

CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
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46th ANNUAL GIRLS SOCCER INFORMATION PACKET 2025
77th ANNUAL BOYS SOCCER INFORMATION PACKET 2025

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THE SOCCER TOURNAMENT INFORMATION IS ARRANGED IN ELEVEN (11) SECTIONS.

- 1.0 Sites / Date
- 2.0 Divisions
- 3.0 Qualifying
- 4.0 Entry Procedures
- 5.0 Tournament Rules / Procedures
- 6.0 Ranking / Seeding
- 7.0 Expenses / Tickets
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- 11.0 Supervision / Sportsmanship

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CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
2025 BOYS / GIRLS SOCCER INFORMATION
ALERT

1. **All coaches must be aware of changes to the cumulative card rule as well as the disqualification rule (see Appendix B).** It is strongly recommended to make sure someone, preferably an adult, is at the scorer's table for all varsity games.
2. **All schools must keep accurate records during a game and confirm all cards with officials and the opponent before leaving the field. DO NOT LEAVE THE GAME SITE UNTIL YOU HAVE THE CARD INFORMATION.**
3. **Remember that you are required to fill out this form online at the conclusion of each game (including those with zero penalties). You are also required to report all cards issued in regular season, league tournament, and CIAC tournament games.**
4. **The Boys and Girls Soccer Committee voted to apply a success in tournament factor when placing schools* that draw students from outside their school district boundaries in tournament divisions.** The committee will first place schools in their divisions by enrollment and then use success in tournament to move schools up in division and then rebalance the divisions. Schools of choice will receive points for each level of success in the state tournament over the past three years. These points will be added together and applied to an approved scale to determine division movement.

- A team reaching the semi-finals receives 3 points.
- A team reaching the championship game receives 5 points.
- A team winning a state championship receives 8 points.

4 points – 10 points – Move up one division
11 points – 20 points – Move up two divisions
21 points – 24 points – Move up three divisions

Each year the committee will review results from the past three years and adjust as appropriate. Schools can move up or down depending on their success in tournament play.

* Charter, magnet, parochial, vocational technical, and Project Choice schools that have more than 25 each of male / female students from out-of-district.

5. **If a tie exists at the end of regulation in all tournament games including the championship games, two ten-minute overtime periods will be used. After the first overtime period, a second ten-minute overtime period will be held after which penalty kicks will be used. There will be no “sudden victory” used in the overtime period.**
6. ***The clock shall be stopped when a substitute by the team in the lead is beckoned onto the field in the final five minutes of the second period and the final five minutes of the second overtime.***
7. The Boys/Girls Soccer Committee strongly recommends that member schools demonstrate good sportsmanship in games where the scoring margin becomes excessive.
8. **Individual yellow cards will be set to zero (0) at the start of the CIAC tournament. An athlete or coach who receives their second Tier 1 yellow card during the tournament is disqualified and must sit out the next game. After sitting out for this infraction, players/coaches will have to sit out an additional game for every subsequent Tier 1 yellow card received.**
9. **Individual cards will reset for league tournaments. Cards for league tournaments still must be reported to the CIAC. If you collect two Tier 1 yellow cards in a league tournament you must sit in the next league tournament game.**

10. Officials **will report all red and yellow cards online to CIAC after each game.** Each school assumes the responsibility of recording all penalty cards into their respective score books for every game and **reporting both red and yellow cards when posting their score online.**
11. **SCORES OF TOURNAMENT GAMES AND CARDS MUST BE REPORTED ONLINE IMMEDIATELY AT THE END OF THE GAME. TEAMS SHOULD ALSO CONTACT THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR BY PHONE TO REPORT THE FINAL SCORE.**
12. **Games scheduled for Friday may be played on Saturday, as needed, and determined by the host school.**
13. **Trainers** – Schools must provide their own trainer at all CIAC semi-final and championship final contests.
14. **Member schools must make every effort to complete their season as scheduled, including make-up games. Any effort to gain an advantage in tournament play by not playing a game is unacceptable and is subject to action by the CIAC Board of Control. Cancellation of any regular season contest/make-up to play in a league tournament will not be allowed.**
15. **Postponements** – If there is a weather-related postponement in rounds one or two of the tournament the school will be required to play the next day.
16. **Scrimmages** – **Teams must have a minimum of three (3) days of practice prior to scheduling any interscholastic activity.** All sports teams and individual athletes must have a minimum of ten (10) physical/exertional practice days with their school before the date of the first scheduled competition. No team/athlete shall practice/compete with their school more than six (6) consecutive days to provide a day of rest. Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays may be used unless prohibited by local board policy. Sunday practices may be counted to fulfill the 10-day requirement.
17. **Students with Special Needs** - **Coaches are reminded to inform contest officials prior to each competition of any student with special needs who could be competing in the contest when his/her disability could impact the individual's performance or the conduct of the competition.**
18. **CIAC Tournament Site Media Policy** – The CIAC places tremendous value on the role the media plays in promoting and highlighting high school sports. To that purpose CIAC tournament venues and hosts should make every effort to provide a working environment conducive to all media (print, broadcast and internet based) covering our events. The following are minimum standards, developed in consultation with the CIAC Media Advisory Committee, which should be provided for working media at all CIAC tournament sites.
 - 1) A minimum of one hour following the conclusion of post-game interviews to write in the press box, press area or a suitable facility in close proximity to the site of the event (i.e. office, classroom, etc.).
 - 2) Access to electric power (shared power strip, etc.).
 - 3) Access to wireless internet service.

Site directors should communicate these requirements to any staff person who may be responsible for the administration of the event. If for some reason a site will not be able to provide these items for a contest, a site representative should inform the CIAC in advance and work with the media on site before the game and work to provide a reasonable solution to the issue. Members of the media who will be covering events are directed to contact the appropriate site as far in advance as possible to inform them they will be at the event and discuss what arrangements will be made for working media at the site.

19. **Unmanned Aerial Systems at CIAC-Sanctioned Events** – The use of unmanned aerial systems, often referred to as drones, are prohibited for any purpose by any person(s) at all CIAC-sanctioned events. This policy includes not only the restricted playing area of the venue(s), but also the physical confines of the entire stadium / field / arena structure. For the purpose of this policy, an unmanned aerial system is any aircraft without a human pilot on board.

NFHS SOCCER RULE CHANGES 2025-26

- 3-3-1, 2, 3, 2c (New)** Removes redundant language and permits substitutions during a temporarily suspended game.
Rationale: Eliminates redundant language and allows substitutions during a temporarily suspended game. In hot weather, state associations often authorize stoppages within a half for water breaks. Under this change, teams would now be permitted to make substitutions during these stoppages.
- 3-3-2b(2)** Clarifies that an injured player must leave the field if the referee beckons a coach or appropriate health-care provider.
Rationale: The rules change clarifies the current rule that if an official beckons a coach or appropriate health-care provider for any injured player, including the goalkeeper, that player must leave the field regardless of the reason the clock is stopped.
- 4-1-2** Clarifies that a number is required on the front of the jersey and/or the shorts.
Rationale: This language supports the rule prior to the reorganization of Rule 4 and adds clarification to the overall interpretation to clarify that a number is required on the front of the uniform which may be on the jersey and/or the shorts.
- 7-2-24 (New)** Prohibits a coach or team personnel other than the team captain from speaking with a referee during interval between periods, unless beckoned by a referee.
Rationale: The time between periods of play is designated for rest for all participants, not for engaging with officials. This rule change introduces specific language and penalties for coaches who confront officials during these intervals, aiming to reduce unnecessary disputes and maintain a respectful game environment.
- 12-4-4:** A misconduct penalty may be given to the head coach if team or bench misconduct occurs.
Rationale: To encourage and support sporting and positive bench decorum, the rule change reinforces the head coach's responsibility for the conduct of their team and bench personnel within the team area. It provides officials with additional tools, allowing them to warn, caution, or eject the head coach if any bench personnel engage in misconduct.
- Rule 18** Elimination of Rule 18. Incorporating the definitions into their corresponding rules while expanding the index to serve as a quick reference tool to streamline the rules, improve clarity, remove unnecessary duplication and eliminate conflicting definitions.
Rationale: This change relocates definitions into their corresponding rules, streamlining the rules book by reducing redundancies and contradictions. The expanded index at the back of the book continues to serve as a helpful quick reference tool, while definitions were updated and aligned in context with appropriate rules.

2025-26 Editorial Changes

3-3-2b(5), 3-3-3b(4), 3-3-3c(2), 3-3-3d(3), 3-3-7, 4-1-1c, 4-1 Notes, 5-1-2, 13-1-5

2025-26 Soccer Points of Emphasis

1. Education Based High School Athletics
2. Courage, Character and Consistency
3. Team Areas and Bench Decorum
4. Player Uniform Equipment and Safety

2025 CIAC BOYS' AND GIRLS' SOCCER TOURNAMENTS
Sponsored by CT DOT and Spalding

1.0 DATES / SITES / TIMES

- 1.1 Member schools may start practice on, but not before, Monday, August 18, 2025.
- 1.2 Member schools may play the first game on, but not before Tuesday, September 2, 2025.
- 1.3 The last date for games to count for the 2025 girls' and boys' soccer tournament will be Monday, October 27, 2025.

1.4 **Scheduled Playing Dates for the 2025 Boys Soccer Tournament:**

Playdown (if necessary)		Wednesday, October 29
First Round	LL, L, M, S	Friday, October 31 or Saturday, November 1
Second Round	LL, L, M, S	Monday, November 3
Quarter-finals	LL, L, M, S	Thursday, November 6
Semi-finals	LL, L, M, S	Tues., Wed., Thurs., November 11, 12 or 13
Finals	LL, L, M, S	Sat., November 15 or Sun., November 16

Scheduled Playing Dates for the 2025 Girls Soccer Tournament:

Playdown (if necessary)		Wednesday, October 29
First Round	LL, L, M, S	Friday, October 31 or Saturday, November 1
Second Round	LL, L, M, S	Tuesday, November 4
Quarter-finals	LL, L, M, S	Friday, November 7 (or Sat., November 8)
Semi-finals	LL, L, M, S	Tues., Wed., Thurs., November 11, 12, or 13
Finals	LL, L, M, S	Sat., November 15 or Sun., November 16

For all weekday tournament games, the **Home team has the option to play either at 2:00 p.m. or at 4:00 p.m. if they have lights. If the game is started after 4:00 p.m. it must be by mutual agreement.** If a later start is mutually agreed upon the tournament director must be informed of the new starting time. For games played on Saturday or a holiday the starting time will be at the mutually agreed time of the teams involved. The tournament director will determine the starting time if no mutual agreement is reached. From semi-final and championship games, the tournament director has the authority to schedule night games, Consent from the participating schools is not required.

Distance cannot be a factor in assigning sites for semi-final and final round games. The committee cites the difficulty in obtaining sites, staff, and numerous other factors in making assignments in order to provide the best neutral field possible.

Tournament games will be played with two equal halves of 40 minutes duration for a total of 80 minutes of regular play.

- 1.5 In the event of inclement weather, the site director has the authority to postpone the game. The site director must immediately notify the tournament director. The postponed game will be played on the next day including Sunday, unless a school is prohibited from Sunday play. **IF THERE IS A WEATHER-RELATED POSTPONEMENT IN ROUNDS ONE OR TWO OF THE TOURNAMENT THE SCHOOLS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PLAY THE NEXT DAY.**
- 1.6 All first round, second round and quarter-final games will be played on the field of the higher ranked team based on the ORIGINAL PERCENTAGE RANKINGS. The host school shall provide a site director, who should be someone other than the coach, and game supervisors.

The higher ranked team will be responsible for providing an athletic trainer and securing officials up through the quarter-finals. CIAC pays for officials from the quarter-finals on.

- 1.7 The tournament director will determine the sites and times for all semi-finals and finals. Night games may be scheduled. The tournament director will designate the site director.
- 1.8 CIAC highly recommends that all soccer fields used for the tournament be 65 yards wide by 110 yards long. The minimum requirement is 60 yards wide by 110 yards long. Fields that do not meet the minimum requirement cannot be used and the game must be moved to an approved site.

2.0 **DIVISIONS**

- 2.1 Only institutional members of the Conference may enter this tournament which will be in four (4) divisions. Placement of schools has been based on the 2024-25 girl or boy 9-12 enrollment figures **and Tournament Success Factor.**

A listing of tournament divisions is available on the boys soccer and girls soccer pages.

3.0 **QUALIFYING**

- 3.1 To be eligible for consideration in the tournament a team must play a minimum of ten (10) games AGAINST VARSITY OPPONENTS and have a winning percentage of 40%. Only the first two games played with any single opponent will be included in the total games played.
- 3.2 Only games played with Conference member schools, American School for the Deaf, or approved out-of-state schools who are members of their state athletic association shall be considered.
- 3.3 Games played with non-member Connecticut secondary schools shall not be considered in the rating of teams.

4.0 **ENTRY PROCEDURE**

- 4.1 **Game Results** – In order to ensure that standings and rankings on both the CIAC’s websites and other sites which draw their data from us are timely and accurate, all regular season scores must be entered online on the day of the game as soon as possible following the game’s completion.

Scores and Cards must be entered via the Online Eligibility Center.

Regardless of regular season postponed games, the date of **MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2025 MUST BE THE FINAL DAY TO COUNT FOR THE TOURNAMENT.** All games played after the entry form has been submitted, must be completed, and **scores and cards reported** to the CIAC office via the online eligibility center by Monday, October 27.

- 4.2 **Change of Division Form** – Athletic Directors wanting to change divisions must send a letter (email) to Gregg Simon. It must be received by August 22 for the 2025 season. Teams can only apply to move up in division. Teams cannot move down. Teams, if approved to move up, must stay in that division for a minimum of three (3) years.
- 4.3 **Tournament Rosters / Entry** – Can be submitted on the eligibility center. Rosters must be submitted by Wednesday, October 29, 2025. **A team roster is limited to 30 players.**
- 4.4 **Entry Fee** – There is a \$100 entry fee for both the girls and boys soccer tournament which should be mailed to the CIAC office, 30 Realty Drive, Cheshire, CT 06410.

4.5 CIAC Late Entry Policy

- No tournament entries will be accepted after the established deadline except those approved by the CIAC Board of Control.
- Corrections requested by a school to an entry form that was submitted by the established deadline but prior to seeding/pairing data being published on the web site, will be assessed a fee of \$50 per correction to a maximum of \$250.
- All requests for corrections must be submitted by contacting the CIAC office.
- **All red/yellow cards for league and CIAC tournament games must be posted along with the results of the game on the CIAC web site.**

4.6 **Tournament Regulations Violations** – If a school fails to comply with tournament regulations and such requires the CIAC tournament sports committee, central office staff, or the CIAC Board of Control to redo any portion of the tournament pairings or such non-compliance adversely impacts the management of the tournament, an administrative violation fee of \$500 will be imposed upon the school before entry into the tournament will be allowed.

5.0 TOURNAMENT RULES / PROCEDURES

5.1 Ties

- a. In all tournament games the following shall be the procedure to resolve a tie score. After a five-minute time out:
 - 1) Two ten-minute overtime periods shall be played.
 - 2) After the first overtime, the teams will change direction without a time out. A second ten-minute overtime period shall be played.
 - 3) If tied after two ten-minute overtime periods, penalty kicks will be used to determine the winner.
 - 4) There is no sudden victory – both ten-minute overtime periods must be played to completion.
 - 5) First Round Penalty Kicks – Five players from each team kick once alternately or until the lead is insurmountable. Any eligible player on the tournament roster may be included, they do not have to be on the field at the end of the game.
 - 6) Second Penalty Kicks – Five different players from each team kick once alternately or until the lead is insurmountable.
 - 7) If a tie remains, repeat step 5 and if needed step 6 until a winner is declared.
- b. After each set of ten kickers from each team, players may be repeated. **Penalty cards shall carry over into overtime periods.**
- c. There will be no sudden victory during any penalty kick rounds.

5.2 **The tournament soccer ball for the 2025 tournament will be the SPALDING TF-5000. This ball shall be used for all tournament games, including first and second round games. The higher ranked team shall provide at least five (5) official tournament balls for all games.** Officials must report to CIAC any school hosting a game who does not use the CIAC designated ball. The CIAC Board of Control will take appropriate action with the school.

5.3 **HIGHER RANKED TEAM MUST WEAR DARK JERSEYS (HOME UNIFORM). THE LOWER RANKED TEAM SHALL WEAR WHITE JERSEYS.**

5.4 The Site Director must provide a minimum of two “ball persons” for each tournament game through the quarter-finals. **Site directors should not allow spectators to stand behind the goals. Both teams participating are responsible for two (2) “ball persons” each for semi-final and championship games.**

5.5 In all cases where a toss of coin may be required, the higher ranked team will have the privilege of call on the coin.

- 5.6 **Suspended Games** – Regular season games if suspended in the first half, must be restarted from the beginning with the score 0-0. If suspended after one full half of play the game will be declared an official game.
- 5.7 In CIAC tournament play a game suspended either in the first half or the second half will be rescheduled, and play will continue from the point of suspension with the score the same as when the game was suspended.
- 5.8 **Terminated Games** – Definition – “When a game has been ended by the referee for actions of the participants or spectators such as refusal to play or disorder.”

In such cases the status of the game during the regular season may include forfeiture and is resolved by proper authority – the principals of the two schools, league rules and procedures.

During the CIAC tournament the Executive Director or his/her designee will determine the status of any terminated game along with the chair of the committee and the tournament director(s).

- 5.9 SEE APPENDIX C for the regulation and penalties for yellow cards.

CIAC Soccer Committee requires all schools post their red / yellow card infractions after each game. Schools must continue to report all red / yellow cards issued during the league championship and the CIAC tournament when they post their scores.

6.0 **RANKING / SEEDING**

- 6.1
 - a. Teams will be seeded by winning percentage, computed by taking the total of two points per win and one point per tie divided by twice the number of games played. Any team with a winning percentage of .400 or greater will qualify for the tournament.
 - b. When ties in winning percentage exist, they will be broken in the following manner:
 - 1) Head-to-head competition (only if exactly two teams are tied).
 - 2) Point ranking, based on three points for each win and one point for each tie. Unlike the winning percentage where teams with different numbers of wins can have the same percentage, this ensures that the team in the tie with the most wins will be ranked higher.
 - 3) If after using point ranking, exactly two teams are still tied and they met head-to-head, then head-to-head will be used at this point.
 - 4) The totals of the point rankings from step #2 for each opponent defeated and half of the point rankings from step #2 for each opponent tied. If an opponent was beaten or tied twice then the appropriate number will be used twice in determining the total.
 - 5) Total number of Tier 1 cards received by the team (lower number would earn higher seed).
 - 6) Computer generated random tiebreaker number located on CIAC website.
- 6.2 A TEAM MAINTAINS ITS INITIAL PERCENTAGE RANKING THROUGHOUT THE TOURNAMENT.
- 6.3 Order of play if more than 32 teams qualify for the tournament in any division.

If 33 teams	If 34 teams	If 35 teams	If 36 teams
32 vs 33	32 vs 33	32 vs 33	32 vs 33
	31 vs 34	31 vs 34	31 vs 34
		30 vs 35	30 vs 35
			29 vs 36

6.4 In case there are not thirty-two (32) teams that qualify, byes will be awarded to the appropriate number of higher ranked teams.

6.5 **Tournament Format**

<u>First Round</u>	<u>Second Round</u>	<u>Quarter-finals</u>	<u>Semi-finals</u>	<u>Finals</u>
1 vs 32				
16 vs 17	1 vs 16			
8 vs 25		1 vs 8		
9 vs 24	8 vs 9			
4 vs 29			1 vs 4	
13 vs 20	4 vs 13			
5 vs 28		4 vs 5		
12 vs 21	5 vs 12			
2 vs 31				1 vs 2
15 vs 18	2 vs 15			
7 vs 26		2 vs 7		
10 vs 23	7 vs 10			
3 vs 30			2 vs 3	
14 vs 19	3 vs 14			
6 vs 27		3 vs 6		
11 vs 22	6 vs 11			

6.6 **Ranking and Pairing Information** – Will be posted on the CIAC web site on Tuesday, October 28, 2025.

7.0 **EXPENSES / TICKETS**

7.1 The higher ranked team will host first round and second round games and the host team will pay all game expenses for these games, **including officials**. **The higher ranked team must also assign an athletic trainer to the event and contact their commissioner of officials.** Schools may charge admission if they wish to keep the gate in rounds 1 and 2. Admission will be charged at all quarter-final games and gate receipts sent to CIAC. For quarter-final games, the host school will be reimbursed **up to \$200** for costs **AND CIAC will pay the officials and site director**. If the host site cannot effectively charge and collect tickets at their site the game will be moved to a neutral site that can accommodate ticket sales or the site of the lower ranked team will be used. Schools must contact the tournament director if they cannot charge for the event. **Schools are expected to provide their own trainer from the quarter-finals on.**

7.2 If in first and second round play, schools wish to charge admission, they should notify the principal and athletic director of the visiting school in advance.

7.3 Visiting schools will bear all traveling expenses.

7.4 The CIAC Soccer Committee will pay all game expenses directly associated with the staging of the semi-finals and final tournament games, including officials.

7.5 **Charges for admission for quarter-finals and semi-finals will be: (Subject to change)**

- Free – Children five (5) and under; military in uniform or with I.D.
- \$5.00 Senior Citizens (age 65 and older); Students (grades 1-12)
- \$10.00 Adults (all others not in the above categories)

Admission for finals will be \$10 per person.

ALL TICKET SALES FOR CIAC TOURNAMENT GAMES WILL BE SOLD AND REDEEMED VIA DIGITAL TICKETING.

- 7.6 During the 2025 tournament, the following passes will be honored at all games where an admission is charged.
- a. Principal (or designee) and athletic director of participating schools
 - b. Official CIAC Soccer Pass (head varsity soccer coach – REQUEST MUST BE IN WRITING)
 - c. CIAC **Soccer Officials** Association membership card
 - d. Press Card
 - e. CIAC Soccer Committee Pass – on lanyard
 - f. No other complimentary admissions will be permitted

8.0 **OFFICIALS**

- 8.1 **The host school in the first round, second round and quarter-final games must call their commissioner of officials and request that officials be assigned. Each commissioner has been made aware of this.**

The semi-final and final game officials will be assigned by the tournament and assistant tournament director from the approved list submitted by each board. Three (3) officials will be used in all games from the quarter-finals on.

- 8.2 Identity of officials assigned games by the Officials Coordinator will not be disclosed prior to the game.

9.0 **PROTESTS**

- 9.1 **Decisions by Game Officials** – Disputes arising from the decisions, interpretations and misapplication of the National Federation or CIAC games rules by officials during the contest will not be considered. The decisions and interpretations of the rules by the officials are final.

The record of the official scorekeeper at the conclusion of the contest is final unless an error is discovered. Such error shall be corrected as covered by specific contest rules.

Any team leaving the contest area before the conclusion of the contest because of dissatisfaction with the officiating will render the school liable to disciplinary action by the conference.

- 9.2 On the eve of a tournament when there is not sufficient time for normal administrative procedures and Board of Control hearings, if a question of interpretation of tournament regulations or the operation of the tournament arises, the Chairman of the CIAC Board of Control, the Executive Director of CIAC, and the Chairman of the Tournament Committee in question will make an appropriate ad hoc decision in consideration of the best interest of the tournament as a whole.

10.0 **SPORTSMANSHIP**

CIAC Tournament Spectator Expectations (Including Parents)

Positive Cheering and Behavior

- Spectators will cheer positively to support their team, not negatively against the opponent. “No Negatives, No Names, No Numbers.”
- Spectators will show respect for the game officials and their decisions.
- Spectators will respect CIAC tournament/site directors, tournament staff, and security when behavior is addressed and if asked to leave the event.

Dress Code

- For CIAC tournament contests, all spectators should be appropriately attired according to their school's policy. No attire with visible degrading or demeaning writings/logos is permitted.

Signs, Banners, Flags and Powder

- Any signs must be positive in nature, reference only the school supported by the sign maker, be small enough not to obstruct the view of other spectators and be pre-approved by the school's athletic director reference in the sign. Spectators are not permitted to bring flags for safety reasons. When asked to remove a sign, banner, or flag, participating schools will respect and follow the direction of any CIAC tournament/site director, tournament staff, or security personnel.
- All signs, banners, and flags may be restricted pending facility usage requirements or at the discretion of the CIAC tournament director. CIAC tournament directors/staff will notify the athletic director when such restrictions are necessary.
- Powder or powder-like substances are prohibited at all visiting and neutral sites.

Noisemakers

- Outdoor Sports – No air horns, horns of any kind, or whistles will be used. Any other noisemakers may be allowed with approval from the host athletic/site director and the spectator's school athletic director. Noisemakers can only be used during "dead ball" situations to celebrate good play.
- Indoor Sports – No noise makers will be allowed. Pep bands are allowable with the prior approval of the CIAC tournament and site director, provided the school band has adult supervision, and the band only plays during "dead ball" situations.

Tailgating

- Tailgating is prohibited on the grounds of any CIAC tournament or championship event.

Streaming

- CIAC championships are streamed on the NFHS Network. Any streaming, broadcasting, or reproduction of a CIAC tournament game or championship without the expressed written consent of the CIAC is strictly prohibited.

11.0 **COACHING CERTIFICATIONS**

For a list of all coaching certifications and links to forms go here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KnzXy81GK9x88bY1-5JBSuP-8SY34sdc/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=104830910406558409235&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Volunteer Coaches: The State of Connecticut Department of Education does not distinguish between volunteer or paid coaches when considering certifications or responsibilities. All coaches who are responsible for or instruct students in any way must follow Connecticut State Law for certifications and responsibilities. Therefore, volunteer coaches are required to obtain the same certifications as all other coaches.

APPENDIX A
2025 GIRLS / BOYS SOCCER SUBMIT GAME RESULTS / TOURNAMENT ROSTER

Submit Regular Season Scores – All regular season scores must be entered online on the day of the game as soon as possible following the game’s completion.

1. Scores must be entered on the new CIAC website at <https://ciac.fpsports.org/>
2. In the left hand column select “Schedules – High School”
3. At the top of the page select the school and “Boys or Girls Soccer Varsity” as the sport, then the team’s schedule will be displayed.
4. Enter all cards given out during the game.
5. Click on the green score entry button to make the entries.
6. Only logged in users with security permission to enter scores for this sport will see the score entry button for their school’s meets (if you can’t get in please check with your athletic director for login information).
7. The system will display a score entry screen that is specific to soccer.
8. Enter the team score.

Regardless of regular season postponed games, the date of Monday, October 27, must be the final day to count for the tournament.

Team Roster Form – Must be completed by Monday, October 27. You need an access login from your athletic director to complete the form.

1. Go to the CIAC website at casciac.org.
2. In the lefthand column select “Eligibility Center.
3. Select “Team Roster / Tournament Roster”.
4. Check off each player that is on your roster.

Up to thirty (30) eligible players may be used.

APPENDIX B
YELLOW CARD RULE

1. A player who is issued a caution (yellow card) shall leave the field and may be replaced. Should the team with the cautioned player elect to play shorthanded, the cautioned player may not re-enter, nor be replaced until the next legal substitution. **Any player or coach* who is issued a second caution (yellow card) in the same game will be ejected and required to sit out the next game.** It shall be reported as one yellow card and one red card and shall count as one or two cumulative Tier 1 yellow cards (depending on the infraction for the yellow cards) for that player or coach, and team. Substitutions will not be allowed under NFHS rules on an ejection for two yellow cards.

*Two game disqualification for a coach.

- 2.a. A player or coach is ineligible to participate in any soccer contest until withheld from the next soccer contest at that level of play when the player or coach has been issued a second (**cumulative**) Tier 1 card during the regular season. **The rule also becomes operative for the same player or coach for every subsequent Tier 1 yellow card throughout the regular season.** The game in which the second Tier 1 yellow card is given determines the level of play. A player or coach receiving a card in a sub-varsity game and a card in a varsity game has accumulated two for the regular season. **Any player or coach* who receives a second cumulative Tier 1 yellow card will be required to sit out the next CIAC contest at that level of play. The player or coach may not participate in a game at any level until he/she has sat out the required game at the appropriate level of play.**

*Two-game disqualification for a coach does not apply.

- b. In the event a player or coach receives their second, or subsequent Tier 1 yellow card during the last scheduled regular season game, the player/coach shall be disqualified from participating in the next CIAC contest (including League or CIAC tournament game).

Note: Any player who is issued their second Tier 1 (cumulative) yellow card and a red card in the same game will be disqualified for the next two games and is ineligible to play until the next two games at that level of play have occurred. Any coach who is issued their second Tier 1 (cumulative) yellow card and a red card in the same game will be disqualified for the next three games and is ineligible to play until the next two games at that level of play have occurred. A player/coach receiving a combination yellow card/red card in a game has been issued one yellow card for that game as well as a red card. The issuance of a straight red card does not count as one yellow card.

3. The issuance of each yellow and red card must be immediately recorded and confirmed with the official when the incident occurs. Each member school must report to the CIAC all red and yellow card penalties on the CIAC Penalty Report Form after each game. Failure to do so may lead to a team's disqualification from post-season play. Coaches/athletic directors are required to record all post-season cards (league and CIAC tournaments) for the determination of the total team cards during the season.
4. A player rendered ineligible through a disqualification will be determined to be an ineligible player according to CIAC eligibility regulations. The use of an ineligible player will lead to a game forfeiture.
5. If a player receives a yellow card at the end of OT and prior to PK, the athlete will be able to return to continue play at the discretion of the coach.
6. If a player receives a second yellow, now a red, or a red card at the end of OT and prior to or during PK, the athlete will not be permitted to continue play, the player will be ejected from the game.
7. League Tournaments – Individual cards will reset for league tournaments. Cards for the league tournament must be reported to the CIAC. An athlete or coach who earns his/her second Tier 1 yellow card must sit out the next game. The cards also reset for the state tournament.

8. **Individual yellow cards will be set to zero (0) at the start of the CIAC tournament. A player or coach who receives their second Tier 1 yellow card during the tournament must sit out the next game in the tournament. The rule also becomes operative for the same player or coach for every subsequent Tier 1 yellow card throughout the CIAC tournament.**

APPENDIX C
TEAM YELLOW / RED CARD RULE
CIAC SOCCER COMMITTEE POLICY ON TEAM PROBATION / DISQUALIFICATION

1. **Any team that accumulates five (5) or more red cards during the regular season, including league tournaments, will be disqualified from the CIAC state tournament:**
Additionally:
 - The program will be placed on probation
2. **Any team that accumulates ten (10) or more Tier 1 cards (Red Cards plus Yellow Cards for Dissent or Vulgar/Profane Language) during the regular season, including league tournaments, will be disqualified from the CIAC state tournament.**
Additionally:
 - The program will be placed on probation
 - The school will be required to appear before the CIAC Soccer Committee
 - The school will be required to file a written action plan for improvement with the committee
3. **All schools that accumulate five (5) or more Tier 1 Cards (RED CARDS PLUS YELLOW CARDS FOR Dissent or Vulgar/Profane Language) during the regular season will be placed on probation for the next season. All schools that participate in their league tournament can receive an additional Tier 1 card before going on probation. All schools that participate in the CIAC tournament can receive an additional Tier 1 card before going on probation. (Example – A school that participates only in its league tournament goes on probation at six (6) Tier 1 cards.)**

Schools on Probation

- The school will be required to appear before the CIAC Soccer Committee
 - The school will be required to file a written action plan for improvement with the committee.
 - **While on probation, 7 Tier 1 cards during the regular season, including league tournaments, will disqualify a team from the CIAC tournament.**
4. A returning player who receives a red card in their final game shall carry over to the next season.
 5. Schools that fail to submit the required red/yellow card information will be subject to a fine as prescribed by the CIAC fine policy as well as probation or prohibition from tournament play.
 6. All red/yellow cards must be recorded at the time the scores are required to be submitted electronically to the CIAC. **Scores and cards for all games, including league tournament and the CIAC State tournament games, must be submitted electronically to the CIAC.**

APPENDIX D
CIAC SOCCER PENALTY REPORT FORM

Several changes have been made to the CIAC Soccer Penalty Report Form. Please review the document online and contact the CIAC office if you have questions.

Remember that you are required to fill out this form online at the conclusion of each game (including those with zero penalties). You are also required to report all cards issued in regular season, league tournament, and CIAC tournament games.

RED CARD CODES

1. Exhibiting violent conduct
2. Taunting – use of word or act to incite or degrade an opposing player, coach, referee or other individual
3. Subsequent caution (second yellow card)
4. A player commits serious foul play punishable with a direct free kick or penalty kick and uses disproportionate and unnecessary force against an opponent while playing for the ball
5. A player (other than the goalkeeper in his own penalty area) deliberately handles the ball attempting to prevent a goal and goal is not scored
6. A player commits a foul, attempting to deny an obvious goal-scoring opportunity and goal is not scored
7. Spitting at a teammate, opponent or game official
8. Using insulting, offensive or abusive language or gesture
9. Leaving the team area to enter the field where a fight or altercation is taking place, unless summoned by an official.

YELLOW CARD CODES

1. Entering or leaving the field of play without permission of an official
2. Persistent infringement of any rules of the game
3. **Objecting by word of mouth or action to any decision given by an official (dissent) (Tier 1)**
4. **Incidental use of vulgar or profane language (Tier 1)**
5. Any use of electronic communication devices with the on-field players during play. Examples: amplifying devices, wireless communication devices such as cell phones, headphones, personal digital assistant.
6. Coaching outside team area
7. Unnecessary delay (kicking, throwing ball away on a free kick)
8. Holding a shirt or short
9. Deliberate verbal tactics
10. Encroachment
11. Deliberate handball to stop an attack
12. Deliberate tactical foul
13. Faking an injury
14. Simulating a foul;
15. A player who displays reckless play
16. Illegally equipped player, per 4.3
17. Any delayed, excessive or prolonged act(s) by which a player(s) attempts to focus attention upon him/herself and/or prohibits a timely restart of the game
18. A player (other than a goalkeeper in his/her own penalty area) deliberately handles the ball, attempting to prevent a goal, and the goal is scored
19. A player commits a foul, attempting to deny an obvious goal-scoring opportunity, and the goal is scored
20. Use of any tobacco products or electronic cigarettes at the game site during the period of the jurisdiction of the officials

APPENDIX E
**THE CIAC BOARD OF CONTROL HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING PLAYER / COACH
EJECTION / DISQUALIFICATION POLICY.**

The CIAC establishes guidelines and tone for acceptable and appropriate behavior at all CIAC contests, including league tournaments and playoffs. Given this charge, it is CIAC's responsibility to be proactive and responsive to the growing issues of sportsmanship and violence in sports. A strong consistent statement reflecting zero tolerance for violence in sports must become standard operating procedure for all schools. This is to be considered a minimum standard.

The CIAC Disqualification/Ejection Rule is in effect for all CIAC contests, including league playoffs and tournaments that engage officials who have been assigned by Board commissioners from CIAC registered officials organizations, or directly by the school or by the CIAC.

There is NO appeal procedure that a school may use relative to disqualifications. Disqualification is a judgment call by an official and as such is not appealable. Until the official(s) leaves the site the game official(s) is in charge and may take any action deemed to be appropriate, even to the extent of reversing an earlier decision to eject a player or coach. Whenever possible, both schools (coaches on site) must be made fully aware of all final decisions on game disqualifications. **Once the game official(s) leaves the site of the contest all decisions on game disqualifications are final.**

The following policies for disqualification by an official shall apply in all sports.

1. Any student-athlete who physically assaults an official, coach, opposing player or spectator or any other person in attendance at any event may be deemed immediately ineligible for the remainder of the season.
2. When an athlete is ejected from any CIAC contest the athlete is ineligible to participate in the next contest at the same level of play (even if the next contest does not occur until league or CIAC tournament play or next year). If one or more different level contests are scheduled prior to the next contest at the same level of play, the athlete shall be ineligible to participate in the next (but no more than one) contest at each level of play. **The ejected coach or player cannot be in attendance at the game(s) for which he/she is serving their suspension.**
3. When a player is ejected from a contest he/she can remain on the bench or sidelines as long as their presence does not interfere with the contest in any way. Never should an athlete be sent away from the site without adult supervision. Coaches are responsible for the care and safety of students and should not be placed in a position that does not allow them to provide reasonable care and supervision.
4. When a coach is ejected from any CIAC contest, the coach is ineligible to participate in the next two contests at the same level of play (even if the next two contests do not occur until league or CIAC tournament play or next year). (SEE CIAC HANDBOOK FOR ADDITIONAL CONSEQUENCES FOR A COACH WHO HAS BEEN DISQUALIFIED.) If one or more different level contests are scheduled prior to the next two contests at the same level of play, the coach shall be ineligible to participate in the next two contests at each level of play. The ejected coach cannot be in attendance at the games for which he/she is serving their suspension.
5. When a member school's coach is ejected from a game for an infraction as prescribed by the rules, the game may not continue until the member school replaces the ejected coach with a certified coach. The coach must leave the premises. If this cannot be accomplished within fifteen (15) minutes after the ejection, the official in charge will declare a forfeit win for the opposing team.
6. Upon receiving a second disqualification for initiating a fight or retaliating in a fight (as determined by the game official), that student-athlete will be declared ineligible for the remainder of the season.

7. The school's first incident of non-compliance, for reasons other than defiance of the disqualification rules, will result in forfeiture, a \$250 fine and the athlete or coach must serve the disqualification penalty; a school's second incident of non-compliance will prohibit the school from entry in the next CIAC tournament for that sport or from the remainder of the current tournament if the disqualification occurs during a CIAC tournament or during the last regular season contest/day of competition. However, when a school willfully defies CIAC disqualification rules and regulations the school and/or coach will be subject to further action by the CIAC Board of Control.
8. **Any CIAC varsity team that accumulates five (5) or more disqualifications during the regular season, including the league's tournament will be barred from CIAC post-season competition.** All disqualifications must be reported to CIAC by the school and the officials group. Any misconduct or disqualification of a coach will count towards the team's total number of disqualifications. Multiple disqualifications during CIAC tournaments are subject to disciplinary action by the CIAC sports committee and the CIAC Board of Control.

Note: Please see the ice hockey and soccer sports packets for additional penalty regulations specific to these sports.

9. Disqualifications from the last contest of one season carry over to the next season in that sport for undergraduates and coaches, or the next season of participation in any sport for seniors.
10. If the CIAC or National Federation playing rules for a sport specify an additional penalty, the additional penalty will apply. The CIAC disqualification rule applies to all game or meet disqualifications with the exception of reaching the limit of personal fouls in basketball and lacrosse; reaching the limit of technical violations in wrestling; or being disqualified by the rules in ice hockey and lacrosse, which does not require a next game disqualification. This rule does not apply to individual event disqualifications such as in swimming or track and field.
11. Each game official will notify their assigner for that game who will notify the CIAC office via the online disqualification notification system. The athletic director or principal of the school having the disqualified player/coach must notify their next opponent. **The school is responsible to implement all CIAC disqualification rules even if the official does not report disqualification in a timely manner.**

- **Definition of ASSAULT** – An assault is defined as an attack which attempts to injure one physically.
- **Definition of TAUNTING** – Taunting includes but is not limited to any actions or comments by coaches or players which are intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule, or demean other players, coaches, or game officials. Included in this is conduct that berates, needles, intimidates or threatens based on gender, ethnic origin or background and conduct that attacks religious beliefs, size, economic status, speech, family, special needs, or personal matters. Examples of taunting that would lead to ejection include, but are not limited to, physical and verbal intimidation outside the spirit of the game (“trash talk”), reference to sexual orientation, “in-the-face confrontation” by one player to another, standing over, straddling a tackled or fallen player, etc.
- **PENALTY** – In all sports, game officials are to consider taunting a flagrant, unsportsmanlike foul that disqualifies the offending bench personnel or athlete from that contest/day of competition and the player or coach from the following contest/day of competition, i.e., the CIAC player/coach ejection rule will be invoked. A warning may be given but is not required before ejection.

In soccer, an accumulation of two yellow cards in one game against the coaching personnel or team bench will constitute a red card against the head coach and all disqualification rules will apply. (Refer to soccer red card rules and the soccer tournament document.)

APPENDIX F

DUTIES OF 2025 BOYS OR GIRLS SOCCER TOURNAMENT SITE DIRECTOR

It shall be the duty of the Site Director to see that the following facilities are available well in advance of the start of the game:

1. **The score of game must be reported online immediately at the end of the game and telephoned to the Tournament director.**
2. In the event that a field is absolutely unfit for play because of excessive water, the tournament director should be notified as soon as possible. (After a rain most fields may not be perfectly dry but would be suitable for play.)
3. The field should be freshly lined, following official dimensions with field markings in agreement with the most recent National Federation soccer rule book. Corner flags are to be in place and each goal should be provided with the customary net.
4. A restraining barrier of some sort should be in place to keep spectators at least fifteen feet from the playing surface at all points. In most cases crowd ropes will be considered suitable. **NO SPECTATORS ARE ALLOWED ON THE FIELD AT ANY TIME, INCLUDING AFTER THE GAME.**
5. An ADULT timer will be provided by the site director and a sufficiently large scorer's and timer's table with bench or chairs will be made available for the game.
6. A suitable timing device – the conventional time clock – and a loud horn or other loud noise-making device (not a whistle) will be available to signal the expiration of playing time. A loud horn should be used to signal the end of the game. **The official time is kept by the official(s) on the field.**
7. **SUFFICIENT SECURITY PERSONNEL AS NECESSARY WILL BE ON DUTY TO CONTROL THE ANTICIPATED CROWD.** Provide parking and a suitable locker room/changing area for officials.
8. Emergency medical procedures should be established for the game.
9. Suitable benches and drinking water should be provided for the players. If a request is made, dressing facilities should be provided for any team which has more than twenty miles to travel.
10. A list of expenses which includes all fees should be sent to CIAC so payment can be made by check.
11. During the 2025 tournament the following passes will be honored at all games where a fee is charged:
 - a. Committee pass or lanyard indicating "Committee Member"
 - b. Principal (or designee) and athletic directors of the two competing schools
 - c. Official CIAC Soccer Pass (head varsity soccer coach – REQUEST MUST BE IN WRITING)
 - d. Press card
 - e. CIAC soccer officials association membership cardNo other complimentary admissions will be permitted.
12. Up to 30 team members, coaches, managers and up to 20 cheerleaders accompanying the team will be admitted free of charge to each game.
13. Noisemakers that might interfere with the performance of the game and large banners or streamers are prohibited and each school principal is responsible for compliance with this regulation.
14. Site director must provide a minimum of **two (2) "ball persons" for each tournament game through the quarter-finals**. Both teams participating are responsible for two (2) "ball persons" each for semi-finals and championship games.

APPENDIX G
GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING GAME MANAGEMENT
FOR ALL BOYS AND GIRLS SOCCER COACHES

Coaches check the following items with each other:

- a. Directions how to reach field.
- b. All weekday tournament games will START at 2:00 p.m., or 4:00 p.m. if the school has lights, or unless a night game is mutually agreed upon. Time for Saturday or holiday games will be by mutual consent. If not agreed to by both schools the tournament director will make the final decision.
- c. **The higher ranked team is required to supply five (5) official tournament game balls. The official game ball is the SPALDING TF-5000.** Officials must report to CIAC and school hosting a game who does not use the CIAC designated ball. The CIAC Board of Control will take appropriate action with the school.
- d. The higher ranked team must wear dark and lower ranked team a white color shirt.
- e. Be certain of dressing arrangements if needed.

NOTE: First round, second round and quarter-final games will be played on the home field of the higher ranked team. Home team secures officials for first round, second round and quarter-final games, a minimum of two “ball persons”, and for the services of a trainer. The home team will pay for officials in the first and second round. CIAC will pay for officials in the quarter-finals on. **Both teams participating are responsible for two (2) “ball persons” each for semi-finals and championship games.**

Visiting team arrange for buses.

CIAC highly recommends that all soccer fields used for the tournament be 65 yards wide by 110 yards long. The minimum requirement is 60 yards wide by 110 yards long. Fields that do not meet the minimum requirement must be moved to an approved site or to the site of the lower ranked team. If home field does not meet minimum standards, the CIAC must be notified by September 1.

Inclement weather – Play the next day, including Sunday, unless prohibited by either district. If the field is still unplayable, the game may be played at the lower ranked team’s field.

SPECIAL NOTE: Coaches are requested to inform all site directors to honor the special game passes which are issued to Soccer Committee members who will act as observers during the tournament.

ATTENTION: (Check list)

- ___ The field should be freshly lined. Each goal is provided with the customary net.
- ___ A restraining barrier should be in place to keep spectators from the playing field at all points. In most cases crowd ropes will be considered suitable.
- ___ Suitable benches should be provided for all players.
- ___ A sufficiently large scorer’s and timer’s table with bench or chairs will be provided.
- ___ See Official Tournament Rules for admission prices and complimentary tournament entrance procedures.
- ___ Although most of you have the situation well under control with your students / athletes, alcohol has shown up on the field after some championship games (brought in by spectators, but nonetheless, on the field). The proper word by your athletes might be enough to control this situation and avoid embarrassing the team and tainting their achievement.
- ___ **Site directors should not allow spectators to stand behind the goals or go onto the field at the conclusion of the game.**