NCSSAA Soccer Playing Regulations

Please consult the Ontario Physical Activity Safety Standards in Education (OPASSE) for details regarding specific safety guidelines for Soccer.

1. **Events and/or Classification**
    a. Competitive Divisions shall be at the discretion of the Athletic Coordinators. They will be based on geographic proximity and level of play, as per Operating Policy 5.2. They will also adhere to the policies in Section 7.3.

2. **Structure and Procedure**
    a. For the purpose of maintaining standings, three (3) points will be awarded for a win, one (1) point for a tie.

3. **Entry**
    a. Schools are allowed to enter one (1) team per school per league sport (junior and senior), as per Operating Policies 7.1a. Schools must indicate participation by the entry deadline date indicated in Section 7.1b of the Operating Policies.

4. **Expenses**
    a. The NCSSAA will invoice each school registered in the league in accordance with the dates found in our Operating Policies.

5. **Eligibility**
    a. For teams playing in the OFSAA Tier, their roster will be limited to 20 players. All 20 registered players will be allowed to dress and play in a game.

6. **Rules and Officials**
    a. The NCSSAA soccer league is played under the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Laws of the Game, with the following exceptions / notes:
        i. A game will consist of two 35 minute halves. Half time will be 5 minutes. Timing will be the responsibility of the referee
        ii. Unlimited substitutions are permitted. Substitutions will be permitted at goal kicks, half time, after a goal, for an injured player, and on a team's own throw-in. Once a substitution on a throw-in has been initiated, the opposing team may substitute players as well.
        iii. **Tie-breaking Procedure**: If tied at the end of regulation time, all playoff games will be extended by TWO (2) complete 10 minute halves. If the game is still tied, kicks from the penalty mark (5 per team, then 1-1 if needed) will decide the outcome.
        iv. The decision as to whether weather conditions are bad enough for a game not to be played rests entirely with the referee. Games cancelled in this way will be rescheduled if possible.

v. Each team must provide a referee's assistant for all regular season games. NCSSAA will provide two assistant referees for all championship games and all OFSAA semi-finals

b. The score of a forfeited game will be entered as 3-0.

c. Max # of point differential is 4.

7. Uniforms and Equipment

a. Players should not wear anything that may be injurious to another player or themselves (i.e. jewellery or articles that can be considered as dangerous). All players should be dressed in school-coloured, numbered shirts, which are tucked into their shorts. It is the responsibility of the HOME TEAM to provide an alternate (or marker) if the shirt of the visiting team is similar. Goalkeepers must wear shirt colours that are not common to either team. All players must wear shin guards entirely covered by their stockings.

b. All religious / ethnic headwear / sweatpants will be allowed unless the referee deems it a safety hazard. Shin guards may be worn underneath the sweatpants, as long as they are covered.

c. Casts may be allowed by the referee if they are covered with foam (minimum 1" thickness). All knee braces must be covered.

d. The home team is responsible for the preparation of the field, which includes proper lines, corner posts that extend a minimum of 1.5 m above the ground, and nets that have been safely and suitably fixed to the goal and to the ground. An official game ball, in good condition, must also be supplied.

8. Awards

a. At NCSSAA Championship games 18 gold medals will be awarded to the champions and 18 silver medals will be awarded to the finalist of each division of play.

b. Schools are responsible for having the championship trophies and plaques engraved with their name and full school year (ex: 2024-25) before returning it the following year. Schools shall be charged $30 for returning a trophy or plaque that is not engraved.

c. NCSSAA will not provide medals for teams that are awarded a championship through acclamation. Any school winning an acclaimed championship may order medals from the NCSSAA at the school's expense.

9. Deportment

It is compulsory for a player who has been cautioned, excluding the goalkeeper, to be substituted for at the time of the infraction. This player may re-enter the game at a regular substitution period following a ten minute cooling off period.

It is the expectation that students participating in NCSSAA events:

- adhere to the school's code of behavior
- display good sportsmanship during games of competitions
- win or lose gracefully
- respect both teammates and opponents
- follow the rules and regulations of the sport
- show respect towards officials and their decisions

Coaches are expected to review the "Season Start-Up Expectations Checklist" with their team prior to the first competition and periodically throughout the season

The NCSSAA position on racial slurs and epithets

The NCSSAA strives to create an environment of safety and respect for all athletes, coaches and officials. To address reclamation, the NCSSAA appreciates that individuals may be in the process of reclaiming racial slurs. However, not all people follow the same path and racial slurs can cause harm and degradation. As such, racial slurs will be unacceptable at NCSSAA events.

***Repeat offenses will be subject to increased suspensions or possible Board of Reference.**
****Suspensions apply to regular season, playoffs and OFSAA games.**
*****It is strongly recommended that students not participate in exhibition and tournament games while serving a suspension, but it is the school's final decision.**
******Any unserved suspensions will carry over to the next sport/season.**

Description of Misconduct	Suggested Sanctions
Ejection, dismissal, disqualification, expulsion, banishment of an athlete or coach from a game by an official **henceforth referred to as "Disqualification" *responsibility of the coach/school to notify NCSSAA immediately following the game.	1 game suspension (minimum) for athletes, 2 game suspension (minimum) for coaches, until the case is reviewed by the Athletic Coordinators Repeat offenses will result in: 2 or more games suspension, and possible Board of Reference
Guidelines for Suspension The following suggested sanctions will be used to guide the Athletic Coordinators. The sanctions assessed may vary based on the information collected. Schools are to provide their account of events to the Athletic Coordinators within 24 hours.	
Physical altercation with an opponent [punches are thrown] during a game.	2 game suspension (minimum) and possible Board of Reference
Spitting at an opponent.	3 game suspension
Leaving the bench (without inciting further incident), or not reporting to the bench, or leaving the penalty box when a physical altercation breaks out.	2 games to 1 calendar year *some sports may have more severe disciplinary action (see sport specific rules and officials)
A coach, official or fan who strikes or verbally/physically threatens a player, official or coach prior to, during or after competition.	Suspension from all NCSSAA activities pending Board of Reference decision
A player who strikes or verbally/physically threatens a player, official or coach prior to or after competition.	Suspension from all NCSSAA activities pending a Board of Reference decision
Where it is determined there was an attempt to injure or complete disregard for the safety of an opponent.	3 games to 1 calendar year
Discriminatory comments.	3 games to 1 calendar year
Threatening, offensive, insulting or abusive language or gestures, not toward a game official.	2 game suspension (minimum)
Offensive, insulting or abusive language or gestures toward a game official; threatening or spitting at; and/or physical altercation with a game official.	3 games to 1 calendar year
Rudeness or obscenities and/or unsportsmanlike conduct in individual meets or events.	Automatic disqualification and a written report to the Principal of the school concerned (Ref: OFSAA Code of Conduct)

Sport specific sanctions retained from previous sanction chart:

3rd caution during season	1 game suspension
4th caution during season	2 game suspension
5th caution during season	Suspension for remainder of season and playoffs
2nd caution during a single game, where neither is directed at a game official	1 game suspension
2nd caution during a single game, where one or both offences are directed at a game official	3 game suspension
Dismissed for denying an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity	1 game suspension
Dismissed for serious foul play against an opponent while the ball is in play	2 game suspension
Dismissed for violent conduct	5 game suspension

10. Medical

a. Each school is responsible for providing their own first aid kit and dealing with any minor injuries.

11. Protest Committee

12. Discipline Points

a. In the tie-breaking procedure (section 10.2 of the General Operating Policies), the following chart will help determine sub-section e), fewest discipline points.

Soccer	
Caution issued to a player	1 point
Suspensions	3 points per game suspended
Suspension for the remainder of the season	20 points

Any sanction issued to a coach will result in double the number of discipline points being assessed.