

WISCONSIN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

2025-26 NFHS Soccer Rules Book

(PLEASE KEEP WITH YOUR RULES BOOK)

NATIONAL FEDERATION ALLOWED ADAPTATIONS

- a. Schools must use a single referee and two WIAA licensed assistant referees for all varsity duals (conference and nonconference).
- b. Length of Periods (7-1-1)
 - (1) All varsity regular season contests will be played in two forty (40) minute halves. No overtime will be played.
 - (2) All subvarsity contests will be played in two forty (40) minute halves. No overtime will be played.
 - (3) Penalty kicks could be used to determine which team would advance in a tournament bracket.
- c. Overtime shall not be played at the JV or freshmen level. Penalty kicks could be used to determine which team would advance in a tournament bracket.
- d. Yellow cards received during regular season or tournament competition must be counted. Once a player has accumulated five yellow cards, they are suspended for the next match. Once the player accumulates three additional yellow cards, they are suspended for the next two matches, three more, they are suspended three matches, etc. These are minimum penalties. All yellow cards must be reported to the WIAA.

Note: Any team whose players and coaches, during the regular season, collectively receive a total of 24 or more yellow cards (including all second yellow/red cards) will be prohibited from participating in the WIAA State Tournament series. Any yellow cards received by the coach will count toward the 24 card total. Straight red cards count as two yellow.
- e. If a player receives a red card or a second yellow card resulting in disqualification, that individual is suspended for the next scheduled match. These are minimum penalties. All yellow and red cards must be reported to the appropriate head coach and to the WIAA.
- f. Any school whose players/coaches, during the regular season, collectively accumulates five or more straight red cards for abusive/profane language will be prohibited from participating in the WIAA State tournament series. Additionally, any individual player who accumulates three straight red cards for abusive/profane language will be prohibited from participating in the WIAA State Tournament series.

Note: This rule does not apply to straight red cards received during the tournament series.
- g. Soft and yielding caps may be worn during inclement weather (Rule 4-2-1f).
- h. In the event a match must be suspended because conditions make it impossible to continue before one complete half has been played, the match will continue from that point unless both coaches agree to let the recorded score stand. If at least one half of the match has been completed, the game is an official match.
- i. Following the completion of the first half, anytime the score differential reaches ten or more goals, the coaches may mutually agree to end the match. After 60 minutes of play, if there is a score differential of 8 or more the match shall end.
- j. Schools shall provide a scorer and scoretable for all varsity contests.

STATE ASSOCIATION REGULATIONS

- a. Pre-Game Protocol

For consistency statewide, the following pre-game protocol will be used prior to scheduled kickoff:

 - (1) 15 minutes - officials begin their on-field responsibilities
 - (2) 10 minutes - coach and captain(s) meet with officials for pregame conference.
 - (3) 7 minutes - official blows whistle and
 - (a) Teams line up on the touch line and shake hands.
 - (b) National Anthem and/or player introductions.
 - (c) Play begins.
- b. Post-game handshakes are recommended, not required.

Note: Officials' jurisdiction follows NFHS Rule 5-2
- c. Game officials or host schools will be required to complete a WIAA Yellow/Red Card Game Report on the WIAA website following the completion of all varsity duals or multischool tournaments. These electronic reports are required for every match whether yellow or red cards were issued or not. Once the report is complete, two of the three (visiting team, center official, host team) who did not submit the report will have an opportunity to verify the information submitted.

Note: In the case of ejections, a WIAA Ejection Form will need to be submitted in addition to the WIAA Yellow/Red Card Game Report.
- d. Nonvarsity teams shall be allowed to wear old varsity uniforms, which are now unapproved, because of recent National Federation uniform rule changes provided participant safety is not jeopardized.
- e. Coaches must report to their school administration within 48 hours following a contest any player or coach ejection. School administrators must then report the ejection to the WIAA via written communication within three (3) school days following the contest. This written communication must also include a plan of action to prevent future ejections. Officials will continue to provide electronic reports to the WIAA.

STATE ASSOCIATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. It is recommended that restraining ropes or lines be placed a minimum of five yards from the sidelines for purposes of crowd control.
- b. It is recommended that both teams benches be on the same side of the field with spectators located on the opposite side.
- c. It is recommended that when a field clock is used, the clock shall be counted up from 0:00 to 40:00.