

UOVHSAA SOCCER PLAYING REGULATIONS

“An atmosphere of mutual respect and goodwill between opponents and toward officials make competition in soccer a rewarding experience.”

1. Dates

The UOVHSAA Soccer schedule shall begin when fields are deemed playable and finish no later than the week before EOSSAA championships. No games should be played the day before UOVHSAA championships unless extenuating circumstances.

2. Eligibility

To represent a school in Soccer coordinated by UOVHSAA, a student must:

- a) Be eligible for competition under the Constitution and By-Laws of the UOVHSAA.
- b) Be registered as a full time student in grade 9 – 12. In grade 9, 10, or 11 a full time student is defined as a student taking 3 of 4 courses per semester. In grade 12 a full time student is 2 of 4 courses per semester.
- c) Be eligible for no more than five (5) consecutive years from the date of entry into grade nine (9).
- d) Be certified as eligible by the Principal of the school.
- e) Meet the following age requirements:

Junior - The individual has not reached his/hers 15th birthday by Jan. 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held.

Senior - The individual has not reached his/hers 19th birthday by Jan. 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held.

- f) Transfers – as per EOSSAA/OFSAA policy. See Appendix I.
- g) Any student who registers and attends one term at a post secondary institution and then returns to any high school is ineligible for UOVHSAA competition for the remainder of his/her high school career.
- h) OFSAA Hub forms must be “in the hands” of the convenor prior to the first game in which the players listed thereon participate.
- g) Additions to the list may be submitted on another UOVHSAA/EOSSAA eligibility form or made in the form of a letter duly signed by the Coach, Phys. Ed. Head/Athletic Director **and** the Principal. The letter must include all information as on the regular eligibility sheet.
- h) The student must be registered in the school at least 10 days before the first match in which he/she competes
- i) The student must be in attendance at least 75% of the regular school days between the date of registration in a member school and the date of the contest concerned, except where a school is not having regular scheduled classes, the student is ill, or other extenuating circumstances exist which are acceptable to the school administration.
- j) Any player may compete in one contest in a higher age category without being permanently attached to that category.

- k) A junior player may compete in senior playoffs if he/she has played in at least one senior match during regular league play. However, he/she is then ineligible for further junior play.
- l) A player may play in only one playoff category.
- m) Any student in an UOVHSAA member school who has participated in an official UOVHSAA competition and then registers in another UOVHSAA member school shall be ineligible to compete in that same sport in the same season.
- n) Eligibility violations will result in the following penalties:
 - i) If a team plays an ineligible player, all games played with the ineligible player will be defaulted. The score for the defaulting team will always be zero (0). If the non-defaulting team won, they will count the actual points scored. If the non-defaulting team lost the contest, then the official score will be 2 – 0 for that team.

3. Classification

There shall be three classifications “A” , “AA” and “AAA” for Soccer, both junior and senior as per OFSAA classifications.

Any team choosing to compete at a higher classification must notify the convenor in writing by April 30 of the school year. Such a team is ineligible for competition in their classification for the remainder of that season. EOSSAA must also be notified if a team declares up to AAA by the declaration date deadline above.

OFSAA Classification

“A”	Valour School Mackenzie Community School Centre Scholaire Catholique Jeanne Lajoie Ecole Secondaire Publique L’Equinoxe Madawaska Valley District School Opeongo High School Renfrew Collegiate Institute
“AA”	Bishop Smith Catholic High School Arnprior District High School Fellowes High School St. Joseph’s High School

4. Rules and Officials

The rules of soccer as they appear in the FIFA Handbook shall govern play in UOVHSAA with the following exceptions:

- a) Length of Play:
 - i) Regulation playing time for “Senior Boys and Senior Girls” regular season (non-tournament) games shall be eighty (80) minutes consisting of two forty (40) minute halves and a five (5) minute break, unless otherwise agreed upon by both coaches and the referee prior to the start of the game.
 - ii) Regulation playing time for “Junior Boys and Junior Girls” regular season (non-tournament) games shall be seventy (70) minutes consisting of two thirty-five (35) minute halves and a five (5) minute break, unless otherwise agreed upon by both coaches and the referee prior to the start of the game.
- b) Number of Players: Each team may dress any number of players for each game. (Please note a maximum of twenty (20) players is allowed at EOSSAA).
- c) Substitution:
 - (i) unlimited substitution
 - (ii) may occur at goal kicks, goals scored, at half time, on your own throw in possession or piggy backing the other teams throw in substitution.
 - (iii) in the case of injury, substitution is permissible at the referee’s discretion
 - (iv) substitution for a yellow-carded player is compulsory. The yellow carded player is the only player who may be replaced at that time and he/she may re-enter the game at a regular substitution period
 - (v) if a player receives a red card he/she must leave the field for the remainder of that game (no substitution allowed). A red-carded player shall be automatically suspended for the next league or play-off game in which his/her team is involved. This player may be subject to an enquiry by the UOVHSAA Disciplinary Tribunal (see UOVHSAA Constitution, article IX).
 - (vi) a player who accumulates three (3) yellow cards **may not play in his/her team’s next game. If a player who is suspended plays, that game shall be forfeited. It is the responsibility of each coach to be aware of the number of yellow cards each player has received and ensure a player who has received three yellow cards does not play in the next game.**
 - (vii) **Order of Games:** The order of games shall be on Mondays/Tuesdays Senior, Junior and on Wednesdays/Thursdays Junior /Senior unless the home team notifies the visiting team of a change at least 48 hours before the start of the game. Every effort must be made to keep the original schedule.
- d) The Referee-in-Chief shall assign officials for all games.

Any ejection from a game should include a description of the incident on the back of the score sheet signed by the referee.
- e) Any incident will be emailed to the head official by the referee and then distributed appropriately.
- f) OFSAA soccer games sheets must be used.

5. Uniforms and Equipment

- a) All players shall wear identical coloured shirts. Shorts must be of the same colour and must be school appropriate. No spandex allowed.
- b) All competitors are expected to dress in uniforms that are neat, clean and which maintain the integrity of the school's name, colours and logo. The goalie shall wear a shirt of contrasting colour to those of his/her teammates and the opposing team.
- c) Metal or aluminum cleats will not be allowed.
- d) All competitors must wear shin guards.
- e) All jewellery including studs must be removed as per EOSSAA regulations.
- f) Any knee brace or cast must be approved by the referee before the start of the game. Buckles, metal plates and screws must be covered.
- g) Corners of the playing field shall be flagged and midlines must be marked with a pylon. Flags shall be available for each linesman.
- h) The visiting team may provide one (1) linesman.

6. Starting Time

The starting time for the first match will be 3:00 pm except for extenuating circumstances, tournament days, or by mutual consent of the schools involved.

7. Regular Season Play

- a) Any school wishing to enter the UOVHSAA Soccer League must do so by filling out the intent to compete form (see Appendix II) and returning it to the convenor when demanded.
- b) The schedule shall be constructed in a single round robin format when possible. In the event that a full round robin cannot occur, it shall be scheduled as a round robin within two separate geographical pools.
- c) Three (3) points shall be awarded for each win; one (1) point shall be awarded for each tie. Tied games in regular season play shall stand
- d) In the event that six or fewer teams are entered in either age division, the convenor, with UOVHSAA approval, shall schedule an alternative format.
- e) **It is the responsibility of the home team to report the scores and score sheet to the league convenor via the UOVHSAA website after each game.**
- f) If a round robin schedule is not possible, the schedule should consider the number of games A and AA schools play within their schedule. Every attempt to ensure a balanced schedule against teams of their own classification exists.

Home Team Responsibilities

- a) Game ball must be provided. May use visitors' ball if agreed upon by both teams.
- b) Kick off changes must be given 48 hours in advance.
- c) Home team must provide OFSSA game sheets.
- d) Home team must report score with goal scorers and any cards.
- e) Game sheets must be sent to the convenor through the UOVHSAA website.

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8. Tie-Breaking Rules

Ties in league standing shall be broken in the following order.

- a) If two (2) teams are tied, the convenor must consider:
 - i) which team defeated the other during regular season play.
 - ii) if teams remain tied, only the total season's goals scored against a team must be considered.
 - iii) if teams remain tied the team leading at half-time in the game between the two tied teams wins the higher position.
 - iv) if teams remain tied the team with less total cards in their game will advance.
 - v) If teams are still tied, the team with the lesser total number of cards throughout the season will be used to determine the team that advances.
 - iv) if the teams remain tied, winner of a coin toss will decide who places higher in the league standings.
- b) If three (3) teams are tied, the convenor must consider if the teams played one another:
 - (If not skip to ii)
 - i) the teams with the best record within the games amongst these three(3) tied teams. A single team may be put through by this method only; then the convenor will consider the two remaining teams as per above.
 - ii) if teams remain tied, only total season's goals scored **against** shall be considered.
 - iii) if teams remain tied the team with less total cards in their game will advance.
 - iv) If teams are still tied, the team with the lesser total number of cards throughout the season will be used to determine the team that advances.
 - v) if teams remain tied the winner of a coin toss will decide places in the standings.

A defaulted game shall count as a 2 – 0 score for purposes of league standings.

Ties during single play-off games shall be settled as follows:

- i) two ten (10)-minute halves (teams will change ends after first overtime half)
- ii) **The Golden Goal is now in effect. First team to score during the overtime will be declared the winner.**
- iii) if the game remains tied, each team will select five (5) players from those on the field at the conclusion of the overtime. These five (5) players shall take penalty kicks alternately, the first team to kick being chosen by the winner of a coin toss. The winner will be the team scoring the most penalty kicks.
- iv) if the game remains tied, the remaining players shall take penalty kicks one (1) from each team alternately, the winner being the team which is ahead after any pair of penalty kicks.

9. Playoff Format

1. The top eight teams (subject to tie-breaking rules in #8 above) in junior and senior advance to the playoff round.
 2. It is always the highest remaining seed who plays the lowest remaining seed in all rounds.
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3. If there are 7 teams, all teams play with the highest seed receiving the bye in the first round.
4. If there are 6 teams, seeds 1 and 2 get a first round bye.
5. If there are 5 teams, seeds 1, 2, and 3 get a first round bye.
6. In each age division, there will be semi finals, as follows:
 - 4th place vs. 1st place
 - 3rd place vs. 2nd place
7. In each age division, there will be a final game with the winners of the semi finals playing at the end of year UOVHSAA tournament.
8. Games shall remain the same length as regular season games.
9. The semi finals and finals will be held at the UOVHSAA tournament the week preceding EOSSAA for all divisions.

10. EOSSAA Representative

For each age division and school classification, a representative shall be decided in the following order:

- a) The team finishing first (or advancing furthest in the play-offs).
- b) If the two finalists are from two different classifications (A, AA, or AAA) they will represent UOVHSAA at EOSSAA.
- c) If only one school from any classification makes the play-offs, that school will represent UOVHSAA at EOSSAA.
- d) If two schools from any classification are in the play-offs and neither makes the next round, a play-off game will be held during the UOVHSAA Championship to decide the UOVHSAA representative to EOSSAA.
- e) If no team from a classification makes the play-offs, a play-off game between the two highest standing teams will be held at the home of the team finishing higher in the standings to decide the UOVHSAA representative to EOSSAA. This game will be played during the week of the UOVHSAA Championships.

11. Protests

- a) All protests shall be lodged in writing with the UOVHSAA convenor who will in turn report the protest to the Chairperson of the UOVHSAA Committee.
- b) All protests shall be lodged within two (2) school days of the conclusion of the disputed game.
- c) All protests arising out of an ineligible player may be lodged at any time upon request of the convenor or member of the school concerned.
- d) If the age of a student participating in a game is questioned by a member of UOVHSAA, the onus for proof of age shall lie with the school which the student represents.

12. Convenor Duties

- a) The convenor shall have a tentative schedule prepared for approval for the March meeting of the UOVHSAA.

- b) The convenor shall send each school an “Intend to Compete” form no later than one week before the March meeting of the UOVHSAA.
- c) The convenor shall assist the head official in assigning referees for each game.
- d) When the schedule is being formed, the convenor shall attempt to schedule an equal distribution of home and away games.
- e) The convenor shall submit a final report to the UOVHSAA by the end of May. This report should include final league and play-off standings and suggestions for change to the Playing Regulations.
- f) The convenor shall be responsible for reporting all matters regarding player or team ineligibility to the Chairperson of the Tribunal.
- g) The convenor shall be responsible for reporting all matters of misconduct of any person belonging to UOVHSAA soccer to the Chairperson of the Tribunal.
- h) The convenor shall be responsible for reporting to the Chairperson of the Tribunal all matters arising out of defaulted games.

13. Awards

The school winning each age division championship shall receive the UOVHSAA trophy for that age division.

The circulating trophies are:

Junior Boys’:

Junior Girls’:

Senior Boys:

Senior Girls’:

These trophies are loaned to the winning school. It is the responsibility of that school to ensure that the trophy is at the championship site for the next year’s competition.

14. Deportment

- a) A team is defined as “All participants representing the same school at an UOVHSAA event”.
- b) A participant is defined as “Anyone who has been granted proper authorization to enter a restricted area”. “Restricted area” includes those areas occupied by athletes and to which access by the general public is restricted or prohibited.
- c) All participants are expected to abide by the “Rules of Behaviour” for Participants as outlined by EOSSAA.
- d) Supervising adults are responsible for the behaviour of participants at all UOVHSAA events.

- e) Supervision in schools for visiting teams is mandatory. Students should not be inside schools for lengths of time without adult supervision.
- f) All coaches are expected to adhere to the “Code of Ethics for Coaches” as outlined by EOSSAA.
- g) All schools entering an UOVHSAA event shall acknowledge responsibility for making restitution for damage resulting from misconduct by their participants.

15. Revisions/Amendments

These playing regulations may be amended/revised at the UOVHSAA meeting by a majority vote of the member schools present (one vote per school).

Proposed amendments/revisions must be presented in writing, and circulated by movers to all member schools.

Copies of proposed amendments/revisions shall be available to the meeting delegate on the meeting day (responsibility of the movers)

Approved amendments/revisions are effective for the next playing season.

Revised & Passed June 2025

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