ARTICLE 27

SOCCER
(BOYS SOCCER)
(GIRLS SOCCER)

27.1 RULES

27.1.1 Official rules for soccer shall be those published in the current edition of the National Federation Soccer Rules Book.

27.1.2 School athletic programs at all levels are subject to disciplinary action when a school team is removed from the floor or field prior to completion of the contest.

27.1.3 Any coach, non-playing contestant, or non-participating school personnel who leave the team's bench area and engage in violent conduct against their opponent or game officials shall cause the game to be terminated.

27.1.3.1 The game will be declared a forfeiture to the offended team. If both teams engage in violent conduct against each other or game officials, the game will be terminated and each team will be charged with one loss.

27.1.3.2 If the above occurs during tournament play, the offending team(s) will be removed from further tournament competition.

27.1.3.3 Further sanctions may be imposed by the AIA Executive Board.

27.1.4 Varsity regular season, and Post-Season tournament progression soccer games, which are tied after the completion of regulation play, shall be resolved in the following manner: The teams shall play two ten-minute overtime periods. *In regular season varsity play the games, if tied at the end of the second overtime period, shall* ***remain*** *a tie and no kicks from the mark shall be played.* In Post-season tournament progression soccer games only, the winner shall be determined by the Procedures to Determine the Winner of a Match as outlined in 27.1.5.

27.1.4.1 The interval between the fourth period or second half and the first overtime period shall be five minutes during which time a coin toss shall be held. The interval between the first overtime period and the second overtime period shall be two minutes.

27.1.5 Procedures to Determine the Winner of a Match

27.1.5.1 Mercy Rule – A soccer game shall end any time after the 60th minute of play when a team is 6 or more goals behind.

27.1.5.2 Invitational Tournaments – Individual invitational tournaments may set game ending procedures.

27.1.5.3 State Tournament (Play in Games through Semi-Finals) – Two ten (10) minute overtime periods shall be played. If the score is still tied at the end of the two overtime periods, the “Kicks from the Mark” procedure shall be utilized to determine a winner.

27.1.5.4 State Championship – Two ten (10) minute overtime periods shall be played. If the score is still tied at the conclusion of the two overtime periods, the “Kicks from the Mark” procedures shall be utilized to determine a winner.

27.2 SEASON OF SPORT

27.2.1 The AIA Standardized Calendar shall be used to identify the starting week for practice, competition and the conclusion of post-season competition.

27.2.2 The season of competition for a school shall conclude with that school's last AIA sanctioned competition.

27.2.3

Fall Season	Practice	no sooner than the	4th week
	Season of Competition	begins Monday of the	7th week
	Championship	to be concluded by the	23rd week

Pre-Competition Practice (Fall ONLY) – Practice shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the guidelines set forth in Bylaw 43.5.1 – Heat Acclimatization Protocol, where applicable.

Winter Season	Practice	no sooner than the	18th week
	Season of Competition	begins Monday of the	21st week
	OR schools/conferences may opt to use		
	Practice	no sooner than the	19th week
	Season of Competition	begins Monday of the	22nd week
	Championship	to be concluded by the	34th week

27.2.4 Contact Rule/Heading Training – Definition of Contact Rule/Heading Training – Specific activities wherein the student-athlete(s) actively heads the ball consistently as a manner of technical training. Contact/Heading during the course of simulated match activities does not constitute specific heading training (i.e. heading a ball from a cross, heading a punted ball during a simulated game, etc).

Pre-Season – During the pre-season, no more than 15 minutes of practice time each day with no more than two training sessions each week may include specific heading activities.

Regular Season/Post-Season – During the regular season and post-season, no more than 15 minutes of practice time each day and no more than 2 practices each week may include specific heading activities.

27.2.4.1 For all pre-season, regular season and post-season practices, specific heading activities shall not be conducted on consecutive days.

27.3 PRESEASON INTERSCHOOL VARSITY SCRIMMAGE

27.3.1 One preseason interschool varsity scrimmage may be held; this scrimmage is considered a practice and shall not count toward the allowable number of games:

27.3.1.1 The varsity scrimmage shall be scheduled the week prior to the AIA date of competition; individual players must have participated in at least eight practice sessions.

27.3.1.2 The following guidelines shall be used.

- Scrimmage is open to the public, charging admission is at the discretion of the host school;
- Scoreboards shall not be used except for timing purposes;
- No official score may be kept (recorded) or reported;
- Game uniforms may be worn; numbered jerseys may be used;
- There shall be at least two (2) AIA officials on the field;
- Unlimited substitution and re-entry of players;
- Coaching is permitted during play;
- Timeouts are unlimited;
- Other adjustments mutually agreed upon by coaches and officials before the scrimmage begins; adjustments cannot be less restrictive than the guidelines or sport policy

27.3.1.3 Limits:

27.3.1.3.1 Scrimmage shall be limited to four 20 minute quarters; the teams may play fewer minutes or quarters if agreed upon by both coaches.

27.3.1.4 Schools may hold multi-school scrimmages while adhering to Article 27.3.

27.4 SCHEDULES

27.4.1 If scheduling difficulties occur, schedules may be increased by one game. The additional game shall be approved by the AIA Executive Board.

27.5 NUMBER OF GAMES IN SEASON

27.5.1 No school shall schedule more than **14** varsity games, two of which may be invitational tournaments.

27.5.2 No school shall schedule more than **12** junior varsity or freshman games per team.

27.5.3 No player shall participate in more than **14** soccer games per season, excluding qualifying and post-season tournaments.

27.5.3.1 EXCEPTION: 3A, 2A and 1A school, because of their limited enrollment, may permit a player to participate in and unlimited number of games per season, excluding qualifying and post-season tournaments.

27.6 CONTEST PARTICIPATION

27.6.1 When a student enters an interscholastic contest, regardless of the length of time, it shall be considered participation in the interscholastic contest.

27.7 COACHES / COACHING

27.7.1 The AIA shall not have regulations concerning coaches coaching their own school teams outside of the AIA defined season of sport.

27.7.2 Coaches / Players - Game participation outside the season of sport between coaches and players of a single school for fund raising or entertainment purposes will not jeopardize the eligibility of any high school player.

27.7.3 Attendance shall be voluntary and no student athlete shall be prohibited from participating on the team for failing to attend the out-of-season activity.

27.8 SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

27.8.1 School Transportation - School provided transportation for activities is a local option.

27.8.2 School equipment outside of the season of sport is a local option.

27.9 POST-SEASON TOURNAMENTS

27.9.1 Post-Season Tournaments

NOTE: See Article 12 for additional post-season tournament rules.

27.9.1.1 Dates and Sites

27.9.1.1.1 Conferences may recommend the dates and sites of post-season tournaments.

27.9.1.1.2 The AIA Executive Board shall determine the dates and sites of post-season tournaments.

27.9.1.2 There shall be a team post-season tournaments as determined by the Executive Board.

27.9.1.2.1 Schools must play a minimum of eight (8) games in order to qualify for post season play.

27.9.2 Awards - The AIA shall be responsible for the purchase and standardization of all post-season tournament awards. *(See Article 13, Section 13.1)*.

27.9.3 Practice On-Site - A practice or competition on the site of the Region or Post-Season Championship Tournament, except for a regularly scheduled contest, is not permitted for seven calendar days prior to the Region or Post-Season Championship, except in the case of the host school.

DETERMINATION: The host school may practice at the site only if that is their regular practice site.

27.9.4 Protests

27.9.4.1 In the event of a question or a protest during a qualifying game or post-season tournament, the decision of the AIA Sports Administrator and/or Tournament Games Committee shall be final.

27.9.4.2 Regular season protests, if any, will be handled as indicated in the current edition of the National Federation Soccer Rules Book.

27.9.5 Unmanned aerial systems at AIA post season events

27.9.5.1 The use of unmanned aerial systems, often referred to as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at all AIA post season events. This policy includes not only the restricted playing area of the venue(s), but also the physical confines of the entire stadium/field/arena structure. For the purpose of this policy, an unmanned aerial system is any aircraft without a human pilot on board.

27.10 UNIFIED SOCCER a joint effort between the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) and Special Olympics of Arizona (SOAZ) to incorporate Unified programs in AIA member schools recognizing and offering opportunities for SOAZ athletes and partners to compete in an AIA sanctioned activity. Unified Soccer programs shall be administered by each participating member school and follow the requirements per AIA Bylaws for eligibility, rules and program administration.

27.10.1 Official rules for Unified Soccer shall be those published by SOAZ and the AIA prior to each season, as approved by the AIA Executive Board. See Article 35.