



2025-26 Emerald Sound Conference Sports Guidelines

Boys Soccer

Sport Coordinator:

- Jo Ito, The Bush School
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1. Important dates:

- a. Preseason Coaches Meeting:
 - i. Tuesday, February 24 - 7:00 p.m. on Zoom
 1. [Zoom link](#)
- b. Season Start Date:
 - i. Monday, March 2, 2026
- c. Post-Season Coaches Meeting:
 - i. Date and time - TBD
 - ii. Each school must send a representative to the meeting
 - iii. An All-Conference voting message will be sent out leading up to the meeting.
- d. Possible tie-breaker match
 - i. Thursday, April 30, 2026 (all conference games must be completed by Tuesday, April 28, 2026)
- e. Possible play-in game (depending on Tyee's record)
 - i. Friday, May 1, 2026
- f. ESC Tournament
 - i. Tuesday, May 5 - Friday, May 15, 2026
- g. [State Tournament Dates](#):
 - i. Opening round: May 19/20
 - ii. Round 2: May 22
 - iii. Quarter Finals: May 23
 - iv. Semi Finals & Finals: May 29 & 30 (Federal Way Memorial Stadium)

2. Head Coach Contact Information:

SCHOOL	HEAD COACH NAME	EMAIL	SCHOOL
The Bush School	Marcelino Dumpit	marcelino.dumpit@bush.edu	The Bush School
King's	Danny Calles	dannycalles11@gmail.com	King's
Overlake	Scott Lane	coachlane@overlake.org	Overlake
University Prep	Nate Whitney	nwhitney@universityprep.org	University Prep
Cedar Park Christian	Ken Kerr	coachkerr@gmail.com	Cedar Park Christian
South Whidbey	Ryan Dejay	rdjay@sw.wednet.edu; Ryan@island-explorer.com	South Whidbey
Northwest	Sofien El-Mehrik	sofien.el-mehrik@northwestschool.org	Northwest

Eastside Prep	An Nuon (Head Coach)	anuon@eastsideprep.org	Eastside Prep
Bear Creek	Joey Starr	jstarr@tbc.org	Bear Creek
Granite Falls	Nikki Bowlden	nbowlden@gfalls.wednet.edu	Granite Falls

3. Regular Season & Playoff Formats:

- a. Regular Season: All (10) schools in one division
 - i. One round (9 conference matches)
- b. Playoffs: [2026 ESC Boys Soccer Playoff Bracket](#)

4. Game Operations:

- a. Home team must designate a Game Manager (can be home coach if no other designee is available). This person must introduce themselves to the officials and opposing team's head coach prior to kick-off.
- b. Teams must adhere to the [NFHS Soccer Uniform Rules](#).
 - i. The home team will wear dark jerseys and the away team will wear light jerseys.
- c. The home team shall supply three game balls (one behind each goal in addition to the ball in play).
- d. The home team must ensure that their field is of regulation size and condition. If needed, the District 2 Executive Director, both schools' athletic directors, and the conference soccer coordinator will be consulted to verify.
- e. The home team is responsible for booking officials
 - i. A minimum of one registered WSSRA official must officiate varsity games. It is strongly encouraged to request a full 3-person crew. No certified officials = no match.
- f. For Playoff Games:
 - i. The higher seed will be the home team and will wear dark jerseys. The lower seed will be the away team and will wear white jerseys.

5. Pre-Contest Time Out:

- a. A 'Pre-Contest Timeout' is designed to prepare officials, coaches, site administrators, athletic trainers, emergency medical services, team physicians and anyone designated as responsible for the safety and medical well-being of athletes or spectators on game day to be aware, prepared and educated.
- b. All matches will begin with a coach meeting reviewing the [precontest timeout card](#).
- c. The Game Manager is responsible for ensuring the Pre-Contest Time Out is completed

6. WIAA Certification Requirements:

- a. All coaches (including assistant coaches, JV coaches and volunteer coaches) are required to complete the WIAA Courses before the start of the season:
 - i. WIAA Sport Specific (Soccer) Rules Clinic
 - ii. WIAA General Rules Clinic
 - iii. Concussion Management
 - iv. Sudden Cardiac Arrest
- b. Additional clock hour requirements must be completed for coaches who have coached for 3+ years.
- c. Please check with your athletic director for further details and clarification.

7. Length of Game:

- a. The duration of each game shall be two periods of 40 minutes.
- b. Take Daylight Savings (November 3, 2024) into account when scheduling ESC Tournament matches.
- c. 10 minutes of grace period may be allowed for late starts. 7 players must be on the field to start the match.
- d. If conditions make it impossible to finish any game, the head referee shall declare it a completed game if one complete half or more of the game has been played. The score at the time of the suspension of play will be the final score, ties included.
- e. If less than one half of the game has been played it will be considered a suspended game. This game shall be resumed at the point of suspension on the next available date for both teams. The host athletic director will arrange the time for the resumption of the suspended game after consultation with the opponent's athletic director. If the athletic directors are unable to reschedule the match, the conference advisory committee will determine what action to take.
- f. Yellow and/or red cards will carry over to the rescheduled match.

8. Conference Standings:

- a. Standings are determined by a point system – 3 points for a win, 1 for a tie.
- b. Non-conference games have no impact on the conference standings. This includes “friendly matches” between conference member schools that are played in addition to the official conference schedule.
- c. If make-up games are needed, be sure to schedule them prior to the date reserved for the last conference game (see above).

9. ESC Tie-breaker Procedures & Seeding Committee:

- a. Check with your AD and/or see ESC Bylaws.

10. Rules of Play & Overtime:

- a. Unless otherwise specified, WIAA soccer rules will be followed. The WIAA utilizes two rule books:
 - i. The NFHS Rule Book is used for Uniforms, Field Dimensions and Pre-Game Procedures
 - ii. FIFA Laws of the Game are used for playing rules. The most current version of the laws are used for the specific sports season.
 - iii. Schools receive a copy of the NFHS Rule Book from the WIAA office and the FIFA Laws of the Game may be downloaded from the WIAA website.
- b. For regular season games:
 - i. At the end of regulation time and there is a tie, the match is declared a tie – no overtime played.
- c. For playoff games:
 - i. When a tie occurs at end of regulation, a two 5-minute sudden death overtime periods shall be used (golden goal – first team to score wins and the game ends)
 - ii. If still tied at the end of two 5-minute periods, PK's will be utilized to determine the winner.

11. Exchange of Rosters:

- a. Prior to each game, rosters shall be exchanged between the head coaches.
- b. The rosters shall include:

- i. Player names, numbers, position(s), and grade level.
- ii. Team's conference and overall records.

12. Sportsmanship

- a. All athletes and coaches should represent the ESC and their respective schools in the highest manner possible. Coaches are responsible for coaching, teaching and modeling proper sportsmanship to their team members. Coaches should communicate any issues which do not reflect well upon the league with their AD and/or the Soccer coordinator.

13. Yellow/Red Cards & Ejections:

- a. In addition to the rules specified in the WIAA Handbook the following yellow/red card rules apply:
- b. Coaches are required to report yellow/red cards to their respective athletic director.
- c. Athletic directors are responsible for updating the shared ESC Violations file to keep track of yellow/red cards and possible suspensions.
- d. Definition of non-sportsmanship yellow cards:
 - i. Cards received for non-sportsmanship infractions result in 1 point
 - 1. Examples:
 - a. Physical play/persistent infringement without malicious intent
 - b. Entering or Leaving the Field Without Permission
 - c. Tactical foul (without malicious intent)
 - d. Unintentional handball
- e. Definition of sportsmanship related yellow cards:
 - i. Cards received for sportsmanship infractions result in 2 points
 - 1. Examples:
 - a. Taunting, verbal altercation with officials/contesting calls
 - b. Intentional delay of game: kicking the ball away after a call, interfering with a throw-in, etc.
 - c. Intentional tripping, holding jersey, shoving, push a player after a foul, gesturing to opponent
- f. Additional yellow card considerations:
 - i. Coaches have the option to share the ESC card rules with the head official prior to kick-off, and to share their players' current point count.
 - ii. If there is uncertainty about a yellow card for one of their players, coaches are responsible for confirming the nature of a card with the head official at the conclusion of the game.
- g. 5/7/9 - Point Yellow Card Rule (applicable for both JV and Varsity)
 - i. If a player accumulates five points from yellow cards during the season, they will be ineligible to participate in the next scheduled match. Each time a player reaches the next threshold (seven, nine, etc.), they will again be ineligible for the next scheduled match.
- h. Double Yellow Card Rule
 - i. If a player receives a yellow card in a match, and then a second yellow card in the same match, the player must immediately leave the field and is suspended for the remainder of the game. The nature of the yellow cards will determine the points that need to be added for the infraction. If either of the two cards received were for a sportsmanship infraction, two points need to be added. If both cards were received for non-sportsmanship infractions, only one point needs to be added.
- i. Red Card/Ejection Rule

- i. If a player receives a straight red card ejection, the player must immediately leave the field and is suspended for the remainder of the game and automatically suspended for the following match.
- ii. The school must report the ejection through the WIAA ejection protocol and report the incident at the next scheduled ESC AD meeting.
 - 1. Red cards received for violent conduct and/or abusive language are governed by the WIAA Violent Conduct/Ejection rules, and may result in a longer suspension.
- iii. If a player received a yellow card prior to receiving the straight red card ejection, the nature of the yellow card will determine the points that need to be added for the infraction. If the yellow card was received for a sportsmanship infraction, two points need to be added. If it was received for a non-sportsmanship infraction, only one point needs to be added.
- j. For Playoffs (3/5/7):
 - i. At the start of the ESC playoffs, the yellow card count for all players will be reset to zero. If a player accumulates three points from yellow cards during the tournament, they will be ineligible to participate in the next scheduled match. Each time a player reaches the next threshold (five, seven, etc.), they will again be ineligible for the next scheduled match.
 - 1. The reset to zero does not apply to a player who has to serve a suspension for reaching a point threshold during the last regular season match (e.g. if a player earns their fifth point in the last regular season match, they have to sit out the first playoff match. The player is eligible for the second playoff match at which time their count would be reset to zero).
 - ii. Starting with the district crossover matches, the ESC will not continue to track yellow cards.
- k. Additional Rules for Yellow/Red Cards:
 - i. Playing an ineligible player who is supposed to sit out because of accumulated yellow card points, or a red card suspension, will result in a forfeit.
 - 1. Once identified, the forfeit will be applied to the match immediately following the match in which the player received the card that led to the suspension (regardless of the outcome of the match). Additionally, the player in question will have to sit out the next possible match.
 - ii. Only red card suspensions carry over to the next school year's season if they weren't served at the conclusion of the season the suspension was received in.

14. 2025-26 NFHS Rule Changes & Points of Emphasis:

- a. Be sure to review the following information prior to your first scheduled contest:
 - i. [2025-26 NFHS Soccer Rule Changes](#)
 - ii. [2025-26 NFHS Soccer Points of Emphasis](#)

15. All Conference Information:

- a. Following the ESC Bylaws, the following number of athletes will be selected for all conference honors at the end of the season. All Conference Teams:
 - 1. All Conference First Team (11 players)
 - 2. All Conference Second Team (11 players)
 - 3. All Conference Third Team (11 players)
- ii. MVP
 - 1. One Conference MVP (separate from All Conference Teams)

- b. Additional Honors:
 - i. Coach of the Year
 - 1. Coaches who were ejected for sportsmanship reasons during the season are not eligible for this award.
 - ii. Team Sportsmanship
- c. Nomination Process:
 - i. Nominations from each school must be vetted by their AD before being submitted to the Sport Coordinator.
 - ii. Nominations must be ranked in order.
 - iii. Athletes must have participated in 60% of division games to be eligible for nomination.
 - iv. Eighth grade participants who have been approved by the ESC are eligible for nomination.
 - v. Nomination sheet must include votes for Coach of the Year & Team Sportsmanship Award
 - vi. Athletes ejected for sportsmanship issues are not eligible.
 - vii. Coaches who were ejected from a contest are not eligible.