



2020-2021

MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Soccer, Girls and Boys

Section Tournament Information

Dates	Monday, October 12- Saturday, October 24, 2020
Location/Facility	Sections have local control to schedule host sites – high seeds or neutral sites are optional. High Seeds are recommended for sites to greatest extent possible.
Tournament Format	<p>Teams are limited to TWO games per week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Week - starting on October 12, should be used for rounds of 16 (pre-quarterfinals) for large Class A sections and quarterfinals for both Class A and Class AA sections.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Monday, October 12 & Tuesday, October 13 - To accommodate the number of officials needed to work the rounds of 16 (pre-quarterfinals), sections that need games to get to 8 teams should have first rounds on Monday, October 12 or Tuesday, October 13. Sections with eight teams or fewer should not schedule games for these dates.○ Wednesday, October 14 – Saturday, October 17 - Quarterfinals for all sections should take place between Wednesday, October 14 and Saturday, October 17. Sections are encouraged to consider Wednesday or Friday games to accommodate the number of officials, which is lower in 2020.• Second Week – The week starting on October 19 should be used for semifinals and finals. <p>Dividing large sections into subsections based on geography, when feasible, is highly encouraged to limit travel.</p> <p>SECTIONS WITH MORE THAN 16 TEAMS To fulfill the Board of Directors guidance of two games per week per team, there is not time for brackets larger than 16 teams to be completed in two weeks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If teams can participate in play-in/pre-quarterfinal games during the week of October 5 WITHOUT exceeding the limit of two games per week, play-in games into a bracket of 16 can be scheduled. This is a local decision for each section.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An additional secondary competition could be scheduled for teams that are seeded 17 and higher in place of the extended bracket. This secondary competition can be bracketed and can result in a champion of the secondary competition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To accommodate the number of officials, it is highly encouraged that the majority of these games be scheduled for the week of October 19, noting that teams still cannot play more than two games per week.
Changes/ Adjustments in MSHSL Approved Season Sport Guidance	All MSHSL Approved Season Sport Guidance remain in effect.

Information on Advancement	Advancement beyond Section Tournament is TBD
Site Management (Spectators, Concessions, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See MSHSL Soccer Guidance and Information • Up to 250 spectators or 25% of the venue may be allowed in accordance with Governor’s Orders. • Per MDH recommendations, concessions shall not be sold..
Tournament Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team members, game officials and site staff (including ticket takers/sellers, administrative supervision from both schools, certified athletic trainer, announcer, etc.) do NOT count toward the maximum number of occupants. These individuals are considered “essential” to the game.
Seeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dividing large sections into subsections based on geography, when feasible, is highly encouraged to limit travel.
Awards/Certificates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trophies 1st - 2nd Place Teams • Medals 1st - 2nd Place Teams (24)
Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accommodate the number of officials needed to work the rounds of 16 (pre-quarterfinals), sections that need games to get to 8 teams should have first rounds on Monday, October 12 or Tuesday, October 13. Sections with eight teams or fewer should not schedule games for these dates. • Quarterfinals for all sections should take place between Wednesday, October 14 and Saturday, October 17. Sections are encouraged to consider Wednesday or Friday games to accommodate the number of officials, which is lower in 2020.
Streaming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streaming could take place.
Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media guidance provided by league should be used as a guide.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media allowed indoors is TBA
Promotions/Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Method for sharing brackets/results TBA
Ticketing/Passes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ticketing and passes must comply with the Executive Order limiting spectators and others to a total of 250 individuals. (This limit is for anyone not essential to the competition; participants, coaches, officials, etc.) • Section committees can determine how to best divide up tickets for its section games, allowing for fans from both teams the opportunity to attend (for example, the host team cannot use the maximum number of tickets, allowing none for the visiting team). <u>Most ADs have been doing this all season so will have ideas of how this is being handled best locally.</u> Some examples used during the regular season include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Allowing a certain number of tickets per athlete on each team ○ Allowing a lower number of tickets per athlete on each team and additional tickets for student fans and general public ○ Schools may determine how to best select which student fans have an opportunity to purchase tickets: first-come, first-served; priority to seniors; as a reward for a contest, attendance, etc. ○ Tickets can be presold at schools, or schools can submit lists of people who can purchase tickets on site (again, rely on ADs for best practice locally). If lists of people are being provided to ticket sellers, it is encouraged that a staff member from both schools be on-hand to assist ticket sellers with any conflicts regarding names or identities. • Section committees determine ticket prices

All aspects of athletics including meetings, practices, competitions, transportation and facility usage must align with the requirements of the Minnesota Department of Education plan for return to learning, must follow the requirements from the Minnesota Department of Health’s Guidance on Youth Sports, and must include the required actions identified in the Governor’s Executive Orders.

Sportsmanship should have a constant presence in all school-based athletics.

- Teams are encouraged to find appropriate methods of demonstrating good sportsmanship and respect towards others within the physical distance guidance.

- Additional care should be taken when addressing contest officials with questions or seeking interpretations. At no time, other than in the natural course of competition, should a coach or player violate the required physical distance with an official. Any coach or player verbally interacts with an official must do so with a mask on and at a safe distance.

General COVID Safety:

1. Educate athletes about physical distancing, handwashing and sanitizer use, and other immune system protocols.
2. Any person who has had a fever or cold symptoms in the previous 24 hours should not be allowed to take part in workouts and should contact his or her primary care provider or other appropriate healthcare professional.
3. Individually or as a team, participants should confirm that they are symptom free. These confirmations can be aligned with the CDC's "Coronavirus Self-Checker" or current MDH recommendations.
4. A record should be kept of all individuals present at practices and competitions (contact tracing).
5. It is recommended that personal prep areas are to be set up prior to practice - Cones or other markers should be set up at least 6 feet apart so players have a specific place for their own bag, water bottle, etc. One cone or marker should be assigned per player.
6. Avoid grouping of athletes at start and end of practice or during transitions Staggered start times for practices and team meetings are recommended, when possible and when field space does not allow players to come and go from separate areas.
7. Workouts should be conducted in "pods" – following current MDH Return-to-Play guidelines. Pods are small groups of students always working out together. This will ensure limited exposure if someone develops an infection.
8. Whenever possible, players should maintain the recommended six feet of distancing between individuals and should not be in contact with each other. In addition, there is to be no sharing of equipment to the extent that it is possible.
9. Officials are not expected to monitor physical distancing: each person is responsible to provide space between themselves and others. Coaches should provide direction to their students regarding social distancing and other safety protocols.
10. Team celebrations or congratulations should be no-touch and should be done with appropriate social distancing.
11. When spectators are allowed at outside events, they should not have access to student athletes during the competition. Social distancing should be practiced throughout the entire event and spectators may connect with participants following the completion of the event.

MSHSL Soccer Guidance and Information

Practice	
Required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand sanitizer should be available for each student-athlete and used as often as possible.
Recommendations and Considerations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks* are strongly recommended for student-athletes and coaches before and after practice. • Masks are recommended for coaches and school personnel during practice. Err on the side of safety whenever possible. • Recommended that all activities occur outdoors
Equipment	
Required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pinnies should not be shared among student-athletes and need to be washed in between uses. • Soccer balls should be sanitized before and/or after each practice, whether self-provided or brought by the coach.
Recommendations and Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goalies are recommended to use hand sanitizer to moisten their gloves (instead of saliva). • With the exception of goalies, players should avoid any hand contact with soccer balls during practice. Feet should be used for collecting soccer balls, etc. • A limited number of people should handle cones, with the use of hand sanitizer after handling cones.
Competition	
Masks/Face Coverings	
Required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All participants, including student-athletes, coaches, officials and personnel, must wear masks <u>if they cannot socially distance</u> at 6 feet from others, unless actively participating in the game. This includes coming and going from the facility, and on the sideline during the game. • If a student-athlete needs to recover after coming off the field and before putting on mask, the player should stand 12 feet away from others.
Recommendations and Considerations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All participants are strongly encouraged to wear masks during the Pregame Conference. • All participants, including student-athletes, coaches, officials and personnel, are strongly encouraged to wear masks when arriving and leaving the site. • All participants, including student-athletes, coaches, officials and personnel, are strongly encouraged to wear masks on

	<p>the sideline. If coaches need to remove a mask to give instructions to a player across the field, they need to be away from other sideline personnel and players.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On field, masks are permissible for players and officials, but not required. • Note: Gaiters can also be used in place of masks.
Equipment	
Required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soccer balls should be sanitized pregame, at halftime, and postgame. This is the home team’s responsibility.
Recommendations and Considerations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical gloves are permissible for players and officials. • If a player uses a mouthguard, it should not be removed. Wash hands after handling. (4-2-7)
Site Set Up	
Required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Benches - Bench personnel should observe social distancing of 6 feet. Recommend to place tape or other marks 6 feet apart on the bench. • Coaches are limited to regular team box, but box width for student-athletes and other bench personnel can be flexible to allow social distancing. (Rule 1-5-3) • If Officials Table is on sideline - Limit to essential personnel which includes home team scorer and timer with a recommended distance of 6 feet between individuals. Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential personnel and will need to find an alternative location.
Recommendations and Considerations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coaches/administration should assess and determine appropriate sideline spacing for each individual site. How can you best spread out bench personnel? What is best for your site? For example, benches can be put on opposite sides of the field, or on the same side, whichever is best for each site to allow social distancing. Benches can be staggered or spread out in a line. (Rule 1-5-1 and 1-5-3) • Recommended that players’ bags/equipment should be placed/stored 6 feet away from others’ bags. Players should store their gear in their bags (as opposed to a community pile, or tossed on the bench). • In inclement weather, remind student-athletes to bring appropriate rain gear, etc. (Bench personnel cannot safely all huddle under an 8x8 or 10x10 tent.)
Pre-competition	

<p>Required:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregame Conference (5-2-2d) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit attendees to head or center referee, the head coach from each team, and a single captain from each team. • Move the location of the pregame conference to center of the field (or other area that allows participants to spread out). All individuals maintain a social distance of 6 feet. • Suspend handshakes prior to and following the Pregame Conference. • Only the owner of the coin should handle the coin during toss. • Suspend the pregame World Cup introduction line and send players to their field positions with bench personnel lined up on the touch line (6 feet apart) for introductions and National Anthem (or similar adjustment to avoid close player contact). • Team huddles should be avoided (pregame and throughout competition). • If teams are arriving for the second game of a double-header, they should not enter the venue until the previous teams have left the venue.
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Competition

<p>Required:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substitution Procedures - Maintain social distancing of 6 feet between the substitutes, officials and/or teammate(s). (Rule 3-4-1a) • No Substitutions on Corner Kicks: Rule 3-3-4b. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rationale: Corner Kicks often result in 15 to 16 players tightly grouped together in close proximity. Adding substitutions to this situation adds unnecessary time and exposure. • Ball chasers must socially distance from one another and other personnel of at least 6 feet. • Ball chasers must be 7th grade or above. • Prolonged injuries – Teams may be dismissed to the benches. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rationale: be able to handle their own water bottle, as opposed to teammates handing them onto field, and can make unlimited subs on injuries regardless. (Rule 12-8-1a) • Eliminate Overtime for Regular Season Games: Rule 7-3-1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rationale: Extra time adds unnecessary exposure. • Running Time: Mercy rule 5-goal difference (Rule 6-2-3)
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rationale: Stopping the clock after goals will end when a team is losing by 5 or more goals. Stopping the clock will resume when the difference falls to less than 5 goals. Extra time adds unnecessary exposure.
<p>Recommendations and Considerations:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit number of ball chasers (recommendation to limit to four and place one ball at each goal). • Ball chasers are recommended to wear masks, and use hand sanitizer frequently. Consider travel-sized sanitizer to carry throughout game. • Ball chasers should use feet instead of hands whenever possible. • Avoid delays in start of play, so that players do not have prolonged periods of standing in close proximity. Players should limit direct contact until the ball is ready to be put into play (free kicks, throw ins, goal kicks, corner kicks). • Personal hygiene – coaches should remind student-athletes to practice safe personal hygiene (being away from others when spitting, covering sneezes/coughs, etc.) • Inclement weather – if a game has to be postponed due to lightning, when making the decision to wait 30 minutes or postpone to a later date (if the game is in the first half) or declare the competition complete (if the game is in the second half), administration and officials should work together to consider if student-athletes can be safely socially distanced while taking shelter. If taking shelter will put many participants in a tight indoor space (bus, practice shed, small hallway, etc.), officials and administration may choose to implement a contest-ending procedure prior to waiting 30 minutes.
<p>Post Competition</p>	
<p>Required:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspend post-game protocol of shaking hands. • Teams need to clean bench areas completely so they are free of ALL trash and belongings.
<p>Recommendations and Considerations:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teams’ post-game meetings should be brief (leave venue asap). • Referees’ post-game meetings should be brief (leave venue asap). • Teams/coaches can consider other ways to show post-game appreciation for opponents and officials.