

Section One Postseason Protocols



Default Time <i>(updated October 2024)</i>	Participating schools may mutually agree on event start times (in most rounds) of the postseason. If a start time <u>cannot</u> be agreed upon, the default time would be: ● Monday thru Friday: 5:00pm ● Saturday and Sunday: 11:00am ● SATs / ACTs: 2:00pm (<i>non-lighted facility</i>) 3:00pm (<i>lighted facility</i>) <i>*Does not include Section Finals*</i> Sport-specific exceptions: ● Football: Thursday & Friday: 6:30pm, Saturday & Sunday, 1:30pm ● Ice Hockey: Start time subject to rink availability When daylight is an issue for a weekday game (at a non-lighted facility), the standard start time is 2:00 pm. Schools that must host multiple games on the same date at the same site, the host school will determine the respective start times. Note: Section One Championship events have set dates and times that cannot be altered.
Date of Game	The postseason calendar is recommended by the Sport Chair and endorsed by the Championship Committee. It is reviewed by the Athletic Council and approved by the Executive Committee. The date a game is to be played is <u>not</u> up to the participating schools. All games must be played on the pre-determined date. During post-season play there is the possibility of contests being played in the evening, early afternoon, as well as on the weekends; including Sundays, to complete the tournament.
Weather Postponement of Postseason Games	A weather-related cancellation or postponement to one side of the bracket <u>does not</u> impact that round of the tournament. Whenever possible, games should be played on the dates outlined in the approved tournament calendar. If the host cannot secure an alternate site due to unplayable conditions, but

	the “visiting team” can host, the game is to be played at the opponent’s site (with home and away designations remaining). All rescheduling options must be exhausted prior to moving to the established rain/weather date. If a contest is postponed, and if not resolved by the next scheduled round of the tournament, the school (or individual) will forgo their opportunity to advance and/or participate in the tournament.
Weather Postponement of Individual Sport Section Championships <i>(approved 9/2025)</i>	If 33% or more of teams in the respective class or division of an individual sport (e.g., wrestling duals, indoor track & field, gymnastics) cannot attend a Section championship due to weather, the event will be postponed and/or canceled based on facility, officials, and staff availability.
Suspended Games	Postseason games that are suspended must follow that sport’s suspended play protocol. The time/date it is resumed must be approved by the Sport Chair and Section One Office.
Travel	Involvement in the postseason may potentially result in your school district having to travel outside of their geographic region and/or league. Travel to other counties within Section One is possible. In the event you choose not to travel, your school would forgo their opportunity to advance in the tournament.
NYSPHSAA 3-Region Concept <i>(approved 9/2025)</i>	Under the NYSPHSAA 3-Region Concept, the Section receiving the at-large bid will determine whether its champion or runner-up serves as the at-large representative. The section champion may choose either the champion pathway or the at-large pathway when Section One receives an at-large bid. The champion’s Athletic Director must notify the Section One Office, the Sport Chair, and the runner-up’s Athletic Director in writing (email) by 9:00 AM the day after the Section One Championship.

It remains the practice of Section One and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) not to amend championship schedules. This policy is intended to ensure fairness and equity for all participating teams and student-athletes. Accordingly, championship dates will not be changed due to conflicts with SAT/ACT testing dates, school-sponsored events (such as concerts, award ceremonies, or proms), non-interscholastic athletic competitions, or religious observances.

Section One respects the significance of non-interscholastic commitments, days of religious observance, and school-sponsored events. However, due to the complexity of postseason planning, it is not possible to accommodate all individual conflicts.