**SIMCOE COUNTY SPORTS’ PLAYING REGULATIONS**

 **SOCCER**

**1. Simcoe County Guideline Category:** League Play

**2. Season:** Boys' Season: September to November

Girls' Season: April and May

**3. Location of Playoffs and Date:**

 Regional play-offs should begin at least two (2) weeks prior to GBSSA

 The location will be determined annually, depending on the standings.

**4. School Classification and**  “AAA”, “AA”, “A”

Junior and Senior

**5. League Structure and Play:** (including tie breaking procedures)

 Number of games or dates in schedule per school: 6 maximum

 Number of games or dates involved for play-offs: 4 maximum before GBSSA

1. **League Structure:** see the General Guidelines.
2. **League Play:**
3. League play will be within the two divisions: A/AA and AAA.

**(APPENDIX A)**

1. A maximum of six (6) games in each region will be scheduled. An even draw of home and away games will occur as the numbers in the schedule allow. Double games against the same teams are drawn, by chance, by convenor.
2. OFSAA (triplicate) Score sheets are mandatory at each game and must be fully completed to include date of game, score and roster information for both teams. Score sheets are required to be uploaded to the SCAA website no later than 24 hrs after the match. Teams will forfeit their last win should a score sheet not be uploaded to the SCAA website within 72 hours of the game being completed.

 (iv) Points will be awarded as follows: Win = 3 points Tie = 1 point

1. No penalty kicks will be used to break a tie in regular season play.

1. Should a game be abandoned due to weather (see SCAA Wet Fields Policy) it shall be considered a complete game and the score will stand if it is stopped after the commencement of the second half of play.

1. **Tie-Breaking Procedure:** See General Guidelines; Part 1, item 7

**6. Playoff Structure and Play:** (including tie-breaking procedures)

1. **All teams will qualify** for the play-offs. Play-offs will be county wide. An SCAA championship will be awarded at each classification and level.
2. **Teams will be seeded** in their category (“A”, “AA”, “AAA”) based on league play, head-to-head competition, common opponents, coin toss

1. **The Seeding Committee and the seeding of teams:** See General Guidelines; Part 1, item 7
2. **Entry to GBSSA: APPENDIX J**
3. **Tie-breaking Procedure in a Play-off Game:**
4. 2 – 10-minute halves
5. 5 penalty kicks if the game is still tied
6. sudden-death penalty kicks if the game is still tied

**7. Start Times:**

See the General Guidelines;

Secondary School Athletic Activities Operating Parameters, as per the SCDSB

1. **Date for Declaring Classification and Number of Teams:**

Intent to compete and classification level is to be declared prior to scheduling for that season.

**9. Convenorship Rotation:**

1. Convenors will be assigned for a one-year term. The rotation is a call for volunteer followed by appointment by centralized co-ordinator based on school commitments.

**10. Eligibility:** as per the GBSSA Constitution (By –law 2, Sections 1 to 13).

1. Schools must file completed, signed OFSAA Hub eligibility lists (containing the level of competition, names, ages, and birth dates of players, and the required signatures) with the SCAA Chair and regional/district convenor no later than 24 hours prior to the competition. Any player changes require 24-hour notice prior to that player’s first competition in each sport. Note that any games played by players of schools that have not filed eligibility lists will be declared a forfeit (loss).
2. All players must comply with the GBSSA transfer policy and procedures.
3. All junior players must be under 15 years of age, as of January 1st prior to the start of the school year.
4. All senior players must be under 19 years of age, as of January 1st prior to the start of the school year.

**11. Field Use:** See the “Wet Fields Policy” in the General Guidelines.

**12. Rules and Officials:**

 (a) Length of Game: all single header game Junior or Senior = 40-minute halves

 all double header games Junior & Senior = 35-minute halves

 (b) One (1) carded referee **MUST BE USED**.

 This official should not be a member of the teaching staff for either of the competing teams, nor should the official be a student or the parent(s) of a student from either of the competing schools’ team.

1. Two (2) competent lines people should be used (if possible).
2. Uncarded linespeople cannot call “off-sides” during any games.
3. “Infractions and Consequences” Guidelines have been established by coaches.

 (Refer to the page at the end of these Soccer Playing Regulations.)

 (f) Substitution Rule:

 Up to three players may be substituted at any one time. Substitution is "unlimited". Substitutions will be permitted during a stoppage in the play called by the referee.

 The following situations create the opportunity for substitutions:

1. goal kicks
2. the scoring of a goal
3. injury to a player
4. a throw-in, when the substitution is initiated by the team throwing the ball into play
5. half-time
6. the beginning of an overtime period
7. the beginning of a half-time over-time period

 (g) All schools **MUST USE** an official game sheet (either from OSA or OFSAA). This should be a triplicate game sheet; copies are to be distributed accordingly.

 (h) SCAA championship games require one (1) carded referee and two (2) carded lines people, as assigned by the referee coordinator.

**14. Infractions and Consequences Guidelines:**

 The information on the page at the end of these soccer guidelines should be given to the referee before each game. There is often confusion between “summer area/league soccer” and high school soccer games. Due to our ‘Board of Reference’ regulations and in order to somewhat curtail the number of Board of Reference hearings, please educate officials regarding the Guidelines for Soccer Infractions (found following these sport regulations) by providing each with a copy. Encourage the liberal use of the 5 minute ‘green’ yellow penalty reducing the number of red card incidents.

**15. Uniforms and Equipment:**

1. Players must wear the same tops and similar shorts, but socks may differ.

1. Cleats with metal tips are **not allowed**.

1. Shin guards are mandatory. The referee shall make a visual examination of all players' footwear prior to the game.
2. “Sweats” can be worn in cold conditions.

**16. Awards:**

Using the SCAA playoff format (Appendix E), SCAA Champions will be declared at each classification (A, AA, AAA) and level (junior and senior) for both boys’ and girls’. An SCAA championship banner will be awarded to each winning team

**17. Protest Procedure:**

1. Protests may be lodged on situations not under the jurisdiction of the officials or GBSSA Board of Reference.
2. All protests must be made within 24 hours of the incident, by email to the centralized athletic coordinator and followed by a written report within three (3) school days.
3. The SCAA Jury of Appeal will deal with protests.

**Guidelines for Soccer Infractions and Consequences**

“Chippy” behaviour and back talk on the field usually precede more aggressive play and abusive language. It is the responsibility of each coach to identify these preliminary signs and try to cool down the situation. Withdrawal from play and a brief talk with a player may be of great help in this area. It is also asked that the officials exert their authority on the field and warn players that if their unacceptable language, rough play, or unsportsmanlike behaviour continues then a yellow card is imminent.

**Yellow Card Infractions:** A player receives a yellow card, which means “a caution”, if in the opinion of the referee:

 (a) He/she persistently infringes the rules of the game.

 (b) He/she shows by word or action dissent from any decision by the referee.

 (c) He/she is guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct.

 (d) He/she enters, re-enters, or leaves the field of play, after the game has commenced, without the permission of the referee.

**Yellow Card Consequences:**

The referee is encouraged to make liberal use of the yellow card penalty if, in the official’s opinion, it improves the tone of the game and results in fewer red cards.

1. A five (5) minute “off the field” penalty with substitutions allowed.
2. A second yellow means removal from remainder of game. A goalkeeper that receives a YC for moving off their line during a PK will not be required to leave the field for a 5-minute send off.
3. There is no player substitution for a player who receives a second yellow card.

**Red Card Infractions:**

A player will receive a red card, which means “ejection”, if in the opinion of the referee:

 (a) He/she is guilty of violent conduct or serious foul play.

 (b) He/she uses foul or abusive language directed at officials, players, or spectators.

 (c) He/she persists in misconduct after having received a caution or yellow card.

**Red Card Consequences:**

1. An ejection from the game
2. An automatic suspension for, at least, one game
3. A Board of Reference inquiry is required for serious offences as determined by the official.
4. The “carded player” may not participate at any level of play until the Board of Reference convenes and adjudicates.
5. The referee is given the discretion to declare “No Board of Reference Required” for intentional handballs.
6. There is no player substitution for a player who receives a red card.