

OFSAA BOYS' AND GIRLS' SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

The sole basis for the very existence of high school sport is the contribution it makes to the general educational experience of those students who participate.

PLAYING REGULATIONS

1. Events and/or Classifications:

There shall be three (3) classifications of Championships - "A", "AA", and "AAA". Associations shall classify their school teams based on the criteria found in Regulation E, Section 2(b).

2. Championship Structure and Procedure:

a. Structure:

- i. Teams should be divided into four equal pools. For the 16-team draw, and for the 20-team draw, see Convenors Manual – Sport Directives – Soccer.
- ii. Each pool shall play a round robin series. Wins will be awarded three (3) points and ties will be awarded one (1) point.
- iii. The top two (2) teams in each pool will advance to the playoffs.
- iv. A team shall play a minimum of three (3) games at the Championship.
- v. If two fields are available at the same site for the bronze and gold medal games, then the gold medal game may be started no sooner than half an hour after the start of the bronze medal game.

b. The following **procedures** shall take place at each game:

- i. At the beginning of the game players and coaches shall line up along their respective sides of the mid-field line and shall advance and shake hands with their opponents.
- ii. At the completion of the game players and coaches shall again shake hands with all opponents.

c. Registration materials will only be given to the teacher accompanying the team upon receipt of the required entry materials as indicated in the coaches' information on the OFSAA Soccer websites.

d. The teacher-coach/supervisor must attend the coaches' meeting. If the coach is a non-teacher, then both the teacher-supervisor and the coach must attend.

3. Entry:

a. Entries will be accepted from Association Convenors or designates only.

b. Entries must be received by the deadline date as indicated in the coaches' information on the OFSAA Soccer website. Late entries will only be accepted if they can be accommodated, and an additional entry fee shall be charged.

- c. Each Association may enter one (1) team in each Championship.
- d. Additional entries to be determined by the OFSAA office.
- e. Each team may register a maximum of twenty-four (24) participants, which includes players and team personnel. Only registered participants may represent the school and/or attend Championship activities.
- f. Any suspension or disciplinary actions in Association play shall be carried forward into OFSAA competition. The Association convenor shall be responsible for reporting such players and the nature of the disciplinary action on the OFSAA entry form.

4. Expenses:

- a. Those schools having entries are responsible for arranging and financing their own entry fee, and travel, meals and accommodation for the event.
- b. All schools entering a Federation Championship shall, by signature of the school principal on the Championship Entry Form, acknowledge responsibility for making restitution for damage resulting from misconduct by their participants.

5. Eligibility:

a. School/Team Eligibility:

To represent a school in any activity coordinated by the Federation, a school/tea, must:

- i. Conduct a bona fide high school soccer program consisting of eight (8) practices during a period of four (4) weeks under the supervision of a teacher as certified by the school principal.
- ii. Participate in an Association-approved league.
- iii. Participate in the Association Championship or OFSAA-qualifying event.
- iv. Use only eligible athletes in any competition during the school year, or the school forfeits its right to participate in the OFSAA Soccer Championships.
- v. In accordance with Rowan's Law, have all coaches and trainers confirm in writing on the OFSAA form provided, that they have reviewed the concussion awareness resource and OFSAA concussion code of conduct within the previous twelve (12) months.

b. Individual Student Eligibility:

To represent a school in any activity coordinated by the Federation a student **must**:

- i. Be eligible for competition under the Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules (Playing Regulations) of the Association to which his/her school belongs.
- ii. Be certified as eligible by the Principal of the school.
- iii. Meet the following age requirement: the individual's birth certificate indicates that he/she has not reached his/her 19th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the

- school year in which the competition is held.
- iv. Be in Grades 9-12.
- v. Be eligible under the OFSAA Transfer Policy.
- vi. Be eligible for no more than five (5) consecutive years from date of entry into Grade 9.
- vii. Have signed the Rules of Behaviour Policy signature form for the competition.
- viii. Have participated as a member of a bona fide high school program during the current season as outlined in (a) above and attended the majority of practices and games.
- ix. In accordance with Rowan's Law, confirm in writing on the OFSAA form provided, that they and their parent/guardian (if student is under 18 years of age) have reviewed the concussion awareness resource and OFSAA Concussion Code of Conduct within the previous twelve (12) months.

6. Rules and Officials:

The Rules of Soccer as they appear in the F.I.F.A. Handbook, and the OSA regulations, shall govern play in the OFSAA Championship with the **following exceptions**:

a. Number of Players:

- i. Each team may dress a maximum of twenty (20) players for each game.
- ii. Students that are not on the game roster must not be dressed in any team attire and are not permitted to warm-up with the team. However, these students are permitted within the competition (bench) area.

b. Substitution:

- i. Unlimited substitution.
- ii. May occur at goal kicks, goals scored, at half time, on your own throw-in and on an opponent's throw-in once the opponent has initiated a substitution.
- iii. In the case of injury, substitution is permissible at the referee's discretion.
- iv. Substitution for a **yellow-carded** player is **compulsory**, including the goalkeeper. The yellow-carded player is the only player who may be replaced at that time and he/she may re-enter the game at a regular substitution period.
- v. If a player receives a **red card** he/she must leave the field for the remainder of that game (no substitution allowed). All red card situations will be reviewed by the Protest Committee to determine if further sanctions will be levied.
- vi. A player who accumulates three (3) yellow cards will leave the field for the remainder of the game in which he/she received the third card. Substitution will be allowed at this time. Further, the player may not play in his/her team's next game.
- vii. Red carded and suspended players are permitted to remain on the team's bench. Should the player interfere with the game verbally or otherwise, the referee may require the player to be escorted away from the field by one of the coaches/team supervisors who then must remain with the player outside of the field boundary. Should there be only one coach present, a warning will be issued, and if the behaviour continues the official may choose to default the game.

- c. No team shall play more than one hundred and eighty (180) minutes per day, not including overtime.
- d. **Tie-breaking Procedures:**
 - i. Tied games in pool play shall stand.
 - ii. Tied Games in Playoffs, teams shall play two (2) complete ten (10) minute halves.
 - iii. If still tied, teams shall take Kicks from the Penalty Mark as per FIFA procedures.
 - iv. To determine pool standings – See Sport Specific Directives – Soccer.

7. Uniforms and Equipment:

All requirements outlined in the OFSAA General Uniform Policy must be met both on and in the immediate vicinity of the competitive area and during the awards ceremonies. Incidents of non-compliance shall be forwarded to the Protest Committee for resolution.

Sport Specific:

- a. All players shall wear identical socks and shirts. Shorts must be of the same colour and style. Any discrepancy will be ruled on by the members of the Protest Committee.
- b. Teams must provide a second set of uniforms or a set of legally numbered markers of a different colour in case two (2) opposing teams have uniforms of a similar colour. A coin toss shall decide which team changes.
- c. All competitors must wear shin guards. Any competitor who does not have shin guards will not be permitted to play.
- d. Any braces or casts will follow the CSA cast policy and all casts/braces should be approved by the Head Referee at the coaches' meeting. However, decisions on the eligibility of casts/braces will be at the discretion of the on field referee.

8. Awards:

- a. OFSAA gold, silver, bronze, and antique bronze medallions twenty-four (24) shall be presented to the members of the top four (4) teams in each Championship.
- b. The schools represented by the Championship teams shall receive an OFSAA banner to be retained by the school.

9. Supervision:

A teacher is defined as a member of the Ontario College of Teachers or a holder of an Ontario Teacher's Certificate or equivalent.

- a. For team sports ("A team consists of all athletes from the same school who qualify for Federation competition as a unit...", a teacher from the same school, or a retired teacher, as

approved by the principal of the school, must accompany and be responsible for the team.

- b. For all sports, where the teacher, as indicated in (a) and (b) above, is not of the same sex as the athlete(s), and where the athlete(s) are required or might be required to stay overnight, a supervisory adult, as approved by the principal of the school, of the same sex as the athlete(s), must be present and available at the accommodation site for the duration of their stay in the accommodation.

10. Department:

- a. A team is defined as, "All participants representing the same school at an OFSAA Championship event".
- b. A participant is defined as, "Anyone who has been granted proper authorization to enter restricted area." "Restricted area" includes "those areas occupied by athletes and to which access by the general public is restricted or prohibited."
- c. All participants are expected to abide by the Rules of Behaviour Policy for Participants to OFSAA Championships.
- d. Supervising adults are responsible for the behaviour of participants for the duration of the Championships.
- e. Teams are open to censure for failure of its participants to abide by the Rules of Behaviour Policy.
- f. All coaches are expected to adhere to the Code of Ethics Policy for Coaches to OFSAA Championships.
- g. School personnel and coaches are expected to adhere to the Statement of Principle on Recruiting.
- h. Spectators are expected to adhere to the Code of Behaviour Policy for Spectators.
- i. All coaches are expected to adhere to the Return to Play Policy.
- j. School personnel and coaches are expected to adhere to the Policy on dispensing drugs, medication and food supplements.
- k. No artificial noisemakers are permitted at OFSAA Championship events.

11. Social:

- a. If a special event is arranged all team members and coaches must attend.

- b. At this event each coach and captain shall be introduced.
- c. participants are expected to wear 'dress casual'. No jeans, shorts, tank tops or hats are permitted.
- d. Should there be an instance of improper attire, the Protest Committee shall deal with the matter and forward a report to the OFSAA Sanctions Committee.

12. Medical:

Coaches shall provide all consumable medical supplies (e.g. tape, bandaids, ice packs) for their athletes.

13. Protest Committee:

All disputes during an OFSAA Championship/Festival shall be directed to the Protest Committee for resolution.

- a. The Protest Committee shall consist of three (3) individuals; the chairperson of the Sport Advisory Committee or designate, a tournament committee member, and one other member appointed by the Championship convenor. The Head official in some cases. may serve as a member of the Protest Committee. Members of the Protest Committee must not have any conflict of interest relevant to the incident under protest.
- b. All protests must be submitted in writing to the Championship convenor or designate, shall fully outline the incident under protest, and shall be accompanied by a \$50.00 fee (refundable if protest is upheld).
- c. A protest must be submitted within thirty (30) minutes of the completion of the game/event in which the incident under protest occurred, or within thirty minutes of the occurrence if protesting an incident outside the field of play.
- d. The following areas may not be protested at a Championship/Festival:
 - i. Officials' decisions
 - ii. Eligibility of transfer students
- e. Any disputes or protests re: tournament structure and procedure must be addressed no later than the coaches' meeting.
- f. The Protest Committee shall be the body empowered to delay/modify/cancel an event due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g. weather conditions) at the site(s).
- g. Decisions of the Protest Committee shall be final.

A report of all appeals and decisions shall be forwarded to the OFSAA Sanctions Committee,

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who may determine that additional sanctions are necessary.

SPORT SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES**1. Championship Structure and Procedure:**

- a. Convenors, whenever possible, should ensure that all participating teams are rotated throughout all Championship sites during the preliminary rounds of competition.
- b. There shall be a minimum of three hours between the start of games.
- c. Any deviations from the attached schedules must be approved by the Sport Advisory Chair(s).

2. Championship Formats:**a. 16- team format:****16-TEAM FORMAT**

1. Facilities: Four (4) fields.
2. Timeframe: Two (2) forty-minutes halves with a five-minute rest period.
3. Format: Top two (2) teams in each pool advance to quarter-final play.

DAY 1

<u>Time</u>	<u>Field 1</u>	<u>Field 2</u>	<u>Field 3</u>	<u>Field 4</u>
9:00 a.m.	A1-A3	A2-A4	B1-B3	B2-B4
11:00 a.m.	C1-C3	C2-C4	D1-D3	D2-D4
1:00 p.m.	B1-B2	B3-B4	A1-A2	A3-A4
3:00 p.m.	D1-D2	D3-D4	C1-C2	C3-C4

DAY 2

<u>Time</u>	<u>Field 1</u>	<u>Field 2</u>	<u>Field 3</u>	<u>Field 4</u>
9:00 a.m.	B4-B1	B2-B3	A4-A1	A2- A3
11:00 a.m.	D4-D1	D2-D3	C4-C1	C2- C3

Quarter-finals

4:00 p.m.	1stA-2ndB	1stB-2ndA	1stC-2ndD	1stD-2ndC
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DAY 3

9:00 a.m.	Semi-finals - Winner of Field 1-4; Winner of Field 2-3
1:00 p.m.	Bronze Medal
1:30 OR 3:00 p.m.	Gold Medal

b. 20-team format:

20-TEAM FORMAT

1. Facilities: four (4) fields.
2. Timeframe: two (2) thirty- minute halves with a five-minute rest period.
3. Format: four (4) pools of five (5) teams. Top two (2) teams in each pool advance to quarter-final play.

DAY 1

<u>Time</u>	<u>Field 1</u>	<u>Field 2</u>	<u>Field 3</u>	<u>Field 4</u>
9:00 a.m.	A1-A5	B1-B5	C1-C5	D1-D5
10:30 a.m.	A2-A3	B2-B3	C2-C3	D2-D3
12:00 p.m.	D4-D1	A4 -A1	B4-B1	C4-C1
1:30 p.m.	D5-D2	A5-A2	B5-B2	C5-C2
3:00 p.m.	D3-D4	A3-A4	B3-B4	C3-C4

DAY 2

<u>Time</u>	<u>Field 1</u>	<u>Field 2</u>	<u>Field 3</u>	<u>Field 4</u>
8:00 a.m.	C1-C2	D1-D2	A1-A2	B1-B2
9:30 a.m.	C4-C5	D4-D5	A4-A5	B4-B5
11:00 a.m.	C3-C1	D3-D1	A3-A1	B3-B1
12:30 p.m.	B2-B4	C2-C4	D2-D4	A2-A4
2:00 p.m.	B5-B3	C5-C3	D5-D3	A5-A3

Quarter-finals

5:15 p.m.	1stA - 2ndB	1stB - 2ndA	1stC - 2ndD	1stD - 2ndC
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DAY 3

9:00 a.m.	Semi-finals – Winner of Field 1 vs. Field 4; Winner of Field 2 vs. Field 3
1:00 p.m.	Bronze Medal
1:30 OR 3:00 p.m.	Gold Medal

3. Length of Play:

- a. No team shall play more than one hundred and eighty (180) minutes per day, not including overtime.
- b. In the 16-team championship, games shall be two (2) forty-minute halves with a five-minute rest period.
- c. In the 20-team championship, games shall be two (2) thirty-minute halves with a five-minute rest period.
- d. There shall be a minimum of three (3) hours between the start of games.

4. Tie-breaking Procedures:

- a. Tied games in pool play shall stand.
- b. Tied Games in Playoffs:
 - i. Teams shall play two (2) complete ten (10) minute halves.
 - ii. If still tied, teams shall take Kicks from the Penalty Mark as per FIFA procedures.
- c. To determine pool standings:
 - i. **2 teams tied:**
 - 1. Winner of pool game between tied teams.
 - 2. Most games won during pool play.
 - 3. Goal differential (goals for – goals against) in all pool games with a maximum of four (4) in any one game.
 - 4. Least goals scored against (maximum of four in any one game).
 - 5. Most goals scored for (maximum of four in any one game).
 - 6. Penalty shootout.
 - ii. **3 teams tied:**
 - 1. The team who defeated the other two teams in pool play.
 - 2. Most games won during pool play.
 - 3. Goal differential (goals for – goals against) **among the 3 tied teams** during pool play (maximum of 4 in any one game). Note: Only use games between the three (3) tied teams).
 - 4. Least goals scored against (maximum of four in any one game).
 - 5. Most goals scored for (maximum of four in any one game).
 - 6. Penalty shootout.

5. OFSAA SOCCER DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES – Protest Committee

Adopted from The Ontario Soccer Association Disciplinary Procedures

Yellow cards accumulate throughout the OFSAA tournament and do not reset at any point.
(Yellow Cards=Cautions).

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	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.	No action – must be substituted
1.3	Third Caution.	Removal from current game, with substitution , and a one game suspension.
1.4 A	Fourth Caution.	Removal from current game, with substitution, and disqualification from tournament.
1.4 B	Second Red Card	Disqualification from the tournament
1.5	Fifth Caution.	Not applicable
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	1-game suspension
1.6 B	Dismissed or reported by a 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.	Disqualified from the tournament
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 1.6B	3 game suspension

1.8	Dismissed for “Denying an opponent a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball.”	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.”	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 Hearing Panel 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 1.12A	4-6 game suspension disqualified from the tournament
1.11 A	Dismissed or reported for “Spitting at an opponent or any other person” , other than a game official. NOTE: Spitting at a game official is Misconduct Type 1.11B	4 game suspension
1.11 B	Spitting at a game official	Disqualified from the tournament
1.12 A	Dismissed or reported for “Violent Conduct” .	3 game suspension
1.12 B	Dismissed or reported for “Violent Conduct” where in the opinion of the Discipline Hearing Panel there was an obvious attempt to seriously injure a registrant or non-registrant.	Disqualified from the tournament

6. Seeding:

- a. The top four (4) teams shall be seeded based on the Association’s performance at the previous year’s championship.

- b. Associations winning gold, silver, bronze, antique-bronze the previous year will be seeded 1, 2, 3, 4, in that order (Pool A-1, Pool B-2, etc.).
- c. The remaining positions within the pools will be randomly drawn.
- d. Should an Association have more than one (1) medal placing from the previous year, the higher placing will be used and the other placing removed from seeding. This may result in moving the other associations who placed up one position, the 4th seed would then be randomly drawn.
- e. The same process would occur should an Association who placed the year prior not declare for the current year's championship.

7. Officials:

- a. The OFSAA Convenor shall be responsible for obtaining competent officials.
- b. The head official must attend the coaches' meeting, and is encouraged to hold an officials' meeting prior to the start of the first game, when possible. Otherwise the head official is responsible for communicating the information to all officials participating.

8. Facilities and equipment:

- a. The OFSAA convenor shall be responsible for providing good playing facilities and equipment including goal posts with nets, corner field flags and OFSAA endorsed regulation balls.
- b. Fields shall be clearly marked according to soccer regulations.

9. Medical:

- a. Provision shall be made by the Convenor to have a medical doctor in attendance or readily available and to follow appropriate policy on hygienic precautions with regard to bodily fluids and communicable diseases.
- b. Qualified first-aid personnel and equipment shall be available at the Championship site(s).

***All Federation Championships/Festivals are non-smoking and non-vaping events.
This includes the use of all tobacco and vaping related products.***

Participants must obey the Ministry of Education's Code of Conduct

September 2025