

2019 GIRLS AND BOYS SOCCER GUIDE

I. SEASON

- A. Soccer has been classified as a fall sport. The fall season may open on August 15th for girls and boys (all divisions), and conclude on November 4th for all divisions (weather dependent).
- B. No school shall schedule more than fourteen contests, exclusive of playoffs sanctioned by the V.P.A.
- C. All Vermont soccer coaches are now required to complete or must have already completed the NFHS concussion education program before the first practice of the Fall season. Coaches need to remember that this requirement needs to be renewed every two years.
- D. As of the Fall 2016, all coaches are required to have AED/CPR education and shall have training with their schools Emergency Act Plan. This must be renewed every 2 years.
- E. The following preseason training procedures have been adopted. During the preseason schools will follow these new procedures:
 - a) teams may use double practices starting the second day of practice, however the practices cannot total more than 3 ½ hours (max 2 hours for one practice and 1 ½ hours for the other)
 - b) there is to be a minimum of a 3 hour rest period between practices (for recovery and hydration). During this 3 hours period, you cannot conduct any active training sessions (no walk through) but you can do a classroom meeting.
 - c) a scrimmage can be held at any time. There is no minimum number of practices required.
 - d) No team shall have consecutive days of double training sessions.
- F. A school's players must complete 10 practices before its' first game.

The VPA soccer committee has set a goal of trying to play all championship games on turf this year (2019) and on multiple days.

II. RULES

- A. The current issue of the National Federation Soccer Rules shall be the official playing rules for interscholastic soccer among member schools in the State of Vermont, except as varied by the Vermont Soccer Guide. Any game that is stopped before completion of the first half, is to be replayed in its entirety. The rescheduling of games will be conducted between schools. If an agreement to reschedule a game cannot be met, the VPA Executive or Associate Executive Director, and Chair of the Soccer Committee will mediate.
- B. Encourage each V.P.A. member school and coach to monitor the number of accumulated yellow and red cards and to develop a yellow/red policy for the team.
Note – in the 2019-20120 soccer season, any team that acquires more than two ejections (of the 2 game variety) will be required to meet with the Activities Standards Committee before entering or continuing in the tournament. The purpose is to discuss steps being taken to address this situation.

C. **POINT OF EMPHASIS**-the NFHS Points of Emphasis are located on page 78 of the NFHS Soccer Rules Book. Coaches are responsible for reading this information as the points will apply to coaching a team. 2019-2020 Rules Changes are on page 2-3 of the NFHS Soccer Rules book. It is recommended that all schools have a pre-season meeting with an official who can explain new and current rules for the year to the team.

D. Ejection of Player(s) and Coach(es):

Three situations exist:

1. TWO (2) GAME SUSPENSION:

A player or coach who is ejected from a game for the following infractions which are harmful in nature shall be suspended from playing or coaching for that game and the next two contests.

A. Verbally harmful conduct. NO SUBSTITUTE IS ALLOWED FOR THE PLAYER.

B. Malicious physical contact. (including fighting) NO SUBSTITUTE IS ALLOWED FOR THE PLAYER.

C. Taunting – No substitute is allowed.

2. ONE (1) GAME SUSPENSION:

. New rule 12-8-21-when a player receives a second caution in the same game, he/she will be disqualified with a red card and the team will now play the remainder of the game without replacing the disqualified player. The yellow/red card that was previously given for the second caution has been eliminated.

3. CURRENT GAME SUSPENSION:

An intentional hand ball that prevents a goal. Ejection from that game only if the goal is prevented. If a goal is scored, a yellow card is given and you then follow the yellow card procedures.

E. Accumulation of Yellow Cards. As of the Fall 2019 season, all schools are required to keep track of the number of yellow cards accumulated by their teams, as reported by officials.

F. MOUTH PIECES:

It is **recommended** that all players wear a mouth guard that covers all upper molars, as well as upper front teeth. Mouth guards are recommended to be worn in all practices and competitions and is recommended to all participants at all levels (e.g. freshman, junior varsity, and varsity for boys and girls).

G. OVERTIME: (Regular Season)

There will be a five-minute mandatory time out after the regulation time.

There will be two -10 minute sudden victory overtime periods. **If the teams remain tied after the two overtimes, a tie is declared.**

H. **In 2019-2020, the top 16 teams in each division will be eligible for the state tournament. If more than 16 teams apply a tie-breaking process will be used. The process will be: a) head to head competition b) common opponents c) strength of schedule d) best won/loss percentage and e) coin toss.**

I. **It is the belief of the VPA that everyone is responsible for maintaining the integrity of the game. With that in mind, coaches, officials and teams captains will meet for a pre-game conference to discuss all game procedures and expectations.**

J. **All schools shall have access to have adequate medical coverage (Dr., AT, Nurse P., RN, Pys. Asst.) at all home games.**

K. In the Fall 2018 season, the VPA has implemented a running clock rule. In the 2nd half, if there is a 5 goal deficit then the clock will continue to run unless there is a serious injury.

2019 Soccer Rule Changes

*****Please see page 2 of NFHS Soccer rules book for changes.*****

III. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

- A. To qualify for tournament consideration, a team must have completed at least an eight game schedule with three different schools by the time of the picks and submit an application.
- B. FINAL, COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST ELECTRONICALLY FILED TO THE VPA OFFICE NO LATER THAN NOON THE DAY BEFORE THE PAIRINGS- NO PHONE SCORES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

LAST DATE TO PLAY GAMES:

Boys: Saturday, October 19, 2019

Girls: Saturday, October 19, 2019

APPLICATIONS DUE:

Boys: Sunday, October 20, 2019, 9am

Girls: Sunday, October 20, 2019, 9am

TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS AVAILABLE:

Girls: Monday, October 21, 2019, Noon

Boys: Monday, October 21, 2019, Noon

PLAYDOWNS:

Boys & Girls: Div. 1, 2, 3 & 4 – Tuesday/Wednesday October 22/23, 2019

QUARTER FINALS:

Boys & Girls - Div. 1, 2, 3, & 4 –Thursday/Friday/Saturday, October 24/25/26, 2019

SEMI-FINALS:

Boys & Girls- Tuesday, October 29/30, 2019

FINALS:

Boys & Girls - Friday/Saturday, November 1/2 2019

8 Finals all the same day (Note: Friday, November 1st is only used if possible)

*For the finals, the tournament director shall be responsible for determining, in case of inclement weather, whether or not the game will be played, or continued if play has started.

IV. TOURNAMENT PROCEDURE

- A. For playoff consideration, the minimum size of the field will be 100 yards x 60 yards, and meet regulations as set by the Federation Rule Book.

Unsuitable Fields:

For tournament play, a school with an unsuitable field (due to size or condition), shall provide a back-up field, with the approval of the committee.

- B. In the playoff games through finals the Select Royale Soccer Ball will be used by all schools.
- C. In games, all tournament games where a winner must evolve, the following procedure will be used for breaking ties:
 - a. There will be a five-minute mandatory time out after the regulation time.
 - b. There will be a maximum of two 15 minute sudden victory overtime periods, eleven-on-eleven.
 - c. Teams will switch ends at the conclusion of the first eleven-on-eleven sudden victory overtime with a 2 minute break. If the score is tied after both sudden victory overtimes, each team will select any five players to take penalty kicks in an alternating fashion. Order of kicks will be determined by a coin toss. The same players or different players may be selected for each round. Additional kicks will be conducted in rounds of five. The team scoring the greatest number of these kicks will be declared the winner.
 - d. A game interrupted before the completion of the 1st half will be replayed in its entirety. A game interrupted during the 2nd half will be replayed from the point of suspension unless both teams agree not to complete the contest, in which case the score will become final.
- D. In the State Finals each school will provide two ball persons to run the sidelines. The ball persons will receive free admittance and a \$5.00 honorarium from the Tournament Director.