

# ACEL Coed Soccer Plan 2023-24



# **General Season Information**

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## **The 2023-24 Coed Soccer Schedule**

Coed Soccer has a 8 1/2-week regular season with an additional week for the state championship. The soccer season structure for 2023-24 has changed to alleviate severe conflicts with LHSAA for fields and officials at the end of the season. The Coed Soccer State Championship has been pushed back to January 26-27, and playoffs for both varsity and JV have been eliminated so that the Soccer regular season will not be drastically shortened.

The top 4 varsity teams by PowerPoints shall advance to the state championship tournament in 2023-24. The top 2 JV teams by PowerPoints shall advance.

For 2023-24 there are 7 varsity teams, 4 junior varsity teams, and 1 JV only team.

### **The Schedule**

Varsity teams are scheduled to trade home and away games with each varsity team. Be aware that there are dates on the schedule that are JV only, meaning that your JV will travel alone on those dates.

Varsity teams are scheduled for 12 games with 8 games for JV teams.

Thank you to everyone that participated in the Coed Soccer # of games survey. Generally, coaches indicated that about 12 games are ideal for varsity with 8 games being the minimum required for a season. The number of teams and weeks in the schedule allowed for the ideal number of games this year without any manipulation of the schedule. However, as more teams are added, these numbers will guide how district and travel decisions are made.

### **Districts**

All teams are combined into a single district this season.

## **Weather Related Cancellations**

Weather related cancellations are unavoidable in soccer. A week has been left at the end of the soccer schedule for make-up games postponed due to weather. DO NOT use that week for games moved for convenience.

## **Uncompleted Schedules**

If a team is unable to complete all scheduled games, then any unplayed games must be appealed to the ACEL executive board for a determination on how to proceed. Teams will be required to provide detailed documentation explaining why the games could not be reasonably made-up.

# General Season Information

## Playoffs Removed

Given the number of varsity and JV teams this year, removing the playoff week from the schedule in order to ensure all teams received 12 games accomplishes several objectives. With only 7 varsity teams, the top half of teams are still able to participate in the state tournament. Field and official challenges for playoff games are removed and, again, all teams receive 12 regular season games.

**Varsity:** Top 4 teams by regular season power points advance to the State Championship Tournament.

Varsity Semi-Finals will take place Friday, January 26, 2024 at the ACEL Coed Soccer State Championship Tournament in Pineville.

**JV:** Top 2 teams by regular season power points advance to the JV State Championship game, Friday, January 27, 2024 at the ACEL Coed Soccer State Championship Tournament in Pineville.

## ACEL Coed Soccer State Championship

The 2023-24 ACEL Coed Soccer State Championship is scheduled for Friday & Saturday, January 26-27 in Pineville.

### January 26

Varsity Semi-Finals

### January 27

Jv State Championship  
Varsity Consolation Game  
Varsity State Championship

# Reminders

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## Read the ACEL Standing Rules

Make sure to read the ACEL Standing Rules available for download from [theacel.com](http://theacel.com). It is vitally important that you read and understand all ACEL rules. Be aware that ACEL rules and procedures are tailored to the unique needs of our Member Organizations. Therefore, some ACEL rules are unlike those customarily found in other leagues. If you have any questions about ACEL rules or operating procedures, please ask your athletic director for clarification.

If any particular situation is not covered in the ACEL Standing Rules, the current NFHS (National Federation of State High School Associations) rules apply.

## Administrator Required at Each Game

An administrator or a designated representative for each team must be in attendance at all ACEL events. The administrator may NOT be the team's coach nor may they sit on the bench. The purpose of the administrator is to handle issues that may arise with the fans, players, or coaches of their organization. The administrator must locate and introduce themselves to the administrator of the opposing team prior to the beginning of the game. **Administrators for each team shall work together to handle any issue that arises beyond the scope of the officials' authority.** See ACEL Rule Section 2 for more information.

## Update Your Coach Information

Please check the members' section of the ACEL website (theacel.com) to confirm that the contact information for your coach and the location of your facility are correct. (The members' section of the website is password protected. Your administrator and athletic director have the password.) To update your information, use the "Information Update Form" available from the forms and downloads section of the website.

## MaxPreps

The use of MaxPreps to report player stats for all-state consideration in the ACEL is mandatory. No all-state nomination will be accepted without an accompanying MaxPreps stat report.

Please do not underestimate the time that it can take MaxPreps to approve new organizations or to fix problems within existing accounts. ***If you are new to MaxPreps or are having issues with your MaxPreps account, NOW is the time to get those fixed.***

In order for MaxPreps to work for us as it is intended, player stats must be uploaded for each ACEL game in which an all-state nominated player participates. Stats should be uploaded routinely throughout the season. Waiting until the end of the season makes it difficult for our other teams to link to your schedule and for stat reporting to be transparent.

## All-State Voting

All organizations participating in coed soccer are required to attend All-State Voting even if no player is nominated for all-state from the organization. There is a \$500 fine for failure to attend. The coed soccer All-State Voting meeting will be via Zoom, Saturday, January 13.

## AED

The ACEL strongly recommends that all organizations have an AED at all ACEL events.

# **Coed Soccer Rules, Procedures & Policies**

The ACEL follows the rules and regulations set by the National Federation of State High Schools (NFHS) for all sanctioned ACEL sports. ACEL supplemental policies and exceptions to NFHS rules are listed below.

## **ACEL Specific Rules and Policies for Coed Soccer 2023-24**

### **Schedule Changes**

The ACEL allows organizations to easily change their schedules as necessary. Both the home and the away team must submit the schedule change form located on the website to change the date of a game.

### **Score Reporting**

Scores must be reported by both the home and away teams by noon the following day. Failure to report the score will result in a fine.

### **Physicals and Coaches' Concussion Course**

All athletes participating in league competition (boys/girls) are required to take and pass a physical examination. These physicals are good for one calendar year. Physicals must be kept on-hand by athletic directors and coaches at all ACEL events and must be presented immediately upon request.

All ACEL coaches are required to take a concussion course yearly and be able to provide evidence/certificate of completion upon request.

### **Game Day Rosters**

A Game Day Rosters will be supplied to the opposing team from each team that exceeds 27 players on their official roster. Only players that appear on a team's official roster may be used on the game day roster. Only players listed on the game day roster are eligible to dress-out for that game.

## **Field of Play**

### **Size of the Field**

The recommended ACEL high school coed soccer field size is 60 X 80 yds. with a minimum field size of 50 X 70 yds. allowed only if a larger field is unavailable. Any ACEL coed soccer team using fields of a size other than 60 X 80 yds. must notify the ACEL of their field size either on the coed soccer commitment form (for fields that are used regularly) or via email to the ACEL in the event of a last-minute field change.

(Please note that the Coed Soccer field size recommendations will be reviewed by the executive board after survey results are obtained.)

## **Markings**

**Penalty Kick line** at 12 yds. regardless of field size.

**Goalie Box** recommended dimensions of 6 yds. X 16 yds.

**Penalty Box** recommended dimensions of 15 yds. X 44 yds. on a 60 yd. field or 15 yds. X 36 yds. on a 50 yd. field.

## **Goal size**

A regulation 8ft X 24ft goal shall be used regardless of field size.

## **Players and Substitutions**

### **Players**

ACEL coed soccer is 9 v 9 with 2 girls on the field at all times.

### **Substitutions**

- Unrestricted substitutions for players
- Free substitution on goal kicks
- When a team has a ball on a throw-in, and they substitute, then and only then, the other team may substitute
- If a girl must leave the game because of an injury, she must be replaced by a girl. If no other girls are available, the team must play 1 man down

## **Player Equipment**

### **Jerseys**

ACEL Coed Soccer teams must have both home and away jerseys per NFHS rule 4-1-1(a): The visiting team shall wear solid white jerseys and solid white socks, and home team shall wear dark jerseys and socks (dark is defined as any color which contrast with white). White jerseys should be mostly white but may have some design elements on them.

**Shin guards are mandatory.**

**Soccer cleats are recommended** (no football or baseball cleats allowed).

## **Officials**

All games must have 2 patched officials.

## **Duration of Game and Length of Periods**

Games will consist of two 35-minute halves with a 10-minute break between.

### **New for 2023-24**

ACEL Rule 10.6.3-- Regular games ending in ties will be recorded as ties.

ACEL Rule 10.6.4 --A Golden Goal period of 5 minutes shall be used as a tie-break during playoffs with a PK shoot-out to follow if the tie persists.

## **Game Play**

All free kicks will be indirect, except when the penalty occurs in the box. The kick then is from the penalty mark.

Goal kicks will be taken within the 6-yard box. No goals will be allowed from a goal kick. In the event that a goal is scored from a goal kick, the opposing team is awarded a goal kick.

Goalies: Girls may punt the ball. Boys are not allowed to punt the ball. The ball must be rolled on the ground then kicked. Goalies are also allowed to throw the ball.

NHFS Rules apply for

- Throw-ins
- Offsides
- Corner Kicks

## **11 v 11 Coed Soccer in 2024-25**

Make preparations NOW for the ACEL Coed Soccer move to 11 v 11 in 2024-25!

Coaches have discussed making this change for several years now, and we all know that there will be challenges in making the transition. However, most coaches indicated in last year's soccer survey that this is the direction our league needs to go if we are to continue to grow and improve Coed Soccer.

Along with the move to 11v11, the required field size shall be the NFHS standard field size with a minimum number of 3 female athletes. Three officials will also be required to officiate 11 v11 games.

## **Communicate with your Executive Director**

Most problems and misunderstandings can be avoided simply through communication. Coaches, if you have a league concern please discuss it with your athletic director ASAP. In many instances athletic directors will already have related information from the ACEL. Athletic directors, please do not hesitate to contact me with any league issue you may have. The more you all communicate with me, the better I understand what is actually happening within our league, making me better able to act in the best interest of all our organizations. I cannot address what I do not know.

Sandra Merrow

ACEL Executive Director

admin@theacel.com

337-366-1394

(Leave a message, and I will get back to you.)



# 2023-24 ACEL Coed Soccer Schedule

**Acadiana Home School Athletics Commandos**—Lafayette

Alexandria Homeschool Arts & Athletics Storm—Alexandria

**CHEF of Baton Rouge Patriots**—Baton Rouge

Christian Homeschool Sports Assoc. of Acadiana Archangels—Lafayette

**John Paul the Great Academy Guardians**—Lafayette

**Southwest Louisiana Homeschool Athletics Knights**—Lake Charles

*(JV ONLY)* Open Door Christian Academy Conquerors—Denham Springs

\*\*\*\*Official JV teams listed in bold, as well as official JV contests below\*\*\*\*

## October 30, Monday

Alexandria @AHS

SWLA@CHSAA

CAL@JPG

**CHEF @ ODCA**

## November 2, Thursday

AHS @ CHSAA

**CHEF @ SWLA**

CAL @ Alexandria

ODCA @ JPG

## November 6, Monday

**SWLA @ AHS**

CAL @ CHEF

JPG @ Alexandria

## November 9, Thursday

**AHS @ JPG**

Alexandria @ CHEF

CHSAA @ CAL

ODCA @ SWLA

## November 13, Monday

Alexandria @ SWLA

**CHEF @ AHS**

JPG @ CHSAA

## November 16, Thursday

SWLA @ CAL

**JPG @ CHEF**

CHSAA @ Alexandria

AHS @ ODCA

**November 27, Monday**

AHSA @ CAL  
JPG @ SWLA  
CHSAA @ CHEF

**November 30, Thursday**

AHSA @ Alexandria  
JPG @ CAL  
CHSAA @ SWLA  
ODCA @ CHEF

**December 4, Monday**

Alexandria @ CAL  
SWLA @ CHEF  
CHSAA @ AHSA  
JPG @ ODCA

**December 7, Thursday**

AHSA @ SWLA  
Alexandria @ JPG  
CHEF @ CAL

**December 11, Monday**

CHEF @ Alexandria  
CAL @ CHSAA  
JPG @ AHSA  
SWLA @ ODCA

**December 14, Thursday**

AHSA @ CHEF  
SWLA @ Alexandria  
CHSAA @ JPG

**January 1, Monday**

**January 4, Thursday**

Alexandria @ CHSAA  
CHEF @ JPG  
CAL @ SWLA  
ODCA @ AHSA

**January 8, Monday**

CHEF @ CHSAA  
SWLA @ JPG  
CAL @ AHSA

**January 11, Thursday**

Open

**January 15, Monday**

Open

**January 18, Thursday**

Open

# **Playoffs & State Championship**

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**All games must be completed by Friday, January 19**

## **Soccer All-State Voting**

Saturday, January 13  
(via Zoom)

### **State Tournament**

**Varsity:** Top 4 teams by regular season power points advance to the State Championship Tournament.

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#### **January 26**

Varsity Semi-Finals

#### **January 27**

Jv State Championship  
Varsity Consolation Game  
Varsity State Championship

**ACEL Coed Soccer State Championship**

**Pineville, LA**