

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 5.2016)

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 11.2024)

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.

2025-26 Boys Soccer Divisional Alignment			
DIV. I (900+)	DIV. II (501-899)	DIV. III (281-500)	DIV IV (1-280)
22 Schools	17 Schools	23 Schools	23 Schools
Pinkerton 3079	Oyster River 844	*Man. West 781	*Monadnock 499
Nashua South 1704	Merrimack Valley 763	*Sanborn 524	*Farmington-Nute 394
Nashua North 1626	Pembroke 756	Stevens 499	Newmarket 280
Concord 1464	Hollis/Brookline 750	Gilford 492	Mascenic 260
Dover 1417	Kingswood 746	Fall Mountain 490	Epping 221
Bedford 1404	Kennett 707	Kearsarge 485	Profile 221
Spaulding 1390	Milford 698	Prospect Mountain 410	Littleton 214
Exeter 1384	Souhegan 693	Somersworth 406	Woodsville 212
Man. Memorial 1365	Coe-Brown 662	Winnisquam 403	Portsmouth Christian 178
Keene 1341	Con-Val 658	Newfound 394	Hinsdale 164
Londonderry 1291	Plymouth 651	Hillsboro-Deering 382	Pittsfield 161
Man. Central 1161	John Stark 648	White Mountains 375	Gorham 141
Merrimack 1102	Lebanon 618	Conant 373	Moultonborough 141
Salem 1096	Bow 611	Belmont 360	Sunapee 132
Winnacunnet 1073	Laconia 590	St. Thomas Aquinas 354	Wilton-Lyndeborough 131
Goffstown 1043	Pelham 556	Berlin 348	Pittsburg-Canaan 129
Alvirne 1025	*Campbell 356	Raymond 343	Groveton 119
Portsmouth 1024		Mascoma 342	Concord Christian 114
Windham 995		Trinity 327	Colebrook 112
Timberlane 986		Hopkinton 300	Lisbon 81
*Bishop Guertin 771		Derryfield 291	Lin-Wood 77
*Hanover 689		Inter-Lakes 285	Holy Family 66
		*Bishop Brady 261	Mount Royal 51
*Petition			

2025-26 Girls Soccer Divisional Alignment			
DIV. I (900+)	DIV. II (501-899)	DIV. III (281-500)	DIV IV (1-280)
21 Schools	17 Schools	23 Schools	20 Schools
Pinkerton 3079	*Keene 1341	*Sanborn 524	*Somersworth 406
Man Central-West 1942	Oyster River 844	Monadnock 499	Newmarket 280
Nashua South 1704	Merrimack Valley 763	Stevens 499	Epping 221
Nashua North 1626	Pembroke 756	Gilford 492	Profile 221
Concord 1464	Hollis/Brookline 750	Fall Mountain 490	Littleton 214
Dover 1417	Kingswood 746	Kearsarge 485	Woodsville 212
Bedford 1404	Kennett 707	Prospect Mountain 410	Portsmouth Christian 178
Spaulding 1390	Milford 698	Newfound 394	Hinsdale 164
Exeter 1384	Souhegan 693	Hillsboro-Deering 382	Pittsfield 161
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Merrimack 1102	Plymouth 651	Belmont 360	Sunapee 132
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*Bishop Guertin 771		Newport 292	Holy Family 66
*Hanover 689		Derryfield 291	Mount Royal 51
		Inter-Lakes 285	
		*Bishop Brady 261	
	*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 5.2024)

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 1.2016)

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.