

2020-2021

ACEL Coed Soccer Plan

(Revised 9.14.20)

COVID-19

See ***Guidance for ACEL Sanctioned Contests During COVID-19*** available on the website for ACEL COVID guidelines for all ACEL events.

- Maintaining published state championship dates (and thereby not overlapping sports) is the primary consideration in our COVID planning for fall and winter sports.

- It is expected that games will be cancelled due to illness this season. Therefore, there will be no penalty for games that cannot be completed by the end of the season due to COVID-19. Prompt communication is required! Teams that fail to show for games without communicating with their opponent in a reasonable amount of time WILL be fined \$500 and the game will be recorded as a forfeit.

The Schedule

Allowing adequate time for make-up games in soccer has been a challenge in recent years. This season no bye week(s) have been left in the schedule. ACEL COVID-19 policy allows teams to reschedule games if illness is suspected and to cancel games without repercussions if these games ultimately cannot be made up. The same guideline will also be applied to ACEL outdoor sports that must cancel due to weather or field conditions. It is expected that reschedules/cancellations will occur due to illness and/or weather. The ACEL expects teams to work together and make every effort to make-up these games if at all possible. There will be no consequences, however, for games that cannot be made up this year. It is hoped that this strategy will give teams the best opportunity to get in as many games as possible in these uncertain times.

Single District

Coed Soccer has grown! However, given the variety of teams (varsity only, varsity and Jv, and Jv only teams,) a single district still yields the most games possible for all team types in the time available.

All teams are scheduled to play each other once and **most** teams (all but 2) a second time.

Jv only teams & Jv only contests

Beginning this season, organizations may commit a Jv team without a corresponding varsity team. Please make note that there is a JV only team on this season's schedule. Contests with JV only teams will be JV only. No varsity game is scheduled on those dates for teams with both Jv and varsity.

Playoffs/ State Championship

It is expected that some teams may complete a nearly full schedule while others may only finish a few games. To cope with these expected inequities, playoffs will be an

open tournament bracket for any ACEL team that wants to participate. Playoff seeding will be by power points. Playoffs will take place January 18-26 with highest seed hosting playoff games.

State Championship

Only JV championship game at State

In an effort to shorten the length of our State Championship events, only the JV championship game will be played at the state tournament beginning in 2020-21. The JV playoff process will be published along with the JV schedules and is dependent on the number of teams participating.

Facility availability is the primary reason for the change. Sports such as basketball, with both girls and boys jv divisions, require two full days of facility access to accommodate JV playoffs within the state tournament. Even sports with only single JV divisions require start times on Friday before the end of the school day making the use of high school facilities difficult.

It is hoped that this change will give us greater flexibility and thus more options in facilities for our state championship events, while also helping our member organizations that have requested later start times for these events.

Coed Soccer All-State

(9) 1st Team and (9) 2nd Team Coed Soccer All-State players selected with

- 2 girls and
- 1 goalie on each team.

One MVP player will be chosen from 1st team all-state athletes.

All-State Voting Changes

There have been significant changes to our All-State Voting procedures. Please make certain to review the changes in the ACEL rules. All organizations committed to each sport are required to attend All-State voting this year. There is a \$500 fine for failure to attend.

MaxPreps

Please upload stats to MaxPreps 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.

ACEL Standing Rules

Changes/amendments for 2020-2021

Changes and amendments to ACEL standing rules are available for download from the Rules tab on our website, theacel.com.

The ACEL follows the rules and regulations set by the National Federation of State High Schools (NFHS) except as noted below:

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.

Markings

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

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

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

Beginning in 2021-2022, 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).*

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.

Extra Periods: If the game should end in a tie, penalty kicks will decide the game. Each team gets 5 kicks. The coach must select 5 players from the 9 players that were on the field at the end of regulation play. If there is still a tie after 5 kicks, then there will be 1 kick by each team until there is a winner.

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