# 2026 State Soccer Championships

**Boys A-3A**

**Sandia Prep is back on top of New Mexico high school soccer. The No. 1-seeded Sundevils capped their 2026 season with a 3-1 victory over No. 3 New Mexico Military Institute in the New Mexico State Soccer Championships, capturing the program's 22nd overall state title and its first championship since 2022.**




**Sandia Prep (20-2-1) wasted little time establishing its presence, as freshman Soukama Nakigan found the back of the net in the 10th minute to give the Sundevils an early 1-0 advantage. Three minutes later, Will Collins followed with a goal of his own, extending the lead to 2-0 and putting Sandia Prep firmly in control. NMMI answered in the 22nd minute when sophomore Armando Mexia Medina scored to bring the Colts within one. The goal gave NMMI (15-5-3) momentum heading into the break, with Sandia Prep holding a 2-1 advantage at halftime.**

**The Sundevils remained composed in the second half, and senior Philip Miletkov delivered the decisive moment in the 54th minute, finding the back of the net to extend the lead to 3-1. Sandia Prep's defense took care of the rest, preserving the two-goal advantage and securing the championship victory.**

**Boys Class 4A**

**The No. 1-seeded Sartans (20-3-1) secured their second consecutive New Mexico State Soccer Championship with a 2-0 victory over No. 2 Gadsden (18-4-2), capturing their third state title in a four-year span.**




**The championship matchup featured a defensive battle from the opening whistle, as both teams showcased their ability to limit scoring opportunities. Gadsden, making its first appearance in a state championship game in school history, held its own against the defending champions, and the two teams entered halftime locked in a scoreless tie. But the Sartans found their breakthrough in the 55th minute. Junior Diego Herrera delivered a dangerous ball off a cor-**

**ner kick, and senior Jude Benavides rose to the occasion, redirecting the ball with his head and into the net to give St. Pius X a 1-0 advantage.**
**St. Pius X turned to its all-time leading scorer to provide the insurance. In the 75th minute, senior Nico Reyes found the back of the net, extending the Sartans' lead to 2-0 and putting the championship within reach. The Sartans' defense remained steadfast down the stretch, shutting out the Panthers and securing the championship victory.**

**Boys Class 5A**




**The No. 9-seeded Matadors (16-7-1) delivered a dominant performance in the 2026 New Mexico State Soccer Championships, defeating No. 7 Capital (16-6-2), 5-1, to capture their first state championship since 1992. In an unlikely championship matchup between two lower seeds, Sandia turned a season of perseverance into a historic night.**
**The victory was especially meaningful for the Matadors, who had dropped both regular-season meetings with the Jaguars. But when the two teams met on the championship stage, Sandia proved that the third time would be the charm. The Matadors wasted little time establishing their presence, as junior Jade Field found the back of the net in the 11th minute to give Sandia an early 1-0 advantage. In the 23rd minute, one of the state's top scorers, Teo Ojeda, added to the Matadors' lead by converting a penalty kick. Sandia carried a commanding 2-0 advantage into halftime. The Matadors continued their offensive assault in the second half. Just before the 49-minute mark, sophomore Emmanuel Dodge found the back of the net to extend the lead to 3-0.**
**Ojeda followed with another goal to make it 4-0 before adding his third goal of the night, completing a hat trick and pushing Sandia's advantage to 5-0.**
**The Jaguars finally broke through in the 67th minute when Carlos Solis scored to put Capital on the board on a panelty kick. However, the late goal was not enough to slow the Matadors, who secured the 5-1 championship victory.**

**Girls**
**A-3A**
**In a championship matchup between two familiar foes, it was a late breakthrough that ultimately separated the top-seeded Cottonwood Classical Coyotes (19-4) and third-seeded Sandia Prep Sundevils (17-6). After splitting their two regular-season meetings, the rivals met one final time with a state championship on the line, and Sandia Prep delivered when it mattered most.**
**The Class A-3A NMAA Girls State Championship remained scoreless through the first half, as both teams battled for possession and looked for an opening against two determined defenses. With the clock winding down in the second half, the Sundevils finally found their**

opportunity. In the 72nd minute, sophomore Keira Rodriguez found the corner of the net, breaking the deadlock and giving Sandia Prep a 1-0 advantage. Cottonwood Classical continued to search for the equalizer, but Sandia Prep senior goalkeeper Ella Volkman stood tall between the posts. Volkman was spectacular throughout the championship match, stopping every shot the Coyotes sent her way and preserving the Sundevils' narrow lead and 1-0 championship. The win marks the Sundevils' fifth state title in the last six years, further cementing their place among the state's premier girls soccer programs.




**Class 4A Girls**

For Hope Christian, championship tradition has become championship history. The top-seeded Huskies (24-0) entered the Class 4A Girls State Championship looking to extend their remarkable dynasty with a sixth consecutive title. Facing second-seeded St. Pius X (19-3-2), Hope Christian delivered a dominant performance, rolling to an 8-0 victory and making history in the process.

The Huskies wasted little time establishing control, striking first in the 19th minute. Following a corner kick, junior Nikki Dountas rose above the defense and headed the ball into the net to give Hope Christian a 1-0 advantage. Less than two minutes later, sophomore Brooklyn Fankam doubled the lead, putting the Huskies in command at 2-0. Dountas continued to make her presence felt in the 24th minute, connecting on another header off a corner kick to record her second goal of the match and push the lead to 3-0. Hope Christian wasn't finished in the opening half. In the 33rd minute, Mechi Garbarino delivered a perfectly placed shot into the net, extending the advantage to 4-0 heading into halftime.

The Huskies continued their offensive onslaught after the break. Audrey Stockton found the back of the net in the 47th minute, making it 5-0, before Fankam added her second goal of the match in the 58th minute. Brooklyn Sanchez joined the scoring party in the 64th minute, pushing the lead to 7-0. Fankam then completed her hat trick in the 75th minute, capping the historic performance with Hope Christian's eighth goal of the championship.




When the final whistle sounded, the Huskies had secured an emphatic 8-0 victory, extending their championship streak to six consecutive state titles. The performance also etched Hope Christian's name into the NMAA record books. The eight goals marked the most scored by a team in a girls soccer state championship game, while the eight-

**goal margin of victory stands as the largest in an NMAA soccer championship match, boys or girls.**

**Girls Class 5A**




**On a rainy night at the University of New Mexico Soccer Field, the Volcano Vista Hawks found a way to make the most of their championship opportunity. In a battle between the top-seeded Hawks (19-2-2) and third-seeded La Cueva Bears (18-3-2), it was one second-half goal that ultimately separated the two teams and delivered Volcano Vista its first state championship since 2019.**

**The matchup featured two programs familiar with championship-caliber soccer. The Hawks and Bears had played to a 0-0 draw during their regular-season meeting in September, and Friday's championship contest once again showcased the defensive strength of both teams. With rain falling across the field, neither side was able to find the back of the net during the opening half. Both defenses remained disciplined, and the teams went into halftime locked in a scoreless tie.**

**The breakthrough finally came in the 64th minute. Volcano Vista junior Trinity Atma found the back of the net, delivering the decisive goal of the championship and giving the Hawks a 1-0 advantage. The goal proved to be all Volcano Vista needed, as the Hawks held off La Cueva's efforts to find an equalizer during the remaining minutes. When the final whistle sounded, Volcano Vista had secured the Class 5A Girls State Championship, ending a seven-year wait to return to the top of New Mexico high school soccer.**