



2023-2024 MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Boys and Girls Soccer Rules, Policies, and Bylaws

General Information

See the [MSHSL Handbook Page](http://www.mshsl.org/governance) (www.mshsl.org/governance) for information regarding the following:

- Multiple Level Teams at Sub-Varsity Level
- Official Squad Size
- Substitution in MSHSL Tournaments
- Weather Conditions (heat, cold, lightning & air quality)

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 501](#) for information regarding:

- Maximum Number of Contest Chart

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 502](#) for information regarding:

- Daily and Season Player Participation Limitations

CONTEST RULES

Refer to [Bylaw 402](#): Except as modified by the League, the National Federation of High School Association rules for the current year shall be the official game rules for all interscholastic contests in which League members participate.

END OF SEASON

Refer to [Bylaw 411](#)

- A. Student Participation on a Non-School Team While the Season is Still in Progress:
 1. The season shall end when the student or the student's team has been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series.
 2. Students who have been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series may participate as an individual or as a member of a non-school team in that sport.
- B. School Team Practice and Competition: The "end of season" shall be defined to be the last date of the state tournament in that sport.
 1. Schools may continue to conduct practice and training for all squad members, including the students who have been eliminated from further individual competition in a League-sponsored series until completion of the state tournament conducted by the League in that activity.
 2. Dual contests may be scheduled after the start of the official League tournament series providing the school does not exceed the maximum number of games/matches/meets permitted in that activity.
- C. No school may engage in any meet or meets, practice, training or other activities between the end of the season and the opening of the next season.
- D. During the Summer Vacation Period ([Bylaw 208](#) - Non-School Competition and Training - Team and Individual Sports) members of a high school team may participate on a non-school team and they may receive coaching or training from a salaried or non-salaried member of the student's sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity high school coaching staff in that sport provided the school has approved a summer coaching waiver for the coach or coaches of that sport. Team and Individual Sports) members of a

high school team may participate on a non-school team and they may receive coaching or training from a salaried or non-salaried member of the student's sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity high school coaching staff in that sport provided the school has approved a summer coaching waiver for the coach or coaches of that sport.

VIDEO TAPING ANOTHER SCHOOL'S GAME

It shall be an ethical violation to tape another school's game, meet or contest without their permission. Further it may be a violation of the laws governing copyrights. Each school owns the copyrights to their games, meets and contests. Taping another school's game without permission could constitute a violation of the copyright law.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPECTATOR CONDUCT

In order to elevate standards of sportsmanship and encourage the growth of responsible citizenship among the students, member schools, fans and school personnel, the MSHSL held a Sportsmanship Summit and asked student participants to identify behavior expectations they felt should be in place at every school event.

These minimum behavior expectations provide a foundation upon which member schools, conferences, administrative regions and the League's Board of Directors can build specific guidelines for activities under their control.

MSHSL [Bylaw 409](#) RESPONSIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATING TEAMS, STUDENTS AND SPECTATORS, speaks to this issue, directly, and Bylaw 409-2 specifically states that, "School officials shall be held responsible for the proper conduct of teams, team members, students and home spectators regardless of where the contest is being held."

In all MSHSL activities, each participating school shall designate a person or persons from that school to serve as crowd control supervisors or chaperones. MSHSL tournament staff may require school administrators to contact the tournament manager prior to the start of the tournament game so that they can be immediately contacted to respond to behavioral issues regarding their team members, students and/or spectators at the tournament site. Each supervisor or chaperone should be immediately identifiable to the students and to the tournament site ushers and other security personnel. This will help to coordinate crowd control between school supervisors and tournament site personnel. 8/9/2005

MSHSL MINIMAL BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS DEVELOPED BY STUDENT ATHLETES (5/31/23)

- [Behavior Expectations](http://www.mshsl.org/behaviorexpectations) (www.mshsl.org/behaviorexpectations)

MSHSL MINIMAL BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS FOR REGULAR AND POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT COMPETITIONS

- Respect the American flag and the National Anthem.
- Spectators must wear clothing that covers the entire torso. Those who do not comply or who wear clothing that is vulgar, obscene or that in some other way inappropriate, as determined by school/tournament personnel, will be removed from the arena/stadium if they do not cooperate with this behavior expectation.
- The use of appropriate language is expected at all times. Profanity, negative chants, booing, trash talk, name calling, personal attacks or other acts of disrespect are unacceptable and must be immediately addressed by school and/or tournament administrators.
- Respect the game/contest. Under no condition shall anyone other than the members of the official squad enter the playing surface. No one may interfere with the contest in any way.

- Hand-held signs, which do not obstruct the view of others, will be permitted provided they are in good taste. Signs, message boards, “white” boards or other similar items contest/tournament officials deem to be in poor taste will be removed.
- Artificial noise makers (i.e. megaphones, cowbells, sirens, whistles, thunder sticks, and other similar items) are not allowed.
- Laser lights are strictly prohibited.

THANK YOU for supporting your student athletes and fine arts participants and for providing a positive environment in which educational activities are conducted.

Soccer Information – Regular Season

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 514](#) for information regarding:

- Contests
- Equipment Issued
- Last Date to Join a Team
- Practice Sessions before First Contest
- Season Begins

RULE MODIFICATIONS

- A. Jewelry (Rule 4-2-4a): A religious medal or other religious items must be taped to the body and worn under the uniform if possible.
- B. Number of Officials (Rule 5-1): No varsity game will start with only one official. It is not a legal game unless there are at least two officials. Schools may not agree to play with one official.
- C. Official Scorekeeper (Rule 6-3)
The official scorer may be located in one of three places:
 1. At the halfway line, which is a distance of 10 yards from the start of each bench.
 2. In the press box.
 3. In a position on the end of the team bench closest to the halfway line.
 The host school must inform the official prior to the start of the game as to the location of the official scorer. **Substitutions will report to the halfway line. Entry onto the field of play by a substitute is prohibited until approved by the referee.
- D. Suspended Games (Rule 7-1-3): If less than one half of the game has been played, the game will be replayed from the start of the game. The host school has the authority to suspend a game for inclement weather.
- E. Tie Games (Rule 7-3): Regular season games which end tied after regulation time shall be recorded as a tie.
- F. Mercy Rule (Rule 7-4): In the second half, if the goal differential is five goals or more, the clock will only stop for serious injury.

G. Policy for Disqualified Players (Rule 12-8)

1. Any player disqualified from the game for any reason, including a soft Red Card (two yellow cards), shall be disqualified from that game and the next game of that season. Application of the following progressive game disqualification structure applies throughout each season, including playoff games:
 - a. First disqualification - that game plus the next scheduled game.
 - b. Second and all subsequent disqualifications - that game plus the next four scheduled games in that sport.
2. Use of ineligible player following a game disqualification. The score book shall indicate that a player was ejected in the previous game. Game officials shall check the Varsity and JV score books prior to the start of each game. Penalty for use of an ineligible player shall be enforced and result in an automatic forfeiture of game. A complete report of the violation must be submitted to the League Office.

POLICY FOR "B" SQUAD AND/OR JV DISQUALIFIED PLAYERS

JV and B-squad Game Disqualification - a player disqualified from a B-squad or JV game shall be disqualified from that game and the next Varsity, JV or B-squad game of that season.

MOUTH GUARDS

The use of mouth guards is strongly recommended. Mouth guards that have been cut down or modified in any manner are illegal equipment.

UNIFORMS

Players must wear game uniforms (shirts and shorts) and/or school-approved attire when they enter the contest area, including the field of play.

Soccer Information – Post Season

REGION/SECTION SEEDING CONSISTENCY - [Seeding Consistency](http://www.mshsl.org/sectionseeding) (www.mshsl.org/sectionseeding)

ELIGIBILITY DURING MSHSL TOURNAMENTS - SUBSECTION, SECTION AND STATE

Refer to [Bylaw 206.4.B.1.d](#): A student must be fully eligible under all local school district policies, MSHSL Bylaws and Rules & Policies to be in uniform, occupy the bench or playing area, participate and receive individual/team awards, including all-tournament honors, in the awards ceremony.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN LEAGUE-SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS

Refer to [Bylaw 405](#): A member school must schedule a minimum of three interscholastic varsity games, meets or matches to qualify for League-sponsored tournament participation in that sport.

SECTION TOURNAMENTS

All information and directions for Section Soccer Tournaments will come to each school from the Section Soccer Tournament Manager.

STATE TOURNAMENT SCHOOL QUALIFYING INFORMATION

Specific information for qualifying schools is posted on MSHSL Dashboards under State Tournament Resources.

CLASSES

For the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 seasons, the state tournament will be conducted in 3 classes, determined by school enrollment.

Class AAA: Largest 64

Class AA: Next 64

Class A: Remainder

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT BALL

Select Royale

SEEDING THE STATE TOURNAMENT

The coaches of the teams who qualify for the state tournament will rank the eight section teams to determine the top five teams. The opponents for the top three seeded teams will be determined by a random draw. The fourth and fifth seeded teams will play each other. Results of the seeding will be posted to the MSHSL website by on Sunday before the start of the state tournament.

OFFICIAL SQUAD

22 Players

2 Student Managers

3 Coaches

SUSPENDED GAMES

Games that have been suspended before the completion of the first half, or are tied at the point of suspension, shall be replayed from the start.

SUBSTITUTION IN LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS

Certification and Substitutions for Team Sports:

After an official squad for a tournament has been certified to the governing committee, substitutions are not permitted except under the following conditions:

1. That a physician indicates that a student listed on the certified roster must not participate.
 - a. This student may be returned to the tournament squad upon certification, in writing, by the physician to the governing committee.
 - b. When such a player is returned to the tournament squad, the player replaces the substitute.
2. That the governing committee determines that a justifiable emergency indicates a need for the withdrawal of a certified player. A justifiable emergency does not include the removal of a student from competition once the determination of ineligibility of the athlete by the school.
 - a. This student may be returned to the tournament squad by action of the governing committee.
 - b. When such a player is returned to the tournament squad, the player replaces the substitute.

TIE BREAKING PROCEDURE

Section and State Tournaments:

1. Teams remain in the bench area for a five-minute rest period.
2. The choice of ends will be determined by a toss of a coin with the visiting team captain making the call while the coin is in the air.

3. A 20-minute sudden death overtime period will be played. At the start of the period, the clock will be set at 10 minutes. A kickoff shall initiate the play. (Teams will change ends after ten minutes of play. Teams do not go to their bench; coaches do not talk to the captain; play should be continued immediately.)
4. If a tie still exists, each coach selects five players, on or off the field (except those who were disqualified), to take penalty kicks. A coin toss will determine which team shoots first. The referee designates which captain will call the coin toss. The team winning the coin toss has the choice of shooting first or second. The teams alternate kickers with the goalkeeper being any eligible team member. The team scoring on the greater number of kicks shall be the winner.
5. If the score is still tied, each coach will select five additional players and continue with the same procedure; except that beginning with the sixth kick, a winner will be declared if one team scores and the opponent fails to score on a turn. A different player shall take each kick, and not until 10 players of any team have attempted a kick, may a player of the same team have a second kick. When repeating the procedure, a winner will be declared if one team scores and the opponent fails to score.
6. If the score is still tied, follow the procedures in (5) above and repeat until a winner has been determined.
7. There will be no tie-breaker or overtime for third-place games.

OFFICIAL SQUAD

22 Players

2 Student Managers

3 Coaches

Total of 27

AWARDS

Section

- Medals: to all members of the official squad (27) of the first and second place teams.
- Trophies: to the first and second place teams.

State

- Certificates of Participation: to each student member of the official squad.
- Certificates of Recognition: to the head coach and the two assistant coaches of each team.
- Medals: to each member of the official squad (27) including the coaches of the first - third place teams.
- Trophies: to the first - fourth place teams.
- An All-Tournament team will be selected.

Note: It is a violation of MSHSL policy for a member school or a representative of a member school to establish, distribute or accept any awards not provided by the MSHSL for section or state tournament.