

NCSL 2026 PLAYOFF FORMAT

27+ Divisions:

There will be four Divisions for the playoffs. Division 1 has 6 teams, Division 2 has 8, Division 3 has 8 and Division 4 has 7. The 29 teams will all be ranked by their win-loss record. They will be awarded 2 points for a win and 1 for a tie. The divisions will be weighted to better represent the field of play.

Pacific Division - 24.3 points

American Division 16.2 pts.

Federal Division 8.1 pts.

Atlantic Division - 0

The teams will then be placed in four playoff divisions:

1 - 6 in Division 1

7- 14 in Division 2

15 - 22 in Division 3

23 - 29 in Division 4

The single game elimination playoffs Divisions 2 and 3 will begin on **Monday August 3.**

The second round will be on **Wednesday August 5.** Games will begin at 6:00 and 7:15. The finals will be on **Tuesday August 11 at 6:30.** The League will pay for two umpires.

The single game elimination playoffs Divisions 1 and 4 will begin on **Tuesday August 4.** The second round will be on **Monday August 10.** Games will begin at 6:00 and 7:15.

The final will be held on **Tuesday August 11 at 6:30.** The League will pay for two umpires.

Classic (50+) Divison:

The 11 teams will be ranked based on the win-loss record. Each win against an Eastern Division team is worth 3 points, any win against a Western Division team is worth 2 points, all ties are 1 point.. The teams will then enter a single game elimination playoff.

Teams ranked 8 thru 11 will begin on **Wednesday, August 12.** Game times will be 6:00pm. The winners of those games enter the 8 team bracket and continue play in the first round on **Thursday, August 13.** The semi-final round will be played on **Monday, August 17.** Game times will be 6:00 The final game will be on **Wednesday, August 19** with a 6:30 game time. The League will pay for both umpires in the finals.

Calendar example

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Div 2 & 3	Div 1 & 4	Div 2 & 3	Classic Regular			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Div 1 & 4	Finals Div 1, 2, 3 & 4	Classic playoff	Classic playoff			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Classic playoff		Classic play				

Notes:

- 1) If any teams drop out of the playoffs that spot will become a bye.
- 2) Any days rained out will move the playoffs to the next scheduled date and all games moved forward accordingly. If an individual field/game is rained out rescheduling will be determined at that time.
- 3) Due to the shortness of daylight it is imperative the first games start promptly and play briskly. The second game scheduled for 7:15 should be ready to start 5 minutes after the first game is completed. Second games can be shortened because of darkness. Umpires and managers make the decision on the last inning, with player safety as the highest determining factor.
- 4) If there is a tie in ranking points, the tiebreaker will be:
 1. Head to head competition in games played
 2. Most runs scored
 3. Coin toss by Board