

Youth Soccer Playoff Rules

Quarterfinals and Semifinals: Overtime and Penalty Kicks

If a game is tied at the end of regulation during the quarterfinals or semifinals, the game will proceed to overtime. If the score remains tied after overtime, the winner will be determined by penalty kicks using the following procedure.

1. Overtime

- Overtime will consist of **two 5-minute halves**.
- Both overtime halves must be played in their entirety.
- If the game remains tied at the conclusion of the second overtime half, the game will proceed to penalty kicks.

2. Player Positioning After Overtime

- All players who finish the second overtime half must remain on the field for the penalty kick procedure.
- Both teams will line up at midfield on opposite sides of the center circle.
- One team will line up on the left side of the center circle, and the other team will line up on the right side.
- Each team must remain organized on its assigned side of the center circle while the coaches establish and follow the penalty kick order.

3. Establishing the Kicking Order

- Each coach will determine their team's kicking order based on the players' positions in the midfield lineup.
- The **first kicker** will be the player positioned closest to the center circle.
- The kicking order will continue down the line, with the **last kicker** being the player positioned closest to the sideline at the outer end of their side of the semicircle.
- This lineup establishes the order in which players will take penalty kicks throughout the entire procedure, including sudden death.
- Players must follow the established order. Coaches should ensure their players know their position in the lineup before penalty kicks begin.

4. Coin Toss and Shooting Order

- A coin toss will determine which team shoots first.
- Teams will alternate penalty kicks, with one player from each team taking a kick in turn.

- The established kicking order must be followed by both teams.
- The team that shoots first will be determined by the coin toss.

5. First Five Penalty Kicks

- Each team will take five penalty kicks, alternating between teams.
- After both teams have completed their five kicks, the team with the most goals wins the game.
- If the score remains tied after both teams have completed five kicks, the game proceeds to sudden death, beginning with the sixth kicker from each team.

6. Player Accountability After Each Kick

- Immediately after taking a penalty kick, the player must return to midfield on their team's side and **take a knee**.
- Taking a knee indicates that the player has already taken a kick.
- Players who have taken their kicks must remain kneeling at midfield so coaches and officials can easily identify which players have already participated.
- Players who have not yet taken a kick will remain standing in their established lineup until it is their turn.
- This procedure will continue throughout the initial five kicks, sudden death, and any subsequent rounds.

7. Sudden Death: Sixth Kicker and Beyond

If the score remains tied after the first five penalty kicks per team, sudden death will begin.

- The sixth kicker from each team will take the next penalty kick, following the original kicking order.
- Teams will continue alternating kicks, proceeding through the remaining players in their established lineup.
- After each kick, the player must return to midfield and take a knee to indicate that their kick has been completed.
- Each team must have an opportunity to take a kick during the same round.
- If one team scores and the opposing team does not score during that round, the team that scores wins the game.
- If both teams score or both teams miss, the game remains tied and proceeds to the next kicker from each team.
- This process will continue until every player in the lineup has taken a kick or a winner has been determined.

8. Restarting the Kicking Order

If the game remains tied after all players in both teams' lineups have taken a penalty kick, the kicking order will restart from the beginning.

- The order will restart with the first kicker, positioned closest to the center circle.
- The order will continue down the line toward the player closest to the team's sideline.
- Teams will continue alternating penalty kicks in the established order.
- Players will continue returning to midfield and taking a knee after each kick to indicate that they have completed their attempt in the current round.
- If both teams score or both teams miss during a round, the game remains tied and proceeds to the next kicker.
- If one team scores and the other team does not score in the same round, the team that scores wins the game.
- The kicking order will restart again whenever all players have completed their kicks and the game remains tied.

9. Determining the Winner

The game will be decided by the team that scores more goals during the initial five penalty kicks or during sudden death.

If the score remains tied after the first five kicks, teams will continue through the sixth kicker and all remaining players in the established order. If every player has kicked and the game is still tied, the kicking order will restart from the beginning. This process will continue until a winner is determined.

Coaches and Referees are responsible for ensuring their players understand the procedure, follow the established kicking order, and return to midfield to take a knee after each kick.