



DOWNTOWN SOCCER TORONTO PLAYOFF POLICY 2011

Downtown Soccer Toronto is a not-for-profit amateur sporting organization whose purpose is to provide gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer-positive individuals the opportunity to play recreational soccer in a safe and sportsmanlike environment.

This playoff policy provides the framework for running the year-end tournament to determine the season's champions and final seeding based on 10 active teams in the league. The Executive Committee (hereafter, The Executive) designs the play-offs to recognize final standings during the regular season, ensure every team an opportunity to participate in the playoffs, and allow for at least two (2) full days of Playoffs. In the instance of cancellations due to weather or other uncontrollable circumstances, the Executive reserves the right to alter this policy.

1. Seeding

1.1 In order to determine the initial seeding for the playoffs, all teams will be ranked in descending order based on number of points accumulated during regular season play. In the case of a tie in points between two or more teams, the ranking of these teams will be determined by the following criteria:

- 1.1.1 The team with the lowest number of cautions (i.e. yellow and red cards), defined as yellow card = 1 point and a red card = 3 points;
- 1.1.2 The team with the lowest goal differential (Goals for – Goals against);
- 1.1.3 The team with the most goals for;
- 1.1.4 The team with the least goals against;
- 1.1.5 The team with the most wins;
- 1.1.6 The team with the most draws;
- 1.1.7 The team with the least losses;
- 1.1.8 Comparing head-to-head play, the team with the most wins;
- 1.1.9 Comparing head-to-head play, the team with the most number of goals;

1.1.10 Coin toss.

2. Game details

- 2.1 All teams from the regular season will be given the opportunity to participate in the play-offs. *The precise details of the playoff format will be determined later in the season.*
- 2.2 To accommodate the larger number of games, the scheduled times of the matches will not follow the regular season schedule.
- 2.3 If the score is level after the end of regular play, penalty kicks will be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedure described in the Laws of the Game. Please note the FIFA Laws of the Game allow for teams to substitute their keeper from amongst their eligible players during a penalty shoot out. Eligible players are those on the field at the end of regular play.
- 2.4 Other than any modifications listed in this policy, the DST modified Laws of the Game will continue to apply during the playoffs.

3. Sanctions and appeals

- 3.1 Sanctions from regular season play that remain to be served will apply during playoffs. The player's staging in DST's Disciplinary Policy will continue to apply during the playoffs.
- 3.2 For players who have accumulated cards during the regular season, the following sanctions will apply:
 - 3.2.1 If a player has already received one (1) yellow card during the regular season and receives a yellow card during a playoff game, this will result in ejection from the current game. Teams may substitute another player.
 - 3.2.2 If a player has already received two (2) yellow cards during the regular season and receives a yellow card during a playoff game, this will result in the ejection from the current game, as well as suspension for the first half of regular play in the subsequent game. Teams may substitute another player.
 - 3.2.3 If a player receives a second yellow card *during the playoffs*, the rules stated in 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 (below) will apply.
 - 3.2.4 Players who are beyond Stage II of DST's Disciplinary Policy prior to the beginning of the playoffs will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
- 3.3 For players who have not accumulated cards during the regular season, the following sanctions will apply:
 - 3.3.1 Two (2) yellow cards in *two different play-off games* will result in ejection from the current game, as well as suspension for the first half of regular play in the subsequent game. Teams may substitute another player.

- 3.3.2 Two (2) yellow cards in the *same play-off game* will result in ejection from the current game, as well as suspension for the subsequent game. Teams may not substitute a player for the remainder of the current game.
- 3.4 The following applies to all players:
 - 3.4.1 If a player receives one (1) red card (not being the result of 2 yellow cards) *during the playoffs*, this will result in suspension for the remainder of the tournament. Teams may not substitute a player for the remainder of the current game.
 - 3.4.2 If a player accumulates three (3) yellow cards *during the play-offs*, they will be suspended for the remainder of the tournament.
- 3.5 Due to the time constraints, appeals related to on-field sanctions must be submitted to the Executive no more than 15 minutes after the end of the game. During the playoff period, any off-field protest or complaint must be received by the League Ombudsman no later than 9am, on the final day of playoffs in order for it to be reviewed.
- 3.6 All protests and complaints will be resolved prior to the next scheduled game for the player involved and the results will be given to the player, their co-captains, and other officials.

4. Game sheet reporting

- 4.1 The Executive will establish a reporting area during the playoff period. This will be the area for referees to prepare and be briefed, as well as the location of the playoff chart and results.
- 4.2 Captains will be required to provide their game sheets following the procedure from the regular season (e.g. electronically to the Secretary). In addition, if the team will be playing a second game during the day, they are asked to report any cards and the result to an Executive member at the reporting area.