

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER Rules & Regulations

Dated: 10/15/2025

Walton County Middle School Soccer programs will play under rules governed by the NATIONAL FEDERATION SOCCER RULE BOOK, the Walton County Middle School Conference rules and the FHSAA bylaws.

1. Length of games will be two thirty-five (35) minute halves and a ten (10) minute half time.
2. Should the goal differential be 8 goals or more at half time, the game will terminate. At any point during the second half, the game will terminate if there is a goal differential of 8 goals.
3. All games will end at the end of regulation. Point system will be used: Three points for a win, one point for a tie and zero points for a loss.
4. At the end of the first game, a ten (10) minute warm-up period will be provided before the second game begins.
5. Players must wear shin guards that offer a reasonable degree of protection.
6. Any player with a cast or brace must properly pad his/her cast or brace as determined by the referee.
7. Shoes must meet the following standards:
 - Be constructed of a material which does not chip or develop a cutting edge.
 - All cleats, studs, or bars shall be less than one-half inch, 1.27 mm in a diameter or width, and they shall not project from the sole or heel of the shoe more than three-fourths of an inch, 1.9 mm.
 - Aluminum, leather, rubber, nylon, or plastic cleats with steel tips are legal if they conform to the width and the length specifications.
 - Exception: A molded sole with multiple cleats, studs, or bars less than one half inch from the sole and not of an extreme design is permissible.
8. Proper field markings and anchored goals must be provided. If the field is owned by the city or another school, it is not an excuse for not having the field properly prepared. Each school must work with whomever owns the field to ensure the field is properly prepared.
9. Only registered officials are to be used for games.

10. The HOME team is responsible for reporting the outcomes of the game/event. The results should be recorded in a shared document which will be set up by the tournament hosting school. It will be accessible to coaches, athletic directors and principals. Results should be reported within 24 (work day) hours of the game/event.

Inclement Weather

Before the game begins, the on-site school administrator has the final say on whether the field is safe for play. Administrator will consult with coaches and referees. Once the game begins, the referee will determine the safety of the field and will likely consult with coaches and administrator if a delay or termination is warranted. The administrator will have a way to measure lightning. If lightning is detected within 10 miles of the field, play will be suspended for at least 30 minutes. For each new lightning strike within 10 miles, the wait time will restart. All players/fans should stay indoors or in their cars during this wait time.

If a game is suspended for lightning **before** halftime, the game will resume when at least 30 minutes have passed without a lightning strike and will be played completely. If the game is delayed more than 30 minutes, the game will be rescheduled and will be considered a brand new game. If the game is suspended at or after halftime, the results will stand as final.

TOURNAMENT PLAY

Tournament seedings will be determined using the point system for all regular season league games. Three points will be awarded for a win, one point for a tie, and zero points for a loss. Should there be a tie between teams based on points earned, the first tie breaker will be head-to-head competition. If still tied, then the upper seed will go to the team that allowed the fewest total goals during the season between the schools involved in the tie. If still tied, there will be a coin flip.

All tournament games (semi-finals, and finals) will consist of two 35-minute halves. Should a game end in a tie, 5 penalty kicks will be awarded to each team. Only eligible players may participate in penalty kicks (anyone disqualified is not eligible). If it is tied, teams will alternate taking penalty kicks until a winner is determined. Players may not take a second penalty kick until all eligible and healthy players on the team have taken a penalty kick during the shootout including the goalkeeper.

Any player who gets a straight red card will be suspended for the remainder of the tournament. Any player who earns 2 yellow cards in a game (which results in a red card) will be suspended for the rest of the game as well as the next game.

Each team will receive a specific number of medals that coaches may use to recognize individual player(s) on their team at their banquet or when is convenient for them. The quantity of medals will vary depending on the team's success.

Inclement Weather for Tournament

Before the game begins, the on-site school administrator has the final say on whether the field is safe for play. Administrator will consult with coaches and referees. Once the game begins, the referee will determine the safety of the field and will likely consult with coaches and administrator if a delay is warranted. The administrator will have a way to measure lightning. If lightning is detected within 10 miles of the field, play will be suspended for at least 30 minutes. For each new lightning strike within 10 miles, we will restart the wait time. All players/fans should stay indoors or in their cars during this wait time.

If a game is suspended for lightning **before** halftime, the game will resume when at least 30 minutes have passed without a lightning strike and will be played completely. If the game is delayed more than 60 minutes, the game will resume when it is safe to play and will end at halftime. If the game is tied at halftime, the teams will begin a penalty kick shoot out to determine the winner.

If a game is suspended for lightning **after** halftime, there will be a maximum 60 minute delay. If lightning is still in the area after 60 minutes, the team that is ahead will be declared the winner. If the game is tied, when it is safe to resume play, the game will go directly into penalty kicks to determine a winner.