

**1. SEASON OF PLAY**

Boys = Spring Season

**2. LEVELS OF COMPETITION**

Junior Level (Zone only)                      Senior Level

**3. ELIGIBILITY**

Senior Level - The following classifications shall apply for **Senior BOYS' SOCCER**:

A            under - 500 students;  
AA          501 - 950 students;  
AAA        951 and over

Junior Level - The following classifications shall apply for **Junior BOYS' SOCCER**:

A            Schools with a population of 799 or under  
AA          Schools with a population of 800 or more

**Note:** School classification is based on enrolment on October 31<sup>st</sup> of the **PREVIOUS** school year.

**Note:** According to ARTICLE XV; Section 1, a team may opt to play at a higher classification if they declare their intention by the Declaration of Play deadlines.

**ELIGIBILITY FOR JUNIOR SOCCER**

- The individual's birth certificate indicates that he has **not reached his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday by August 31<sup>st</sup>** prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held.
- Only students in their first two (2) years of high school, based on the date they entered grade nine (9), will be eligible for junior team competition.  
**EXCEPTION:** a student who has been accelerated one (1) year in elementary school shall be allowed to play at the junior level for a maximum of two (2) consecutive years in the first three (3) years of his/her high school career. The student shall meet the above age requirement and documentation of the acceleration shall be provided with the eligibility sheet.

**ELIGIBILITY FOR SENIOR SOCCER**

- The individual's birth certificate indicates that he has **not reached his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday by January 1<sup>st</sup>** prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held.

A school/team, must conduct a bona fide high school soccer program consisting of eight (8) practices during a period of four (4) weeks under the supervision of a teacher as certified by the school principal.

**4. ELIGIBILITY SHEETS**

The eligibility sheets must be to the NRHSAA Convener at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to each team's first league game. All dressed players must be listed on an eligibility sheet. Any players whose names appear on such sheets and who are not dressed for that particular game must have their names crossed off the list. There shall be no restriction on the number of players dressed for a league or Play-off game at the Zone III and IV level.

**5. GAME TIME**

The first (1<sup>st</sup>) game of a double-header will start at 3:00 pm (no earlier without Convener's knowledge and both Principals' permission). The second (2<sup>nd</sup>) part of the double-header will start immediately after the first double-header game is over or at 4:30 pm.

Effective April 2011, on Mondays and Tuesdays girls will play the first game of a double header (boys will play second). On Wednesdays and Thursdays boys will play the first game of a double header (girls will play second). Friday games will be at the discretion of the convener.

**6. HOME SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Have the field correctly marked, corner flags in place (corner flags must be on the field, minimum height five (5') (or its metric equivalent) and rounded at the top), team benches out, and goal nets in place.
- Provide a suitable game ball.
- Ensure that the behavior of spectators is what is expected.
- Ensure that the field is in playable condition
- In the event that the game has been called off, the coach is to notify the Athletic Convener and the visiting coach as soon as possible, preferably before 12 noon.
- Make sure that the referee has copies of the NRHSAA game sheet from each team.
- Have a second (2<sup>nd</sup>) set of shirts available for the home team to change into in the event that there is a conflict of team colors.
- As of April 2011, player benches must be on the same side of the playing field. Spectator areas will be on the opposite side of the players' benches. Where this cannot physically be possible, the players' bench areas must be clearly defined and spectator areas are not to be in those areas.

**7. PAYMENT OF OFFICIALS**

The home team is responsible for payment of officials for all league and play-off games. The amount will be announced at the first meeting. The visiting team is responsible for transportation costs to and from the competition.

If a gate is charged at an NRHSAA league or play-off game then all expenses will be paid from the gate (referees, minor officials, linesmen, security, score keepers, etc.) and the remainder of the gate will be divided equally between the home and visiting team.

In the event a play-off game is played at a neutral site then the cost of officials will be shared equally between participating teams.

**8. REPORTING SCORES**

The home team will report the score on the [www.NRHSAA.ca](http://www.NRHSAA.ca) website.

**9. OFFICIALS**

All officials must be accredited by the Niagara Soccer Association.

**10. OFFICIAL RULE BOOK**

The official rule book will be the Laws of the Game as established by the Ontario Soccer Association (O.S.A.) and International de Football Association (F.I.F.A.).

**11. GAME FORFEITURES**

The following policies are in place for game forfeitures:

- (1) Should a team forfeit a game with less than forty-eight (48) hours' notice, all costs associated with the game shall be charged to the forfeiting school.
- (2) Should a team forfeit a game, the forfeiting team will be given a loss as a result of the forfeit.
- (3) Should a team forfeit two (2) games during regular season play, the team shall be removed from the league and all points earned in games played against that team shall be removed from league standings.
- (4) A team that forfeits a game during the regular season loses all rights with regards to tie breaking procedures. (i.e. if the team is tied for third (3<sup>rd</sup>), the team will be relegated to fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) place).
- (5) A team that forfeits a playoff game shall also forfeit the right to play any further playoff games at the current or subsequent level of playoffs (i.e. when two (2) teams qualify for SOSSA).

**12. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**

- All players must wear the same colored tops with numbers. No partial uniforms will be allowed.
- Wearing tracksuit pants or sweat pants will be at the discretion of the referee only in adverse weather conditions.
- F.I.F.A. approved shoes that are duly inspected by the official and are deemed to be safe be allowed.
- Jewelry, watches, rings, casts, etc., that could be a hazard to other players will not be permitted. If you are in doubt, contact the referee before the game.
- Goalkeepers must wear a contrasting colored jersey from those of both teams.
- All competitors must wear shin guards. Any competitor who does not have shin guards will not be permitted to play.

**13. SUSPENSIONS**

Specifically for Soccer:

1. Players suspended in the final game of a season, will serve their suspension the first (1<sup>st</sup>) league game of the following year.
2. Sending off the field due to a red card results in a **ONE (1)** game suspension. (as per the Constitution).
3. With the presentation of a yellow card, the cautioned player must leave the field of play. A substitute player may enter immediately.
4. A player who receives two (2) yellow card offenses in a game will receive an automatic one (1) game suspension and no substitution may enter that match.
5. Three (3) yellow cards accumulated by a player throughout the season will result in a one (1) game suspension. The suspension should occur in the game following the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) yellow card. The onus is on the coach to sit out the player. Failure to do so could result in the forfeiture of a match. Any further yellow cards constitute an additional one (1) game suspension.
6. A player who is sent off twice in one season will be suspended, for the balance of the season.

7. Any infraction by a player which may warrant a more severe suspension shall be reviewed by a discipline committee consisting of the Convener and two (2) other people selected by the Convener. Said committee has the right to impose further suspensions in keeping with the rules of the O.S.A.
8. Copies of all disciplinary reports relating to incidents which bring the team or school into disrepute will be referred to the Principal or designate.
9. A coach who is dismissed or ejected for severe misconduct during the course of a game will cause his team to forfeit all remaining games in the schedule until such time as the league Convener and Zone Executive review the game report and implement disciplinary measures.
10. As well, all referee assaults verbal or physical will be reported to the OSA.

#### 14. LEAGUE FORMAT FOR NRHSAA BOYS' SOCCER

1. Games will be of two (2) equal halves. Length of each half will be forty (40) minutes for both junior and senior boys.
2. Half time will be five (5) minutes in duration.
3. Games may be shortened in duration.

#### 15. SUBSTITUTIONS

Unlimited substitution will be allowed at games from among the prescribed number of players dressed. Substitutions will only be allowed at the following times:

1. At a goal kick.
2. After a goal has been scored.
3. If a player is injured and needs to be replaced at the discretion of the referee.
4. After the half-time interval.
5. On your own throw-in and on an opponent's throw-in once the opponent has initiated a substitution.

#### 16. LEAGUE PLAY-OFF FORMAT FOR NRHSAA BOYS' SOCCER

All Zone Championship Soccer Final games shall have a referee and two (2) assistant referees.

In team sports where standings are used to determine play-offs, the win/loss achieved against teams that drop out will be taken away (not added) to teams that are still yet to play them.

Play-offs will be determined at the Convener's Individual Sport Body Meeting.

All schools participating are to send a representative to the Convener's Individual Sport Body Meeting otherwise forfeit all **rights for input in** the league and play-off format.

**17. TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES**

These procedures shall be used when determining a play-off position when a league schedule leads to play-offs:

- (1) Record between tied teams;
- (2) Record against teams higher in the standings (1 above, then 2 above, etc.);
- (3) Record against teams lower in the standings (1 below, then 2 below, etc.);
- (4)
  - (a) Coin flip to determine play-off position only. The conveners will perform the coin flip. The school that is alphabetically highest will have heads in the coin flip. The convener will notify schools of the results.
  - (b) Play-off on a neutral field/court or a coin toss for home field if both coaches agree, if it is to determine the final playoff position.
  - (c) In the event of a four (4) way tie, the conveners in consultation with the NRHSAA Executive and the schools involved will determine a tie-breaking procedure.

**18. METHOD OF BREAKING TIES IN PLAY-OFF GAMES**

If at the end of regulation time, the score is tied, the tie will be broken by:

- A. Playing two overtime halves of ten (10) minutes each.
- B. If the score is still tied, penalty kicks taken alternately as prescribed in the F.I.F.A. Laws.

**19. ZONE QUALIFICATION TO SOSSA**

One (1) champion from each Zone will go to SOSSA.