2027 Middle School Soccer Rules

NCSAA ROSTER RULES

NCSAA's roster rules are posted at www.ncsaasports.com. Schools are expected to know and follow NCSAA's roster rules and guidelines at all times. National Sports ID will lock at the Week 3 Deadline on April 8 for the final time. Any player who expires after this date will NOT be permitted to be added back to the roster. It is 100% the responsibility of the School, Athletic Director, Coach, and Player to be on top of your team's expiration dates. NCSAA will NOT be sending reminders.

NCSAA FORFEIT RULES

NCSAA's forfeit rules are posted at www.ncsaasports.com. Schools are expected to know and follow NCSAA's forfeit rules and guidelines at all times.

DIVISIONS

- Elementary Coed Recreational (Grades K-1)
- Elementary Coed Recreational (Grades 2-3)
- Elementary Boy's Competitive (Grades 4-5)
- Elementary Girl's Competitive (Grades 4-5)
- Middle School Boys (Grades 6-8)
- Middle School Girls (Grades 6-8)

PLAYOFFS

- The regular season will consist of an 8-game season.
- For divisions of 15 or fewer teams, the top 4 teams will make the playoffs.
- For divisions of 31 or fewer teams, the top 8 teams will make the playoffs.
- For divisions of 32-41 teams, the top 12 teams will make the playoffs.
- For divisions of 42-48 teams, the top 16 teams will make the playoffs.
- There may be doubleheaders in the playoffs.
- The commissioner has the authority to adjust the number of teams based on what's best for the league.

TIE-BREAKERS

2 Teams Tied	3 or More Teams Tied
1. Standings	1. Standings
2. Head-to-head	2. Point Differential
3. Point Differential	3. Least amount of points allowed
4. Least amount of points allowed	4. Coin Flip
5. Coin Flip	

Playoff Game Ties: If a playoff or championship game is tied at the end of regulation, the game will proceed to a penalty kick shootout. Each team will select five eligible players to take kicks. If still tied after five kicks, teams will continue with sudden-death penalty kicks until a winner is determined.

Field of Play: Approximately 100 yards x 50 yards
Goal Size: 8'x 24'
The Ball: Size 5
Home team provides the match ball.

Equipment: Shin guards are required. No steel or center cleats allowed. Jewelry of any kind is not permitted during play and may not be taped over. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces may be worn only if they are securely fastened and approved by the referee. Goalkeepers must have a different colored jersey, shirt, or penny to be distinguishable.

Casts: For the safety of our participants, no student-athlete may play with a cast (soft or hard) – even with a doctor's note. We will NOT allow any padding to be put over it. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

Jerseys: All teams are responsible for having reversible game jerseys with numbers on both sides. It is the responsibility of the away team to switch jersey colors if both teams have the same or similar jersey colors, or if the officials deem it necessary.

- Failure to have reversible jerseys may result in a forfeit loss.
- Games will NOT be delayed/postponed/rescheduled due to not having reversible jerseys.

Coaches and Spectator Conduct/Responsibilities
Teams and coaches must remain on their designated team sideline. Spectators must remain on the opposite sideline or in the designated spectator area where space allows. Spectators are not permitted behind the goals. ·
Participants, coaches, parents, and family members must conduct themselves appropriately during game play. Foul language will not be tolerated and will lead to removal from the field.
· Inappropriate, rude, or confrontational behavior by a coach, player, or spectator may lead to disqualification from the game and possible suspension. These decisions are made at the sole discretion of the League Officials.
The Coach is the only person allowed to talk to the official before, during, and after the game.

Number of Players
The maximum number of players on the field per team at any one time is eleven (11).
All players not playing in the game must be 3 yards behind the touch lines.
Teams may play with fewer players if necessary. Teams with fewer than 7 players will result in a forfeit in league standings.

Duration of the Game
Each game will consist of two twenty-five-minute halves.
Halftime will be 3 minutes long.
Play will be started with a kick-off at the center mark of the field.
The opposing team must be 10 yards from the ball at kick-off and each restart.
A coin flip will take place at the beginning of each game. The team that wins the coin flip will get to choose whether they would like to kick off or choose a side to defend. The visiting team calls the coin flip. Teams shall rotate sides and kick-off at halftime.

Mercy Rule: There will be a 7-goal Mercy Rule. Once a team has reached a 7-goal lead, the score is frozen and becomes the official score of the game. The remainder of the game will be played as a scrimmage.

Substitutions are unlimited and allowed during any out-of-bounds, stoppage of play, and for injuries.

Free Kicks
According to the infraction, the referee will award direct and indirect free kicks. Standard FIFA rules will apply.
Penalty Kicks: Penalty kicks will be placed twelve (12) yards from the goal line.

Offsides
The offside rule will be in effect and taught in this age group. However, it will be called at the referee's discretion for blatant offside plays. Any player directly involved in a play who is in an offside position will be called offside, and a free kick will be awarded to the opposing team at the spot of the foul. As the offside rule is subject to the referee's discretion and the referee may not have assistant linesmen on the field, criticism directed to the referee is dissented and will not be tolerated.

Cards
The referee will show yellow (caution) and red (sending off) cards in accordance with the laws of the game. A red card results in ejection from the game. (Two yellow cards are one red card.) Red cards shown for serious infractions may result in ejection for the remainder of the season, with reinstatement only with the permission of the league coordinator.

Slide Tackling: Slide tackling is not permitted. A slide tackle will result in a direct free kick and may result in a card at the referee's discretion. Sliding to save or stop a ball with no opponent nearby may be allowed at the referee's discretion if it is not dangerous.

Headers: Headers are allowed in this division.

Hydration Breaks: Referees or league officials may allow hydration breaks during games when weather conditions require them.

Standard FIFA rules will apply to matters not addressed here.

Score Reporting
The officials will report the score. Both home and away teams can report scores at www.ncsaasports.com/score-reporting.html.