

Eastern Eagles Soccer Association

30th Annual Soccer Tournament Rules

1. Game Format

The duration of play , size of game balls and overtime decisions shall be as follows:

Age Group	Under 11	Under 13	Under 15	Under 18
Ball Size	Size 4	Size 5 Light	Size 5	Size 5
Duration of Play	30 minute halves	30 Minute Halves	35 Minute Halves	35 Minute Halves
Cross Over Overtime	5 Player shootout followed by sudden death if undecided after 5	5 Player shootout followed by sudden death if undecided after 5	5 Player shootout followed by sudden death if undecided after 5	5 Player shootout followed by sudden death if undecided after 5
Final Overtime	Two 5 minutes, Golden Goal	Two 5 minutes, Golden Goal	Two 5 minutes, Golden Goal	Two 5 minutes, Golden Goal
Ties for Final After Overtime	5 Player shootout followed by sudden death if undecided after 5	5 Player shootout followed by sudden death if undecided after 5	5 Player shootout followed by sudden death if undecided after 5	5 Player shootout followed by sudden death if undecided after 5

2. All teams must register with the field monitor 30 minutes prior to the start time of each match. Coaches must fill out the game sheet at the field monitor station before each match.

3. The first game sheet will be considered the official team roster, so ensure that any player who may participate in the tournament is listed on the first game sheet, even if they are not playing.

4. Teams should be ready to play 15 minutes prior to match start time.

5. Matches will start on time. Officials will be instructed to wait only 10 minutes for those teams who have called in advance informing us that they will be late. Teams who are not in attendance 10 minutes after match start time will suffer a 3-0 loss and the opposing team will receive a 3-0 win as a result.

6. Round-robin matches will be awarded 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss.

7. Standings shall be determined by points at the completion of the round-robin games, with tie-breaking as outlined in rule 8. Stat boards can be found in the complex or on the Eastern Eagles website.

8. If two or more teams have equal number of points at the completion of the round robin the following criteria shall be used to determine the final standings, beginning with rule A and, if necessary then exercising rule B, etc., etc.

A. **Head to Head**

The winner of the match between the two teams shall be awarded the higher position. However, if the game between the two teams did not count for one team in the standings this rule shall not apply. In the event three or more teams are tied, head to head will not be used as a tiebreaker.

B. **Goal Differential**

After deducting the goals against from goal for, the team with the favourable difference will be awarded the higher position. There is a set maximum of +6 differentials per match (i.e. a team that wins 8-0 won't be awarded a differential of +8, but rather a differential of +6 will be used).

C. **Least Goals Against**

The team with the least goals against will be awarded the higher position.

D. **Least Cards per Team**

The team with the least cards against them will be awarded the higher position.

F. **First Goal of the Tournament**

The team who scored first in the tournament will be awarded the higher position

9. Mercy Rule: If at any time in the second half of a game (including playoffs), the goal differential reaches six then the match shall end and the score be officially recorded.

10. Shin guards, socks and appropriate cleats are mandatory equipment.

11. There will be unlimited substitutions at the referee's discretion. Substitutions must occur at the center line and players are not to enter the field until the existing players have left.

12. A player must be a member of a registered club and must be a registered player with their provincial or state association. A player may only play for one team during the tournament. A violation of this rule shall mean expulsion from the tournament of the player involved unless pre-approval by tournament committee 2 days before the start of the tournament.

13. Each team may dress up to 25 players per match.

14. NO JEWELLERY IS ALLOWED. NO TAPE OVER JEWELRY IS ALLOWED. NO HARD CASTS ARE ALLOWED. IF A BRACE IS USED THEN IT MUST BE COVERED WITH THE PROPER SLEEVE. If there are any questions about casts or braces please see a tournament organizer and they will direct you to the head of officials.

15. As this is a sanctioned tournament, all cards are tracked and forwarded to provincial associations. All cards issued in sanctioned tournaments carry over into league play (e.g. if you are issued a red card in the last game of the tournament you must sit out the next league or sanctioned game).

Cards	Consequences
2 yellow cards in one game	Game suspension
1 red card	Game suspension
4 yellow cards in 2 games	Tournament suspension
2 red cards	Tournament suspension

Any team official who is ejected from a game must serve a minimum one game suspension. The tournament committee will review the referee's report which may result in further disciplinary action.

16. Any team that intentionally forfeits a match for any reason will be immediately removed from the tournament and no refund shall be issued.

***If first-aid is needed please check into the field monitor station**

17. Verbal Abuse-Zero Tolerance Policy- The Eastern Eagles Soccer Association will not condone any type of abuse from players, spectators or coaches. Both verbal and physical abuse applies when directed toward officials, players or coaching staff. Such cases may result in ejection from the match and/or tournament upon decision of referees or tournament committee members.

18. Appeals: A disciplinary committee is established consisting of the Tournament Director or her/his delegate and two other persons who would not have a conflict of interest, to deal with any situations brought before the tournament organizers.

The procedure shall be as follows:

Any team official may file a protest. The protest must be filed with a field monitor within one hour of the incident giving rise to the protest. The protest shall be in writing, outlining the particulars of the protest and must be accompanied by a \$100.00 cash payment (no cheques, etc.). If the protest is upheld, the money will be refunded.

Protests involving a *referee's decision* will not be entertained.

19. Facility Rules:

Please note that NO DOGS are permitted on any of the soccer fields during the tournament. Dogs are allowed to be on the facility but only on the track and the parking lot. For safety reasons we don't want dogs to be on the field of play or near the spectator area.

The Eastern Eagles Soccer Club wishes to promote healthy lifestyles so we ask you to not smoke while at the soccer facility. Please note that by provincial law smoking is not permitted on any school property. This includes the soccer fields at Montague Regional High School. Ask us, we can direct you to designated smoking areas.

Visitors to our soccer facilities are asked to respect all parking and driving rules either posted or stated.

Additional Procedures, Rules and Regulations

20. Pre-game procedure

The field monitor is in control of all field activities. Please see field monitors if you have any questions.

Game sheets must be filled out prior to each match by the coach or manager and likewise upon the completion of each match by the match official. Game sheets should not leave the field monitor area.

Pre-game coin tosses may be performed by the field monitor if the official is unavailable to do so. This is to ensure that matches start on time.

Teams are not permitted to place any team or sponsor signs on playing field.

21. Officials

All Officials are certified and registered with their provincial or state associations.

22. Coaches

Coaching from the sidelines is permitted. All team officials are asked to remain within the perimeter of the bench area and to conduct themselves professionally and with a level of decorum at all times. Communication to Eastern Eagles staff regarding tournament matters must be done by team officials. Eastern Eagles' staff will discuss tournament matters only with registered team officials (coaches and managers whose names appear on their registration forms).

23. Travel Permits

Team officials should have their travel permits with them and should be prepared to submit them to the tournament officials upon request. Failure or refusal to present this document in a timely manner may result in the ejection from the tournament of the team in question.

24. Tournament Sign-Off

All teams must sign out after their round robin is completed. Signing out is performed via a field monitor and this is where teams officially learn whether they advance to playoff competition.

25. Spectators

All spectators are asked to maintain a measure of decorum. If tournament officials feel that an individual is bringing the integrity of the game or the tournament into dispute, they shall demand that the offending party leave the site immediately and not return to any tournament venue for the remainder of the tournament.

26. Match Completion

A match is considered official if one half of the match has been completed. However, should a match be terminated for any reason other than inclement weather, the tournament committee will review the referee's report and any other information available in order to render a decision. Please be advised that if a referee stops a match due to inappropriate behaviour from one or both of the teams, either team or both, may not be awarded any points for the match regardless of the score at the time of match termination. Teams may also be ejected from the tournament in such cases.

27. Inclement Weather

All matches are under the control of the tournament committee at all times. Regardless of weather conditions, coaches and their teams must appear at the field, ready to play as scheduled. Only referees or the tournament committee may cancel or postpone a match. The tournament committee will not consider commencing or continuing a match if thunder or lightning exists. In the case of thunder and/or lightning, play will be delayed indefinitely. The tournament committee will signal for stoppage of play, at which time all players, team officials, game officials, tournament volunteers and spectators should leave the playing area. If play cannot be resumed before the allotted time slot expires, the following will apply:

1. If the first half has been completed, the result will stand as of the time of stoppage.
2. If the match has not reached half-time, teams will be deemed to have tied the match be a score of 0-0.
3. If the match has not reached half-time and is a play-off game, a penalty kick shoot-out will be arranged when conditions are safe.

28. All players and team officials are requested to cooperate fully with media representatives.

29. Awards presentations will immediately follow all championship matches. Both teams are asked to stay at the field of play for the presentation.