

COMMONWEALTH  
SOCCER OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION, INC.

May 9, 2017

MEMORANDUM FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Subj: PLAYOFFS 2017

We are at the end of the regular season and the playoffs are starting. With that in mind, we need to focus our attention on the Playoffs. We will be fully engaged in the District/Conference playoffs with all our Schools. In respect to the State Finals, we can expect 2-5 games again this year. Games are normally played every weekday night (including Memorial Day) so please keep your schedules open. Assignments will be made via Arbiter, and they will come fast and furious, and may be at the 11th hour so please be patient, supportive, and most of all available.

Here are several reminders about the playoffs:

- Player **safety and game control are primary concerns of the referee team.**
- Please adhere to the **National Federation** rules in respect to game administration, uniforms, and substitutions.
- **Work with the players, coaches and game administrators in this respect to game management and please let the players decide the outcome of the game.**
- **Eight goal mercy rule is in effect for District and Conference Playoffs.**
- **All games must have a winner;** therefore, the following procedures will be used to break a tie:
  - First - Two five-minute **regular** overtimes are played to completion. (coin toss/change ends)
  - Second - Two five-minute **sudden death** overtimes - first score ends the game. (coin toss/change ends)
  - Third - **Penalty kick tie breaker** - Coaches designate 5 kickers to alternate kicks (**these five players can kick in any order - five different players must kick in each round**) - if still tied after five kicks, we go to **one on one SD kicks** - coaches again designate five kickers (**NOTE THESE CAN BE THE SAME FIVE KICKERS AS THE FIRST GROUP AND AGAIN CAN KICK IN ANY ORDER**) **FIRST TEAM TO GAIN A ONE GOAL ADVANTAGE WINS.** If still tied after 10 kicks, continue with the sudden death kicking procedure in another round of five sudden death kicks. (This is different than the NFHS rulebook)  
**Note: Red Carded players CANNOT participate in the kicks. Remember that a coin toss is done prior to each set of five kicks,**
- **Submit game reports for all games ASAP. All red cards need to be reported immediately in case there is an appeal. Contact your partners, look sharp, and be the best team on the field.**
- **Be firm, fair, and consistent** in your decisions on the field. Be proactive and use your best man management and preventive refereeing techniques to make the game flow smoothly. Let the players decide the outcome.
- **Weather** – Weather can be a factor, and we need to take it into consideration. Due to the limited time frame for District and Regional playoffs, we will need to try and get the games in. **Work closely with the game administrators/coaches in this respect, but keep in mind that player safety is the key factor.** Games suspended prior to half-time will be picked up from where they ended. Games that reach half-time will be considered completed games, if there is a winner. Games tied after half-time, will be picked up from the point the game was suspended. We will let the Tournament Directors sort this issue out.
- **Water Breaks** – Use if appropriate, due to high heat/humidity, make sure this issue is **decided prior to the start of the game** and the break comes at an appropriate stoppage between the 20-22<sup>nd</sup> minute. This is a **Game Administrator/Trainer and coaches' decision** whether to use a water break **prior to the match.**
- **OFFICIAL TIME – Make sure everyone understands where the official time will be kept for the game prior to the start of the game! There is NO added time in NFHS (except for a penalty kick that occurs as time runs out.)**

Best of luck in the playoffs and thanks for the hard work during the season.

V/r The Commish (stenner@centurylink.net) Cell Phone 703-966-0457

**BE SAFE**

**BE CONSISTENT**

**BE FAIR**

**BE FIRM**