

**MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER (11 on 11)  
GENERAL INFORMATION**

- The minimum number of players to begin a match is nine. In the event of a team having too few individuals to begin a match, administrators, coaches and referees should be encouraged to allow players from the team with sufficient numbers to 'loan' a player or two to the team that is short players and then PLAY.
- **PLAYER ROTATION:** each player should be given the opportunity to play at least 50% of the game time (please encourage players to play goalie but do not force anyone to). There will not be a limit on the number of substitutions that a team can make during a game.
- Teams will consist of 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade athletes.

**STANDARD RULES FOR ALL LEVELS**

**EQUIPMENT**

- Shin guards are required and if made of a hard material, a long sock or another suitable material must cover them.
- Gym shoes or soccer cleats must be worn. No street shoes, boots, or sandals are permitted.
- Size 4 ball will be used.

**LENGTH OF GAME**

- The game will consist of two 25-minute halves. The clock does not stop. Substitutions will only be allowed during stoppages in play and with the official's permission.
- Regular season games that are tied at the end of regulation playing time shall remain tied. During tournament play, one full five minute overtime will be played. If a tie still remains, teams will compete in a shootout.

**COACHES & SPECTATOR SEATING**

- No coaches will be permitted on the playing field at any time.
- One sideline will be designated as the bench area for both teams playing.
- The opposite sideline will be designated as the spectator seating area.
- No coaches, players or spectators will be allowed to sit or stand by either goal on all fields. Please help each other enforce this rule.

**GAME PROCEDURES**

- A goal can be scored anytime during play using any part of the body except for the player's arm.
- Goals may be scored directly from a kick-off, goal kick, corner kick, or a direct kick.
- Goals may not be scored directly from an indirect kick or a throw-in. A second player must touch the ball before a team may score following an indirect kick or a throw-in.
- A coin flip will decide which team kicks-off first, and will switch at the half.
- A player in the center zone will kick off. The coach will designate a player.
- The kick must go in a forward motion. The kicker cannot play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player.
- When a goal is scored the game is restarted in a like manner by the other team.

**HEADING AND SLIDETACKLING**

- Heading **IS** permitted at this age group.
- Slide-tackling is **NOT** permitted in this age group. If a player slide-tackles or attempts to slide-tackle, the opposing team is awarded an indirect kick from the place where the infringement occurred.

A player can be sent off the field for:

- Serious foul play or violent behavior
- Use of foul or abusive language
- Persistent misconduct after being cautioned.

Yellow Card/Red Card Explanations: (Taken from MHSAA rules)

- **Yellow Card Caution:**

A cautioned player shall be substituted for IMMEDIATELY and may not return until 10 minutes of playing time has elapsed.

When timing 10 minutes it:

- Carries over to second period,
- Carries over to the overtime periods,
- Carries over to shoot-out to break a tie,
- Does **NOT** carry over to next game.

The timer shall keep time for the required 10 minute sit-out period.

- **Yellow/Red Card Disqualification: (Yellow & Red Cards Shown Simultaneously)**

For a subsequent caution or excessive celebration, a player, coach or bench personnel shown be shown yellow and red cards simultaneously, be disqualified for the remainder of the game, ***all subsequent competitions that day, and is also INELIGIBLE for the next day of soccer competition.*** The player disqualified may be substituted for.

- **Red Card Ejection:**

If a player or coach or bench personnel receives a RED CARD (Red Card Displayed Alone), they shall be denied participation for the remainder of that competition, all subsequent competitions that day, and are ***also INELIGIBLE for the next day of soccer competition.*** The ejected player may ***NOT*** be substituted for; their team plays “short” for the remainder of that game.

Coaches & Officials Procedures for Next Game Ineligibility:

- It is the responsibility of the coach to withhold himself/herself or that player from the next game and/or next day of soccer competition.
- It is the responsibility of the coach to notify the Athletic Director that he/she or the player is being withheld from the next game and/or next day of soccer competition.
- It is the responsibility of the Athletic Director to notify the Athletic Department by phone/text/email of the player/coach who was ejected and under what circumstances.

**ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT RULES**

- All athletes, coaches and parents should demonstrate EXCELLENT sportsmanship at all times
- No sideline coaching from parents or spectators will be tolerated
- Parents will need to arrange transportation home for their child from HOME games. On AWAY games, busing will be provided to bring the athletes back to their home school. Athletes will be able to ride home with their parents from AWAY games ONLY if they have signed their son/daughter out with the coach and/or athletic director.

