

**ROPSSAA CO-EDUCATIONAL SOCCER**

**PLAYING REGULATIONS**

1. **DATE**

- (a) Starting game times are as follows:  
2:30pm for doubleheaders  
3:30pm for single games
- (b) In double headers, the order of games shall be rotated at the halfway point of the season.

2. **LOCATION**

- (a) The site of the Championship Final shall be a neutral field as designated by the Convenor, approved by the Executive, and announced at the pre season meeting.
- (b) The preliminary, quarterfinal and semi-final playoff games will be played at the school of the team which is ranked higher in division standings at the end of the season. If the rankings were identical, a coin toss will determine home field. In the event that the pitch of the home school is unavailable or unsuitable, the school must select an alternate site.
- (c) Regular Season Games  
  
In the event that the pitch of the home school is unavailable, the school must select an alternate site, prior to the season starting. The home school will still be responsible for the cost of the official.

3. **ELIGIBILITY**

- (a) All competitors must meet the eligibility requirements as per Article X of the ROPSSAA Constitution. Players may be added to the eligibility list at any time by using the addition to eligibility form. Players may be dropped from a team by sending in an eligibility deletion form.
- (b) Eligibility lists must be submitted by the deadline announced at the pre-season meeting. Failure to do so will result in a \$25.00 penalty.
- (c) A maximum of 18 players may be dressed per game. A maximum of 25 players may be signed to an eligibility list.
- (d) Competition shall be held at the Junior Boys, Senior Boys, Junior Girls and Senior Girls level with age classifications as follows:

Junior: Shall not have attained their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday by January 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held (January 1, 2009, born in, 1994 or later). In addition they must be in their 1<sup>st</sup>, or 2<sup>nd</sup> year of high school.

Senior: Shall not have attained their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday by January 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held (January 1, 2009, born in 1990 or later).

(e) Failure to follow eligibility procedures will result in a loss of points of games played.

(f) Team Eligibility

(i) Individuals are eligible for 1 level of competition only.

(ii) For team sports, individuals must have participated in at least 50% of their team's league games to be eligible for playoffs. Players missing games due to injury (INJ), or awaiting transfer approval (ATA), must appear so designated on a game sheet to maintain their eligibility. Games missed due to injury are subject to review of a doctors note. Players under game or school suspension may not have their name included on a game sheet for participation percentages.

(iii) All game sheets/rosters are to include the name of all those in the bench area (players, coaches, managers). In order to be in the bench area an individuals name must appear on the eligibility sheet. Players under game or school suspension may not sit in the bench area.

(iv) Individuals are deemed to have played if their name appears on a game sheet. Individuals must be present at a game to be included on a game sheet.

(v) A staff member must be present in the bench area from the start of the warm-up until the last competitor has left the area.

4. OPERATING STRUCTURE

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

(i) There will be two competitive tiers in the junior girls, junior boys, senior girls and the senior boys divisions. Schools shall indicate whether they wish to compete at Tier 1 or Tier 2 no later than the last day of February of the current school year.

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

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

win = 3 points

tie = 1 point

loss = 0 points

(d) Ties in League Standings

(i) two way tie

- a) Winner of head to head game
- b) Highest winning percentage
- c) Goal differential (max. 4 per game)
- d) Fewest goals against
- e) Fewest red cards
- f) Fewest yellow cards
- g) A coin toss

(ii) three or more way ties

- a) Winner of head to head game
- b) Highest winning percentage
- c) Goal differential between tied teams (max 4 per game)
- d) Goal differential (max 4 per game)
- e) Fewest goals against
- f) Fewest red cards
- g) Fewest yellow cards
- h) A coin toss

(e) The playoff structure will be determined based on the number of teams entered, and approved by the ROPSSAA Executive. There will be separate playdowns for A, AA and AAA schools.

(f) Ties in Playoff /Playdown Games

In the event of a tie in playoff/playdown games, extra time will consist of two ten-minute halves with golden goal in effect.

If the score is still tied after extra time, each side will take five alternating penalty shots to declare a winner.

If the score is still tied after 5 penalty shots from both teams, a series of sudden-death alternating penalty shots will be taken.

(g) If a team drops out or is disqualified from the league during the regular season, all of that team's scheduled games, whether played or unplayed, will be recorded as 1-0 defaults.

(h) Game changes require coaches to select an appropriate date and time and promptly notify the athletic convenor by using a game change form. Game change requests must be submitted by the deadline indicated at the preseason coaches meeting.

(i) Procedures for Rainy Days

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

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

(j) Responsibility of the Home Team

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

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

(k) Reporting of Scores

- (i) The WINNING team must report the score according to ROPSSAA requirements.
- (ii) If tied, both teams are to report the score.
- (iii) Each team is responsible for forwarding their own game sheet by courier the morning following the game. The game sheet must be received by the Athletic Convenor no later than a week following the game. Game sheets submitted by fax will **not** be accepted.

- (iv) Any coach who does not submit their game sheet within a week following the game will received.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> offence – a warning
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> offence – minus 1 point
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> offence – minus 3 points and suspended from coaching soccer

(I) Scheduled Games

- (i) Coaches are responsible for reviewing final league game schedules and playoff schedules as to locations, dates, and times to ensure their attendance.
- (ii) Failure to attend at the scheduled time will result in forfeiture of the game and/or loss of opportunity to compete. A default fee of \$100.00 will be assessed each time a school fails to attend at the scheduled time.

Appeals may be made for the forfeiture occurring and must be submitted to ROPSSAA Council with a fee of \$25.00.

- (iii) Failure to fulfill game requirements leading to the abandonment of a game will result in a loss for that team. An abandonment fee of \$100.00 will be assessed each time (does not apply to coach ejection). Appeals may be made for the forfeiture or abandonment of a game and must be submitted to ROPSSAA Council with a fee of \$25.00.

- (iv) a) Schools must bring their own warm-up equipment and first aid kit
- b)
  - i) Schools must endeavor to arrive no earlier than 60 minutes before game time. Teams arriving earlier than this must be supervised by the head coach in an area where students from the home school do not congregate. Schools with team members who do not travel with the head coach (in taxis, cars, on foot, etc.) must inform players that they must wait for their head coach and should ensure that the head coach is the first to arrive at the host school.
  - ii) Schools arriving for an away game between 30 and 60 minutes before game time must accompany the head coach to the competition area and liaise with the host school. The visiting team will be provided a safe waiting area and change room during this time and the visiting head coach must provide supervision of his/her players. Visiting athletes must bring all belongings with them to the competition area.
  - iii) Visiting schools are entitled access to the competition area at the same time as the host school, and no later than 30 minutes before the game time (pertains to the first game).
  - iv) Visiting schools are entitled access to a safe waiting area and change room at the completion of the competition.

5. ENTRIES

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

6. EXPENSES

- (a) Officiating expenses for all league and play-off games will be the responsibility of the home school. The operating costs for the final championship game may be met by ROPSSAA.

7. RULES AND OFFICIALS

- (a) Rules: Games shall be played by the rules as laid down in the F.I.F.A. rule book unless otherwise stated in the playing regulations.
- (b) Substitution may take place after goal kicks, after a goal has been scored, at the time of an injury (for the injured player only), at half time in the game, and on your own throw-ins only.
- (c) Yellow and Red Cards\*
  - (i) a) Coaches are to report their own yellow and red cards (by fax or email) by 9:00am the morning following the game.
  - b) Any coach who does not submit their yellow and red card reports will received:
    - 1<sup>st</sup> offence – a warning
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> offence – minus 1 point
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> offence – minus 3 points and suspended from coaching soccer
  - (ii) Players, including goalies, receiving a yellow card will be removed from the game until the next allowable substitution. The team will be permitted to put a substitute on the field at the time that the yellow card is given. The yellow carded player is the only player who may be replaced at that time and may re-enter that game at a regular substitution.
  - (iii) A player who accumulates three yellow cards within the regular season, may not play in his/her team's next game.

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

- (iv) Yellow cards will not carry over from the season in which they were accumulated to the following season.
- (v) Players receiving a red card, must leave the field for the remainder of that game (no substitution allowed) and may not play in his/her team's next game (scheduled game, playoff game and/or playdown game).
- (vi) If a player receives 2 red cards in one season that player will be suspended for the remainder of the season including playoffs/playdowns.
- (vii)
  - a) Any player who received a red card for violent conduct, abusive or insulting language towards an official or spitting will receive an automatic one year suspension from ROPSSAA soccer.
  - b) Any team that receives a second red card for violent conduct, abusive or insulting language towards an official or spitting will receive a loss of three points.
  - c) Any team that receives a third red card for violent conduct, abusive or insulting language towards an official , or spitting will be removed from the schedule and the coach will be suspended from coaching.
  - d) Every incident involving violent conduct, abusive or insulting language towards an official, or spitting is appealable to the Soccer Discipline Committee for a fee of \$100.00 (\$90.00 returned if appeal is successful).
  - e) If a coach who is not eligible wishes to return to coaching, he/she must appear before the Soccer Discipline Committee prior to participating.
- (viii) Red cards will carry over from the season in which they were accumulated to the following season, up to a maximum of a two game suspension (this is in the case of a player receiving their second red card in their last game of the season). Any red card involving a violent act may result in a minimum 3 game suspension or a more severe penalty at the discretion of the convenor.
- (ix) Any coach that plays a suspended player will forfeit the game in which the suspended player participates. The coach will be brought before a ROPSSAA Board of Reference for further disciplinary action.
- (x) Teams receiving a total of four red cards will complete the game, and their status must be reviewed by the Convenor. Each subsequent red card after 4, must also be reviewed.
- (xi) A coach who is dismissed during a game causes the automatic forfeiture of the game. The coach will be brought before a ROPSSAA Board of Reference for further disciplinary action. This must be reported using a card report form.

- (xii) Any cards received in games are unappealable.

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

- (d) The soccer field at every school that is the closest to F.I.F.A. regulations, with regards to field size and soccer goal dimensions, will be used for all regular season and play-off home games. The championship final will be played on a regulation size field with regulation goals.
- (e) Each team is responsible for providing a linesperson for the entire duration of all games. Club lines people may be team players awaiting substitution provided their team shirts are not visible. Linesmen must be used.
- (f) Violent Conduct: Any incident of violent conduct that occurs at the site of a game involving either school's players, coaches, or spectators must be reported to the ROPSSAA Executive.  
  
A written report must be sent within 24 hours with copies to the individuals involved, the principals, and athletic contacts, of the school involved.
- (g) All preliminary, quarter, semi and final playoff games shall have 3 qualified referees - 2 to serve as linesmen and 1 to referee the game.
- (h) Each league game will consist of two thirty-five minute halves with at least a five minute half time break.
- (i) Each playoff game will consist of two forty minute halves with a ten minute half time break.
- (j) A game may be forfeited if a team does not arrive within 15 minutes of the starting time. The team that forfeits must pay the referee cost.

## 8. AWARDS

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

**Note** - Should there be fewer than 6 participating schools or individuals in a sport gold medallions only will be distributed.

9. UNIFORMS

- (a) Teams must wear the same coloured jerseys numbered on the back. The entire team must dress in the same colored shorts and the same colored socks. Shorts may not be cutoffs. Players not wearing proper uniforms will not be allowed to enter the field of play.
- (b) It is the responsibility of the home team to avoid conflicting colours.
- (c) Jewellery may not be worn by participating players. Jewellery may not be covered by tape.
- (d) Shinguards must be worn by participating players.
- (e) Coaches may inspect the opposing teams' footgear and shinguards and may refer players to the referee for a final decision.
- (f) Head gear and pants worn for religious/cultural reasons is allowed providing there is no hazard to other players, as determined by the referee.
- (g) Athletes may not change their clothing in the competition area. For all outdoor sports, athletes must arrive dressed to compete. Visiting teams requiring the use of washroom facilities must send a staff member into the school with the team member(s). For all indoor sports, athletes must move to the designated locker room or change area to change their clothing.
- (h) Corrective eyewear may be worn as long as it is secure.

10. DEPORTMENT

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

11. JURY OF APPEAL

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

12. SAFETY

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

13. OFSAA REPRESENTATION

- (a) The championship of the A, AA and AAA playdowns at the senior boys and girls level will advance to Ofsaa playdowns.
- (b) The champions of the tier one senior boys and tier one senior girls levels will advance to Ofsaa unless already declaring their intentions to participate in A, AA or AAA playdowns.