

Rules In This Section Shall Apply To Both Boys' And Girls' Soccer Unless Otherwise Specified.

18.1 IMPORTANT DATES - Due to COVID-19, all dates below are subject to change.

2020-2021 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
Monday, August 10, 2020 – Saturday, October 24, 2020	6th – 16th	Weight training/conditioning permitted. No practice/contests allowed.
Monday, September 21, 2020 – Sunday, October 18, 2020	12th – 16th	Online Rules Clinic (Mandatory for all Head Coaches)
Monday, October 26, 2020	17th	1st Practice/ Earliest Scrimmage Allowed (Current medical history/exam, athletic participation/parental permission, and substance misuse forms must be on file.)
Saturday, November 14, 2020	19th	Deadline for submitting schedules online.
Monday, November 16, 2020	20 th	1st Contest (Eligibility must be submitted online.)
Monday, January 11, 2021	28 th	Deadline for submitting GPAs online for seniors for All-Academic
Tuesday, January 12, 2021	28 th	Deadline for submitting All-Star Nominations
Tuesday, January 19, 2021	29 th	All-Star Selection Committee Meeting
Saturday, January 23, 2021	29 th	Last date to add game for power rating purposes.
Monday, February 1, 2021	31st	End of Regular Season/District Representatives Named (Girls – All Divisions)
Tuesday, February 2, 2021	31st	Playoff Pairings Released (Girls – All Divisions)
Tuesday, February 2, 2021	31st	End of Regular Season/District Representatives Named (Boys)
Wednesday, February 3, 2021	31st	Playoff Pairings Named (Boys – All Divisions)
Friday, February 5, 2021	31st	First Round Deadline (Girls – All Divisions)
Saturday, February 6, 2021	31st	First Round Deadline (Boys – All Divisions)
Wednesday, February 10, 2021	32nd	Second Round Deadline (Girls – All Divisions)
Thursday, February 11, 2021	32nd	Second Round Deadline (Boys – All Divisions)
Monday, February 15, 2021	33rd	Quarterfinals Deadline (Girls All Divisions)
Tuesday, February 16, 2021	33rd	Quarterfinals Deadline (Boys – All Divisions)
Friday, February 19, 2021	33 rd	Semifinals Deadline (Girls All Divisions)
Saturday, February 20, 2021	33 rd	Semifinals Deadline (Boys – All Divisions)

Wednesday, February 24, 2021 - Saturday, February 27, 2021	34th	State Tournament (Boys and Girls - All Divisions)
End of Schools' Season - End of School	TBD	Weight training/conditioning permitted. No practice/contests allowed.
Sunday, May 16, 2021	46th	Summer Rules Begin

18.2 CONTEST LIMITS

18.2.1 Pre-Season - A team shall be limited to two pre-season scrimmages.

18.2.2 Season: A team shall be limited to the following:

1. 19 contests per season and three tournaments or 18 contests and four tournaments.

18.3 GENERAL

18.3.1 Boys' and girls' schools shall be divided into four equal or near equal divisions. Soccer divisions shall be based on a school's October 1 enrollment that is certified to the LHSAA under the guidelines of Article 8.3 of the Constitution-Enrollment Calculation. Counting to achieve equal fourths shall begin with the lowest and end with highest soccer school enrollment. Schools with equal enrollment that form the dividing line shall play in the lower division. A school may not participate in a division below that mandated by its enrollment. The LHSAA shall district soccer schools in each division.

18.3.2 Team areas shall be specifically designated on the same side of the field and separated by an official's area for incoming substitutes, scorers, and timers.

18.3.3 The home team shall secure and pay officials.

18.3.4 If a soccer match, other than a state playoff match, is terminated before the expiration of regulation time, the following rules shall apply:

1. If the second half of play has not started, it shall be suspended and resumed at a later date as if it had never been interrupted.
2. If the match is in the second half of play and the score is not tied, it shall be called a completed match, and the score of the match at the time of interruption shall be the final score. If the score is tied, the match shall be suspended and resumed at a later date as if it had never been interrupted.

18.3.5 An 8-goal differential secured at the end of the first half or secured during the second half shall terminate the game.

18.3.6 The official scorer in all soccer matches shall be stationed at ground level on the same side of the field and between both teams' benches.

18.3.7 Players may wear knit type stocking caps during inclement weather. All caps must be alike in color. (Recommended: color should be the same as the jersey)

18.3.8 Tie-breaker Criteria-Regular Season (Non-district) - For all regular season matches, including district matches that end in a tie at the finish of regulation play there shall be no overtime and each team shall receive a tie on their official record.

18.3.9 Tie-breaker Criteria (District) - If a district decides to use overtime and/or NFHS penalty kicks (shootout) to break a tie in the district standings for district reporting purposes only, it shall be communicated to the game officials prior to the match. The overtime shall be played as determined in the respective by-laws of each district in dealing with tie-breakers in district standings.

18.3.10 Tie-breaker Criteria-Invitational Tournaments

1. A tournament contest that has been suspended because of inclement weather, darkness, or mechanical problems shall be resumed from the point of interruption.

2. For all invitational tournament matches during the regular season that end in a tie at the finish of regulation play, there shall be no overtime and each team shall receive a tie on their official record.
3. If a tiebreaker is needed to determine which team shall move to the next round of a tournament, the tournament shall use its own discretion to decide advancement.

18.3.11 Tie-breaker Criteria-State Playoffs

1. For the state playoffs, the tournament progression tie-game procedure as outlined in the NFHS Soccer Rules, numbers 1-5. Number 6 was not adopted as the LHSAA does not recognize co-champions.
2. A playoff contest that has been suspended because of inclement weather, darkness or mechanical problems shall be resumed from the point of interruption.

18.4 DISTRICT PLAY

18.4.1 A district meeting called to schedule district contests shall be announced in writing to the members by the district chairperson ten days prior to the meeting. Member schools shall declare at this meeting if they intend to compete for district honors. Minutes of a district meeting listing district schedules shall be valid when adopted and signed by a majority of the district's principals.

18.4.2 Each district shall determine its own method of selecting its automatic qualifier.

18.4.3 In case of a tie within a sub-district or district, a team may play as many contests as necessary in a week; however, a two-out-of-three series shall not be allowed. The fewest possible contests shall be played.

18.4.4 The district chairperson shall report the automatic qualifier from the district by the deadlines cited in Bylaw 18.1, "Important Dates" section.

18.5 WILDCARD PROGRAM

18.5.1 The ~~24~~ 32 highest seeded teams shall be placed on the bracket of ~~each~~ Division I boys and girls. The 24 highest seeded teams shall be placed on the brackets of ~~each~~ Divisions II-IV.

18.5.2 Wildcard teams shall be allotted in each division as follows:

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u># OF DISTRICTS</u>	<u># AUTO. QUALIFY</u>	<u>#WILDCARD TEAMS</u>	<u># BYES REMAINING</u>
I (Boys)	8	1 st	16 <u>24</u>	0
II (Boys)	8	1 st	16	0
III (Boys)	8	1 st	16	0
IV (Boys)	8	1 st	16	0
I (Girls)	8	1 st	16 <u>24</u>	0
II (Girls)	8	1 st	16	0
III (Girls)	8	1 st	16	0
IV (Girls)	8	1 st	16	0

18.5.3 The Executive Director's office shall verify playoff wildcard teams and place them on each division's bracket.

18.5.4 Criteria for Wildcard Selection:

1. Only the team certified as the first place from the district shall automatically qualify for the state playoffs.
2. The remainder of the byes on the bracket shall be filled with wildcard teams, teams that did not automatically qualify, by placing them on the bracket starting with the highest power ranking and continuing in descending order.

18.5.5 Determining the Power Rating:

- The power rating for each school shall be determined as follows:

RESULT OF CONTEST	ADD	ADD
Win	5 points	Opponents' Wins (100%)
Loss	0 points	Opponents' Wins (50%)
Tie*	2.5 points	Opponents' Wins (75%)

**a tie will be considered 0.5 of a win and 0.5 of a loss; a non-district game that is tied after regulation shall be considered a tie if the LHSAA tie-breaking criteria is not used to decide the game.

- A school's power rating shall be the total power points of games played divided by the number of total games played during the regular season. Refer to the LHSAA website for an example of how the power rating is determined.
- Contests played against out of state opponents, sub-varsity opponents and district playoff (tiebreaker) games shall not count in determining a school's power rating.

18.6 SEEDING THE BRACKET

- Teams in division I shall be seeded 1-32 and all teams in divisions II-IV shall be seeded 1-24 according to their power ranking.
- All teams that automatically qualify for the playoffs and those teams selected as wildcard teams shall be seeded in each division.
- Schools that failed to play at least 15 games during the regular season, including district play and invitational tournament play, shall be ranked separately using the same ranking system used to rank schools that played at least 15 games or more during the regular season. These schools shall be ranked at the bottom of the bracket and seeded accordingly until all the remaining positions on the brackets are filled.
- Tie breaking procedures to be used when two or more schools have the same power rating:
 - If two schools are tied and played each other during the season, the school that won the most games against the other school shall be the higher seeded team.
 - If after applying the first criterion and the tie is not broken or if the two schools did not play each other during the season, or if there are more than two schools involved in a tie, the tie shall be broken by applying class play percentage (schools that were played in the individual school's classification). The school with the higher percentage shall be the higher seeded team.
 - If after applying the second criterion and the tie is not broken, the school with the highest won-loss percent in division play shall be the higher seeded team.
 - If after applying the third criterion and the tie is not broken, the school with the highest won-loss percentage in overall regular season play shall be the higher seeded team.
 - If a tie still remains, the higher seeded team shall be determined by having a "draw" conducted in the LHSAA office by the soccer seeding committee.

18.7 PLAYOFFS

- The LHSAA shall select a site and conduct the finals and develop guidelines in administering the boys' & girls' playoffs.
- All contests above district play shall use four officials. Opposing coaches shall mutually agree on officials. The LHSAA shall not assign officials for soccer.

- 18.7.3** Both schools shall mutually agree on the playing time of the match. If an agreement cannot be reached, the starting time shall be 3:30 p.m.
- 18.7.4** The home team shall have the option to name the site it normally uses as its home field as the playoff game site. If the home team chooses a playing field other than its normally used home field, both teams shall agree to the change.
- 18.7.5** If a playoff contest is postponed because of inclement weather, darkness, or mechanical problems, the contest shall be rescheduled for the next day (except Sunday). The contest may be rescheduled on Sunday by mutual agreement of the schools involved. Depending on the playing conditions at the time, the contest shall be rescheduled on a day-to-day basis.
- 18.7.6** In all divisions, the boys' and girls' finals shall be conducted in tournament play. The Executive Director's office shall be responsible for developing the plans for the tournament and designate a school to be responsible for tournament management.
1. If the dates of the soccer tournament conflict with the dates of Mardi Gras, the Executive Director shall have the authority to adjust the dates of the tournament.
 2. The LHSAA shall assign the officials for all divisions of the boys' and girls' finals.
 3. In all divisions, once a team qualifies for boys' and girls' finals, it shall not practice on the game field. A school that violates this rule shall forfeit the contest.
- 18.8** **FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS**
- 18.8.1** In the first round through semifinal contests, the home team shall furnish ticket sellers, gatekeepers, security, scorers, tickets, and all other game incidentals. In the first round through semifinal contests, teams shall split the gate 50-50 after the following deductions:
1. Five percent of gross ticket sales to LHSAA (before any deductions)
 2. Officials
 3. Security personnel
 4. Travel: \$1.00 per mile, one way, map mileage
- 18.8.2** If the game receipts are not sufficient to pay for the expenses cited, the following payments shall be made and the visiting team shall retain the revenue that remains:
1. Payment of 5 percent gross ticket receipts to LHSAA before any other payments
 2. Payment to contest officials
- 18.8.3** Admission prices to "home and away" games shall be by mutual agreement.
1. Home team shall not be responsible for visiting team's travel expenses if not covered by gate receipts.
 2. If the "home" school does not charge admission to the game for any reason, it shall be required to pay the visiting team's travel expenses and an additional \$50 each to the visiting team and the LHSAA.
- 18.8.4** The home team shall control concessions from first round through the semifinal contests.