

BY-LAW ARTICLE XXXI

Soccer

Boys and Girls

Sect. 1: Soccer shall be administered by the NHIAA Soccer Committee and the rules of the National Federation will govern the sport when applicable.

Sect. 2: Scheduling Standards

- A. Only games with NHIAA schools or with member schools of state associations may be counted.
- B. All games are to be officiated by no less than two (2) NHIAA registered officials. Exceptions to this may be sought by contacting the NHIAA office prior to the game.
- C. Interscholastic games will not be permitted following the last date to play.

Sect. 3: Tournament Selection

The maximum number of teams allowed per By-Law Article IV: Classification; Sect. 10; Tournament Selection Requirements will qualify for the tournament in each division and gender. (CM 5.16)

Sect. 4: Site Selection

The tournament sites for the preliminary and quarterfinal round will be determined by the higher seed team. Selected sites will be determined by the Soccer Committee for all semifinal and final games. (CM 11.24)

Sect. 5: Tournament Rosters

All tournament teams will be limited to a maximum of 25 players, two (2) coaches and two (2) managers. Rosters shall be completed via the NHIAA website. If a team is going to make the tournament, a team photo in uniform (no warm-ups and no mascots allowed) must be submitted with a photo lineup. If no photo is received a logo will be supplemented.

Sect. 6: Awards

Official NHIAA championship and runner-up plaques, in addition to 29 team medals will be awarded to the respective champion and runner-up teams in each division for boys and girls.

Sect. 7: Official Time

Time shall be kept on the field by the official nearest to the team benches. Official timer may be used with the mutual consent of the officials and both coaches prior to the game.

Sect. 8: Diagonal Officiating System

Hosting schools may use the diagonal system of control.

Sect. 9: Mercy Rule

If a game reaches a goal differential of five (5) or more goals in the second half, the clock will be official running time. Should the goal differential become less than five (5) goals the clock will return to stop time.

Sect. 10: Make-Up Games

No make-up games may be scheduled during the last week of the regular season unless they are games that were regularly scheduled for that week. Teams must complete their *entire* schedule that has been submitted to the NHIAA. Any scheduled game(s) not played will be forfeited by both teams unless the circumstances are made known to the NHIAA Executive Director *prior* to the pairings meeting date. Forfeit appeals will be conducted in compliance with NHIAA Policy By-Law Article VII.

Sect. 11: Divisional Alignment

Boys and girls soccer shall be aligned into four (4) divisions based upon enrollments and petitions subject to the approval of the Classification Committee.

2026-27 Boys Soccer Divisional Alignment							
DIV. I (850+)		DIV. II (550-849)		DIV. III (281-549)		DIV IV (1-280)	
22 Schools		16 Schools		26 Schools		23 Schools	
Pinkerton	2979	Oyster River	796	Laconia	543	Franklin	279
Nashua South	1697	Man. West	756	Kearsarge	485	Newmarket	266
Nashua North	1545	Kingswood	727	Monadnock	475	Mascenic	263
Dover	1423	Pembroke	718	Pelham	466	Newport	263
Bedford	1367	Merrimack Valley	715	Gilford	442	Epping	225
Spaulding	1346	Hollis Brookline	713	Sanborn	433	Woodsville	221
Man. Memorial	1345	Souhegan	709	Stevens	432	Portsmouth Christian	166
Concord	1329	John Stark	657	Fall Mountain	430	Littleton	161
Exeter	1329	Coe-Brown	650	Somersworth	411	Hinsdale	156
Keene	1263	Plymouth	643	Prospect Mountain	408	Moultonborough	155
Londonderry	1219	Lebanon	642	Farmington-Nute	382	Wilton	153
Man. Central	1106	Bow	639	Winnisquam	372	Sunapee	150
Salem	1069	Milford	613	Newfound	368	Gorham	142
Goffstown	1032	Kennett	612	Belmont	347	Profile	136
Merrimack	1013	ConVal	603	Trinity	345	Pittsfield	135
Winnacunnet	988	*Campbell	337	St. Thomas	341	Concord Christian	120
Portsmouth	983			Hillsboro-Deering	340	Groveton	111
Alvirne	955			White Mountains	327	Colebrook	89
Timberlane	934			Raymond	326	Lisbon	83
Windham	884			Berlin	324	Holy Family	75
*Bishop Guertin	767			Mascoma	317	Pittsburg-Canaan	73
*Hanover	693			Hopkinton	309	Lin-Wood	67
				Conant	307	Mount Royal	48
				*Inter-Lakes	279		
				*Derryfield	270		
				*Bishop Brady	227		

2026-27 Girls Soccer Divisional Alignment							
DIV. I (850+)		DIV. II (550-849)		DIV. III (281-549)		DIV IV (1-280)	
21 Schools		16 Schools		23 Schools		21 Schools	
Pinkerton	2979	*Man. Memorial	1345	Laconia	543	Newmarket	266
Man. Central-West	1862	Oyster River	796	Kearsarge	485	Newport	263
Nashua South	1697	Kingswood	727	Monadnock	475	Epping	225
Nashua North	1545	Pembroke	718	Pelham	466	Woodsville	221
Dover	1423	Merrimack Valley	715	Gilford	442	Portsmouth Christian	166
Bedford	1367	Hollis Brookline	713	Sanborn	433	Littleton	161
Spaulding	1346	Souhegan	709	Stevens	432	Hinsdale	156
Concord	1329	John Stark	657	Fall Mountain	430	Moultonborough	155
Exeter	1329	Coe-Brown	650	Prospect Mountain	408	Wilton	153
Keene	1263	Plymouth	643	Newfound	368	Sunapee	150
Londonderry	1219	Lebanon	642	Belmont	347	Gorham	142
Salem	1069	Bow	639	Trinity	345	Profile	136
Goffstown	1032	Milford	613	Hillsboro-Deering	340	Pittsfield	135
Merrimack	1013	Kennett	612	Campbell	337	Concord Christian	120
Winnacunnet	988	ConVal	603	White Mountains	327	Groveton	111
Portsmouth	983	*St. Thomas	341	Raymond	326	Colebrook	89
Alvirne	955			Berlin	324	Lisbon	83
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*Bishop Guertin	767			Conant	307	Lin-Wood	67
*Hanover	693			*Inter-Lakes	279	Mount Royal	48
				*Derryfield	270		
				*Bishop Brady	227		
		*Petition					

Sect. 12: Overtime Procedures for Regular Season Play

If the score is tied at the end of regulation time, the match will be considered a draw. (CM 5.24)

Sect. 13: Tournament Overtime Procedures

When the score is tied at the end of regulation time, the referee will instruct both teams to return to their respective team boxes. There will be five minutes during which both teams may confer with their coaches and the head referee will instruct both teams as to proper procedure. A coin toss shall be held as in Rule 5-2-2 (d) (3) of the National Federation Rules Book. (CM 1.16)

A. Sudden Victory Overtime Procedure:**1. Preliminary and Quarterfinal Games**

- a. The teams will play one ten (10) minute sudden victory overtime period.
- b. If the score is still tied, the teams will change ends after a 2-minute intermission (substitutions are allowed) and a second ten (10) minute sudden-victory period will be played.
- c. If the score still remains tied, all coaches, officials and team captains shall assemble at the halfway line to review the procedure for penalty kick as outlined below.

2. Semifinal and Finals Games

- a. The teams will play one fifteen (15) minute sudden-victory overtime period.
- b. If the score is still tied, the teams will change ends after a 2-minute intermission (substitutions are allowed) and a second fifteen (15) minute sudden-victory period will be played.
- c. If the score still remains tied, all coaches, officials and team captains shall assemble at the halfway line to review the procedure for penalty kick as outlined below.

B. Penalty Kick Procedure:

1. The head referee shall choose the goal at which all of the kicks from the penalty line shall be taken.
2. Each coach will select any five (5) players, including the goalkeeper, on or off the field (except those who may have been disqualified) to take the kicks.
3. A coin toss shall be held. The team winning the toss shall have the choice of kicking first or second.
4. Teams will alternate kickers. There is no follow-up on the kick.
5. Following five (5) kicks for each team, the team scoring the greatest number of these kicks shall be declared the winner.
6. Add one goal to the winning team score and credit the team with a victory. An asterisk (*) may be placed by the team advancing to indicate the advancement was the result of a tiebreaker system.

C. If the score remains tied after each team has had five (5) kicks:

1. Each coach will select five (5) different players than the first five (5) who already have kicked, to take the kicks in a sudden victory situation, wherein if one team scores and the other team does not score, the game is ended without more kicks being taken.
2. If the score remains tied, continue the sudden victory kicks with the coach selecting any five (5) players to take the next set of alternating kicks.
3. If a tie still remains, repeat C-1.

Sect. 14: Interrupted Games

Whenever a game is interrupted in the first half because of events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authorities, it shall be continued from the point of interruption. Both officials should sign the official scorebook and note the time on the clock and the period when the game was interrupted.