

2020-2021
GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
SOCCER



SOCCER OFFICIALS AND COACHES'
HANDBOOK

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2020-2021 Soccer Dates and Deadlines



Monday, January 11, 2021.....	Date of First Official Day for Soccer Practice
Tuesday, January 12, 2021.....	Online Rules Clinic for ALL COACHES and OFFICIALS Opens
Tuesday, January 19, 2021.....	First day for OFFICIALS to take Online Soccer Rules EXAM.
Monday, February 1, 2021.....	Deadline for completion of Online Soccer Rules Clinic for COACHES and OFFICIALS
Monday, February 1, 2021.....	Deadline for completion of Online Soccer Rules Exam for OFFICIALS ONLY!!
Monday, February 1, 2021.....	Earliest Date for Soccer Game
Friday, April 16, 2021.....	Last Play Date-Do not schedule games after this date, (not even non-region games) If you have already, you will need to re-schedule them so your regular season ends by April 16.
Friday, April 16, 2021.....	Region Qualifiers Determined-State qualifiers have to be submitted to GHSOA by Saturday, April 17 at 9:00 am.

STATE SOCCER PLAYOFFS

Tuesday, April 20, 2021.....	First Round Girls - A, 3A, 5A, & 7A
Wednesday, April 21, 2021	First Round Boys - A, 3A, 5A, & 7A
Thursday, April 22, 2021	First Round Girls - 2A, 4A, & 6A
Friday, April 23, 2021.....	First Round Boys - 2A, 4A, & 6A
Monday, April 26, 2021.....	Second Round Girls- A, 3A, 5A, & 7A
Tuesday, April 27, 2021.....	Second Round Boys- A, 3A, 5A, & 7A.
Wednesday, April 28, 2021.....	Second Round Girls 2A, 4A, & 6A
Thursday, April 29, 2021	Second Round Boys 2A, 4A, & 6A
Tuesday, May 4, 2021.....	Quarterfinals-Girls Class A-7A
Wednesday, May 5, 2021.....	Quarterfinals-Boys Class A-7A
Monday, May 10, 2021.....	Semifinals Girls- A-7A
Tuesday, May 11, 2021.....	Semifinals-Boys- A-7A



Thursday, May 13, 2021

Friday, May 14, 2021

Saturday, May 15, 2021State Soccer Tournament - FINALS –
Class A-7A

Four State Final Sites are (1)TBA, Memorial Stadium in Savannah, GA, Mercer University in Macon, GA and McEachern High School in Powder Springs, GA. Classifications will be assigned a Finals location at a later date.



2020-21 Soccer Rules Considerations

In support of the Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities, the NFHS Soccer Rules Committee offers this document for state associations to consider whether any possible rules could be altered for the 2020-21 season. The considerations outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment.

Return to Competition

1. Soccer Rules Considerations

- ***Pregame Conference (5-2-2d)***
 - Limit attendees to head referee or center referee, the head coach from each team, and a single captain from each team.
 - Move the location of the pregame conference to center of the field. All individuals maintain a social distance of 6 feet.
 - Suspend handshakes prior to and following the Pregame Conference.
- ***Ball Holders (6-1)***
 - Encourage social distancing of 6 feet
- ***Team Benches (1-5-1)***
 - Encourage bench personnel to observe social distancing of 6 feet.-
- ***Substitution Procedures (3-4)***
 - Maintain social distancing of 6 feet between the substitute, officials and/or teammate(s) by encouraging substitutions to occur closer to the center line.
- ***Officials Table (6-2; 6-3)***
 - Limit to essential personnel which includes home team scorer and timer with a recommend distance of 6 feet between individuals. Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential personnel and will need to find an alternative location.



2. Pre and Post Match Ceremony

- a. Suspend the pregame world cup introduction line and send players to their field positions with bench personnel lined up on the touch line (6 feet apart) for introductions.
- b. Suspend post game protocol of shaking hands.

3. Soccer Rules Interpretations

- **Rule 4-1 EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES**
 - Cloth face coverings are permissible.
 - Gloves are permissible.
- **Rule 4-2 LEGAL UNIFORM**
 - Long sleeves are permissible. (4-1-1)
 - Long pants are permissible. (4-1-1)
 - Under garments are permissible but must be of a similar length for the individual and a solid like color for team. (4-1-1d)
- **Rule 5-3 OFFICIALS UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT**
 - By state association adoption, long-sleeved shirt/jackets are permissible. (5-1-3)
 - Electronic whistles are permissible (supplies are limited).
 - Choose a whistle whose tone will carry outside.
 - Fox 40 Mini -
 - Fox 40 Unisex Electronic - 3 tone
 - Ergo-Guard - (3 tone) - orange
 - Windsor - (3 tone) grey
 - Check the market for other choices
 - Cloth face coverings are permissible.
 - Gloves are permissible.



2020-2021 GHSA Soccer Protocol and Procedures

- A. Soccer is a state championship event for boys and girls played in the spring season. Schools in classes A through 7A are aligned in Regions.
- B. All soccer matches will be played according to the rules published by the National Federation, and all National Federation recommendations for “State Adoption” have been adopted by the GHSA. Sub-varsity matches are limited to 35-minute halves.
- C. Notification of entry in Class A Soccer must be filed in writing with the GHSA Office no later than April 1, for the upcoming school year.
- D. The number of soccer matches allowed (not including state tournaments) shall be eighteen (18). If a region/area chooses to play a region/area tournament, those matches must be included as part of the 18-game total allowed. Beginning and ending dates for practice and competition can be found at the front of this publication.
- E. All GHSA varsity soccer matches shall be played with one or more officially-dressed officials who are registered under the GHSA plan for the registration of officials.
- F. Teams arriving late for a contest by thirty (30) minutes or more shall forfeit the match, and shall pay the officials unless prior arrangements are made in a timely manner, and both teams agree to start the game late or reschedule it. Consideration will also be given to emergency situations over which the traveling school has no control. The host school has the responsibility of notifying the officials of these changes.
- G. A student may not participate in more than three (3) halves of soccer per day except in a tournament setting, when a player may play two full matches in a calendar day.
- H. During regular season competition played between teams of different classifications, there will be no overtime procedure invoked when regulation play ends with a tie score, unless both coaches agree and inform the match officials prior to the start of the match. During regular season competition between schools in the same classification, and during region/area and state playoff competition, the **overtime procedure** described in item “E” later in this section will be invoked.
- I. In accordance with the National Federation allowance for a state adoption (Rule 7-1-5), when there is a competitive imbalance between the teams, the match will be shortened as follows:
 - 1. If a team is seven (7) or more goals down at the midpoint of the first half, that will be considered the end of the half, and the teams will play a twenty (20) minute second half.
 - 2. If a team is seven (7) or more goals behind at halftime, the second half will be restricted to twenty (20) minutes.
 - 3. When a team trails by ten (10) or more goals at halftime, the game will be terminated.
- J. All soccer matches between schools from the same classification must be played to completion. Matches that are interrupted by weather or mechanical difficulties will be replayed from the point of interruption unless the team that is behind chooses not to complete the match.

- K. In accordance with GHSA By-Laws, soccer coaches will be required to attend a GHSA rules clinic.
Failure to do so will result in a fine for the school for each coach who does not attend.



2020-2021 GHS A SOCCER



REGION COMPETITION:

A. When a Region has not adopted its own tie-breaker method, the following Tie-Breaking Procedure will be used for seeding purposes:

1. Record against all teams in the Region.
2. Winning team in head-to-head competition between schools that are tied.
3. Goals allowed in head-to-head competition between schools that are tied.
4. Goal differential in head-to-head competition between schools that are tied (maximum of three (3) goals per game).
5. Goals allowed in all Region games
6. Goal differential in all Region games (maximum of three (3) goals per game). Note: When figuring "goals allowed" and "goal differential" in matches decided by penalty kicks, the winning team will have one (1) goal added to its game score and the losing team will have no goals added regardless of the number of penalty kicks that were made by either team.
7. In any step of the tie-breaking process if a three-way tie is broken so that all ties are broken, that step determines the placements. If two teams remain tied after a step is completed, revert back to head-to-head record to break the tie. If the tie cannot be broken, move to the next step.

B. If Regions sub-divide into Sub-Regions, then the same tie-breaking procedures (A1 through A7) should be used.

C. For Region and State competition, if the score is still tied at the end of the second overtime period, the penalty kick procedure will be used to determine the winner.

D. Financial procedures for all Region playoffs will be determined by the Region. The host school is responsible for payment of officials. The admission fees for State playoffs begin immediately after Region winners are determined.

E. OVERTIME PROCEDURE:

1. The overtime will consist of two (2) ten-minute periods, which will be played to their entirety.
2. A coin toss shall take place to determine which team will put the ball in play for the first overtime period.
3. If the score remains tied following the overtime periods, a "shootout" of penalty kicks will determine the winner.
4. The head referee shall choose the goal at which the penalty kicks will be taken.
5. Each coach will select any five (5) eligible players (including goalkeeper) to take the kicks.
6. A coin toss shall be held with the team winning the toss having the choice of kicking first or last.
7. Teams will alternate kickers, and there is no follow up on the kicks.
8. The defending team may change goalkeepers prior to each kick.
9. Following five kicks from each team, the team with the greater number of successful kicks will be given one (1) point and declared the winner.
10. If the same number of penalty kicks are successful for each team, each coach will select five (5) different eligible players who will kick in a "sudden victory" situation. Each team will have an opportunity to kick in each round of the sudden victory procedure.
11. If there is no "sudden victory" winner after five (5) kicks, the process will be repeated until a winner is determined.



2020-2021 GHSOA SOCCER



STATE COMPETITION:

A. Four teams from each Region in classes A through 7A will advance to the state tournament.

1. Region winners must be determined by the date indicated on the Beginning and Ending Dates table at the front of this publication.
2. It is the responsibilities of the host team to furnish game balls beyond those furnished by the GHSOA
3. In the event that two schools involved cannot agree on the arrangements for the series (dates, times, etc.) the GHSOA Executive Director will make a ruling to cover the situation.
4. Prior to the final round, the higher seeded team will host, unless the competing teams have the same seeding. In that case, a coin flip will designate the host team.
5. All Championship games will be played on the dates indicated on the Beginning and Ending Dates table at the front of this publication. Admission prices and exact schedules and sites will be posted on the GHSOA web site prior to the finals.
6. At neutral-site games, each participating team is allowed free admission for a maximum of 25 players and team essential personnel. Coaches will be admitted with a GHSOA coaching pass.

B. Finances:

1. The GHSOA will receive 12% of the gross gate receipts.
2. A pre-set amount for game officials' fees will be sent to the GHSOA office, along with the 12% of gross gate receipts, and the GHSOA office will be responsible for paying the officials.
3. The visiting team shall be paid \$.80 per mile (one way) for travel.
4. After these three expenses are paid the schools involved will share the remaining gate receipts equally.
5. The host school is responsible for security, facility fees, maintenance costs, etc., and these expenses shall not be taken out of gate receipts.

C. Admission must be charged at all playoff games.

Beginning immediately after Region winners are determined, fees for single playoff games prior to the Championship Finals are \$7.00. Doubleheaders will be \$10.00.

D. In order to host a state playoff game, the following site requirements must be met:

1. Seating requirements (seats at 24 inches each):
A & 2A: 750; 3A: 1,000; 4A: 1,500; 5A, 6A & 7A: 2,000
2. Adequate restroom facilities must be provided
3. Dressing area must be provided for the visiting team and the officials.
4. The playing area must be configured in such a way that spectators must enter through an admission gate.
5. The field must be sufficiently lighted to allow for night play for all semifinal and championship matches.
6. Championship matches will be held at centralized sites.

E. In the post-season tournaments, it is necessary to have team benches located on the same side of the field. This will be true even in situations where fans are kept on opposite sides of the field.



**2020-2021 GHSA SOCCER
STATE PLAYOFF BRACKET LOCATION**

Both Girls' and Boys' Brackets can be found at [GHSA.net/Soccer](https://ghsa.net/Soccer)

(Even though the link shows boys and girls 7A, when you go to the site, you will be able to see all Classifications' Brackets.)



2020-2021 NFHS SOCCER



RULES CHANGES

2-2-4 SECTION 2 BALL SPECIFICATIONS:

ART. 4...If the ball becomes deflated during play, it is declared dead ~~where it was last played~~ and the game is resumed by a drop ball ~~between any two opposing players at the spot where it was last played~~. If the ball becomes deflated within the goal area, then the ball is dropped ~~between two opposing players~~ subject to the provisions of Rule 9-2-2 and 9-2-3. Ball deflated during a penalty kick results in retaken kick.

Rationale: The provisions for a drop ball have changed, refer to 9-2.

4-1-1a SECTION 1 REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:

ART. 1a...The visiting team shall wear solid white jerseys and solid white socks, and the home team shall wear dark jerseys and socks (dark is defined as any color which contrasts with white). ~~Prior to and during the game, jerseys shall be tucked into the shorts, unless manufactured to be worn outside.~~

Rationale: Manufacturing practices have changed.

4-2-7e, f SECTION 2 OTHER EQUIPMENT:

ART. 7...A tooth and mouth protector (intraoral), if worn, shall:

- ~~e. not to be completely white; and~~
- ~~f. not to be completely clear.~~

Rationale: SMAC no longer recommends the mouth protector meet these two criteria; dropping these two requirements brings soccer in line with the other sports that allow mouth guards.

9-1-1b SECTION 1 BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY:

ART. 1...The ball is out of play when:

- a. it has completely crossed the goal line or touch line, whether on the ground or in the air;
- b. the ball touches an official and remains on the field; and
 - 1. a team starts a promising attack;
 - 2. goes directly into the goal;
 - 3. possession changes

Rationale: This is to address situations where the ball touches a referee and a team gains an advantage.

SECTION 2 DROP BALL:

ART. 1...The game is restarted with a drop ball:

- a. when the ball is caused to go out-of-bounds by two opponents simultaneously;

- b. when the ball becomes deflated; (2-2-4)
- c. following a temporary suspension of play for an injury or unusual situation; (except as noted in 14-1-7) and ~~the goalkeeper is not in possession of the ball.~~
- d. when simultaneous fouls of the same degree occur by opponents; or
- e. when the ball touches an official as per 9-1-1b.

Rationale: This proposal prevents an opponent from gaining an advantage.

9-2-3 SECTION 2 DROP BALL

ART. 3...The ball is dropped by an official from waist level to the ground. The referee drops the ball to one player of the team that last possessed the ball at the position where it was last touched by a player(s), an outside agent or match official. If when play was stopped, the ball was in the penalty area or the last touch, by either team, was in the penalty area, the ball is dropped to the defending team's goalkeeper with all opposing players outside the penalty area. In all cases, all other players must remain at least 4 yards from the ball until it is in play. Any number of players may contest a dropped ball (including the goalkeeper); a referee cannot decide who may contest a drop ball or its outcome.

Other Rules Affected:

9-2-2 SECTION 2 DROP BALL ART. 2...The ball should be dropped at the location where it became dead unless this is within the goal area, in which case, it shall be dropped on that part of the goal-area line which runs parallel to the goal line nearest the location where the ball was when play was stopped. If the ball was caused to go out of bounds by two opponents simultaneously, the ball is dropped five yards inside the boundary line to one player of the team in possession of the ball prior to the simultaneous touch, unless this is the goal area. (~~See 9-3~~) (See 9-2-3)

Rationale: Simplifies the drop ball procedure.

9-3 DELETE SECTION 3 TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

~~In the case of a temporary injury or unusual situation the game shall be restarted with a drop ball. As in 9-2-3. The referee drops the ball to one player of the team that last touched the ball at the position where it was last touched by a player, an outside agent or match official. If when play was stopped, the ball was in the penalty area or the last touch, by either team, was in the penalty area, the ball is dropped to the defending team's goalkeeper. In either case, all other players must remain 4 yds from the ball until it is in play. at the point where the ball was when play was suspended (except as noted in 14-1-7) provided the ball was not in the goal area and not in the possession of the goalkeeper (1The ball is dropped f2-8-2). Should there not be clear possession at the time play is suspended due to an injury or unusual situation, there will be a drop ball at the spot where the ball was declared dead subject to the provisions of Rule 9-2-2.~~

Rationale: Information was redundant.

13-2-3b DELETE SECTION 2 WHEN AWARDED

ART. 3b...~~For temporary suspension of play for injury or unusual situation and the goalkeeper has possession to the ball as per Rule 9-3 (9-3).~~

Rationale: Provisions for drop ball changed.

13-3-1 SECTION 3 HOW TAKEN

ART. 1...Players opposing the kicker shall be at least 10 yards from the ball until it is kicked, unless they are standing on their own goal line between the goal posts. If the free kick is awarded to the defending team in its penalty area, players opposing the kicker shall be outside the penalty area at least 10 yards from the ball and ~~shall must~~ remain there until the ball is in play ~~clears the penalty area~~. Where 3 or more defending team players form a wall, all attacking team players must remain at least 1 yard from the wall until the ball is in play.

Rationale: This will allow the ball to be put back into play quicker and will lead to a decrease in confrontational moments during free kicks.

13-3-2 SECTION 3 HOW TAKEN

ART. 2...The ball shall be kicked while it is stationary on the ground at the spot specified by the official. To be in play, the ball shall be moved in any direction. ~~If the free kick is awarded to the defending team in its penalty area, the ball is not in play until it is beyond the penalty area and into the field of play.~~ Failure to kick the ball as specified shall result in a rekick.

Rationale: Allows the ball to be put back into play quicker.

13-3-4 NEW SECTION 3 HOW TAKEN

NEW ART. 4...For indirect kicks, the referee shall signal an indirect kick (using Official NFHS Soccer Signals Rule 5-3-1b) by raising an arm above the head; this signal shall be maintained until the kick is taken and the ball touches another player or goes out of play. If the referee fails to signal the kick is indirect and the ball goes directly into the opponent's goal, the kick shall be retaken.

Rationale: This clarifies the need to make the signal and prevents punishing the team taking the kick when the referee fails to give the proper signal.

14-1-3 SECTION 1 PENALTY KICK

ART. 3...The opposing goalkeeper shall stand with at least one foot on or in-line with the goal line, facing the kicker, between the goal posts, and shall not be touching the goal posts, crossbar, or nets, until the ball is kicked. Lateral or forward movement is allowed, but the goalkeeper is not permitted to come off the line with both feet ~~by stepping or lunging forward~~ until the ball is in play.

Rationale: This clarifies the goalkeeper's position during the taking of a penalty kick.

16-1-2 SECTION 1 GOAL KICK

ART. 2...Players opposing the kicker shall remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play ~~has cleared the penalty area.~~

Rationale: Clarifies when the ball is in play.

16-1-3 SECTION 1 GOAL KICK

ART. 3...Once spotted, the ball shall be kicked from the ground from any point within the goal area by a player of the defending team. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves. ~~A goal kick shall clear the penalty area and enter the field of play. If the ball is not kicked beyond the penalty area, the goal kick shall be repeated.~~

Rationale: Clarifies when the ball is in play.

16-1-4 SECTION 1 GOAL KICK

ART. 4...After the goal kick is properly taken ~~leaves the penalty area~~, the ball may be played by any player except the one who executes the goal kick. The kicker may not play the ball until it has been touched by another player.

Rationale: Clarifies how the kick is taken and when it is in play.

UNIFORMS:

Game Jersey

- Home Team
 - Dark color contrasting white
 - If gray is used, the shading of the gray color should be 70% dark or darker for it to clearly contrast with white (Gray Color Spectrum Chart)
- Visiting Team
 - All-white
 - No color trim
- Only names and patches, emblems, logos or insignias referencing the school are allowed
- 2 ¼ inch square manufacturer's logo allowed
- Team members wear the same color and style uniform
- Goalkeeper's jersey must distinctively different in color from that of team members and opposing team
- **Front of Jersey**
 - All jerseys, including the goalkeeper, must be numbered on the front
 - Numbers must not be duplicated
 - There must be a 4-inch number on the front (jersey or shorts)
 - The color of the number must contrast with the color of the jersey or pants, be clearly visible and match the color of the number on the back of the jersey
- **Back of Jersey**
 - All jerseys, including the goalkeeper, must be numbered on the back
 - Numbers must not be duplicated

- There must be a 6-inch number on the back
 - The color of the number must contrast with the color of the jersey, be clearly visible and match the color of the number on the front of the jersey
- Socks
 - Home Team
 - Dark color contrasting white
 - Does not need to match the jersey color
 - Both socks must be the same color
 - Visiting Team
 - All white
 - If tape or stays are used, they must be the same color as the socks
 - Manufacturer's logo on both sides of the socks is legal
- Shorts
 - May be of a color unlike that of the jersey
 - May have an appropriately size manufacturer's logo
- Shinguards
 - Must meet the NOCSAE standards at time of manufacture
 - NOCSAE seal and height range permanently mark on front of shinguard
 - Worn with bottom edge no higher than 2 inches above the ankle
 - Age- and size-appropriate
 - Worn under socks
 - Must not be altered
- Undergarments
 - If worn, must be of a similar length for an individual
 - Head coverings
 - Goalkeeper may wear a soft-billed baseball-type hat or soft-billed visor
 - Soft-padded headgear is permitted
 - Medical or cosmetic required head coverings must be approved by the State Association
 - Religious required head coverings must be approved by the State Association
 - Solid color, all alike for the team, if worn



2020-2021 GHSOA SOCCER FORMS



Go to the website below for all forms needed for Soccer:

<https://www.ghsa.net/forms>

Soccer Game Cards

State Soccer Playoffs Financial Report - 1st and 2nd Rounds, and Quarterfinals

State Soccer Playoffs Financial Report - DoubleHeader - 1st and 2nd Rounds, and Quarterfinals

State Soccer Playoffs Financial Report - Semifinals

State Soccer Playoffs Financial Report - DoubleHeader - Semifinals

State Soccer Playoffs Financial Report - DoubleHeader - Soccer and Lacrosse

Team Travel Form

Coaches Entry Form - Soccer

Excess Team Entry

Pass Gate Form

Student/Parent Concussion Awareness Form (2019-2020)

Pre-participation Physical Evaluation Form



2020-2021 GHSA SOCCER

Official GHSA Uniform for Soccer Officials

SOCCER-(all crew members must wear matching uniforms)

1. Shirt – Standard gold with black stripes or black with white stripes.
2. Trousers/Shorts – Solid black
3. Shoes – Predominantly black with black laces
4. Socks – Standard black with white stripes (all crew members must match)
5. Equipment - Whistles (2), coin, yellow and red cards, pencil, scorecard, and timing device





2020-2021 GHSO PLAYOFF SOCCER



2021 GHSO Playoff Procedures for Officials

Your Local Association/Assignor will be responsible for assigning officials for the First and Second Round of the Playoffs for the Schools they service during the regular season. You should contact your local assignor and make sure they know your availability (just as you did during the regular season)

2021 GHSO Playoff Procedures for Officials

The GHSO assignment committee will be responsible for assigning the Quarter Finals, Semi Finals, and Final Games. Tim Wool is the contact for the committee. Tim Wool (678-557-4808) assignor@gsa.net. This year the GSOA Referee Assignment System (www.gsa.net) will be used for the Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Finals. If you are in the pool for Quarter Finals, Semi Finals or Finals you will receive an email with login instructions. GSOA members will use their current login credentials

GHSO Web-Based Playoff System Assignments

For the First and Second Round, work with your local assignor. For Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Finals, you will receive an email from the GSOA assignment system. Login to the GSOA Website and either Accept or Decline the Game (see instruction sheet emailed to you with login information) or go to www.gsa.net and look under Referee Information → Tutorials. Game details may not be available until 24 hours prior to the game

You receive additional instructions / updates via email over the next few weeks.

Tim Wool (678-557-4808) assignor@gsa.net

- * **The GHSO assignment committee will be responsible for assigning the Quarter, Semi, and Final Games.**
- * **Tim Wool is the contact for the committee.** Tim Wool (678-557-4808) assignor@gsa.net
- * **This year the GSOA Referee Assignment System (www.gsa.net) will be used for the Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Finals**
- * **If you are in the pool for Quarter Final, Semi Final, or Higher you will receive an email with login instructions. GSOA members will use their current login credentials**

Assignments

- * **For all games through the Second Round, work with your local assignor**
- * **For Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Finals, you will receive an email from the GSOA assignment system.**
 - **Login to the GSOA Website and either Accept or Decline the Game (see instruction sheet emailed to you with login information) or go to www.gsa.net and look under Referee Information → Tutorials**
- * **Game details may not be available until 24 hours prior to the game**



2020-2021 GHSA PLAYOFF SOCCER

COACHES' GENERAL INFORMATION 2021 STATE PLAYOFFS

GHSA COORDINATOR – Kevin Giddens (229-529-4410)

Email: kevin@ghsa.net

OFFICIALS ASSIGNING COORDINATOR – Tim Wool (678-557-4808)

Email: assignor@ghsa.net

1. Officials

FIRST and SECOND rounds: The host school will contact their local referee assignor to schedule officials.

Quarterfinals: GHSA Office will assign Association crews.

Semifinals: The host school should contact Tim Wool by text or email to schedule referees.

2. Soccer Balls

Select is the official soccer ball for GHSA. Host schools are to supply the GHSA official soccer balls for the First Round and Second Rounds of the Playoffs. GHSA will ship six (6) soccer balls to the home teams for the Quarterfinals and Semifinals (six balls will be sent to the home team for use in these rounds). After the Quarter and Semifinal games, each participating team will be allowed to keep three (3) of the GHSA supplied Select balls (win or lose). The winning team should plan on bringing those three (3) balls to the next round. GHSA will supply all game balls for the finals.

Each team is responsible for bringing their warm-up balls.

3. Adjustments to Schedule (including doubleheaders):

The Host school SHOULD NOT take it upon themselves to make adjustments. The GHSA published schedule should be followed unless there are important school-related circumstances (i.e., Honors Night, Prom, etc).

FIRST and SECOND ROUND: Any changes from the proposed schedule must follow this protocol:

- a. Contact the visiting school. Both schools must agree to the change.
- b. Contact your local referee assignors to make sure they can supply the referees.
- c. If both a and b are met, contact Kevin Giddens at GHSA for final approval.

Quarterfinals and Semifinals:

- a. Contact Kevin Giddens for any proposed changes. He will make the decision whether to approve the change or not. He will contact Tim Wool.
- b. Contact the visiting school. Both schools must agree to the change.

Finals

We will have four (4) host sites for the State Finals. Mercer in Macon, McEachern High School, Savannah, Ga, and TBA will be host sites. The schedule for who will play where will be made later in the playoffs.



2020-2021 GHSA PLAYOFF SOCCER



4. Hosting

The higher seed will always host during the playoffs prior to the finals. If two equal seeds meet in the Quarterfinals or Semifinals, GHSA will flip a coin to determine which school will host prior to the completion of the 2nd Round.

In the finals, GHSA has designated an (H) on the brackets to designate the “Home” team. Seeding prior to the finals will not matter and the team with the (H) will be considered the “Home” team and wear dark jerseys and socks for the game. The only reason for the (H) is to determine which team will wear white and which will wear a dark uniform.

If you think that your team will have a conflict on Finals weekend, please contact Kevin Giddens (kevin@ghsa.net) at GHSA as soon as possible. Please DO NOT wait until the schedule has been made. We must have this information ASAP in order to help coordinate the times and locations for the finals.

Remember that you must contact your local referee assignor to schedule the first two (2) rounds. The GHSA Office will be responsible for assigning and coordinating the referees for the Quarterfinals and Up. Please use text to send information about your scheduled game to

Your School:

Coach Name:

Girls or Boys:

Classification:

Region:

Round (1-5):

Game Opponent:

Game Time:

Game Location:

INTERRUPTED GAMES:

Soccer playoff matches are placed on the same set of procedures as football. Any interrupted game that cannot be completed will be replayed from the point of interruption, at the next available date, unless the team that is behind chooses not to have it completed.

VERIFICATION OF SCHEDULES

Coaches must verify game details at www.gsoa.net/ghsa_playoffs (no need to login). If an update/revision is required for the game details contact Kevin Giddens and Tim Wool IMMEDIATELY. The accuracy of this information is critical for the officiating crew assigned to the game.

UNIFORMS

The “VISITING TEAM” MUST wear solid white shirts and socks to comply with NFHS uniforms standards. The HOME TEAM must wear dark shirt and socks.



2020-2021 GHSA PLAYOFF SOCCER



CHANGING PLAYING DATES:

The GHSA establishes the playing dates that are found with the Constitution and By-laws with the intent of keeping reasonable spacing between the games in the playoff process. There are also concerns about too many games up on a particular night because of the number of playoff-quality officials across the state.

Schools MAY NOT take it upon themselves to make adjustments. Please reference the earlier page for procedures on changing game dates for the playoffs.

Scheduling around school events is very difficult. The soccer playoff schedule has not varied greatly in a number of years, so the playoff soccer dates should not come as a surprise. Each request for a date change because of school issues will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Academic issues will have precedence over social events. Schools may be required by the GHSA Office to alter match times rather than match dates if schools cannot agree on an acceptable game time.

DOUBLEHEADERS: Sometimes requests are made to play a boy-girl doubleheader if one school is to host both games that round. There are inherent problems with this change that may have negative effects on the visiting schools. The schools involved lose potential revenue when a doubleheader is played instead of two single games. It is not recommended that the host school clear the stands between games unless there is a significant time lapse between those games. Therefore the following issues need to be addressed before asking to play doubleheaders:

1. Both visiting teams must agree in writing to play the doubleheader.
2. The assignor of officials must verify that the games can be covered with the date change.
3. The admission fee for this doubleheader must be set at \$10.00 instead of \$7.00

FINANCES

Admission: Single Game \$7.00 –Double Headers \$10.00 to all

State Finals: \$12 for all

Visiting Team: \$.80 per mile (one way)

GHSA Fee: 12% of gross gate receipts plus \$440.00 for game officials.

Game Officials: \$440.00 per game (\$880 for a doubleheader): Schools pay directly to their associations for the First and Second Rounds. In the Quarter and Semifinals, schools pay GHSA who will then pay the officials.

TEAM BENCHES

Throughout the playoffs the team benches shall be located on the same side of the field. If possible, opposite from the spectators side.

OTHER

The “Host School” should supply game balls, water for both teams, and ball boys/girls.

GAME RESULTS

The “Host School” is responsible for reporting game results via text to Kevin Giddens (229-529-4410) immediately following the contest.



2020-2021 GHS A PLAYOFF SOCCER



Attn: GHS A Member Schools

RE: GoFan Digital Ticket Sales

In preparing your financial reports for **GHS A State Playoffs in all sports**, this is a reminder to you that **GoFan Digital Ticket sales are part of your total gate**. The playoff forms for all sports have a separate line item for you to show the # of digital tickets sold and the resulting gate income. GoFan furnishes a report to GHS A for all playoff games at all member schools showing the # of digital tickets sold – please make sure your financial report reflects that information.

If for any reason, the # of GoFan tickets are not shown on your playoff financial reports and included in the total gate revenue, GHS A will invoice you for the GHS A portion of the gate proceeds relating to digital tickets and a notice to pay your visiting team their portion of the omitted gate proceeds as well. **It will be easier for all if you include your digital tickets on the original financial report sent to GHS A.**

Please do not hesitate to contact the GHS A office if you have questions concerning the digital ticket program.