

SOCCER RULES CLINIC 2026

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Congratulations

Dennis Brumfield

Selected to represent Section II
and West Virginia on the NFHS
Soccer Rules Committee



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

You are responsible for the knowledge of the entire content presented and referenced today. This includes, but is not limited to:

- WVSSAC Rules and Regulations Handbook
- Coaches Packets
- Sports Medicine Packet
- Interscholastic
- NFHS Rulebook





IMPORTANT HIGH SCHOOL DATES

SEASON BEGINS – AUGUST 3

1ST CONTEST – AUGUST 19

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT
ALL CLASSES –
OCTOBER 19 – OCTOBER 31

STATE TOURNAMENT –
NOVEMBER 4, 5, 6 AND 7



COACHES

Number of games

High School 20 games

Middle school 14 games

Halves

High school – 50 halves – Excluding Regional and State contests

High School – No more than 3 halves in one day

Middle school – 28 halves per season



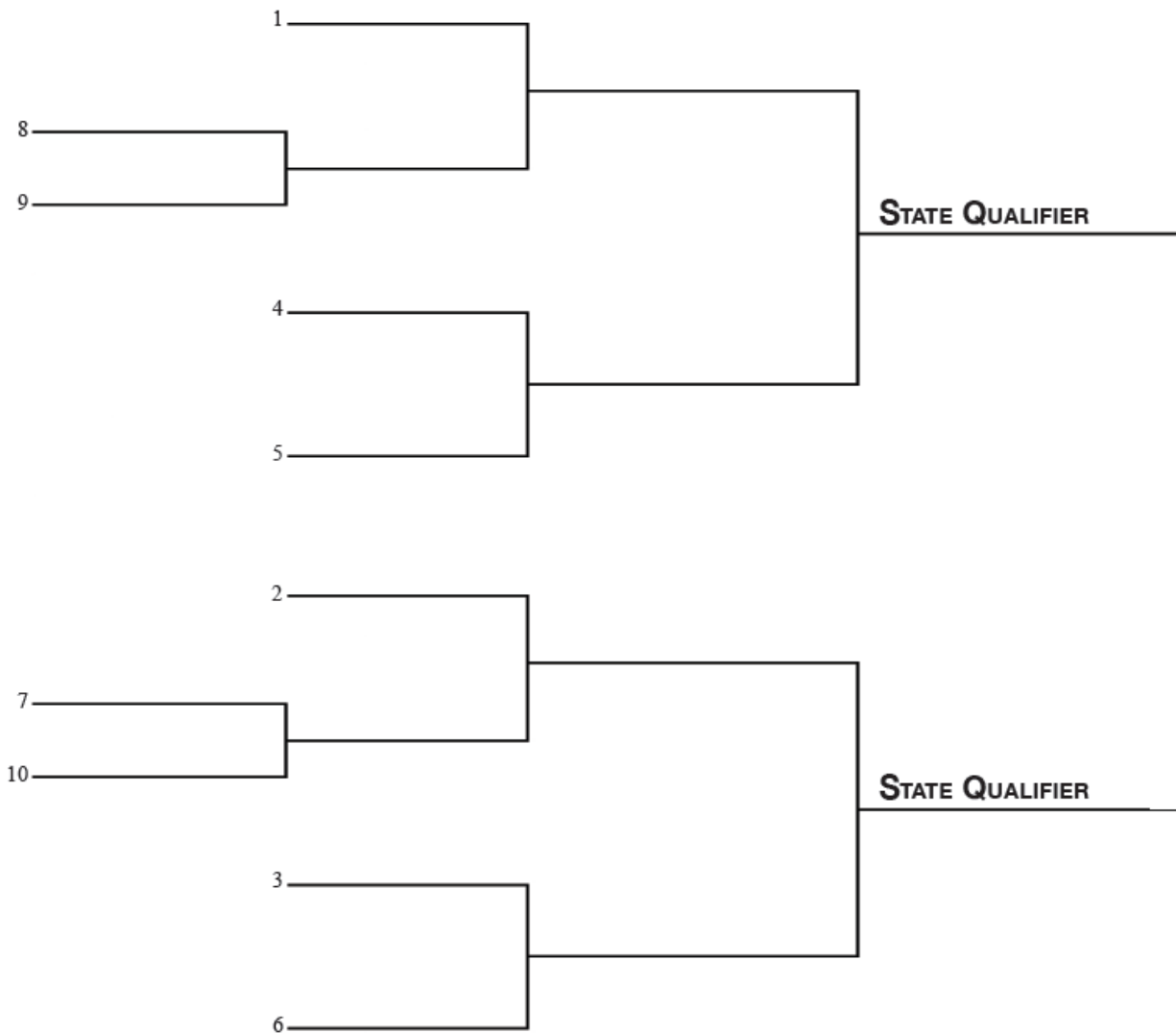


Girls Soccer Class AAAA, North Region

THURS, OCT. 22

MON, OCT. 26

THURS, OCT. 29



TEAMS

Hedgesville
Jefferson
Martinsburg
Morgantown
Musselman
Spring Mills
Preston
University
Washington
Wheeling Park

*Team in bold hosts
regional meeting*



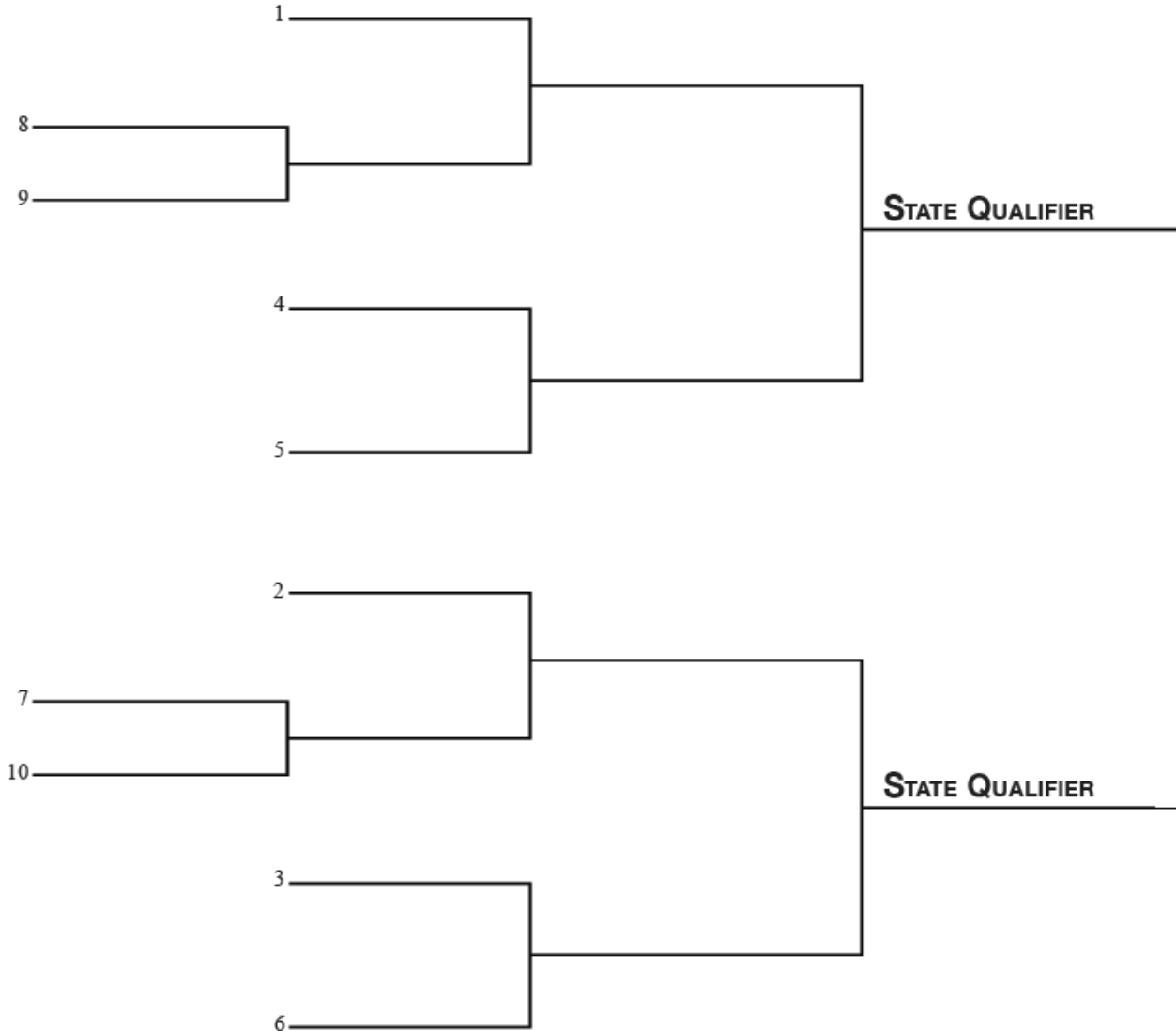


Girls Soccer Class AAAA, South Region

THURS, OCT. 22

MON, OCT. 26

THURS, OCT. 29



TEAMS

Buckhannon Upshur
Cabell Midland
George Washington
Huntington
Hurricane
Oak Hill
Parkersburg
Parkersburg South
Riverside
Woodrow Wilson

*Team in bold hosts
regional meeting*



PRESENTED BY
 TOYOTA



Girls Soccer Class AAA, Region I

TUES, OCT. 20

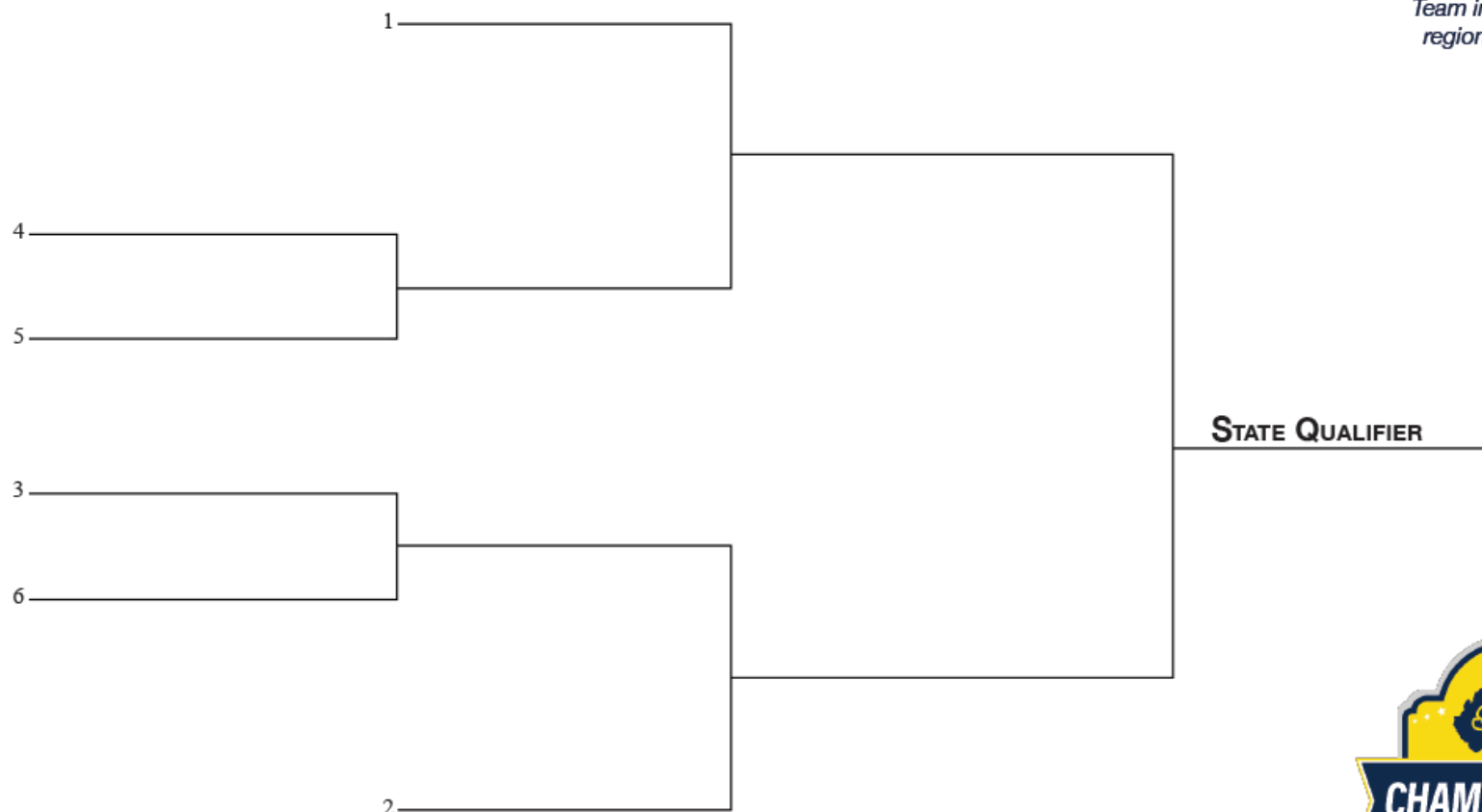
THURS, OCT. 22

WED, OCT. 28

TEAMS

Brooke
East Fairmont
Fairmont Senior
Grafton
John Marshall
North Marion

*Team in bold hosts
regional meeting*



PRESENTED BY



TOYOTA



Girls Soccer Class AAA, Region II

TUES, OCT. 20

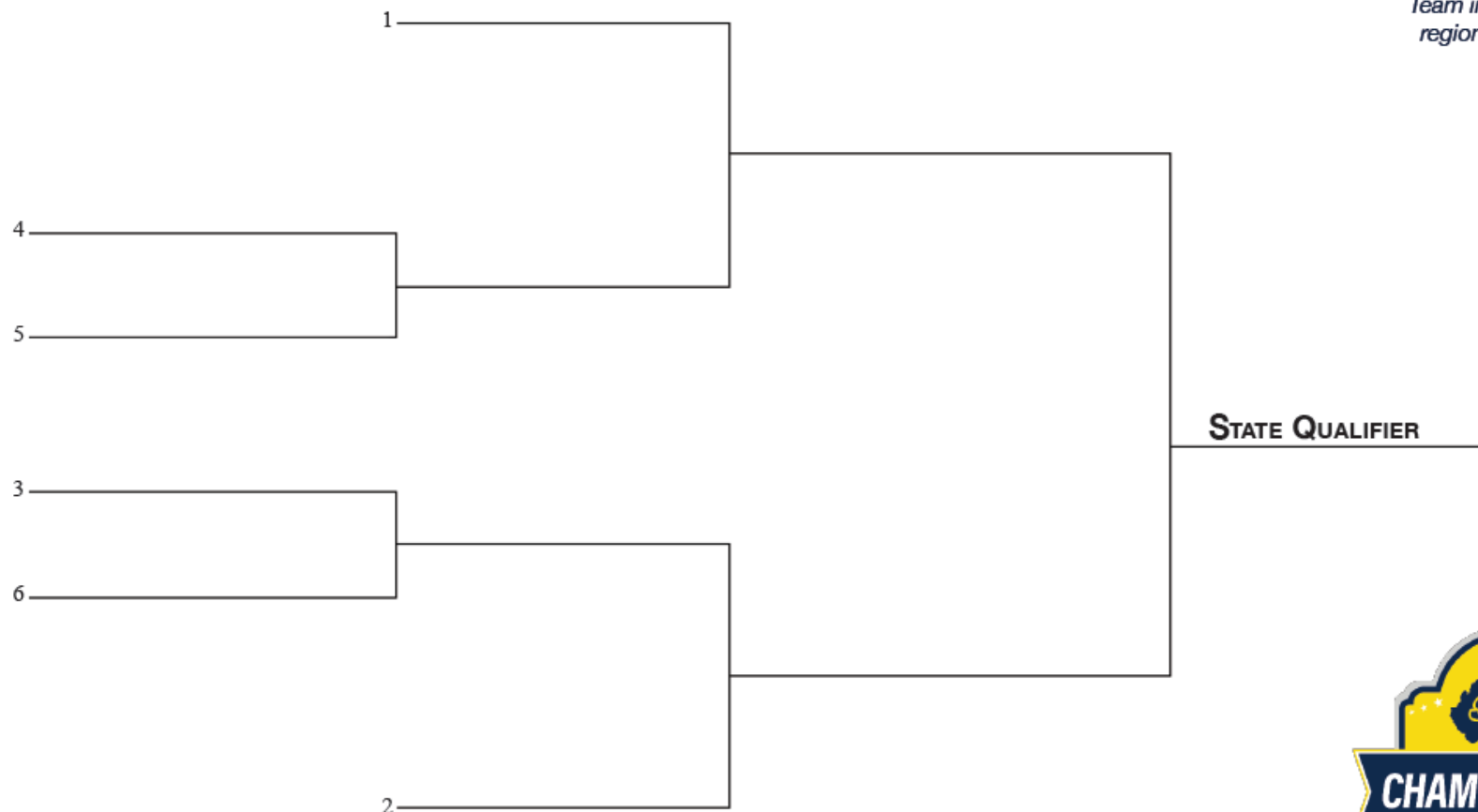
THURS, OCT. 22

WED, OCT. 28

TEAMS

Bridgeport
Elkins
Hampshire
Keyser
Lewis County
Robert C. Byrd

*Team in bold hosts
regional meeting*





Girls Soccer Class AAA, Region III

TUES, OCT. 20

THURS OCT. 22

WED, OCT. 28

1 _____

8 _____

4 _____

5 _____

3 _____

6 _____

2 _____

7 _____



STATE QUALIFIER

TEAMS

Capital
Greenbrier East
Herbert Hoover
Nicholas County
Pikeview
Princeton
Ripley
Shady Spring

*Team in bold hosts
regional meeting*





Girls Soccer Class AAA, Region IV

TUES, OCT. 20

THURS OCT. 22

WED, OCT. 28

1

8

4

5

3

6

2

7

STATE QUALIFIER

TEAMS

Charleston Catholic
Lincoln County
Nitro
Point Pleasant
South Charleston
Spring Valley
St. Albans
Winfield

*Team in bold hosts
regional meeting*



PRESENTED BY



TOYOTA



Girls Soccer Class AA-A, Region I

MON, OCT. 19

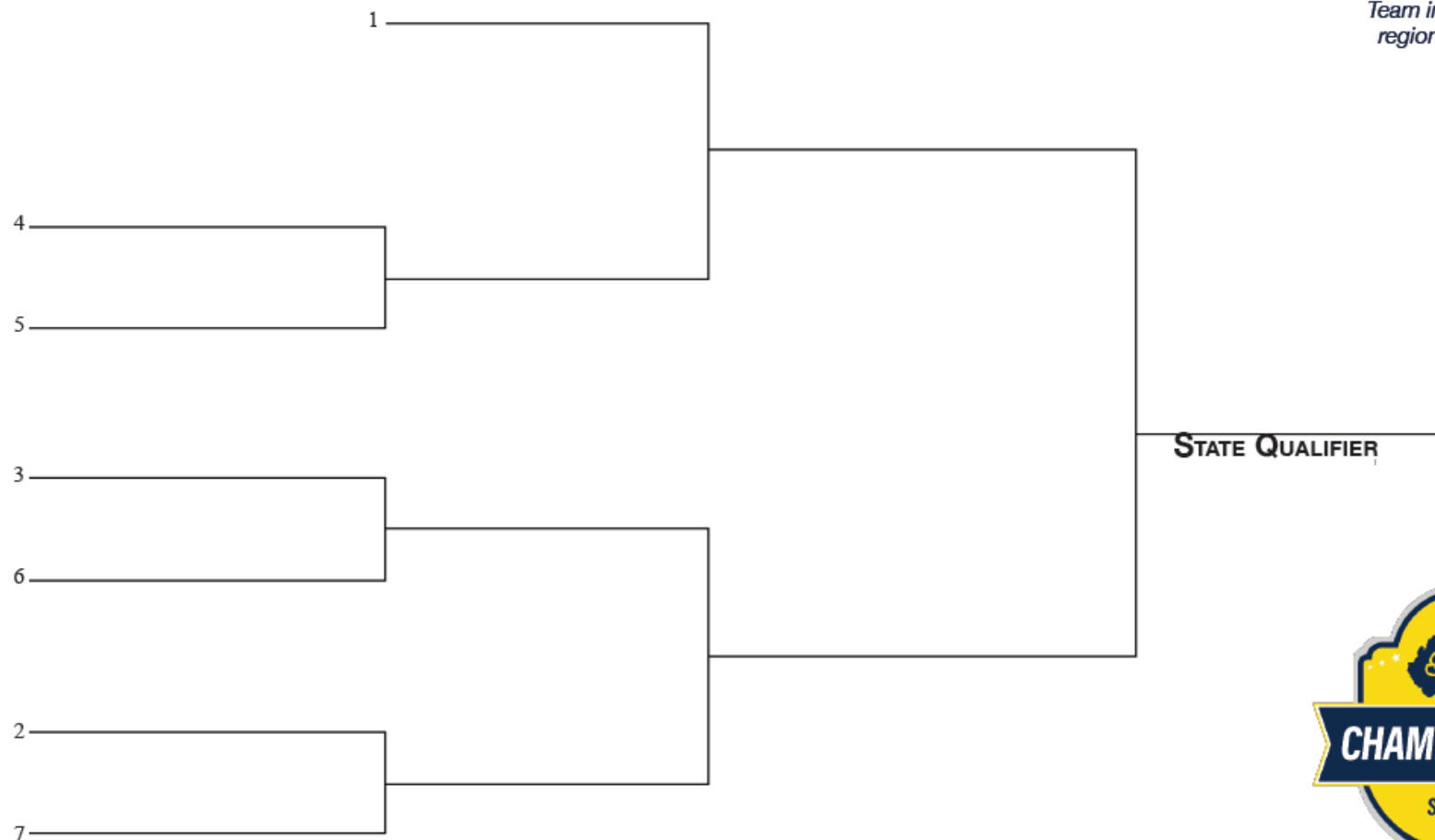
THURS, OCT. 22

WED, OCT. 28

TEAMS

Magnolia
Oak Glen
Ravenswood
Tyler Consolidated
Weir
Wheeling Central
Williamstown

*Team in bold hosts
regional meeting*



PRESENTED BY
 TOYOTA



Girls Soccer Class AA-A, Region II

MON, OCT. 19

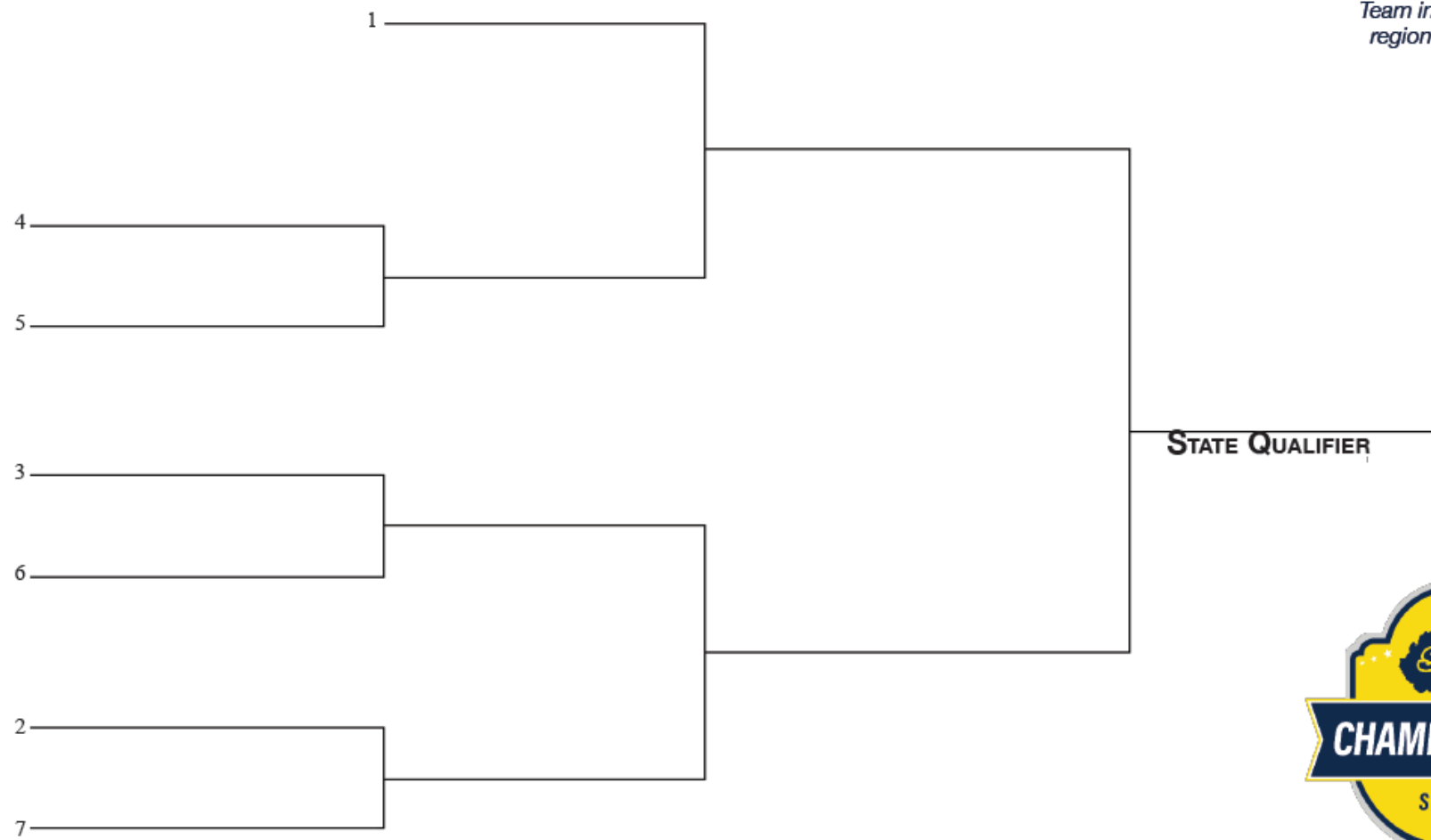
THURS, OCT. 22

WED, OCT. 28

TEAMS

Berkeley Springs
Frankfort
Lincoln
Moorefield
Petersburg
Philip Barbour
Pocahontas County

*Team in bold hosts
regional meeting*



PRESENTED BY





Girls Soccer Class AA-A, Region III

MON, OCT. 19

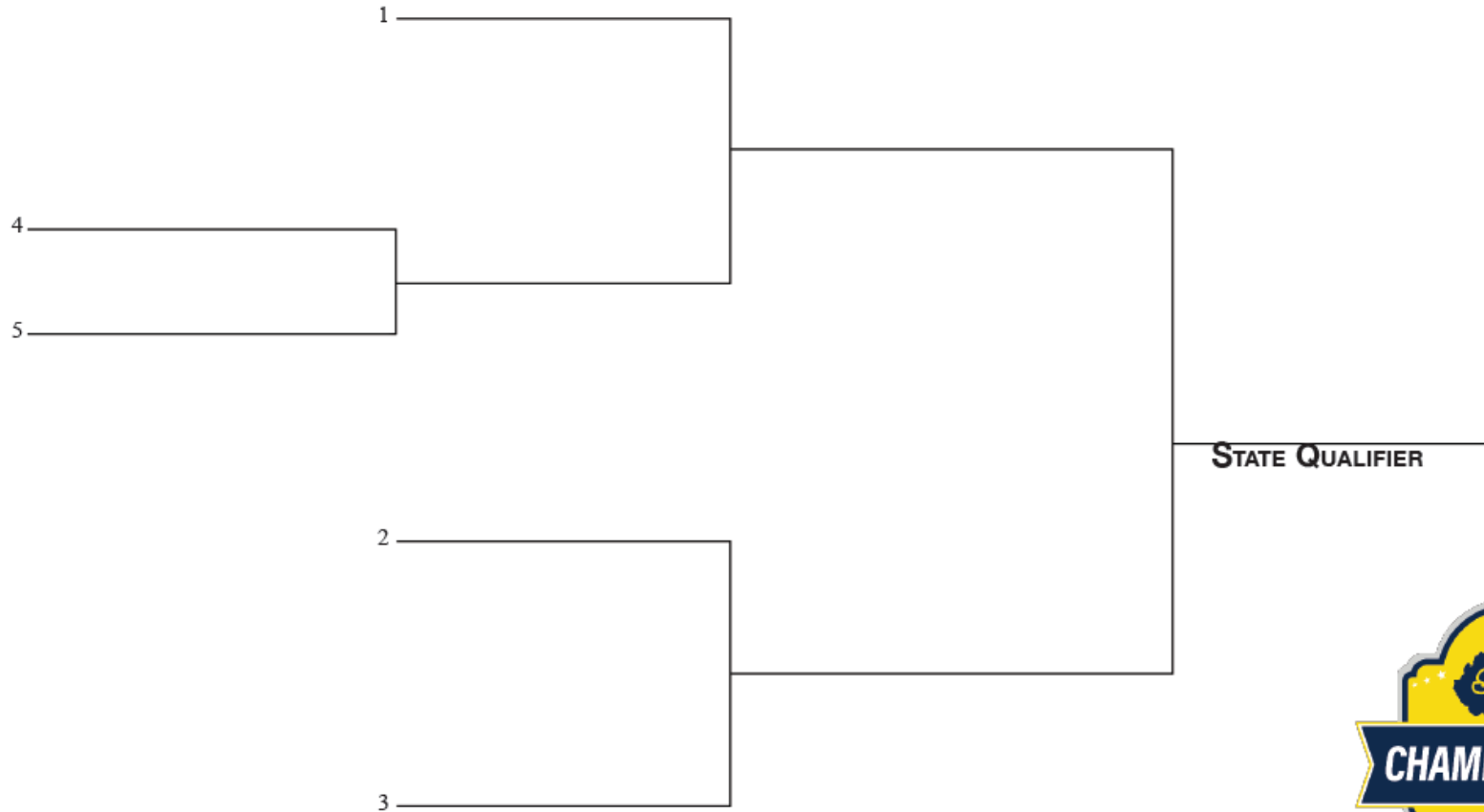
WED, OCT. 21

TUES, OCT. 27

TEAMS

Braxton County
Buffalo
Scott
Sissonville
St. Joseph Central

*Team in bold hosts
regional meeting*





Girls Soccer Class AA-A, Region IV

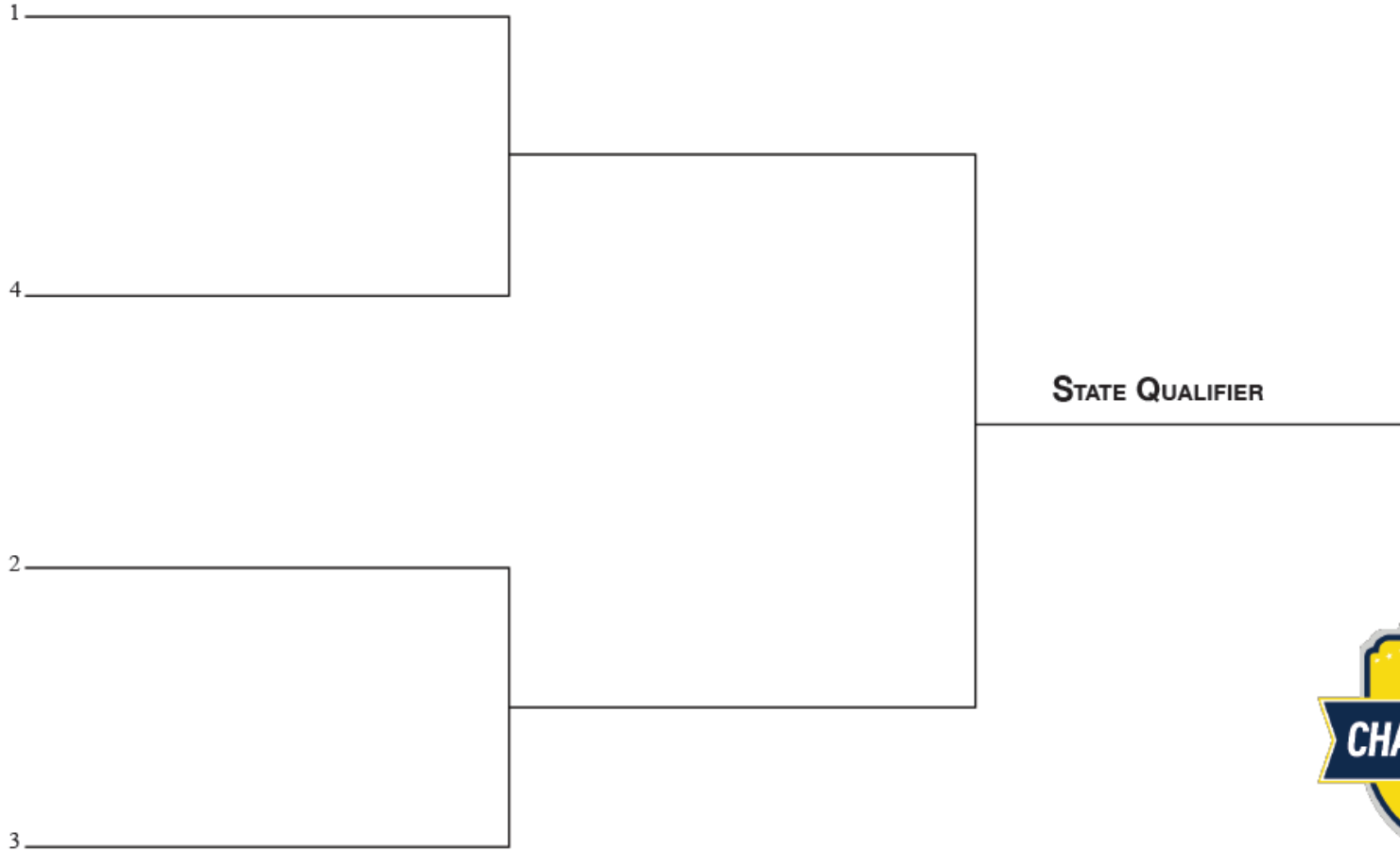
WED, OCT. 21

TUES, OCT. 27

TEAMS

Bluefield
James Monroe
Midland Trail
Sherman

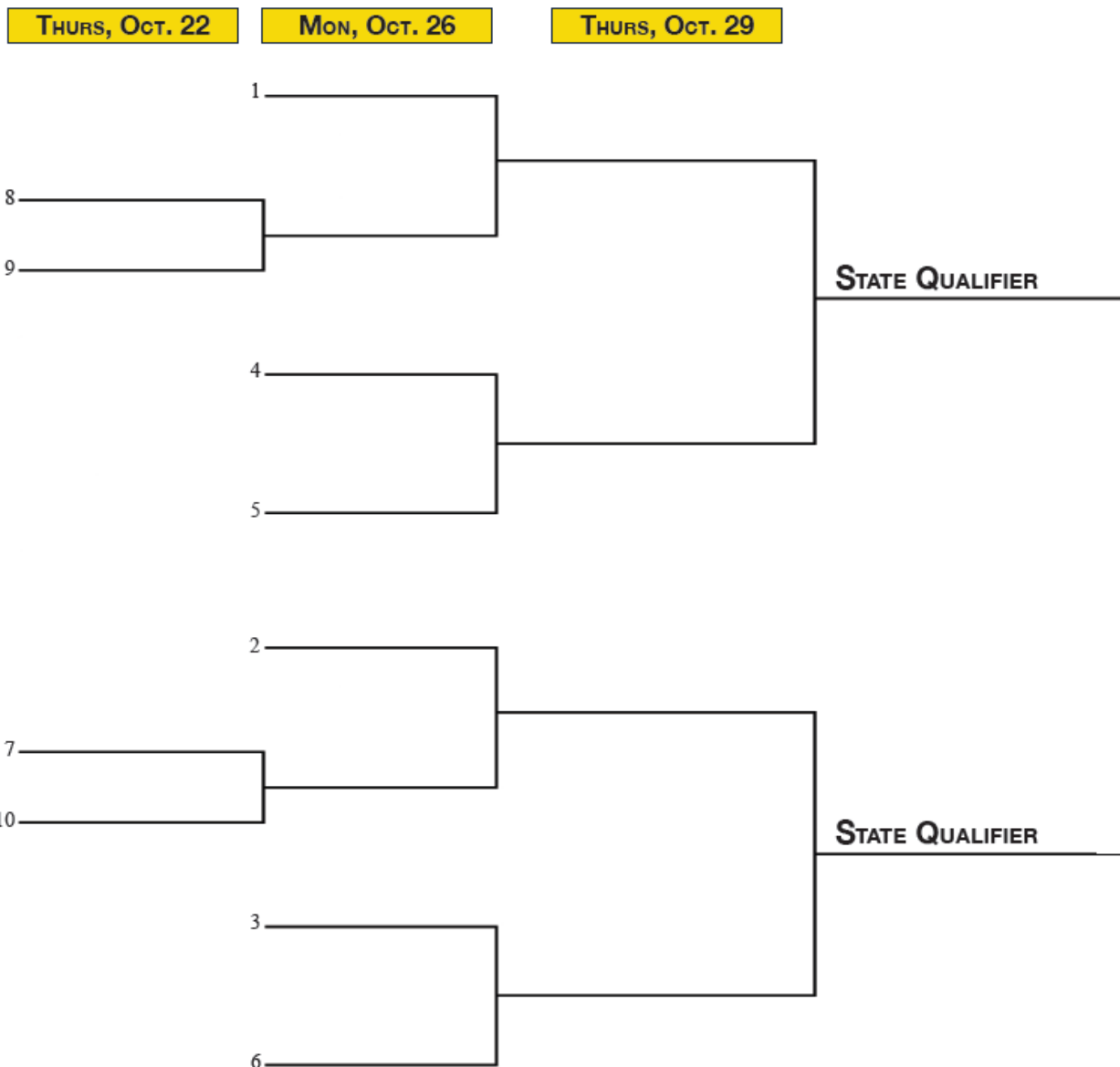
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Boys Soccer Class AAAA, North Region



TEAMS

Hedgesville
Jefferson
Martinsburg
Morgantown
Musselman
Spring Mills
Preston
University
Washington
Wheeling Park

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regional meeting*



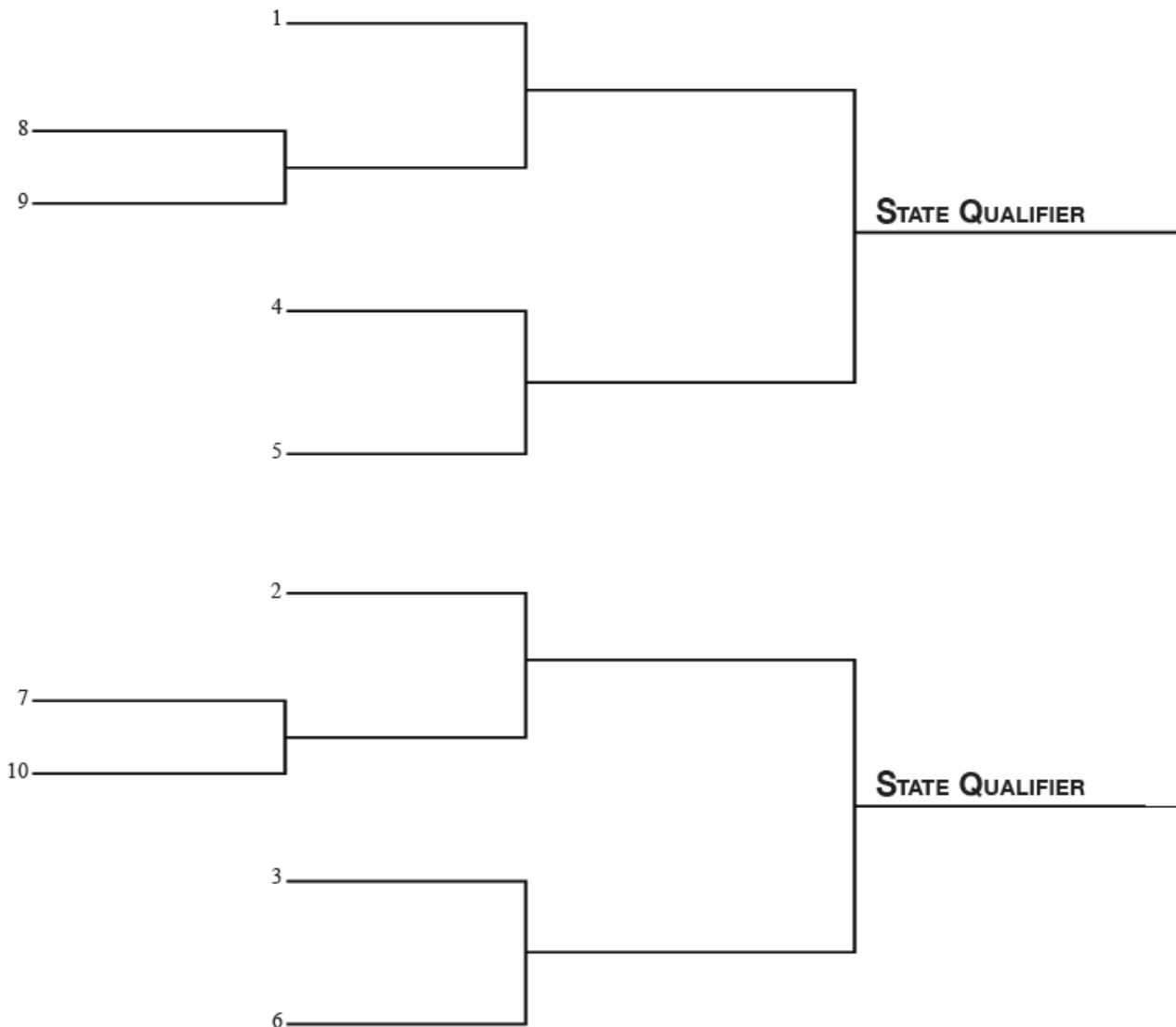


Boys Soccer Class AAAA, South Region

THURS, OCT. 22

MON, OCT. 26

THURS, OCT. 29



TEAMS

Buckhannon Upshur
Cabell Midland
George Washington
Huntington
Hurricane
Oak Hill
Parkersburg
Parkersburg South
Riverside
Woodrow Wilson

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regional meeting*





Boys Soccer Class AAA, Region I

TUES, OCT. 20

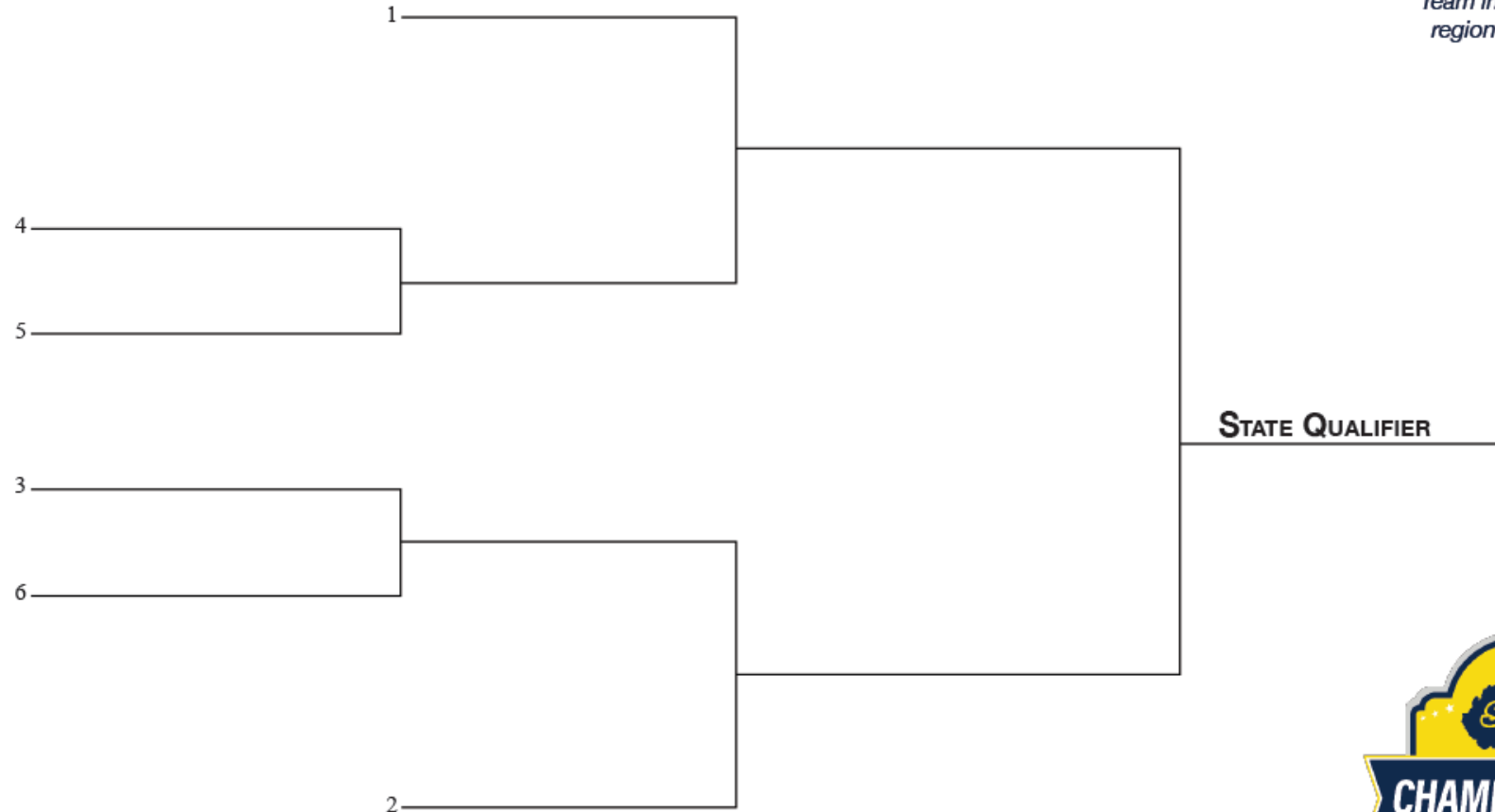
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WED, OCT. 28

TEAMS

Brooke
East Fairmont
Fairmont Senior
Grafton
John Marshall
North Marion

*Team in bold hosts
regional meeting*



PRESENTED BY



TOYOTA



Boys Soccer Class AAA, Region II

TUES, OCT. 20

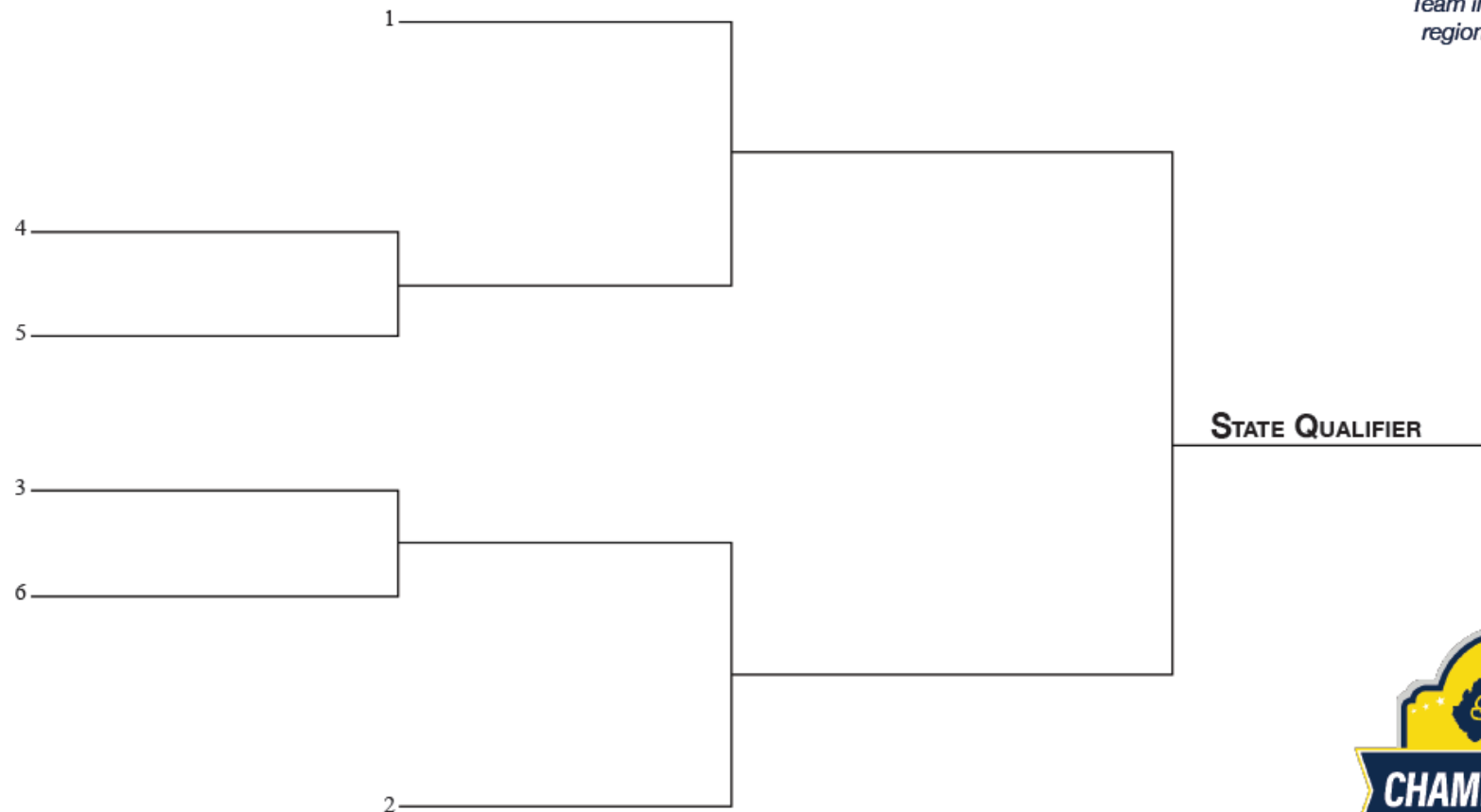
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Elkins
Hampshire
Keyser
Lewis County
Robert C. Byrd

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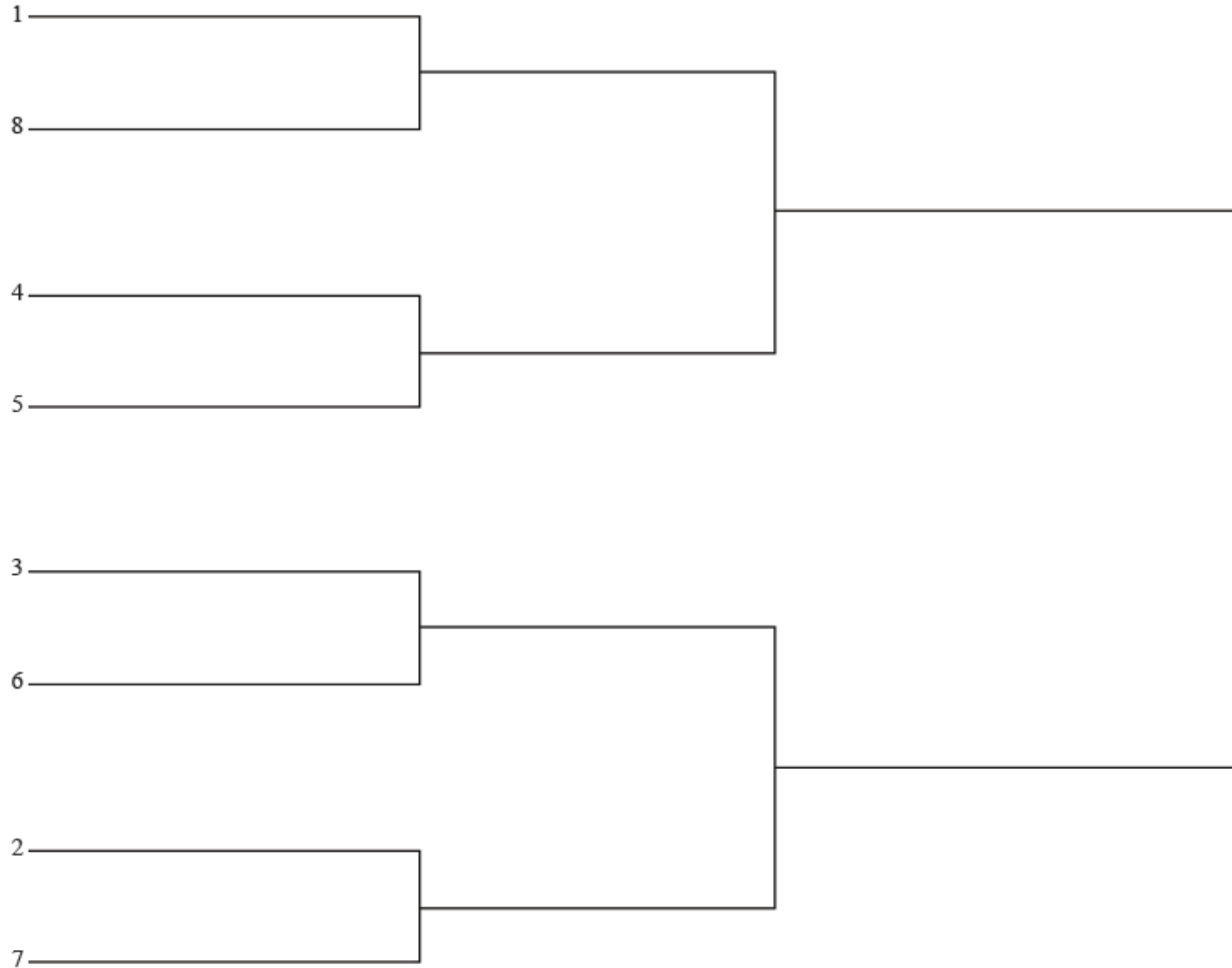


Boys Soccer Class AAA, Region III

TUES, OCT. 20

THURS OCT. 22

WED, OCT. 28



STATE QUALIFIER

TEAMS

Capital
Greenbrier East
Herbert Hoover
Nicholas County
Pikeview
Princeton
Ripley
Shady Spring

*Team in bold hosts
regional meeting*



PRESENTED BY



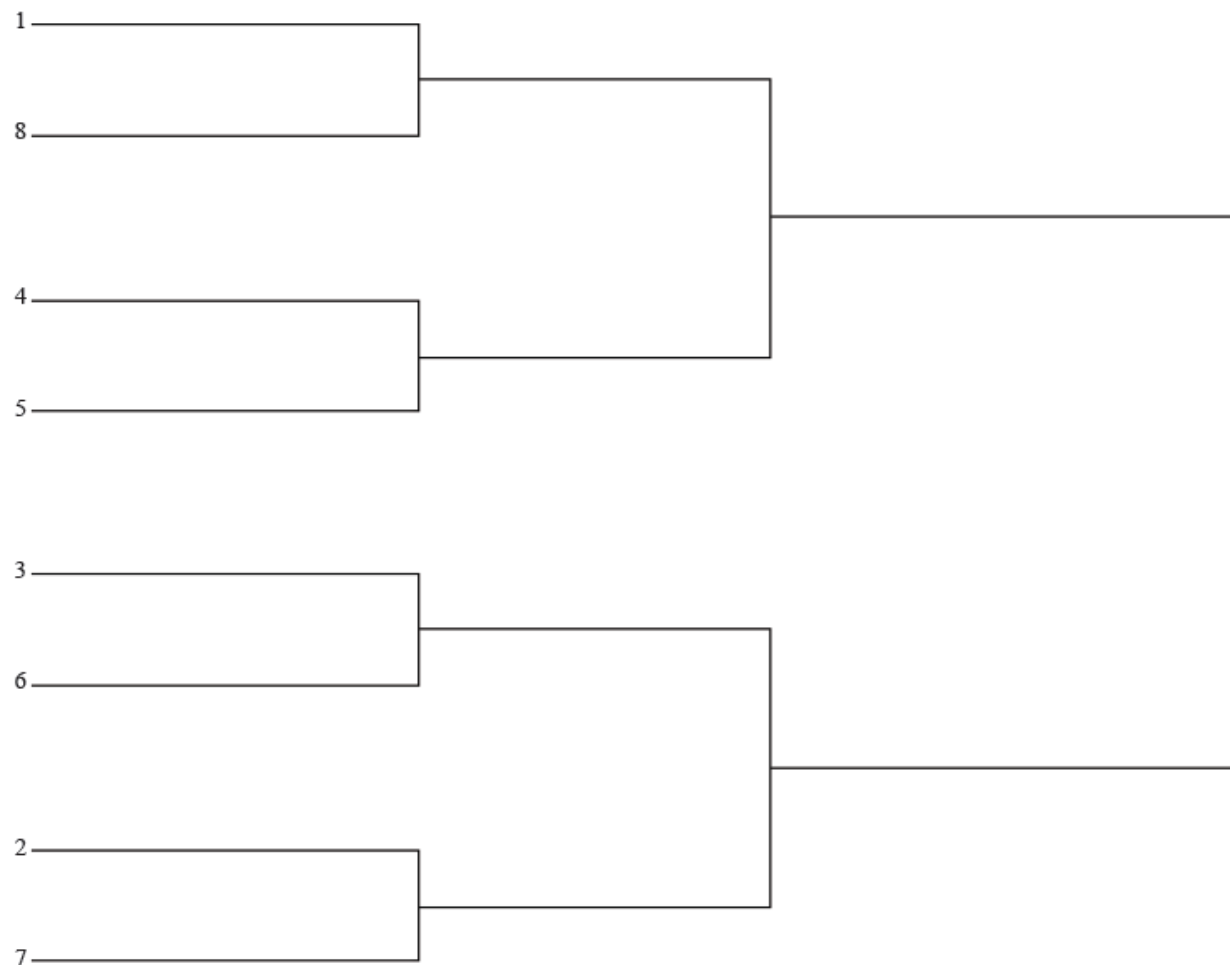


Boys Soccer Class AAA, Region IV

TUES, OCT. 20

THURS OCT. 22

WED, OCT. 28



STATE QUALIFIER

TEAMS

Charleston Catholic
Lincoln County
Nitro
Point Pleasant
South Charleston
Spring Valley
St. Albans
Winfield

*Team in bold hosts
regional meeting*



PRESENTED BY





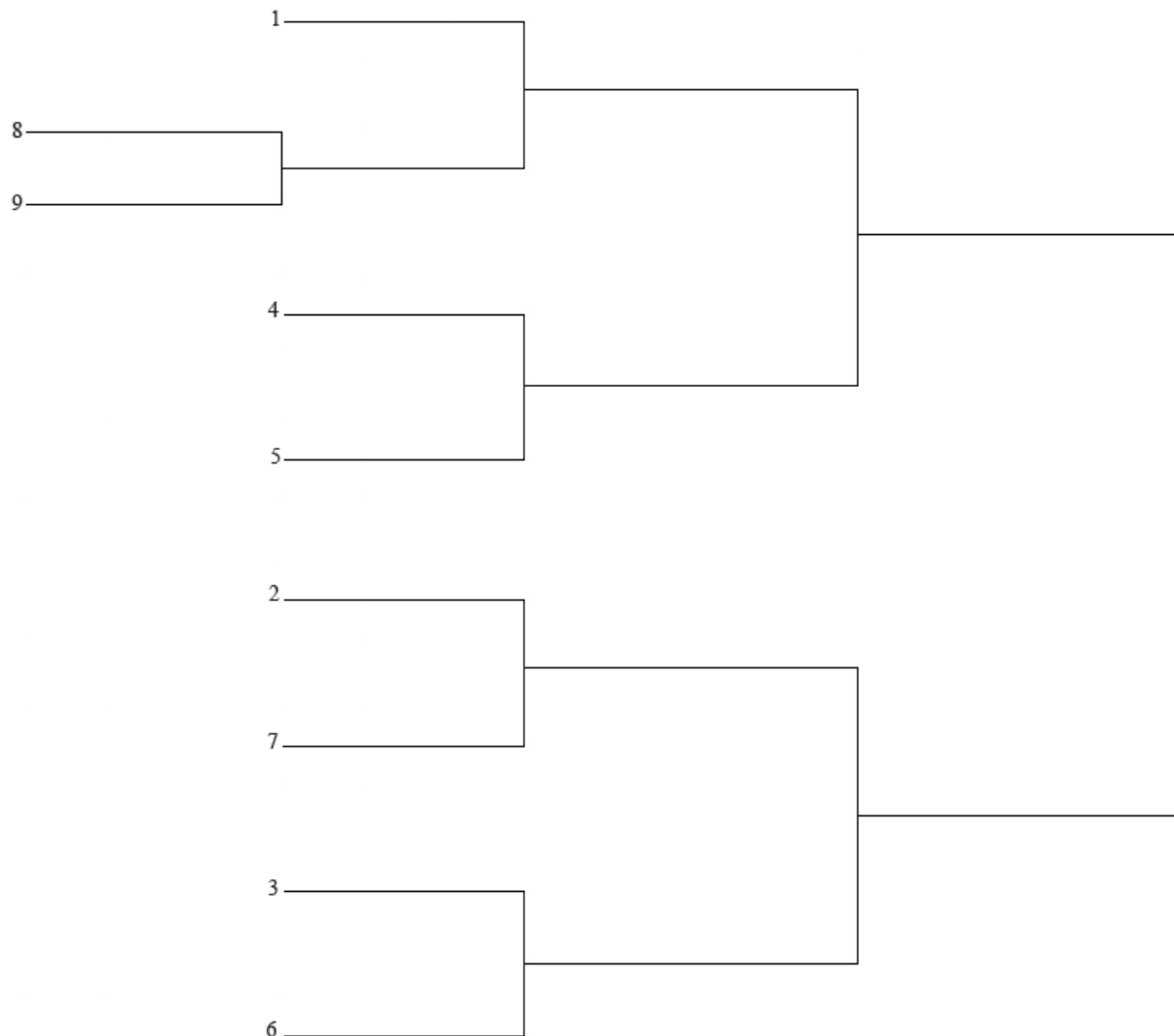
Boys Soccer Class AA-A, Region I

MON, OCT. 19

WED, OCT. 21

TUES, OCT. 27

THURS, OCT. 29



TEAMS

Ravenswood
Oak Glen
Parkersburg Catholic
St. Marys
Tyler Consolidated
Weir
Wheeling Central
Williamstown
Wood County Christian

*Team in bold hosts
regional meeting*



PRESENTED BY
 TOYOTA



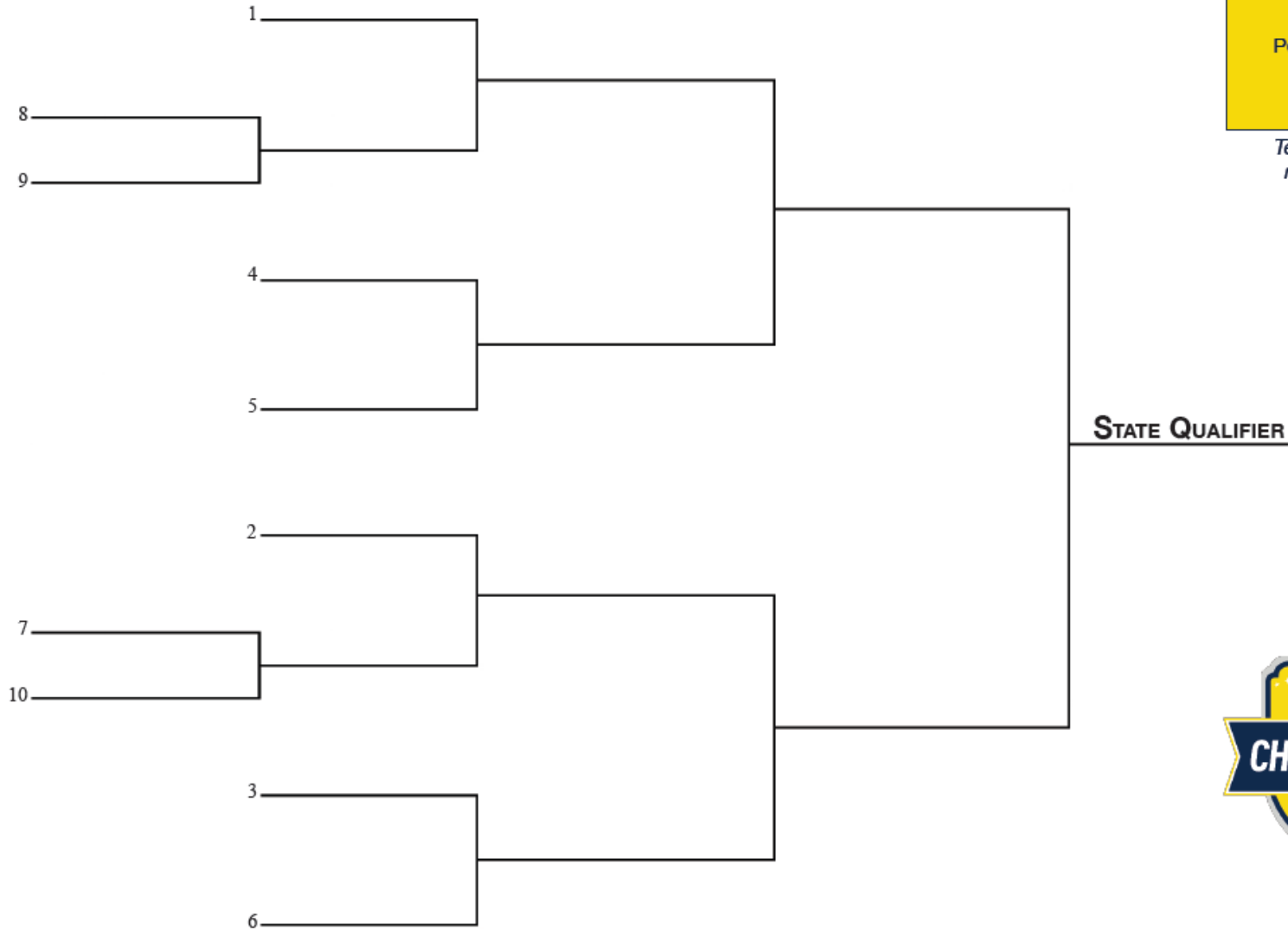
Boys Soccer Class AA-A, Region II

MON, OCT. 19

WED, OCT. 21

TUES, OCT. 27

THURS, OCT. 29



TEAMS

Berkeley Springs
Frankfort
Lincoln
Moorefield
Notre Dame
Petersburg
Philip Barbour
Pocahontas County
South Harrison
Trinity Christian

*Team in bold hosts
regional meeting*





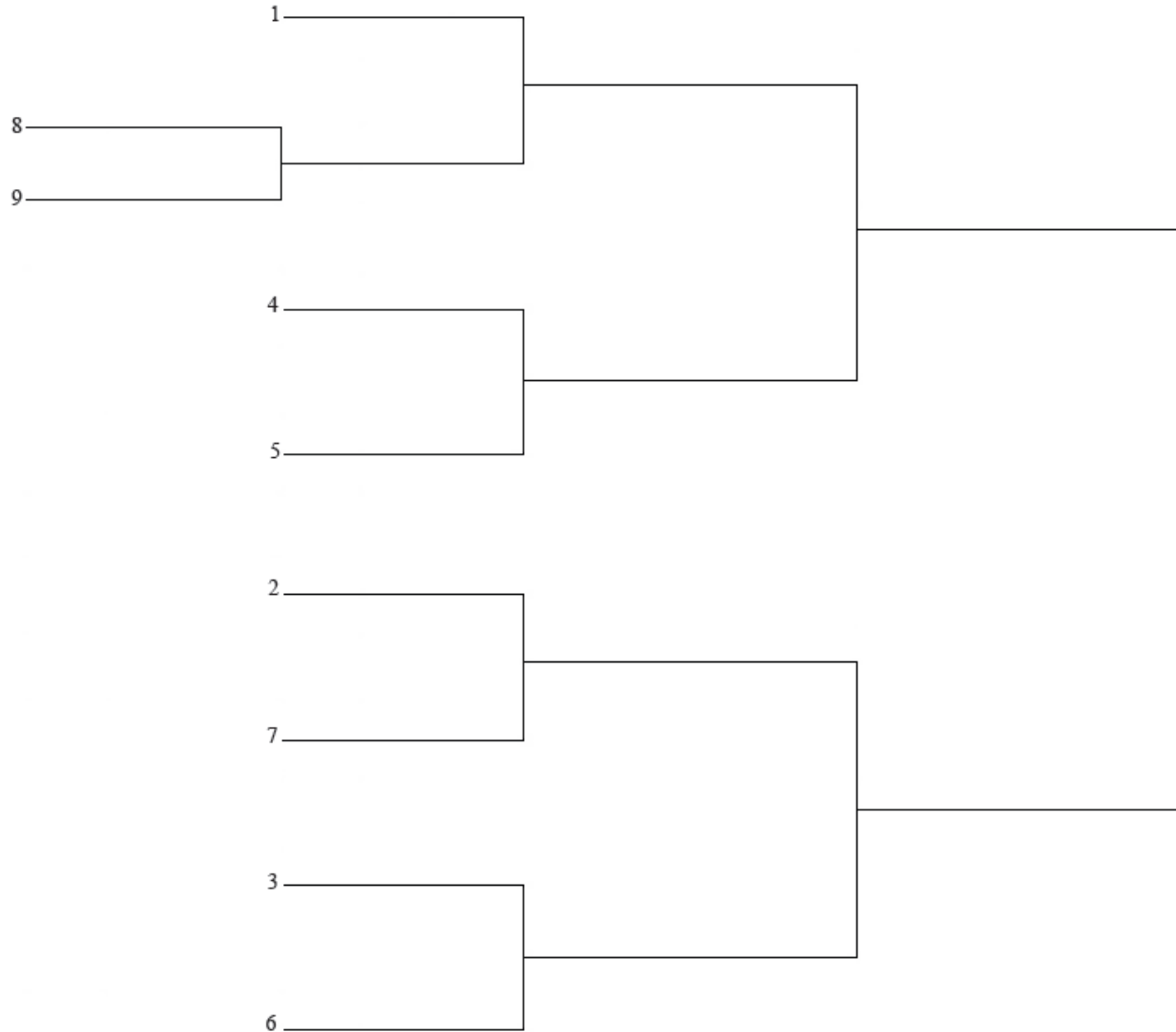
Boys Soccer Class AA-A, Region III

MON, OCT. 19

WED, OCT. 21

TUES, OCT. 27

THURS, OCT. 29



TEAMS

Bluefield

Braxton County

James Monroe

Midland Trail

Mingo Central

Sherman

Summit Christian

Webster County

Westside

*Team in bold hosts
regional meeting*

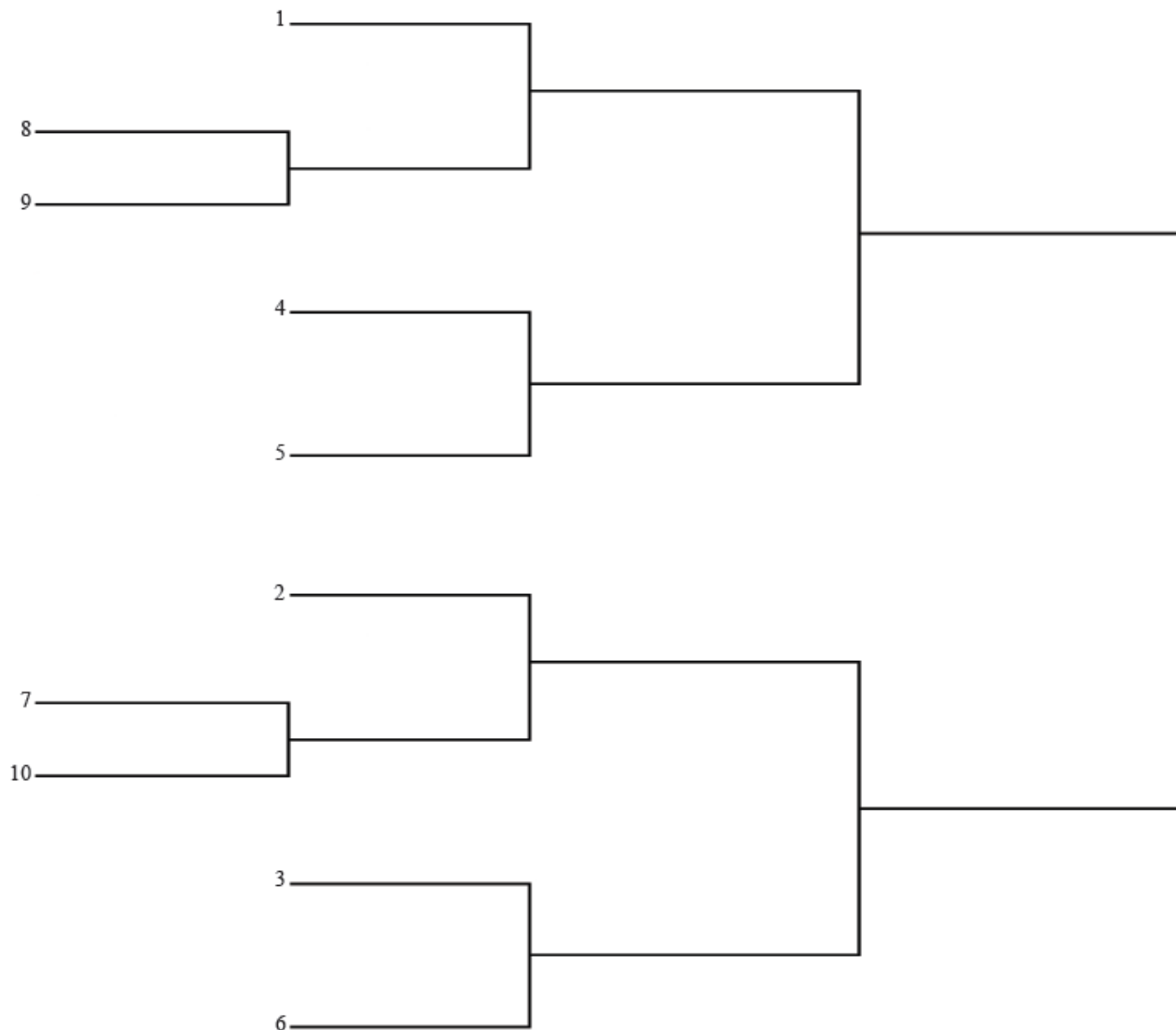


PRESENTED BY
 **TOYOTA**



Boys Soccer Class AA-A, Region IV

MON, OCT. 19 WED, OCT. 21 TUES, OCT. 27 THURS, OCT. 29



STATE QUALIFIER

TEAMS

Buffalo
Chapmanville Regional
Logan
Man
Poca
Roane County
Scott
Sissonville
St. Joseph Central
Tug Valley

*Team in bold hosts
regional meeting*



PRESENTED BY
 TOYOTA

WVSSAC State Soccer Tournament 2026

Paul Cline Memorial Sports Complex Beckley, WV

November 4-7, 2026

Home Team is the Higher Seed

Second Game in Each Session starts 30 minutes after the end of first game on Wednesday and Thursday, 45 minutes after first game on Friday and Saturday

Wednesday, 11/04/2026

AAAA Cline Stadium

Session 1: Semi-Finals AAAA GIRLS

10:00 am Kick-off of Boys #1 V #4

Kick-off Boys #2 V #3 30 minutes after the first game

Session 2: Semi-Finals AAAA BOYS

5:00pm Kick-off of Girls #1 V #4

Kick-off Girls #2 V #3 30 minutes after the first game



Thursday, 11/05/2026

AA-A Carter Stadium

Session 3: Semi Final AA-A GIRLS

9:30 am Kick-off of Girls #1 V # 4

Kick-off Girls #2 v #3 *(30 minutes after the first game)*

Session 4: Semi Final AA-A BOYS

4:30 pm Kick off Boys #1 V #4

Kick-off of Boys #2 v #3 *(30 minutes after the first game)*

AAA Cline Stadium

Session 5: Semi-Final AAA BOYS

10:00 am Kick-off Boys #1 V # 4

Kick-off Boys #2 V #3 *(30 minutes after the first game)*

Session 6: Semi-Final AAA GIRLS

5:00 pm Kick-off Girls #1 V #4

Kick-off of Girls #2 v #3 *(30 minutes after the first game)*



Friday, 11/06/2026

AAAA Cline Stadium:

Session 7: Final AAAA BOYS

10:30 am Kick-off Boys Final Winner Game 1 VS Winner Game 2

Final AAAA GIRLS

Kick-off of Girls Final Winner Game 1 VS Winner Game 2

(45 minutes after the Boys Final)



Saturday, 11/07/2026

AA-A Carter Stadium:

Session 8:

Final AA-A GIRLS

9:30 am Kick-off of Girls Final Winner Game 1 VS Winner Game 2

Final AAA BOYS

Kick-off of Boys Final Winner Game 1 VS Winner Game 2 *(45 minutes after the Girls Final)*

AAA Cline Stadium:

Session 9:

Final AAA BOYS

10:30 am Kick-off of Boys Final Winner Game 1 VS Winner Game 2

Final AAA GIRLS

Kick-off of Girls Final Winner Game 1 VS Winner Game 2 *(45 minutes after the Boys Final)*





IMPORTANT MIDDLE SCHOOL DATES

- ▶ Practice August 10
- ▶ 1st contest August 31
- ▶ Season Ends October 31

PHYSICAL EXAMS

No participation without
completed/signed form

Must be dated/signed after May 1, 2026

Check updated form for
concussion/sudden cardiac arrest/heat
acclimatization information



WEST VIRGINIA SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES COMMISSION

Revised 3-20

2875 Staunton Turnpike - Parkersburg, WV 26104

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION/PARENTAL CONSENT/PHYSICIAN'S CERTIFICATE FORM

(Form required each school year on or after May 1st. File in School Administration Office.)

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION/PARENTAL CONSENT

PART I

Name _____ School Year: _____ Grade Entering: _____

Home Address: _____ Home Address of Parents: _____

City: _____ City: _____

Phone: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Last semester I attended _____ (High School) or (Middle School). We have read the condensed eligibility rules of the WVSSAC athletics. If accepted as a team member, we agree to make every effort to keep up schoolwork and abide by the rules and regulations of the school authorities and the WVSSAC.

PART II - PARENTAL CONSENT

INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY RULES

- Attention Athlete! To be eligible to represent your school in any interscholastic contest, you:
- Must be a regular bona fide student in good standing of the school. (See exception under Rule 127-2-3) must qualify under the Residence and Transfer Rule (127-2-7)
- Must have earned at least 2 units of credit the previous semester. Summer School may be included. (127-2-6)
- Must have attained an overall "C" (2.00) average the previous semester. Summer School may be included. (127-2-6) must not have reached your 15th (MS), 19th (HS) birthday before July 1 of the current school year. (127-2-4)
- Must be residing with parent(s) as specified by Rule 127-2-7 and 8.
- unless parents have made a bona fide change of residence during school term. Unless an AFS or other Foreign-Exchange student (one year of eligibility only).
- Unless the residence requirement was met by the 365 calendar days attendance prior to participation. If living with legal guardian/custodian, may not participate at the varsity level. (127-2-8)
- Must be an amateur as defined by Rule 127-2-11.
- Must have submitted to your principal before becoming a member of any school athletic team Participation/Parent Consent/Physician Form, completely filled in and properly signed, attesting that you have been examined and found to be physically fit for athletic competition and that your parents' consent to your participation. (127-3-3)
- Must not have transferred from one school to another for athletic purposes. (127-2-7)
- Must not have received, in recognition of your ability as a HS or MS athlete, any award not presented or approved by your school or the WVSSAC. (127-3-5)
- Must not, while a member of a school team in any sport, become a member of any other organized team or as an individual participant in an unsanctioned meet or tournament in the same sport during the school sport season (See exception 127-2-10).
- Must follow All Star Participation Rule. (127-3-4)
- Must not have been enrolled in more than (14) semesters in grades 6 to 12.
- Eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics is a privilege you earn by meeting not only the above listed minimum standards but also all other standards set by your school and the WVSSAC. If you have any questions regarding your eligibility or are in doubt about the effect any activity or action might have on your eligibility, check with your principal or athletic director. They are aware of the interpretation and intent of each rule. Meeting the intent and spirit of "WVSSAC" standards will prevent athletes, teams, and schools from being penalized.

MEDICAL DISQUALIFICATION OF THE STUDENT-ATHLETE/ WITHHOLDING A STUDENT-ATHLETE FROM ACTIVITY

The member school's team physician has the final responsibility to determine when a student-athlete is removed or withheld from participation due to an injury, an illness or pregnancy. In addition, clearance for that individual to return to activity is solely the responsibility of the member school's team physician or that physician's designated representative.

I understand that participation may include, when necessary, early dismissal from classes and travel to participate in interscholastic athletic contests. I will not hold the school authorities or West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission responsible in case of accident or injury as a result of this participation. I also understand that participation in any of those sports listed above may cause permanent disability or death. Please check appropriate space: He/She has student accident insurance available through the school () ; has football insurance coverage available through the school () ; is insured to our satisfaction () .

I also give my consent and approval for the above named student to receive a physical examination, as required in Part IV, Physician's Certificate, of this form, by an approved health care provider as recommended by the named student's school administration.

I consent to WVSSAC's use of the herein named student's name, likeness, and athletically related information in reports of Inter-School Practices or Scrimmages and Contests, promotional literature of the Association, and other materials and releases related to interscholastic athletics.

I have read/reviewed the concussion and Sudden Cardiac Arrest information as available through the school and at WVSSAC.org. (Click Sports Medicine)

Date: _____ Student Signature _____ Parent Signature _____

PART III - STUDENT'S MEDICAL HISTORY

(To be completed by parent or guardian prior to examination)

Name _____ Birthdate _____ / _____ Grade _____ Age _____

Has the student ever had:

Yes No 1. Chronic or recurrent illness? (Diabetes, Asthma, Seizures, etc.)

Yes No 12. Have any problems with heart/blood pressure?

Yes No 13. Has anyone in your family ever fainted during exercise?

Yes No 14. Take any medicine?

List:

Yes No 2. Any hospitalizations?

Yes No 3. Any surgery (except tonsils)?

Yes No 4. Any injuries that prohibited your participation in sports?

Yes No 5. Dizziness or frequent headaches?

Yes No 6. Knee, ankle or neck injuries?

Yes No 7. Broken bone or dislocation?

Yes No 8. Heat exhaustion/sun stroke?

Yes No 9. Fainting or passing out?

Yes No 10. Have any allergies?

Yes No 11. Concussion? If Yes _____ Date _____

Yes No 15. Wear glasses, contact lenses, dental appliances?

Yes No 16. Have any organs missing (eye, kidney, testicle, etc.)?

Yes No 17. Has it been longer than 10 years since your last tetanus shot?

Yes No 18. Have you ever been told not to participate in any sport?

Yes No 19. Do you know of any reason this student should not participate in sports?

Yes No 20. Have a sudden death history in your family?

Yes No 21. Have a family history of heart attack before age 50?

Yes No 22. Develop coughing, wheezing, or unusual shortness of breath when you exercise?

Yes No 23. (Females Only) Do you have any problems with your menstrual periods.

PLEASE EXPLAIN ANY "YES" ANSWERS OR ANY OTHER ADDITIONAL CONCERNS.

I also give my consent for the physician in attendance and the appropriate medical staff to give treatment at any athletic event for any injury.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN _____ DATE _____

PART IV-VITAL SIGNS

Height _____ Weight _____ Pulse _____ Blood Pressure _____

Visual acuity: Uncorrected _____ / _____ ; Corrected _____ / _____ Pupils equal diameter: Y N

PART V - SCREENING PHYSICAL EXAM

This exam is not meant to replace a full physical examination done by your private physician.

Mouth:	Respiratory:	Abdomen:	
Appliances	Y N Symmetrical breath sounds	Y N Masses	Y N
Missing/loose teeth	Y N Wheezes	Y N Organomegaly	Y N
Caries needing treatment	Y N Cardiovascular:		
Enlarged lymph nodes	Y N Murmur	Y N	
Skin - infectious lesions	Y N Irregularities	Y N	
Peripheral pulses equal	Y N Murmur with Valsalva	Y N	

Any "YES" under Cardiovascular requires a referral to family doctor or other appropriate healthcare provider.

Musculoskeletal: (note any abnormalities)

Neck:	Y N	Elbow:	Y N	Knee/Hip:	Y N	Hamstrings:	Y N
Shoulder:	Y N	Wrist:	Y N	Ankle:	Y N	Scoliosis:	Y N

Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by any of the following problems? (Circle response)

	Not at all	Several Days	Over half the days	Nearly every day
Feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge.	0	1	2	3
Not being able to stop or control worrying.	0	1	2	3
Little interest or pleasure in doing things.	0	1	2	3
Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless	0	1	2	3

RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON ABOVE EVALUATION:

After my evaluation, I give my:

____ Full Approval;

____ Full approval; but needs further evaluation by Family Dentist ____ ; Eye Doctor ____ ; Family Physician ____ ; Other ____ ;

____ Limited approval with the following restrictions: _____

____ Denial of approval for the following reasons: _____

MD/DO/DC/Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner/Physician's Assistant

Date



ELIGIBILITY AND ROSTERS

SCHOOLS MUST SUBMIT ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATES AND ROSTERS ONLINE PRIOR TO THE FIRST CONTEST.

FINES WILL BE ASSESSED IF NOT COMPLETED.

PLEASE WORK WITH YOUR ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR TO COMPLETE BOTH AND SUBMIT ONLINE.



EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

MUST BE EDITED EVERY YEAR TO
INCLUDE NEW STUDENT-ATHLETES

MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE WVSSAC
BEFORE THE FIRST PRACTICE
MUST BE (\$250.00 FINE, IF NOT)

MUST BE PRACTICED THROUGHOUT THE
YEAR WITH THE TEAM

REQUIRED BY LAW TO BE POSTED

Emergency Action Plan Worksheet – Student Response Team									
Coach/Advisor Name: _____			Activity: _____			Level: _____			
1 911 TEAM			2 CPR/AED TEAM			3 AED TEAM			
CALL 911			START CPR			GET THE AED			
CALL 911. Explain emergency. Provide location.			1. Position person on back. 2. Put one hand on top of the other on middle of person's chest. Keeping arms straight, push hard and fast, 300 presses/minutes. Let chest completely recoil after each compression. 3. Take turns with other responders as needed.			PRACTICE		EVENTS	
PRACTICE		EVENTS							
Closest Phone	_____	_____	Coach	_____	_____	Closest AED	_____	_____	_____
EMS Access Point	_____	_____	Student 1	_____	_____	Student 1	_____	_____	_____
Street Intersection	_____	_____	Student 2	_____	_____	Student 2	_____	_____	_____
Student 1	_____	_____	Student 3	_____	_____	GET THE ATHLETIC TRAINER			
			WHEN AED ARRIVES, TURN IT ON AND FOLLOW VOICE PROMPTS			Typical Location	_____	_____	_____
						Student 1	_____	_____	_____
Student 2	_____	_____	1. Remove clothing from chest. 2. Attach electrode pads as directed by voice prompts. 3. Stand clear while AED analyzes heart rhythm. 4. Keep area clear if AED advises a shock. 5. Follow device prompts for further action. 6. After EMS takes over, give AED to Athletic Administrator for data download.			Student 2	_____	_____	_____
						CALL 911 for all medical emergencies. If unresponsive and not breathing normally, begin CPR and get the AED.			
MEET AMBULANCE at EMS Access Point. Take to victim.			4 HEAT STROKE TEAM						
Practice Events			PRACTICE EVENTS			PREPARE TUB DAILY			
Entry Door/Gate	_____	_____				PRACTICE EVENTS			
Student 1	_____	_____	Tub Location	_____	_____	Student 1	_____	_____	_____
Student 2	_____	_____				Student 2	_____	_____	_____
CALL CONTACTS. Provide location and victim's name.			Water Source Location						
NAME CELL			Ice Source Location			1. Remove equipment/excess clothing. Move to shade. 2. Immerse athlete into cold ice water tub, stir water. *If no tub: cold shower or rotating cold, wet towels over the entire body. 3. Monitor vital signs. 4. Cool First, Transport Second. 5. Cool until rectal temperature reaches 102 F if ATC or MD is available. 6. If no medical staff, cool until EMS arrives.			
Athletic Trainer	_____	_____	Ice Towel Location						
Athletic AD	_____	_____							
Student 1	_____	_____	Student 1						
Student 2	_____	_____	Student 2						

LEGAL DUTIES OF A COACH

- ▶ Properly plan the activity
- ▶ Provide proper instruction
- ▶ Warn of inherent risks
- ▶ Provide a safe physical environment
- ▶ Provide adequate and proper equipment
- ▶ Match athletes appropriately
- ▶ Evaluate athletes for injury or incapacity
- ▶ Supervise activity closely
- ▶ Provide appropriate emergency assistance
- ▶ Protect against physical and psychological harm from others



SPORTSMANSHIP IS EVERYONE'S CONCERN

Officials

Athletes

Coaches

Fans

Parents

Administrators



HANDSHAKE LINE PROTOCOL

- Security and administrators monitor the line.
- Teams stay on assigned sides.
- No cheerleaders or other non-essential personnel in the handshake line.
- Players proceed directly to designated areas after the handshake.



State Board of Education Policy 4373

No tobacco use on school
property
or any facility hosting school event



COACHES

- All Coaches must be hired or approved by the County Board of Education and have completed Form 39 and pay the \$35.00 fee to the WVDE.
- Discuss eligibility issues with your Administration.
- Bench clearing – keep players in your bench area.



REQUIRED ONLINE COURSES FOR COACHES

- Concussion In Sports (annually)
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest (annually)
- Heat Illness Prevention (one time for new coaches)
- All courses are free and can be accessed on the WVSSAC homepage (www.wvssac.org)
- NFHS.Learn.com



EJECTION POLICY

- ▶ First offense – 2 game
- ▶ Second offense – 4 games
- ▶ The suspension may carry over into the next soccer season or next sport played.
- ▶ The suspended team member must be out of sight and sound of contest(s) and cannot attend contest(s) during the suspension.



APPEAL PROCESS FOR A DISQUALIFIED PLAYER

- Administrators must complete the Ejection Review Form on the WVSSAC website.
- Video evidence is strongly recommended to support the appeal.
- Email video clips for review to: dan.comer@wvssac.org and wayne.ryan@wvssac.org
- Include the actual video clip in the email for review.
- Must be submitted within 24 hours of the ejection.



OFFICIALS' ONLINE SPECIAL REPORTS

Submission of reports are to include 1 of the following (only):

- Ejection/Disqualification
- Administrative/School Issue
- Positive Report



COACHES

To Comment on a Crew or an Official

Email: Dennis Brumfield///brum@suddenlink.com

Summary: *Positive Comments / Negative Concerns*

Keep comments to the major issue, be it a problem area or positive report concerning the crew or official. *This platform is not for calls or non-calls made during the game.*



OUT OF SEASON COACHING

32 FLEX DAYS



- Must have Principal approval
- Current cycle: Starts approximately June 5, 2026 / Ends June 7, 2027
- Flex days cannot be used during the first week of a HS or MS season
- Use of any part of the day for an activity will count as a flex day
- Flex days can only be used on Sunday with WVSSAC approval
- Flex days cannot be used as part of the tryout
- Flex days must be voluntary for athletes.
- Flex days do not roll over from previous year



OUT OF SEASON COACHING

32 FLEX DAYS

- Only athletes enrolled in your school may participate in flex days.
- 8th grade students may participate in flex days at the feeder high school upon completion of their season.
- Dead Periods: Two weeks surrounding Christmas Day and New Years and Week of July 4. (July 4-10, 2027)
- Follow the WVSSAC Heat Acclimatization and Heat Illness Policy and Procedures.



OUT OF SEASON COACHING

32 FLEX DAYS

- An athletic trainer must be present during Flex Days unless there is a coach present that is CERTIFIED in CPR, AED, and First Aid.
- Follow the WVSSAC Heat Acclimatization and Heat Illness Policy and Procedures.



RULES AND REGULATIONS REMINDERS

127-2-5 – Semester and Season.

Maximum of 14 consecutive semesters
or 7 consecutive seasons of eligibility in
grades 6-12.

127-3-7 – Out of Season Coaching –

Coaches now allowed to be involved in
community-based athletic programs
provided coaching is not involved.

GRADE	SEMESTERS
6	14-13
7	12-11
8	10-9
9	8-7
10	6-5
11	4-3
12	2-1



RULES AND REGULATIONS REMINDERS

CONTINUED

- 127-2-6 – Scholarship. Expelled students from in or out of state who transfer to a member school are not eligible until completion/expiration of the assigned expulsion.

- 127-2-7 – Residence/Transfer – Students in grades 6-12 who live out of state and transfer to a member school are not eligible for extracurricular activities.



Non-School Participation/Individual Sports

For individual sports, students may participate in non-sanctioned, open events with principal approval.

If the student will miss a regularly scheduled school event, the school principal must attain WVSSAC approval.



WVSSAC RULE REMINDERS

- 127-2-9 Undue Influence – Recruiting

- Recruiting is not allowed.
- No person affiliated with the school (coach, player, parent, etc.)

Social Media – Be careful what is posted.

- If violations occur -- provide evidence.

Out of season coaching – Cannot work with students in your grade assignment plus one grade below.

Age – Cannot turn 15 for MS or 19 for HS before July 1



NEW TRANSFER RULE

Grades 9 & 10

ONE-TIME TRANSFER RULE

Who is Eligible?

Freshmen (9th Grade) & Sophomores (10th Grade). This applies fully to public, private, Hope Scholars, homeschool, micro schools, learning pods, and charter school students.

What are the rules?

- Students are permitted **one (1) transfer** during their 9th or 10th-grade years with immediate eligibility if transfer is prior to September 1st.

ACTIVE SPORTS SEASON EXCEPTION

If you transfer during an active season and have already participated (including tryouts/practices/scrimmages/games), you are eligible for all sports **except** that specific sport for the remainder of that season.

Grades 9, 10 & 11

“TRANSFER-BACK” PROVISION

What is this rule?

Allows students to return back from an out-of-attendance-zone school to the member school in the attendance zone where their parents reside.

The Requirements:

- Must be returning to the student's **originally identified "home" school.**
- **On or Before September 1 of Junior Year:** Immediate athletic eligibility is granted
- **After September 1:** The student will be **ineligible for the remainder of that academic year** (regains eligibility the following year, assuming GPA rules are met).

ACTIVE SPORTS SEASON EXCEPTION

Students are entitled to **only one (1) transfer-back** prior to September 1 of their Junior year.
Use it carefully.

OTHER INFORMATION

- **Enroll on or before September 1.**
- **Upperclassmen DO NOT have a one-time transfer.**
- **Without a waiver, must sit out 365 days.**



Fight or Altercation Protocol

Most fights end quickly after a punch or two. Fights that escalate beyond the initial incident tend to do so because others run toward the fight. Running toward a fight normally contributes to the escalation of the altercation.

1. Prepare before it happens. Make sure to instruct and even practice what to do in case an altercation occurs.
 - a. Assign specific coaches or administrators to run to the altercation to assist with breaking it up.
 - b. Assign specific coaches to immediately step off the sideline and turn their attention to keeping the players on the sideline.
 - c. Team members already on the field should distance themselves from the altercation.
 - d. Educate all participants about the penalties associated with fighting, leaving the team area, taunting, using offensive gestures, and other unsportsmanlike acts.



Fight or Altercation Protocol

- e. Instruct your video crew to continue to record or to start recording if an altercation occurs.
 - f. Know where security is stationed.
 - g. Keep all non-essential people off the sideline and preferably behind a fence or barrier.
-
- 2. If an altercation does occur, execute the above plan.
 - 3. Once the participants are separated, keep them separated until play can safely resume or until administrators and officials decide how to proceed.
 - 4. Do not allow teams to simultaneously use the same exits or occupy the same areas following an altercation or chippy contest.



OFFICIALS

- ▶ In the event of an alleged assault,
- ▶ State Law 61-2-15A states:
 - ▶ Work with local law enforcement that has jurisdiction in that area.
 - ▶ The report must be filed in Magistrate Court



OFFICIALS TEST ONLINE

- ▶ One TEST
- ▶ Opens: Monday, **August 3, 2026**
- ▶ Closes: Monday, **August 24, 2026**
- ▶ 50 QUESTIONS



OFFICIALS

Game contracts - Arbiter
Venue Inspection

Self nomination form –

Opens: August 24 (online)
Closes: September 28

Game reports (online) –

ONLINE – December 14

OFFICIALS' ONLINE SPECIAL REPORTS

- ▶ Access Arbiter
- ▶ WVSSAC Official
- ▶ Lists
- ▶ Forms
- ▶ Enter Special Reports
- ▶ **PLEASE**, verify the level before you click enter!



OVERTIME PROCEDURE

REGULAR SEASON & TOURNAMENT PLAY

► Regular Season Games

Tie is a Tie

► Regional and State Tournament Games

10 Minute Sudden Victory (Still Tied)

2nd 10 Minute Sudden Victory (Still Tied)

Kicks From the Mark Until Winner Determined



MEDICAL TIME OUT

Short, pre-game meeting so that everyone knows what emergency personnel, supplies, and equipment are on site and available in case of an emergency.

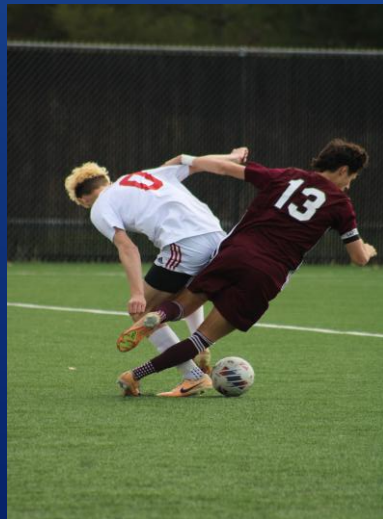
Athletic trainer responsible for the meeting. If no athletic trainer is present, head coach of home school is responsible.

Refer to Sports Medicine Packet for more information.



REQUIRED – AS PER LEGISLATION

- ▶ Schools must hold an informational meeting for student athletes and parents prior to the beginning of the season regarding the warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest in children.



- ▶ Schools must submit an online concussion report **WITHIN 7 days** of the incident for any athlete who is removed from practice or play with a suspected concussion/head injury.
- ▶ Form is on our website.



WVSSAC

SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST AWARENESS

All coaches are required to complete the NFHS Sudden Cardiac Awareness course annually.

What is Sudden Cardiac Arrest?

- Occurs suddenly and without warning.
- An electrical malfunction (short-circuit) causes the bottom chambers of the heart (ventricles) to beat dangerously fast (ventricle tachycardia or fibrillation) and disrupts the pumping ability of the heart.
- The heart cannot pump blood to the brain, lungs and other organs of the body.
- The person loses consciousness (passes out) and has no pulse.
- Death occurs within minutes if not treated immediately.

What are the symptoms/warning signs of Sudden Cardiac Arrest?

- SCA should be suspected in any athlete who has collapsed and is unresponsive.
- Fainting, a seizure, or convulsions during physical activity.
- Dizziness or lightheadedness during physical activity.
- Unusual fatigue/weakness.
- Chest pain.
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea/vomiting.
- Palpitations (heart is beating unusually fast or skipping beats).
- Family history of sudden cardiac arrest under 50.

ANY of these symptoms/warning signs may necessitate further evaluation from your physician before returning to practice or a game.

What causes Sudden Cardiac Arrest?

- Conditions present at birth (inherited and non-inherited heart abnormalities).
- A blow to the chest (Commotio Cordis)
- An infection/inflammation of the heart, usually caused by a virus. (Myocarditis).
- Recreational/Performance Enhancing drug use.
- Other cardiac & medical conditions / Unknown causes. (Obesity/idiopathic).

What are ways to screen for Sudden Cardiac Arrest?

- The American Heart Association recommends a pre-participation history and physical which is mandatory annually in West Virginia.
- Always answer the heart history questions on the student Health History section of the WVSSAC Physical Form completely and honestly.
- Additional screening may be necessary at the recommendation of a physician.

What is the treatment for Sudden Cardiac Arrest?

- Act immediately: time is critical to increase survival rate.
- Activate emergency action plan.
- Call 911.
- Begin CPR.
- Use Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS
REQUIRED TO BE COVERED WITH
YOUR PRE-SEASON PARENT
INFORMATIONAL MEETING



AED REQUIREMENTS

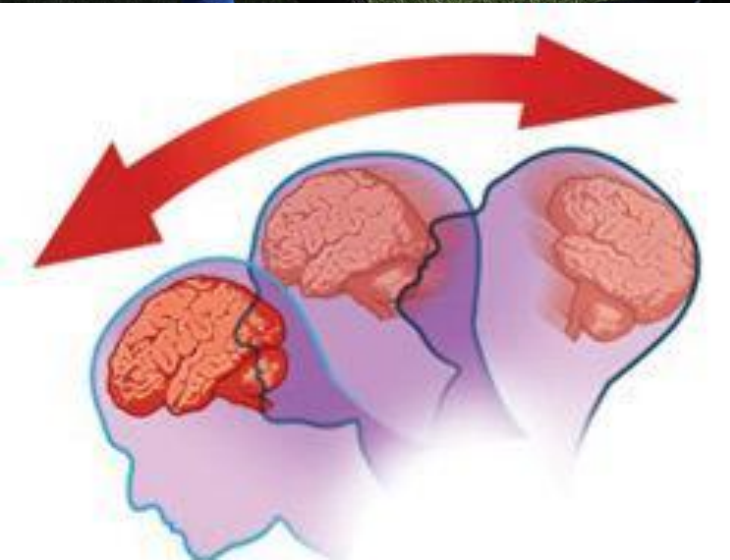
- ▶ An AED is be required at all practices and contests.
- ▶ Coaches required to be trained in AED/CPR.





CONCUSSION RETURN TO PLAY (RTP) PROTOCOL

- ▶ An athlete removed from a contest that shows signs/symptoms of a concussion shall be immediately evaluated by an appropriate health care professional.
- ▶ If no appropriate health care professional with training in evaluation of head injuries is available, the athlete shall not be allowed to Return to Play.



CONCUSSION RTP PROTOCOL

RTP shall be delayed until the athlete is asymptomatic and has undergone a progression of tests to determine if they are able to RTP. Each step/test in the progression takes 24 hours and no more than one progression per day may be completed.

If any symptoms occur during the progression, the athlete should rest for 24 hours before attempting the same progression again.

No activity with complete physical and cognitive rest.

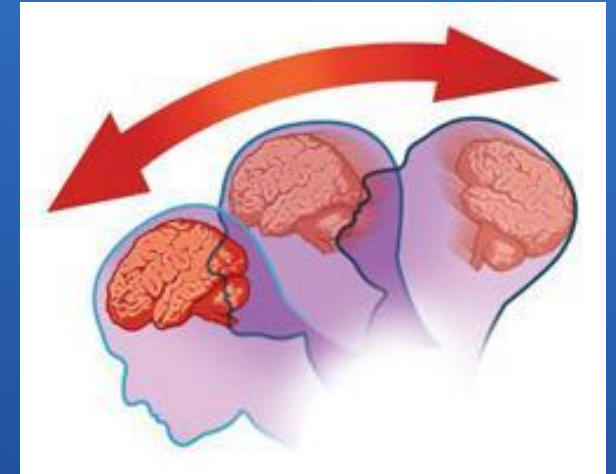
Light aerobic exercise (less than 70% of maximum heart rate).

Sport specific exercise (drills specific to the athlete's sport).

Non-contact training drills (more intense sport drills with no contact from other players).

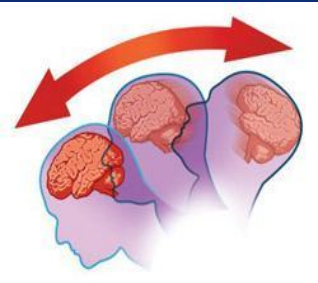
Full contact practice (following medical clearance).

Return to play (normal game play).



APPROVED HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS WHO CAN EVALUATE AND RELEASE TO RTP

- ▶ Medical Doctor (MD)
- ▶ Doctor of Osteopathy (DO)
- ▶ Doctor of Chiropractic (DC)
- ▶ Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP)
- ▶ Physician Assistant (PA-C)
- ▶ Licensed/Registered Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC/R, LAT, ATC)
- ▶ Licensed Physical Therapist



**When in Doubt
–
Sit Them Out !**



HEAT ILLNESS POLICY

- ▶ The policy applies to all **practice and conditioning activities** (in season, out of season, summer) in which heat illness poses a risk, both outdoor and indoor.

Prevention:

- ▶ Coaches will be notified of any student athlete with pre-existing conditions that place the individual at higher risk of exertional heat illness

Monitoring:

- ▶ Monitoring will occur at the beginning of each practice or conditioning session, and continue every 30 minutes during the activity, using a Wet Bulb Globe Thermometer (WBGT) device. The monitoring will be recorded either in a hard copy or stored in the device. Modifications will be made as follows:



HEAT ILLNESS POLICY

- Monitoring of student athlete safety will be continuous during any physical activity. School staff should be educated on the signs and symptoms of exertional heat illness. The signs and symptoms include, but are not limited to:
- Headache, confusion or “out of it” look, disorientation, or dizziness, altered consciousness or coma, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, hot and moist or dry skin. A rectal temperature greater than 104 F at time of incident indicates exertional heat stroke.



HEAT ILLNESS POLICY

If a student athlete is suspected of having exertional heat stroke, EMS must be called immediately. However, anyone with exertional heat stroke must be **COOLED FIRST** and then transported by EMS.

A cooling zone must be designated at each practice site. Treatment must include minimum:

- Removing excess clothing
- Placing patient in a cold-water immersion tub (35-59 F), or ice floating on top of tub if no thermometer available to check water temperature

Once diagnosed with exertional heat illness, the student athlete must complete a rest period and/or obtain medical clearance from a physician before returning to play, depending on the type of illness diagnosed.



WBGT Reading	Activity Guidelines/Modifications
Under 82.0	Normal activities. Provide at least three separate rest breaks each hour with a minimum duration of three minutes each during the workout.
82.0-86.9	Use discretion for intense or prolonged exercise; watch at-risk players carefully. Provide at least three separate rest breaks each hour with a minimum duration of 4 minutes each.
87.0-89.9	Maximum practice time is 2 hours. For football: players are restricted to helmet, shoulder pads, and shorts during practice, and all protective equipment must be removed during conditioning activities. If the WBGT rises to this level during practice, players may continue to work out wearing football pants without changing to shorts. For all sports: Provide at least four separate rest breaks each hour with a minimum duration of 4 minutes each.
90.0-92.0	Maximum practice time is 1 hour. For football: no protective equipment may be worn during practice, and there may be no conditioning activities. For all sports: There must be 20 minutes of rest breaks distributed throughout the hour of practice.
Over 92.0	No outdoor workouts. Delay practice until a cooler WBGT level is reached.





GUIDELINES ON HANDLING PRACTICES AND CONTESTS DURING LIGHTNING OR THUNDER DISTURBANCES

These guidelines provide a default policy to those responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of practices and contests based on the presence of lightning or thunder. The preferred sources from which to request such a policy for your facility would include your state high school activities association and the nearest office of the National Weather Service.

PROACTIVE PLANNING

1. Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during practices and contests.
2. Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safer areas and determine the amount of time needed to get everyone to a designated safer area:
 - a. A designated safer place is a substantial building with plumbing and wiring where people live or work, such as a school, gymnasium or library. An alternate safer place from the threat of lightning is a fully enclosed (not convertible or soft top) metal car or school bus.
3. Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:
 - a. When thunder is heard or lightning is seen*, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for at least 30 minutes and vacate the outdoor activity to the previously designated safer location immediately.
 - b. 30-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or lightning is witnessed* prior to resuming play.
 - c. Any subsequent thunder or lightning* after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
 - d. When lightning-detection devices or mobile phone apps are available, this technology could be used to assist in making a decision to suspend play if a lightning strike is noted to be within 10 miles of the event location. However, you should never depend on the reliability of these devices and, thus, hearing thunder or seeing lightning* should always take precedence over information from a mobile app or lightning-detection device.
4. Review the lightning safety policy annually with all administrators, coaches and game personnel and train all personnel.
5. Inform student-athletes and their parents of the lightning policy at start of the season.

* – At night, under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it may be safe to continue an event. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low on the horizon, the storm may not pose a threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR POSITIVE INFLUENCE

IN THE LIVES OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE





PLAY.
PERFORM.
COMPETE.
TOGETHER.

2026-27 NFHS Soccer PowerPoint

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dwhitfield@nfhs.org with requests.

2026-27 NFHS Soccer Rules Changes



REQUIRED UNIFORM

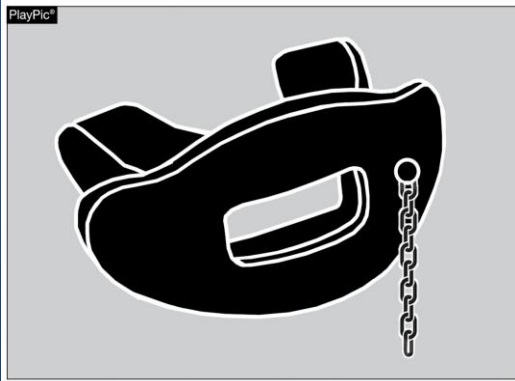
RULE 4-1-4c



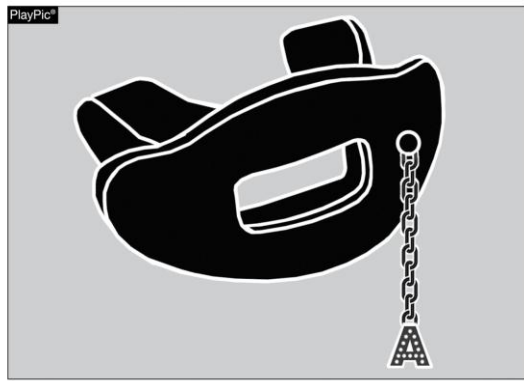
Home team socks shall be a single dominant dark color, but not necessarily the color of the jersey for the home team. Dark is defined as any color which contrasts to white.

TOOTH & MOUTH PROTECTOR

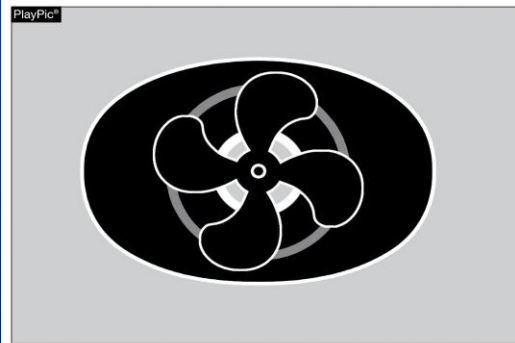
RULE 4-2-7d



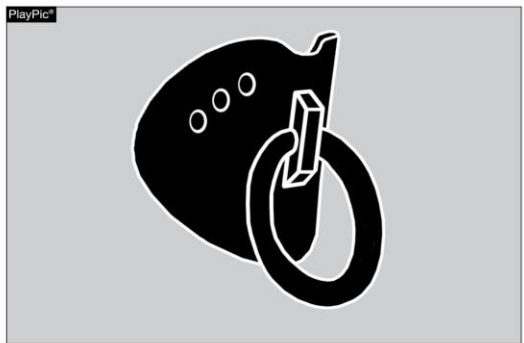
ILLEGAL



ILLEGAL



ILLEGAL

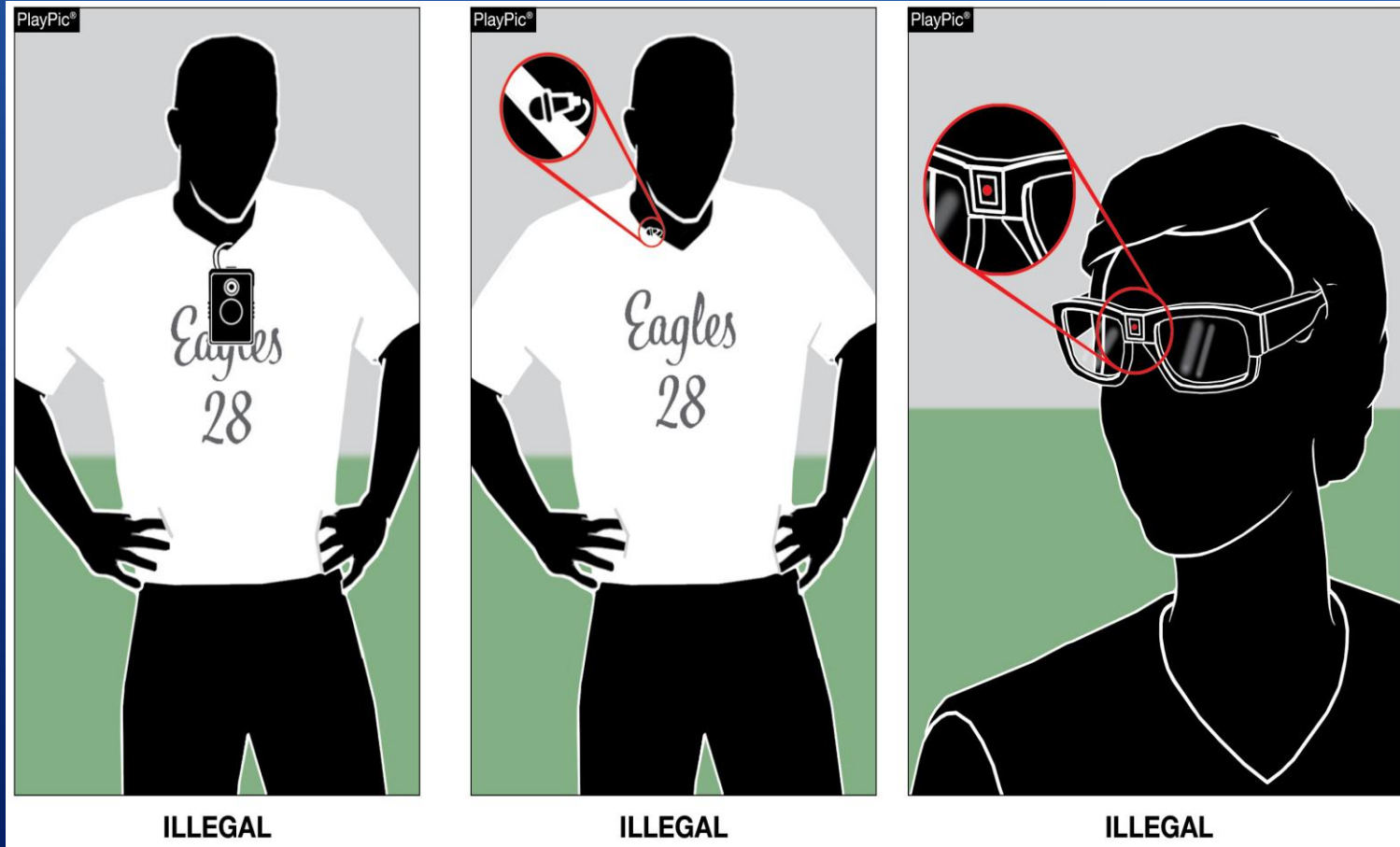


ILLEGAL

Tooth and mouth protectors, if worn by players, should not serve any function other than to protect the teeth or mouth.

WEARABLE TECHNOLOGY

RULE 4-2-11a thru c

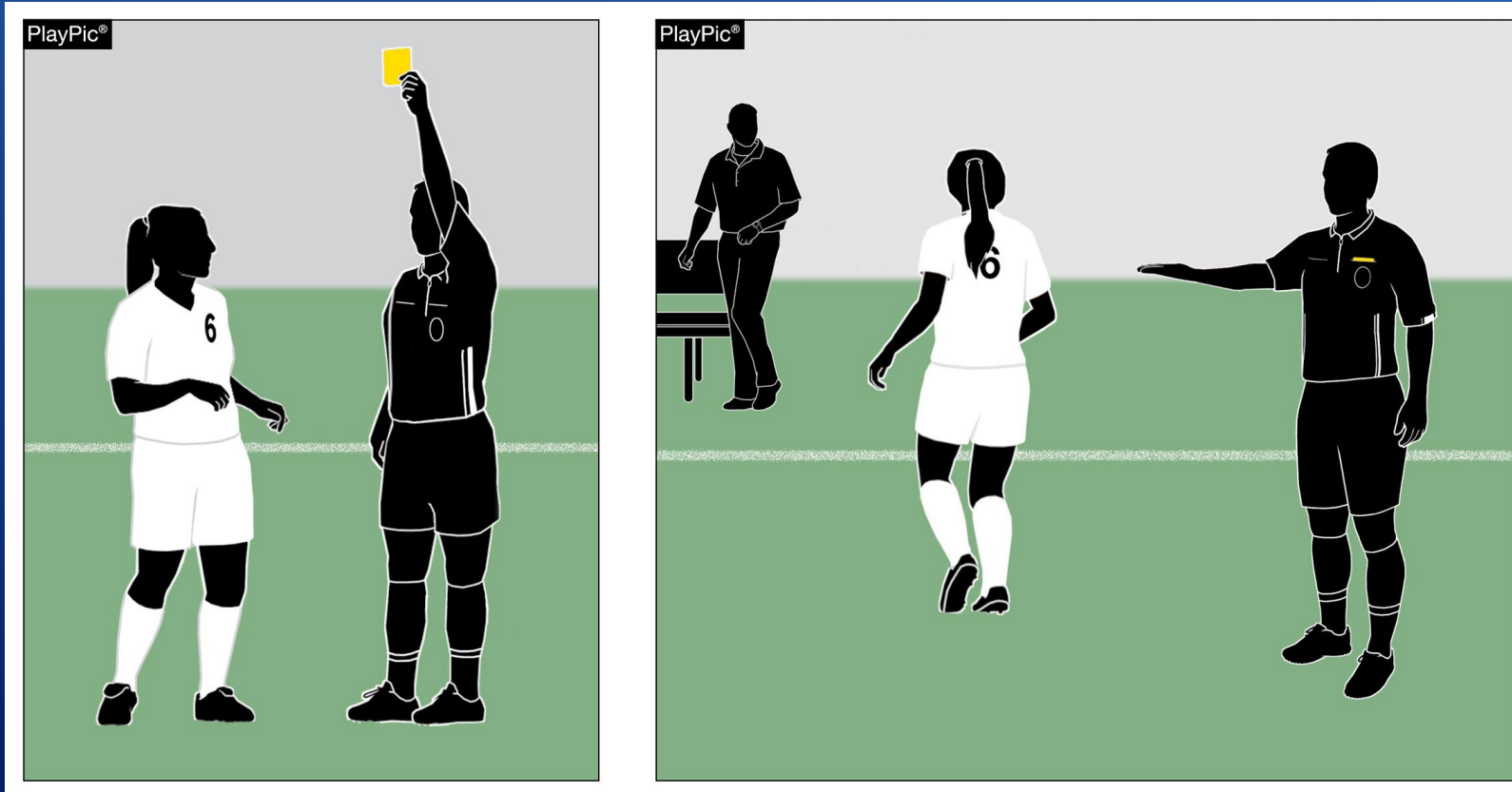


Players are not permitted to wear any type of audio or video device to record, transmit or livestream, aligning with other NFHS rules books.

State associations may further restrict electronic devices.

THE OFFICIALS

RULE 5-3-1f thru j

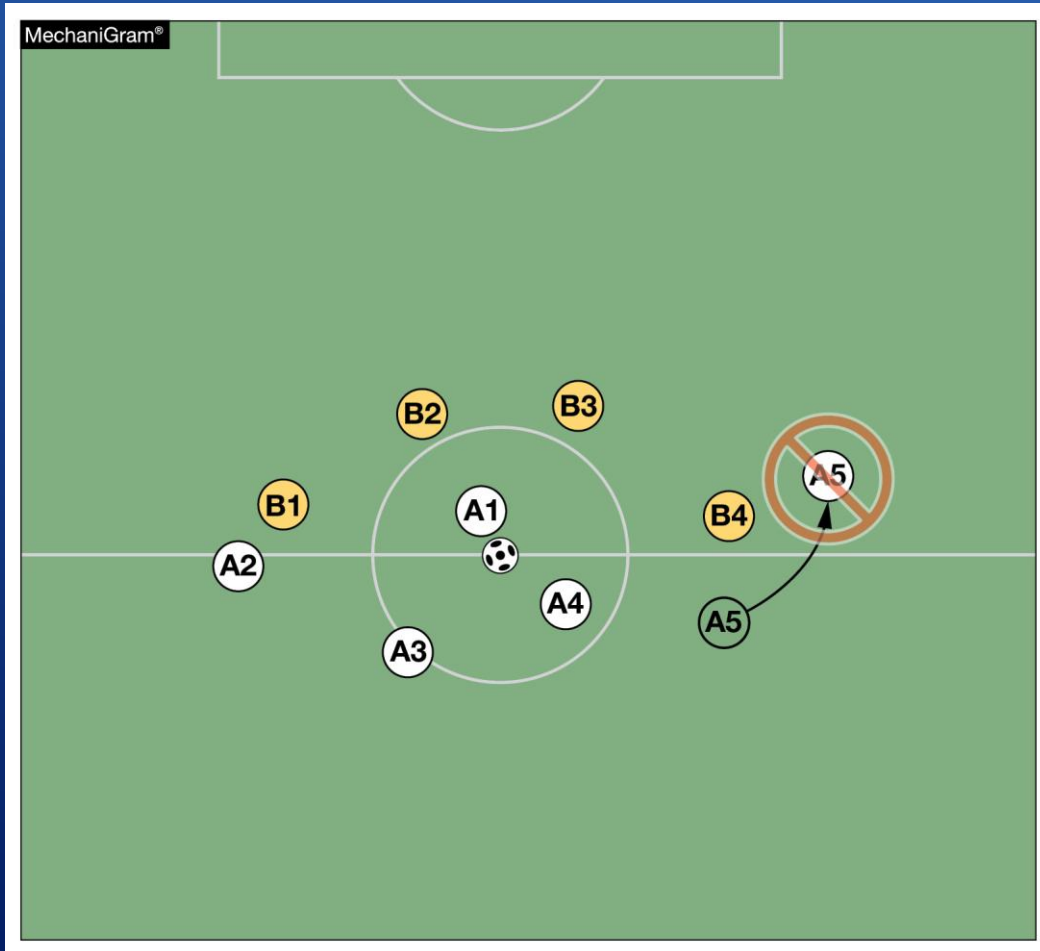


Added clarification in Rule 5, for the officials' responsibilities to now include directing any player shown a yellow or red card to leave the field of play.

The official must notify both coaches, the scorer, and other official(s) of the nature of the misconduct after showing a yellow or red card to a player, coach or bench personnel.

KICKOFF

RULE 8-1-2



All players, except the player taking the kickoff, must be on their half of the field otherwise the kickoff shall be retaken.

BITING

RULE 12-2-3

Biting was incorporated into direct free kick fouls.
A player shall not spit at or bite anyone listed on a roster or a game official, otherwise a direct free kick foul will be awarded.

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FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

RULE 12-1-2c



A player shall not charge into, or challenge, an opposing goalkeeper who is controlling the ball with their hands.

Penalty: Direct Free Kick

Outside the penalty area, the goalkeeper has no more privileges than any other player.

GOALKEEPER INTERFERENCE

RULE 12-3-2



Goalkeeper Interference: A player shall not prevent the opposing goalkeeper from releasing the ball from their hands nor kick, or attempt to kick, the ball when the goalkeeper is in the process of releasing it.

Penalty: Indirect Free Kick

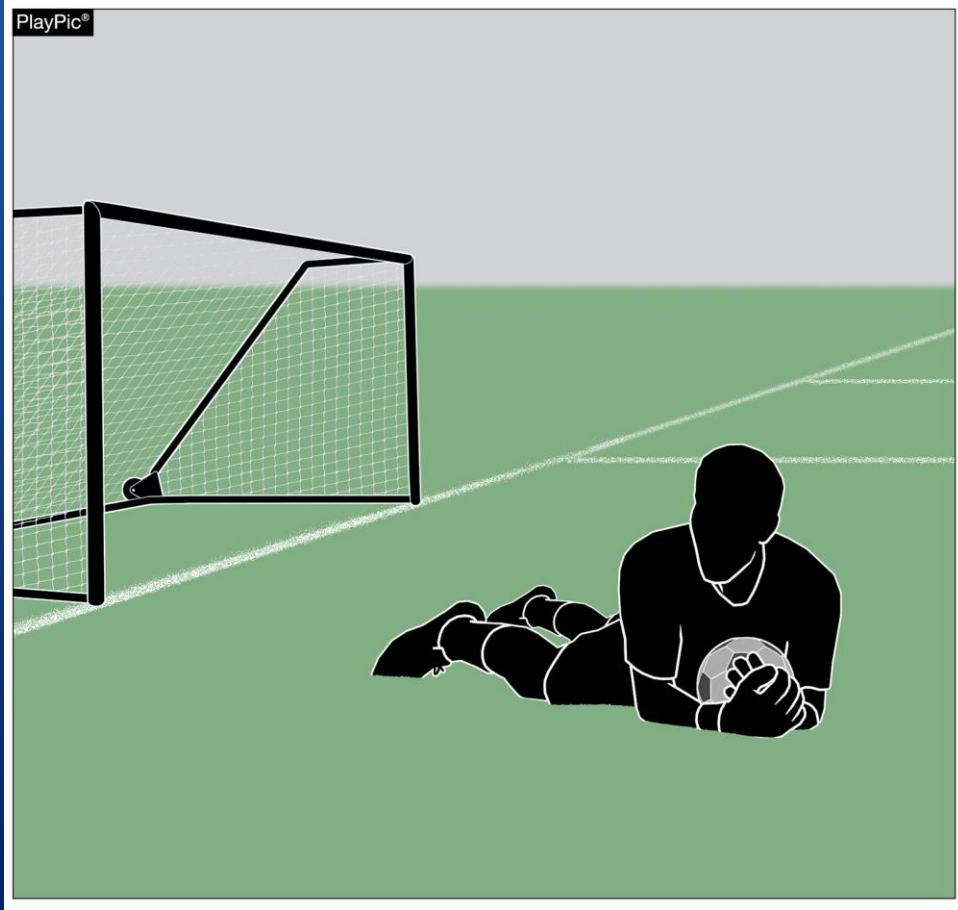
RULE 12-3-2a

The goalkeeper is considered to be in control of the ball with the hand(s)/arm(s) when:

1. The ball is between the hands or between the hand and any surface (e.g., ground, own body, goal post) or by touching the ball with any part of the hands or arms;
2. Holding the ball in an outstretched open hand;
3. Bouncing the ball on the ground or throwing the ball in the air, including bouncing or throwing the ball as part of kicking or punting the ball.

GOALKEEPER

RULES 12-3-1, 12-3-3a and 17-1-1, 3

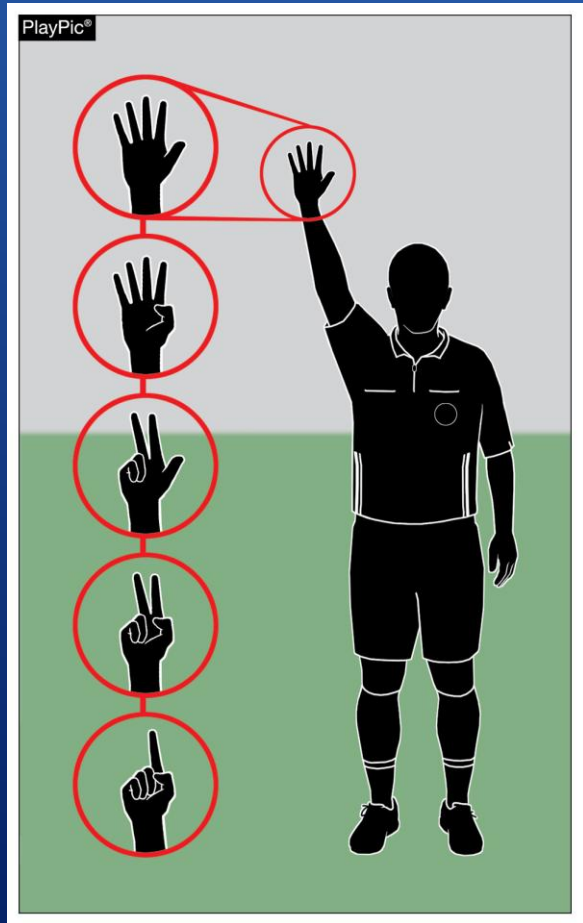


After controlling the ball with their hands/arm, the goalkeepers will now have **8** seconds instead of 6 seconds to release the ball. The referee determines when the **8** second count begins.

Penalty: A **corner kick** will be awarded if the goalkeeper holds the ball longer than **8** seconds, replacing the previous indirect free kick restart.

GOALKEEPER

RULES 12-3-3a(2)



The referee shall signal the remaining five seconds (using Official NFHS Soccer Signals, Rule 5-3-1b) by raising an arm above the head and indicating the number of seconds left with their fingers.

Violations of this rule are still enforced even if the referee fails to provide a visual signal.

INDIRECT FREE KICKS

RULE 12-3-5

Clarifying language was added to considerations for dangerous play.

Dangerous play now explicitly includes actions preventing a nearby opponent from playing the ball for fear of injury.

This includes playing in such a manner which could cause injury to self or another player, opponent or teammate, **or which prevents a nearby opponent from playing the ball for fear of injury.**

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VERBAL OFFENSES

RULES 12-3-6, 12-3-7

Rules 12-3-6 was added to include verbal offenses as IDFK.

This gives officials more flexibility when disciplining verbal offenses: they are now considered fouls at a minimum and may rise to the level of misconduct depending on the circumstances.

Rule 12-3-7 Address if the game is stopped for misconduct and no other restart takes precedence; then it will restart with IDFK.

DOGSO EJECTIONS

RULE 12-6-1b (1-4)

Revisions clarify and simplify language surrounding Denying an Obvious Goal-Scoring Opportunity (DOGSO) ejections.

Redundant wording was removed and references to intending to deny a goal or goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO) were eliminated.

The updated structure provides clear situations for which denying a goal or obvious goal-scoring opportunity is penalized with an ejection.

FREE KICK RESTARTS

RULES 13-1 THRU 13-3

Revisions clarify procedures for restarts on free kicks by breaking the rule into distinct categories.

The update outlines when and where free kicks are awarded, how they are to be taken, and the correct restart locations.

It also incorporates restart procedures for scenarios involving outside agents, offenses off the field, thrown objects, individuals entering the field illegally, players leaving the field without permission, and offenses outside the field of play.

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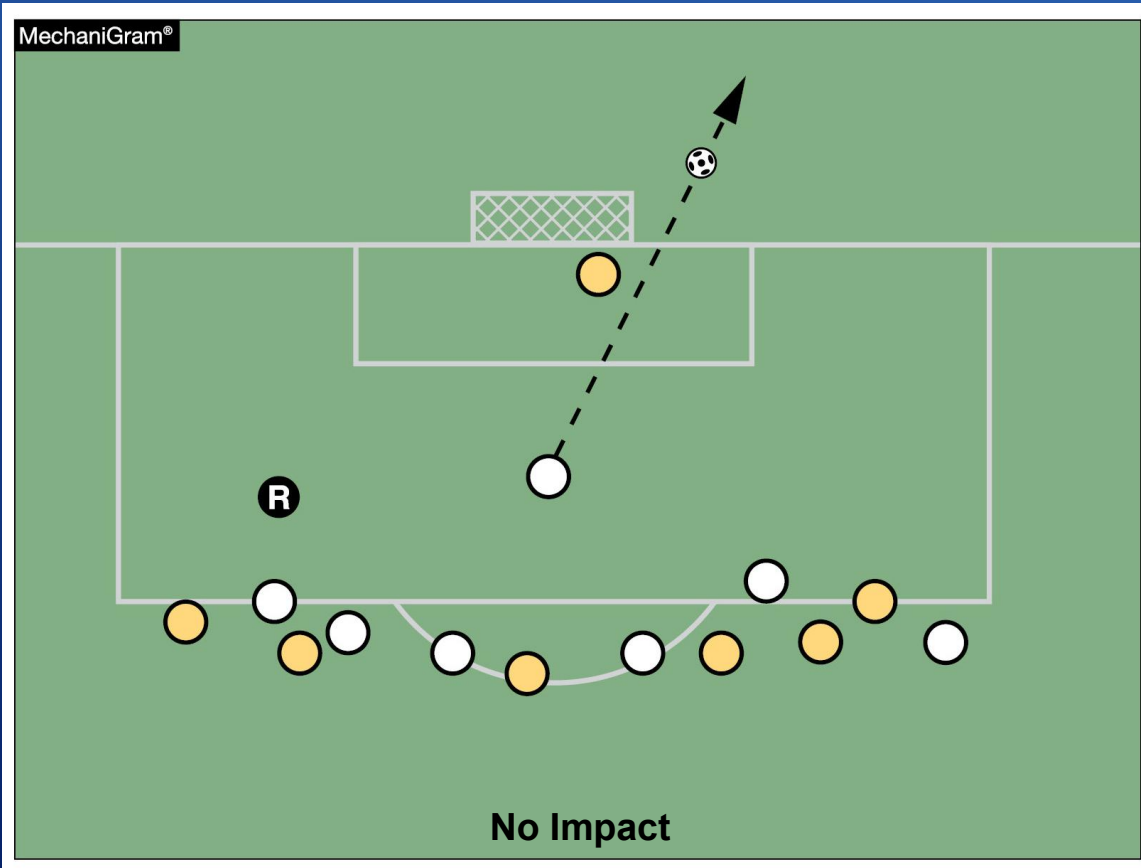
RULE 13-2

When and Where Awarded

1. Free Kicks are the restarts for fouls
 2. Free Kicks are taken from where the offense occurred with exceptions
 3. Free Kicks taken inside the goal area
 4. Outside interference, entering and re-entering the field
 5. Players leaving the field
 6. Offenses outside the field of play
- 
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PENALTY KICK

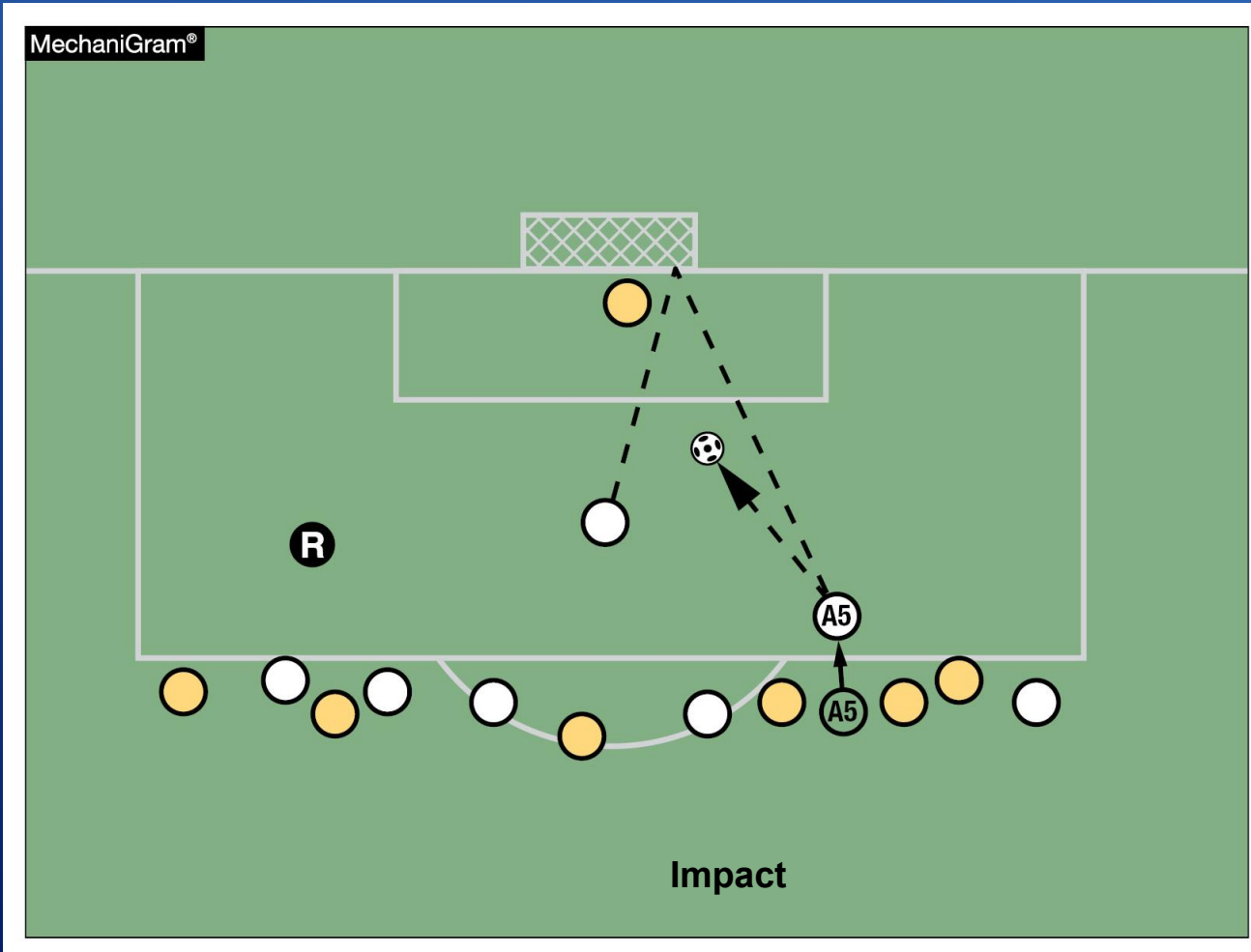
RULE 14-1-2 – ENCROACHMENT



Encroachment is penalized only if the offense has a clear impact on the penalty kick.

If players from either team enter the penalty area or arc early but have no effect on the kicker, goalkeeper, or the immediate play, officials should allow the result of the kick to stand without penalty.

RULE 14-1-2

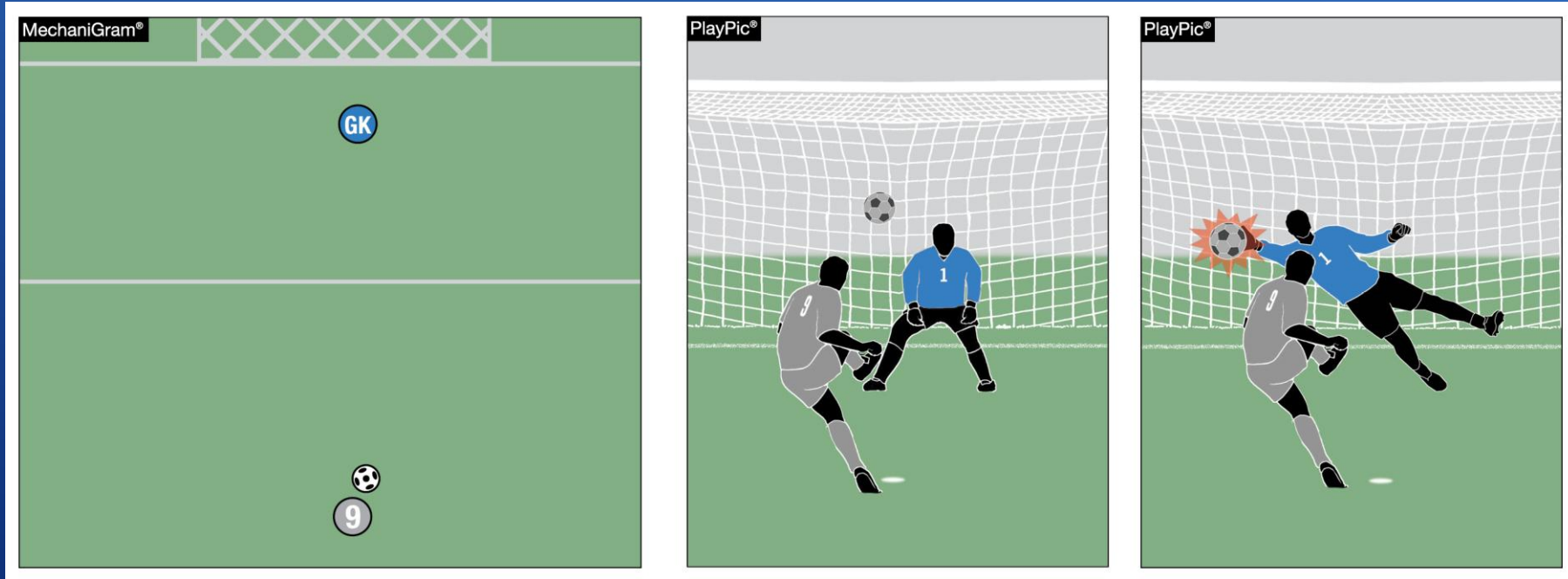


Encroaching attacker A5 impacts the play.

Penalty: The defending team is awarded an indirect free kick from where A5 kicked the ball.

PENALTY KICK

RULE 14-1-3 – GOALKEEPER ENCROACHMENT



Goalkeepers will now receive a warning for a first offense rather than an immediate caution.

Cautions are reserved for subsequent infractions.

PENALTY KICK

RULE 14 – KICKER FEINTING

Deceptive movements and stutter-stepping by the kicker during the run-up continue to be allowed.

However, feinting (or pretending to kick the ball) once the approach to the ball is completed is strictly prohibited.

This is an act of unsporting conduct that shall be cautioned and is enforced on the first and every subsequent occurrence.

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PENALTY KICK SITUATIONS (14-1-2, 14-1-3, and 14-1-4)

Offense		Outcome of the Penalty Kick	
		Goal	No Goal
Defender encroaches	Impact	Goal	Retake
	No impact	Goal	No retake
Attacker encroaches	Impact	Retake	Indirect free kick
	No impact	Goal	No retake
Both teams encroach	Impact	Retake	Retake
	No impact	Goal	No retake
Goalkeeper offends	Impact	Goal	Retake (GK is warned or cautioned)
	No impact	Goal	If saved: retake (GK is warned or cautioned) If not saved: no retake
Kicker offends	Wrong kicker	Indirect free kick (wrong kicker is cautioned)	
	Illegal feinting	Indirect free kick (kicker is cautioned)	
	Ball kicked backwards	Indirect free kick	
Goalkeeper and kicker offend at the same time		Indirect free kick (kicker is cautioned)	

PENALTY KICK RULE 14 Penalty Chart



2026-27 NFHS Soccer Editorial Changes

PLAYER EQUIPMENT

RULE 4-1-2

All jerseys, including the goalkeeper's jersey, shall be numbered with a different, unique Arabic number.

If a visible number is worn on the uniform bottom, it shall be the same number as on the uniform top.

A series of white lines of varying lengths and thicknesses, arranged in a diagonal pattern from the bottom right towards the top right of the slide.

PLAYER EQUIPMENT

RULE 4-1-3

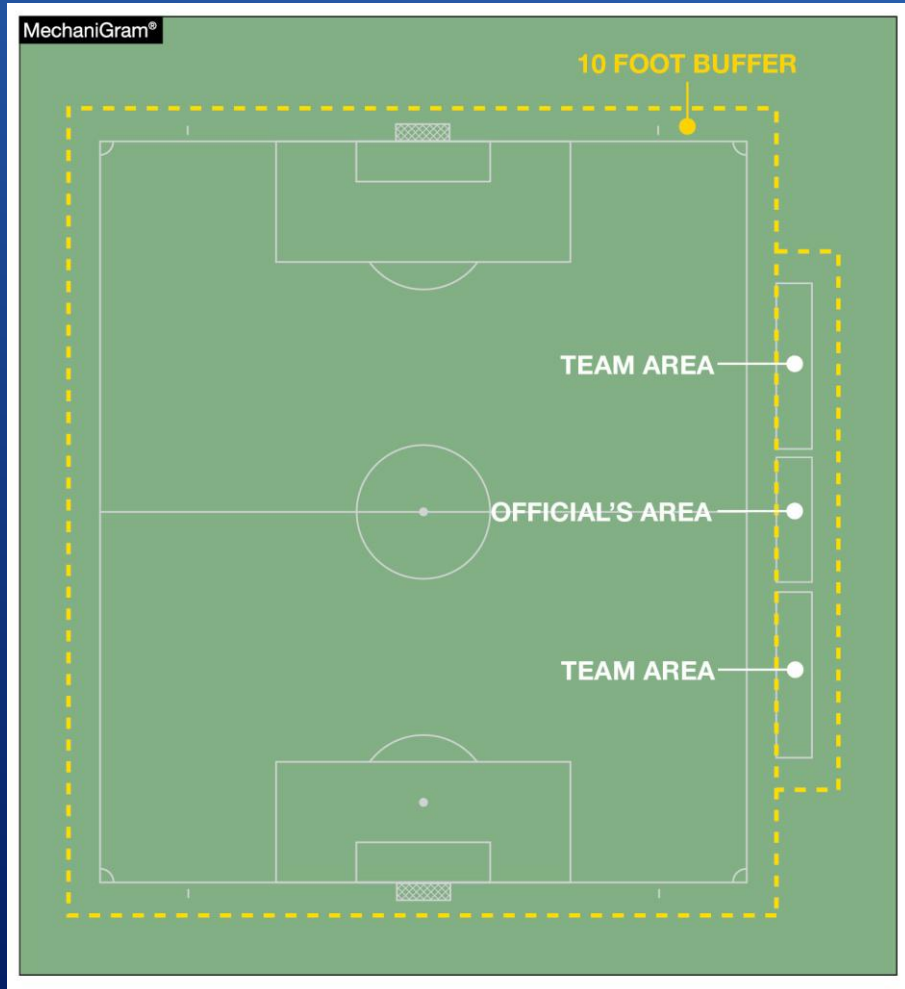


Both teams may wear shorts of a similar color.



2026-27 NFHS Soccer Points of Emphasis

PROPERLY MARKED FIELDS



- ▶ Administrators, coaches, and officials must prioritize proper marking of team areas and the maintenance of the 10-foot buffer around the field boundary lines.
- ▶ Team areas extend 10 yards from each side of the halfway line for a total length of 20 yards, set back 10 feet from the touchline.
- ▶ Team areas must be clearly designated and marked by a solid line. When markings are missing, officials should work with administrators or coaches to place cones as temporary boundaries.
- ▶ Any violations of Rule 1-5-3 must be reported to the state association.

NFHS AUTHENTICATING MARK ON GAME BALLS



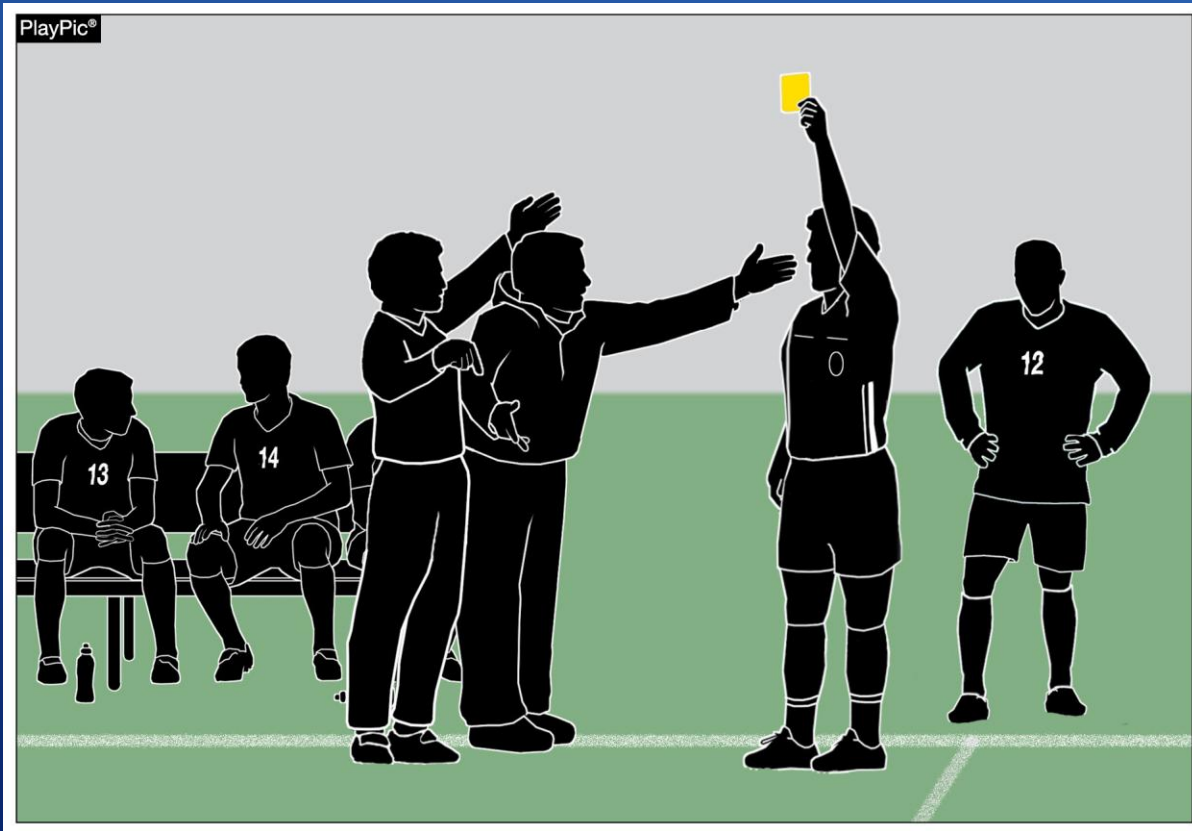
- ▶ The NFHS Authenticating Mark ensures easy identification of balls used in interscholastic competitions. All such balls are required to display the NFHS Authenticating Mark.
- ▶ This mark helps promote a level playing field by ensuring consistency in equipment and clearly communicates that standards are being met.
- ▶ Administrators and coaches play a pivotal role in making sure all balls meet specifications through consistent reinforcement during pre-competition meetings.
- ▶ Game officials must remain vigilant and report any non-compliant balls to the state association office.

SHARED PROFESSIONALISM AND BENCH ACCOUNTABILITY



- ▶ High school soccer serves as an extension of the classroom, requiring both officials and coaches to uphold the highest standards of composure and integrity.
- ▶ Professional communication should remain non-threatening and conversational. Raising one's voice, displaying frustrations or acting in a provocative manner only escalates conflict.

SHARED PROFESSIONALISM AND BENCH ACCOUNTABILITY



- ▶ When a caution or ejection is issued, officials advise the head coach using appropriate rulebook language. Both parties share responsibility for ensuring communication remains professional.
- ▶ Any dissent or inappropriate conduct should be addressed firmly and professionally. Coaches are accountable for their behavior and must model emotional control and sportsmanship.

MANAGING GOAL CELEBRATIONS



- ▶ Celebrating after scoring a goal is an integral part of soccer. Reacting with joy is permissible provided it is not excessive and not accompanied by taunting.
- ▶ Players are allowed to celebrate and may leave the field momentarily, provided they make a prompt return to the playing field. Rehearsed or choreographed celebrations should be discouraged.

MANAGING GOAL CELEBRATIONS



- ▶ The line between allowable celebration and misconduct is crossed when a player or team prevents a timely restart by delaying excessively or by taunting opponents or fans.
- ▶ Examples of misconduct include jumping over barriers, climbing fences, or removing one's jersey. Any act that prohibits a timely restart is unsporting conduct and requires a caution.

PENALTY KICK OFFENSES AND THE CONCEPT OF IMPACT

- ▶ Encroachment during a penalty kick is only penalized if the offense has a clear impact on the play.
- ▶ Encroachment by the defending team is never penalized if the goal is scored. If the kick is missed or saved and the defense encroached with impact, the kick is retaken.
- ▶ Goalkeepers who encroach and impact the kicker shall receive a warning for the first offense, with cautions reserved for subsequent infractions.
- ▶ While kickers are permitted stutter-steps during the run-up, feinting once the approach is complete is unsporting conduct that shall be cautioned on every occurrence.

WV Rules on suspended Games



- ▶ All games in regular season including ties (unless in tournament play) are complete games if the game is suspended at half time.
- ▶ Games that are suspended before half time and subsequently played will start at point of suspension.
- ▶ Wait a reasonable amount of time before suspending.
- ▶ A reasonable amount of time takes into consideration: day of game, time of game and distance traveled.



Second Yellow Card



- ▶ The second yellow card in a game to a **player** will be a red card
- ▶ The participant receiving the card will have to set out the rest of the game
- ▶ **THE TEAM OF THE OFFENDING PLAYER WILL HAVE TO PLAY SHORT**
- ▶ No other set out is required for a second yellow card
- ▶ Coaches and bench personnel receiving a second yellow are subject to regular ejection policy. (set out of additional games)



Goal Differential

- ▶ If after the first half there is a 6 (Six) goal differential let the clock run.
- ▶ Head referee considers action on long stoppages but must consider:
 1. Time left in game
 2. Score
 3. Other circumstances
- ▶ Clock will revert to regular timing if goal differential falls below 6 (Six) goals.
- ▶ The clock will run the last five minutes of the second period if there is a 6 (Six) goal differential.



Mercy Rule

- ▶ If a team is leading by 10 (ten) goals at half time the game is over.
- ▶ If a team gets a 10 (ten) goal lead in the **second** half, the game is over.





PLAY.
PERFORM.
COMPETE.
TOGETHER.

Thank You

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