

SOCCER ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 11, 2025



IMPORTANT DATES

Beginning Practice Date	March 3
Officials' Spring Clinics	March 8
EAP Rehearsal Date (recommended)	March 12
Earliest Possible Competition	March 20
Early Season Tournaments	March 31-April 15
Mid-Season Tournaments	May 5-10
Regional Tournaments	May 19-24
State Quarterfinals	May 26
State Semifinals	May 28
State Consolation & Champ Finals	May 31
KSHSAA Summer Moratorium	June 30-July 6



TRUE BLUE KSHSAA SCHOLARSHIP

In partnership with Capitol Federal Foundation, the KSHSAA will award True Blue Scholarships intended to support Kansas High School graduates in postsecondary efforts. This one-time scholarship is for students graduating during the 2024-25 school year. These funds will be made payable to a two-year or four-year accredited college, university, or technical school in the name of the selected student. Awards are non-renewable, one-time scholarships in the amount of \$2000 provided for a student in each activity administered by the KSHSAA **(INCLUDING BOYS & GIRLS SOCCER)**. Applications are due **March 3**. [CLICK HERE FOR APPLICATION](#)

2024-25 RULES MEETING & EXAM

COACHES – All KSHSAA head soccer coaches (high school and middle school) are required to complete a rules meeting and a rules exam prior to the season. *NEW THIS YEAR: All assistant coaches are required to complete a rules meeting.* The rules meeting and the exam are accessible online through March 19 for girls high school coaches and middle school spring coaches.

OFFICIALS – Registered soccer officials who have not done so already may complete the required online rules meeting and the rules exam through April 15. Info packets are mailed to officials once they register.

OFFICIALS' SPRING CLINICS

Officials are invited to a KSHSAA/KSOA Spring Soccer Pre-Season Clinic on March 8 from 9:00-12:30. There are 4 clinic sites across the state (Dodge City, Wichita, Topeka, & Kansas City). Clinics will offer classroom and outdoor field instruction, so participants should plan accordingly and bring a whistle, cards, and flags if they have them. Clinics are FREE! Please register in advance at:

bit.ly/spring25clinic

GUIDANCE FOR COACHES & ATHLETES

If you ever have questions about what coaches and athletes can or cannot do during the school year (outside the season of sport or during the season of sport) or during the summer, please click [HERE](#).

KSHSAA RULES REVIEW – Click [HERE](#) to access the KSHSAA Handbook.

KSHSAA RULE 22 – Once a student begins practice with a school team, the student may not play on an outside/club/rec team in the same sport/activity during the school season.

KSHSAA RULE 26-1-4 – A student shall not participate in group training sessions or tryouts held by outside agencies **other than colleges** in a sport while he or she is a member of a school athletic team in that identical sport. *NEW THIS YEAR: Schools may allow athletes to attend college tryouts/ID camps hosted by colleges during the school soccer season.*

KSHSAA RULE 30-1-6a – Schools may not hold interschool scrimmages (practices) in athletics. Interschool is defined as middle/junior school with another middle/junior school and senior high school with another senior high school. **This does not eliminate scrimmages between alumni and the school team.** During a scrimmage there can be no score kept and no clock. Use of officials is permitted. Should one or more game elements (score or time) be involved, it would no longer be a scrimmage but must count toward the number of contests allowed during the season. Intrasquad scrimmages, games among teammates, even with score, time and/or officials used would not be considered a game.

ARE ALL YOUR STUDENT ATHLETES ELIGIBLE?

Double-check and verify with your athletic director that all your student-athletes are eligible to compete (Physical Examination Parental Consent Rule #7 and Individual Eligibility Rules #12-26 in the KSHSAA Handbook).

SPRING SOCCER PLAYERS NOT REQUIRED TO HAVE 9 DAYS OF PRACTICE

In September 2021, the KSHSAA Board of Directors approved a modification to Soccer Rule 38-1-2 making the nine-day practice requirement applicable only to the fall soccer season. Now, only fall activities have minimum practice requirements before competing primarily for heat acclimatization concerns.

JAMBOREES FOR HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

The purpose for these controlled playing opportunities is to provide a meaningful, learning and training experience for players, coaches, and officials. Jamborees must take place prior to regular season competitions and include 3 or 4 KSHSAA member schools. Participating athletes must have at least 5 prior practices. KSHSAA registered officials are required. It is strongly encouraged to use jamborees as training opportunities for officials. Time should be scheduled during a jamboree for officials to review rules changes and sportsmanship expectations with players and coaches. To review all the requirements for a Soccer Jamboree, click [HERE](#).

2024-25 KSHSAA SOCCER MANUAL CHANGES

The KSHSAA Soccer Manual was mailed to school athletic directors and is accessible on the KSHSAA website. After reviewing survey data from member schools who participate in soccer, the KSHSAA Executive Board approved the following two changes to the KSHSAA Soccer Manual:

1. **Reduced the 10-goal differential to 8 throughout regular season and postseason play.**
Rationale: Primary reason is risk/injury mitigation. This remains applicable only after one complete half of play. Number of goals scored is not a postseason seeding criteria.
2. **Removed the two 5-minute sudden victory overtime periods in postseason play.** Postseason contests ending regulation with a tie score will play two 10-minute sudden victory periods and then proceed to penalty kicks when needed.
Rationale: Primary reason is risk/injury mitigation. Align more closely with regular season overtime procedure which is two 10-minute sudden victory periods.

2024-25 NFHS RULES & POINTS OF EMPHASIS

To access and review NFHS soccer rules changes and points of emphasis with rationale and explanation, please go to [NFHS.ORG – SOCCER](https://www.nfhs.org/soccer) or [KSHSAA.ORG – SOCCER](https://www.kshsaa.org/soccer). This year's points of emphasis are as follows:

1. Official's Toolbox for Game Management
2. Stopping a Promising Attack (SPA)
3. After a Goal

OTHER HELPFUL LINKS

[NFHS SOCCER FIELD DIAGRAM](#)

[NFHS SOCCER OFFICIAL SIGNALS](#)

NFHSLearn.COM (Be sure to check out all the offerings at www.nfhslearn.com.)

So many helpful courses and videos are available for coaches, officials, students, parents, administrators . . .

Two FREE courses are *Implicit Bias* and *The Collapsed Athlete*.

Officials – take advantage of FREE officiating courses, *Pregame Conference*, *Fouls & Misconduct*, & *Offside Rule*

Coaches – *The Parent Seat*, *Beyond the Scoreboard*, & *A Lasting Relationship* are FREE, brief (around 5 minutes) videos you can download and show at parent meetings or share electronically. Click [HERE](#) to access.

STUDENT SAFETY REMINDERS *THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS IN MINIMIZING RISK FOR KANSAS STUDENTS!*

- ✓ **Have all coaches including assistants completed the CPR/AED training requirement?**
 - Click [HERE](#) to learn more about this KSHSAA Requirement.
- ✓ **Concussion Recognition and Management**
 - Click [HERE](#) for information regarding concussion recognition and proper management.
 - Know the state law and associated [KSHSAA GUIDELINES](#).
 - Per Executive Board policy, all coaches, student participants and school administrators responsible for event coverage must complete a concussion education program.
 - **ANY** concussion sustained while participating in a KSHSAA sponsored activity (practice or competition) is to be reported to the KSHSAA via the online [CONCUSSION REPORTING PORTAL](#).
- ✓ **Coach/Sponsor Reference Guide**
 - Click [HERE](#) to download a reference guide coaches can use for basic emergency management guidelines. This is an excellent tool for coaches to keep on hand and regularly review.
- ✓ **[KSHSAA HEAT POLICY BASED ON WET BULB GLOBE TEMPERATURE \(WBGT\)](#)**
 - **NFHS Soccer Rule 5-3-2e allows stoppage of play for hydration breaks.**

EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (EAP) – Recommended Rehearsal Date is March 12.

- An emergency action plan should be in place for every sport, team and venue.
- For assistance in developing an EAP or finding additional resources to improve your EAPs, click [HERE](#).
- The emergency action plan should be rehearsed by EVERYONE involved, at least one time annually.
- **An automated external defibrillator (AED) should be readily available at any practice or competition.**
- **Review the PPE.** Be sure your coaches are aware of any pre-existing conditions in their student-athletes that were indicated on their PPE (e.g., allergies, asthma, diabetes, cardiac abnormalities, sickle cell trait, concussion history, required medications, etc.).



OFFICIAL BALL FOR KSHSAA POSTSEASON SOCCER

The KSHSAA is proud to partner with SELECT and have the SELECT Royale as the official postseason ball for KSHSAA soccer. Balls will be provided by the KSHSAA to host schools/sites for each postseason contest. For special school rates and discounts for SELECT items and a list of SELECT dealers in Kansas, click [HERE](#).

Balls used for regular season contests are at the discretion of the host school. They must have the NFHS authenticating mark.

UNIFORMS

The home team wears dark colored jerseys and socks (clear contrast to white), and the visiting team wears solid white jerseys (no colored piping, stripes, etc.) and solid white socks. Read carefully **Rule 4-1** in the NFHS Soccer Rules Book. You may also reference the [NFHS UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS DOCUMENT](#).

SHINGUARDS (NFHS Rule 4-1-5) . . . shall provide adequate and reasonable protection; be professionally manufactured, **age and size appropriate**; not altered to decrease protection; be worn under the socks with the bottom edge no higher than 2 inches above the ankle; NOCSAE mark and height range shall be permanently marked on the front of the shinguard.

NFHS Rule 12-4-4: The head coach shall be responsible for ensuring each player on the team is properly and legally equipped. **The head coach shall receive the first caution issued for an illegally equipped player.**

OFFICIALS' UNIFORM/GEAR (NFHS RULE 5-1-3)

The officials shall be dressed alike in the uniforms primarily consisting of:

- a. a shirt approved by the state association; in the event of a color conflict between the officials and the field players of either team, the officials shall change to a jersey of a color distinct from the field players of both teams. *(The KSHSAA does not specify shirt color for officials. For new officials, the predominant shirt colors worn by KSHSAA soccer officials are yellow, green, red, blue, and black.)*
- b. black shorts or long trousers.
- c. predominantly black shoes and black knee socks with white horizontal stripes.
- d. two whistles, yellow card, red card, stopwatch/wristwatch, flipping coin, pencil, and paper/scorecard.
- e. a solid black cap, if worn.
- f. unless otherwise prohibited by the state association, electronic communication devices may be used by officials to communicate. *(The KSHSAA does not prohibit officials from using electronic communication devices.)*