rankings for all CHSAA team sports, in addition to league automatic qualifiers. League automatic qualifiers not ranked in the top 20 teams by the final MaxPreps Rankings in 4A and 5A will replace the lowest ranked non-automatic qualifiers in the top 20 in the final MaxPreps Rankings. The final MaxPreps Rankings will seed teams 1-20 in 4A and 5A. There will be no movement to seeds 1-8 in 4A and 5A on the bracket based on the final MaxPreps Rankings. The placement of 4A and 5A teams listed 9-16 may be moved on the bracket among those seeds only due to geography and first round league opponents. The placement of 4A and 5A teams listed 17-20 may be moved on the bracket among those seeds only due to geography and first round league opponents. The priority will be that teams listed 17-20 are moved first due to geography and first round league opponents. The Seeding Committee will avoid league matchups in the 1st Round ONLY.

EQUAL FACILITIES

Although it is necessary that one team be designated as the home team at common sites, it should be kept in mind that the game belongs equally to both competing schools. It is strongly advised that a pre-game planning meeting be held to cover all details connected with the staging of every postseason contest. Game fields must be legal size fields for high school flag football and be in safe and playable condition. The CHSAA reserves the right to make sure all playoff fields are legal fields, as per CHSAA rules and recommendations for high school field size. This will allow both teams a fair opportunity to compete and ensure proper seating for spectators with a restricted area between participants and fans.

HOST SITES/VENUES

The higher seed in all classifications will be designated as the home team in the first round, second round, quarterfinal, semifinal and final contests.

It is required by the CHSAA that all postseason host sites are the required 80x40 field size and are properly lined for the sport of flag football.

Fields with suitable seating and where admission can be charged is the preferred venue for postseason games. Field conditions must meet minimum NFHS/CHSAA rules and recommendations regarding size of the field.

POST SEASON DATES & TIMES

CHSAA will establish match dates. It is the desire of the CHSAA that schools **mutually establish** match times that best accommodate the interests of each school and community for non-neutral site rounds.

Schools must consider the conditions in which the match will be played and make the best decision to accommodate the schools involved. **NOTE:** All **mutually established** match times are subject to final approval by the CHSAA office as needed. When mutual agreement for the match time cannot be reached, the following statements will apply for non-neutral site rounds:

- a. When postseason matches are to be played on a Saturday, games will be played at 1:00 p.m. when mutual agreement for the match time cannot be reached. In scenarios where the host facility is not available at 1:00 p.m., games will be played at 3:00 p.m. for non-lighted fields and 6:00 p.m. for lighted fields.
- b. When postseason matches are to be played on a weekday, games will be played at 4:00 p.m. when mutual agreement for the match time cannot be reached for non-lighted fields. Games will be played at 6:00 p.m. when mutual agreement for the match time cannot be reached for lighted fields.
- c. The Assistant Commissioner shall have the sole province to designate match times and sites, including when a school district is hosting more than one match. Conflicts, which could have a venue, academic or financial impact on the match, may be considered.
- d. All schools, both home and visitor, will be provided the opportunity to mutually establish the match time during the scheduling process. When mutual agreement cannot be reached, the above scenarios (a-c) will apply.
- e. The CHSAA postseason calendar will be adhered to when match conditions permit. When available, host schools shall attempt to locate an artificial turf site that will be an alternative to stay on schedule.
- f. **Under no circumstances may a school host any type of ceremony during a CHSAA Postseason Flag Football contest (examples include but are not limited to – Senior Night, Alumni Night, Homecoming Recognition, etc.).**

TEAM ARRIVALS & WARM-UP

For all postseason games, teams should arrive at their designated/agreed upon time. Teams should mutually agree upon a warm-up schedule. No running around the track during game play. Warm-up location will be given to teams upon checking in at the stadium.

PRACTICE

Participating teams will not be allowed to practice at the state semifinal or championship site at any point during the state championships.

ANNOUNCER

The announcer should be a school staff member or responsible individual who can set the tone of the game by calling the fans' attention to the following points of reference: (1) CHSAA playoff contests are conducted under the strictest code of good sportsmanlike behavior; (2) The officials are neutral individuals and have been selected because of demonstrated ability; (3) Fans are to be encouraged by the announcer to support their own team and display proper protocol and sportsmanlike behavior.

TRAINER

A trainer will be provided at all neutral site postseason matches hosted by the CHSAA.

OFFICIALS' ASSIGNMENTS & PAYMENT

The CHSAA is responsible for the assignment of officials in ALL ROUNDS of the state tournament. All post-season matches are to be played as per the specific bracket dates in each classification. Host schools are responsible for the payment of officials in all non-neutral sites in the postseason rounds. All the assignments will be listed on the Arbiter site. To access the officials that CHSAA has assigned, Athletic Directors need to access "The Arbiter Sports" website: www.arbitersports.com.

ROSTER

The maximum total of game participants/support staff in the team and coaching area is 37; this includes 30 players, and 7 additional support staff members will be admitted without charge for opening weekend, semifinals and championship games. The support staff will include coaches or team managers.

GATE LIST & PROGRAM INFORMATION

It is imperative that each team that has a chance to qualify for the CHSAA Flag Football Postseason complete the gate list that will be sent to you from CHSAA (you will also be asked to send a team photo). All gate lists and team photos **MUST** be received by **October 12, 2026**. This information is very important, as it will be used to develop the program as well as any press releases. You will **not be allowed to make any changes or additions to your gate list at the event**. Any changes **MUST** be submitted by emailing CHSAA.

Participating schools may have no more than 30 players in uniform and no more than 37 people on the sideline at any time. Only these players and team personnel listed on the gate list will be admitted free at the host site.

DUE DATE: Monday, October 12, 2026

INCLEMENT WEATHER & SUSPENDED PLAY POLICY

In the event inclement weather prevents postseason games from being held on the regularly scheduled date(s), the CHSAA office will work with the host site to select the next available date for competition. The game(s) will be rescheduled as quickly as possible and will be played close to the originally scheduled date depending on facility constraints. If play is suspended for any reason in a postseason game, the contest will be restarted at the point of interruption.

If a weather element affects the field condition or safety of the athletes, the home site management has responsibility to determine if the game is to be started. Once the game has started, the game referee then has sole responsibility to continue or terminate the contest.

AWARDS

Awards for the 2026 Flag Football Playoffs will include a championship team trophy and a runner-up team trophy in each classification.

AWARDS CEREMONY

The CHSAA will have an awards ceremony at the conclusion of the championship game in each classification. The awards ceremony will be in the center of the field. School administrators and coaches are expected to assist in the awards ceremony by NOT allowing students and fans to join their team on the field.

CHEERLEADERS

Twenty-eight (28) cheerleaders in uniform and two coaches may be admitted at no charge to state semifinal and state championship games. The group should enter the gates all together and must be accompanied by their coach. **NOTE**: Due to varying sizes of facilities used at state semifinal and state championship games, certain restrictions or more limited numbers may be imposed.

PEP BAND ADMISSION INFORMATION

Only 35 pep band members, and the director, will be admitted at no charge to the state playoffs, providing each member of said groups complies with the following conditions. Additional members may attend at the student fee at the discretion of host administrator based on facility space consideration.

Marching Bands/Pep Bands are asked to observe the following:

- Play only at pre-game, timeouts, and intermissions during games. At no time can bands, percussion, or any part of an instrument be played while the ball is in play.
- Respect/consider other bands in attendance. Every school should have the opportunity to complete a cheer and to have its band play (a meeting of the band directors prior to the start of the contest always helps to ensure good sportsmanship).

- Do not allow band instruments, drums, etc., to be used as noisemakers. Only a maximum of 2 amplifiers can be used for the purpose of amplifying a piano, guitar, or bass.

MEDIA RULES

- Game and school officials have the final word on photographer placement.
- All photographers must be credentialed by the CHSAA. No school specific passes will be accepted.
- Team photographers not credentialed by the CHSAA will not have access to the field.
- High school student photographers must have the CHSAA issued media pass. No school specific passes will be accepted.

*For more information on obtaining a CHSAA credential, please contact Rob White (Rwhite@chsaa.org)

(Note: no credentials will be issued within 72 hours of an event)

TICKETING & TOURNAMENT FINANCES

[Playoff financial reporting requirements in place for the 2026-2027 playoffs.](#)

In a playoff game, if the host makes \$1,000 or more in net income from that game (revenue minus expenses=net income), then 25% of the net income gets paid to the visiting team. A simple T&PF form is required to be sent from the host to the visiting school to report the amount that will be paid to the visiting school. Sarah Vernon-Brunner, Director of Finance for CHSAA, will send the T&PF Form to the host to fill out.

No percentage of gate revenue is owed to CHSAA, and no travel reimbursements will be paid to the visiting team.

If a host distributes free tickets, this needs to be made equitable to the visiting team. For example, if a host school lets students in for free to a game, then the visiting team students should be allowed in free as well, as stated in the T&PF Committee Report.

2026 4A FLAG FOOTBALL PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Enrollment: 1-1499 (47 schools)

**4A team playing in 5A league*

Air Academy	Golden	Palmer
Aurora Central (placed down)	Green Mountain	Palmer Ridge (new)
Aurora West College Prep Academy	Highlands Ranch*	Pomona
Bear Creek	Hinkley	Ponderosa*
Berthoud (new)	Holy Family (new)	Regus Groff (co-op)
Bruce Randolph	Kennedy	Sierra (new)
Colorado Springs Christian	Lakewood	Skyview (co-op/new)
Coronado	Liberty	Standley Lake
Conifer (new)	Lincoln	Steamboat Springs
Dakota Ridge	Littleton	The Classical Academy
Denver West	Lutheran*	The Vanguard School
Eagle Ridge Academy	Manual	Thomas Jefferson
Elizabeth	Monarch	Thornton
Evergreen	Mountain View	Vanguard Classical East (new)
Fort Lupton (new)	Mullen*	Vista Ridge
George Washington	Northridge (new)	Wheat Ridge

4A Flag Football League Alignments

City League (8 teams)

- Bruce Randolph
- Denver West
- George Washington
- Kennedy
- Lincoln
- Manual
- Regis Groff
- Thomas Jefferson

Northern League B (6 teams)

- Berthoud (new)
- Ft. Lupton (new)

Northern League A (8 teams)

- Aurora West College Prep
- Aurora Central
- Eagle Ridge Academy
- Gateway*
- Hinkley
- Skyview (co-op)
- Thornton
- Vanguard Classical East (new)

Southern League A (6 teams)

- Air Academy
- Doherty*

- Holy Family (new)
- Monarch

Northern League B (cont.)

- Mountain View
- Northridge (new)

Jeffco League (12 teams)

- Bear Creek
- Conifer
- Dakota Ridge
- Evergreen
- Golden
- Green Mountain
- Lakewood (placed down)
- Littleton
- Pomona
- Standley Lake
- Steamboat Springs
- Wheat Ridge

- Elizabeth
- Liberty

Southern League A (cont.)

- The Classical Academy
- Vista Ridge

Southern League B (6 teams)

- Coronado
- Colorado Springs Christian
- Fountain-Fort Carson*
- Palmer
- Sierra (new)
- Vanguard School

Each league is responsible for creating a plan to determine the league's automatic qualifier. The plan for each league is due to CHSAA at the start of the season. 7 automatic qualifiers will be determined at the end of league play, with 13 at-large qualifiers determined by the final MaxPreps Rankings.

2026 5A FLAG FOOTBALL PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Enrollment: 1500 – up (36 schools)

**5A team playing in 4A league*

Arapahoe	Douglas County	Northglenn
Arvada West	Eaglecrest	Overland
Castle View (new)	Fountain-Fort Carson*	Poudre School District (co-op)
Chaparral	Gateway*	Ralston Valley
Chatfield	Grandview	Rangeview
Cherokee Trail	Heritage	Regis Jesuit
Cherry Creek	Horizon	Riverdale Ridge (new)
Columbine	Legacy	Rock Canyon
Denver East	Legend	Smoky Hill
Denver North	Mountain Range	ThunderRidge
Denver South	Mountain Vista	Valor Cristian
Doherty*	Northfield	Vista Peak Prep

5A Flag Football League Allignments

City League (6 teams)

- Denver East
- Denver North
- Denver South
- Northfield
- Rangeview
- Vista Peak Prep

Centennial League (8 teams)

- Arapahoe
- Cherokee Trail
- Cherry Creek
- Eaglecrest
- Grandview
- Mullen*
- Overland
- Smoky Hill

Jeffco League (5 teams)

- Arvada West
- Chatfield
- Columbine
- Ralston Valley
- Valor Christian

Northern League (6 teams)

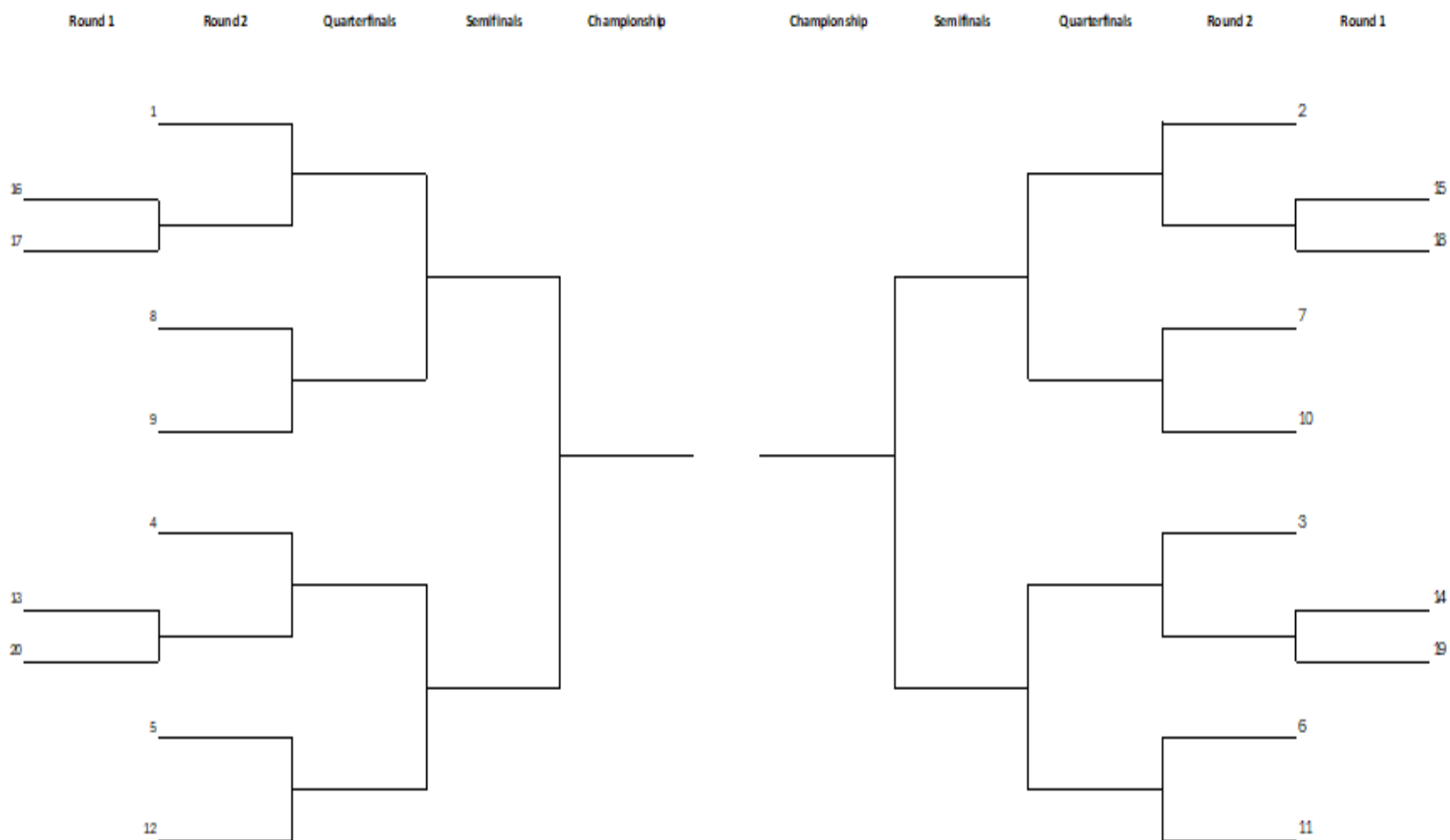
- Horizon
- Legacy
- Mountain Range
- Northglenn
- Poudre School District (co-op)
- Riverdale Ridge (new)

Continental League (11 teams)

- Castle View (new)
- Chaparral
- Douglas County
- Heritage
- Highlands Ranch*
- Legend
- Lutheran*
- Mountain Vista
- Ponderosa*
- Regis Jesuit
- Rock Canyon
- ThunderRidge

Each league is responsible for creating a plan to determine the league's automatic qualifier. The plan for each league is due to CHSAA at the start of the season. 5 automatic qualifiers will be determined at the end of league play, with 15 at-large qualifiers determined by the final MaxPreps Rankings.

4A/5A Flag Football Bracket



FLAG FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

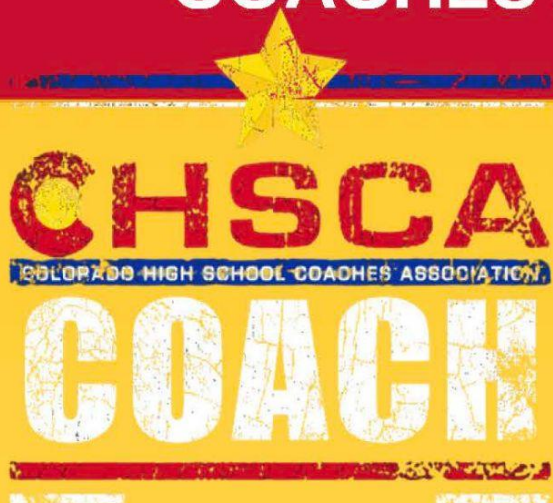
	4A	5A
2024	Mountain View	Mountain Vista
2025	The Classical Academy	Mountain Vista

The diagram illustrates the layout of a football field with the following dimensions and markings:

- Overall Dimensions:** The field is 120' wide and 240' long.
- End Zones:** Each end zone is 30' long and 120' wide, containing a goal.
- Team Boxes:** Each team box is 30' long and 120' wide, located on either side of the field.
- Restricted Areas:** These are located between the team boxes and the end zones, with a width of 2 YDS. OR MORE.
- Yard Lines:** The field is marked with 3-YARD LINE, 10-YARD LINE, 14-YARD LINE, 20, 30-YARD LINE, 40, and 50-YARD LINE.
- Goalposts:** Each goalpost is 18' high and 4" wide, located at the end of the field.
- Restraining Lines:** These are located at the ends of the field, 5 YDS. OR MORE from the end zone.

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COLORADO HIGH SCHOOL COACHES ASSOCIATION



INDIVIDUAL SIGN UP HERE::



OR CLICK HERE



WHY JOIN?

BENEFITS

- Two Million dollar liability insurance
- Admission card to state tournament events
- Hospitalities
- Can nominate for All-State and scholarships
- CHSCA communications

EDUCATION

- Coaching clinics
- New coach trainings
- Online learning calls
- Coaching resources
- Leadership training
- PLUS... we're working on more online learning opportunities!

ALL STATE GAMES

- We run the biggest and BEST All-State games in the state! Hosted by UNC in Greeley, we bring together top senior athletes from across the entire state to compete.
- HEAD COACH must be a member to nominate a player for All-State.

RECOGNITION

- Colorado Coaches Hall of Fame
- Sport Coach of the Year Awards
- Outstanding Assistant Coach of the Year Awards
- Longevity Awards
- Achievement Awards
- Special Recognition Awards
- Nominations to National Coach of the Year Awards



COLORADO COACHES CODE OF ETHICS

1. **PROFESSIONALISM** A COACH will uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with students, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media, parents, and the public, the coach will strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.
2. **INFLUENCE** A COACH will be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence on the education of the student and, thus, shall place the highest value on instilling the ideals of character. The coach will realize that he or she is a role model, both in the school, the community and on social media accounts, and his or her actions must live up to their words.
3. **LIFE LESSONS** A COACH will know that the lessons of the game are more important than the outcome of the game, and the coach will demonstrate an understanding of the athletes' growth and development in life beyond the game.
4. **PRIORITIES** A COACH will remember that the game is for the young people, and will place the athletes' needs and interests before his or her own.
5. **SPORTSMANSHIP** A COACH will personally demonstrate sportsmanship, and exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship by all team members and spectators.
6. **RULES** A COACH will master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team members. The coach shall honor both the spirit and letter of the rules.
7. **SAFETY** A COACH will ensure a safe environment and safe equipment, and practice safe training techniques based on current practices.
8. **OFFICIALS** A COACH will respect and work with officials, understanding their importance and the role that they play in the event.
9. **TRAINING RULES** A COACH will take an active role in promoting a positive lifestyle and in the prevention of alcohol, tobacco and drug usage by team members.
10. **SOCIAL MEDIA** A COACH will use team social media for only positive communication, team promotion, and team building, and encourage team members to use social media responsibly.
11. **PARTNERS** A COACH will work with the athletic director to be knowledgeable about and follow school district policies and procedures, and CHSAA rules and bylaws.
12. **CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT** A COACH will continue his or her own professional development through coaching clinics, and other learning tools. The coach will continually seek a mastery of coaching principles and techniques, and show interest in continual growth.

(adapted from NFHS, NHSACA, and CHSCA)

A collage of various sports images including swimming, track and field, volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball, and soccer, with the text "CHSAA OFFICIAL" at the bottom. The collage features a variety of athletes in action, such as a swimmer diving, runners on a track, a volleyball player spiking, a basketball player shooting, a baseball player swinging, a softball player pitching, and a soccer player kicking. The images are arranged in a dynamic, overlapping layout. At the top, the text "OF ALL ATHLETES AT CON ON SITE!" is partially visible. At the bottom, the text "CHSAA OFFICIAL" is prominently displayed.