

2014-2015 TSSAA Handbook

GIRLS' SOCCER, SOCCER REGULATIONS

I. GENERAL REGULATIONS

- A. Girls' soccer shall be played in the fall. Soccer shall be played in the spring. If a school does not have a girls' soccer team, girls may participate on the soccer team.
- B. Game Administrator Meeting: TSSAA Board of Control policy requires that a Game Administrator be appointed by the principal of each host school to supervise every varsity girls' soccer/soccer contest. The Game Administrator must be someone other than the participating coaches. Ideally, it should be the principal, athletic director, or another school administrator, but it may be the principal's or athletic director's designee due to staff commitments.

The Game Administrator of the host school is required to conduct one meeting which must include the coaches, officials, and security personnel prior to the start of each varsity girls' soccer/soccer contest. Included in the pregame discussion is to be a review of the expected behavior of everyone involved in the contest. This should be a very positive meeting that sets the tone for an enjoyable contest.

- C. In Division I, TSSAA schools shall be divided into eight regions in Class A-AA and eight regions in Class AAA for soccer competition. In Division II, TSSAA schools shall be divided into two regions (East/Middle and West) in Class A and two regions (East/Middle and West) in Class AA for soccer competition.
- D. Invitational tournaments must be approved in writing by the Executive Director of TSSAA. Schools that enter invitational tournaments shall be charged with two matches for each tournament in which they participate. A member school shall not participate in more than two such tournaments per season.
- E. Video taping or filming is permitted if the taping or filming is for private use or use by the two schools involved and not for public or commercial use. A school will not be allowed to tape or film a game unless its team is involved in the game. All taping or filming by a school may be approved by the local Game Director or Tournament Director, and the Tournament Director or Game Director shall assign space, when available, from which the school may tape or film.
- F. Each district may choose to break ties in its regular season contests using a modified tie-breaker system. Each district shall decide whether or not to use this option prior to the start of the season. If a district votes to use the option for its district contests, the following tie-breaker procedure shall be used in the regular season:

Teams will play two 10 minute Golden Goal (Sudden Victory) overtime periods. At the end of the first 10 minute overtime period, teams shall change ends. There shall be a two-minute interval between periods. If, at the conclusion of the two 10 minute Golden Goal (Sudden Victory) overtime periods, a tie still exists, the tie shall be broken with the penalty kick procedure outlined in the NFHS Rulesbook.

Beginning with postseason play, all contests shall use the NFHS tie-breaking procedure.

- G. Periods may be shortened with mutual agreement of both coaches, provided it is determined to shorten the length of the periods before the game or before the second half begins. With mutual agreement of both coaches, the game may be terminated at any time.
- H. During regular season play, in the event a game is suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue play, the head referee shall declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been played. If less than one – half of the game has been played, the contest

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may be rescheduled from the start, or with mutual agreement of both coaches, the game may be restarted from the point of suspension.

- I. Independent Game Participation Rule** - Article II, Section 21 prevents students from participating in an organized game outside of school competition once their name is listed on the school's eligibility report. In an effort to provide guidance to coaches and administrators as to what constitutes an organized game that would result in a violation, the following interpretation was established for students whose names have been placed on their schools soccer eligibility report:

In the sport of soccer, student athletes who have been submitted on a school's eligibility report can only participate in scrimmage situations with an independent team involving 6 versus 6 players or fewer. Scrimmage situations or contests between more than one independent team are not permitted regardless of the number of players involved.

Schools have the opportunity to request an exception to this rule if the event that they wish to participate in is recognized as an Olympic Development Event by the National Federation of State High School Associations. Schools wishing to make this request should email Mark Reeves at mreeves@tssaa.org.

- J.** Schools found in violation of NFHS Rule 4-1-1b which requires the home team to wear solid white jerseys and socks, shall be fined \$250 and must present to the state association a plan for implementation.

II. DISTRICT AND REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- A.** All tournament play shall be single elimination in Division I and Division II.
- B.** In Division I, tournament play shall begin at the district level if both districts in the region have three or more teams. If not, tournament play shall begin at the region level with a tournament for all schools in the region. If there are three or more teams in the district, then the district shall determine the district winner and runner-up in any manner they choose. Districts which choose to have a tournament in order to determine a district winner and runner-up are responsible for selecting a site, tournament director and determine dates for the respective tournament. This decision should be made with approval of a majority of Principals and / or Athletic Directors of the schools in the district.
- C.** In Division I district play, the district winner and runner-up teams shall advance to the regional tournament. Since each district sends two teams to the regional tournament, the Board of Control has approved a set bracket for tournament play as shown below:

Top Bracket	Bottom Bracket
Winner District 1	Winner District 2
Runner-Up District 2	Runner-Up District 1

- D.** In Division II Class A, the East/Middle Region and the West Region shall determine the top four teams in any manner they choose.
- E.** During the postseason, games suspended due to conditions which make it impossible to continue play shall be continued from the point of suspension of play if less than one half of the game has been played. The same procedure shall be used if more than one half of the game has been played and the score is tied when play is suspended.

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III. STATE TOURNAMENT (Division I: Class A-AA, AAA)

- A. The regional tournament winner and runner-up shall advance to the sectional round. In order to obtain adequate facilities, the game may be set at the regional winner's field. There will be one game at each site.
- B. In sectional play, the sites shall be as follows:

Site 1: Winner Region 1 vs. Second Region 2
Site 2: Winner Region 2 vs. Second Region 1
Site 3: Winner Region 3 vs. Second Region 4
Site 4: Winner Region 4 vs. Second Region 3
Site 5: Winner Region 5 vs. Second Region 6
Site 6: Winner Region 6 vs. Second Region 5
Site 7: Winner Region 7 vs. Second Region 8
Site 8: Winner Region 8 vs. Second Region 7

The Executive Director has the authority to select another site if the host's facilities are not adequate to host the match.

- C. In soccer, when the established starting time of a playoff contest between two schools conflicts with the previously scheduled Commencement Exercises of one of the schools, and that school has Senior roster player(s), then at the request of the affected school, the contest will be rescheduled for a mutually agreed upon time and site that falls within the playoff timeline established by the TSSAA. In the event the two schools do not agree on a rescheduled time and site, the TSSAA office will designate a starting game time and site.

This applies to regional semifinals, regional finals and sectional contests only.

- D. The eight winners of the sectional games shall advance to the central tournament site. The Board of Control shall make the draw for play at the central tournament site. The draw will be made such that if two teams from the same region qualify for the state, they will be drawn to opposite brackets.

IV. STATE TOURNAMENT (Division II: Class A and Class AA)

- A. In Class A, the top four teams from the East/Middle Region and the West Region shall be eligible to enter the state tournament. The quarterfinal round of the State Tournament shall be as follows:

Site 1: #4 West @ #1 East/Middle
Site 2: #3 East/Middle @ #2 West
Site 3: #3 West @ #2 East/Middle
Site 4: #4 East/Middle @ #1 West

The Executive Director has the authority to select another site if the host's facilities are not adequate to host the match.

The winners of the quarterfinal round matches shall advance to the central tournament site.

The State Tournament shall be a four team single elimination tournament. The bracket shall be set by the Executive Director upon completion of the quarterfinal round matches.

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- B.** In Class AA, there will be an East/Middle and a West Region. There shall be eleven teams that qualify for the post-season tournament. The top seven teams from the East/Middle Region and the top four teams from the West Region shall qualify for the post-season tournament. Seeding will be based on regular season records. The First Round sites shall be as follows:

Site 1: #4 West @ #3 West

Site 2: #7 East/Middle @ #4 East/Middle

Site 3: #6 East/Middle @ #5 East/Middle

The Quarterfinal Round sites shall be as follows:

Site 1: First Round Site 1 Winner @ #1 East/Middle

Site 2: #3 East/Middle @ #2 West

Site 3: First Round Site 2 Winner @ #2 East/Middle

Site 4: First Round Site 3 Winner @ #1 West

The Executive Director has the authority to select another site if the host's facilities are not adequate to host the match.

The winners of the quarterfinal round matches shall advance to the central tournament site.

The State Tournament shall be a four team single elimination tournament. The Semifinal Round shall be as follows:

Match 1: Quarterfinal Site 1 Winner vs. Quarterfinal Site 2 Winner

Match 2: Quarterfinal Site 3 Winner vs. Quarterfinal Site 4 Winner

- C.** In soccer, when the established starting time of a playoff contest between two schools conflicts with the previously scheduled Commencement Exercises of one of the schools, and that school has Senior roster player(s), then at the request of the affected school, the contest will be rescheduled for a mutually agreed upon time and site that falls within the playoff timeline established by the TSSAA. In the event the two schools do not agree on a rescheduled time and site, the TSSAA office will designate a starting game time and site. This applies to region tournament and quarterfinal round of the State Tournament.

V. OFFICIALS

- A.** Only TSSAA registered officials may be used in regular-season or tournament competition.
- B.** A minimum of two officials shall be used in each contest, but three or four may be used.
- C.** During postseason play, with the exception of the state tournament, the officials shall be assigned by the assigning officer of the recognized local association. The state office shall select the officials for the state tournaments.