



2026-27 SSNL Tech Standard Changes, Additions, and Supporting Actions

(see Sport Technical Standards for detailed sport changes)

- D-Factor Reclassification will commence in 2026-27, please email the Varsity Coordinator if you have any questions on how to apply for that process.
- The 2026-27 Classification Grid will reflect where schools are placed prior to D-Factor Application Approval.
- Eligibility Pathway for player selection
 - Players in your own school, male or female (7-12)
 - Players in a neighbouring school (10-12)
 - Players in a neighbouring school (7-9)
- When a team is approved to pick up a player(s) from another school, 80% of a given team's roster registered **and attending** an event must be from the attending school. If players dropping from the team after registration affect the 80% rule, approval can be rescinded.
- If 3 schools are combined to form a single school for any SSNL tournament, only the senior high players would be eligible. If there are enough junior high players, they should not need to combine or the 3 schools could combine their JV players in a JV specific event.
- Provincial tournament convenors will notify teams prior to the tournament, of who the assigned officials are prior to the start of the tournament
- All schools are required to play in a qualifier, whether they receive a bye to provincials or not. This may result in multiclassification qualifiers in some areas. If this is the case, the upper classification will not advance to the playoffs in the tournament. Schools can request exceptions based on cost or travel distance.
- Teams who do not qualify through the normal tournament or wildcard process for a position in the provincial, may upon request apply for wildcard at a higher classification, only if the SSNL office is requesting additional wildcards at that higher classification
- Any request to set a Provincial Tournament Registration fee above the amount stated in the Technical Standards must be approved by the Varsity Coordinator, based on application, stating allowable expenses of officials fees, mileage, facility rental and/or cleaning costs, equipment, scorebooks.
- Lab Travel guidelines – team travel will not be booked until the team has registered for the provincial tournament.

CROSS COUNTRY

Grade 6 Students are no longer eligible to compete at Varsity Cross Country Qualifiers & Provincial Championship Events.

Junior Boys and Junior Girls Cross Country will no longer be a part of the Varsity Provincial Championships to align with the Junior Varsity Program Policies, NL Schools Policy and SSNL Technical Standards.



OUTDOOR SOCCER

There is now a 1A Outdoor Soccer which will create a second Classification for 7 a side Soccer. Please refer to the Classification Grid.

SLO-PITCH

Adjust the pitching rule to be in line with SPN

Add the Line in front of the plate/ Batter's box. [Page 26-28](#)

TABLE TENNIS

SSNL will no longer use NLTTA Rankings for SSNL Tournaments, but rather develop a SSNL ranking system.

BASKETBALL

Council will request that the Basketball SAC discuss running game time in games with a 30 plus point lead

BALL HOCKEY

The Ball Hockey SAC will review the Classification of Ball Hockey and recommend any changes to improve parity and increase participation where needed, recommendations if any will be presented at the VARSITY Winter Meeting in early 2027.

Tournament Convenors are responsible for the training of all officials. This includes ensuring that referees are aware of all rules pertaining to SSNL ball hockey.

RULE Changes:

Schedule

Warm-ups, Half-Time, and breaks between Overtime will be limited to 5 Minutes each.

Playing Surface Obstructions:

Including the ceiling itself any ball that comes in contact with those obstructions, changes direction, and creates an advantage (such as a scoring chance) will be blown dead. A faceoff will then take place at the designated spot on the floor closest to where the ball was shot at the obstruction."

Cross Check - A 2-minute minor or, at the discretion of the referee, a MAJOR penalty and a game misconduct shall be assessed. ALSO, Any player who strikes an opponent above the normal height of the shoulders with a cross check shall incur a MAJOR penalty and a GAME MISCONDUCT penalty. Whether or not an injury results.

Slashing - A 2 minute minor penalty or at the discretion of the referee, a Major penalty and Game misconduct penalty shall be assessed.

High-Stick - A player who contacts an opponent above the height of their shoulders with a high stick, INCLUDING A FOLLOW-THRU of a shot will be assessed a 2 minute minor penalty.

A Double minor may be assessed to any of the following: Butt-Ending, Head-Butting, High stick (blood), Head-Contact, Slew-footing, and Spearing. The double minor penalty will be recorded



and served as separate minor penalties (2 minutes + 2 minutes). It will only count as ONE penalty towards the "3 penalty" rule.

Faceoffs - Faceoffs must be won with a stick. Any attempt to contact the ball and win a faceoff using a body part will result in the play being blown dead. The faceoff will be conducted again and the offending player replaced by a teammate."

Delay of Game

If a player chooses to stand behind their own net with possession of the ball for more than 10 seconds and make no attempt to advance play, the play shall be blown dead and a faceoff take place in that team's zone. If this happens 3 times in a game, the offending team shall receive a Minor penalty for Delay of Game."

BADMINTON

A new Badminton Committee was struck to assess the potential of Badminton becoming a multiple classification Sport.