

ROPSSAA CO-EDUCATIONAL SOCCER

PLAYING REGULATIONS

1. DATE

- (a) Starting game times are as follows:

2:30pm for doubleheaders.

3:30pm for single games.

- (b) In double headers, the order of games shall be rotated at the halfway point of the season.

2. LOCATION

- (a) The site of the Championship Final (including A/AA/AAA) shall be a neutral field as designated by the Convenor, approved by the Executive, and announced at the preseason meeting.

- (b) The preliminary, quarterfinal and semi-final playoff games will be played at the school of the higher seeded team. In the event that the pitch of the home school is unavailable or unsuitable, the school must select an alternate site.

- (c) Regular Season Games

In the event that the pitch of the home school is unavailable, the school must select an alternate site, prior to the season starting. The home school will still be responsible for the cost of the official.

3. ELIGIBILITY

- (a) All competitors must meet the eligibility requirements as per Article X of the ROPSSAA Constitution. Players may be added to the eligibility list at any time by using the addition to eligibility form. Players may be dropped from a team by sending in an eligibility deletion form.

- (b) Eligibility lists must be submitted by the deadline announced at the pre-season meeting. Failure to do so will result in a \$25.00 penalty.

- (c) A maximum of 20 players may be dressed per game. A maximum of 25 players may be signed to an eligibility list.

- (d) Competition shall be held at the Junior Boys, Senior Boys, Junior Girls and Senior Girls level with age classifications as follows:

Junior: Shall not have attained their 15th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held (for the 2023 – 2024 school year, born in, 2008 or later). In addition, they must be in their 1st or 2nd year of high school.

Senior: Shall not have attained their 19th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held (for the 2023 – 2024 school year, born in 2004 or later).

- (e) Failure to follow eligibility procedures will result in a loss of points of games played.
- (f) Team Eligibility
 - (i) Individuals are eligible for 1 level of competition only.
 - (ii) For team sports, individuals must have participated in at least 50% of their team's league games to be eligible for playoffs and OFSAA competition. Players missing games due to injury (INJ), or awaiting transfer approval (ATA), must appear so designated on a game sheet to maintain their eligibility. Games missed due to injury are subject to review of a doctor's note. Players under game or school suspension may not have their name included on a game sheet for participation percentages.
 - (iii) All game sheets/rosters are to include the name of all those in the bench area (players, coaches, managers). In order to be in the bench area an individual's name must appear on the eligibility sheet. Players under game or school suspension may not sit in the bench area.
 - (iv) Individuals are deemed to have played if their name appears on a game sheet. Individuals must be present at a game to be included on a game sheet.
 - (v) A staff member must be present in the bench area from the start of the warm-up until the last competitor has left the area.

4. OPERATING STRUCTURE

- (a) Schools may enter one team in each of the following categories: junior girls, junior boys, senior girls, and senior boys.

As per Article XI, Section IV,(b) of the ROPSSAA Constitution, the tiers offered at the senior level are defined as:

- (i) OFSAA Level - Teams agreeing to represent ROPSSAA at their OFSAA classification (A, AA, AAA) no later than the preseason meeting. Sport convenors will decide on the format of the season and teams will participate in OFSAA playdowns based on their classification (if necessary). Teams must abide by all ROPSSAA and OFSAA Transfer and Eligibility policies.
- (ii) Tier 1 - Teams are competitive but do not desire to declare their intention to compete for an OFSAA spot at the AAA level. Students must abide by the ROPSSAA Transfer and Eligibility policy. If there are no teams in the A or AA classification at a higher level and the team commits to OFSAA by the pre-season meeting, these teams may represent ROPSSAA at OFSAA but not participate in ROPSSAA playoffs. These teams must follow OFSAA Transfer and Eligibility policies and will participate in OFSAA playdowns (if necessary).

(iii) Tier Two - Teams agree that participation and development is the purpose. Students must abide by the ROPSSAA Transfer and Eligibility policy. If there are no teams in the A or AA classification at a higher level and the team commits to OFSAA by the preseason meeting, these teams may represent ROPSSAA at OFSAA but not participate in the ROPSSAA playoffs. These teams must follow the OFSAA Transfer and Eligibility policies and will participate in OFSAA playdowns (if necessary).

(iv) There will be two competitive tiers in the junior girls, and junior boys.

(v) Schools shall indicate whether they wish to compete at OFSAA, Tier 1 or Tier 2 no later than the last day of February of the current school year.

(vi) OFSAA and tier one – will consist of scheduled league, playoffs, and championship games.

Tier two – may consist of tournament style schedule, playoffs, and championship games.

(b) Where possible each team will play the other teams in its division once to determine division rankings.

(c) League standings will be kept based on points awarded as follows:

win = 3 points

tie = 1 point

loss = 0 points

(d) Ties in League Standings

(i) two way tie

a) Winner of head to head game

b) Most wins

c) Fewest losses

d) Goal differential (max. 4 per game)

e) Fewest goals against

f) Fewest red cards

g) Fewest yellow cards

h) A coin toss

(ii) three or more way ties

a) Winner of head to head game

b) Most wins

c) Fewest losses

d) Goal differential between tied teams (max 4 per game)

e) Goal differential (max 4 per game)

f) Fewest goals against

g) Fewest red cards

h) Fewest yellow cards

i) A coin toss

(e) Playoffs

- (i) For leagues where there are only two divisions and teams advance directly to the semifinals, the playoff structure will involve cross over play (N2 @ S1, S2 @ N1).
- (ii) For leagues where there are more than four teams advancing to the playoffs, the playoff structure will be determined based on the number of teams entered and approved by ROPSSAA Council. For senior playoffs, OFSAA schools that declare A or AA will be removed from the ROPSSAA AAA playoffs and can only participate in their own playoff competition. Schools that declared will be seeded based on the criteria in 4(e) (iii) and the top teams will participate in their own classification playoffs. Tier 1 and/or tier 2 teams that declare **and** qualify for the A or AA playoffs are eliminated from their respective playoffs.

Note: For the OFSAA division, if a declared A/AA team is one of the top teams in their division, their spot into the ROPSSAA OFSAA playoffs will be allocated to the next top team (in **ANY** division) as determined by the seeding criteria.

- (iii) For playoffs, teams will be seeded based on the following criteria:
 - a) Division standing
 - b) Winning percentage (with a tie = 0.5)
 - c) Goal differential (max. 4 per game)
 - d) Fewest goals against
 - e) Goals for (max. 4 per game)
 - f) Fewest yellow cards
 - g) Fewest red cards
 - h) Coin toss

note: A lower place team cannot be seeded above a higher placed team. All of the first place teams will be seeded, then second, third etc. until all available playoff positions are filled.

(f) Ties in Playoff /Play-down Games

In the event of a tie in playoff/play-down games, extra time will consist of two ten-minute halves. If the score is still tied after extra time, each side will take five alternating penalty shots to declare a winner. If the score is still tied after 5 penalty shots from both teams, a series of sudden-death alternating penalty shots will be taken.

- (g) If a team drops out or is disqualified from the league during the regular season, all of that team's scheduled games, whether played or not played, will be recorded as 3-0 defaults.
- (h) Game changes require coaches to select an appropriate date and time and promptly notify the athletic convenor by using a game change form. Game change requests must be submitted by the deadline indicated at the preseason coaches meeting.

(i) Procedures for Rainy Days

All games will be played as scheduled. However, should the weather be threatening the guidelines are as follows:

- Prior to the start of the game, the officials with a coach from each team have the option to shorten the length of the game.
- A minimum of 85% of the game must be played for the game to count (no matter what the length of the game is).
- Should the minimum of 85% not be played then the game will be replayed from the beginning. The score will start at 0-0.
- If a player was sitting due to a red card for the game, then he/she will sit the next scheduled game.
- If the game is called before the 85% mark, and both coaches agree that that score will stand, the game will be deemed to have been completed and that will be the score that is recorded.
- Any yellow card received will be counted towards the season's tally, and must be reported by 9:00am the morning following the game.
- Only direct red cards received during the first rain out game will carry over to the next scheduled game.
- There is no restriction to the roster for the replay game (i.e. if a player wasn't there for the first game, he/she can play in the replay game).

(j) Responsibility of the Home Team

The game sheet, supplied by each coach, must be completed by each head coach prior to the start of the game.

- (i) The home team is responsible for providing a playable field with markings, (end lines, sidelines, 6 yard box, 18 yard box, half line and center circle) mesh on nets, corner flags and game ball. Failure to comply will result in a forfeiture of the game, as decided by the referee before the game. The visiting coach should notify the athletic convenor immediately.
- (ii) Officiating expenses for all league and play-off games will be the responsibility of the home school (except for the ROPSSAA Final).
- (iii) There will be one official and two assistant referees assigned to all playoff games.

(k) Reporting of Scores

- (i) The WINNING team must report the score according to ROPSSAA requirements.
- (ii) If tied, both teams are to report the score.
- (iii) If a team does not put in their scores in either of their last two (2) games of the season, they will be eliminated from **ALL** playoffs. ROPSSAA will be allowed to put in the score to reflect the correct standings.
- (iv) Each team is responsible for uploading their game sheet to www.ropssaa.org by 12:00noon the day following the game. Failure to upload game sheets may results in teams being ineligible for playoffs. Game sheets submitted by fax or email will **not** be accepted.

Note: ROPSSAA is unable to individually confirm the arrival of game sheets.

(I) Scheduled Games

- (i) Coaches are responsible for reviewing final league game schedules and playoff schedules as to locations, dates, and times to ensure their attendance.
- (ii) Failure to attend at the scheduled time will result in forfeiture of the game and/or loss of opportunity to compete. Failure to attend at the scheduled time will result in forfeiture of the game and/or loss of opportunity to compete. The defaulting team will cover all cost associated with the game as determined by ROPSSAA Council.
- (iii) Failure to fulfill game requirements leading to the abandonment of a game will result in a loss for that team. An incident report must be completed and submitted to the ROPSSAA Athletic office by the abandoning team within 24 hours of the game. No scores shall be entered until after a Board of Inquiry. A team abandoning a game may be required to cover any costs incurred as determined by ROPSSAA Council.
- (iv)
 - a) Schools must bring their own warm-up equipment and first aid kit.
 - b)
 - i) Schools must endeavor to arrive no earlier than 60 minutes before game time. Teams arriving earlier than this must be supervised by the head coach in an area where students from the home school do not congregate. Schools with team members who do not travel with the head coach (in taxis, cars, on foot, etc.) must inform players that they must wait for their head coach and should ensure that the head coach is the first to arrive at the host school.
 - ii) Schools arriving for an away game between 30 and 60 minutes before game time must accompany the head coach to the competition area and liaise with the host school. The visiting team will be provided a safe waiting area and change room during this time and the visiting head coach must provide supervision of his/her players. Visiting athletes must bring all belongings with them to the competition area.
 - iii) Visiting schools are entitled access to the competition area at the same time as the host school, and no later than 30 minutes before the game time (pertains to the first game).
 - iv) Visiting schools are entitled access to a safe waiting area and change room at the completion of the competition.

5. ENTRIES

- (a) Game sheets are to be completed PRIOR to the start of the game. Players whose names appear on a game sheet are deemed to have played. Only those whose names appear on a game sheet are eligible to be on the sidelines during the game. Representatives from non-participating schools must remain in the bleachers away from the sideline. The game sheet must reflect what is on the field (i.e. the number/player on the game sheet must be the same as the number each athlete is wearing).
- (b) Coaches must exchange a copy of the game sheets and give the remaining copies to the official **before** the beginning of the game.

6. EXPENSES

- (a) Officiating expenses for all league and play-off games will be the responsibility of the home school. The operating costs for the final championship game may be met by ROPSSAA.
- (b) The cost of the senior OFSAA semi-finals will be shared equally between the teams' involved (official and field costs).

7. RULES AND OFFICIALS

- (a) Rules: Games shall be played by the rules as laid down in the F.I.F.A. rule book unless otherwise stated in the playing regulations.
- (b) Substitution may take place after goal kicks, after a goal has been scored, at the time of an injury (for the injured player only), at half time in the game, and on your own throw-ins only.
- (c) Yellow and Red Cards*
 - (i)
 - a) Coaches are to report their own yellow and red cards using the card report form by 9:00am the morning following the game. Do not send card reports through the courier or by fax.
 - b) Any coach who does not submit their yellow and red card reports will result in:
 - 1st offence – no loss of points
 - 2nd offence – minus 1 point
 - 3rd offence – minus 3 points and suspended from coaching soccer
 - (ii) Players, including goalies, receiving a yellow card will be removed from the game until the next allowable substitution. The team will be permitted to put a substitute on the field at the time that the yellow card is given. The yellow carded player is the only player who may be replaced at that time and may re-enter that game at a regular substitution.
 - (iii) A player who accumulates three yellow cards within the regular season may not play in his/her team's next game.

Note: A new yellow card count will begin in the playoffs/playdowns; however, a third yellow card received in the last league game will carry over to playoffs/playdowns.

- (iv) Yellow cards will not carry over from the season in which they were accumulated to the following season.
- (v) Players receiving a red card must leave the field for the remainder of that game (no substitution allowed) and may not play in his/her team's next game (scheduled game, playoff game and/or playdown game).
- (vi) If a player receives 2 red cards in one season that player will be suspended for the remainder of the season including playoffs/playdowns.
- (vii) All red card situations will be reviewed by the Soccer Discipline Committee to determine if further sanctions will be levied (see Appendix A).
- (viii) Red cards will carry over from the season in which they were accumulated to the following season, up to a maximum of a two game suspension (this is in the case of a player receiving their second red card in their last game of the season).
- (ix) Any coach that plays a suspended player will forfeit the game in which the suspended player participates. The coach will be brought before a ROPSSAA Board of Reference for further disciplinary action.
- (x) Teams receiving a total of four red cards will complete the game, and their status must be reviewed by the Convenor. Each subsequent red card after 4 must also be reviewed.
- (xi) A coach who is dismissed during a game causes the automatic forfeiture of the game if there is not another school staff member present. If another staff member is present, the game may continue. The dismissed coach will be brought before a ROPSSAA Board of Reference for further disciplinary action. This must be reported using the coach ejection form.
- (xii) Any cards received in games are unappealable.

Note: Failure to follow the reporting format will result in the loss of points. Sit out dates will apply to a teams' next scheduled game (league, play-down, or playoffs)

- (d) The soccer field at every school that is the closest to F.I.F.A. regulations, with regards to field size and soccer goal dimensions, will be used for all regular season and play-off home games. The championship final will be played on a regulation size field with regulation goals.
- (e) Each team is responsible for providing a linesperson for the entire duration of all games. Club lines people may be team players awaiting substitution provided their team shirts are not visible. Linesmen must be used.
- (f) Any incident of violent conduct that occurs at the site of a game involving either school's players, coaches, or spectators must be reported to the ROPSSAA Executive. A written report from all parties involved must be received at the ROPSSAA office within 24 hours of the incident.
- (g) All preliminary, quarter, semi and final playoff games shall have 3 qualified referees - 2 to serve as linesmen and 1 to referee the game.

- (h) Each league game will consist of two thirty-five minute halves with at least a five minute half time break.
- (i) Each playoff game will consist of two forty minute halves with a ten minute half time break.
- (j) A game may be forfeited if a team does not arrive within 15 minutes of the starting time. The team that forfeits must pay the referee cost.

8. AWARDS

- (a) ROPSSAA gold medallions will be presented to the winning team members at each level (maximum 25 per team).
- (b) ROPSSAA silver medallions will be presented to the finalist team members at each level (maximum 25 per team).
- (c) ROPSSAA trophy will be presented to the Championship team at each level.

9. UNIFORMS

- (a) Teams must wear the same coloured jerseys numbered on the back. The entire team must dress in the same colored shorts and the same colored socks. Shorts may not be cutoffs. Players not wearing proper uniforms will not be allowed to enter the field of play.
- (b) It is the responsibility of the visiting team to avoid conflicting colours.
- (c) The uniform colour declared at the preseason meeting must be worn. If there is a change during the season, the coach must inform the convenor and their opponents. If a team shows up in a different colour than what has been indicated, that team must change their uniforms.
- (d) Jewelry may not be worn by participating players. Jewelry may not be covered by tape.
- (e) Shin guards must be worn by participating players.
- (f) Coaches may inspect the opposing teams' footgear and shin guards and may refer players to the referee for a final decision.
- (g) Head gear and pants worn for religious/cultural reasons is allowed providing there is no hazard to other players, as determined by the referee.
- (h) Athletes may not change their clothing in the competition area. For all outdoor sports, athletes must arrive dressed to compete. Visiting teams requiring the use of washroom facilities must send a staff member into the school with the team member(s). For all indoor sports, athletes must move to the designated locker room or change area to change their clothing.
- (i) Corrective eyewear may be worn as long as it is secure.

10. DEPORTMENT

- (a) Competitors and all Coaches are expected to behave in an appropriate manner as per Article XVI, Section II of the ROPSSAA Constitution.

- (b) All team members will shake hands under the supervision of the coach and referee prior to the beginning of the game.
- (c) School teams shall at all times be under the supervision of an approved staff member of the school which they represent, prior to, during and after the completion of the competition and until all of the team has left the site. Failure to comply may lead to sanctions by ROPSSAA Council.
- (d) Players will refrain from using natural facilities to relieve themselves.

11. JURY OF APPEAL

- (a) A Jury of Appeal constructed at the pre-season coaches meeting will rule on all disputes which do not fall under the jurisdiction of the officials. The Jury will consist of the Convenor and four coaches from the participating schools.
- (b) See Article XII, Section I-IV of the ROPSSAA Constitution for complete procedures regarding Jury of Appeal.

12. SAFETY

- (a) Coaches must bring a first aid kit to all games.

13. OFSAA REPRESENTATION

- (a) The champions of the A, AA and AAA playoffs at the senior boys' and girls' level will advance to OFSAA.

ROPSSAA Soccer Disciplinary Procedures – Soccer Discipline Committee

Adopted from OFSAA's Soccer Playing Regulations

Type	Description of Misconduct	First playing seasonal offence
1.1. 1	First Caution	No action – must be substituted
1.1. 2	Receives a second caution in the same game (not directed at game official) see 1.1. 3 if directed at game official	remainder of that game and 1 game suspension
1.1. 3	Receives a second caution in the same game (directed at the game official)	2 game suspension
1.2	Second Caution of the season	No action – must be substituted
1.3	Third Caution of the season	1 game suspension
1.4	Fourth Caution of the season	No action – must be substituted
1.5	Fifth Caution of the season	2 game suspension
1.6 A	Dismissed or reported by game official for “using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures” directed at anyone other than the game official(s). If racist or sexual comments – see 1.6 B	remainder of that game and 1 game suspension
1.6 B	Dismissed or reported by game official or other registrant for racist or sexist comments made during the game or in the vicinity of the playing field or either during or after the game.	3 games to 1 calendar year
1.7	Dismissed or reported by game official for “using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures” directed at the game official(s). If racist or sexual comments – please see 1.6 B	3 games to 1 calendar year
1.8	Dismissed for “Denying an opponent a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball.”	remainder of that game and 1 game suspension
1.9	Dismissed for “Denying an opponent a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player’s goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or penalty kick.”	remainder of that game and 1 game suspension
1.10 A	Dismissed for “Serious Foul Play” . (Must occur on the field of play, against an opponent while the ball is in play) otherwise see 1.12	1-2 game suspension
1.10 B	Dismissed for “Serious Foul Play” where in the opinion of the Discipline Committee there was an obvious “attempt to injure” or “a complete disregard for the safety of an opponent” (Must occur on the field of play, against an opponent while the ball is in play) otherwise see 1.12 A	3 games to 1 calendar year
1.11 A	Dismissed or reported for “Spitting at an opponent or any other person” , other than a game official	3 games to 1 calendar year
1.11 B	Spitting at a game official	3 games to 1 calendar year
1.12	Dismissed or reported for “Violent Conduct”	3 games to 1 calendar year
1.13	Second red card of the season	remainder of the season