

ARTICLE FOUR SOCCER

4.1 STARTING DATE:

- 4.1-1 Practice for boys and girls, with no limitations, may begin on the day determined by the Section by-laws.
- 4.1-2 If the first day of practice falls on a Saturday or Sunday, practice may begin on Monday of the following week.

4.2 OFFICIAL RULES:

- 4.2-1 The official rulebook shall be the National Federation of High School Association rule book.

4.3 GAME BALL:

- 4.3-1 The game ball shall be any high-grade regulation ball.
- 4.3-2 During Section play, the game ball used will be the ball approved according to the Section by-laws.

4.4 CONTACTS:

- 4.4-1 The number of contacts allowed is twenty-eight (28).
- 4.4-2 Contacts will follow the Sac-Joaquin Section rule 1206-D.
- 4.4-3 Definition of a tournament and game count can be found in rule 1206 in the section by-laws.
- 4.4-4 League contacts will be a double round robin format.

4.5 GAME TIMES:

- 4.5-1 Night games - JV games will begin at 5:00 with the Varsity game to follow at 7:00.
- 4.5-2 Game time changes can be made by mutual agreement of both schools.

4.6 GAME RESULTS:

- 4.6-1 Results of the matches shall be posted on MaxPreps within 24 hours. The results of the final match of the season should be immediately passed to the athletic director in charge of the sport to assist with playoff selection.

4.7 CHANGE IN CLASSIFICATION:

4.7-1 In league play, a player may move to a higher or lower classification throughout the season.

4.8 SCHEDULE AND ROSTER CHANGE:

4.8-1 The league's preseason meeting will occur the Monday before the first day of practice, as determined by the Section.

4.8-2 All rosters and schedules will be posted on MaxPreps by the coach on or before the date specified by the league.

4.9 CHAMPIONSHIP:

4.9-1 The league championship will be awarded to the team who finishes the year with the most points. No champion will be recognized below the varsity level.

4.9-2 Teams are awarded points in the following manner:

Win = 3 points

Tie = 1 point

Loss = 0 points

4.10 PLAYOFFS:

4.10-1 The number of teams qualifying for participation in the playoff shall be determined by the section.

4.10-2 Soccer is the only sport that routinely allows ties in the game, which necessitates an addition to general rule 1.24. A tie will be broken using the following:

1. Head-to-head competition
2. Total league wins
3. Descending head-to-head competition with the tie
4. Coin Toss

4.11 MISCELLANEOUS - ACTIVITY SPECIFIC:

4.11-1 When possible, team areas and fans shall be located on opposite sides of the fields.

4.11-2 Three (3) officials will be used for all Varsity games. If 2 officials are present, games may begin until the additional official arrives. At least two (2) officials may be used for JV games.

4.11-3 Game lengths for both Varsity and JV games will be two forty (40) minute halves.

4.11-4 If conditions are not playable, the home team is to notify the visiting team and officials.

4.11-5 Make-up games must be played within two (2) weeks of the regularly scheduled game.

4.11-6 League schedule must be completed by the date determined by the section.

4.11-7 Sportsmanship should be always displayed, from all players, coaches and fans/spectators.

4.12 ALL League Awards

All-League players, for MEL Sports, will be selected by a process approved by the Board of Managers (BOM) and conducted by the Athletic Director in charge of each sport.

Last Revision: September 23,2025