

2012-2013 WPIAL BOYS & GIRLS SOCCER SCHEDULE

February 1, 2012

First Practice Date ~ August 13, 2012
First Scrimmage Date ~ August 18, 2012
First Play Date ~ August 31, 2012

Maximum Contests ~ 18
Maximum Scrimmages ~ 2

A copy of this document must be given to your coach. Section play will begin on **September 4-5, 2012**, and must be completed according to the schedule. **It is advised that in the second half of the season consideration should be given to alternate sites in the event that fields are unplayable.** Please check your schedule carefully and notify the League Office of any errors at (412) 921-7181 or 800-297-9553.

Coaches are advised that the PIAA By-Laws Article XIV, Section 3 requires that the head coach attend a minimum of one PIAA mandatory rules interpretation prior to each season. Mandatory rules meeting dates and times are available on the PIAA website. www.piaa.org

The top three (3) teams and ties that CANNOT be broken in each classification with five (5) or more sections will enter the WPIAL tournament. In classifications with four (4) or fewer sections, the top four (4) teams and ties that CANNOT be broken will enter the WPIAL tournament. All playoff entries will be determined by section record only and will be determined by the following method: **Three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie.** Teams that tie for first place will not have the tie broken and each will be declared champions and will receive a section winner's plaque. Those teams will enter the tournament; and if the teams tied for first place equal the maximum for sectional qualification, **NO OTHER TEAMS WILL BE ENTERED INTO THE TOURNAMENT.** In classifications with five (5) or more sections if two teams are tied for first, the second-place team will enter as the third section representative. In classifications with four (4) or fewer sections, if three teams are tied for first, the second-place team will enter as the fourth-section representative. In the event of a tie for second, third, or in some cases fourth place, the Tie Breaker System will be employed. If a tie persists, head-to-head competition will determine the qualifier. In the event of a multiple tie, the following tie breaker will be employed:

1. Section records of the tied teams will be compiled.
2. The team that has the best won/loss record in head to head competition among the tied teams only will be the qualifier.
3. If the tie cannot clearly be broken, all tied teams will enter the tournament.

Teams that qualify for the tournament should be aware that they may be placed in a preliminary round and may be assigned to play the weekend prior to the first round of the tournament.

1. All WPIAL games must be played according to the National Federal Rules Book.
2. Each game will consist of **two equal halves of 40 minutes** each. The home team must supply an official game timer. **Regular season game overtimes shall be resolved by playing no more than two (2) "sudden victory" overtime periods not to exceed ten minutes each. If a tie persists at that point, the game is over and is recorded as a tie.** In post-season play, the procedure to determine a game winner will be the state adopted method of the National Federation Soccer Rules Book.
3. Please make sure that both teams and the referees know the correct starting time. This should be established by the home team and made known to the visitors and the officials in plenty of time. It is recommended that all afternoon contests do not start before **3:30 PM** unless the competing school principals agree.
4. Only PIAA soccer officials may officiate. The WPIAL recommends the use of at least two PIAA officials for each soccer game. For certain games, the three-official crew system may be appropriate.

5. **Coaching and sideline decorum must be above reproach. Both coaches must present line-up cards to the game officials prior to start of the contest. Coaches must adhere to professional behavior standards as established by the PIAA. Officials have been instructed to enforce this code.**
6. Both benches should be placed on the same side of the field when possible in keeping with the spirit of soccer and the soccer rules book.
7. The balls used in WPIAL soccer play must conform in shape and composition to the National Federation Rules Book regulations. The home team must provide three (3) like, legal game balls.
8. Players and coaches who receive hard red cards and are disqualified from any game by the game official will not be permitted to participate in the next scheduled game played by their team at the same level of competition. Repeated red card offenders will be subjected to more severe penalties. ***It is strongly recommended that any ejected coach or player be required to report to the athletic director and/or the principal the next morning. The Principal and or Athletic Director is reminded of the importance of completing and returning ASAP the required PIAA ejection response form.***
9. The PIAA Board of Directors has adopted a rule for ALL LEVELS OF SOCCER for the 2011-2012 school year that **REQUIRES "that a player who receives a yellow card sit out a mandatory period of five (5) minutes as indicated on the soccer game clock"**.
10. **The PIAA has established a Mercy Rule effective for the 2012 – 2013 soccer season that provides for a RUNNING CLOCK once a team gains a seven (goal) advantage over their opponent.**
11. **Boys & Girls PIAA qualifiers** – In AAA, AA & A will qualify three (3) teams in **BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS** will advance to the PIAA tournament. The WPIAL champion, and the runner-up will advance in all three (3) classes as well as the winner in each of the third-place consolation games.
12. **Wednesday October 17, 2012**, is the final day that games may be played by all WPIAL Soccer Tournament qualifiers. Teams qualifying for the WPIAL Soccer Tournament may scrimmage any team that has also qualified and may continue to do so as long as they remain alive in the tournament.
13. **REPORTING SCORES:**
The home team is obliged to phone all scores to:

Don Rebel @ MSA Sports Network (412/539-0360) drebel@nauticom.net
Pittsburgh Post Gazette (412-263-1621 ~ 1-877-672-6224) highschool@post-gazette.com
Tribune Review - PGH (1-888-748-8742) pschofield@tribweb.com
OR GRSB (1-800-690-8047)
Washington Observer Reporter (1-800-222-6397) orsports@observer-reporter.com
14. **The WPIAL requires an administrative presence at all scheduled HOME boys' and girls' soccer games during the 2012-2013 soccer season.**