

4.8 **SOCCKER**

4.8.1 **General:**

- (a) Information on Mailings, Classifications, Payment of Officials, Eligibility Sheets, Ejections, Playoff Declaration, Unpaid Fines, NCHSAA Clinic Dates, Body Paint and Noisemakers are found under General Requirements for Interscholastic Activities (4.1).
- (b) Conferences: Any school not currently fielding a team but wishing to participate should contact the NCHSAA office no later than March 1 in men's soccer and September 15 in women's soccer. Schools should also notify the NCHSAA if they plan to drop programs by these same dates. All soccer conferences can be found on the NCHSAA website.
- (c) Date of First Practice: July 31 (men) and February 14 (women).
- (d) Preseason Scrimmages: Reference 4.1.5
- (e) Date of First Game: August 14 (men); February 28 (women).
- (f) Health and Safety Guidelines: Reference General Requirements for Interscholastic Athletic Activities for a listing of Guidelines (4.1.22) and Health and Safety Guidelines (2.3) for all the information.
- (g) Number of Regular Season Contests: No more than three per week may be scheduled.
 - (1) Teams are limited to 23 games.
 - (2) An individual is limited to no more than one game per day.
 - (3) Junior varsity conference tournament games count toward the 23-game limit.
 - (4) Varsity conference tournament games are considered part of state playoffs.
- (h) Endowment Games: Reference 4.1.6
- (i) Starting Time: A time no earlier than 5:30 pm is recommended, unless facilities dictate otherwise.
- (j) Tournaments: Tournaments are governed by daily, weekly and seasonal limitations.
- (k) Yellow Card Tracking and Ejections: Coaches and athletic directors will be responsible for tracking yellow cards accumulated by their players and all team personnel (including coaches).
 - (1) Five yellow cards accumulated by the same player will result in a suspension (miss next contest at that level and all contests in the interim). No report should be submitted to the NCHSAA.
 - (2) An additional five yellow cards accumulated by the same player (season total of 10) will result in an ejection.
 - (3) The player will be suspended from all sports for the remainder of that sports season on the 15th yellow card (or second ejection). This should be reported to the NCHSAA both after 10 and after 15.
 - (4) A red card disqualification that is not an ejection is the equivalent of two yellow cards.
 - (5) Yellow cards are reset to zero once state playoffs begin (after conference tournament); however, all previous penalties must be served.
 - (6) With three yellow cards in playoffs, player is suspended for next game.
 - (7) A total of five yellow cards means player is out for remainder of playoffs and may carry over to other sports.
 - (8) Penalties are enforced at the conclusion of the game, and an ejection report must also be filed at the appropriate time for accumulation of yellow cards.
- (l) Nine-goal Rule: If a goal differential of nine is reached by halftime or at any time in the second half, the game shall be terminated.
- (m) Tie Games: If a tie score exists at the end of regulation play in regular season varsity conference games, play will continue with two overtime periods of 10 minutes each; if there is no winner at that point, by conference adoption, a winner can be determined by penalty kicks, otherwise the game shall be considered a tie for both teams.
 - (1) For non-conference varsity games with prior mutual consent of the teams, play will continue with two overtime periods of 10 minutes each.
 - (2) Junior varsity teams do not play overtime periods.
 - (3) In tournament play, tied games must be resolved by the NFHS Tie Breaking Procedure, and those decisions count in a team's won-loss record. One goal is added to the winning team's score, and an asterisk may be placed by the team advancing to indicate advancement was the result of the progression format.
- (n) Junior Varsity Game Format: Two 35-minute halves with no overtime period.
- (o) Uniformed Police Officer: Reference 2.4.1.a.
- (p) Schedules: Schools are required to submit varsity and junior varsity schedules to their appropriate regional supervisor by May 15 (men) and January 15 (women).
- (q) Uniform Changing: Not allowed in area of competition. Must use locker room facilities; disqualification may occur.
- (r) Equipment: The alternating dark and light color horizontal stripe socks ("bumblebee") are not legal (NFHS rule). Balls must have the authenticating NFHS ball mark.

- (s) **Suspended Game:** If a game is suspended due to bad weather, light failure, etc.:
- (1) If suspended in the first half, even if one team is ahead, the game is picked up from the point of interruption unless coaches agree to end it.
 - (2) If suspended at half time or beyond, the game is over. If the score is tied when the game is suspended, then the game ends in a tie. If one team is ahead when the game is suspended, then it is the winner.
- (t) **Filming, Videotaping or Video Streaming:** Reference 4.1.25.
- 4.8.2 **Playoffs:**
- (a) **Representatives and Ties in Standings:** If two or more of the conference's teams are tied for a playoff berth at the end of the regular season,
- (1) the team that won from the other(s) during the season gets the berth, or
 - (2) if the teams split during the regular season, the approved tie breaking system shall be used (see 4.1.13.)
- (b) **Reporting Playoff Qualifiers:** For reporting potential qualifiers to state playoffs, conference presidents are required to submit the appropriate information on the NCHSAA website immediately upon conclusion of the regular season.
- (1) The information includes overall won-loss record and winning percentage for all conference schools. This must be submitted prior to the appropriate deadlines. The overall winning percentage and finish in conference standings will be considered when determining which schools qualify for wild-card berths in playoffs.
 - (2) Upon conclusion of the conference tournament, the conference president will immediately submit the adjusted overall records of all teams. These are the records that will be listed on the brackets themselves when playoff qualifiers are posted.
 - (3) Failure to comply with the initial reporting procedure will result in a \$400 fine to the conference.
 - (4) Check the www.nchsaa.org website for additional information.
- (c) **Qualifiers:** See 4.1.18 (Playoff Berths/Qualification) for selection criteria.
- (d) **Seeding:** See 4.1.19.
- (e) **Brackets and Schedule:** In all classifications, games are played on the home field of the higher seed.
- (f) **Playoff Brackets:** Will be posted on the NCHSAA Website once seeding is complete.
- (g) **Schedule:**
- | | Men | Women |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Deadline for reporting | October 28, 11:59 p.m. | May 5, 11:59 p.m. |
| Seeding | October 30 | May 7 |
| First round | November 1 | May 9 |
| Second round | November 4 | May 12 |
| Third round | November 8 | May 16 |
| Fourth round | November 11 | May 19 |
| Regional | November 14 | May 22 |
| State Championship | November 17-18 | May 25-26 |
- (h) **Competing Schools:** Competing teams should contact each other to work out details for their contest.
- (i) **Officials:**
- (1) For the first two rounds of the state playoffs, officials will be assigned by the local officials association of the higher-seeded team.
 - (2) After the first two rounds, officials will be assigned by the NCHSAA Supervisor of Officials.
 - (3) Regional officiating assignments will be determined by the NCHSAA and host schools meet to follow up with booking agents.
- (j) **Game Times:** Game time will be 7:00 p.m., unless mutually agreed upon to play at 6 p.m.
- (1) Where the distance is more than 100 miles for the visiting team, game time will be 6:00 p.m. Any other exceptions must be approved by the NCHSAA.
 - (2) Saturday game times may be earlier if mutually agreed upon.
 - (3) Games may be played earlier than the assigned date above if mutually agreed upon.
- (k) **Postponed Games:** Postponed games must be played the next day, including Saturday.
- (l) **Admission:** \$6.00 prior to the regionals and \$7.00 at the regionals (both include a one-dollar surcharge for the Endowment).
- (m) **Team Expenses and Financial Arrangements:**
- (1) The NCHSAA receives 15% of the gross gate for men's and women's soccer from second round third and fourth-round games.
 - (2) The NCHSAA receives 25% of the gross gate from regional playoff games.
 - (3) In all rounds prior to the state championship, participating schools will divide the remainder equally after applying the following expense formula:

- (4) Where the distance between the competing schools is 100 miles or less, the visiting school will pay its own transportation and meals and the host school will provide the playing facility, ticket takers, security and balls at no charge. The officials are to be paid from gate receipts.
- (5) Where the distance is more than 100 miles, the same plan should be followed except that the officials are paid by the host school rather than from gate receipts.
- (6) All concession rights belong to the host schools.
- (7) Participating schools are responsible for dividing any deficit or net 50-50.
- (8) The principal of the host school or appointed game manager will forward a copy of the financial report and ticket accountability form to the NCHSAA within 10 days after the contest.

(n) Ticket Accountability and Financial Forms: All forms can be found on the NCHSAA website.

(o) Regional Awards: Team plaques will be presented to champion and runner-up.

4.8.3 **State Championship:**

- (a) Dates and Sites: Dates for the championships are set for November 17-18, men; May 25-26 for women.
- (b) Admission: \$8.00 at gate (includes one-dollar charge for Endowment). Each team will receive 8 complimentary tickets/passes (5 VIP and 3 School Administrator).
- (c) Officials: Will be assigned by the Supervisor of Officials.
- (d) Radio and TV Fee: Reference 2.2.18.
- (e) Gate Receipts: The net balance will be divided as follows: 20% to each of the competing teams and 60% to the NCHSAA.
- (f) Team Expenses: Travel and expenses for eighteen (18) players, one (1) coach and one (1) manager, shall be allowed at the rate designated by the NCHSAA (see basketball section Reference 4.3.3.c).
- (g) Awards: Plaques will be presented to the championship and runner-up teams in all classes. Members of the championship and runner-up teams will receive individual awards (25 medals for women, 30 medals for men).
- (h) Game Ball: The Wilson Forte Fybrid II is the official ball of the state soccer championship.

4.9 **SOFTBALL**

4.9.1 General

- (a) Information on Mailings, Classifications, Payment of Officials, Eligibility Sheets, Ejections, Playoff Declaration, Unpaid Fines, NCHSAA Clinic Dates, Body Paint and Noisemakers are found under General Requirements for Interscholastic Activities (4.1).
- (b) Date of First Practice: February 14
- (c) Preseason Scrimmages: Reference 4.1.5
- (d) Date of First Game: February 28
- (e) Health and Safety Guidelines: Reference General Requirements for Interscholastic Athletic Activities for a listing of guidelines (4.1.22) and Health and Safety Guidelines (2.3) for all the information.
- (f) Number of Regular Season Contests: Total 23 games (including any games played in invitational tournaments).
 - (1) No more than four per week, provided fourth single game is on a non-school day for both.
 - (2) Four games in three days is still permissible without using a non-school day (e.g. doubleheader on a school day).
 - (3) It is permissible for an athlete to participate in a junior varsity and varsity game in the same day; however, any athlete is still subject to the weekly and seasonal limitations (four games a week, not to exceed three days, total of 23).
 - (4) Teams and individuals are limited to two games on a school day. The limitation extends to four games, if on a non-school day.
 - (5) Junior varsity conference tournament games must count toward the 23-game limit.
 - (6) Varsity conference tournament games are considered part of the state playoffs.
- (g) Endowment Games: Reference 4.1.6
- (h) Starting Time: During the regular season, a time no earlier than 5 p.m. is recommended unless facilities dictate otherwise, e.g. no lights.
- (i) Tournaments: Tournaments are governed by daily, weekly and seasonal limitations.
- (j) Equipment:
 - (1) Balls must have the authenticating NFHS ball mark. Teams shall use a 12-inch softball with a Co-efficient of Restitution not exceeding .47. Conferences are encouraged to adopt the same kind of softball for use throughout their league play.
 - (2) Bats must meet ASA-bat performance standards and have a certifying stamp on each bat.
- (k) Ten-Run Rule: The ten run rule has been adopted by the NCHSAA for softball; if a team is ahead by 10 runs after five complete innings, the game is terminated.
- (l) Doubleheaders: Permitted when mutually agreed upon by teams involved.