

Adapted Floor Hockey, Soccer, Softball: Three Day Tournaments

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Indicate the category of the proposed recommendation

State Tournament Recommendations regarding Format and Non-NFHS Rules or NFHS Experiments

Authors of the Proposal

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Activity/Activities (Check all that apply)

Adapted Floor Hockey, CI, Adapted Floor Hockey, PI, Adapted Softball, CI, Adapted Softball, PI, Adapted Soccer, CI, Adapted Soccer, PI

Current Rule/Policy

State the rule/policy as it appears in the current MSHSL Handbook or Activity/Sport Specific Rules and Policies.

Current tournaments are a 2 day format, with participating teams playing 1 game on Friday and 2 games on Saturday at one location.

Proposed Recommendation

Submit your proposed change to the above-stated rule/policy.

The new proposal would change the tournaments to 3 day events, with no team being required to play more than one game each day. Two options for this are being proposed.

Hold the state tournaments at one tournament site, but play games across three separate dates (Thursday through Saturday, for example)

Play the first round of state tournament games at a different location, either at a couple different neutral sites across the state, similar to section final games in other varsity sports, or simply at the home site of the higher seeded team. Then, for the following rounds, play them at one state tournament site, just as they are now.

Include any other policies that are impacted by this proposal.

None

Rationale

What is the history of the proposal?

The current format with 3 games in 2 days is far too physically and emotionally taxing on our athletes. Most other non-adapted varsity level state tournaments do not require their athletes to compete twice in the same day. We are dealing with students with disabilities in our events, and

their ability to compete at the highest level is significantly diminished by playing two games in one day. Many times, there ends up only being a couple hours for them to rest and recover between events, which is not adequate for most athletes. This is especially significant for our athletes in the Physically Impaired Division, where it often takes everything a kid has just to compete in one game - requiring them to play twice in one day just is not a reasonable expectation.

How does your proposal benefit education-based opportunities and MSHSL Mission and Beliefs for all Minnesota students?

This proposal gives our adapted athletes a better opportunity to compete at the highest level possible when they reach the state tournament.

What other policies are significant in this proposal?

None

Provide evidence of support for the proposal from other groups

Members of the Minnesota Adapted Coaches Association have approved this proposal by a 23-4 vote.

The Minnesota Adapted Athletics Association Board of Directors approved the proposal by a 5-2 vote.

Impact

How does your proposal affect this activity, including its impact on all classes, areas of the state, and variety of schools

No impact on adapted athletics as a whole, other than improving the state tournament experience for our athletes.

Administration

How does your proposal impact section and state tournaments?

This proposal creates a better, more inclusive state tournament experience for our athletes by allowing them a more appropriate amount of time to recover between state tournament games. In turn, this will allow our athletes the opportunity to participate to their fullest capacity and not be physically or emotionally exhausted from competing in more than one event per day.

Length of Tournament

How does your proposal impact the needed competition time for section and state tournaments?

This proposal would add one day to our adapted athletic state tournament events, whether it be at the primary state tournament site or at another school based site for the first round of games.

Participants

How does your proposal impact the number of participants/teams?

No impact - the same number of teams will participate in the playoff and state tournament process

How does your proposal impact the percentage of participants/teams that would qualify for the state tournament?

No impact

Facilities

How does your proposal impact the facilities needed to accommodate your recommendation at both the section and state level?

Depending on the option selected, this would require one additional day of events at the primary state tournament location, or require the ability for the first round of games to be played at additional neutral sites or at the home site of the higher seeded team.

Awards

How does your proposal impact the number of awards at both section and state?

No impact

Other

Provide any other pertinent information not included in this proposal

Coaches have been seeking this change for many years, as it is simply too much for their athletes to compete more than once on any given day. As stated previously, other varsity level athletes, without disabilities, are not typically expected to do this, so why is this required of athletes with disabilities?

Primary Author and Contact for Proposal

Proposal submitted by

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Position

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