



Soccer Event Guide

Revised September, 2016



VHSL STATE SOCCER SITE REQUIREMENTS

QUARTERFINAL REQUIREMENTS

A. FIELD REQUIREMENTS

In order to host a VHSL State Soccer quarterfinal game, the school/facility must be able to provide a properly marked, well maintained soccer field that meets the requirements specified in the current NFHS Soccer Rules Book. The following additional requirements must also be met.

1. Field dimensions
 - a. Minimums – 110 yards long by 65 yards wide
 - b. Maximums – 120 yards long by 75 yards wide
2. Field slope
 - a. The field should not be flat.
 - b. Surface drained fields should have a minimum of 1 ½ percent slope (center to side).
3. Team areas – must be properly marked and at least 10 feet from the touchline (sideline) and on the same side of the field.
4. Spectator areas – must be at least 10 feet from touchlines (sidelines), team/official area and goal line. No one shall be permitted directly behind either goal unless seated in bleachers.
5. Lights are required and must provide for adequate and uniform lighting of the field.

Note: A college/university soccer facility may be used.

B. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1. Scoreboard – must be working and visible from all player and spectator vantage points
2. PA/Sound system
 - a. Adequate for projecting intelligible announcements to all areas of bleachers
 - b. Capable of playing music during intermissions
3. Seating
 - a. Permanent or portable bleacher seating to accommodate anticipated attendance (see chart).
 - b. Accessible (ADA compliant)
4. Parking (on site)
 - a. Safe/secure area for team buses and officials
 - b. Spaces to accommodate anticipated attendance (see chart)
 - c. Lighted
 - d. Accessible (ADA compliant)
5. Secure entry point
 - a. Must be able to control admission to facility
 - b. Must allow for timely access by event patrons
6. Concessions – to accommodate anticipated event attendance
7. Restrooms – minimum of two (2) on-site public restrooms (1 per gender), or access to same in adjacent buildings.



8. Locker rooms
 - a. Two (2) team locker rooms
 - b. 1 officials' locker room
 - i. Private
 - ii. Free from intrusion
 - iii. Large enough for 4 officials to dress
 - iv. Shower (with hot water) and restroom facility
9. Media requirements – must be able to accommodate anticipated media coverage
10. Event security
 - a. Crowd control
 - b. Escort for contest officials
 - c. Gate receipts
 - d. Parking area
11. Emergency Action Plan
 - a. Certified Athletic Trainer on site
 - b. EMT or on-call medical assistance available
 - c. Lightning plan
 - d. Emergency evacuation plan
 - e. Emergency Action Plan (EAP)
12. Event personnel
 - a. Event director/manager
 - b. Ticket sellers/takers
 - c. Pass/Team gate supervisors
 - d. Team hosts
 - e. Officials' host
 - f. Announcer
 - g. Media/press coordinator
 - h. Official scorer
 - i. Official timer
 - j. Statistician
 - k. Scoreboard operator
 - l. Ball boys/girls
 - m. Program sellers
 - n. Concession workers
 - o. Hospitality workers
 - p. Custodial and maintenance services
 - q. Security
 - r. Additional workers, as needed

C. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

1. Playability in the event of inclement weather
2. Slope of the field – soccer fields should not be flat. Slope is measured from center to side.
 - a. Minimum 1½% slope on fields which are surface drained and made up of native soil
 - b. No less than 1% slope on fields with underground drainage.
3. Location and accessibility
 - a. Access from major thoroughfares
 - b. Lodging for out-of-town teams, spectators and officials
 - c. Area restaurants
 - d. Support (financial and other) within the community for the event



4. Historical
 - a. Has this site been used in the past, and if so has it been acceptable to participating teams

SEMIFINALS & FINALS

In addition to the requirements specified for hosting a quarterfinal game, the host site for semi-finals and finals¹ must be able to provide the following:

1. Hospitality areas for administrators, tournament workers and game officials
2. Public restrooms – minimum of four (4) – 2 per gender
3. Restaurants and hotels to accommodate out-of-town teams, spectators and officials
4. Support (financial and other) within the community for the event

¹ Semifinals and finals are currently conducted as part of a VHSL Spring Jubilee



Soccer Event Checklist

Participating Teams

- _____ Receive Entry forms
- _____ Schools provide legible rosters for inclusion in event developed program
- _____ Provide entrance and exit for facility and tournament entrance procedure
- _____ Pre-game off field warm-up locations
- _____ Pre-game on field warm-up procedure and location
- _____ Provide list of appropriate host phone numbers (Athletic Office, Tournament Director, Athletic Trainer, Hospital)
- _____ Provide a local map and directions
- _____ Designate dressing facilities for teams and officials as necessary
- _____ Bench locations
- _____ Designate training staff contact and location
- _____ Team Admittance List

Game Personnel

- _____ Ticket Takers – at least 1 per gate
- _____ Pass Gate – 1 per gate or 1 dedicated location
- _____ Program Sellers
- _____ Announcer – Counseled in appropriate announcing etiquette
- _____ Scorer – Press box and on field – as appropriate
- _____ Timer
- _____ Ball Runners – at least 4
- _____ Athletic Trainer(s)
- _____ Statistician – one
- _____ Pre and Post Game Coordinator
- _____ Security – Adequate to maintain appropriate pre-game, game and post-game atmosphere.
- _____ Police – If necessary



- _____ Coordinator of hospitality areas – Coordinate and control food areas for press, officials and working staff – as necessary
- _____ Coordinate with **Fine Designs** regarding event sales and procedures

Meetings

Meet workers agenda

- _____ Review policies on conduct at state event
- _____ Review issues involving event (example: fans to remain off field at end of games)
- _____ Announcer

Announcements

- Pre-game** – All sponsors will be recognized and VHSL announcement
 - 10 minutes prior to game-*
 - Announce visiting team line-up*
 - 6 minutes prior to game-*
 - Announce home team line-up*
 - 2 minutes prior to game-*
 - National Anthem*

Near end of game reminder spectators to stay off of the field

Post-game –

- Announce that everyone is to stay off the field.
- Announce where teams will locate for picture opportunities for fans
- Award Procedure
- Runner-up Team Individuals with help from school admin
- Runner-up Team Trophy with help from school admin
- Champion Team Individuals with help from school admin
- Champion Team Trophy with help from school admin

Coaches/ Team agenda

- _____ Introduction
- _____ During game contact and location
- _____ Pre-game procedures
 - Introductions
 - National Anthem
 - Any special events
- _____ Post game procedures
 - Provide results of all games as soon after event as possible – secure appropriate phone numbers from appropriate individuals to accomplish this
 - Awards
 - Fan Expectation and involvement of School personnel in maintaining appropriate atmosphere
 - Involvement of School Personnel
 - Provide adequate post game security for officials
 - Provide results as soon as possible after the contest; obtain appropriate phone numbers/email to accomplish this



Facility

- _____ Provide appropriate restrooms for event and have available custodial services for issues
- _____ Provide adequate admission areas
- _____ Provide appropriate public address for the event
- _____ Identify and secure areas for awards, spectators, memorabilia sales and banners
- _____ Designate areas for respective team fans
- _____ Organize the awards consistent with VHSL format
- _____ Designate inclement weather areas for teams and officials – separate if at all possible
- _____ Coordinate media contact information
- _____ Coordinate credentials for all access to the facility
- _____ Coordinate re-entry for the event site (At VHSL State events re-entry is NOT allowed unless a new ticket is purchased).

Sportsmanship

- _____ Provide schools with VHSL sportsmanship expectations
- _____ All teams should be treated equally
- _____ Unsportsmanlike acts must be reported to league staff
- _____ Designate areas for working staff that will help alleviate potential issues

Finances

- _____ Complete and submit Tournament Contract to League Office prior to the event
- _____ Alert Assistant Director if contract costs exceed those agreed to in the contract
- _____ All financial information provided to the league office in a timely manner (within three weeks)



EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (EAP)

Student-athlete safety during athletic competition should be a priority throughout the season. Developing an **Emergency Action Plan (EAP)** is a vital component in achieving this goal. Sound EAPs are the product of a collaborative process involving school administrators, medical professionals (i.e. athletic trainers, physicians) and local EMS and should include the identification of an **Emergency Response Team (ERT)**. In addition, the EAP should be specific to each practice or competition venue and reflect the following important considerations related to managing emergency situations.

Emergency Personnel

Typically, the first responder to a medical emergency is a member of the sports medicine staff such as a certified athletic trainer or team physician. However, these individuals may not always be present at every athletic practice or competition. In some instances, a coach, sponsor, or school administrator may be the first responder and it is imperative that all potential responders understand their role in managing an emergency situation. Therefore, the EAP should identify the members of the ERT and clearly outline/identify each person's role and responsibilities.

These may include but are not limited to:

- Ensuring the scene is safe and providing immediate care
- Activating EMS
- Retrieving emergency medical equipment
- Directing EMS to the scene

Emergency Communication

Quick communication between members of the ERT is critical to effective management of an emergency situation. The EAP should identify both primary and secondary communication mechanisms for each venue that allows first responders to contact ERT members and EMS as quickly as possible. The communication system should be reviewed prior to each event and shared with visiting medical professionals prior to/ during contests.

Emergency Equipment

Any necessary emergency equipment (e.g. AED, epi-pen, mechanism for rapid cooling) should be available and easily accessible at each venue. The members of the ERT should be familiar with the function and operation of emergency equipment and trained to use it in advance. Emergency equipment should be inspected on a regular basis and the members of the ERT should be well practiced in its use.

Medical Emergency Transportation

Ideally, an ambulance is onsite at high-risk events or as needed given the size/scope of the contest. EMS response time and overall EMS transportation capabilities (e.g. basic or advanced life support) should be considered when determining whether or not to have an ambulance onsite. If an ambulance is available at the venue, it should be located in a designated, easily accessible location

Venue Directions and Map

The EAP should include detailed directions to the venue, including the street address, cross streets, and landmarks if needed to make the site easier to locate. Ideally, EMS personnel and first responders will meet at the venue to familiarize themselves with its location. Consideration should be given to ambulance entrance/exit points as well as whether or not helicopter transport is a viable option. GPS coordinates can assist a helicopter transport.



SAMPLE EAP: LOCATION NAME

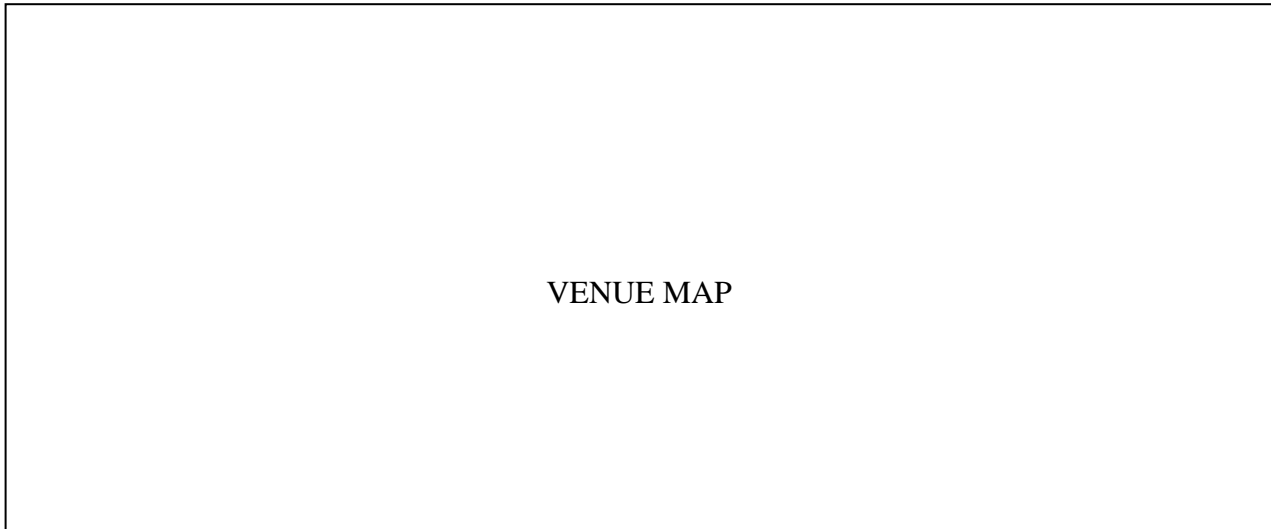
Revised: DATE

ADDRESS:

VENUE DIRECTIONS

Practice field:

Competition field:



EMERGENCY PERSONNEL

Practice field: (Listed by name/profession)

Competition field: (Listed by name/profession)

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION

Practice field: (Include description of communication mechanism and telephone # if applicable)

Competition field: (Include description of communication mechanism and telephone # if applicable)

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

Practice field: (Identify the available equipment and its specific location)

Competition field: (Identify the available equipment and its specific location)

ROLE OF FIRST RESPONDERS

1. Who will provide immediate care for the injured/ill student-athlete?
2. Who will activate EMS? (Include specific instructions regarding what to tell the dispatcher)
3. Who will retrieve emergency equipment? (Include specific instructions related to location)
4. Who will direct EMS to the scene? (Include specific instructions, including where to stand, access points etc.)
5. Who will provide "crowd control?"

RESOURCES

- Courson RW. Preventing Sudden Death on the Athletic Field: The Emergency Action Plan. *Current Sports Medicine Reports*. 2007;(6):93–100.
- Anderson JC, Courson RW, Kleiner DM, McLoda TA. National Athletic Trainers' Association Position Statement: Emergency Planning in Athletics. *J Athl Train*. 2002; 37(1):99-104.
- Casa DJ, Almquist JL, Anderson SA, et al. The Inter-Association Task Force for Preventing Sudden Death in Secondary School Athletics Programs: Best-Practice Recommendations. *J Athl Train*. 2013;48(4):546-553.



Sportsmanship

Memo to VHSL State Tournament School Administrators

Welcome to the State Tournament. We hope you, your team, your student body, and your fans will enjoy their experience.

As you know, good sportsmanship is a top priority of the Virginia High School League. The manner in which your school is represented is far more important than whether your team wins or loses the games they play here. Good sportsmanship is all about respect – respect for oneself, for teammates and coaches, for opposing players and coaches, for contest officials, and for the game. Inappropriate behavior is easy to identify. One need ask only two questions:

1. Is the observed behavior respectful of the targeted audience?
2. Does the observed behavior reflect positively on your school?

If the answer to either question is no, then the behavior is inappropriate and must not be tolerated. Respect for players and coaches of participating teams, game officials and tournament personnel must be a priority at all times and in all situations.

As school administrators, you bear a huge responsibility for making sure that good sportsmanship is valued in your school community. The VHSL State Tournament draws state-wide media attention. Inappropriate behavior on the part of players, coaches or fans can be an embarrassment to you, your school, your community and the VHSL.

Attached to this memo you will find a number of documents outlining tournament procedures. Please review them carefully with your coaches, players, student body and community, as appropriate. You are urged to meet with student leaders before coming to the state event venue to stress with them the importance of positive behavior. Your familiarity and understanding of these procedures will help make your state tournament experience more enjoyable.

Once again, congratulations on a fantastic season and welcome to the State Championships. If there is anything that VHSL or tournament staff can do to help you while you are here, please let us know. Good luck to you and your team!



TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES – ADMINISTRATORS

Each participating school will be expected to provide administrators and other chaperones to actively supervise your student body during your games and address inappropriate behavior if or when it occurs. Individuals who behave inappropriately will be escorted from the facility.

SECURITY AND CROWD CONTROL

- School administrators have primary responsibility for observing their student body and team followers, and for taking corrective action when their students or team followers behave inappropriately. Students will react more quickly and more positively to their own teachers and administrators than they will to an unknown security guard.
- The Events Staff is on-site to **assist** school administrators and chaperones in maintaining the proper atmosphere for the games. They are not responsible for making sure your students and fans behave. As school administrators, that is your responsibility. Staff is there to help you should you need it.
- The athletic director and/or other individuals you designate from your school will have responsibility for observing the student body during the game, and taking whatever corrective action might be necessary in the event that someone behaves inappropriately. VHSL and tournament staff will assist when necessary.
- It is suggested that each school have additional chaperones for its student body.
- Fans will not be permitted on the field at any time. No one will be permitted on the field except the players, coaches and game officials.
- Near the end of the game designated school personnel will join and assist Event personnel by facing your student body and will discourage students from coming onto the field at the game's conclusion.

EXAMPLES OF UNSPORTSMANLIKE BEHAVIOR

The following list is by no means “all inclusive,” but is provided to draw attention to behaviors often witnessed at athletic contests. Please review this list with your student body so that they will know what is not acceptable.

- Turning your back or pretending to read a newspaper during player introductions – this is disrespectful.
- Not standing attentively or shouting “oh” during the National Anthem – this is disrespectful.
- Booming anyone – this is disrespectful
- Taunting or baiting anyone – this is disrespectful
- Singling out an opponent and yelling personal remarks – this is disrespectful
- Mooing, barking, or making other inappropriate gestures or sounds toward anyone – this is disrespectful



- Chanting such things as “over-rated,” or “you, you, you” (after a foul), “warm-up the bus,” etc. – these things are disrespectful.
- Using profanity toward anyone – this is disrespectful
- Using racial, ethnic or other slurs – this is disrespectful
- Throwing things onto the field or toward others – this is disrespectful and dangerous

The behaviors above must be addressed by school administrators if/when they occur. Failure to do so is a violation of The League’s Sportsmanship Rule.

Remember, good sportsmanship is all about respect. Win with humility; lose with grace; do both with dignity.

PLEASE REMIND YOUR STUDENTS AND OTHER SPECTATORS OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Artificial noisemakers are not permitted at indoor events – this includes bells, whistles, thunder sticks, clappers, megaphones (except cheerleaders), horns, etc. Artificial noisemakers are prohibited by NFHS Rules. Some of our sites may have more restrictive rules regarding this policy. Local site restrictions will be enforced where required.
- **Body painting is not permitted on site at any indoor or outdoor event.** Face painting is acceptable provided that it has been done prior to entering the stadium/arena.
- No containers/products for face painting will be permitted to be bought into the stadium/arena.
- No one will be permitted on the court/field at the end of the game.
- Outside food and/or beverages may not be brought into stadium unless specifically granted, in advance, by the facility and event directors.
- Individuals who are disruptive, disrespectful, or who fail to comply with stadium and/or VHSL procedures will be escorted from the facility.

OTHER REMINDERS

- All school faculty members, administrators, school board members, and any other “VIPs” must either have one of the VHSL Accepted Passes (along with picture ID) or must purchase a ticket.
- Individuals with passes must enter via the pass gate. They may not enter via the team entrance.
- Only players, coaches, and non-participating team members will be permitted on the team bench.
- **NO ONE** (except those participating in the awards ceremony) will be permitted on the field after the game.
- Food may not be taken out of any hospitality area, unless specifically allowed, and stated by, the facility.
- School/Pep Bands may only play at times not prohibited by NFHS Individual Sports Rules
- Hand-held signs (in good taste) are permitted but may not be mounted on sticks, poles, etc and should not obstruct the view of others.



Memo to VHSL State Event Coaches

Congratulations to you and your team on your successful season and welcome to this year's VHSL State Tournament. We hope you and your athletes will enjoy their experience, and that they will have the tournament of their lives!

Please review the attachment to this memo with all members of your team prior to your first game. Compliance with the procedures outlined in the attachments will help make your State Tournament experience a positive one.

Good sportsmanship is a top priority of the Virginia High School League. In fact, the manner in which you and your team represent your school is far more important than whether you win or lose the games you play here. Good sportsmanship is all about respect – respect for teammates and coaches, respect for opposing players and coaches, respect for contest officials, and respect for the game. Please demand from your players and team personnel that as they compete for this year's state championship, they treat all other teams, officials and tournament personnel with courtesy and respect at all times, regardless of the situation. Please encourage your fans to do the same. And, finally, please lead by your example.

Once again, congratulations on a fantastic season and welcome to the State Tournament. If there is anything that VHSL or tournament staff can do to help you while you are here, please let us know. Good luck to you and your team!



COACH,

THE ATTACHED MATERIALS ARE TO BE REVIEWED WITH YOUR TEAM PRIOR TO YOUR FIRST MATCH. AFTER REVIEW, PLEASE SIGN THE STATEMENT BELOW AND BRING THIS SHEET TO THE SITE DIRECTOR DURING WARM-UPS PRIOR TO YOUR MATCH.

I certify by my signature below that I have reviewed the tournament procedures with my team and coaching staff, and that we will make every effort to conduct ourselves in a manner which is courteous and respectful of all other tournament participants, officials and attendees.

Printed Name of Head Coach

School

Signature of Head Coach



TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES – COACHES

ARRIVING AT THE STADIUM

- Teams should enter via the designated team entrance.
- A specific time line for warm ups and field access will be provided one week prior to the contest.

PREGAME

- The team bench is for the specific team travel party.
- The team designated as the HOME team will occupy the bench area specified by event staff.
- Prior to contests the National Anthem will be played. It is expected that ALL players and team personnel will stand quietly (unless they choose to sing the Anthem) and attentively until the Anthem is fully completed. Failure to do this is extremely disrespectful to our country.

AFTER THE GAME

- Immediately at the conclusion of the game, players should return to their team benches, where coaches and players will form a line and proceed to shake hands with each coach and member of the opposing team. This process should be initiated by the winning team and must be done prior to any team huddle or celebration. (If appropriate for the event)
- Following the handshake, teams may huddle briefly before leaving the field (or preparing for the medal ceremony). (If appropriate for the event)
- Players may NOT go into the stands or into the other team's area of the field to celebrate.
- Players may NOT stand on team benches, the scorer's table, or any other equipment on or around the field.
- Players may NOT remove any part of their uniform – whether in celebration, or in disappointment.
- Players may NOT dump or spray Gatorade, water, or any other substance, wet or dry, on anyone or anything as part of a post-match celebration or at any other time.
- Win with humility. Lose with grace. Do both with dignity.



AWARDS CEREMONY (for teams participating in a championship game)

- At the conclusion of the championship game, awards will be presented in the following order:
 - Event Sportsmanship Trophy
 - Medals will be presented to PLAYERS from the runner-up team.
 - The runner-up trophy will be presented to the HEAD COACH of the runner-up team.
 - Medals will be presented to PLAYERS from the champion team.
 - The championship trophy will be presented to the HEAD COACH of the winning team.
- All coaches and players from both teams are expected to remain on the field and participate in the awards ceremony – win or lose – no exceptions.

Failure to comply with the procedures outlined in this document will be considered a violation of VHSL's Sportsmanship Rule.

Remember, good sportsmanship is all about respect.



MEMO TO FANS OF VHSL EVENTS

On behalf of the member schools of the Virginia High School League, welcome to this VHSL Tournament. We hope all of the teams play great and that everyone enjoys the event.

Good sportsmanship is a top priority of the VHSL. The manner in which your school and community are represented is far more important than whether your team wins or loses the games they play here. **ALL** of the teams in this year's tournament should be proud of their accomplishments, and you, as parents, students and team followers should be equally proud and supportive of them as they chase their dream.

Good sportsmanship is all about respect – respect for oneself, for teammates and coaches, for opposing players and coaches, for contest officials, and for the game. Inappropriate behavior is easy to identify. One need ask only two questions:

1. Is the observed behavior respectful of the targeted audience?
2. Does the observed behavior reflect positively on your school?

If the answer to either question is no, then the behavior is inappropriate and must not be tolerated. Respect for players and coaches of participating teams, game officials and tournament personnel must be a priority at all times and in all situations.

Much of the behavior you see televised at college games is inappropriate at ANY level, but most especially at the high school level. The following list, though not inclusive, provides examples of behaviors that are disrespectful and thus unsportsmanlike, but are often witnessed at athletic events.

- Turning your back or pretending to read a newspaper during player introductions – this is disrespectful.
- Not standing attentively or shouting “oh” during the National Anthem – this is disrespectful.
- Booing anyone – this is disrespectful
- Taunting or baiting anyone – this is disrespectful
- Singling out an opponent and yelling personal remarks – this is disrespectful
- Mooing, barking, or making other inappropriate gestures or sounds toward anyone – this is disrespectful
- Chanting such things as “over-rated,” or “you, you, you” (after a foul), “warm-up the bus,” etc. – these things are disrespectful.
- Using profanity toward anyone – this is disrespectful
- Using racial, ethnic or other slurs – this is disrespectful
- Throwing things onto the court/field or toward others – this is disrespectful and dangerous

The responsibility for good sportsmanship rests with each and every one of us. One person behaving inappropriately can ruin the state tournament experience for many. Cheer for your team, but respect the other team and the game officials. Be a fan, not a fanatic.

Remember, good sportsmanship is all about respect. Win with humility; lose with grace; do both with dignity.



Non-Member-School Event Site Safety Protocol

For all VHSL events conducted at non-member-school venues there are certain requirements to ensure safety as well as compliance with VHSL rules and regulations. All VHSL member schools and staff are encouraged to share this list with non-member-school facilities which host VHSL events.

The following is a list of prohibited items:

1. Alcohol or illegal drugs.
2. Backpacks or sports bags (unless allowed and screened in accordance with facility and VHSL approval).
3. Weapons (of any kind).
4. Laser pointers.
5. Banners/Flags on sticks or poles.
6. Food and beverage (unless allowed and screened in accordance with facility and VHSL approval).
7. Video cameras (unless allowed by facility and subject to VHSL approval).*
8. Artificial noisemakers (at ANY indoor event as regulated by NFHS rule and only at outdoor events in accordance with facility and VHSL approval).
9. Umbrellas (unless allowed in accordance with facility and VHSL approval)
10. Coolers, bottles, cans or empty containers.**

*Due to the variables involved at VHSL/facility venues certain areas may be limited or prohibited for video equipment set-up. All recording is subject to VHSL copyright and trademark rights and protections.

**Participants/teams may be exempted from this provision.

These security measures are based upon federal, state and local law agency recommendations and are designed to increase the safety and security of each and every guest and participant at VHSL events. The list above is not all-inclusive, and event facilities and the VHSL reserve the right to include additional items as agreed upon by the facility and the VHSL.

- Body painting is not permitted on site at any indoor or outdoor event. Face painting is acceptable if done prior to entering the event venue. No containers/products for face painting will be permitted in the event area.
- Balloons will not be permitted at most indoor venues.
- Bare chests will not be permitted – individuals must remain clothed!
- In the interest of safety, NO ONE will be permitted on the court/field at the end of a game. The playing area is for the teams.
- Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. Fans who are disruptive, abusive or otherwise inappropriate will be escorted from the event area. This includes individuals who choose to sit among fans from another team – if you are disruptive and/or disrespectful, you will be asked to leave.
- Hand held signs (in good taste) are permitted but may not be attached to sticks, poles, etc.



GUIDELINES ON HANDLING CONTESTS DURING LIGHTNING DISTURBANCES

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide a default policy to those responsible for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of contests based on the presence of lightning. The preferred sources from which to request such a policy for your facility would include your state high school association and the nearest office of the National Weather Service.

Proactive Planning

1. Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during events.
2. Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby shelters.
3. Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:
 - a. When thunder is heard, or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play and take shelter immediately.
 - b. Thirty Minute Rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
 - c. Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30 minute count, reset the clock and another 30 minute count should begin.
4. Hold periodic reviews for appropriate personnel.

For more detailed information, refer to the “Guidelines for Lightning Safety” contained in the NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook.



Waiver of Site Requirements Checklist- Soccer

The following site requirements for this event, if being considered for waiver, should be noted, agreed upon by both schools, signed by the host school Principal/Designee and a copy forwarded to the League Office. **(Place a check next to the requirements waived)**

_____ Lighted field **(Games approved on fields without lights may start no later than 3:00 p.m.)**

_____ Field Dimensions and Surface

_____ Spectator Areas

_____ Seating

_____ Scoreboard

_____ Date _____

Host School Principal/Designee

Date received at League Office _____ Initials _____



VHSL HANDBOOK RULES – Soccer

SECTION 78: SOCCER.

78-1-1 Schedules-Each school shall make its own playing schedule and allow practice within the dates published on the current year's VHSL Activities Calendar.

78-1-2 Each school team shall be limited to 16 games, per season, exclusive of district, conference, regional and state championship games.

78-2-1 Minimum Practice Requirement-There is no minimum practice requirement for soccer.

78-3-1 Suspended/Interrupted Matches-In the event a match must be suspended by the officials because of conditions which make it impossible to continue play, the officials/tournament director shall:

- (a) Declare it an official match if one complete half or more of the match has been played and one team is ahead.
- (b) At any point after completion of the first half if the score is tied, resume the match from the point of interruption unless both teams agree to the tie.
- (c) If less than one complete half has been played, resume the match from the point of interruption.

78-4-1 Special Rules/State Association Adoptions

78-4-2 Breaking Ties, Regular Season Play-If a tie exists during regular season play, the teams shall play two five-minute overtime periods. At the end of the first overtime period, teams shall change ends of the field. If a tie still exists, the game shall be recorded as a tie.

78-4-3 Breaking Ties, Post-Season Play-If a tie exists during post-season play, the tie shall be broken by the Tie-Game Procedure posted on the VHSL website.

78-4-4 Eight-Goal Rule-The Eight-Goal Rule shall be in effect for all regular season, district and conference tournament matches. The Eight-Goal Rule provides that if, at any time after the mid-point of the second half of play, one team leads by eight (8) or more goals, the match shall be terminated. When schools play outside their district, the home district's policy applies.

78-4-4 Exception-Prior to the start of the season, District, or Conference Councils may elect not to use the Eight-Goal Rule for its regular season and/or tournament matches.



Miscellaneous Information

Admission Price: State Quarterfinal \$10.00
 State Semi-final and Final \$10.00

State Game Officials: Provided and Paid through the League Office

State Event Contract: Must be provided, by the host school, to the League Office with estimated expenses PRIOR to the event.

Travel Reimbursement Form:
 Should be sent to the League Office as soon as possible following the completion of the tournament and should be accompanied by all necessary documentation of expenses incurred.

State Director's Financial Report:
 This report confirms the actual cost of the event to the host school and is required prior to any reimbursement. A copy of this form can be emailed or faxed to the League Office but the official copy should be mailed with the accompanying check for the gross revenue from the event.

Documents for VHSL Events

Travel Reimbursement Form
<http://www.vhsl.org/forms>
Scroll to Team Travel Reimbursement

VHSL State Contract
<http://www.vhsl.org/forms>
Scroll to State Tournament Contracts

VHSL State Director's Financial Report
<http://www.vhsl.org/forms>
Scroll top State Director's Report