

**OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT
2026 BOYS AND GIRLS SOCCER**

SWDAB RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR 2026 BOYS AND GIRLS SOCCER TOURNAMENTS

1. 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 4, 2026 to Wednesday, October 7, 2026. Online voting will begin on Thursday, October 8, 2026 and conclude at NOON on Saturday, October 10, 2026. The mandatory **VIRTUAL** coaches meeting will be held on Sunday, October 11, (Boys - 2:00 p.m. & Girls – 3:00 p.m.) **The virtual draw will now be a combined draw including both the North and South together. The North and South divisional draw will be conducted simultaneously, and the manager will rotate back and forth between North and South depending on year until all lines of both bracket are filled. In even numbered years (North will draw first), in odd numbered years (South will draw first). North schools can only draw onto available North lines and South schools can only still draw onto South lines.** 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 11, 2026. 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 2025-26 tournaments, Passing shall be permitted as follows:
The number of schools advancing to the regional tournament may pass but will be divided proportionately to those qualifiers between number of teams in North and South. Below are the number of teams that can pass:

Boys Soccer Seed Passes:

DI- #1 - 6 Seeds
DII- #1- 2 Seeds
DIII- 2 South; 2 North
DIV- 2 South; 2 North
DV- 1 South; 2 North

Girls Soccer Seed Passes:

DI- #1 – 6 Seeds
DII- #1 – 4 Seeds
DIII- 2 South; 2 North
DIV- 2 South; 2 North
DV- 1 South; 2 North

All others must place themselves on the bracket when their seed is called.

At each point where a seeded team places itself on the bracket, the seeds above that team which previously passed shall be given the option to place themselves on the bracket starting with the highest seed going first. Those teams may choose to pass again.

Example: Seed No. 1 places itself on the bracket. Seeds No. 2 and 3 pass. Seed No. 4 places itself on the bracket. Instead of going to Seed No. 5, Seed No. 2 shall then be given the option to place itself on the bracket followed by Seed No. 3.

This process will continue until the brackets are filled.

By Board Action, beginning with the 2025-26 tournaments:

Policy for Failing to Vote in the Tournament Seeding Process

9.e.1.) Schools that fail to vote in the tournament seeding process shall mean a school's top two highest votes will be dropped, leaving that school's seed to drop accordingly. be assigned the lowest seed.

9.e.2.) Schools that fail to vote in the tournament seeding process shall mean that school shall be dropped one (1) seed lower from where it was following the application of 9.e.1.

9.e.3.) Schools that fail to vote in the tournament seeding process **shall lose the privilege of hosting** tournament contests in that sport should that school qualify to host.

9.e.4.) Schools that fail to vote in the tournament seeding process shall be fined \$50.

Policy for Penalizing a School that Does Not Send a School Representative to the Draw/Seed Meeting and a School Representative Cannot be Reached in Accordance with Policy or Does Not Participate in the Tournament Seeding Process

9.g.1.) Schools that fail to send a school representative to the draw/seed meeting, and a school representative cannot be reached in accordance with Policy 9.f., shall mean the respective District Athletic Board shall be given the discretion to place that school(s) on the bracket to ensure the integrity of the draw (*e.g. missing the draw/seed meeting does not create an advantageous situation for the missing school*).

9.g.2.) Schools that fail to send a school representative to the draw/seed meeting, and a school representative cannot be reached in accordance with Policy 9.f, shall lose the privilege of hosting tournament contests in that sport should that school qualify to host.

9.g.3.) Schools that fail to send a school representative to the draw/seed meeting shall be fined \$150.
Note: A school shall be considered not at the meeting at any time after the first team is placed onto the tournament 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.

2. 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.

There will not be any practice permitted at any match site other than pre-match warm-up.

3. By Board Action – Beginning with the 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Eight (8) uniformed cheerleaders and one (1) sponsor/coach will be admitted at the Pass gate.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Tournament hosts should send an email to Joe Roberts at 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. All Sectional District Semi Final Rounds - \$500.00 per match
 - b. All District Final Rounds - \$600.00 per match
11. All boys' and girls' tournaments will have their own financial accountability.
12. District sites will be announced after match-ups have been determined.

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