

# 2025-26 SOCCER MANUAL

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## Kansas State High School Activities Association

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# WELCOME

This manual is for high school boys and girls soccer with information concerning regulations and guidelines for conducting tournaments.

The purpose of this Soccer Manual is to provide general information for the administration of the KSHSAA soccer program as well as the regional and state tournaments. A copy is accessible to all registered officials and the principal and soccer coach of participating KSHSAA schools online at [www.kshsaa.org](http://www.kshsaa.org). No doubt questions will arise during the regular season, invitational tournaments and prior to the start of the regional and state series, but we believe many of these questions will be answered by a thorough study of this manual.

Thank you for your support of interscholastic soccer during the past 39 years as participation has increased tremendously since the first high school boys soccer championship game in 1986 and the first girls championship in 1993. We look forward to working together to continue growing this great education-based activity and welcome any suggestions you may have for its improvement.

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## Entry Forms Checklist for Participating Teams

### Boys Soccer

- ☐ The Fall Activity Participation Entry Fee Form (Boys Regional Soccer Entry Form) due August 21 - Submit online indicating postseason participation. Invoice will be emailed to A.D.
- ☐ Soccer Officials Recommended for Boys State Tournament—Submit to KSHSAA between October 15-22. The assignment of officials for the state tournament will be based on schools' recommendations of officials for current season matches.
- ☐ Boys Soccer Season's Win-Loss-Tie Record Form—Submit online by Friday, October 24.
- ☐ Boys Regional Soccer Tournament Squad List—Email to tournament manager by October 27.
- ☐ Boys State Soccer Quarterfinal Tournament Squad List—Due to State Quarterfinal host by NOON the day after Regional Championships.
- ☐ Boys State Soccer Tournament Squad List and Photo—Due to State Semifinal host and the KSHSAA by **10 a.m.** the day after State Quarterfinal.

### Girls Soccer

- ☐ The Spring Activity Participation Entry Fee Form (Girls Regional Soccer Entry Form) due January 23, 2026 - Submit online indicating postseason participation. Invoice will be emailed to A.D.
- ☐ Soccer Officials Recommended for Girls State Tournament—Submit to KSHSAA between May 6-13. The assignment of officials for the state tournament will be based on schools' recommendations of officials for current season matches.
- ☐ Girls Soccer Season's Win-Loss-Tie Record Form—Submit online by Friday, May 15.
- ☐ Girls Regional Soccer Tournament Squad List—Email to tournament manager by May 18.
- ☐ Girls State Soccer Quarterfinal Tournament Squad List—Due to State Quarterfinal host by NOON the day after Regional Championships.
- ☐ Girls State Soccer Tournament Squad List and Photo—Due to State Semifinal host and the KSHSAA by **10 a.m.** the day after State Quarterfinal.

**FOR THE 5 YEAR PROJECTED CALENDAR DATES, SEE PAGE 5.**

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# IMPORTANT NOTICES

This manual is published for the 2025-26 school year. Required entry forms associated with this activity are found online at [www.kshsaa.org](http://www.kshsaa.org). Be certain to submit entry forms by deadline dates.

All changes in soccer, effective 2025-26, are shown in reverse type.

The KSHSAA Executive Board requires all middle/junior and senior high school varsity head soccer coaches to satisfactorily complete an open-book online rules exam and complete a KSHSAA sponsored rules meeting (in person or online).

**The KSHSAA Executive Board also requires ALL assistant coaches to complete a KSHSAA sponsored rules meeting (in person or online).**

## Projected Calendar Dates

<b>Boys Soccer</b>	<b>SCW</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>2027-28</b>	<b>2028-29</b>	<b>2029-30</b>
Beginning Practice Date	7	8/18	8/17	8/16	8/14	8/13
Earliest Possible Competition	8	8/29	8/28	8/27	8/25	8/24
Early Season Tournaments	10	9/8-13	9/7-12	9/6-11	9/4-9	9/3-8
Mid-Season Tournaments	15	10/13-18	10/12-17	10/11-16	10/9-14	10/8-13
Regional Tournaments	17	10/27-11/1	10/26-31	10/25-30	10/23-28	10/22-27
State Tournament Quarterfinals	18	11/3	11/2	11/1	10/30	10/29
State Tournament Semifinals	18	11/5	11/4	11/3	11/1	10/31
State Tournament Championship & Consolation	18	11/8	11/7	11/6	11/4	11/3

<b>Girls Soccer</b>	<b>SCW</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>2027-28</b>	<b>2028-29</b>	<b>2029-30</b>
Beginning Practice Date	35	3/2	3/1	2/28	2/26	2/25
Earliest Possible Competition	37	3/19	3/18	3/16	3/15	3/14
Early Season Tournaments	39	3/30-4/4	3/29-4/3	3/27-4/1	3/26-31	3/25-30
Mid-Season Tournaments	44	5/4-9	5/3-8	5/1-6	4/30-5/5	4/29-5/4
Regional Tournaments	46	5/18-23	5/17-22	5/15-20	5/14-19	5/13-18
State Tournament Quarterfinals	47	5/25	5/24	5/22	5/21	5/20
State Tournament Semifinals	47	5/27	5/26	5/24	5/23	5/22
State Tournament Championship & Consolation	47	5/30	5/29	5/27	5/26	5/25

# STUDENT HEALTH & SAFETY

For more information check out [www.kshsaa.org](http://www.kshsaa.org) Sports Medicine & Safety

## Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation (PPE)

No student is eligible to represent any school team (in practice and games) until there is on file with the superintendent or principal a statement (physical form) certifying that the student has passed an adequate physical examination and is physically fit to participate. The form must be signed by any of the following licensed health care providers: a physician, a chiropractor, a physician assistant (PA) or an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN). The statement (form) must also be signed by a parent or legal guardian, stating the student has permission to participate. The physical examination shall not be taken earlier than May 1 preceding the school year for which it is applicable.

## KSHSAA Concussion and Head Injury Information Release Form

This form must be signed by all student-athletes and parent/guardians before the student participates in any athletic or spirit practice or contest each school year.

## Concussion Management / Kansas Law

Below is a summary of our recommendations to our member schools to comply with the state law and the NFHS playing rule. A complete and detailed version can be found on the KSHSAA website in the sports medicine and safety section.

1. If concussion consistent signs or symptoms are observed in an athlete, the athlete should be immediately removed from the practice or contest.
2. The athlete should not be allowed to return to any practice or contest until written clearance is obtained from a health care provider (MD or DO).
3. The KSHSAA and the NFHS strongly recommend the athlete not be allowed to return to the practice or contest the same day the concussion consistent signs or symptoms were observed.
4. A gradual return-to-play protocol should be followed before the athlete is allowed to return to unrestricted participation in their sport.
5. The signed concussion and head injury information release form must be on file with the school.
6. Be sure all of your coaches view the free online course from the *NFHS: Concussions in Sports, What You Need to Know*. This course can be accessed through the sports medicine and safety section of our website or directly through [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com). Schools may choose to use this course in group settings with parents, students or with school staff at in-service meetings.

## KSHSAA Recommended Procedures to Consider When Inclement Weather Occurs During a Contest

The safety of athletes (participants), spectators, coaches/directors, school personnel and all others present at an athletic contest must be the first and foremost concern of contest officials and building administrators.

1. When an interscholastic contest has been scheduled and dangerous playing conditions exist or severe weather is anticipated, the following should be considered:
  - a. Prior to beginning an athletic contest, when severe weather is anticipated, the head contest official and the principals of each school, or their designees, will meet to review the suspension and/or postponement procedures. This would include any playing rule book coverage.

- b. The host school administrator will be responsible for informing contest officials, visiting school administrators and, if applicable, the individual responsible for public address announcements of designated shelter areas.
  - c. If a TORNADO WATCH has been issued, the host team building administrator and the head contest official will notify coaches, school administrators and, if applicable, the individual responsible for public address announcements that the possibility of abrupt suspension of play exists.
  - d. If a TORNADO WARNING has been issued, the contest should be suspended immediately. Participants, spectators and all personnel involved with the contest will be advised to “take cover.” The procedure will be announced, when available, over the public address system.
  - e. When thunder is heard or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for 30 minutes and take shelter immediately.
    - Thirty-minute rule: Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed before resuming play.
    - Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
    - At night, under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it may be safe to continue an event. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low on the horizon, the storm may not pose a threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty.
  - f. If any other life-threatening condition occurs, play should be suspended immediately and predetermined directions to safe locations will be announced.
2. When a suspension of a contest occurs, the following should be considered:
- a. If the suspension is 45 minutes or greater, resuming at a later date should be considered.
  - b. When it appears that weather conditions are no longer a threat to the safety of participants, spectators or contest officials, administrators from all schools involved will meet with the head contest official to determine if play will continue. If any administrator or the head contest official casts a negative vote for play to resume, the suspension should continue.
  - c. If play is to be resumed, contestants will be given at least a 15 minute warm-up period prior to competition.

## Statement on Performance Enhancing Drugs and Nutritional Supplements

In order to promote the health and safety among all student-athletes, reduce health risk, maintain ethical standards as well as reduce liability risk, students should not use any drug, medication (over-the-counter or prescription) or nutritional supplement, as defined by the World Anti-Doping Agency, for the purposes of performance-enhancement. All school personnel, including coaches and school nurses, should never recommend the use of any drug, medication (over-the-counter or prescription) or nutritional supplement, as defined by the World Anti-Doping Agency, for the purposes of performance-enhancement.

School personnel should not dispense or administer any drug, medication (over-the-counter or prescription) or nutritional supplement, unless the student-athlete is under the direct care of a licensed health professional, licensed to practice in the state of Kansas and practicing within their scope of practice as defined by the Kansas Board of Healing Arts, and only as prescribed.

We recommend that coaches, athletic directors, nurses and other school personnel develop strategies that address the prevalence and growing concerns of using any drug, medication or nutritional supplement for the purpose of performance-enhancement. Athletes should be encouraged to pursue their athletic goals through hard work, appropriate rest, proper hydration and good nutrition, not unsubstantiated shortcuts. School personnel, coaches and parents should allow for open discussion about dietary supplement use, and should strongly encourage obtaining optimal nutrition through a well-balanced diet.

*(adopted by the KSHSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee and Executive Board, April 2017)*

# KSHSAA POLICY INFORMATION

## KSHSAA Coach/Sponsor CPR/AED Training Requirement

Per *KSHSAA Handbook Rule 10-1-9*: Any person serving in the role of a head or assistant sport coach/aide or a head or assistant activity sponsor/aide in a KSHSAA member school shall be certified or trained in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) administration.

### Components of the rule are as follows:

1. Following an initial 30-day grace period from the start of the season, personnel are not eligible to work as a coach or sponsor for their school until proof of completion of CPR/AED training is on file with their school.
2. Every coach/sponsor must complete CPR/AED training every two (2) years.
3. The training shall be coordinated by a certified CPR instructor.
4. Online only training courses are not accepted.
5. There must be a hands-on educational component to the training process.
6. On an annual basis by activity, a school administrator must acknowledge through the KSHSAA website that each coach/sponsor is currently trained in CPR/AED administration. To acknowledge rule compliance, a school administrator should login to the KSHSAA website and go to the Coach/Sponsor Requirements page. Select the activity and enter the date of CPR/AED training next to each coach/sponsor name. If you do not see the coach/sponsor listed, add that person through the Update Directory process online. All head and assistant coaches/sponsors should be listed for every activity!

### Training could be obtained from the following organizations:

- American Heart Association
- American Red Cross
- American Safety & Health Institute / Medic First Aid
- National Safety Council

### Potential sources for locating a certified CPR instructor:

- School nurse
- School/community athletic trainer
- Local emergency personnel: EMTs, firefighters, police officers
- Community hospital
- Contacting the organizations listed above

## Concussion and Head Injury Education Requirement

On an annual basis and PRIOR to the first practice of the season, ALL coaches, student participants and school administrators responsible for event coverage are required to complete a concussion education program. This requirement includes cheer and dance sponsors and participating students. Students and coaches involved in more than one sport only need to complete this training one time each year. It is recommended the program be completed prior to the start of practice during preseason team meetings or coaching in-service. Schools may choose to utilize the free "Concussion in Sports" and the "Concussion for Students" courses found at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com).

## Heat Illness Prevention Education Requirement

On an annual basis and prior to the beginning of fall sports practices, each KSHSAA member school will provide all coaches/directors of its athletic and activities programs (marching band, cheer, and dance teams) with an educational inservice program on prevention of heat illness and proper hydration of participants. Member schools are strongly encouraged to utilize the free NFHS *Heat Illness Prevention* course or an equivalent program for this purpose. Instruction may take place in a group setting or in an individualized manner.



## Heat Acclimatization Rule for all Fall Sports (KSHSAA Rule 30-1-8)

**Art. 8:** Beginning Monday of SCW #7, the following practice rules apply to football, boys and girls cross country, fall season soccer, girls volleyball, girls gymnastics, fall season tennis and fall season golf:

- a. Only one practice per day is permitted the first 5 days of practice. All individuals shall only practice once per day for the first five days the individual practices, no matter when the person joins the team or if the person misses days due to injury/illness.
- b. No single practice may last longer than 3 hours. All warm-up, stretching, conditioning and weight lifting is included as part of the 3 hour limit.
- c. A separate walkthrough is permitted in addition to the single practice. The walkthrough cannot be longer than 1 hour and must be separated from practice by at least 3 hours of rest. A walkthrough is defined as a teaching opportunity with the athletes in which no protective equipment is worn. No physically exerting activity, including any conditioning or weight lifting, may take place during the walkthrough.
- d. Beginning on practice day 6, double practice sessions are permitted for any individual who has completed 5 days of single practices. Double practice sessions cannot be held on consecutive days. The day following a double practice day would be either a single practice day or a rest/recovery day.
- e. On days of multiple practices, no single practice may last longer than 3 hours and total practice time combined shall not exceed 5 hours.
- f. To be deemed a practice, a majority of the squad members must participate in the organized team training session.

## KSHSAA Ejection Policy

### Requirements for Ejected Coaches

Any coach ejected from a contest shall be suspended from the next contest at that level and for all contests at any level (in that activity) until the suspension has been served. Additionally, coaches who are ejected from a contest (at all levels grades 7-12) are required to complete the NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior course prior to coaching in their next game. (The course fee is \$20 and can be completed in one hour.) The next game is defined as the next regularly scheduled day of competition. In addition, the school administrator is responsible for providing the KSHSAA administrator with a copy of the coach's certificate of completion of the online course. (The coach may print this as the final step on the online course.) Recurring ejections result in a requirement to repeat the course.

### Requirements for Ejected Players

Any player ejected from a contest for unsporting conduct or behavior shall be suspended from the next contest at that level and for all contests at any level (in that activity) until the suspension has been served. Additionally, any player ejected from a contest at any level of play (grades 7-12) for unsporting conduct or behavior will be required to successfully complete the free NFHS Sportsmanship Course online, prior to the KSHSAA and school reinstating his/her eligibility privileges. The school principal or athletic director is responsible for overseeing compliance with this requirement. There is no cost for the course which takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. Schools are not required to submit the student's certificate of completion to the KSHSAA but should retain it on file. An appeal process utilizing video images from a school designated (Hudl, NFHS Network, or coaches game film) source may be requested by school administration. Such an appeal must be initiated within 24 hours of the ejection.

Appealable Ejections for Soccer Players utilizing video images from a school designated source requested by school administration may be only be submitted to the KSHSAA for the following offenses:

- incorrect player number or player name identified
- entering or leaving the field of play (except through the normal course of play) without the permission of an official
- leaving the team area to enter the field where a fight or altercation is taking place unless summoned by an official
- exhibiting violent conduct

An ejection appeal which overturns a misidentified player may lead to a suspension of the player who actually committed the offense called by the official.

Video may NOT be used to appeal player ejections for playing rule violations identified by officials during soccer contests such as but not limited to persistent infringement, unnecessary delay, reckless play, handling, DOGSO, and serious foul play (disproportionate & unnecessary force).

## Ejection Policy for Player, Coach, Spectator Involving an Official

Any participant (player, coach, spectator) who is ejected for making contact with an official, who is ejected for unsporting behavior directed toward an official, or who negatively confronts an official following a contest, shall be subject to a non-appealable suspension from the next contest at that level and for all contests at any level (in that activity) until the suspension has been served. Local school leadership may levy additional sanctions as they deem appropriate.

**The KSHSAA staff reviews all ejection reports.**

**NOTE:** The requirement for all ejected students to complete the *NFHS Sportsmanship Course* and the requirement for all ejected coaches to complete the *NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior* course prior to being reinstated remains in effect.

## Sportsmanship and Player/Coach Conduct

1. By KSHSAA adoption, **players receiving a yellow card must be substituted for immediately.** The cautioned player may not return to play until the next legal substitution opportunity.
2. **A player who is red carded** during a game is suspended for the remainder of that game, the following game and **all** other interscholastic soccer contests at any level in the interim. "Following Game" is defined as the next game the red carded player would have been designated to play in at the same level of competition. **The suspended games shall count toward the player's allowed number of games.** The game referee and scorer shall indicate in the official game scorebook when a player has been red carded and the reason.
3. **Sportsmanship Course Requirement for Ejected Players** – Any player ejected from a contest at any level of play (grades 7-12) for unsporting conduct or behavior will be required to successfully complete the free *NFHS Sportsmanship Course* online prior to the KSHSAA and school reinstating their eligibility privileges. The school principal or athletic director is responsible to oversee compliance of this requirement. There is no cost for the course which takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. **Schools are not required to submit the student's certificate of completion to the KSHSAA, but should retain it on file.**
4. A player red carded in the final game of the preceding season shall serve the one game suspension in the first game of this year's season.
5. **NFHS Rule 12-4c: A coach who is disqualified shall leave the vicinity of the playing area immediately and is prohibited from any further contact, direct or indirect, with the team** during the remainder of the game. Failure to comply shall result in termination of the game.
6. **Any coach ejected from a contest shall be suspended from the next contest at that level and for all contests at any level (in that activity) until the suspension has been served.** Additionally, coaches who are ejected from a contest (at all levels grades 7-12) are required to complete the NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior course prior to coaching in their next game. (The course fee is \$20 and can be completed in one hour.) The next game is defined as the next regularly scheduled day of competition. In addition, the school administrator is responsible for providing the KSHSAA administrator with a copy of the coach's certificate of completion of the online course. (The coach may print this as the final step on the online course.) Recurring ejections result in a requirement to repeat the course.

## Rule 52 - Citizenship/Sportsmanship

**INTRODUCTION**—The effective American secondary school must support both an academic program and an activities program. We believe that these programs must do more than merely coexist—they must be integrated and support each other in "different" arenas. The concept of "sportsmanship" must be taught, modeled, expected and reinforced in the classroom and in all competitive activities. Therefore, all Kansas State High School Activities Association members stand together in support of the following sportsmanship policy.

**PHILOSOPHY**—Activities are an important aspect of the total education process in the American schools. They provide an arena for participants to grow, to excel, to understand and to value the concepts of SPORTSMANSHIP and teamwork. They are an opportunity for coaches and school staff to teach and model SPORTSMANSHIP, to build school pride, and to increase student/community involvement; this ultimately translates into improved academic performance. Activities are also an opportunity for the community to demonstrate its support for the participants and the school, and to model the concepts of SPORTSMANSHIP for our youth as respected representatives of society. **Sportsmanship is good citizenship in action!**

**ALL ACTIONS are to be FOR, NOT AGAINST; POSITIVE, NOT NEGATIVE or DISRESPECTFUL!**

## Section 1: General Regulations (apply to grades 7-12)

**Art. 1: SPORTSMANSHIP** is a general way of thinking and behaving. The following sportsmanship policy items are listed below for clarification:

- a. Be courteous to all (participants, coaches, officials, staff and fans).
- b. Know the rules, abide by and respect the official's decisions.
- c. Win with character and lose with dignity.
- d. Display appreciation for good performance regardless of the team.
- e. Exercise self-control and reflect positively upon yourself, team and school.
- f. Permit only positive sportsmanlike behavior to reflect on your school or its activities.

**Art. 2: Enforcement Procedure:**

- a. It is encouraged and recommended by the Kansas State High School Activities Association that local boards of education adopt these regulations and reinforce them as indicated herein.
- b. The Executive Board of the Kansas State High School Activities Association shall be responsible for the interpretation of these regulations, including "desirable and unacceptable behavior" and shall publish them in the association's *Citizenship/Sportsmanship Manual*.

## The KSHSAA Code of Ethics

### for Coaches, Directors, Aides, Adjudicators, Judges and Officials

Believing that mine is an important part in the nationwide school activity program, I pledge to act in accordance with these principles:

1. I will honor contracts regardless of possible inconvenience or financial loss.
2. I will study the rules, observe the work of other coaches, directors, adjudicators, judges, or officials and will, at all times, attempt to improve myself and the activity.
3. I will conduct myself in such a way that attention is drawn not to me but to the young people participating in the contest.
4. I will maintain my appearance in a manner befitting the dignity and importance of the activity.
5. I will cooperate with the news media in the interpretation and clarification of rules and/or other areas relating to good sportsmanship, but I will not make statements concerning decisions made during the contest.
6. I will uphold and abide by all rules of the KSHSAA and the National Federation.
7. I will shape my character and conduct so as to be a worthy example to the young people who participate under my jurisdiction.
8. I will give my complete cooperation to the school which I serve and to the KSHSAA which I represent.
9. I will cooperate and be professional in my association with other coaches, directors, adjudicators, judges or officials and will do nothing to cause them public embarrassment.
10. I will keep in mind that the contest is more important than the wishes of any individual.
11. I will make responsible decisions about consumption of alcohol, including abstinence from alcohol at least 12 hours prior to a contest in which I will be involved.
12. I will not use tobacco or e-cigarette products while directly involved in interscholastic activities.

## KSHSAA Pre-Activity Timeout

Purpose: As a proactive communication measure, schools are expected to designate a time prior to the start of any interscholastic contest to share event critical information with stakeholders. The following information should be shared/reviewed prior to the first contest at each location:

1. Introduction of home and visiting administration on duty (identify primary point of contact).
2. Identify the location of athletic trainer(s) or other qualified medical professionals.
3. Identify the location of the AED(s).
4. Identify emergency entrance/exits for the facility.
5. Identify the storm shelter location and communication plan for evacuation.
6. Identify the rapid body cooling plan (location of cold water immersion tub).
7. Identify the communication plan for leadership.
8. Identify the communication plan for respective groups (students, coaches, fans).
9. Identify any special events or concerns relative to the event.

These nine items are to be reviewed prior to the event by the ranking school leader of every school involved in the contest. Each participating school is to be represented in this pregame meeting. If an administrative representative is not in attendance, this responsibility belongs to the head coach.

**HAVE A PLAN. COMMUNICATE YOUR PLAN.**

## KSHSAA Required Pregame Officials Conference

Per *NFHS Soccer Rule 5-2* and by recommendation of the KSHSAA, soccer officials shall be in uniform at the site of the game no less than 15 minutes prior to game time, and a formal pregame conference will be held at the location of the halfway line (the scorer's table). The pregame conference shall be conducted by the head referee and shall include the following items:

1. Inspect and approve the game balls, field of play and nets; inquire about local ground rules and determine if a fair game may be started
2. Verify the assistant referees, ball holders, official scorer and timers
3. Review specific duties with scorer, timer and assistant referees
4. Examine the uniform and equipment of each player to see if it complies with the rules
5. Discuss the KSHSAA inclement weather policy for postponements of contests (refer to *Section 01*)
6. Review of proper signals to be used by soccer officials
7. Positioning of soccer officials throughout the contest
8. Proper communication among officials during the contest
9. Points of emphasis from state association rules
10. Exiting the field and location to meet escort in postgame (officials exit field immediately)
11. Set plays (wall, goal kicks, penalty kicks, corner kicks)
12. Conduct a pregame conference with the head coaches and team captains to:
  - a. Review pertinent rules
  - b. Address good sportsmanship
  - c. Conduct a coin toss at least five (5) minutes before the scheduled time of the game. The visiting team captain shall call the coin while it is in the air. The winner of the toss shall choose a goal to defend or kick off first. Loser of the toss shall be given the remaining choice.
  - d. Inquire of each head coach whether the players will be properly and legally equipped at the kickoff

13. The assistant referees shall:

- a. Assist the head referee in inspecting the game balls, field play, nets, players' uniforms and equipment
- b. Review duties and responsibilities with ball holders
- c. Assist with the pregame conference with team captains

The KSHSAA requires schools provide a scorer's table to facilitate proper administration of soccer contests.

## **Suspension of Regular and/or Postseason Games - NFHS Rule 7-1-3**

"In the event a game must be 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 (according to KSHSAA adoption), the game will be restarted from the point of suspension when conditions allow."

## **KSHSAA Games Not Played Policy**

1. Games not played because of weather or other unforeseen circumstances do not count as a win or a loss for either team when seeding postseason tournaments. Reasonable efforts should be made between school administrators to reschedule all contests, but if schools are unable to reschedule the game it does not count as a forfeit win or loss and will be recorded as "no game played". When determining seeding for postseason tournaments the number of wins is divided by the number of games played to determine the winning percentage.
2. This policy applies to both regular season and invitational tournament games. If a tournament is played and a team does not participate due to weather or unforeseen circumstances, the tournament manager will advance a team in the bracket but neither the team advanced nor the team going to the back side of the bracket will count the game as a win or loss. It simply counts as no game played.
3. Only when the originally scheduled opponent agrees that no reschedule is possible, a school may seek a different opponent to complete the schedule.

## **KSHSAA Forfeiture Policy**

1. If a regular season game (including invitational tournaments) is not played due to a team/school not having enough players to field a legal team, and both schools agree that a make-up date cannot be determined, the game will count as a forfeit and a win in postseason seeding for the team who was willing and able to play. The game would count as a loss for postseason seeding for the team lacking players. (Reference *NFHS Soccer Rule 3-1-2*)
2. The team forfeiting must pay officials fees unless officials are re-assigned.
3. After a school starts the season with a team but is unable to finish the season due to lack of players, all games scheduled will count as a forfeit win unless the school losing a contest can find another opponent. The school with a discontinued team must notify the KSHSAA that they are no longer participating and the KSHSAA will make updates to the win/loss record form.

## **Summer Moratorium**

June 29 - July 5, 2026, is the summer moratorium. There shall be NO school related athletic activities. During this time coaches (licensed teacher coaches and coach aides employed by member schools) shall be prohibited from engaging in any type of activity involving student athletes whether it be practice, training, weight lifting, conditioning, competition or travel. All member school athletic facilities will be closed during this period to school personnel and students grades 7-12. If member school athletic facilities also serve as non-school community recreation facilities, these facilities may remain open during the moratorium so long as no school teams are playing and no school coaches are coaching the teams/individuals. During this one week dead period, students may attend camps or competitions but may not do so with their school coaches. This moratorium does not impact fine arts or spirit activities.

Rationale: The last few years there has been a growing concern within the KSHSAA membership that students and coaches were not being able to have time to themselves during the summer. It was surveyed and discussed at the October Regional Board of Directors Meeting in 2017 and then voted on at the April, 2018 KSHSAA Board of Directors meeting to establish a rule to allow students and coaches a week off during the summer. For Q/A on this policy, go to [www.kshsaa.org](http://www.kshsaa.org).

## Jamborees

High schools may host Soccer Jamborees. The purpose for these controlled playing opportunities is to provide a meaningful, learning and training experience for players, coaches, and officials. Jamborees must take place prior to regular season competitions and include 3 or 4 KSHSAA member schools. Participating schools determine admission procedures (fee, donations, charities, etc.), and KSHSAA registered officials are required. It is strongly encouraged to use jamborees as training opportunities for officials. Also, time should be scheduled during a jamboree for officials to review rules changes, points of emphasis, and sportsmanship expectations with players and coaches. It is recommended this time be scheduled either prior to the start of jamboree play, during a break/intermission, or at the conclusion of play. To review all the requirements for a Soccer Jamboree, go to the KSHSAA Soccer Homepage and click on the Jamboree Information link. <https://www.kshsaa.org/Public/Soccer/PDF/SoccerJamboree.pdf>

## Prohibiting the Use of Drones (Unmanned Aircraft Systems or UAS's)

Unless granted special permission by the KSHSAA Executive Director, the use of drones (UAS) for any purpose is not permitted at any KSHSAA state tournament or postseason game or event. This prohibition applies to all fields of play, courts, arenas, mats, gym floors or pools, and includes a ban on the entire facility being used as part of the KSHSAA event, including the spectator areas and parking areas. During the regular season, member schools should have a drone policy. At no time should a drone be on or over the field of play.

**If granted permission by the KSHSAA Executive Director, a drone may be utilized for filming purposes under the following conditions:**

1. Local law enforcement and host venue policies permit use of a drone.
2. The drone operator complies with all FAA regulations.
3. The host school provides written permission.
4. The venue owner provides written permission.
5. The drone is operated under the supervision of a school staff member (including a member of the coaching staff).
6. The drone is operated such that it is never closer than 30' from the boundary of the field of play projected vertically.
7. The drone is never operated directly over or within 30' of spectator seating.
8. The drone is never operated directly behind a goal.
9. The flight of the drone is within 5' of the center of a vertical cylinder (it is "tethered").
10. The drone is grounded whenever the wind speed exceeds 30 mph or whenever the pilot cannot maintain operation within the allowable vertical cylinder.
11. The drone operator/owner provides proof of third-party aviation liability insurance.

## KSHSAA Multimedia Use Policy

*Adopted by the Executive Board at their November 20-21, 2024 meeting.*

The member schools of the KSHSAA understand capturing images of student participants before, during, and after competitions/performances allow stakeholders the opportunity to share and reflect upon the experience. It is also a teaching and learning opportunity for student journalists. Photographing or video taping of events should never delay or disrupt an event nor compromise the safety of participants or photographers. School and event administrators may designate specified areas or times for photographers at any event.

### Event/Competitor Pre-scout by Schools

Member school staff or designees may not film any school's activity contest in which they are not a participant without advanced written permission from the principals of all schools involved in a contest/performance.

### General Public

1. Spectators of a KSHSAA event may not live stream any event. The host or designee are responsible for approving member schools and members of the media for livestreaming approval.

2. Video or photos should not be taken of individual students if the person taking the video or photos is not directly related to or preapproved by the student or member school administrator to capture video or photographic images.

## Media

Professional media should follow expectations and codes of conduct detailed by the Kansas Press Association, Kansas Broadcasters Association, and the KSHSAA.

## Media Passes

Media members will be administered media credentials for state events in September of the current year. The credential will be good for admittance to all state events so long as the media member submits attendance in the "SITE NOTIFICATION" tab to a specific state location by the deadline provided on each media member's login page at [www.kshsaa.org](http://www.kshsaa.org) > Media > Login > Site Notification. Each media member must adhere to policies and regulations stated on the back of each credential or credential will be revoked. KSHSAA media credentials are for postseason state events only. Schools may accept them during the regular season should they choose to do so. Contact Jeremy Holaday, [jholaday@kshsaa.org](mailto:jholaday@kshsaa.org), in the KSHSAA office with any questions.

## School Media Passes

Media passes issued annually to schools may only be used by students and/or teachers. The intent is to promote student journalism/photography education and training and provide involvement opportunities for students. For KSHSAA postseason contests, students/teachers must be included on their school's KSHSAA Pass Gate List as School Media and possess a KSHSAA School Media Pass for admittance.

## Radio Broadcasting

Audio only radio broadcasting is available for application through the approved media login portal. Media wishing to apply for radio access will fill out the appropriate form no later than 48 hours prior to the contest. The form is completed entirely online under media login portal. Once submitted, an automated request will be sent to the host for their approval or denial. Public Service Announcements to be read during the broadcast are located at <https://www.kshsaa.org/mediareact/psa>.

## Live Video Over Internet

The named company wishes to produce live video over the Internet using a maximum of one camera for the stated event listed below, sponsored by the Kansas State High School Activities Association, Inc. (KSHSAA). The named company understands the rights to video live are granted by the KSHSAA with the following stipulations:

1. After approval by the KSHSAA, the company shall contact the host site manager at least 24 hours prior to the event.
2. That the agreed compensation be paid to the KSHSAA for each contest; and that the total sum be submitted with this agreement.
  - No charge – Member schools for playoff games. State championship games are not permitted.
  - \$200.00/contest – All others (will be invoiced)
3. That four (4) 30-second announcements provided by the KSHSAA (see website) be read during the telecast of each contest.
4. That the televising company give advance publicity to an actual live event for a minimum of three days preceding the event; and that the advance publicity contain information on contestants, contest date, contest time, contest site and all ticket prices.
5. That no individual or organization be permitted to sponsor any part of the broadcast for the purpose of advertising alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, performance enhancing products, gambling, etc., that is contrary to the principles of educationally-based activities.
6. That no individual or organization be permitted to sponsor any part of the telecast for the purpose of advertising for a political candidate or political party.

7. That a list of all sponsors of the event/contest on each televising station be submitted to the KSHSAA, Box 495, Topeka, KS 66601-0495 for approval before the telecast.
8. That the televising company provide competent and professional announcers and telecasting; and that no dramatization shall be made of any unsportsmanlike conduct, incidents or displays on the part of the participants or fans.
9. That the televising company shall provide the KSHSAA with documentation on the number of homes reached by the specified rebroadcast.
10. That the KSHSAA reserves the right to discontinue this agreement at any time in the event any of these stipulations are violated or any aspect of the company's televising is considered to be in poor taste or incompatible with the educational objectives of the Association.
11. That the web streaming company provide a copy of the broadcast to the KSHSAA for archive use.



# SOCCER RULES AND REGULATIONS

## KSHSAA Soccer Regulations

- The KSHSAA requires the use of a scorer's table, scorebook, and at least two ball holders at all soccer contests to enhance proper game administration.
- All varsity contests, tournament or regular season, must be of regulation length in compliance with **Rule 1** of the *KSHSAA Handbook* and **Rule 7-1-1** of the *NFHS Soccer Rules Book*. Games will consist of **two 40-minute halves**. Intermission will be 10 minutes.
- By KSHSAA adoption (**Rule 7-1-2**), **non-varsity contest periods may be shortened** with prior mutual agreement.
- **Extreme heat conditions** per **Rule 5-3-2e**: The referee should stop play for water breaks.
- **NFHS Rule 1-5** requires **marked areas for each team's bench, separated by an official area** for entering substitutes, scorer's table and timers. These marked areas shall be at least 10 feet from the touchline. The state association shall be notified if team areas are not marked. The official area shall extend 5 yards on each side of the halfway line. The team areas shall extend from 10 yards on each side of the halfway line for a distance of 20 yards, and each area shall be marked by a solid line. Coaches, bench personnel and team members shall be restricted to the team area.
- **NFHS Rule 1-6** requires **spectator areas** to be 10 feet from touchlines, team/official areas and goal lines. No one shall be permitted directly behind either goal.
- The KSHSAA has adopted a **goal differential** whereby at the end of the first half, if one team has **gained an 8-goal difference** or if it achieves such a differential during the second half, the game shall be terminated.
- Soccer balls used for regular season contests are at the discretion of the host school. They must have the NFHS authenticating mark.

## KSHSAA Tiebreaker Procedure – Regular Season Varsity Contests

### NFHS RULE 7-3: TIE GAMES

**ART. 1** . . . Regular season games which are tied at the end of 80 minutes of play may be resolved by procedures adopted by state high school associations.

**NOTE: No overtime procedure shall exceed 20 minutes of play during the regular season.**

**ART. 2** . . . The interval between the fourth period or second half and the first overtime period (if permitted by state high school association rules) shall be **five minutes**. The interval between the first overtime period and a second overtime period shall be **two minutes**.

The KSHSAA Executive Board adopted the *NFHS Rule 7-3* on breaking ties for **varsity level competition** during regular season play. Varsity contests ending in a tie score shall be conducted as follows:

- The referee will instruct both teams to their team boxes – five (5) minute interval.
- Two 10-minute **sudden victory** overtime periods will be played. Teams change ends between the two overtimes with a two (2) minute interval.
- **If the score remains tied at the end of sudden victory periods, the game shall end in a draw.**

## Overtime Procedure For Postseason Tournament Contests

All postseason tournament games that end in a tie will continue to play until a winner is determined using the following format:

When the score is tied at the end of regulation time, the referee will instruct both teams to return to their respective team boxes. There will be five (5) minutes during which both teams may confer with their coaches, and the head referee will instruct both teams as to proper procedure.

1. There shall be two 10-minute sudden victory overtime periods with a two-minute interval between periods.
  - a. A coin toss shall be held as in **Rule 5-2-2(d)(3)**.
  - b. At the end of the first 10-minute sudden victory overtime period, teams shall change ends.
2. If the score still remains tied, all coaches, officials and team captains shall assemble at the halfway line to review the procedure as outlined below:
  - a. The head referee shall choose the goal at which all the penalty kicks shall be taken.
  - b. Each coach will select any five players, including the goalkeeper, on or off the field (except those who may have been disqualified) to take the penalty kicks.
  - c. A coin toss shall be held. The team winning the toss shall have choice of kicking first or second.
  - d. Teams will alternate kickers. There is no follow-up on the kick.
  - e. Following five kicks for each team, the team scoring the greatest number of kicks shall be declared winner.
  - f. Add one goal to the winning team score and credit the team with a victory. An asterisk (\*) may be placed by the team advancing to indicate the advancement was the result of a tiebreaker system.
3. If the score remains tied after each team has had five penalty kicks:
  - a. Each coach will select five different players than the first five who already have kicked to take the penalty kicks in a sudden victory situation, wherein if one team scores and the other team does not score, the game is ended without more kicks being taken.
  - b. If the score remains tied, continue the sudden victory penalty kicks with the coach selecting any five players to take the next set of alternating penalty kicks. If a tie still remains, repeat 3-a.

## **KSHSAA Rule 22 – Outside Competition (Excerpt) for BOTH High School and Middle School**

**Rule 22, Outside Competition, Section 1, Article 1 states:** A student who is a member of a school athletic, scholars bowl or debate squad effective Monday SCW #7 through Friday preceding Memorial Day may not participate as a member of an outside team or as an independent competitor in the same sport, scholars bowl or debate activity. (Exception: See **Rule 4**, United States Olympic Committee-Sponsored National Trials and Competitions.) **Therefore, once a student begins practice with a school team, the student may not play on an outside/club team during the school season.**

## **Additional KSHSAA Handbook Rules for BOTH High School and Middle School**

The following are accessible online at [www.khsaa.org](http://www.khsaa.org).

**Rule 10** – Qualifications of Coaches

**Rule 18** – Transfer

**Rule 19** – Undue Influence

**Rule 20** – Awards

**Rule 21** – Amateur

**Rule 26** – Anti-Tryout and Private Instruction

**Art. 4 - A student shall not participate in group training sessions or tryouts held by outside agencies other than colleges in a sport while he or she is a member of a school athletic team in that identical sport.**

**Rule 28** – Music Festivals and Athletics

**Rule 30** – Seasons of Activities

# KSHSAA Rule 38 – Soccer

## Section 1: General Regulations (apply to grades 7-12)

- Art. 1:** From the first Tuesday following Labor Day through the last Friday preceding Memorial Day, no more than six players (excluding seniors) from the same school squad may practice or participate together on the same outside team. Participation by more than six squad members (excluding seniors) shall make them ineligible for the remainder of the school year and any further middle/junior or senior high soccer, unless reinstated by the Executive Board.
- Art. 2:** Each athlete shall participate in (9) nine days of practice with the team prior to participating in any fall soccer contest taking place prior to Monday of Standard Calendar Week 13 of the current school year. Each athlete shall participate in a minimum of five (5) days of practice with the team prior to participating in any fall season soccer contest taking place on or after Monday of Standard Calendar Week 13 of the current school year. (See **Rule 30-1-8a-e, Seasons of Activities**).
- a. Dual sport fall season student-athletes competing prior to Monday of SCW 13, may use up to three (3) cross country or football practices to count towards the Fall Soccer minimum practice requirement.

## Section 2: Senior High Regulations

- Art. 1:** Practice shall not begin—
- a. Boys—Prior to Monday of Standardized Calendar Week #7.
  - b. Girls—Prior to Monday of Standardized Calendar Week #35.
- Art. 2:** Competition shall not begin—
- a. Boys—Prior to Friday of Standardized Calendar Week #8.
  - b. Girls—Prior to Thursday of Standardized Calendar Week #37.
- Art. 3:** All practices and competitions shall be held between the opening and closing of the regular season, unless approved by the Executive Board. No senior high school shall participate in more than one scrimmage. (For fall soccer, see **Rule 30-1-8a-e, Seasons of Activities**). Each individual player playing in the fall season shall participate in at least five days of practice (prior to, and not including the scrimmage) before their permitted scrimmage. No scrimmage shall be conducted except the one scheduled by, and entirely under the control of the principals of the participating schools or the Executive Board.
- Art. 4** The boys fall season shall close with the KSHSAA tournament series culminating with Standardized Calendar Week #18, provided at least 24 schools are participating in postseason fall soccer.
- The girls spring season shall close with the KSHSAA tournament series culminating with Standardized Calendar Week #47, provided at least 24 schools are participating in postseason spring soccer.
- Art. 5: No student** may participate in more than 16 games including those games played in tournaments. No school may schedule more than two tournaments at any one level of competition, i.e., varsity, junior varsity, sophomore, etc.
- a. Regardless of the tournament format, the maximum number of games played in a season, exclusive of KSHSAA postseason competition, shall be 16 games.
  - b. Invitational tournaments shall be limited to a maximum of eight teams.
  - c. Unless otherwise approved by the Executive Board, varsity invitational tournaments shall be held:

	Boys	Girls
(1) Early Season	SCW #10	SCW #39
(2) Mid-Season	SCW #15	SCW #44

- Art. 6:** No player may participate in more than three game-halves a day. Overtime periods are considered part of the second half.
- EXCEPTION:** A player may participate in two games a day in tournament play.
- NOTE:** A player who participates in more than the limit shall be charged with playing in two of the total games that student is allowed during the season and be disqualified from further play that day. The KSHSAA shall be notified of the violation.

## Section 3: Middle/Junior High School Regulations

- Art. 1:** No student or team shall participate in more than 9 games during a season, or more than 8 games and one tournament, or more than 7 games and two tournaments.
- EXCEPTION:** Ninth grade students in junior high schools shall be permitted to compete in the same number of athletic competitions as ninth graders in senior high schools.

## Fall Soccer Players Required to Have Nine (9) Days of Practice

**KSHSAA Rule 38** states a fall season soccer player must participate in nine (9) days of practice with the team prior to participating in a contest. The primary reason is heat acclimatization and hydration awareness. Each sport has different conditioning and practice needs unique to that sport. Coaches are responsible for documenting these practices. **(Rule 38-1-2)**

Only five (5) practices will be required for participation in fall soccer contests occurring on or after the Monday of SCW #13 (September 29, 2025) due to cooler temperatures and less need for heat acclimatization measures. This change to **KSHSAA Rule 38-1-2** benefits injured players starting their fall season late or middle school seasons that begin in late fall. **Athletes playing contests prior to the Monday of SCW #13 are still required to have nine (9) practices.**

## Uniforms

### NFHS Rule 4-1 (Excerpts)

- The visiting team shall wear solid white jerseys and solid white socks. No color trim/piping is allowed.
- The home team shall wear dark jerseys and socks. Dark is defined as any color which contrasts with white.
- The jersey of the goalkeeper shall distinctly differ in color from that of any teammate or opposing field player.
- If visible apparel is worn under the jersey and/or shorts, it shall be of a similar length for an individual and a solid-like color for the team.

*Schools do not need to contact KSHSAA regarding special jersey nights such as "Pink Out" Nights where the home team wears a different color jersey and/or socks as long as the jersey and/or socks are a clear contrast to white being worn by the visiting team. Common courtesy would be to notify both the officials and the visiting team of these special nights prior to the contest.*

**NFHS Rule 4-3-1h** -Hats, caps, or visors are illegal.

### EXCEPTIONS: (Excerpts)

- The goalkeeper may wear a soft-billed baseball type hat or soft-billed visor.
- By KSHSAA adoption, players may wear soft and yielding caps during inclement weather. Caps must be alike in color.

**NFHS Rule 4-3-2 (Excerpt)** - Jewelry shall not be worn except for religious or medical medals which shall be taped to the body.

**NFHS Rule 4-4-1 (Excerpt)** - Head coaches shall be responsible for ensuring that their teams' players are properly and legally equipped.

## Officials Uniform/Gear (NFHS Rule 5-1-3)

The officials shall be dressed alike in the uniforms primarily consisting of:

- a. A shirt approved by the state association; in the event of a color conflict between the officials and the field players of either team, the officials shall change to a jersey of a color distinct from the field players of both teams. (The KSHSAA does not specify shirt color for officials. For new officials, the predominant shirt colors worn by KSHSAA soccer officials are yellow, green, red, blue, and black.)
- b. Black shorts or long trousers.
- c. Predominantly black shoes and black knee socks with white horizontal stripes.
- d. Two whistles, yellow card, red card, stopwatch/wristwatch, flipping coin, pencil, and paper/scorecard.
- e. A solid black cap, if worn.
- f. Unless otherwise prohibited by the state association, electronic communication devices may be used by officials to communicate. (The KSHSAA does not prohibit officials from using electronic communication devices.)

# Guidelines for Supervision of Interscholastic Athletic Events

## Responsibilities of Host and Visiting Schools

1. The administrators of both schools are responsible for the general organization, management and supervision of student bodies and crowds before, during and following each event, with the home school assuming the major role.
2. Provide adequate supervision prior to and during each contest, to continue until at least one-half hour after the contest, or until all groups have dispersed.
3. It is expected the people representing the participating schools for the purpose of contest administration and/or supervision (principals, superintendents, etc.) meet prior to the contest. They should introduce themselves to the officials and the tournament manager prior to the contest and let them know where they will be located during the contest. The manager and officials should know whom to contact should a problem arise. **(See section 02)**
4. Faculty supervisors or adults delegated by school administrators should carry some type of identification.
5. **The conduct of coaches is the single most important factor in crowd control.** Coaches are professional educators and must control themselves under stress in order to set the proper example for the young people on their teams, the student body, and the heterogeneous combination of spectators in the stands. It is not enough to be professional when there is no pressure. Coaches are usually the stabilizing influence in an emotionally charged situation, and they must assume this important responsibility. Coaches must recognize that the future of high school athletics is more important than winning or losing the contest.
6. Alcohol, tobacco and other illicit substances are prohibited.
7. Both schools must approve the officials for each regular-season contest prior to the completion of the officials' contracts. Assignments made by league commissioners have the approval of the administration.
8. Any person, school-connected or otherwise, who commits assault and/or battery against students, school employees, or contest officials shall make amends to the offended person or persons, and the Executive Board of the KSHSAA shall be satisfied that the public interest does not require prosecution or further disciplinary action. Unless the person or group has made amends to the offended person or persons, charges should be filed. It is the host school's responsibility to file such charges. Prosecution and action in the courts should enforce ordinary order and discipline at interscholastic events.
9. Administrators and supervisors shall not permit spectators to assemble by the playing area/field/court edge prior to, during or at the conclusion of a contest.
10. The host and visiting school administration and adult supervisors shall make every effort to keep the playing area clear of spectators prior to, during and at the conclusion of each contest. It is their responsibility to prevent the contestants or fans from cutting down the nets, taking down the goal posts, etc., after any contest.
11. It is suggested that school alma maters be sung immediately after each contest.
12. If not participating in the contest, a member school may not film any school's activity.

## Responsibilities of Host School

1. Notify visiting school of reserved parking spaces for buses, specific entrance and exits to be used by team and student body, contest time and other important items necessary to conduct the contest.
2. Designate specific seating locations for visiting and host schools.
3. Provide adequate security, police and faculty supervision to begin at least one-half hour prior to contest time and end when all groups have dispersed. Provide instructions to the visiting school and all fans that the playing area/field/court is to remain free of spectators prior to and after the contest.
4. Arrange for the presence of law enforcement officials inside and outside the contest area. Depending on local board of education policies, a general recommendation is: inside supervision be handled by paid security and/or police officers; and outside supervision/security by the local police department.
5. School officials should give specific directions to security and/or uniformed police officers employed. Do not assume they understand their responsibilities! Assign them on a staggered schedule so that all will not arrive and leave at the same time. It may be necessary to have only a small number present prior to contest time, with more as the contest progresses and is concluded. They should be in position to prevent the taking of nets, goal posts, etc., after the contest.

6. Arrangements should be made with local police to direct traffic away from the playing area/field/court so spectators can leave quickly.
7. **IMPORTANT - Pregame communication between the school administration and game officials: An authorized representative of the host school shall greet the officials upon their arrival.**
8. The host school should provide adult chaperons or security personnel to escort contest officials: to and from their dressing facilities; from playing area/field/court at halftime and following the conclusion of the contest; and to their cars.
9. The officials' dressing quarters are private. No one should be admitted. This includes personnel from the host school. To ensure privacy, use NO ADMITTANCE signs (Form O). To print a copy, login to [www.kshsaa.org](http://www.kshsaa.org)>Entry-Forms>Yearly-LetterForms>Form O.
10. Make arrangements to accept and deliver emergency messages.
11. Any unusual incidents or developments should be reported to the KSHSAA immediately.

## Responsibilities of Visiting School

1. An administrator and adequate faculty or adult supervisors should be present at each contest in order to supervise their own students and adult fans prior to their arrival and until they have left. School administrators should introduce themselves to the host administration or tournament managers to let them know whom to contact should a problem arise.
2. Supervise students and fans to prevent unsportsmanlike behavior prior to, during and after the contest. Do not allow the taking of nets or other souvenirs. Explain to your fans prior to attending the contest they are not to be on the floor before, during or after the contest.
3. See that all bus drivers and delegated drivers are informed of any special parking locations and instructions provided by the host school and notify student spectators and the team of proper entrance and exit locations.
4. Report any unusual incidents to the host school administration immediately, and when needed, assist the host school to file charges against individuals causing a disturbance.

## Responsibilities of a Tournament Manager

Each soccer game shall be administered by a local manager selected by the host school. The following list supplements the *Guidelines for Supervision of Interscholastic Athletic Events*. **The manager should:**

1. **Provide participating school(s) with any necessary information not included in this manual.**
2. Make necessary arrangements for the news media, which includes notifying them of the event well in advance.
3. **Arrange for a competent timer, scorekeeper and scoreboard operator, if used.**
4. **Arrange for a scorer's table.**
5. Make arrangements for concessions, with the profits going to the host school.
6. Secure adults to sell and take tickets to the event.
7. Arrange for printing of game programs. (*Hint: Start early!*)
8. Arrange for an athletic trainer to be present/onsite.
9. **Arrange to have an ambulance and emergency medical technician(s) (EMT) available or on call for emergencies.** Arrange to have a physician present or on call, unless after checking with the visiting school it is determined they will have a physician accompanying their team.
10. **Arrange for adequate security.** (*See also Guidelines for Supervision of Interscholastic Athletic Events.*)
11. **The host school shall provide adult chaperons to escort officials to and from their dressing quarters and to their cars after the game.** (*See also Guidelines for Supervision of Interscholastic Athletic Events.*)
12. Assign dressing rooms to teams and game officials.
13. Designate seating sections for each school. **NFHS Rule 1-6:** at least 10 feet away and not behind goals.
14. Make arrangements for halftime activities.
15. Assist teams with housing arrangements, even though each school will be responsible for their own housing.
16. Pep bands, not to exceed 50 members including the director, are to be admitted free for the game during which

their school participates. If more than 50 members are to be used as a pep band, those in addition to the 50 must pay the regular student admission price. **Bands are not to play (including the beating of drums), and artificial noisemakers (including megaphones) are not to be used while the game is in progress.** They may play or be used during pregame introductions, halftime, after scored goals and after the conclusion of a contest. Band directors should meet prior to the contest to work out a schedule so they are not competing for performance time.

17. By policy of the KSHSAA Executive Board, use of fireworks, cannons, air concussion cannons, hand-held explosives and other devices is not permitted at all KSHSAA postseason athletic events. Member schools have authority to determine if they permit such devices at their regular season events.

## Hints for the Public Address Announcer

**The announcer is a key figure and carries a great responsibility. What they say and the way it is said will influence the crowd.** They may find it necessary to make special announcements in case of emergencies. The following items may assist announcers in doing their job with excellence:

1. **Be impartial.** Announce the game with no show of favoritism.
2. Use proper language at all times.
3. **Be enthusiastic but calm.**
4. Don't anticipate or second guess calls by the officials.
5. Be aware of the entire playing area so that calm directions can be given in an emergency. Serious situations can often be avoided if the announcer will caution the crowd against coming onto the field, throwing things, etc.
6. **Let no one, except those in charge of the event, use the microphone.** The announcer is responsible for whatever is said over the P.A.
7. Do not criticize officials' decisions, directly or indirectly.
8. Announce convenient routes for leaving the playing area and caution the crowd to drive carefully.
9. Advise crowd to remain for the alma maters if this is a part of the program.
10. **Pre-Contest Announcement**

**The public address announcer should be aware that good sportsmanship is a very important part of interscholastic activities and they can play an important role in its encouragement.** The following is presented as a possible pregame announcement for any interscholastic contest:

"Activity programs at \_\_\_\_\_ High School are designed to provide positive learning experiences for all students. We thank you for your attendance, your positive support and your courtesy to all who make this competition possible. We welcome our guests from \_\_\_\_\_ High School. Good luck to both teams and good sportsmanship to all."

## Game Conclusion: Postgame Announcements

In the closing moments of each contest, make use of some of the following statements as rationale for fans to remain off the playing field:

**Citizenship/Sportsmanship Rule 52-1-Ic** prohibits victory celebrations on the playing surface at the conclusion of a contest for the following reasons:

- a. Allows the participants and coaches of the teams to shake hands at the end of the contest.
- b. Safety of the participants.
- c. Avoids confrontation between exuberant fans and disheartened players and fans of the school which was defeated.
- d. Preserves sportsmanlike atmosphere.
- e. Allows awards to be presented within a reasonable period of time.
- f. Maintains the time schedule of contests which are to follow.
- g. Protects the playing surface.

## Preparation for the Game or Tournament

### Banners and Signs

Banners and signs will be permitted at Association-sponsored athletic events, provided they are not personal, negative, unsportsmanlike or vulgar. Signs or banners approved in advance by the event manager may be attached or fastened to the building or facility. **Parades with flags, signs or banners up and down the sidelines will not be permitted.**

### Artificial Noisemaker Limitations

Artificial noisemakers (including megaphones, cow bells, thunder sticks, air horns, sirens, etc.) are not to be used and bands are not to play (including the beating of drums) **while the game is in progress, indoors or outdoors.** They may be played or used during pregame introductions, halftime, after scored goals and after the conclusion of a contest. If the host school administration questions the safety or appropriateness of any noisemaker it shall not be permitted.

By policy of the KSHSAA Executive Board, use of fireworks, cannons, air concussion cannons, hand-held explosives and other devices is not permitted at any KSHSAA postseason athletic event. Member schools have the authority to determine if they permit such devices at their regular season events.

### Locker Rooms

Teams will be assigned locker rooms by the tournament manager.

### Player Bench Occupants

During a contest, the player bench may be occupied by the eligible substitutes, head coach, assistant coaches, bona fide team managers, bona fide team statisticians and scorekeeper, bona fide team trainer or physician, and any disqualified players unless they have been instructed to remove themselves from the player bench.

### Practice Balls and Practice Sessions

**Each team will furnish its own practice balls** unless notified differently. **Visiting teams will not be permitted to practice on tournament fields prior to the start of the tournament.**

### Private Room for Officials (Very Important)

Managers should provide a private room which the officials may occupy during the course of the tournament. This room should be available to them as a dressing room and lounge between matches. Officials should be informed where they are to enter and where they should dress. Arrangements should be made for someone to meet them when they arrive.

Post the NO ADMITTANCE signs from your online *Entry Forms* (Form O). **Do not allow anyone else to enter this room other than the manager or official KSHSAA representative.** Assign security personnel to see this is done. The host school's cooperation in this matter will be appreciated by the officials and will assure a better officiated tournament.



# TICKETS & ADMISSIONS

## Ticket Information for Managers

***KSHSAA will not supply paper ticket rolls to postseason hosts.***

### Postseason Ticket Protocol

When hosting a KSHSAA postseason event, there are three options for ticketing:

**OPTION #1 (PREFERRED):** Use the GoFan digital ticketing system. If you already use GoFan, use your own account to create the event and ticket options. If you are new to GoFan, set up an account at <https://hq.gofan.co/login>.

- When creating the event, be sure to use the correct ticket prices provided by the KSHSAA.
- Setup the event as event-based payment (not calendar-based).
- DO NOT include the service fee as part of the ticket price.
- Fans will show their tickets at the gate on their personal mobile device.
- A walk-up credit card purchase option (Box Office option) is available for GoFan schools. Contact GoFan for more details.
- Details on how to use the GoFan platform can be found at <https://get.gofan.co/digital-ticketing-guide>.

**OPTION #2 (PREFERRED):** Use the GoFan digital ticketing system as described above and provide a cash purchase option. Cash purchases should be handled in the same manner as your regular season events. You will need to keep an exact count of all adult tickets and student tickets sold (keep separate counts) to report to the KSHSAA. If you choose to use paper tickets, plan to use your own.

**OPTION #3:** Sell paper tickets in the same manner as your regular season events. You will need to keep an exact count of all adult tickets and student tickets sold (keep separate counts) to report to the KSHSAA. If you choose to use paper tickets, plan to use your own.

**GoFan is the only digital ticket system that may be used for KSHSAA postseason events.**

After the event, complete your post-event ticket and financial reports within 10 days.

- Login at [kshsaa.org](https://kshsaa.org)>Schools>Administration>Postseason Host
- Be prepared with the number of adult and student tickets sold (use GoFan reports and gate counts), the officials' information including round-trip mileage, and your local tax rate.

### Complimentary Tickets

1. News Media
2. Host High School Board of Education Members and Spouses
3. KSHSAA Complimentary Lifetime Passes
4. KSHSAA Annual Complimentary Passes (*issued to KSHSAA Board of Directors and Appeal Board members annually*)
5. KSHSAA Area Supervisors of Officials Passes
6. Game Officials
7. Pass Gate: School administrators, student managers, school media, participating contestants, bus driver, (1) one faculty cheerleader sponsor, and varsity cheerleaders (maximum of 10) in uniform and any soccer coach listed in the KSHSAA directory who has met all KSHSAA coaching requirements will be included on the postseason pass gate list. Regional Tournament Squad Lists, State Quarterfinal Squad Lists and State Tournament Squad Lists will take care of names and number of complimentary admissions from each school. These forms may be used as pass gate lists for all participating schools.

Tournament managers should adhere to all regulations pertaining to complimentary admissions. It would be unfair and defeat the purpose of the program if at some tournament sites, persons were to be admitted without charge when they do not qualify for such admission. Administrators should review the following information and discuss it with their coaches, faculty members, drivers and playing squads.

In the past, managers have reported that administrators and coaches have insisted on their spouses being admitted free. This is a violation of regulations. Coaches Association passes are NOT to be honored.

Any representative of the press who actually covers the tournament and writes stories may be admitted free. A regular newspaper staff photographer may also be admitted free.

When your school is host, the members of your board of education and their spouses may be admitted free. Likewise, the working crew necessary to sell and collect tickets and supervise and direct tournament activities is to be admitted free.

Lifetime passes have been issued to those who have served on the Kansas State High School Activities Association Executive Board and Hall of Fame Selection Committee. Similar passes have been issued to the Governor, members of the State Board of Education and State Commissioner of Education. Please honor such passes presented to your ticket takers at the KSHSAA sponsored tournaments. No other passes, including Kansas Coaches Association passes, are permitted.

The KSHSAA feels that every administrator is aware of various problems in sponsoring a tournament and why it is necessary that all managers adhere to specific limitations in honoring requests for complimentary tickets. This phase of the tournament program is very important. **Assign a competent adult (not a student) the responsibility of working the pass gate.**

**Managers are not to provide tickets for participating schools, but use a checklist and a special entrance for authorized players, managers, coaches and cheerleaders.**

## **Ticket Prices for Postseason Tournaments**

Managers should display at each ticket window (or gate) a sign showing the prices of admission. Regionals are \$8 for adults and \$6 for K-12. State Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals are \$10, pre-k and under are free.

There will be one admission session per day at all regional and state tournament matches.

# POSTSEASON TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

*All regional, state quarterfinal and state semifinal contests will be hosted by the higher seed. The host school or higher-seeded team will be home (dark jerseys and socks). The lower-seeded team will be visitor (solid white jerseys and socks).*

## Participation Fee

Schools participating in postseason tournament competition must submit the **Fall/Spring Activity Participation Form** to the KSHSAA. Invoices will be emailed to athletic directors. This participation fee (\$80) includes a regional assignment.

## Officials Recommendations

Submit officials recommendations online to KSHSAA the week prior to regional tournaments. The officials for state contests will be selected by the KSHSAA based upon recommendations by member schools, 90% or higher exam score, attendance at the KSHSAA rules meeting and completion and submission of a postseason application.

## Regional Officials — Diagonal System Is Required

Neither a member school nor an approved school shall take any action to prevent an athletic official from officiating a contest because of the official's race, sex, religion or national origin. Neither shall a member school or an approved school participate in a contest for which an athletic official has been excluded from officiating because of the official's race, sex, religion or national origin.

## Seeding Managers

Schools will be notified during the season of their assigned seeding manager who will communicate/arrange the distribution of postseason soccer balls and awards.

Schools must input regular season game scores on the KSHSAA website. All regular season scores must be submitted by Friday, October 24 (Boys); Friday, May 15 (Girls).

### East Seeding Manager

Shawnee Mission East High School; 7500 Mission Rd; Shawnee Mission, KS 66208

Ryan Johnson, Athletic Director; Phone: 913-993-6600; [ryanjohnson@smsd.org](mailto:ryanjohnson@smsd.org)

### West Seeding Manager

Wichita-South High School; 701 W. 33rd St.; Wichita, KS 67217

Johnny Martin, Athletic Director; Phone: 316-973-5450; [jmartin2@usd259.net](mailto:jmartin2@usd259.net)

## Seeding Criteria

Seedings and pairings will be determined at this meeting based upon the win-loss-tie points and percentages of each participating team (see below). **Teams must play 10 games or seeding percentage will be halved.**

All game contracts/commitments between KSHSAA member schools in soccer, either written or otherwise, shall be honored.

Use the following to determine the points for each team when seeding the bracket:

- 2 points for a win
- 1 point for a tie
- 0 points for a loss

**Games must be against varsity competition to count for purposes of seeding percentage.** After determining the total points earned, divide that number by the maximum points possible of **games actually played** times 2 (carry to the third decimal point) to figure the percentage.

**If two teams have an identical percentage, the tie will be broken as follows:**

- a. If the teams played each other, the one defeating the other a larger number of times will receive the higher seed. If after they have played each other and each has defeated the other team under consideration an identical number of times, the team with the most wins will receive the higher seed.
- b. If the teams did not play each other, the team with the most wins will receive the higher seed.
- c. If the tie still remains, the team with the fewest goals allowed during the regular season will receive the higher seed.
- d. If the tie still remains, then a coin will be tossed to determine the team receiving the higher seed.

**If three teams are tied with an identical percentage, the tie will be broken as follows:**

- a. If one team won over all the other tied teams or has a winning record over all the other tied teams, it shall receive the higher seed. The two remaining tied teams will revert to the procedure used for two tied teams.
- b. If one team has lost to each of the other teams, that team shall be dropped from the tiebreaking procedure. The two remaining teams will revert to the procedure used for two tied teams.
- c. If the above procedure did not break the tie, the teams with the most wins shall receive the higher seeds.
- d. If the tie still remains, the teams with the fewest goals allowed during the regular season will receive the higher seeds.
- e. If the tie still remains, a drawing by lot will determine the teams receiving the higher seeds.

**If four teams are tied with an identical percentage, the tie will be broken as follows:**

- a. If one team won over all the other tied teams, or has a winning record over all tied teams, it shall receive the higher seed. The three remaining tied teams will revert to the procedure used for three tied teams.
- b. If the above procedure did not break the tie, the teams with the most wins will receive the higher seeds.
- c. If the tie still remains, the teams with the fewest goals allowed during the regular season will receive the higher seeds.
- d. If the tie still remains, a drawing by lot will determine the teams receiving the higher seeds.

**Reseeding takes place prior to the quarterfinals using the same criteria except regional games are counted in the seeding process. Teams receiving byes in regional contests will count the bye as a victory for seeding purposes.**

## **Tentative Postseason Schedule**

- First Round Regional Contests (Boys-Monday and Tuesday, October 27-28; Girls-Monday and Tuesday, May 18-19)
- Regional Finals (Boys-Thursday, October 30; Girls-Thursday, May 21)
- State Quarterfinals (Boys-Monday, November 3; Girls-Monday, May 25)
- State Semifinals (Boys-Wednesday, November 5; Girls-Wednesday, May 27)
- State Consolation and Championship Finals (Boys-Saturday, November 8; Girls-Saturday, May 30)

## Regional Tournament Format

Eight regional tournaments will be held in sections determined by the number of schools participating and their geographical locations. The brackets for these tournaments depend upon the number of schools playing soccer in each geographical section. **The winner of these eight regionals will advance to state quarterfinals.** Assignments and seeding for regionals will be posted on the KSHSAA website by NOON on Saturday before regional tournaments.

## State Quarterfinals Format

The four regional winners in the east section and the four winners in the west section will play on Monday, following regional tournament week, in their respective geographical areas.

The state quarterfinal game sites will be determined after seeding the four teams, one through four. One game will be played at the site of seed #1 hosting seed #4; and one game will be played at the site of seed #2 hosting seed #3.

State quarterfinal winners will advance to the state tournament semifinals and finals.

## State Semifinals Format

The four state quarterfinal winners will advance to the state semifinals to be held on Wednesday following quarterfinal contests. The #1 seed from East will host the #2 seed from West, and the #1 seed from West will host the #2 seed from East.

## State Finals Format

All four semifinal teams will play on Saturday following semifinal contests with the losing semifinal teams playing for third place in the consolation final and the semifinal winning teams playing in the championship final. In the event of inclement weather and/or poor field conditions, the consolation final may be canceled by the KSHSAA.

## Boys Soccer - November 8, 2025 | Girls Soccer - May 30, 2026

**All Classes** - Visit Wichita/Wichita-SCHEELS Stryker Sports Complex

Zach Blessant, Manager; [zblessant@visitwichita.org](mailto:zblessant@visitwichita.org)

2999 N Greenwich Rd.; Wichita, KS 67226

Phone: 316-265-2800; Fax: 316-265-0162; Phone: 316-265-0162 (*Stryker Sports Complex*)

## Starting Times

Starting times for all regional, state quarterfinal and state semifinal contests will be **6 p.m.** unless prior approval is obtained from the KSHSAA.

## Squad Lists - Number of Players

- Schools will be permitted to suit up **22 eligible players** for postseason tournament contests.
- Squad Lists/Pass Gates are submitted online via KSHSAA Entry Forms for regionals, state quarterfinals, and state semifinals/finals. See Entry Forms on the front inside cover.
- Only the twenty-two eligible players listed on each Entry Form may be used, unless sickness or some other emergency makes it necessary to call upon extra players. **NO MORE THAN TWENTY-TWO PLAYERS MAY BE IN UNIFORM.** In case one of the regulars is ill, an alternate may replace the player. Host Managers must be informed of any changes and the reasons for them. This does not mean that the twenty-two players representing a school in a tournament must represent the school in an advanced series. The personnel may be changed from one tournament to another, but no more than twenty-two different contestants may be suited up for any one tournament.

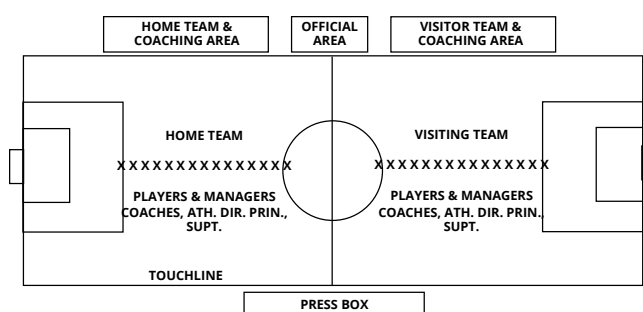
## Reporting Postseason Results

Hosts must call, text or email scores to the KSHSAA (Rod Garman, [rgarman@kshsaa.org](mailto:rgarman@kshsaa.org)) immediately after the completion of contests.

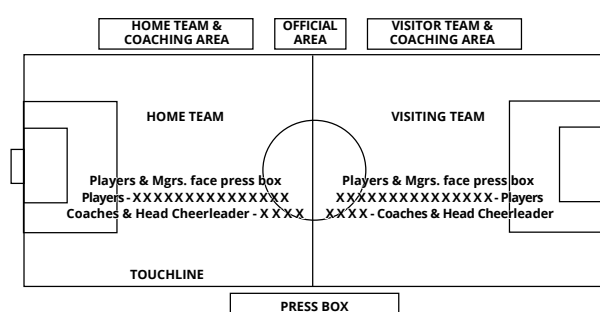
## Awards

- In regional tournaments, the first-place teams will receive plaques. There will be no third-place regional game. Plaques should be presented at the team box area after all regional contests.
- Plaques/trophies/medals will not be awarded in the state quarterfinal and semifinal rounds.
- At the conclusion of the state consolation and championship finals, first-, second-, third- and fourth-place teams will receive individual medals, and first-, second- and third-place teams will receive trophies.

### SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS—DO NOT ALLOW STUDENTS AND SPECTATORS ON THE PLAYING FIELD



State Championship Introductions



State Championship Awards Ceremony

## Pregame Introductions

1. The host school will arrange to have the **National Anthem played 10 minutes prior to each contest. Before the National Anthem, the teams are to be assembled in their team boxes.**
2. The announcer should begin with "Welcome to this (\_\_\_ regional, state quarterfinal) soccer contest sponsored by the Kansas State High School Activities Association and its member schools." (*A sportsmanship Public Service Announcement could also be read at this time.*)
3. Immediately following the National Anthem, **the three game officials, who are to be located on the touchline in front of the officials area and facing the press box, will be introduced. Introduce by position, by name only. (Do not mention where they live.)**
4. The visiting team non-starters then starters will be introduced, followed by the host team non-starters and starters. These introductions should proceed as rapidly as possible.
5. Immediately following the introductions, the captains will go to the touchline (press box side) on the halfway line to meet the officials, and they will be escorted to the center of the field for the coin toss.

***\*P.A. scripts will be provided by the KSHSAA to the tournament managers for state tournament contests. The scripts address team introductions and any concluding award ceremonies.***

## Warm-Ups for State Consolation and Championship Finals

Teams may take the field 50 minutes prior to the start of the first contest that day. Fifty (50) minutes will be placed on the clock for team warm-up and run down to the 10:00 mark. At that point teams are to start to line up for introductions and the National Anthem. Teams will walk out numerically in single file (World Cup style) then line up in front of the spectator touchline. Prior to the next game, 20 minutes will be placed on the clock for team warm-up and run down to the 10:00 mark before lining up for introductions.

## No Practice at Postseason Sites for Visiting Schools

Visiting schools participating in postseason tournaments **will not be allowed to practice at a tournament site prior to the start of the tournament.**

## Tournament Programs

**Host schools are to furnish official programs for their postseason tournaments.** Programs, if sold, should be at a reasonable price. All profit is to be retained by the host school. The contents should include complete team rosters and information similar to that found on squad lists.

## Postseason Soccer Ball

The SELECT Royale soccer ball is the official ball for the KSHSAA soccer postseason. SELECT Royale soccer balls will be provided by the KSHSAA to host schools/sites for each postseason contest.



### Need Soccer Balls?

Go to [www.kshsaa.org/Public/Soccer/PDF/SelectSoccerBallSchoolPacks-KansasRetailers.pdf](http://www.kshsaa.org/Public/Soccer/PDF/SelectSoccerBallSchoolPacks-KansasRetailers.pdf) for soccer ball school packs and Kansas retailers. Prices are good through December 31, 2025.

# GATE RECEIPTS AND OFFICIALS FEES

## Gate Receipts and Expenses

After taxes, the regional and state gate receipts will be distributed as follows:

1. **Regionals & State Quarterfinals** — Thirty three percent (33%) of net receipts (gate receipts minus sales tax) plus all concessions and program sales to host.  
**State Semifinals** — Thirty three percent (33%) of net receipts (gate receipts minus sales tax) plus all concessions and program sales to host.  
**State Finals** — Twenty five percent (25%) of net receipts and program sales to host (minus sales tax) plus all concessions.
2. Officials' expenses will be paid by the KSHSAA for all regional and state contests.
3. Balance shall be sent to the KSHSAA, which will be used as follows:
  - a. Plaques, trophies and medals
  - b. Catastrophic and liability insurance
  - c. To underwrite losses at other tournament sites
  - d. To operate non-self-supporting activities
  - e. To contribute to the overall operating costs of the Association

## Officials Fees for Postseason

### Regionals – Official Works One Game Per Day

Regional game fee: **\$80** per game

Mileage Payment for Round Trip

0-25	\$10
26-50	\$15
51-100	\$30
101-150	\$50
151-200	\$70
201-250	\$90
251-300	\$100
301 up	\$130

### State Game Fees

State Quarterfinal, Semifinal, Final: **\$100** per game

#### Mileage for State Tournament Officials:

State officials are paid 46 cents per mile to designated drivers.

State officials receive a \$25 per day meal per diem.

Hotel rooms, if needed, are directly booked and paid for by the KSHSAA if travel exceeds 75 miles one way for an official assigned.



# 07 INFORMATION & EDUCATION RESOURCES

## Discover, Learn, Be Informed

The KSHSAA Website, [www.kshsaa.org](http://www.kshsaa.org), is a one-stop resource for KSHSAA information including the Soccer homepage, [www.kshsaa.org/Public/Soccer/Main.cfm](http://www.kshsaa.org/Public/Soccer/Main.cfm), that houses helpful links, announcements and updates throughout the year. Also, be sure to check out the KSHSAA Sports Health and Safety page, [www.kshsaa.org/Public/SportsMedicine/Main.cfm](http://www.kshsaa.org/Public/SportsMedicine/Main.cfm), and finally, visit the online KSHSAA Gallery of Champions, [www.kshsaachamps.org](http://www.kshsaachamps.org) to discover past state champions in all KSHSAA activities and other historical records, team accomplishments and individual feats.

## Kansas Coaches Association (KCA)

Coaches desiring to change a KSHSAA rule or policy in a sport are encouraged to contact the Kansas Coaches Association (KCA). The KCA is an organization whose officers and sports chairpersons serve on a voluntary basis. The KCA is the only coaches advisory organization to the KSHSAA. Throughout the school year, sport chairpersons survey coaches across the state on a variety of topics. Each spring the KCA will bring to the KSHSAA Executive Board recommendations that receive 70%+ support by the coaches and KCA Executive Board. For more information: [www.kansascoaches.com](http://www.kansascoaches.com).

## NFHSLEARN.COM ([www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com))

The NFHS Learning Center is the home to more than 100 online professional development courses for everyone within the interscholastic community - coaches, students, officials, parents, administrators, and individuals within performing arts programs. More than 60 courses are available for FREE including *Implicit Bias*, *Engaging Effectively with Parents*, *The Collapsed Student*, *Sports Nutrition*, *Student Mental Health & Suicide Prevention*, *Captains Course*, *ACL Injury Prevention*, and *Name, Image & Likeness*.

The *Coaching Soccer* course costs \$50, and there is a new \$25 *Middle School Coaching* course available.

*The Parent Seat*, *Beyond the Scoreboard*, & *A Lasting Relationship* are FREE, brief videos you can download and show at parent meetings or share electronically.

FREE officiating courses include *Pregame Conference*, *Fouls & Misconduct*, & *Offside Rule*.

*Collecting Statistics: Soccer* is another FREE course.

## 2025-26 Rules Changes

**3-3-1,2,3,2c (NEW):** Removes redundant language and permits substitutions during a temporarily suspended game.

**Rationale:** Eliminates redundant language and allows substitutions during a temporarily suspended game. In hot weather, state associations often authorize stoppages within a half for water breaks. Under this change, teams would now be permitted to make substitutions during these stoppages.

**3-3-2b(2):** Clarifies that an injured player must leave the field if the referee beckons a coach or appropriate health-care provider.

**Rationale:** The rules change clarifies the current rule that if an official beckons a coach or appropriate health-care provider for any injured player, including the goalkeeper, that player must leave the field regardless of the reason the clock is stopped.

**4-1-2:** Clarifies that a number is required on the front of the jersey and/or the shorts.

**Rationale:** This language supports the rule prior to the reorganization of **Rule 4** and adds clarification to the overall interpretation to clarify that a number is required on the front of the uniform which may be on the jersey and/or the shorts.

**7-2-4 (NEW):** Prohibits a coach or team personnel other than the team captain from speaking with a referee during interval between periods, unless beckoned by a referee.

**Rationale:** The time between periods of play is designated for rest for all participants, not for engaging with officials. This rule change introduces specific language and penalties for coaches who confront officials during these intervals, aiming to reduce unnecessary disputes and maintain a respectful game environment.

**12-4-4:** A misconduct penalty may be given to the head coach if team or bench misconduct occurs.

**Rationale:** To encourage and support sporting and positive bench decorum, the rule change reinforces the head coach's responsibility for the conduct of their team and bench personnel within the team area. It provides officials with additional tools, allowing them to warn, caution, or eject the head coach if any bench personnel engage in misconduct.

**Rule 18:** Elimination of **Rule 18**. Incorporating the definitions into their corresponding rules while expanding the index to serve as a quick reference tool to streamline the rules, improve clarity, remove unnecessary duplication and eliminate conflicting definitions.

**Rationale:** This change relocates definitions into their corresponding rules, streamlining the rules book by reducing redundancies and contradictions. The expanded index at the back of the book continues to serve as a helpful quick reference tool, while definitions were updated and aligned in context with appropriate rules.

## 2025-26 Soccer Editorial Changes

3-3-2b(5), 3-3-3b(4), 3-3-3c(2), 3-3-3d(3), 3-3-7, 4-1-1c, 4-1 Notes, 5-1-2, 13-1-5

## 2025-26 Points of Emphasis

### Education Based High School Athletics

High school athletics play a vital role in the overall growth of student-athletes, providing opportunities to develop physically, mentally, and emotionally. Soccer serves as a platform for building essential life skills such as teamwork, discipline, leadership, and resilience. Coaching priorities focus on fundamental skills, strategic gameplay, and decision-making while instilling respect for opponents, officials, and teammates. As the game evolves, a strong understanding and application of the rules are essential to maintaining fair and safe competition, making rule education a key responsibility for players, coaches, and officials.

A well-rounded high school soccer program should emphasize both athletic and academic development, reinforcing the importance of discipline, time management, and perseverance. Education-based athletics prepare students not only for

success in sports but also for their future endeavors by teaching valuable life lessons through competition. Schools, coaches, and administrators must work together to ensure that high school soccer fosters growth, responsibility, and leadership, creating a positive experience that supports student success both on and off the field.

### **Courage, Character and Consistency**

Courage, character, and consistency are essential qualities for any soccer official. These qualities encourage the game to be managed fairly, effectively, and with integrity. Officials must have the courage to make difficult decisions, calling fouls equally for both teams without fear of backlash from players, coaches, or spectators. This courage extends to maintaining authority on the field, recognizing and firmly addressing any attempts to challenge their control or interfere with the game. Character is reflected in professionalism and the official's personality they incorporate into their management philosophy, fostering cooperation and mutual support within the officiating team. By maintaining composure and a focused attitude, officials uphold the integrity of the game, ensuring their decisions are based on the rules within the spirit of the game, rather than external pressures or emotions.

Consistency ties these attributes together, ensuring officials apply the rules uniformly and fairly throughout the game. Players and coaches expect predictability from officials in decision-making, which reinforces trust in the official's authority. An official who applies the rules consistently, while managing interactions with confidence and conviction, fosters a controlled and respectful environment. An official who successfully combines these attributes bolsters acceptance when managing dissent and conflicts, while emphasizing calmness, direct communication, and resolution without unnecessary escalation. Ultimately, courage, character, and consistency define an official's ability to manage the game effectively, uphold fairness, and maintain order, ensuring a positive experience for all participants.

### **Team Areas and Bench Decorum**

Effective communication is essential for officials in maintaining control over the match, particularly when dealing with bench decorum and sportsmanship. An official's role is to keep the game safe, fair, and fun, which requires adapting to the level of play and responding to game situations as they develop. High school soccer is an extension of the classroom, meaning officials must uphold the highest standards of professionalism, composure, and integrity. By setting a respectful tone, referees can prevent escalation and unnecessary conflict. Recognizing and addressing dissent early is crucial—while emotional reactions can be ignored, public, provocative, or persistent complaints must be dealt with decisively.

Coaches and bench personnel set the tone for their teams, and poor behavior can spread if not managed properly. In education-based athletics, adult leaders must be champions of character. Bench decorum must be actively monitored, as unchecked misconduct from the team area can quickly influence players and spectators. The head coach has an obligation to manage their team's behavior. A firm but fair approach ensures that the game remains under control while demonstrating respect for all participants. Officials have tools to warn coaches and must take action to sanction misconduct when it occurs. Ultimately, head coaches are responsible for their team area, including assistant coaches and substitutes, and must be held accountable for any misconduct occurring within it.

### **Player Equipment (Shinguards)**

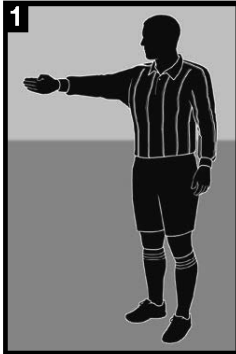
Ensuring student-athlete safety is a top priority, and proper equipment plays a key role in maintaining a safe and fair playing environment. *NFHS Rule 4* provides clear guidelines on required player equipment, including shinguards, which are essential for protecting athletes during competition. Given that high school players are still in their developmental stages, shinguards must be age- and size-appropriate, meeting NOCSAE safety standards. Each shinguard must display the NOCSAE seal, permanently marked on the front, indicating the approved height range for that model.

While coaches are responsible for ensuring their players are properly equipped before the game, officials take a proactive approach by observing warm-ups to identify any potential concerns. Rather than conducting formal equipment checks, referees use preventive officiating by maintaining awareness during pregame activities and addressing any noticeable issues. If a player's shinguards appear inadequately sized, officials should engage with the coach in a professional and approachable manner to confirm compliance.

By prioritizing communication and proactive observation, officials help reinforce safety standards while allowing players to focus on the game. A consistent and safety-conscious approach ensures that every student-athlete competes with the necessary protective equipment, contributing to a positive and well-regulated match experience. ns that could lead to conflicts, be present and proactive in their responses, and deal with misconduct appropriately.



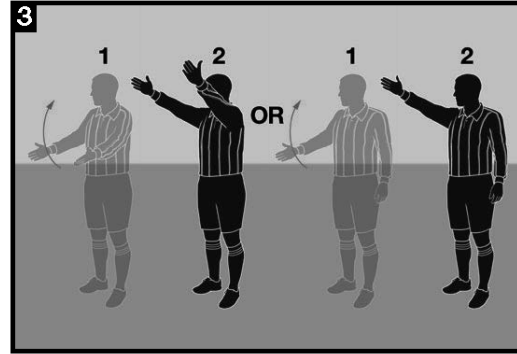
# OFFICIAL SOCCER SIGNALS



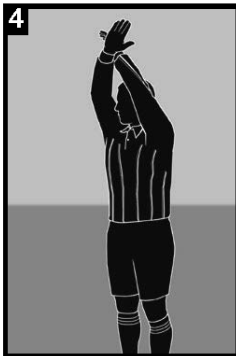
**Direct free kick**  
(Point in direction  
of kick)



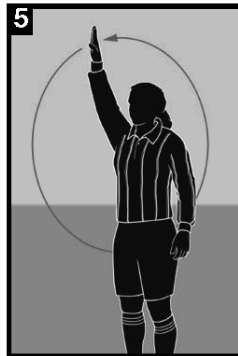
**Indirect free kick**  
(Hold until kick is  
taken and touched)



**Play On**



**Time-out**



**Wind-up to  
start clock**



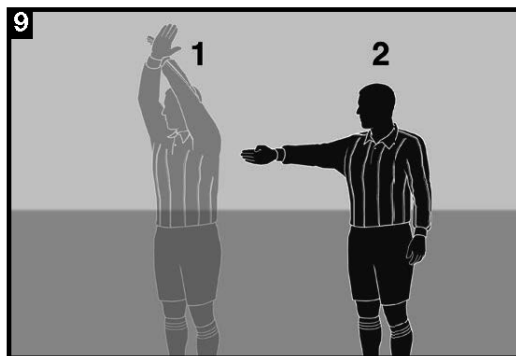
**Penalty kick**  
(Point to spot)  
**Goal Kick**  
(Point to goal area)



**Caution/  
Ejection**



**Corner kick**  
(Point to corner)



**Goal**

**PlayPic®** PlayPics courtesy of **REFEREE**

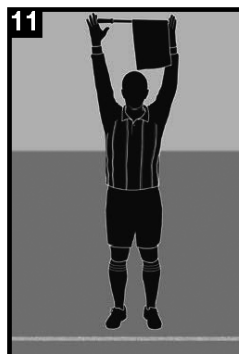


# ASSISTANT REFEREE SIGNALS



## Throw-in

(The flag should not be brought across the body. Appropriately, the flag should be switched to the appropriate hand.)



## Substitution

(Hold the flag above the head as shown until acknowledged by the referee, then return the flag to the side.)



## Foul

(1. Hold the flag vertically until acknowledged by the referee; 2. Wave flag; 3. Point the flag in the direction where the free kick will take place.)



## Corner kick

(Assistant referee should point to the nearest corner.)



## Goal kick

(Assistant referee should point to the goal area.)



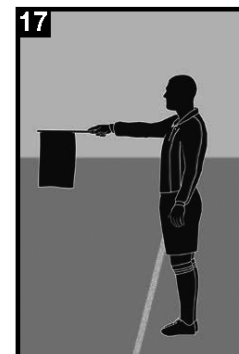
## Stop play – Offside

(Assistant referee should indicate he/she has seen an offside with the right arm.)



## Offside free kick

(When the referee stops play, the assistant referee indicates position on the far side of the field.)



## Offside free kick

(When the referee stops play, the assistant referee indicates position near the center of the field.)



## Offside free kick

(When the referee stops play, the assistant referee indicates position on the near side of the field.)

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# SOCCER FIELD

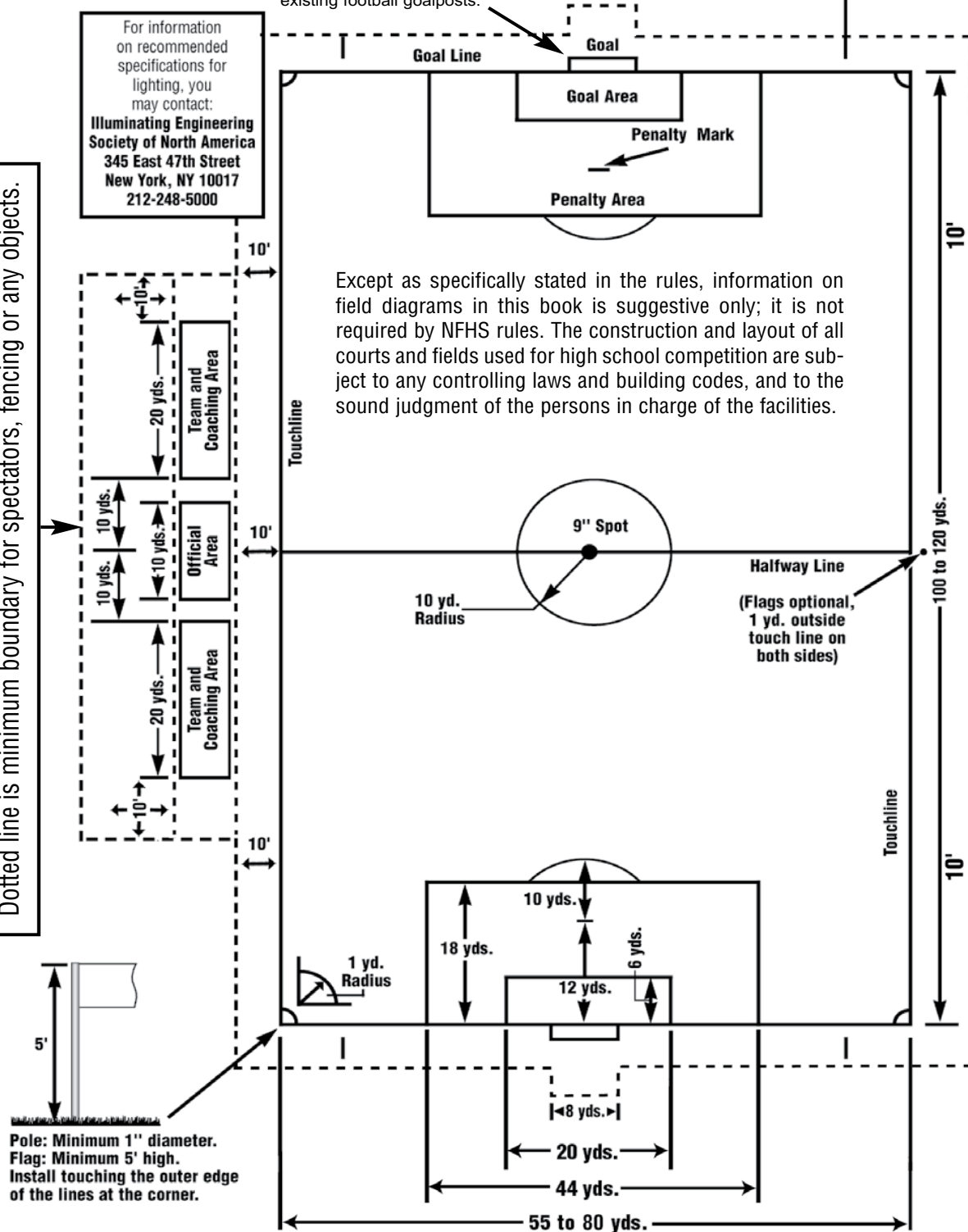
**\*MEASUREMENTS** are taken from outside to outside of the line.

If used on a football field, portable goals should be anchored at least 2 yards in front of the base of the existing football goalposts.

**HASH MARK (optional)**  
(1 yd. in length beyond goal line;  
11 yds. from touch line;  
located at each corner of field)

For information on recommended specifications for lighting, you may contact:  
**Illuminating Engineering Society of North America**  
345 East 47th Street  
New York, NY 10017  
212-248-5000

Dotted line is minimum boundary for spectators, fencing or any objects.



An engineered natural turf soccer field should have a minimum of one-and-one-half percent (1.5%) slope for fields which are surface drained. For natural turf fields with a sub-surface drain system the slope should be no less than one (1.0%) percent. For synthetic turf fields with a sub-surface drain system the slope should be no less than one half of one (0.5%) percent. Slope is measured from center to side. For consulting services, contact SportsPLAN Studio, 816-842-5200.

## Checklist for Postseason Tournament Managers/Host

- ☐ Read emails from seeding manager and arrange for acquisition of soccer balls, plaques and banners.
- ☐ Notify officials in advance of a contest of starting times, dressing, parking, etc.
- ☐ Communicate with visiting school prior to contest about team roster submission, arrival instructions, school vehicle parking, locker room/shower accommodations, and any other information (Emergency Action Plan) specific to your facility.
- ☐ Arrange for medical/first aid personnel/athletic trainer to be on site during contest.
- ☐ Appoint scorer, timer and one public address person (use of official scorebook is required).
- ☐ Assign personnel to assist in administering tournament including ball holders/runners, gate workers and concessions workers.
- ☐ Arrange for the playing of the National Anthem.
- ☐ Provide a private dressing room and adult security personnel for game officials. Assign security personnel and officials' escort.
- ☐ Provide reserved parking for officials and school buses.
- ☐ Assign a host or hostess to the officials and each team.
- ☐ Post signs to reserve seating areas for participating schools' followers.
- ☐ Provide a special entrance/pass gate and a checklist for authorized school administration, players, managers, coaches, adult supervisors, cheerleaders and news media.
- ☐ KSHSAA Pre-Activity Timeout (see Section 02 for details)
- ☐ **Call, text, or email postseason results to KSHSAA immediately following postseason contests. (See Section 05 for details.)**
- ☐ Submit online to *KSHSAA Ticket and Financial Reports* following a postseason event.
- ☐ Submit to KSHSAA a "Report on Officials." (Optional)

