



# ***MOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN LEAGUE***

## **GUIDELINES FOR SOCCER**

Updated 11-10-21

### **Article 1: NFHS rules govern play**

The NFHS soccer rules book will be followed.

### **Article 2: Field and game information**

The home team will provide a regulation field. As soccer field size is loosely defined, field size must be reasonable. The quality of the field surface should be consistent and safe.

Games are played with 9 players. If a team has fewer than 8 players, that team forfeits.

Game length (typically 80 minutes: two 40-min halves with a 10-min halftime) may be modified game to game based upon unanimous agreement between both teams and the referee. This may be necessary in the case of injuries, darkness, inclement weather, etc.

If regulation ends in a tie, the game remains a tie, except during the season-ending tournament. For the tournament, the tie will be broken by two 5-minute overtimes, the second one sudden death. If the tie still remains, it will be broken by a 5-shot penalty shoot-out. If the tie still remains, it will be broken by a sudden death penalty shoot-out.

### **Article 3: Officials**

Due to safety concerns, certified officials are required for varsity competition. Furthermore, two certified officials are recommended, or one certified official and two line judges. If certified officials are unavailable, the host team must communicate before the competition in a timely manner so both teams can come to a mutually acceptable solution. If certified officials are not provided by the host team, the game shall not be played in an official capacity, and shall be forfeited by the host team or rescheduled if possible, unless both athletic directors decide to waive this rule and come to a mutually acceptable solution.

### **Article 4: League standings and season-ending tournament**

The standings for the end of the season will be determined by overall record in league play. If there is a tie for any position, tie-breaking procedures are sequential as follows: 1) Head-to-head contests. 2) Point spread in head-to-head contests between the tied teams. 3) Teams records against the highest ranked teams in the league will be compared, in descending order of rank, until the tie is broken. 4) Point spread against the other teams in the league will be compared, in descending order of rank, until the tie is broken.

The season-ending league standings will determine seeding in the season-ending tournament. Only the top eight teams at the end of the season will qualify for the season-ending tournament. The tournament will be single-elimination format with a consolation bracket.

### **Article 5: Admission for spectators**

It is up to each MCL member to determine whether or not to charge admission for league games. Admission for spectators will not be charged for MCL season-ending tournament games. Team entry fees will be charged to cover costs for tournaments.

### **Article 6: League scores and schedules**

Overall schedules and scores for each varsity game must be reported to the MCL website.