

TO: PRINCIPALS, ATHLETIC DIRECTORS, & COACHES
FROM: DISTRICT 5 COMMITTEE
SUBJECT: **DISTRICT 5 PLAYOFF INFORMATION 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR**

DISTRICT 5 TOURNAMENTS

1. Conditions of entry into a District Tournament

Entry and participation in the PIAA District 5 Tournaments are voluntary. District 5 member schools are not required to enter into the tournaments sponsored by the District. Entry of a team into a tournament signifies that the member school accepts the conditions and provisions that are described here.

Further, a member school accepts the fact that the District 5 Committee reserves the right to make changes in the management, operation and schedule of the District 5 Tournaments if, in the committee's judgment, it becomes necessary.

2. No Protest Rule

Under PIAA there can be no protest of contests as follows:

The Board of Directors and District Committees will not consider any protests in athletic contests, which are based on play situations or officials' decisions involving interpretation or judgment of plays.

In no case will the results of a contest be reversed nor will a contest be ordered or permitted to be replayed.

Questions regarding interpretation of rules or judgment of officials should be submitted, in writing, to the PIAA Executive Director.

3. Officials

All officials for the District 5 tournaments are assigned by the District 5 Officials' Assignment Committee. The officials are chosen from a pool of officials recommended by the participating schools and by the officials' chapter in District 5.

4. Photographing, Filming and Videotaping

PIAA rules and regulations do not prohibit schools, spectators, and/or media from photographing, filming or videotaping at District 5 tournaments. However, photographing, filming or videotaping at District 5 tournaments shall be subject to the following restrictions:

- a. Photographing, filming and videotaping for the purpose of review before the completion of the filmed game will be prohibited.
- b. Two (2) persons from each school will be admitted free to photograph, film or videotape these games. All others are required to purchase an admission ticket.
- c. Persons desiring to film or videotape must report to the game manager a minimum of 15 minutes prior to the start of the game/contests.
- d. Persons filming or videotaping must remain in the areas designated by the game manager for that purpose.
- e. Persons filming or videotaping shall not stand on any unsafe or potentially hazardous physical objects or facilities.
- f. Persons filming or videotaping shall not interfere with the visibility and comfort of other spectators, nor shall they present a safety hazard to other spectators.

5. Restriction of use of Tobacco Products

PIAA Board of Directors policy prohibits the use of tobacco products by participating and non-participating team personnel, including coaches, during any interscholastic athletic contest at any level of interscholastic athletic competition.

The use of tobacco products by team members/personnel and coaches is prohibited during pre-game, game, and post-game activities in the locker rooms and in the vicinity of the gymnasium/field.

6. Policy of Post-Game Interview of Coaches and Team

Following completion of the game, coaches, other school personnel, and persons affiliated with the team shall not allow or participate in any interviews with the electronic and/or print media or other persons both on the playing floor/field and in the team locker room until a minimum of fifteen (15) minutes have elapsed following the end of the game.

7. Restrictions on Cheerleading Activities

The PIAA Board of Control is most concerned with dangerous activities performed by cheerleaders in interscholastic events. In an effort to eliminate or minimize injury to cheerleaders, the following shall be in effect for all PIAA District 5 Championships:

- a. No cheerleader shall stand on another person unless that other person has at least one foot on the ground.
- b. No flips are permitted from another person unless that other person has both feet on the ground.
- c. Trampolines and/or mini-tramps shall not be used.

PRINCIPALS ARE REQUESTED TO REVIEW THESE POLICIES WITH THE COACH OR ADVISOR OF THE CHEERLEADING SQUAD AND THE MEMBERS OF THE CHEERLEADING SQUAD PRIOR TO THE START OF THE PLAYOFFS/CHAMPIONSHIPS.

8. INDOOR EVENTS: SPECTATOR DECORUM

The presence and/or the use of balloons, banners, laser pointers, noisemakers, pom-poms (by spectators), shakers, signs, sirens, strips of material, towels, whistles, and/or portable listening devices (without earphones) are PROHIBITED! Persons using such items may be removed from the Contest. The use of pom-poms by cheerleaders and small portable listening devices with earphones is permitted. During basketball Contests cheerleaders may utilize portable signs in their cheer performances and confirm that this does not violate the intent of the "no sign" policy. Spectators are prohibited from removing their shirt and/or using body paint while in attendance at District and Inter-District Championship Contests and may be removed from the Contest for doing so. Principals and Athletic Directors shall inform and publicize these regulations to students. The failure of a school to so inform or publicize will not, however, prevent removal from the Contest for violations of this policy.

9. OUTDOOR EVENTS: SPECTATOR DECORUM

The presence and/or the use of balloons, whistles, and/or portable listening devices (without earphones) are PROHIBITED! Persons using such items may be removed from the Contest. The use of pom-poms by cheerleaders and small portable listening devices with earphones is permitted. Spectators are prohibited from removing their shirts and/or using body paint while in attendance at District and InterDistrict Championship Contests and may be removed from the Contest for doing so. Principals and Athletic Directors shall inform and publicize these regulations to students. The failure of a school to so inform or publicize will not, however, prevent removal from the Contest for violations of this policy.

The Principal, Athletic Director, Coaches, team physician, team trainer, players in uniform, managers, ball holders, and statisticians are the only persons permitted in the team box.

10. POLICY REGARDING THROWING OF OBJECTS ONTO COMPETITION SURFACES AT INTER-DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP CONTESTS

The PIAA Board of Directors is concerned with the practice of throwing objects onto competition surfaces during and at the end of Inter-District Championship Contests that determine

qualifiers to PIAA Championships (Finals). This practice places participants, Contest officials, Coaches, and others at risk of serious injury. It also creates additional competition surface maintenance problems for the host facilities of those Inter-District Championship Contests. Accordingly, the throwing of objects onto competition surfaces is prohibited and PIAA will further request that the owner or director of security of the concerned facility request the police to enforce the littering provision of the Crimes Code on those offending persons.

11. POSTGAME POLICY REGARDING SPECTATORS ENTERING THE COMPETITION SURFACE

PIAA member schools are responsible for the treatment of all visitors and officials attending contests conducted by their school. Access to competition areas should be limited to participating student athletes, coaches, officials, and game personnel. For the safety of participants and spectators alike, at no time before, during or after a contest should spectators be permitted to enter the competition area prior to the teams and contest officials leaving the competition area.

12. The higher ranked team will be the home team and the lower ranked team will be the visitors.

13. At the completion of the contest the media will be contacted with the game results.

- A. WJAC-TV 1-800-762-6053
- B. WTAJ-TV 1-814-255-7671
- C. PLUS (News Media - See List - attached)

14. Ticket prices for championship games will be as follows:

Play-In Contests	Students-\$3.00	Adults-\$6.00
1st & 2 nd Round Contests:	Students-\$3.00	Adults-\$6.00
Consolation Contests:	Students-\$4.00	Adults-\$8.00
Championship Contests:	Students-\$4.00	Adults-\$8.00

All Tickets will be sold online through HomeTown Ticketing.

<https://piaad5.hometownticketing.com/embed/all>

15. FOR SPORT SPECIFIC DETAILED INFORMATION REFER TO SPORT INFORMATION PACKET.

16. NO MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT IN ANY SPORT

17. Official Ball List can be found at <http://www.piaa.org/news/details.aspx?ID=17>

18. Mixed Gender Participation. PIAA strongly supports and encourages participation by both boys and girls in interscholastic athletics. Based upon real and demonstrable physical and competitive differences between similarly aged and trained high school boys and girls in athletic performances, PIAA recognizes that combining genders for competition purposes would have a chilling effect on female participation in interscholastic athletics. PIAA further recognizes that, historically, girls' participation has been much more limited than boys' participation. To promote participation by the historically underrepresented gender in a fair competitive environment, PIAA, therefore, classifies sports by gender and limits mixed gender participation as follows.

- A. If a school has a Boys' Team in a sport, boys at the school are not eligible to play on the school's Girls' Team in that sport. If a school has a Girls' Team in a sport, girls at the school are not eligible to play on the school's Boys' Team in that sport. The Principal may waive this limitation for a girl seeking to play on a Boys' Team if the Principal believes that the girl's skill level is such that participation on the Girls' Team would not provide meaningful competition for the girl.
- B. Girls may play on a Boys' Team if the student's school does not sponsor a comparable Girls' Team in that sport. NOTE: softball and baseball are not viewed as being comparable sports. Despite some differences in rules, boys' volleyball and girls volleyball, as well as boys' lacrosse and girls' lacrosse, are viewed as comparable sports.

- C. Boys may play on a Girls' Team if the student's school does not sponsor a Boys' Team in that sport and the Principal determines that;
1. the overall boys' athletic program at the student's school provides fewer opportunities for boys to participate than for girls;
 2. the boy would not displace any girl from the Team's roster;
 3. the boy would likely not, due to his physical size, athletic ability, and/or other characteristics, pose an increased risk of harm to opponents beyond that which would be posed by an average-sized and skilled participating girl; and
 4. the boy would not provide his Team with a significant competitive advantage (as applicable herein, this means that the boy's participation would likely cause the Team to be noticeably more competitive than it would be without the boy's participation on the Team).

In considering whether to permit participation, with regard to factors 3 and 4, above, the Principal shall be guided by the following:

- a. Where there is a question as to the risk posed to opponents or to a possible significant competitive advantage to the Principal's Team, such questions should be resolved in favor of the health and safety of opponents and in favor of preventing significant competitive advantage.
- b. Due to the increased risk of injury to opponents in direct contact sports (field hockey, lacrosse, soccer and volleyball), particular scrutiny should be applied by the Principal to requests in these sports.

Notwithstanding any other provision in this Section, boys are permitted to participate on a Spirit Team without Principal approval.

- D. Rules applicable to Mixed Gender Teams: Because PIAA does not have a Mixed Gender classification, the following provisions govern participation by Mixed Gender Teams:
1. For Post Season purposes, Mixed Gender Teams (other than in the sport of Spirit) shall compete only in the sport classifications designated for boys.
 2. For enrollment classification purposes, a Mixed Gender Team shall be classified by using the school's enrollment number for whichever gender constitutes a majority of the Team members.
 3. In the sport of volleyball, a Mixed Gender Team shall play during the boys' Regular Season and Post Season.
- E. Where a student's gender is questioned or uncertain, the decision of the Principal as to the student's gender will be accepted by PIAA.
- F. Nothing in this Section shall be interpreted to require a school to have a Mixed Gender Team where such participation would be inconsistent with the school's religious beliefs.
- G. The refusal of a Team to participate in a Contest against a Mixed Gender Team shall result in forfeiture of the Contest by the Team which refuses to participate. In sports in which individual events or matches are conducted, refusal of a contestant to participate in any event or match will result in forfeiture of that event or match by that student and not by the Team.

Contact Information is listed below for your convenience.

NEWS MEDIA E-MAIL ADDRESSES

*ALTOONA MIRROR
P.O. Box 2008
Altoona, PA 16603
E-MAIL <sports@altoonamirror.com>

*BEDFORD GAZETTE
424 W. Penn Street
P.O. Box 671
Bedford, PA 15522
E-MAIL <sshuss@bedfordgazette.com> &
<cweyant@bedfordgazette.com>

*CHAMBERSBURG PUBLIC OPINION
P.O. Box 499
Chambersburg, PA 17201
E-MAIL <sports@publicopinionnews.com>

FULTON COUNTY NEWS
E-MAIL <fultoncountynews@comcast.net>

*HUNTINGDON DAILY NEWS
E-MAIL <sports@huntingdondailynews.com>

*SOMERSET DAILY AMERICAN
334 W. Main Street
Somerset, PA 15501
E-MAIL <sports@daillyamerican.com>

*JOHNSTOWN TRIBUNE DEMOCRAT
425 Locust Street
Johnstown, PA 15901
E-MAIL <sports@tribdem.com>

*WJAC - CHANNEL 6
E-MAIL <news@wjactv.com>

*WTAJ - CHANNEL 10
E-MAIL <sports@wtajtv.com>

Indiana Gazette
E-MAIL <sports@indianagazette.net>

* Denotes at minimum contact these. Some are weekly editions & Indiana is out of the area.

WEB-SITE DISTRICT5.PIAA.ORG

PIAA - DISTRICT 5 INCIDENT REPORT

Sport: _____

I. Schools involved

Home School _____

PIAA District _____

Visiting School _____

PIAA District _____

Date of Incident _____

Time, inning or heat _____

Score during incident _____

II. Official's Report

Who was involved in the incident? _____

Where did the incident occur? _____

What were the circumstances? _____

What action did the officials take? _____

Please attach any additional information.

III. Principal's Report

Who was involved in the incident? _____

Where did the incident occur? _____

What were the circumstances? _____

What action did your school take? _____

Please attach any additional information.

Official's Signature

Date

Principal's Signature

Date