ACEL Coed Soccer Plan

2026-27

ACEL ATHLETICS

Revised 9.13.26

General Season Information

The 2026-27 Coed Soccer Schedule

Coed Soccer has a 8-week regular season with an additional week for the state championship. The soccer season structure was changed in 2023-24 to alleviate severe conflicts with LHSAA for fields and officials at the end of the season. Playoffs for both varsity and JV were also eliminated so that the Soccer regular season would not be drastically shortened.
The top 4 varsity teams by PowerPoints shall advance to the state championship tournament in 2026-27. The top 2 JV teams by PowerPoints shall advance.

For 2026-27 there are 6 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 10 games with 8 games for JV teams.

Districts
All teams are combined into a single district this season.

All games must be completed
Please be aware that all scheduled games must be completed. Any game that can not be completed will be subject to a $500 fine.

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 provided detailed documentation explaining why the games could not be reasonably made-up.

Welcome

Playoffs Removed

There will be no playoffs for varsity or JV in 2026-27.

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

Varsity Semi-Finals will take place Friday, January 22, 2027 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, Saturday, January 23, 2027 at the ACEL Coed Soccer State Championship Tournament in Pineville.

ACEL Coed Soccer State Championship

The 2026-27 ACEL Coed Soccer State Championship is scheduled for Friday & Saturday, January 22-23 in Pineville.

January 22
Varsity Semi-Finals

January 23
Jv State Championship
Varsity Consolation Game
Varsity State Championship

Reminders

Read the ACEL Standing Rules

Make sure to read the ACEL Standing Rules available for download from 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.

Clarification of ACEL Rule 4.26

ACEL Rule 4.26
No ACEL Member Organization or varsity student-athlete can be a member of another athletic association having regular season games during the school year. This rule does not apply to JV student-athletes.
4.26.1 ACEL Member Organizations or student-athletes may participate in other athletic associations in sports not sanctioned by the ACEL.
4.26.2 Multi-league game participation for sanctioned scheduled sports is not allowed. This does not include scrimmage games and tournaments.
4.26.3 The ACEL defines a league as any group of teams playing each other over a determined period of time that culminates in a championship.

The intent of ACEL Rule 4.26 is to encourage students to commit to and support their ACEL private school or homeschool organization and for ACEL organizations to commit to and support the ACEL. The terms "athletic association" and "league" refer to the same type of organization in which team participation is based on school identity. Teams in these athletic associations or leagues will be from public schools, private schools, or homeschool organizations. The ACEL, LHSAA, MAIS, TCAL, and any similar association is an example of a school identity based athletic association.

Therefore, per ACEL Rule 4.26, no ACEL Member Organization or varsity student-athlete can participate in multiple leagues in sports sanctioned by the ACEL. For example, an ACEL athlete competing in ACEL varsity volleyball cannot also compete in volleyball or any other sport with a private school, public school or homeschool organization outside the ACEL that participates LHSAA, MIAS, TCAL or any similar association.

Club and Recreation Teams
This rule is NOT intended to prevent participation with private club/select teams or local recreation leagues. Club/select teams and recreation teams are not based on school identity. They are open to students from all educational types—private school, public school, and homeschool—participating on a single team.

JV Students/Teams Exemption
Because the ACEL cannot guarantee a sufficient JV schedule for most sports, JV teams and students are exempted from ACEL rule 4.26. It is in the best interest of our members AND our high school league to allow these younger teams to utilize local opportunities in other leagues to advance their skill level and promote the success of their athletic program. In the ACEL JV is defined as less than 16 years of age as of Sept. 1. Therefore, any student 15 years old or less on Sept. 1 may participate in multiple leagues as long they are not also listed on an ACEL varsity roster in the same sport. Many ACEL teams have JV aged students on their varsity roster and/or roster JV aged students on both their JV and Varsity rosters. Be aware that appearance on a varsity roster signifies that the younger student is a varsity level player regardless of age and, therefore, is not allowed to participate in multiple leagues.

About unofficial/ vs official teams
Unofficial teams are teams that are NOT committed to any league. The ACEL does not regulate unofficial teams. Because these teams are not committed to a sport in a league, all games played are essentially scrimmage games—they do not count toward rankings or post-season in any league. ACEL members can have unofficial teams in sanctioned ACEL sports and can arrange for as many scrimmage games for those teams as they wish at both the JV and varsity level. Official ACEL JV and varsity teams can also schedule scrimmage games with teams outside the ACEL.

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

2026-27

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 33 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.

Caution Foul (yellow card) Accumulation Policy
ACEL Rule 5.12
The accumulation of 3 unsportsmanlike conduct penalties, technical fouls, or yellow cards within a season shall result in a minimum sanction of a one game suspension. That suspension is to be the next contest scheduled or the next sport of participation if during the state championship.

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 16.

AED Required
Be aware that Louisiana law has changed. Elementary, middle, and high schools are required to have an AED on its premises in an easily accessible location. See statue LSA-R.S. 40:1137.3 for more information and requiremenents.

Field of Play

Size of the Field
The ACEL follows NFHS recommendations for field size and markings.

Players and Substitutions

Players
ACEL coed soccer is 11 v 11 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 there are only two girls on the field and 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. If more than than two girls are playing, then a girls can be replaced with a boy so long as there are at least two girls remaining.

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 3 patched officials.

Duration of Game and Length of Periods

Games will consist of two 40-minute halves with a 10-minute break between.

Highlighted ACEL Rules

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

NFHS Rules apply for all aspects of the game with the following additions/ revisions:

1.) ACEL requires a minimum of two girls on the field at all times,
2.) The home team is recommended to have at least two ball handlers. (Ball handlers shall help retrieve balls kicked out of bounds.)
3.) Game balls must be of good quality but are not required to have the NFHS logo.

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.

Walter Young
ACEL Executive Director
admin@theacel.com
337-366-1394
(Leave a message, and I will get back to you.)

2026-27 ACEL Coed Soccer Schedule

Acadiana Home School Athletics Commandos—Lafayette
CHEF of Baton Rouge Patriots—Baton Rouge
Chesterton Academy of Holy Trinity--Schriever

First Baptist Chrstian School Eagles—Lafayette
John Paul the Great Academy Guardians—Lafayette
Southwest Louisiana Homeschool Athletics Knights—Lake Charles

***(JV ONLY)* Bishop Noland High School Eagles**—Lake Charles
******Official JV teams listed in bold, as well as official JV contests below******

October 26, Monday
FBCS@CHEST
AHSA@SWLA
CHEF@JPG

October 29, Thursday
FBCS@SWLA
Chesterton@JPG
BNHS@JPG

November 2, Monday
AHSA@CHEF
JPG@SWLA

November 5, Thursday
AHSA@FBCS
CHEST@CHEF
BNHS@CHEF

November 9, Monday
JPG@FBCS
SWLA@CHEF

November 12,Thursday
AHSA@CHEST
CHEF@FBCS
SWLA@BNHS

November 16, Monday
AHSA@JPG
SWLA@CHEST
CHEF@BNHS

November 19, Thursday
JPG@CHEF
SWLA@AHSA

November 30, Monday
Chesterton@FBCS
CHEF@AHSA

December 3, Thursday
SWLA@FBCS
JPG@CHEST
AHSA@BNHS

December 7, Monday
SWLA@JPG
FBCS@AHSA
BNHS@AHSA

December 10, Thursday
CHEF@CHEST
FBCS@JPG

December 14, Monday
CHEST@AHSA
CHEF@SWLA
JPG@BNHS

January 7, Thursday
CHEST@SWLA
BHHS@SWLA

January 4, Monday
JPG@AHSA
FBCS@CHEF

January 14, Thursday
Open

January 11, Monday
Open

Playoffs & State Championship

All games must be completed by Friday, January 15

Soccer All-State Voting

Saturday, January 16
(via Zoom)

State Tournament

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

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JV: Top 2 teams by regular season power points advance to the JV State Championship game,Saturday, January 23, 2027 at the ACEL Coed Soccer State Championship Tournament in Pineville.

January 22
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ACEL Coed Soccer State Championship

Pineville, LA