

**OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT  
2023 BOYS AND GIRLS SOCCER**

**RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR 2023 BOYS AND GIRLS SOCCER TOURNAMENTS**

1. The tournament will begin on Monday, October 16, 2023, and conclude on Saturday, October 28, 2023.
2. National Federation Soccer Rules with Ohio Modifications shall be used in all matches.
3. Schools may dress no more than twenty-five (25) players for any one match. Players may be changed for subsequent matches, providing that the name is on the eligibility list. The head coach and up to two assistant coaches from each team will be permitted on the sidelines. A school trainer for each school will be admitted with their team. **No more than thirty-five (35) individuals can be on the sideline at any time regardless of their capacity.**
4. The hosting venue will open its facility one hour prior to match time. Warm up on the field will take place from 6:20 - 6:50 p.m. A coin toss will take place ten minutes before the match.
5. There will not be any practice permitted at any match site other than pre-match warm-up.
6. A National Federation approved thirty-two (32) panel laminated waterproof ball shall be used for tournament competition. Each school will provide three (3) tournament balls. Referees will inspect balls prior to each match. Match balls are provided by participating schools.
7. Tied matches will be played off by Ohio Rules. NO EXCEPTIONS.
8. **Seeding Procedure.** Per the direction of the Southwest District Athletic Board, all teams in a bracketed tournament will be seeded. All online voting materials will be emailed to the Athletic Director who will provide this information to the coach. The coach will make comments pertinent to his/her team online from Sunday, October 1, 2023 to Wednesday, October 4, 2023. Online voting will begin on Thursday, October 5, 2023 and conclude at NOON on Saturday, October 7, 2023. The mandatory coaches meeting will be held on Sunday, October 8, 2:00 p.m. for boys soccer; 3:00 p.m. for girls soccer. The tournament manager will distribute in either written form or spreadsheet the tally of all votes no later than 2 hours before the start of the manager's meeting on Sunday, October 8, 2023. All ties will be broken prior to the placement of teams on the brackets. By board action, starting with the 2021-22 tournaments, ties will be broken as follows:
  - 10.a.1.) The team that receives the most individual votes at the tied position or above shall receive the higher seed.
  - 10.a.2.) If the results are still tied, the tie shall be broken by a coin toss. The school that calls the toss shall be the first one to appear in the alphabet (official school name without the respective city name ahead of it unless the city name is part of the official school name), going from A to Z in even-numbered years and Z to A in odd-numbered years

By board action, starting with the 2011-2012 tournaments, the coach can not vote for his school in the seeding process, and the highest and lowest votes for each school will be dropped in the final tabulation. By board action, starting with the 2013 spring tournaments, a coach that does not vote in a bracketed tournament loses his highest score, second highest score, and lowest score prior to final calculation.

Once that the seeds are determined for each team in the tournament, the seeds will go on the brackets in order of seed. The first seeded team will go followed by the second seeded team.

By board action, starting with the 2022-23 tournaments, Passing shall be permitted as follows:

- The number of schools advancing to the district tournament may pass
- All others must place themselves on the bracket when their seed is called

This process will continue until the brackets are filled.

Any team that does not show at the tournament placement meeting will go on the bracket last. Any school that does not vote online by Saturday, October 7, noon, will not be permitted to vote at a later time and his next highest vote will be dropped prior to final tabulation. Any school that does not meet voting requirements but does attend the placement meeting will receive the votes that the school received for seeding purposes and will be seeded accordingly. If a coach is late for the seed meeting and has missed his opportunity to go on the bracket, his absence will be considered as a pass, and will be given an opportunity to go on once he is in attendance. If more than one coach does not show up, the tournament manager will flip a coin to determine the order of placement on the bracket.

Per action of the State Board of Directors, the following fine structure is in place:

Failure to submit seeding information when prescribed by OHSAA regulations. Fine of \$50.00.

Failure to vote in online voting process to determine seeding. Fine of \$50.00.

Failure for coach, administrator, or authorized team representative to attend the tournament draw meeting. The tournament manager shall attempt to call the head coach and/or athletic administrator from the school(s) not present in order for a representative from the missing school(s) to participate in the tournament draw/seed meeting electronically/virtually. If no one attends - Fine is \$150.00

Failure to show up for tournament contest/refusal to finish a contest which has been started and suspended for any reason. Fine of \$150.00 plus cost of officials, site expenses, and team expenses incurred by opposing team, except for presale ticket revenue.

Per action of the State Board of Directors, all cellular telephones and other electronic devices (i.e. laptop computers or iPads) that could be utilized for transmitting information shall be turned off by all individuals in attendance during the draw/seed meeting until such time that the meeting is adjourned.

9. By Board Action – Pilot of 2023 Fall Season The highest seeded team during the first two rounds and District semi-finals will host and wear home colors. District finals will be played on a neutral field, and the home team will occupy the top line of the bracket.
10. Schools hosting a tournament match must have a site manager. The manager is responsible for reporting match results to both the newspaper and board web master.
11. Schools hosting a tournament match may have band to play the National Anthem during pre-match ceremonies. No bands will be permitted on the playing field. All band members must pay the admission charge.
12. Tickets for all sectional and district tournament games will be sold online through HomeTown Ticketing. Gate sales are permitted but will be done electronically via HomeTown Ticketing provided the event is not sold out. No cash sales are permitted per OHSAA rules. Ticket prices will be:
  - a. Admission for all sectional and district tournaments are:
    - Student (6 years old +) - **\$5.00**
    - Adults - **\$8.00**
    - Children under the age of five (5) are provided complimentary admission
    - A \$10.00 Cash ticket option at the gate will be made available at all High School sites
  - b. School Administrators Passes: Each participating school will receive complimentary admission for eight school administrators, digitally, through HomeTown Ticketing. One digital code will be provided to each school. Each code will have eight tickets attached to the code. The same code will be utilized, as a school advances in the tournament. **There is no admittance without a QR code from HTT.**
13. All teams hosting a tournament contest must charge admission. If they cannot charge admission, the opposition should be given the opportunity to host. If a school ends up hosting and does not charge, they will not receive the Flat Fee money and will be fined the cost of officials for the contest.
14. Charging to park is permitted at the District Championship site provided that it is at a high school venue and a high school club or organization is collecting the money (\$5.00 parking charge). Charging is only applicable at District Championship site. A sign indicating what group parking is benefiting is required.

15. Eight (8) uniformed cheerleaders and one (1) sponsor/coach will be admitted at the Pass gate.
16. Adequate security must be provided at each site, and if problems do arise, the tournament manager must be notified immediately by the site manager. Depending on the severity of the problem, the District Board and State Office should be notified.
17. Sectional match times will be scheduled as follows: match played on a field with no lights will not start before 5:00 p.m., match played on a field with lights will start at 7:00 p.m. and no double headers will be held on a school night.
18. Soccer officials will be assigned by the District Board and its designated assignor. The present evaluation system adopted by the State Office will determine how many matches each official receives.
19. An award presentation will follow the District Final match. Sportsmanship will be practiced during this presentation.
20. The Ohio High School Athletic Association's Sportsmanship Policy will be strictly observed and enforced.
21. In the case of unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches, players, or fans, the tournament manager is required to file a report with the District Board and send it to the attention of board secretary, Phil Poggi via email at SWDAB-sec@ohsaa.org.
22. Tournament hosts should send an email to Joe Roberts at [SWDAB-treas@ohsaa.org](mailto:SWDAB-treas@ohsaa.org) to with the number of games and level hosted. At the conclusion of the district tournament all host schools will be mailed a check for the number of games they hosted x the flat fee amount per round. Flat Fees for soccer are as follows:
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Round – \$600.00
  - b. District Semi-Finals - \$600.00
  - c. District Finals - \$700.00
23. All boys' and girls' tournaments will have their own financial accountability.
24. District sites will be announced after match-ups have been determined.

**Boy's Finals – Saturday, October 28, 2023 7:00 p.m. – Sites to be announced**

Division I – Four sites  
Division II – Three sites  
Division III – Four sites

**Girl's Finals – Thursday, October 26, 2023, 7:00 p.m. – Sites to be announced**

Division I – Four sites  
Division II – Three sites  
Division III – Four sites

24. **Inclement Weather Policy**

**Monitor Weather Patterns** – Be aware of potential thunderstorms by monitoring local weather forecasts the day before and morning of the competition, and by scanning the sky for signs of potential thunderstorm activity.

**National Weather Service** – Weather can also be monitored using small, portable weather radios from the NWS. The NWS uses a system of severe storm watches and warnings watch indicates conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a warning indicates severe weather has been reported in an area, and everyone should take proper precautions. Any thunderstorm poses a risk of injury or death even if it does not meet the criteria for severe weather. Therefore, anytime thunderstorms are in the forecast (even if it is only a 20 percent chance), event organizers should be at a heightened level of awareness to the potential danger of lightning.

## **Management**

**Evacuation** - If lightening is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators **shall** evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues.

**Thirty-minute rule** - Competition or practice shall be suspended once lightning has been recognized or thunder is heard. It is **mandatory** to wait at least **30 minutes** after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard prior to resuming practice or competition. Given the average rates of thunderstorm travel, the storm should move 10-12 miles away from the area. This significantly reduces the risk of local lightning flashes.

**Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count shall reset the clock, and another count shall begin.**

***Rev. 9-18-23***