

SOCCER – BOYS'

1. SEASON OF PLAY

Boys' = Spring

2. LEVELS OF COMPETITION

Junior Level Senior (Varsity) Level

3. CLASSIFICATION

See the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association Constitution.

4. ELIGIBILITY

a) Team/School Eligibility: Eligibility as per the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association Constitution, SOSSA and OFSAA team/school eligibility requirements as well as SOSSA and OFSAA sport specific eligibility requirements.

b) Individual Eligibility: Eligibility as per the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association Constitution, SOSSA and OFSAA team/school eligibility requirements as well as SOSSA and OFSAA sport specific eligibility requirements.

5. ELIGIBILITY LIST

Eligibility lists are to be entered in the OFSAA HUB at least 24 hours prior to the team's first game.

All dressed players must be listed on the eligibility sheet. Any players whose names appear on such sheets and who are not dressed for that game must have their names crossed off the list. There shall be no restriction on the number of players for a league or play-off game at the Zone 2 level.

6. OFFICIALS

All officials must be accredited.

7. PAYMENT OF OFFICIALS

The home team is responsible for payment of the officials for all league and play-off games. The amount will be announced at the start of the season and posted on the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association soccer website page.

If a gate is charged at a Niagara Catholic Athletic Association league or playoff game then all expenses will be paid from the gate (referees, minor officials, linesmen, security, score keepers, etc.) and the remainder of the gate will be divided equally between the home and visiting team.

8. REPORTING SCORES

The home team will input scores and score sheet on to the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association website, by noon the day after the game.

9. UNIFORMS

- All players must wear the same-coloured tops. No partial uniforms will be allowed.
- Wearing tracksuit pants or sweatpants will be at the discretion of the referee only in adverse weather conditions.
- F.I.F.A. approved shoes that are duly inspected by the official and are deemed to be safe will be allowed.
- Jewelry, watches, rings, casts, etc. that could be hazardous to other players will not be permitted. If you are in doubt, speak with the referee before the game.
- Goalkeepers must wear a contrasting-coloured jersey from those of both teams.
- All competitors must wear shin guards. Any competitor who does not have shin guards will not be permitted to play.

10. HOME SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Have the field correctly marked, corner flags in place (minimum height 5'), team benches out and goal nets in place.
- Provide a suitable game ball.
- Ensure the field is in playable condition.
- In the event the game has been called off, the home school coach is to notify the sport convenor, athletic convenor, and the visiting coach as soon as possible, preferably before 11am.
- Ensure the referee has copies of the eligibility sheets for both teams.
- Home team is to wear light coloured uniforms and away teams are to wear dark coloured uniforms.
- Provide lines persons. It is strongly suggested that each team provides a lines person.
- Player benches must be on the same side of the playing field. Spectators' areas will be on the opposite side of the players' benches. Where this cannot physically be possible, the players' bench areas must be clearly defined, and spectator areas are not to be in those areas.

11. VISITING SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Have your team at the opposing school at least twenty (20) minutes prior to kick-off.
- Control the conduct of any spectators accompanying his/her team.

12. OFFICIAL RULE BOOK

The Rules of Soccer as they appear in the International de Football Association (F.I.F.A.) Handbook, and the Ontario Soccer Association (O.S.A.) regulations, shall govern play in the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association with the following exceptions:

13. LEAGUE GAME FORMAT

- All games will be of two equal halves. Length of each half will be forty (40) minutes for both junior and senior boys.
- Half time will be five (5) minutes in duration.
- Games may be shortened in duration if needed.

14.SUBSTITUTIONS

Unlimited substitutions will be allowed at games from among the prescribed number of players dressed. Substitutions will only be allowed at the following times:

- (i) At a goal kick.
- (ii) After a goal has been scored.
- (iii) If a player is injured and needs to be replaced at the discretion of the referee.
- (iv) After the half-time interval.
- (v) On your own throw-in and on an opponent's throw-in once the opponent has initiated a substitution.

15.SUSPENSIONS

- With the presentation of a yellow card, the cautioned individual must leave the field of play. A substitute player may enter immediately.
- A player who receives two (2) yellow card offenses in a game will receive an automatic one (1) game suspension and no substitution may enter that match.
- Three (3) yellow cards accumulated by a player throughout the season will result in a one (1) game suspension. The suspension should occur in the game following the third yellow card. The onus is on the coach to sit out the player. Failure to do so could result in forfeiture of a match. Any further yellow cards constitute an additional one (1) game suspension.
- A player who receives a red card must leave the field for the remainder of the game (no substitutions allowed). All red card situations will be reported to the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association Convenor and referred to the principal or designate of the team's school.
- A player who is sent off twice in one season will be suspended for the remainder of the season.
- Red carded and suspended players are permitted to remain on the team's bench. Should the player interfere with the game verbally or otherwise, the referee may require the player to be escorted away from the field by one of the coaches/team supervisors who then must remain with the player outside of the field boundary. Should there be only one coach present, a warning will be issued, and if the behaviour continues the official may choose to default the game.
- All suspensions at the Zone level are to be carried to the SOSSA and OFSAA Championships.
- Copy of disciplinary reports relating to game incidents are to be sent to the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association convenor and referred to the principal or designate of the offending school.

16.LEAGUE PLAYOFF GAME FORMAT

All playoff soccer games shall have a referee and two assistant referees, should they be deemed available by the soccer referee assignor.

17.TIED GAMES

League games that are tied at the end of regulation time, are to remain as such.

If a playoff game is tied at the end of regulation time, the following procedure shall be used:

- (i) Two ten-minute overtime halves. The Golden Goal Rule shall apply; first team to score in overtime will be the winner and the match in concluded.

- (ii) If the game is still tied each team will select five (5) players from those on the field at the conclusion of the overtime. These five players will take penalty kicks alternately, the first team to kick being decided by a coin toss. The winner will be the same team scoring the most penalty kicks.
- (iii) If still tied, the remaining players from those on the field at the conclusion of the overtime shall take penalty kicks, one from each team alternately, the winner being the tea which is ahead after any pair of penalty kicks.

18.ZONE AND PLAYOFF SCHEDULE FORMAT

See the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association Constitution.

19.LEAGUE STANDINGS- TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES

See the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association Constitution.

20.GAME FORFEITURES

See the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association Constitution.

20.APPEALS AND PROTESTS

If school(s) wish to proceed with a protest, see the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association Constitution for further direction.

21.ADVANCING TO SOSSA

The winner of the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association (Zone 2) playoff championship game will be the Zone 2 representative at SOSSA.