

SOCCER RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The rules at all matches will be governed by the Football Federation Victoria, Football Federation Australia, and FIFA.
2. All players must wear school sports uniforms or soccer tops with numbers clearly visible on the back. The goalkeeper must wear a different coloured top to the rest of the team. Teams may use up to four substitute players. Substitutions can be made at any time during the game.
3. Referees: the home team must supply a competent referee and each school must supply a linesman. Players should not dispute decisions of referees. A referee may order a player off the field for ten minutes for misbehaviour and the team cannot replace the offending player until the ten minutes suspension time is completed. A player who is ordered off for the match will not be replaced.
4. Duration of games: Games will be **2 x 25-minute halves** for all matches. Coaches may mutually alter these times.
5. The size of the ball should be size FIVE for all competitions.
6. If a team arrives late to a venue, 1 goal will be added to the other teams score for every 10 minutes they are late in starting (two coaches to discuss and make allowances under exceptional circumstances).
7. Minimum of 8 players per team.
8. Conduct:
 - a. **Players**

The game should be played in the right spirit. All umpires are fallible, but their decisions must be accepted without the least suggestion of disagreement (their critics often overlook the “advantage” rule which means that the umpires have discretion to allow the game to flow on rather than halt it for minor breaches and thereby given an advantage to the offending team). Coaches are to set the example to both players and spectators.
 - b. **Spectators**

Spectators must view rationally, not emotionally, apparent mistakes and accept all decisions in a sensible manner appropriate to a “game”. Spectators should realise the general inconvenience caused by their encroaching on playing areas and should be asked to view the play from at least two metres for the side lines. Roping off may be of assistance.
9. The ladder shall be determined using the following points:

Win = 3 points	Loss = 0 points	Draw = 1 point
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In the event of schools being equal on points after all have played against each other, the team with the highest percentage qualify for the final. If a match is cancelled due to weather or venue compliance, each team will receive one point.
10. In both Girls and Boys Soccer, the off-side rule will be played.
11. It is compulsory in all Soccer matches for players to wear shin pads.
12. In the event that a match is drawn, a penalty shootout will NOT be used, except in the finals match where a penalty shootout will be played.
13. Mercy Rule: In the event of a team reaching a lead greater than 10 goals, the opposing team cannot defend past the halfway mark from any goal kick.