

# ACEL Coed Soccer Plan 2021-2022



# **The General Season Information**

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## **The 2021-22 Coed Soccer Schedule**

Coed Soccer has a 9-week regular season with an additional week for both playoffs and the state championship. No ACEL Coed soccer events are scheduled for the ACEL Fine Arts Weekend (January 29) nor March for Life (January 21.)

For 2021-2022 there are 8 varsity teams, and 6 junior varsity teams. There are no JV only teams this season.

### **The Schedule**

This season we are testing a new scheduling strategy that was suggested a couple of years ago by one of our coed soccer coaches. As you all know, the perpetual problem with the soccer schedule is in providing the maximum number of games while still leaving sufficient time for the inevitable rain make-ups. Allowing one week for make-up games is often not enough, whereas two weeks is often too long resulting in too much time between the end of the season and playoffs.

This season coed soccer teams have been scheduled to play everyone in their district three times and everyone out of their district two times. If weather permits all three district games and/or both out-of-district games against a single opponent to be completed, only the final two districts games or the last out-of-district game will count toward power point calculations. In other words, if all scheduled games are played, then the first scheduled game will be considered a scrimmage and dropped from the schedule before power points are calculated. If weather prevents a district or out-of-district game from being completed, then the two district games or the single out-of-district game completed for an opponent will become the official games regardless of when they took place and will be used for power point calculation.

### **Districts**

Districts are NOT geographic. There was not enough time in the coed soccer calendar to allow all teams to play each other three times. Districts are used to make clear which teams must be played three times and which teams played twice. JV teams were also evenly distributed between the district so that all JV teams are scheduled for the same number of games.

### **All games must be completed**

Please be aware that last year's no-fault game cancellation was a COVID policy that is no longer in effect. All scheduled games must be completed this year. Any game that can not be completed will be subject to a \$500 fine.

The coed soccer schedule has a grace game (the first game) for each opponent built in, but do not abuse the grace game. Weather forced field closures are the only acceptable reason for cancelling a coed soccer game. Keep in mind that two completed games against each district opponent AND one game against each out-of-district opponent is required. Also note that the two required district games do not have to be a home and away game. The final two games scheduled are home/away games for each opponent; however, if the second or third game is rained-out your schedule may not have an even home/ away split of games.

# Rain-out Procedures

## First Games

If the first game with an opponent must be cancelled by your facility because of field conditions or by officials because of inclement weather, both teams must submit a score report for the game as normal noting in the comments section the reason for the cancellation.

First games do not have to be made up; however, the ACEL encourages teams to schedule a make-up date for these games especially if there are dates available *early in the season*. Making sure you have at least one game completed with all ACEL opponents as early as possible in the season is the primary concern. If first games are rescheduled, both teams must submit a schedule change form confirming the new date of the game. Do not use the provided bye date at the end of the schedule for first games. The bye date is for games that must be made up in order for teams to complete the required number of games.

## Second and Third Games

If a second or third game must be cancelled due to weather, follow the same procedure as above by submitting a score report documenting the cancellation and a schedule change form confirming the rescheduled date. Every effort must be made to make-up second and third games if possible. Teams must judiciously manage their available make-up dates to ensure that the required number of games for each team is completed.

Teams may not cancel third games with opponents with whom first and second games have already been completed in order to use the date for another reason.

## Uncompleted Schedules

If a team is unable to complete the required number of 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.

# Cancellations for reasons other than weather

The grace game is intended to compensate for weather related issues only and may not be used for any other reason. Cancellations for any other reason will result in a fine of \$500. As always, members may appeal the fine to the executive board if they believe the cancellation was due to an extreme hardship or a circumstance beyond the member's control.

## Playoffs: Week of January 24

**Varsity:** Top 6 teams by regular season power points advance to playoffs with #1 and #2 earning byes to the state semi-finals. Highest seed will host playoff games for seeds 3-6.

**JV:** Top 3 teams by regular season power points advance to playoffs with #1 earning a bye to the state semi-finals. Highest see will host the playoff game for seeds 2 and 3.

This year, across all ACEL sports, the number of teams advancing to playoffs is being limited to roughly half of the total number of participating teams in an effort to encourage better competition in playoff games. Brackets that allow the highest seeded teams to advance to the semi-finals are preferred.

## State Championship

The 2021-2022 ACEL Coed Soccer State Championship is scheduled for Friday & Saturday, February 4 & 5 in Alexandria.

Coed Soccer State Championship gate prices will **not** include the family discount that was allowed last year.

## Reminders

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### Read the ACEL Standing Rules

Please make sure to read the ACEL Standing Rules available for download on the website. If any particular situation is not covered in the ACEL Standing Rules, the current NFHS rules apply. (ACEL Rule 1.5) If you have any questions about ACEL rules or operating procedures, please ask your athletic director for clarification. 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.

### 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 will work together to handle any issue that arises beyond the scope of the officials' authority. (ACEL Rule 13)

## 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.

## Soccer Surveys Coming Soon

As discussed at the August 7 coaches' meeting, the ACEL needs member feedback on a variety of topics and issues. An ACEL member survey AND a separate survey for soccer coaches will be sent out soon. Please be on the lookout for both surveys!

## 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 22. (Please note that this date is a week earlier than the date previously published in the ACEL Athletics Dates document.)

New this season, there will be both a male and female MVP selected at all-state voting.

## 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 2021-2022**

### **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.

Please note that changing the date of a game does not alter which games will be used for power point calculation. The first game (and the game that will be dropped from the schedule) means the first game on the original ACEL schedule. That game remains the “first game” regardless of when teams reschedule.

### **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. (See ACEL Rule 6.1)

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

Per ACEL Rule 14.1.7, 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 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**

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). As discussed at the August 7th coaches' meeting, 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.

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

## **ACEL Standing Rules Changes/Amendments for 2021-2022**

The final draft of the 2021-2022 ACEL Standing Rules is available for download from the ACEL website. A complete list of rule changes is available from the members section of the webpage.

## **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.)