

New Jersey Girls Soccer Coaches Association ("NJGSCA")

Balloting and Selection Procedures for NJGSCA and NSCAA, National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Awards and Recognitions

I. **Awards and Recognitions Available to Secondary Education Institutions Girls Soccer Organizations**

A. NJGSCA - New Jersey Girls Soccer Coaches Association

The New Jersey Girls Soccer Coaches Association was established in 1989 by a group of very dedicated girl's soccer coaches. At that time only ten coaches were members but membership has grown to 180 coaches who are concerned with advancing girls soccer.

The mission of the NJGSCA is to promote and strengthen development of girls' high school soccer in New Jersey. The organization serves to recognize deserving female soccer players throughout the state, via selection by member coaches, to various levels of NJGSCA All-State teams. Since the inception of the NJGSCA we have recognized over 4,000 players on the state level. The NJGSCA, through its association with the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA), has had over ninety-five players recognized with NSCAA All-American honors. Two New Jersey high school coaches have garnered NSCAA National Coach of the Year Honors. Countless teams have earned the NSCAA/Adidas High School Academic Award.

Additionally, NJGSCA provides professional development opportunities for coaches by hosting a variety of NSCAA diploma courses.

As a member of NJGSCA your school is guaranteed;

- NJGSCA recognition for at least one of the players on your team
- The opportunity to participate in the annual NJGSCA Senior Showcase game
- Discount of 20% on equipment purchased from NJGSCA sponsor, SCORE American Soccer Company.

By joining NJGSCA coaches automatically become members of the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Each year the NJGSCA recognizes outstanding players and coaches from its current membership. Girls participating in secondary education institution soccer programs, whose coach is a member in good standing of NJGSCA, are eligible for three levels of NJGSCA recognition:

- NJGSCA Sectional Recognition - players of member institutions who member coaches believe to be the top players seen during the current season (based on votes received)
- NJGSCA Sectional Top 20 Recognition - players of member institutions who member coaches believe to be the top 20 players within their respective section for the current season (based on votes received)
- NJGSCA State Top 20 Team Recognition - players of member institutions who member coaches believe to be the top 20 players within New Jersey for the current season

Senior girls participating in secondary education institution soccer programs, whose coach is a member in good standing of NJGSCA, are also eligible to be selected for participation in the NJGSCA Senior Showcase game.

Coaches who are members in good standing of the NJGSCA are eligible for two awards presented by NJGSCA:

- NJGSCA Sectional Coach of the Year Award - selected by member coaches from its membership based on excellence in coaching, contributions to the soccer community, and support of the mission of the NJGSCA
- NJGSCA State Coach of the Year Award - selected by member coaches from the NJGSCA Sectional Coaches of the Year who best embodies excellence in coaching, contributes to the soccer community, and supports the mission of the NJGSCA

The regions are designated as North I, North II, Central and South regions of the state of New Jersey.

B. NSCAA - National Soccer Coaches Association of America

The NSCAA is a separate organization from the NJGSCA. However, members in good standing with the NJGSCA are also members of the NSCAA and are eligible for NSCAA nominations.

The NSCAA recognizes girl soccer players in two different categories: All Region and High School Girls All American. The NSCAA has contracted with the NJGSCA for the NJGSCA to be the sole representative of the NSCAA in New Jersey. Therefore, NJGSCA nominates players for NSCAA awards. The number of nominations varies based on enrollment in the NJGSCA. Honors available are;

- NSCAA All Region Nomination
- NSCAA All American Honors

The NJGSCA is in a contractual agreement with the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) to be the sole representative from the state of New Jersey to designate NSCAA girl's high school award winners from the state of New Jersey to the NSCAA. All schools that are members in good standing with the NJGSCA are also members of the NSCAA and are eligible for all NSCAA recognitions for individuals, players, coaches or schools.

The NSCAA supports two teams that NJGSCA member institution players can be eligible for through NJGSCA balloting procedures. They are the NSCAA All Region Team and the NSCAA All American team. The number of NSCAA regional team positions (Region 3 for New Jersey) and All American team positions allotted to the NJGSCA by NSCAA is based upon the previous year's enrollment of coaches in New Jersey that coach girls high school soccer in New Jersey.

The NJGSCA will also nominate to the NSCAA its selection for the NSCAA player of the year award.

The NJGSCA also sponsors and selects players to participate in its annual “Senior Showcase” match which is held each December. This match brings together two designated regions of the state, North and South, to compete against each other in a fund raising event that is sanctioned by the NJSIAA. Players are selected for the North team by combining the all state balloting results of North I and North II for current high school seniors while the South team is selected by combining the all state balloting results from the Central and South regions of the state for current high school seniors.

The NJGSCA also sponsors a state Coach of the Year program. It recognizes a state regional coach of the year for each of the designated NJGSCA New Jersey State regions (North I, North II, Central and South). These coaches are selected via the general all state balloting procedures. After identifying the four NJGSCA regional coaches of the year, the NJGSCA executive committee will designate one overall NJGSCA state coach of the year. Using the four NJGSCA regional coaches of the year selected for the current school year, the NJGSCA executive committee will then select one or more of those coaches that meet the criteria set forth by the NSCAA, for nomination to the selection process for NSCAA regional and national coach of the year. Those coaches that meet the criteria will have their names forwarded by the NJGSCA executive committee to the NSCAA national office for the purpose of nomination for these national awards.

NSCAA sponsors a Coach of the Year program for small school, large school, and private/parochial coaches from each region. The NJGSCA representatives are pooled from the COY balloting process as stated above.

II. Eligibility Requirements

A. Registration

In order to be eligible to receive any awards or recognitions from the NJGSCA or the NSCAA, an institution of secondary education in New Jersey that supports a girls varsity soccer team and represents the player or coach to receive such awards must be a member in good standing of the NJGSCA (New Jersey Girls Soccer Coaches Association) and the NSCAA (National Soccer Coaches Association of America). It is the responsibility of the head coach of each high school girl’s soccer program in New Jersey to make sure that their institution is registered properly with the NJGSCA, and that dues are paid, rosters of teams and ballots are submitted on time. When one becomes a member of the NJGSCA they also become a member of the NSCAA.

The regional areas recognized currently by the NJGSCA do not strictly coincide with the placement of public school athletic teams into regions by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA).

During the declared NJGSCA all state balloting period (a designated period in October of the current school year) head coaches of or voting representatives of all NJGSCA member institutions are responsible for casting their votes for NJGSCA all state recognition for deserving players through the prescribed NJGSCA balloting procedures.

III. Determination of Awards and Recognitions

A. NJGSCA

1. Sectional Recognition

During balloting by voting members for the NJGSCA all state teams, no voting member is allowed to vote for their own players. However, to assure each member institution at least one recognition on the NJGSCA's all state teams, each voting member is asked to submit on their ballot the names of four of their own players whom they would like to see recognized on the NJGSCA regional all state team for their NJGSCA region (North I, North II, Central or South). Only one of these players will be recognized by the NJGSCA by placing them on their corresponding NJGSCA regional all state team. The players must be listed on the ballot in preference of order that the voting member of the NJGSCA deems they deserve. I.e. The best player in the number one position, the second best player in the number two position and so on.

2. Sectional Top 20 Recognition

The top twenty (20) players in each region will be named through the NJGSCA balloting vote tabulation process. These players will receive recognition as being one of the top twenty players in their respective region for the current high school soccer season. The "regional top twenty " players are identified as the twenty players in each region that received the highest vote totals during the current NJGSCA balloting period .Their vote totals must tally higher than the twenty first player recognized in the regions hierarchy of voting results.

3. State Top 20 Team Recognition

Nomination to and selection for the NJGSCA all state "top 20" team is a very straight forward process. After the selection of each of the NJGSCA regional "top 20" teams (North I, North II, Central and South) the top five players designated by the hierarchal rankings within each NJGSCA region of recognition shall be declared members of the NJGSCA state "top 20" team. I.e. Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 in hierarchal rank order from the North I. North II , Central and South regions "top 20" teams comprise the player make up for the NJGSCA State "top 20" team.

4. Senior Showcase Participants

Players selected to participate in the NJGSCA "senior showcase "match must be seniors in their school class for the current school year.

For the purpose of grouping players to organize teams for the event, NJGSCA regions North I and North II will be combined to define the NORTH section for showcase players' selection. The NJGSCA Central and South regions will be combined to comprise the SOUTH section for players' selection.

Each sectional team (North and South) will be comprised of 20 positional players and two goalkeepers. Each NJGSCA region (North I, North II, Central and South)

will supply ten senior positional players and one senior goalkeeper to the sectional team.

NOTE: Since the NJGSCA Senior Showcase match is sanctioned by the NJSIAA, rules applying to NJSIAA sanctioned events must be adhered to by the NJGSCA for this event. NJSIAA rules state that for special events such as the NJGSCA Senior Showcase match, participants cannot only be limited to specific player pools in regard to organizational membership. Therefore to be in compliance with NJSIAA regulations, the NJGSCA executive committee has the right to sanction, at their discretion, senior players from non NJGSCA institutions to participate in the NJGSCA Senior Showcase match when need arises.

5. Sectional Coach of the Year Award

During the NJGSCA balloting procedures, each voting member of the NJGSCA will be asked to make a selection for their NJGSCA coach of the year. Each region of the NJGSCA (North I, North II, Central and South) will have a regional NJGSCA coach of the year named via the balloting process.

The coach receiving the most votes accrued through the balloting process, in each NJGSCA region of the state, shall be declared the NJGSCA "Regional State Coach of the Year" for that particular NJGSCA region.

Criteria for selection of a NJGSCA regional state coach of the year by the executive committee shall be based on:

- The candidate's demonstration of upholding the ideals of the NJGSCA.
- The candidates known excellence in coaching high school girl's soccer.
- The candidate's team's overall results for the past season.
- The candidate's known contributions to soccer in the community the coach in as well as others.

B. NSCAA

1. All Region Nominations

The NJGSCA is in a contractual agreement with the NSCAA to be the sole provider of nominations for New Jersey girl's high school players to the NSCAA for recognition on their regional and All American teams. The NJGSCA historically has received (based on the previous year's New Jersey and national enrollment figures) an average of twenty to twenty five NSCAA regional team nominations for any one current school year. NJGSCA player nominations are made to the NSCAA for the NSCAA's Region 3 team which includes New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

NSCAA regional team recognition awards are divided evenly among the four NJGSCA regions (North I, North II, Central and South). Each NJGSCA region will have designated by the NJGSCA executive committee the same number of individuals (players) to be recognized, as each of the other regions regardless of the enrollment figures for membership in the NSCAA from each of the NJGSCA regions.

IMPORTANT: The failure of a coach or representative of such an NJGSCA nominated player to meet NJGSCA or NSCAA imposed time lines or to fail to supply the NSCAA national office with all requested documentation in regard to said player/s nominated by the NJGSCA on their behalf, may also result in the elimination of that player from inclusion on any NSCAA team recognized for that current school year.

The NSCAA will announce the players they have designated for recognition on their NSCAA regional teams in December of the current school year on their web site at www.nscAA.com.

2. High School Girls All American Nominations

As is the case with the NSCAA regional team allocation, the NJGSCA is allocated NSCAA High School Girl's All American team positions based on the previous year's membership of New Jersey girl's high school coaches to the NSCAA.

It is emphasized that nomination to an NSCAA All American team does not guarantee inclusion of said player on that team. It is a **NOMINATION** for placement of a designated player on that team by the NJGSCA to the national office of the NSCAA. The NSCAA reserves the right to eliminate an All American candidate based on their acquired information. The failure of a coach or a representative of such a nominated player to supply the NSCAA national office with all requested documentation on said player nominated by the NJGSCA, on their behalf, may also result in the elimination of that player for inclusion on any NSCAA team recognized for that current school year.

The NSCAA will announce the players whom they have designated for recognition on their All American teams in December of the current school year on their web site www.nscAA.com.