

2024



SOCCER

MANUAL

2023-2024 SOCCER DATES TO REMEMBER

[\(TOC\)](#)

	BOYS	GIRLS
Online Rules Review Window	July 31- August 18	February 19 – March 8
First Allowable Practice	August 7	February 26
Deadline To Withdraw From Postseason	August 17	March 7
Pre-Season Scrimmage may be conducted after your team has completed nine (9) days of conditioning practices and before your first contest		
Class/District Assignments Released	August 25	March 15
First Allowable Contest (By-Law 3.9.1 Conditioning requirements must be met prior)	August 25	March 15
Postseason Entries OPENED	September 15	March 29
Officials Postseason Application Opens	September 15	March 29
Officials Postseason Application Closes	September 27	April 10
Coaches Online Officials Recommendations/Non-Recommendations Opens	September 29	April 12
Coaches Online Officials Recommendations/Non-Recommendations Closes	October 4	April 17
District Tournament Committee should determine tournament format/schedule and list of officials to be selected at the draft (if possible)	October 5-11	April 18-25
District manager should notify all participating schools seven (7) days prior as to the date, time, location of the district seed meeting	October 5-11	April 18-25
Soccer Officials Draft	October 11	April 25
District Eligibility Rosters Due	October 13	April 26
Season Records Must Be Up-To-Date (records should continue to be updated until the start of the District tournament)	October 13	April 26
District Seeding Meetings Conducted	October 14-21	April 27-May 4
Finalized District Brackets Posting Due	October 25	May 7
Final Date For Pass List To Be Submitted	October 27	May 10
District Tournament	October 28- November 7	May 11-21
Quarterfinal Contests	November 11	May 25
State Championships – WWT Soccer Park, Fenton, Mo.	November 17-18	May 31-June 1
Soccer Advisory Committee Meeting	November 28	November 28

Dates throughout the remainder of the manual are based on the MSHSAA Standard Calendar. They will be stated with a day of the week and the Standard Calendar week. This Calendar can be found on the inside front cover of the Official Handbook or in a MSHSAA 3-Year Calendar

MISSOURI STATE HIGH SCHOOLACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

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****MSHSAA CONTACT PERSON FOR SOCCER***

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE/RULES INTERPRETER	PAGE 3
PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY	PAGE 4
SECTION 1: ESSENTIAL RESOURCES	PAGES 5
SECTION 2: REGULAR SEASON	PAGE 6-10
SECTION 3: POSTSEASON CRITERIA	PAGES 11
SECTION 4: POSTSEASON ENTRY PROCEDURES	PAGES 12-14
SECTION 5: CHAMPIONSHIP SEREIS	PAGES 15-16
APPENDIX A: PROGRAM INFORMATION AND STATISTICS	PAGES 17
APPENDIX B: COPYRIGHT COMPLIANCE	PAGES 18
APPENDIX C: SITE SELECTION PROCESS	PAGE 19-20
APPENDIX D: SOCCER BRACKET ROTATION	PAGE 21

*****Revised June 2023*****

DISTRICT ASSIGNMENTS AND STATE TOURNAMENT BRACKETS
MAY BE FOUND ON MSHSAA WEBSITE (www.mshsaa.org)

This manual is to be used for both boys' and girls' seasons.

SOCCER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(TOC)

The advisory committee members are appointed by the Board of Director member from their respective board district. Each individual is appointed to a four (4) year term. If an appointee is unable to fulfill their term, a replacement will be appointed to complete the remainder of the term. The purpose of the committee is to represent the schools and coaches/directors within their board district on matters concerning the administration of the sport. Their role is a key component is bringing sport/activity-specific needs, concerns, and recommendations to the Board of Directors. Please make sure to use them as your voice to the MSHSAA Staff and Board of Directors.

SOUTHEAST (*2027)

Mike Hutchinson (Girls)
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NORTHWEST (*2024)

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SOUTH CENTRAL (*2026)

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SOCCER RULES INTERPRETERS

The interpreters have been selected for their knowledge of the rules and willingness to provide their advice to officials, adjudicators and coaches/directors with regards to the interpretation of rules. The executive in charge of each sport/activity is the chief rules interpreter for the state but relies heavily on the advice and counsel of these individuals. Please feel free to contact them if you have a question regarding the application of sport/activity-specific rules. These individuals do not interpret any MSHSAA By-Laws or Board Policies nor do they review video of calls.

ST. LOUIS/SOUTHEAST

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PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

(TOC)

- A. **MISSION STATEMENT:** The MSHSAA promotes the value of participation, sportsmanship, team play and personal excellence to develop citizens who make positive contributions to their community and support the democratic principles of our state and nation.
- B. **PURPOSE OF MANUAL:** This manual has been prepared to provide a better understanding of the administration of MSHSAA sponsored events. It will serve as a guide to the participating schools and will provide for greater consistency. All information will be included in this manual except such supplementary or incidental information as may be included in the MSHSAA Journal. The regulations in this manual shall be considered official unless the schools are notified in a Special Bulletin of any changes.
- C. **PHILOSOPHY OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES:** Interscholastic activities are intended to supplement the secondary curricular program. These activities can provide the student with educational experiences and learning outcomes that contribute toward the development of good citizenship. This can be accomplished only when the emphasis is placed upon teaching "through school activities." Interscholastic activities can be justified only when this is their primary philosophy and purpose.
- D. **PURPOSE OF DISTRICT AND STATE CONTESTS:** There are two primary purposes that justify and cause district and state events to be desirable. Those purposes are to provide opportunities to demonstrate before the public the best knowledge, skills, and emotional patterns taught through a particular sport; and to evaluate and compare the best of this teaching of knowledge, skills and emotional patterns among schools. Unless these purposes are primary, district and state athletic contests cannot be completely justified.

It is the desire of the MSHSAA Board of Directors that these events be both fun and educational. It is extremely important that competitors, coaches, and the school community make every effort to enhance, and keep in proper perspective, the educational values of these events. Competition merely for "competition's sake" cannot be justified. Only when competition contributes toward worthwhile educational goals can it be considered sufficiently important to be included in the school program.

- E. **SUPERVISION OF COMPETITORS AND FANS:** MSHSAA By-Laws hold a school responsible, both at home and away, for the conduct of its competitors, students, coaches, and fans. Coaches are required to supervise their competitors. A coaches' respect for others and school property is necessary in order to instill this respect in competitors. Students staying overnight in hotels or motels in conjunction with any interscholastic athletic contest should be well chaperoned. The good conduct of students will leave a good impression of the entire school.

A school also should inform its competitors, students, coaches and fans of the value contest officials play in education through athletics. When informing these people of this, the difference in the purpose of high school and professional sports should be emphasized. Lack of respect for officials should not be tolerated. Booming of officials leads to booing of coaches and competitors. This has no place in high school athletics. Athletic administrators are urged to develop a program through any and all communication techniques available to ensure that spectators understand that high school athletics are an educational endeavor as opposed to the games being an end in themselves.

SECTION 1: ESSENTIAL RESOURCES

[\(TOC\)](#)

The information listed/linked in this section relates to MSHSAA By-Laws, Board Policies and information from the Sports Medicine Page (SMP). The information is not sport or activity specific but is necessary for the safe and proper conduct of your sport/activity.

Source Locations:

[MSHSAA Handbook \(HB\)](#)

[Sports Medicine Page \(SMP\)](#)

- A. ALCOHOL/TOBACCO USAGE AROUND INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES (HB-Board Policy)
- B. CHARITY/AWARENESS EVENTS (HB-Board Policy)
- C. CONCUSSIONS EDUCATION AND MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL ([SMP](#))
- D. CONDUCT – REMOVAL OF TEAMS & EJECTIONS (HB-By-Law 5.5)
- E. GUIDELINES FOR FAN SUPPORT ITEMS (HB-Board Policy)
- F. HAZARDOUS WEATHER CONDITIONS/LIGHTNING GUIDELINES ([SMP](#))
- G. HEAT ACCLIMATIZATION (HB-By-Law 1.7 & [SMP](#))
- H. ON-SITE PROTEST PROCEDURES (HB-Board Policy)
- I. OXYGEN USE POSITION STATEMENT ([SMP](#))
- J. SANCTIONING (HB-By-Law 3.18)
- K. WET BULB GLOBE THERMOMETER USE ([SMP](#))

SECTION 2: REGULAR SEASON

[\(TOC\)](#)

- A. GAME RULES:** The current National Federation Soccer Rules Book shall govern all competition except where modified by the MSHSAA. MSHSAA By-Law 3.18 and Board policies regarding all tournaments shall be followed by soccer tournament managers.
- B. SOCCER PRE-SEASON JAMBOREE:** MSHSAA boys' and girls' soccer teams are allowed to participate in a scrimmage with other schools after the 9th day of practice and prior to their first regular season contest. Each school will be allowed 1 scrimmage using a 3-team or 4-team format. Schools may **NOT** attend or participate in a 2-team format.

Team scoring and all NFHS rules will be followed and enforced. All scores will be cleared after each period. Teams may wear practice or game uniforms. Admission, if collected, will be determined by the host school.

Each school may only play a maximum of 75 minutes as described below:

3-Team Format

A vs. B 35 minutes

B vs. C 35 minutes

A vs. C 35 minutes

(Each school may only play a maximum of two 35-minute periods.)

4-Team Format

A vs. B 25 minutes

C vs. D 25 minutes

A vs. C 25 minutes

B vs. D 25 minutes

A vs. D 25 minutes

B vs. C 25 minutes

(Each school will play a

maximum of three 25-minute periods.)

Refer to MSHSAA By-Law 3.16.6.

- C. DURATION OF GAME/OVERTIME PROCEDURES:** Rule 7-1-1 – The MSHSAA has adopted the two equal halves of 40 minutes each for senior high contests. Also, the length of play for junior high schools shall be two equal halves of 30 minutes each. Rule 7-1-2 – The MSHSAA has adopted the procedure of shortening periods.
1. Regular season varsity games (conference or nonconference play) – the overtime shall be two ten-minute sudden victory periods with the National Federation Penalty Kick Procedure to follow if necessary. Sub-varsity games in this category shall not play overtime.
 2. Regular season tournament pool play where no advancement from an established bracket is necessary overtime is optional. The options are as follows: (1) no overtime, or (2) the overtime procedure shall be two ten-minute sudden victory periods with the National Federation Penalty Kick Procedure to follow if necessary. The winning team after overtime, and penalty kicks if necessary, will record this result as a win and the losing team will record this result as a loss on their seasonal records. Overtime procedures will be determined at the discretion of the tournament host and must be provided in advance to all tournament participants.
 3. Regular season tournament games when advancement from an established bracket is necessary (not pool play) – the overtime procedure shall be two ten-minute sudden victory periods with the National Federation Penalty Kick Procedure to follow if necessary. The winning team after overtime, and penalty kicks if necessary, will record this result as a win and the losing team will record this result as a loss on their seasonal records.
- D. SUSPENDED/CANCELLED GAME:** 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 and a winner can be determined (score is not tied). If less than one-half has been played or a winner cannot be determined, then the game will be resumed from point of interruption (NFHS Rule 7-1-3 adoption). (See *Hazardous Weather Conditions* Section 1-J)
- E. TIMING FOR HALF-TIME AND BETWEEN GAMES:** Schools shall follow rule book procedures for half-time length and it is recommended that the time between games be no greater than 10 minutes.

- F. MERCY RULE:** Rule 7-1-5 – The MSHSAA has adopted a point differential (8 goals) whereby at the end of the first half if one team has gained the established point differential or if it secures such differential during the second half the game shall be terminated.
- G. FORFEITED GAMES:** A game shall be forfeited if a team fails to report by 15 minutes after the set starting time. Host schools or tournament managers will make the final decision on the forfeit. Every effort should be made to contact a late team. (Unless unavoidable, i.e. bus trouble, etc.)
- H. OFFICIALS:** It is strongly recommended, in the interest of safety, that in areas of the state where the number of officials are available, the three-man officiating system be used for regular season varsity games.
- I. GAME BALL:** All game balls used for interscholastic competition shall possess the NFHS Authenticating Mark. Game officials shall inspect all balls provided for competition for the NFHS Authenticating Mark. Should the host school be unable to provide conforming balls, the official will put into play conforming balls provided by the visiting school. Contest officials are required to notify the MSHSAA office in writing regarding the failure of any host school to provide the marked balls. No contest shall be cancelled and no contest penalties shall be assessed for nonconforming balls. The MSHSAA will provide game balls beginning with the semifinal games. The official soccer ball is the Wilson VIVIDO.
- J. UNIFORMS/PLAYER EQUIPMENT:** The designated home team will be responsible for providing a uniform clearly distinguishing it from the other team. The home team shall wear dark jerseys and dark socks of a single dominant color (Rule 4-1-1a, b). The visiting team shall wear solid white jerseys and solid white socks. If tape or similar material is applied externally to the socks it must be of similar color as that part of the sock to which it is applied. In district play the top team on the bracket shall be considered the home team and shall wear dark jerseys and dark socks. The visiting team shall wear solid white jerseys and solid white socks. Schools shall be reminded to take both solid white and dark jerseys and socks to every game so conflicts can be easily resolved.

In quarterfinal, semifinal, and final play the bottom team on the bracket in even-numbered years will be considered the home team and wear dark jerseys and dark socks of a single dominant color. In odd-numbered years the top team on the bracket will be considered the home team.

Captain Arm Bands: Rule 4-1-2 – Captain Arm Bands must be worn on the arm and must be of contrasting color.

Caps: Rule 4-2-1h – Missouri has adopted the wearing of caps as long as they are all identical.

Artificial Limbs: Rule 4-2-5 – Any participant wearing an artificial limb must have a letter from the MSHSAA indicating that the artificial limb has been reviewed and in the judgment of the MSHSAA, it is permissible to play with such. This permission must be granted PRIOR to the student's participation.

Protective Face Mask: Rule 4-2-8 – A protective face mask may be worn by a player with a facial injury. The mask may be made of a hard material, but must be worn molded to the face with no protrusions. A medical release for the injured player signed by a physician (MD/DO) shall be available at the game site.

K. PRE-GAME CONFERENCE: Officials shall conduct a pre-game conference before each contest at the midfield line which the head coach of both teams (not a representative of the head coach), each team's captains, and all the officials must attend to discuss sportsmanship, identify ball persons (do not start game without two ball persons being provided), game procedures, etc. Coaches must submit a complete roster to the Head Referee. The roster must contain first and last names of each coach on the bench, and the first and last names of all eligible players and jersey numbers associated.

L. YELLOW AND RED CARDS: The following MSHSAA Board of Directors policy will be used regarding the accumulation of yellow and red cards.

1. A yellow card of any type will count towards a player or coaches card count.
2. An individual player or coach that accumulates five yellow cards during the season will be issued a one game suspension for the next game. The second set of five yellow cards received will result in a two-game suspension for the next game; the third set of five yellow cards will result in a three-game suspension for the next game.
3. Card counts from out-of-state games must be reported by the AD to the MSHSAA office.
4. Any player or coach receiving two yellow cards in one game (soft red) will result in a one game suspension. The first yellow card goes towards the player's or coach's yellow card count. The second yellow card is considered a red card and does not count towards a player's or coach's yellow card count. The player or coach will sit out the next game for the red card violation. If the player **or coach** has **four** yellow cards going into a game and gets two additional yellow cards, the player **or coach** will sit out one game for the five yellow cards and will sit out one game for the soft red (total of two games).
5. Same rules apply for the coaches.
6. Postseason card counts will begin at zero starting with the district tournament. If a player or coach accumulates four yellow cards during any part of the state tournament a player or coach will be issued a one game suspension.
7. Officials must submit a special report on the MSHSAA website regarding all yellow and red cards issued.

M. YELLOW CARDS FOR UNSPORTING DISSENT: The following policy will be used regarding the accumulation of yellow cards for Dissent. Dissent is unsportsmanlike behaviors by word (cursing towards officials, opponents, or fans) or shows of dissent by action (unsporting behavior, actions, gestures towards officials, opponents, or fans).

1. An individual player or coach that accumulates three yellow cards during the season for unsportsmanlike dissent cautions will be issued a one game suspension for the next game at that level. The second set of three yellow cards during the season for unsportsmanlike dissent cautions will result in another one game suspension for the next game at that level.
2. A coach whose team receives six unsportsmanlike dissent cautions (yellow card) will result in a one game suspension for the coach at the next game at that level.
3. Unsportsmanlike dissent yellow cards also accumulate towards the yellow and red card count. Thus, if a player or coach had received two yellow cards for unsportsmanlike dissent actions and a total of four yellow cards coming into a game, and in that game received a yellow card for unsportsmanlike dissent behavior, the player or coach would have to sit out of the next game at that level for their third unsportsmanlike dissent yellow card plus another game for their fifth yellow card. In this case, the individual player or coach would have to sit out a total of two games. Likewise, if an individual player or coach came into a game with two yellow cards for unsportsmanlike dissent actions and a total of three yellow cards, and in that game received two additional yellow cards including one for unsportsmanlike dissent actions, the individual or coach would have to sit out a total of three games. One game for three unsportsmanlike dissent actions, one game for the accumulation of five yellow cards, and one game for the soft red card.
4. Card counts from out-of-state games must be reported by the AD to the MSHSAA office.
5. Postseason card counts will begin at zero starting with the district tournament.
6. Officials must submit a special report on the MSHSAA website regarding all yellow cards issued for unsportsmanlike dissent behaviors and those cards should be coded as such in the website by clicking "Unsporting Yellow".

N. EJECTED PLAYER OR COACH

PLAYER:

1. An ejected player is automatically suspended from the next game. Any player that is issued a red card and disqualified before, during, or after a soccer contest shall be prohibited from participating in the next contest for that level by the school administration in accordance with MSHSAA By-Law 5.5.
2. Any player ejected from a tie game remains ineligible for further play in that game and the next game.
3. No player shall verbally, or by action, dispute an official's judgment. (This should always be considered unsporting conduct and the player should be carded with either a red or yellow card.)

COACH:

1. An ejected coach shall be removed from the playing area and bleachers, but should remain available should an emergency situation arise, i.e., visiting coach could go to bus. He/she is prohibited from any further contact, direct or indirect, with the team during the remainder of the game. Failure to comply shall result in the termination of the game. An ejected coach shall not be within sight or sound of the contest.
2. A game may continue only if an assistant coach or a bona fide school faculty member and/or administrator is available to substitute for the coach on the bench.
3. Should there not be a faculty member and/or administrator available, the game will be forfeited.
4. Any coach that is issued a red card and disqualified before, during, or after a soccer contest shall be prohibited from coaching in or attending the next contest for that level team by the school administration in accordance with MSHSAA By-Law 5.5.

O. **SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:** The school of a competitor with a disability or special need may request specific accommodations or to use special equipment. The following items are required before accommodation requests can be reviewed and considered:

1. A written request from the school, describing the competitor's special needs and the specific accommodations being requested. The letter should include the rule references of applicable NFHS Soccer Rules that would be violated without the accommodation.
2. A letter from the parent(s) or guardian confirming the need for an accommodation and approving the accommodation request.
3. A letter from the student's doctor or applicable caregiver describing the medical circumstance or special need, and confirming the need for an accommodation.
4. Photographs of 1) the special equipment, and 2) the student wearing the special equipment, if applicable.

Subsequent requests (after a student is initially approved for an accommodation) will only require the school request (number 1 on the list above.)

Written approval from the MSHSAA office is required prior to any competition. During the regular season, the letter of approval from MSHSAA must be presented to meet officials before any accommodations may be used. **Please allow ONE WEEK for requests to be reviewed prior to the first competition.**

MSHSAA will consider requests if:

1. the sport is not fundamentally altered by the accommodation,
2. the accommodation does not create a risk to either the athlete or others, and
3. the accommodation does not place opponents at a disadvantage.

P. **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP:** Good sportsmanship is an integral part of school activities. Coaches, players and fans should display only those actions which reflect the highest ideals of sportsmanship in the athletic program at all times. Any type of cheering, yelling and other similar actions which are done in a fashion to disconcert or be derogatory toward the opposing team or a specific opponent at the point play is occurring is considered inappropriate. Cheering, yelling and other support should be in a positive nature toward the school team and not done to taunt or disconcert opponents.

Q. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT: The Board of Directors is vested with the power to suspend schools from membership for the unsportsmanlike conduct of teams, coaches, students or fans. Each school is responsible for the conduct of its teams, coaches, students and fans at matches both at home and away.

1. The Board may delegate to the Executive Director power to take immediate action when a situation demands such. The party or parties concerned shall have the privilege of requesting a hearing before the Board of Directors at its next regularly scheduled meeting for a review of the case and the action taken by the MSHSAA Office.
2. The Board of Directors may, at its discretion, substitute a fine not to exceed the sum of \$25.00 for each offense in lieu of suspension from the Association or to take any action that it deems advisable that does not exceed the maximum penalty of 365-day(s) suspension from the Association.

R. CONTEST LIMITATIONS:

1. A Senior High School team may participate in 25 contests during a season.
2. A Junior High School team may participate in 18 contests during a season.

S. ENTERING SCORES/LISTING OFFICIALS: With the removal of the rating system, coaches entering the score of all varsity contests and the officials working the contest will be a requirement. This information should be entered within 24 hours of each game, and they must be completed by the District Entry deadline. Coaches entering the officials working the contest is the only way MSHSAA can track/monitor how many contests an official is working the current year and the previous year. This information is vital to the postseason selection process for both District Tournament Managers and MSHSAA.

T. INDIVIDUAL PLAYER LIMITATIONS (HIGH SCHOOL):

1. Daily Limit: No player may play in more than three halves of soccer per day in a varsity/junior varsity doubleheader against the same school. If a school schedules two/three varsity or two/three junior varsity soccer games against different schools on the same calendar date, a player could play no more than four/six halves on that date, respectively.
2. Season Limit: A player is eligible to play in no more than 66 halves for the season.

SECTION 3: POSTSEASON CRITERIA

([TOC](#))

A. SCHOOLS/INDIVIDUALS

1. Postseason is for member senior high schools only
2. Schools must register for the postseason by the annual deadline
3. A school must have competed in the minimum number of contests (8) for the sport/activity concerned as outlined in Diagram 3-29-6
4. An individual must have represented their school in interscholastic competition in that sport during the current season

B. OFFICIALS: MSHSAA registered officials (not on probation) will be the only eligible officials who can be contracted for postseason contests. Furthermore, only those MSHSAA registered officials who have completed and verified a postseason application shall be eligible to work postseason contests. Officials for the district tournaments will be selected via a regional draft. Officials for all quarterfinals and final site contests will be selected by the MSHSAA staff.

C. MSHSAA BY-LAW PROVISIONS: In order to enter students in the MSHSAA State Soccer Championships Series, the following provisions must be met:

1. A school must have employed a soccer coach and offered instruction in soccer as provided in MSHSAA By-Law 3.1.

D. CLASSIFICATION: The district and state soccer tournaments will be administered under an annual classification based upon the total number of schools participating in the sport. There will be a total of 4 classes with the lowest enrollment schools representing Class 1 and the highest enrollment schools representing Class 4. Classification and district assignments will be released accordingly: Boys = Friday of Week # 8; Girls = Friday of Week # 37.

E. DISTRICT ASSIGNMENTS: District assignments, listing host sites and local managers will be published on the MSHSAA website early in the season. The assignment criteria utilized for the assignment of schools to districts are (1) geographic proximity and (2) approximate numerical balance.

F. SPORTS REGISTRATION FEE: Schools which submitted the Tournament Registration Fee for soccer have been assigned to a District Soccer Tournament.

G. SPORTS SEASON: Only those schools participating in the soccer season, as outlined in MSHSAA Athletic By-Laws (Section 3) will be eligible to enter a district soccer tournament.

H. GAME BALL: The official game ball for the state tournament series is the WILSON VIVIDO. The MSHSAA will provide game balls beginning with the semifinal games.

I. SITE/FIELD QUALIFICATIONS: See Appendix C at the conclusion of this manual for site selection process criteria.

J. DISTRICT & STATE TOURNAMENT: For all classes there will be 8 district tournaments, 4 quarterfinal games, and a state tournament. Quarterfinal winners will advance to the semifinals and finals. A third-place game will be played.

SECTION 4: POSTSEASON ENTRY PROCEDURE

(TOC)

- A. PARTICIPATION IN DISTRICT TOURNAMENT:** Any team scheduled to play in the district tournament that does not appear as scheduled is subject to a forfeit and shall be responsible for paying the scheduled officials' fees in addition to the fee for dropping postseason after the deadline.
- B. ENTRY PROCEDURE:** All school/team district entries shall be submitted online by 4:00 p.m. the day before the district seeding meeting: Boys Class 1-4 Friday of Week #15; Girls Class 1-4 Friday of Week #43. District entry forms will no longer be accepted via fax or e-mail. Failure on the part of the school and/or head coach to complete and submit the proper forms could result in the elimination of the school from the MSHSAA district and/or state championship series. Schools shall submit the following required information on the MSHSAA website under "District Entries."

The online guide for accomplishing this entry procedure can be found on the MSHSAA website by following these steps:

- Log on to your school page as the Athletic Director/Coach.
 - Under "Sports & Activities" select the link "District Entries."
 - Click on "Boys or Girls Soccer."
 - Complete the screens as listed: Officials Recommendations, District Rosters, Season Records, and Pass Lists by the indicated individual deadlines listed on the MSHSAA website (also highlighted on the Dates To Remember page).
1. **OFFICIALS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISTRICT AND STATE:** The rating system has been eliminated. The criteria for selection to MSHSAA postseason contests is located in the Officials Manual. With the elimination of the rating system, more emphasis will be placed on: coaches recommendations/non-recommendations, observers evaluations and recommendations, association recommendations, and Officials Reports. The number of contests worked the current and previous season will also be factors. MSHSAA takes the officials recommendations process very seriously, and coaches will be mandated to provide a list of recommended/non-recommended officials as part of their postseason registration process. This process for postseason officials is designed to enhance the quality of officiating through input from each school on those officials that should be considered for postseason contests. District entries will not be completed without this information, as it is now more important than ever. Coaches must submit their Officials Recommendations for postseason on the MSHSAA website by the established deadline. The more names supplied, the more beneficial the recommendations are to the District Managers and the MSHSAA staff. MSHSAA has the right to dismiss any recommendations/non-recommendations, submitted by the head coach, if it is determined that the coach has abused and/or manipulated the process for intentions not aligned with MSHSAA's purpose and philosophy in selecting postseason officials. **The Officials Recommendations Form must be submitted online no later than 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday: Boys Week #14; Girls Week #42.**
2. **DISTRICT ELIGIBILITY ROSTER:** Eligibility rosters shall be submitted on the MSHSAA website no later than 4:00 p.m. the day before the first allowable district seeding meeting: **Boys Class 1-4 Friday of Week #15; Girls Class 1-4 Friday of Week #43.** A school should include on the list all of its eligible athletes for soccer. No team is to be permitted to participate unless this list is submitted via the MSHSAA website. Managers are instructed to forfeit the game if the eligibility roster is not submitted as herein provided. Each coach shall provide an adequate supply of rosters for the tournaments. Both coaches are to complete a roster for each game and the district manager. Coaches whose teams compete in the district finals, state semifinals and finals shall complete two rosters. One is to be given to the announcer before each game and the second is to be given to the manager.

SUBSTITUTIONS/ADDITIONS:

- a. District eligibility rosters submitted prior to the deadline may be edited for no fee.
- b. A fine of \$50 will be assessed for changes made to the district eligibility roster after Saturday of week 16 for boys and week 44 for girls and prior to the first day of the district tournament.

- c. After the first game of the district tournament, substitutions to the district eligibility roster may only be made in case of illness or injury verified by a physician. Any player who is thus replaced may not return to competition in the district tournament but may return for the state tournament.
 - d. Rosters may be edited between winning the district tournament and playing in the first round of the state tournament (quarterfinals). Even though the availability of a player is doubtful due to an injury or illness, they should be included on the roster submitted between the district tournament and quarterfinal game. After the quarterfinal game has been played no additions may be made to the state roster.
3. **SEASON RECORD:** All schools assigned to the tournament shall be required to have an up-to-date season record on the MSHSAA website no later than 4:00 p.m. the day before the first allowable district seeding meeting Boys Class 1-4 Friday of Week #15; Girls Class 1-4 Friday of Week #43.
 4. **PASS LIST:** The district pass list shall be submitted on the MSHSAA website to the district manager by 12:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the first allowable playing date of the district tournament: Boys Class 1-4 Friday of Week #17; Girls Class 1-4 Friday of Week #45. A separate pass list shall be used for the district and quarterfinal contests. The pass lists are to be used at the site – not sent to the MSHSAA Office. At the semifinal and final contests, individual gate passes will be given to players, coaches, administrators, trainers, cheerleading coaches, etc. of qualifying teams.

Gate passes will be issued to all participating players and coaches for the semifinal/final contests. The number of passes issued to qualifying schools will be based on the numbers submitted on the District Winners Report. An additional seven passes will also be provided to be distributed to managers, bus driver, and student supervisors. A pass for the superintendent, principal, athletic director and cheer coach will be available at the will call window with photo identification.

Varsity cheerleaders shall be admitted free to the session their team plays in semifinal/final contests provided they are in their official school cheerleader uniforms and are accompanied by their cheer coach who must have a pass. They must enter as a group with their coach to gain free admission. The number of varsity cheerleaders is to be verified by the school principal or superintendent.

5. **LATE ENTRIES:** Managers are allowed to accept late entries one week prior to the first allowable playing date of the district tournament. A late entry penalty fee of \$50 shall be assessed for late entries. No entries will be accepted after the first allowable playing date of the district tournament. The district manager shall advise the MSHSAA in writing of any school that submits a late entry or fails to submit the necessary information. The MSHSAA shall invoice any school(s) owing a late entry penalty fee. All late entry penalty fees will be paid to the host school by MSHSAA.
6. **SEEDING MEETING:** The tournament committee along with the district manager shall schedule a meeting to draw the tournament bracket via the following:

The seed meeting should be scheduled during the evening or on a Saturday to avoid conflicts with school time. The seeding must occur between **Saturday of Week #15 and Saturday of Week #16 for boys and Saturday of Week #43 and Saturday of Week #44 for girls.** All schools assigned to the tournament should be notified of the time and place for the meeting at least seven (7) days in advance, and all schools are requested to be represented. A face-to-face seed meeting is highly recommended. A zoom or similar type of conference call may be used in place of an actual meeting if approved by the tournament committee. Email seed meetings are highly discouraged. Plans for the tournament should also be reviewed at the seed meeting.

- Mandatory Seeding Procedures: The participating coaches present shall rank teams for seeding purposes. The teams shall be ranked fairly regardless of how it may affect each coach's team. The seeding procedure is to seed each spot individually starting with the #1 seed, followed by the #2 seed, continuing to the last seed. Schools may not vote for themselves in the seeding process. When ranking the teams, district schools participating in

the meeting shall consider each team's win-loss record (varsity vs. varsity games only), head to head competition, caliber of competition, and common opponents they have played over the season. After the tournament director receives each school vote after each round the tournament director must make each vote known to all participating coaches in the room. If a tie should occur, a second vote would be used to determine the seed but only the district schools who are not involved with the tie would participate in the second vote. If a tie remains, it shall be broken based on head to head competition of the tied teams. Should a tie still exist, a coin flip shall determine the seeds of the tied teams. This specific procedure shall be followed by the district manager.

- All teams shall be seeded. In districts of eight teams or less, byes are to be given first to the first-seeded team, then the second-seeded team, etc.

SECTION 5: CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

(District Tournament thru the State Championships)

(TOC)

A. POSTSEASON BROADCAST: MSHSAA Holds exclusive ALL-PLATFORM DISTRIBUTION rights for AUDIO, DATA, and VIDEO for all postseason contests or festivals (beginning with district level through state) in all activities. Any transmission or production of any portion of these events, without the consent of MSHSAA is prohibited. Events are defined as the competition or performance. This includes, but not limited to, using programs such as Facebook Live, or YouTube.

B. CLASSIFICATIONS (FRIDAY OF WEEK # 8 FOR BOYS; FRIDAY OF WEEK # 37 FOR GIRLS)

1. Schools will be divided into classes as determined by classification procedures outlined in Board Policy. For all classes there will be 8 district tournaments, 4 quarterfinal games, and a state tournament. Quarterfinal winners will advance to the semifinals and finals. A third-place game will be played.
2. Tournament Format
 - a. **Ball Person:** During the district and state tournament series, each team shall furnish one ball person and it is recommended that this same procedure be followed during regular season tournaments as well. For regular season games, National Federation Rule 6-1 states that “at least two ball holders shall be provided by the home team.”
 - b. **Overtime Procedure:** For the district and state tournament series the overtime procedure shall be two 15-minute sudden victory periods with the National Federation Penalty Kick Procedure to follow if necessary. The winning team after overtime and penalty kicks if necessary will record this result as a win and the losing team will record this result as a loss on their seasonal records.
 - c. **Duration Of Game:** In the event a MSHSAA post season soccer game must be called due to darkness, rain, or other causes which make it impossible to continue play, it shall be considered a suspended game and shall be continued from the point of suspension. If the game has reached half-time and a winner can be determined, the team trailing at the time of suspension has the option to return and finish the game or have the current score be considered final. Coaches and officials must sign and date the rosters **and** indicate if the game is official or will be completed at a later date. (See *Hazardous Weather Conditions* Section 1-J)
 - d. **DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS**
 - i. District tournaments shall be scheduled in accord with the committee’s best judgment, including starting times for sessions. If afternoon games are scheduled, it is suggested that these sessions be scheduled after the school day closes. District tournament games shall begin on the first allowable date unless the host school’s fields are not available and in such situations be scheduled as soon as possible.
 - ii. When it becomes necessary to postpone an event, the local manager should check with the MSHSAA Office. Rescheduling on Sunday should be avoided unless absolutely necessary and then only after getting approval of participating schools.
 - iii. Schedule: The principals, athletic directors, and coaches are requested to follow the schedule in this manual.
 - a. **District tournament games shall be played:**
Boys Class 1-4: Saturday of Week #17 – Tuesday of Week #19
Girls Class 1-4: Saturday of Week #45 – Tuesday of Week #47
 - b. **The district tournament must begin by Tuesday of Week # 18 for boy’s soccer and Tuesday of Week 46 for girl’s soccer.**
 - c. Postponed games shall be played on the first possible date following the postponement.
 - d. The schools winning district tournaments shall contact immediately the host site manager for necessary information and instructions.
 - e. See the MSHSAA website at www.mshsaa.org for brackets for district, sectional, and quarterfinal game sites and times.
 - f. Trophies will be presented to the place winners at the state tournament. Plaques will be given to district winners and runners-up. Plaques will be mailed directly to district managers and winners will receive the plaques at the site.

e. **QUARTERFINAL GAMES**

- i. The host school for the quarterfinal game will be the top team on the bracket in odd years and the bottom team on the bracket in even years.
 - ii. All soccer quarterfinal games occurring on a Saturday must have a scheduled starting time between 12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m.; quarterfinal games occurring on a weekday must have a scheduled starting time between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. A starting time scheduled outside these parameters must be approved in advance by both school administrators and the MSHSAA staff.
 - iii. Schools that do not meet the minimum state field dimensions (60 yards by 110 yards) or do not have lighted fields and are scheduled to host a sectional or quarterfinal game must secure a suitable alternative location or portable lighting at no cost to the MSHSAA. If the host school is unable to secure an alternative site or portable lighting at no cost to the MSHSAA, the game shall be played at the non-host schools location. If the non-host school is unable to provide a suitable playing field or is unable to secure an alternative site at no cost to the MSHSAA, both schools will incur the expense of securing a neutral site. A host site that forfeits or is unable to host a round of the playoffs will still be considered as hosting that round when it comes to the formula in determining the host site for the next round.
 - iv. The quarterfinal games shall be played:
Boys Class 1-4: Saturday of Week #19
Girls Class 1-4: Saturday of Week #47
 - v. Instructions will be electronically delivered to the AD/coach of the winning team immediately following the quarterfinal game.
- f. **STATE TOURNAMENTS:** See brackets on the MSHSAA website for times and field assignments.
- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <u>Boys Class 1-4:</u> | Semifinals: Friday of Week #20 |
| | Finals: Saturday of Week #20 |
| <u>Girls Class 1-4:</u> | Semifinals: Friday of Week #48 |
| | Finals: Saturday of Week #48 |

*See brackets on the MSHSAA website for game sites and times.

C. **DIGITAL TICKETS:** Hometown Ticketing is the official partner for digital ticketing.

1. Districts: Use of digital ticketing will be a host school option
2. State Series: Use of digital ticketing will be REQUIRED. No paper ticketing will be available.
3. Contact: digitaltickets@mshsaa.org

D. **ADMISSION CHARGES:** Required for all spectators ages six (6) and up

1. District Games: \$6:00
2. Quarterfinal Game: \$8.00
3. Championship Games: \$10.00

APPENDIX A:
PROGRAM INFORMATION AND STATISTICS
([TOC](#))

The MSHSAA staff strives to publish the most accurate materials for all Championship events. Since a majority of the information contained in Championship publications is submitted by qualifying schools, it is imperative that the MSHSAA office receive correctly-spelled names, accurate classifications (year in school), season results, statistics of participants and coaching information. The MSHSAA Board of Directors has approved a fine process for all late, incomplete or illegible submissions for MSHSAA Championship publications. Schools that do not submit their information to MSHSAA in a timely, legible, complete and accurate manner will be fined \$25 per offense (Board Policy #22). Electronic reports must be submitted by the appropriate deadline in the format and style included with the report instructions. It is the responsibility of the school to verify that MSHSAA has received its program information, team photo and any other required information by the appropriate deadline.

In addition to the appropriate roster and schedule information, the following statistical information will be requested for soccer teams advancing past the district tournament:

G	Games Played
Gls	Goals scored by the player
A	Assists recorded by the player
Pts	Points scored by the player (Goals are 2 pts, Assists are 1 pt)
GKM	Goalie Minutes- minutes played as goalie (can be rounded to halves)
GA	Goals Against
S	Saves
SO	Shutouts recorded by goalie (must be only goalie used in that game to be considered a shutout for the individual). Shutouts recorded by a team when two or more goalies are used are team shutouts only.

Note:

- 1) These numbers should represent all games played through the district tournament and will be required for teams advancing past the district tournament. Any statistical information to be found incomplete will result in a fine per Board Policy #9 as listed above.
- 2) Stats only need to be entered once prior to the Sectional game. The stats will not need to be updated after each playoff contest.
- 3) If you have any statistical questions, do not hesitate in contacting Jason West in the MSHSAA office by e-mailing jason@mshsaa.org or calling (573) 875-1077.

APPENDIX B: MSHSAA POSITION STATEMENT REGARDING U.S. COPYRIGHT COMPLIANCE

[\(TOC\)](#)

Educators, coaches, and administrators who wish to use copyrighted material need to understand the privileges and rights of the copyright owner and must abide by defined limitations as expressed in U.S. Copyright Law. It is the responsibility of the school administration to ensure their school community is in compliance with U.S. Copyright Laws at all times when playing music at your events, reproducing consumable materials, and all other events taking place at school facilities where copyright laws are to be followed. When hosting a MSHSAA postseason event, the host site is responsible for confirming any music being played over a public sound system, used in video clips, etc., has the gained written permission and/or secured the necessary license(s) to play the music, video clips, etc. from the appropriate Performing Rights Organization (i.e. ASCAP, BMI, SESAC, other).

The NFHS (National Federation of State High Schools) has established an agreement with ASCAP to allow schools and non-school sites hosting a MSHSAA postseason event, to perform/play music in which they own the rights (at least 50%) of the work at no charge. It is your responsibility to ensure the music performed onsite is owned by ASCAP. To determine if the music is owned by ASCAP go to www.ASCAP.com and select the link 'Repertory' to search their catalog. If the work is not owned by ASCAP (at least 50%), you will need to work directly with the organization that does own the rights (BMI, SESAC, etc.) to secure the necessary license or not use that work. This agreement only extends to the playing of music recordings downloaded to personal electronic devices, CD's, etc. but does not extend to mash-up recordings or music altered from its original recording without the site obtaining a license to do so.

APPENDIX C: SITE SELECTION PROCESS

(TOC)

A. General Process: District Site Selection Process

1. Following the assignment of all registered schools to classifications and districts, the MSHSAA staff shall select one Athletic Administrator or Principal (per district) to serve as the Site Selection Chairperson for the purpose of coordinating the process.
2. The chairperson shall be contacted and confirmed via email by the MSHSAA staff.
3. Each chairperson shall review the list of schools assigned to their district located on the activity page on www.mshsaa.org under the "Class and District Assignments" link
4. Each chairperson will contact all athletic administrators of schools and arrange a meeting (face-to-face is preferred but telephone conference call, email, fax, ballot, etc. is acceptable) to select the host site(s). MSHSAA shall incur no expense in conjunction with this meeting.
5. The request shall be to select the host site(s) for only the current classification cycle.
6. Schools wishing to host, shall complete and submit the District Host Submission Form (Appendix F) to provide evidence that facilities and staffing meet the necessary and/or recommended requirements to safely, securely and adequately provide for the conduct of the district tournament.
7. The chairperson shall distribute all submitted forms to district members for review prior to the selection meeting.
8. The chairperson shall notify the MSHSAA office, via email, by the established deadline and indicate the selected host site(s) and manager's information and the District Host Submission Form.
9. The MSHSAA staff shall review the submitted host sites for any necessary adjustments and final approval. The MSHSAA staff and/or Board of Directors shall select the host site when a district committee is unable to reach agreement or the Board determines a suggested site is unacceptable due to site constraints. A neutral site may only be used, provided there is prior approval from MSHSAA, due to confirmation of inadequate facilities at the assigned district schools or unusual circumstances. The neutral site shall be at no additional expense to MSHSAA.
10. Prior to final approval, a Medical Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for all state series sites and venues must be confirmed/uploaded to the MSHSAA website prior to hosting. The medical EAP shall specifically require an onsite AED and use of MSHSAA's AED Guidelines as posted on the Sports Medicine page at www.mshsaa.org
11. Following final approval, host sites shall be added to the district assignments link and the district managers' packets shall be forwarded to each district manager within an appropriate time frame to allow for proper administering of the event.

B. Specific Criteria for District Sites

1. The Board of Directors has taken the position on the locations for District and State Tournaments that competition sites for all district and state series events shall be conducted in Missouri unless a school owned facility, contiguous to the school campus is beyond the state border.
2. The site facility(s) must be in compliance with the Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act as a place of public accommodation.
3. A Medical Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for the venue being used for hosting a postseason contest must be uploaded and accounted for at www.mshsaa.org. The medical EAP shall specifically require an onsite AED and use of MSHSAA's AED Guidelines as posted on the Sports Medicine page at www.mshsaa.org
4. Secure location for contest officials to be sequestered from teams and spectators.
5. Ability to take admission for all contests.
6. Seating capacity shall be adequate to accommodate anticipated attendance.
7. Adequate off-street parking available for the seating capacity of the facility – required.
8. Adequate concessions available for spectators – required.

C. Specific Criteria For Soccer District Sites:

1. To host a district and/or state tournament game, the soccer facility must meet the following requirements: a quality surface, a minimum playing field of 60 yards by 110 yards, and it is strongly recommended that the playing field be 70 yards in width and 120 yards in length when possible, adequate seating capacity, lights (when possible), scoreboard and timing device.

2. Districts that do not have participating schools that have adequate facilities to host the district tournament (i.e., minimum state field requirements of 60 yards by 110 yards) must secure a suitable alternative at no cost to the MSHSAA. If the participating schools are unable to secure a suitable playing field at no cost to the MSHSAA the participating schools will incur the expense of securing a neutral site to host, the district tournament.
3. School location (playing field) within the schools assigned to the specific district is considered for reasonable travel.
4. As many games as possible shall be played at night to accommodate parents and spectators.
5. Properly maintained adequate bleacher seating with a strong under structure including foot boards is available for spectators from both the visiting and home teams is preferred.
6. A scoreboard with an automatic timing device and a public address announcer is preferred.
7. Availability of adequate restrooms for public use is required.
8. During all district and/or state tournament series games the playing field must have four corner flags with midfield flags or cones optional.
9. During all district and/or state tournament series games each game will have three balls available (one in the game and one each in the hands of the two ball persons).
10. Schools selected to host must be willing and capable of hosting. Schools electing not to participate in the site selection process method shall not have a vote in any alternative method before or after the fact.
11. Following final Board of Directors' approval, district assignments shall be printed indicating host sites and further advancement procedures including quarterfinal, and/or final sites selected by the MSHSAA staff and Board of Directors.

APPENDIX D: SOCCER BRACKET ROTATION

[\(TOC\)](#)

<u>21-22, 24-25, 27-28, 12-13, 15-16, 18-19</u>			<u>20-21, 23-24, 26-27, 11-12, 14-15, 17-18</u>			<u>19-20, 22-23, 25-26, 10-11, 13-14, 16-17</u>		
1	1	A	1	1	A	1	1	A
2	2	vs.	2	2	vs.	2	2	vs.
	3	B		3	B		3	B
	4			4			4	
5	9	E	7	13	G	3	5	C
6	10	vs.	8	14	vs.	4	6	vs.
	11	F		15	H		7	D
	12			16			8	
3	5	C	3	5	C	5	9	E
4	6	vs.	4	6	vs.	6	10	vs.
	7	D		7	D		11	F
	8			8			12	
7	13	G	5	9	E	7	13	G
8	14	vs.	6	10	vs.	8	14	vs.
	15	H		11	F		15	H
	16			12			16	



MISSOURI STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

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