**2023 WSPSSA BOYS SOCCER RULES**

1. Refer to the general soccer rules as stipulated by FIFA. Please also note the following:

* Corners are taken from half way between the 18-yard box (penalty area) and the corner arc in **Junior** games. Corners are taken from the corner arc in **Senior** games.
* Goal kicks are taken from the 6-yard box (goal area) in both Junior and Senior games and the ball must leave the 18-yard box (penalty area) before being touched by another player.
* The offside rule is to be played in both Junior and Senior games.

2. Matches are to start at 12:30 pm (12:15 pm for Semis and Grand Finals)

* Juniors (Stage 2) 15 minutes each way
* Seniors (Stage 3) 20 minutes each way
* Teams should be ready to start on time.

3. Soccer Balls: **Size 4** for both competitions.

4. Each team may make unlimited interchanges during a game.

5. A junior player (Stage 2) may take the field in a senior game **only if** there are no senior players (Stage 3) available to substitute or not enough senior players to field a starting team. A senior player **must not** play in a junior game under any circumstances.

6. Interchanges shall take place on the sideline at any stoppage in play after the referee’s permission has been obtained.

* The player must exit the playing field before the interchange player can enter the field.

7. Parents may act as referees only after the following conditions have been met:

* A letter of accreditation must be submitted to the relevant sporting convener to show the parent is a fully qualified referee with an appropriate sporting body.
* They should NOT have a child on the team they are to referee.
* They should NOT coach the team they are to referee.
* They have the permission of the convener.

8. In all matches, the referee shall be the sole timekeeper and allow for injury time, substitutions and other stoppages.

9. The point score for all games will be:

* Win – 3 points
* Draw – 2 points
* Loss – 1 point

10. In all PSSA competitions, 10 minutes grace shall be granted on the convener’s specified starting time before a forfeit will be allowed unless there is an agreement between the parties concerned.

11. In the event of a forfeit, the non-forfeiting team receives three competition points with a

**3 – 0** score recorded as the result.

12. If a school activity (e.g. camp) prevents a school from playing a round of a WSPSSA competition, it is up to that school, if preferred, to arrange the game to be played prior to the finals series. The convener must be notified of the change in advance and then sent the results.

13. In games to determine **semi-final** placing, positions will be determined by the following:

* In the event of teams tied on points at the end of the regular season for boys soccer (**at least two-thirds of the competition must be played to have finals**) the following methods are to be used to separate teams (in order from first used to last used if required).

a) Goals for/goals against - subtract goals against from goals scored - higher total goes through

b) IF STILL EQUAL - refer to results of when the 2 teams played: goals against subtracted from goals scored -higher total goes through

c) IF STILL EQUAL - a playoff game will be scheduled a minimum of 2 days before any preliminary final game.

**Week 1 - Semi-Finals:**

**GAME 1 - 1st place WSPSSA vs 4th place WSPSSA (losing team eliminated)**

**GAME 2 - 2nd place WSPSSA vs 3rd place WSPSSA (losing team eliminated)**

**Week 2 – Grand Finals:**

**Winner Game 1 vs Winner Game 2 (winner – WSPSSA Champions)**

14. In the case of a drawn semi-final or grand final, then five (5) minutes each way extra time shall be played.

15. In extra time, the golden goal rule shall apply - i.e. the team scoring the first goal in extra time automatically wins the match.

16. If the score is still tied in semi-finals or grand finals, the champion team will be that team which was placed higher on the points table at the conclusion of the round robin matches.

**BEHAVIOUR ON FIELD**

17. Only a team captain should question a referee's decision (in a polite manner).

18. Insolence or foul language by players should not be tolerated and if deemed appropriate the player should be sent off the field.

19. If you send off a player for inappropriate behaviour, a replacement is permitted.

20. Whilst supporting your team is to be encouraged, it is a WSPSSA rule at all levels of competition that there is no specific coaching from the sidelines.

**RESULTS**

21. Please **EMAIL or SMS** results with scores by **12 pm the Monday following the matches**.

22. Failure to send scores through may result in no points being awarded.

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