

# 2021 - 2022 WPIAL BOYS & GIRLS SOCCER SCHEDULE

January 26, 2021

First Practice Date ~ August 16, 2021  
First Scrimmage Date ~ August 21, 2021  
First Play Date ~ September 3, 2021

**Maximum Contests ~ 18**  
**Maximum Scrimmages ~ 2**

**A copy of this document must be given to your coach.** Section play will begin on **September 7-8, 2021** 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.

**Coaches are advised that the PIAA By-Laws Article XIV, Section 3 requires that the head coach attend a minimum of one (1) PIAA mandatory rules interpretation prior to each season.**

**Mandatory rules meeting dates and times are available on the PIAA website: [www.piaa.org](http://www.piaa.org)**

**The top (4) four teams and ties that CANNOT be broken in each classification 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 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 multiply 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 play on Saturday, October 23, 2021.**

1. All WPIAL games must be played according to National Federation Rules Book.
2. Each game will consist of **two equal halves up to a maximum of 40 minutes** each. The home team must supply an official game timer. **Regular season game overtimes shall be resolved by playing a MANDATORY two (2) "sudden victory" overtime periods of 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 visitor 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 (2) PIAA officials for each soccer game. For certain games, the three-official crew system may be appropriate.

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5. **Coaching and sideline decorum must be above reproach. Both coaches must present line-up cards, including ALL bench personnel, 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 the 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 regular season 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 a red card 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. Beginning in the 2020 season, the PIAA instituted a **"Supplemental Disqualification"** as a part of the PIAA By-Laws, Article XIII, Section 8.B:

Any Coach, team personnel and/or contestant who, is ejected from a Contest by a state high school association recognized and/or registered official and a component of the ejection is confronting, contacting or addressing a Coach, contestant or official using foul or vulgar language, ethnic or racially insensitive comments or physical contact will be disqualified from competition for the remainder of the day and for the next two (2) Contests including all Contests on the next two (2) Contest days of the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition from which the Coach and/or contestant was previously disqualified. For the purposes of this provision, the jurisdiction of the official(s) to apply and enforce this rule begins upon the official's arrival at the Contest site and ends when the official (or the last of the team of officials) leaves the Contest site. The Contest site is defined as premises on which the competition surface is located and includes the entirety of the premises and parking areas.

When the Supplemental Disqualification implicates a contestant, and in addition to the two (2) Contests disqualification, the contestant may not return to competition representing the contestant's school until the contestant completes the NFHS Sportsmanship program at NFHSLearn (online) and provides a certification of completion of this program to the student's Principal and the Principal submits the certification to the PIAA District Sport Chairman. A Coach and/or Team personnel disqualified under this provision may not return to competition representing the Coach's/Team personnel's school until the Coach/Team personnel complete the NFHS Sportsmanship program and Teaching and Modeling Behavior program at NFHSLearn (online) and provides a certification of completion of these two programs to the Coach's/Team personnel's Principal and the Principal submits the certification to the PIAA District Sport Chairman.

A disqualification under B. above supersedes a disqualification under Article XIII, Section 8.A. A PIAA District Committee may, at its discretion, convene a hearing to address any and all disqualifications and may provide additional penalties as warranted by the circumstances.

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10. The PIAA Board of Directors has adopted a rule for ALL LEVELS OF SOCCER 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”**.
11. The PIAA has established a **Mercy Rule** that provides for a **RUNNING CLOCK** once a team gains **a seven (7) goal advantage over their opponent**.
12. **Suspended Regular Season Game – The PIAA has amended the NFHS Rules Book 7-3 to read as follows: “Re-start at the point of suspension if less than one half is played. If more than one-half is played and a winner is determined, it is an official game and the results stand. If a winner cannot be determined, the game is resumed at the point of suspension”**.
13. **PIAA qualifiers** – The top 3 boys’ and top 3 girls’ teams in 1A, 2A, 3A will advance to the PIAA Tournament. In 4A, the top 2 teams in both boys and girls will advance.
14. **Tuesday, October 19, 2021** is the final day for section play. **Wednesday, October 20, 2021**, 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 if they remain alive in the tournament.
15. **The WPIAL requires an administrative presence at all scheduled HOME boys’ and girls’ soccer games during the 2021-2022 soccer season.**
16. **REPORTING SCORES:**
  - The home team is obligated to report all scores to:
    - Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (412/263-1621 ~ 1-877-672-6224) [highschool@post-gazette.com](mailto:highschool@post-gazette.com)
    - Tribune Review-PGH (1-888-748-8742) [ptrsports@tribweb.com](mailto:ptrsports@tribweb.com)
    - Washington Observer (1-800-222-6397) [orsports@observer-reporter.com](mailto:orsports@observer-reporter.com)
    - Any applicable local papers