

Fall 2020 Playoff Rules

Congratulations on making it into the NHSL end of season playoffs!!! We are excited for a great weekend of soccer for all our teams that advanced. Below is a lot of information regarding playoffs, so please read carefully. If your team has moved on to the playoffs and will not be able participate, please let us know ASAP so that we do not have a team show up to play and not have an opponent.

Teams Advancing

Divisions with 5 teams or less, will have a final. Top two teams in the division will move on to the final. Divisions with 6 teams or more, will have a semi-final. Winners of the semi-final will move on to the final.

Seedings are based off the following point system. Each team will be awarded

- 3 points for a win
- 1 point for a tie
- 0 points for a loss

If at the conclusion of the league season a tie breaker is needed, the following criteria will be utilized:

- A. Head to head (not used if more than two teams are involved in the tie)
- B. Goal difference (i.e. goals scored minus goals allowed - maximum of 4 per game)
- C. Fewest goals allowed
- D. Most goals scored (maximum of 4 per game)
- E. Most Wins
- F. Most shut-outs
- G. Sudden death Penalty Kicks – In the event that both parties are unable to do so, a coin flip will occur

All semifinal games will be played on Saturday October 31st, at the place of the higher seed, unless otherwise specified.

All divisions that have a FINAL ONLY will have their games played on Saturday October 31st at the New Hampshire Soccer Complex (NHSC), 326 Buck Street, Pembroke, NH.

All semifinal winners who advance to the finals will play those games on Sunday November 1st, at the New Hampshire Soccer Complex, with four exceptions:

- GU11 Select
- GU12 Select
- GU11 Premiership
- GU12 Premiership

The divisions listed above will play their final matches on Sunday November 1st, at Hardy Fields, located at 42 Depot Road, Hollis, NH.

Go to <https://soccernh.com/nh-soccer-league/schedule/playoffs/> and click on playoffs for schedules and rules.

We cannot adjust game schedules for teams that share players or club pass so please respect the times and make sure you are prompt and follow the check in info below. To help alleviate any issues with daylight and overtime that may arise, teams are asked to be ready to play up to 15 minutes early.

Please make sure you have reviewed these playoff rules as well as league policies on the website so that you are familiar with the procedures and rules pertaining to the event.

Both 1st and 2nd place teams will receive tshirts after the final. 1st place trophies will be dropped off with shirts at the fields for coaches to distribute to their teams. Any excess shirts will be asked to be returned to the admin tent.

THERE WILL BE NO CLOSING CEREMONIES

Playoff Rules

Check in:

Check ins for semifinal games will be done as with any other game during the regular season with referees checking in teams, WITH ONE CAVEAT. Coaches for all participating teams in the playoffs will be sent an email with your official rosters, as well as your opponent's rosters. Any player not on the roster sent in this email will not be allowed to play in the playoffs.

EXCEPTION: Club Pass. Teams must "reply all" with the list of names you will be using for club pass as write ins for the weekend ALONG WITH an attached roster showing those players on a verified roster within your club.

ALL CLUB PASS PLAYERS MUST BE COMMUNICATED/SUBMITTED BY 8PM ON FRIDAY OCTOBER 30TH. ANY CLUB PASS PLAYER WHO SHOWS UP TO THE FIELD **WITHOUT** A VERIFIED PLAYER CARD WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PLAY - REGARDLESS OF WHETHER IT WAS PROPERLY COMMUNICATED. ANY CLUB PASS PLAYER WHO SHOWS UP **WITH** A VERIFIED PLAYER CARD, BUT A SUPPLEMENTAL ROSTER HAS NOT BEEN PROVIDED – WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PLAY.

Club pass player limitations can be found in the league policies.

Championship games will also check in at the fields with the referees. If there are any questions about rosters, illegal or ineligible players, etc. please see protest procedures for playoffs in the policies. Administrators at all locations will have copies of the official rosters for all teams participating.

Coaches should bring with them a copy of your roster, opponent's roster, coach's cards and player cards. It is recommended to write down your club passed players, as well as your opponent's club pass players, as they will be communicated by 8pm on Friday night. Please make sure you have all the documentation you need for club pass players. We will not make any exception to missing passes, roster issues, or anything to do with changes as everything should have been done by now. Same club pass rules apply as during regular season. **You must have a copy of your roster and player cards on the sidelines at all times or game will result in a forfeit.**

LATE ARRIVALS: Any players who arrive after check in / kickoff must be properly checked in with the referees, before being allowed to play.

Game Lengths (this applies for all semifinal and final matches):

U11-U12 (all 9v9 games)

Semi Finals – Two 30 minute halves

Finals – Two 30 minute halves

U13 and above (all 11v11 games)

Semi Finals Two 35 minute halves

Finals – Two 35 minute halves

*** Game length may be changed by the League Director due to darkness. OT rules may be changed to go directly to Kicks from the mark by League Director decision if needed.**

Overtime Rules:

U11-U12 Two 5 minute OT to be played in their entirety > Kicks from the mark

U13 & up Two 5 minute OT to be played in their entirety > Kicks from the mark

1. **Game tied after regulation play – First OT Period:** There will be a coin toss (visiting team to call) to determine possession of ball and side, substitutions will be permitted. First overtime period will be played in its entirety.

2. **Second OT Period:** Players immediately switch sides and commence second overtime period. Period will be played in its entirety.

3. **Game still tied after 2nd overtime:** ALL PLAYERS ARE TO REMAIN ON THE FIELD OF PLAY. NO SUBSTITUTIONS WILL BE ALLOWED. One team official from each team will be permitted onto the field of play to assist their team in determining the order of players for kicks from the mark. There will be a coin toss (home team to call) to determine order of kicks from the mark. Winner is determined based on goals from the mark (FIFA Rules apply).

Ball Size:

U11 & U12 – Size 4

U13+ - Size 5

Game balls must be provided by the home team (as listed on the schedule)

Ejections:

Players ejected or coach dismissed from a match will be ejected from the entire playoff tournament and will not be allowed to return. Club will be assessed any subsequent suspensions and/or fines.

Field Policy:

NO PETS are allowed at any of the tournament facilities. Anyone with pets will be asked to leave the facility

NO SMOKING or ALCOHOL is allowed. This includes the parking lot. Anyone found to be smoking or consuming alcohol will be removed from the tournament facility.

MASKS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL SEMI-FINAL AND CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES, REGARDLESS OF LOCATION. ALL COACHES AND SPECTATORS MUST WEAR MASKS AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING. PLAYERS SHOULD PRACTICE DISTANCING AND MASK-WEARING ON THE SIDELINES, WHEN NOT IN THE FIELD OF PLAY.

Any other rules above and beyond the rules listed above must be followed at the locations played. Rules default to the stricter of the two. For example, if a facility/club has a “loose” mask wearing and distancing policy, game will default to above. If a club/facility have stricter enforcement of mask wearing/distancing, those rules need to be followed. Failure to follow the rules could result in a forfeit for the offending team.

ZERO-TOLERANCY POLICY against referees, players, coaches and other parents. We want all players, coaches, referees and spectators to have a positive experience. Any actions by any individual or individuals that infringe on the Code of Conduct will be addressed immediately by tournament staff. See league policies and procedures for rules.

TRASH PICKUP – The New Hampshire Soccer Complex is a Carry in, Carry out Facility. Please make sure you clean your bench area before leaving.

Good luck and see you all on the fields!!

In the love of the game,

NHSL Director
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