



2024-25 Girls Flag Football State Series Terms and Conditions

In accordance with Section 1.450 of the IHSAA Constitution, the Board of Directors has approved the Terms and Conditions governing the 2024-25 IHSAA Girls Flag Football Tournament Series.

I. School Classification

Competition in the IHSAA Girls Flag Football Tournament Series will be held for all member schools without classification.

II. DATES AND SITES

- A) **Regional Quarterfinals:** Monday October 7, 2024
These games will be played at the site of the highest seed.

Note: Regionals will be held Tuesday - Saturday October 8- 12, at thirty-two (32) sites.

- B) **Sectional Semifinals:** Tuesday, October 15, 2024
Sectional Finals: Wednesday, October 16, 2024

Note: Sectionals will be held at eight (8) sites.

- C) The State Final tournament will be held at Willowbrook High School on October 18 -19, 2024.

III. ON-LINE ENTRIES, WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES, ELIGIBILITY, AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, AND ON-LINE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The policy for Original Entry Deadlines, Late Entries, and Late Withdrawals shall be the policies and procedures regarding entry for all IHSAA-sponsored sport/activities included in the 2024-25 Entry Policies and Procedures.

A) **On-Line Entries:** All member schools must enter their school into the state series competition through the IHSAA Schools Center on the IHSAA Website at (www.ihsaa.org). The deadline for entry is Monday, August 26, 2024. The 2024-25 Entry Policies and Procedures outlining the online entry procedures for all IHSAA-sponsored tournaments can be found in the Schools Center on the IHSAA website.

B) **Late Entries:** Any attempt to enter a sport or activity on-line after the established deadlines will be denied. Schools that wish to enter after the deadline will be considered late. To be considered for late entry, the Principal/Official Representative must contact the IHSAA administrator in charge of that sport or activity. The penalty for late entry shall be a payment of \$100.00 for that sport/activity by the school.

C) **List of Participants Penalty:** In order for a school to complete the entry process for girls' state Flag Football series, they must enter their team or individual(s) and complete the *List of Participants* by the established deadline date Monday, September 23, 2024. Schools who fail to complete both parts of the entry process will not be entered into the state series unless a late entry fee is paid.

D) Breach of Contract By-Law 6.041 (Withdrawal Procedure):

To withdraw without penalty, the Athletic Director, or IHSAA Representative, must notify the IHSAA Office, in writing, of the school's withdrawal from the respective sport prior to the date the seeding meeting date and/or the date the *List of Participants* is due for that sport.

If a school withdraws after the seeding meeting date/*List of Participants* due date and/or does not show up for competition, the school will be charged a \$500 penalty, and if applicable, the cost of game officials and the host school guarantee provided for in the Terms & Conditions as a result of such breach.

E) **Eligibility:** All member schools in good standing may enter one team under the provisions of IHSAA By-law 3.054.

F) **Affirmative Action:** Only girls shall be permitted to participate in this state series except as provided in the IHSAA Affirmative Action Policy.

G) On-Line List of Participants:

Each school must complete the On-Line *List of Participants* by **Monday, September 23, 2024 by 10:00 a.m.** If a school does not submit the On-Line *List of Participants* by the deadline, coaches and/or participants from the school are subject to sanctions which could include, but not be limited to, coaches or players being ruled ineligible to coach or compete in the state series.

Note: The *List of Participants* will provide the overall team records.

Note: The *List of Participants* is a school entry.

IV. HOST FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

A) **All Quarterfinal Regional games** are financially independent from the IHSAA. All local expenses will be paid by the host school. If admission is charged, the host school will receive 100 percent of the gate receipts. **In the Semifinal and Championship Regional games**, the host school shall pay for all local expenses. The host school shall receive a guarantee of \$575.00. The IHSAA will pay the officials through Arbiter Pay. The host school shall retain 20% of net income and submit remainder to the IHSAA. In the event of a negative balance, the host school shall be reimbursed for the entire deficit. If admission is not charged, the host school shall forfeit the guarantee.

B) **In the Sectional tournament**, the host school shall pay for all local expenses. Each host school shall receive a host guarantee of \$575.00. The IHSAA will pay the officials through Arbiter Pay. The host school shall retain 20% of net income and submit remainder to the IHSAA. In the event of a negative balance, the host school shall be reimbursed for the entire deficit. If admission is not charged, the host school shall forfeit the guarantee.

C) **Digital Tickets:** Per IHSAA Board Policy 22, GoFan Digital Tickets will be the exclusive ticket option available for this sport at the Sectional and State Final levels of the State Series. Any exceptions must be approved by the IHSAA office.

D) **Admission:** The following State Series ticket prices have been set by the IHSAA Board of Directors. A baby in arms is free at all rounds of the State Series. Pricing for all other individuals is as follows:

REGIONAL

Digital Ticket: \$6

Cash Ticket: \$7



SECTIONAL

Digital Ticket: \$7

Cash Ticket: \$8

STATE FINAL

Digital Ticket: \$10 per day

Cash Ticket: \$11 per day

E) **Rights Fees for TV and Radio:** See the IHSAA web site (www.ihsaa.org) for the fees to be charged by Local Managers and/or the IHSAA for television and cable broadcasts and radio originations.

V. TOURNAMENT ASSIGNMENTS AND SEEDING MEETINGS

A) **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS & SEASON SUMMARY– Final Entry Process:** The *List of Participants & Season Summary Sheet* must be completed online no later than **Monday, September 23, 2024 by 10 am** to complete the school’s entry. Coaches who do not complete the *List of Participants & Season Summary* shall not be entered into the state series. A late entry fee shall be charged to schools that have not completed the final entry process and wish to enter. Schools are subject to additional sanctions by the IHSAA for a late entry which can include a coach being ruled ineligible to coach or compete in the state series.

On **Monday afternoon, September 23, 2024**, the IHSAA will then make available the final *List of Participants & Season Summary* through the IHSAA School Center at 4:00 p.m. to the correlating schools in the sub-sectional or sectional complex. This shall be a school’s final entry.

B) **Sectional Complex Seeding Meeting and Sectional Seeding Meeting:** All state tournament series will begin with a sectional complex except where excessive travel is a factor. This is determined by the IHSAA administration. Where this occurs the tournament series will begin with sub-sectionals. Each sub-sectional will contain 2 regional sites. Seeding for the tournament series will be done by sub-sectionals. Each sub-sectional will be seeded with the #1 and #4 assigned to one regional and #2 and #3 assigned to the other regional. The remaining teams will be assigned by geography.

C) **Tournament Series:** The successive tournament series shall be designated respectively as regional, sectional and state final. The IHSAA Office will select all regional and sectional host sites. All schools including the Chicago Public Schools entered in the state series will be assigned to a sub-sectional or sectional complex based upon geography.

D) **Seeding and Pairings:** The seeding shall be done on Tuesday, September 24, 2024. The seeding will be done online in the Schools Center by all coaches. All coaches will be required to fill out the season summary data form which contains information about their team. Information on all schools in your tournament will be available for each coach to review prior to making their seeds online. Pairings will be released on the IHSAA website. Pairings for the first round of games of the State Final Tournament(s) will be made by chance drawings at the Fall Sports Drawing. It is the responsibility of each competing school entered in the state series to complete the IHSAA Season Summary Sheet prior to the seeding of schools. The school must complete their school form online in their Schools Center no later than **Monday, September 23, 2024 by 10:00 a.m.** Non-compliance may result in IHSAA review and possible sanctions imposed upon the school.

E) **Regional and Sectional Host Sites:** Will be predetermined and selected by the IHSAA Office.

VI. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND TIME SCHEDULE

A) Time Schedule:

1. Local managers will not be permitted to change the order in which games are played unless given permission by the IHSAA Office. Regional or Sectional managers, upon consultation with the IHSAA Office and all teams in agreement may request a change.

2. Starting times for regional quarterfinal games will be 5:00 p.m., unless the contest host has requested, and been approved for, a different start time from the IHSAA Office. Starting times for all games will be announced by the local manager, but in the Regional and Sectional tournaments, games should not be played during school hours and cannot be played before 3:00 p.m on a weekday. The following starting times are recommended to the host schools: 5:00 p.m. for afternoon games, 6:00 p.m. for night games, and 11:00 a.m. for Saturday games. If both semifinal games are played on the same night, 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. game times are recommended.

3. If a Regional or Sectional host has the facilities, they may request to host the Regional or Sectional semifinals in a single session. The request must be made in advance of the start of the state series to the IHSAA. If approved, the back-to-back semifinals must be played on the first scheduled day of semifinal play in the respective tournament.

B) State Final Schedule

Coaches Meeting will be virtual. Information will be sent to coaches on Thursday, October 17 at 11:00 a.m.

C) State Final Schedule

All state final contests will be played at Willowbrook High School using the following time schedule:

Friday, October 18, 2024

Session 1

Game 1 - 4:30 p.m. Quarterfinal

Game 2 - 5:45 p.m. (approx.) Quarterfinal

Session 2

Game 3 - 7:00 p.m. Quarterfinal

Game 4 - 8:15 p.m. (approx.) Quarterfinal

Saturday, October 19, 2024

Session 3

Game 5 - 11:00 a.m. Semifinal

Game 6 - 12:30 p.m. Semifinal

Session 4

Game 7 2:00 p.m. (3rd place game)

Game 8 4:00 p.m. (approx.) (Championship)

VII. ADVANCEMENT OF WINNERS

A) The thirty-two (32) Regional champions shall advance to one of eight (8) Sectional tournaments.

B) The winners of the eight (8) Sectional tournaments shall advance and will be entered in the State Final Tournament.



VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES

- A. Roster:** Twenty-five (25) players in uniform are allowed.
- B. Coaches:** Teams are allowed four (4) coaches in compliance with IHSA By-law 2.070.
- C. Team Sideline Personnel:** Only member school students from the competing team's school, school-recognized adult team manager, certified coaches, and school-approved athletic trainers may be present on the team sidelines.
- D. Rules of Play:** Illinois High School Association Girls Football Rule Book. [IHSA 24-25 Girls Flag Rules](#)
- E. Tie Games:** All regular season Varsity Girls Flag Football games shall be played to completion. Tie games shall be resolved with the overtime rules as printed in the Illinois High School Association Girls Football Rule Book. [IHSA 24-25 Girls Flag Rules](#)
- F. Game Ball:** Wilson TDY football. All IHSA State Series games will be played with the Wilson GST SPEEDSKIN HEIR.
- G. State Series Tournament Play:** All Tournaments will be conducted on a single elimination basis.
- H. AED:** Host schools must have an AED on-site and be available
- I. Determining Home Team:** The home team in tournament games shall be determined according to the following procedure:
 1. In all Regional games, the highest seeded team is the home team. The Regional host school local management shall determine the team sidelines.
 2. In Sectionals that feed from Regionals, the home team in each Sectional semifinal contest and the Sectional final game will be determined by a coin flip, which will be called by the team from the bottom of the bracket. The Sectional host school/local management shall determine the team sidelines.
 3. In Sectional complexes, the home team in each Sectional semifinal contest and the Sectional final game will be determined by the highest seed. In the southernmost sectional the home team in each sectional semi-final game will be determined by the highest seed. A coin flip will be used to determine the home team in the sectional championship. The Sectional host school/local management shall determine the team sidelines.
 4. In the State Final tournament, at a meeting of the coaches of the teams participating in the State Final tournament, home team privileges shall be determined by a coin flip. Home team privileges for all State Final tournament games shall be determined at this meeting. State Final manager shall conduct the appropriate coin flip(s) to determine home team for all State Final tournament games. The team from the bottom of the bracket shall call the coin toss.

B) Signs and Banners:

The display of signs, banners, placards, or similar items at IHSA state series events is permitted, provided:

- 1) They are in good taste and reflect good sportsmanship in their message and use.
- 2) They reflect identification and encouragement to participants and their school/community.
- 3) They are not displayed on the field of play or in a manner which interferes with play.
- 4) They do not obstruct the view of participants or spectators.
- 5) They are not safety hazards.

C) Damage to Property and Equipment:

If contestants or people from any school entered in a state series are found guilty of carelessness or maliciously breaking, damaging, or destroying property or equipment belonging to the host school, such school shall be held responsible for costs incurred in replacing or repairing such property or equipment.

D) Practice Facilities:

In the Regional, Sectional and State Final Tournament, the hosting schools shall not make the facilities available to the incoming teams for practice, other than customary scheduled pre-game to the start of the state series game. Further, hosting schools have no obligation to permit visiting teams access to the game field prior to thirty minutes before the game.

E) Media Requirements:

1) Coverage

a. State Series hosts should work to accommodate media members with space to cover State Series events whenever possible.

b. For State Series events, the IHSA Press Box Policy should be used as a guide for determining media press box access should space become an issue.

2) Broadcasting

a. Radio or audio-only internet broadcasts are not subject to a broadcast rights fee at the Regional, Sectional, or Super-Sectional levels. A \$100 fee exists at the State Final round, pending approval by the IHSA after completion of the IHSA's broadcast application form.

b. If a State Series contest/event is broadcast on the NFHS Network, then there is no rights fee due and no other video streaming/TV broadcasts will be allowed, pending special permission from the IHSA. c. If a State Series contest/event is not broadcast on the NFHS Network, then the broadcast rights may be purchased to broadcast via video streaming/TV pending approval by the IHSA after completion of the IHSA's broadcast application form.

Note: Broadcast application forms can be accessed by Googling "IHSA Broadcast Applications" or directly at [IHSA.org/News-Media/News-Media-Center/Broadcast-Applications](https://www.ihsa.org/News-Media/News-Media-Center/Broadcast-Applications)

F) Videotaping:

Videotaping will be allowed provided the local manager has a comparable area for both competing schools to videotape. When one school requests the video space, then the local manager shall provide similar space to both competing schools. Noncompeting schools and

IX. TOURNAMENT POLICIES

- A) State Final Passes:** For the State Final Tournament games, each state qualifying team will receive:
 1. thirty-one (31) passes for its players and other team personnel.
 2. one (1) state final event pass to properly licensed medical personnel for each team participating in the state final. The pass would be available for either a licensed (i.e., certified) athletic trainer.



spectators will be allowed to videotape games in the stands, provided they do not obstruct the view of participants and spectators.

G) Tobacco/Liquid Nicotine Products:

The use of tobacco or liquid nicotine products in any competition area, either during a practice or while a contest is in progress, or affiliated property of any IHSA state series contest by any coach, player, any other person connected with a team, or fan shall be prohibited. State series hosts are required to make all state series contest sites and any affiliated property, including parking lots, fan accommodation areas, and other school or event venue property, tobacco/liquid nicotine free zones on the date or dates of any IHSA event being held at the site.

H) Use of inhalers:

A student with asthma may possess and use his/her medication during an IHSA competition, while under the supervision of school personnel, provided the school meets the outlined procedures of self-administration in the Illinois school code.

I) Alcoholic Beverages and IHSA State Series Events:

The possession, distribution, sale and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages are prohibited at the site and on any affiliated property of any IHSA state series contest. State series hosts are required to make all state series contest sites and any affiliated property, including parking lots, fan accommodation areas, and other school or event venue property, alcohol free zones on the date or dates of any IHSA event being held at the site. Violation of this policy by an event host will subject the host to a penalty for violation of IHSA By-law 2.020. Such penalty may include, but not necessarily be limited to, prohibition against subsequent event hosting assignments. Violation of this policy by a non-hosting member school will subject the school to penalty for violation of IHSA By-law 2.020. Patrons of any IHSA state series contest determined to be in violation of this policy will be removed from the premise, and law enforcement officials will be called as warranted. No ticket refunds will be granted in such cases.

J) Prayer at IHSA State Series Contests:

Prayer at an IHSA state series contest that takes place over the public address system is prohibited.

K) State Final Team Reimbursements:

1. Each school participating in the tournament series will be responsible to pay any and all expenses related to the team at the regional and sectional levels.

2. In the State Final Tournament, the teams participating in the tournament shall be reimbursed in accordance with the following:

Round Trip

Mileage to State Final Site	Flat Rate Reimbursement	Mileage
0-150 miles	\$500.00	\$2.00/mile
151-300 miles	\$1,000.00	\$2.00/mile
301-over miles	\$1,500.00	\$2.00/mile

3. Neither the State Association nor the tournament management will assume responsibility for unusual or extraordinary expenses. Individual schools entering the tournaments must be ready themselves to assume responsibility for unusual expenses due to accident, inclement weather, fire, theft, or any other extraordinary cause.

L) Failure to Appear:

All teams entered in the tournament are expected to participate. The original entry is a final entry. Failure to appear for scheduled games unless satisfactory arrangements are made with the local manager in advance of the game will be regarded as a breach of contract and schools that are guilty of such violation will be subject to penalty under the provisions of By-law 6.041.

M) Players in Team Uniforms:

In each of the tournaments, no school shall have in uniform more than twenty-two (25) players.

N) Girls Flag Footballs:

The Wilson GST SPEEDSKIN HEIR ball is required to be used in all girls state Girls Flag Football tournament series games. There can be no substitution of a ball manufactured by another company during regionals, sectionals and the state final.

1. Regional Sites: Each school hosting regional games will be supplied with three game balls. Disposition of the balls at the end of the tournament is at the discretion of the host. If additional balls are needed, it is the responsibility of the host school to provide them.

2. Sectional Sites: Each school hosting the semifinals and championship game will be supplied with three game balls. Disposition of the balls at the end of the tournament is at the discretion of the host. If additional balls are needed, it is the responsibility of the host school to provide them.

O) Players Bench:

A maximum of 31 individuals officially connected with the school shall be permitted to occupy the team sideline.

P) Conduct of Coaches and Players:

1. No coach, player or other person officially connected with the team shall be permitted to smoke or chew tobacco on the bench or playing field either during practice or while a game is in progress.

2. No coach or other school official shall, during the progress of a game, be allowed on the field of play except by permission of the game officials.

3. The captain and the head coach shall be the official spokespersons and the sole representatives of their team in all communications with the game officials

4. Abusive remarks to game officials by coaches or players shall be regarded as unsportsmanlike conduct and shall be punishable under the provisions of By-Law 2.040.

Q) Artificial Noisemakers:

All artificial noise-making devices are prohibited.

X. AWARDS

A) Regional: A plaque will be awarded to the winner in each Regional.

B) Sectional: A plaque will be awarded to the winner in each Sectional.

C) State Final:

1. A trophy will be awarded to teams finishing first, second, third and fourth places in the State Final Tournament.

2. A total of thirty-one (31) medallions will be presented to the schools of the first four placing teams at the State Final



Tournament. In addition, the superintendent, principal, the athletic director and a certified athletic trainer or team physician, provided one is listed on the school's State Final Program Information, will be presented with a medallion. No other trophies or awards of any kind may be presented in the tournament series. Only thirty-one (31) team/school representatives, the superintendent, principal, the athletic director and certified athletic trainer or team physician, may participate in the awards presentation.

These awards will be furnished by the State Association and are not an expense charge upon the individual tournament.

Officials (four per game) for the Sectional games will be assigned by the IHSA Office. If a Sectional game is. Each official will receive a fee of \$80.00 per game. The IHSA will pay the officials through Arbiter Pay.

3) State Final Tournaments:

Officials for the State Final Tournaments will be assigned by the IHSA Office. The number of State Finals umpires will be eight (8). Coaches of participating schools and registered officials will have an opportunity to assist the IHSA Office in ranking officials who are being considered for this assignment. Each official will receive a fee of \$90.00 per game and Head Official \$125 per day plus lodging at a hotel as designated by the IHSA Administrator. The IHSA will pay the officials through Arbiter Pay.

XI. OFFICIALS

A) Appointment and Fees:

Officials for all tournaments must be licensed by the IHSA.

1) Regional tournaments:

Officials (three per game) for all Regional games shall be appointed by the IHSA Office. Each official will receive a fee of \$70.00 per game. The IHSA will pay the officials through Arbiter Pay.

2) Sectional tournaments:

B) Mileage Policy:

In the state series, to assist officials for out-of-pocket expenses, a voucher system will be used to compensate officials when they drive more than 70 miles round trip per contest. Payment will be made through the IHSA Office, after completion of the tournament series, at a rate of **forty-five cents** per mile for all mileage more than 70 miles round trip. No compensation will be permitted for trips of less than 70 miles round trip.