

Gottschalk MCAL Soccer Report

Playoffs: Something to be Thankful For

There are not many things more American than Playoffs. It isn't enough to be the best over 162 games in Major League Baseball, you still have to prove it by winning another 11 games. Not only do Americans love their playoffs, history has shown that they love to expand them to include more and more teams. The World Cup has continued to expand over the years, as did the European Championships, and it had a profound impact on so many people and players.

One of the proposed changes to the MCAL is to drop the playoffs from six teams down to four. Currently 60% of the teams get to experience the post-season, and that would drop to 44%. Is it really necessary to drop the number of playoff teams? If we look at the team that is dropping out of the league, Justin-Siena, we will see that they have only taken part in the playoffs once out of the last eight years. So in essence, having Justin-Siena drop out of the league has little impact on its competitiveness, and should therefore not impact the number of teams that make it to the post-season. One could argue that it should be harder to make the playoffs, and having 2/3 of the teams get in waters it down. The counter to that argument is last year's playoff, where six-seed Novato went into three-seed Redwood and won. This could have never happened under the new format. If, and only if, you are going to drop the number, going down to five would be more acceptable. The Four v Five matchup for both girls and boys would happen on Monday, then the semis on Wednesday and Thursday, with both finals on Saturday.

There is also talk of the NCS shrinking from 16 teams down to eight. It was eight previously, but then the decision was made to let the teams settle it on the field, rather than people in a room, who had never even seen the teams play, be the ones deciding who gets in. The system has worked, and once again shrinking the field not only robs kids of the chance to compete in a memorable and exciting playoff game, it would rob us all of special moments, where underdogs have risen to the challenge, and disposed of teams that on paper were supposed to be better than them. Just last year, on the girls side, you had multiple 11 seeds beating sixes, nines beating eights, then losing to the one seed by only one goal. There may be some blowouts in the first round, but that isn't a reason to deny these kids the chance to compete for a NCS title. In each of the last two years, the #1 seed in the D2 boys bracket has lost to the #16 seed!!! In fact, in D2 last year, the #16, #13, #12, #10, and #9 all won in the first round. NONE of these teams would have even been in the event perhaps. The final was won by the #9 seed. If it isn't broke, why are we looking at fixing it???

This year will mark the first that there will be an event beyond section titles. NorCals will take place after the sections have crowned champions, in the first step towards crowning a state champion in each division. Each Section is allocated a certain number of berths into NorCals, and those sections each choose how to spread those berths. NCS has eight spots, and the finalists in each of the four divisions will advance to NorCals. The CCS has six spots, and has elected to send the four semi-finalists in the Open division to NorCals, along with the winners of each of the other two divisions. The competition will be fierce, and a champion of Northern California will be crowned for each division, though NorCal and section divisions may be a bit different.

More playoffs is what America is all about, and for that we should all be thankful :)

VARSITY TABLE

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Overall
Branson									
Drake									3-0-0
Justin-Siena									
Marin Catholic									
Novato									
Redwood									
San Marin									
San Rafael									3-1-0
Tamalpais									1-1-0
Terra Linda									1-0-0

Matchday 1 - Dec 2nd

Branson v Terra Linda
 San Marin v Justin-Siena
 San Rafael v Novato
 Drake v Marin Catholic
 Tamalpais v Redwood

Matchday 2 - Dec 5th

Terra Linda v San Rafael
 Redwood v Drake
 Novato v Tamalpais
 Marin Catholic v San Marin
 Justin-Siena v Branson

Matchday 3 - Dec 9th

Branson v Novato
 Justin-Siena v Terra Linda
 Marin Catholic v Tamalpais
 Redwood v San Marin
 Drake v San Rafael

Matchday 4 - Dec 16th

Terra Linda v Redwood
 Tamalpais v Justin-Siena
 San Rafael v San Marin
 Novato v Marin Catholic
 Branson v Drake

Matchday 5 - Jan 3rd

Justin-Siena v San Rafael
 Marin Catholic v Terra Linda
 Redwood v Novato
 San Marin v Branson (1/2)
 Drake v Tamalpais

Matchday 6 - Jan 6th

Terra Linda v Drake
 San Marin v Tamalpais
 Redwood v San Rafael
 Justin-Siena v Novato
 Branson v Marin Catholic

Matchday 7 - Jan 9th

Justin-Siena v Redwood
 Marin Catholic v San Rafael
 Novato v Drake
 Tamalpais v Branson
 Terra Linda v San Marin

Matchday 8 - Jan 13th

Drake v San Marin
 San Rafael v Tamalpais
 Novato v Terra Linda
 Marin Catholic v Justin-Siena
 Branson v Redwood

Matchday 9 - Jan 17th

Redwood v Marin Catholic
 San Marin v Novato
 San Rafael v Branson
 Drake v Justin-Siena
 Tamalpais v Terra Linda

Matchday 10 - Jan 20th

Terra Linda v Branson
 Redwood v Tamalpais
 Novato v San Rafael
 Marin Catholic v Drake
 Justin-Siena v San Marin

Matchday 11 - Jan 23rd

Branson v Justin-Siena
 San Marin v Marin Catholic
 San Rafael v Terra Linda
 Drake v Redwood
 Tamalpais v Novato

Matchday 12 - Jan 27th

Terra Linda v Justin-Siena
 Tamalpais v Marin Catholic
 San Rafael v Drake
 San Marin v Redwood
 Novato v Branson

Matchday 13 - Jan 31st

Justin-Siena v Tamalpais
 Marin Catholic v Novato
 Redwood v Terra Linda
 San Marin v San Rafael
 Drake v Branson

Matchday 14 - Feb 2nd

Terra Linda v Marin Catholic
 Tamalpais v Drake
 San Rafael v Justin-Siena
 Novato v Redwood
 Branson v San Marin

League Leaders

(Top 15)

	Goals	#
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		

	Assists	#
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		

	Points	#
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		

	Game Winning Goals	#
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		

	GK - GAA (Min. 7 GM)	#
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		

	Shutouts	#
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		

	Team Fair Play Table	Pts
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
	Yellow = 1, Red = 2	

	Team GPG	#
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

	Team GAA	#
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

	Hat-Tricks	#
1		

	PK Saves	#
1		

	Free-Kick Goals	#
1		

JUNIOR VARSTIY TABLE

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Branson								
Drake								
Justin-Siena								
Marin Catholic								
Novato								
Redwood								
San Marin								
San Rafael								
Tamalpais								
Terra Linda								

Matchday 1 - Dec 2nd

Terra Linda v Branson
Justin-Siena v San Marin
Novato v San Rafael
Marin Catholic v Drake
Redwood v Tamalpais

Matchday 2 - Dec 5th

San Rafael v Terra Linda
Drake v Redwood
Tamalpais v Novato
San Marin v Marin Catholic
Branson v Justin-Siena

Matchday 3 - Dec 9th

Novato v Branson
Terra Linda v Justin-Siena
Tamalpais v Marin Catholic
Redwood v San Marin
San Rafael v Drake

Matchday 4 - Dec 16th

Redwood v Terra Linda
Justin-Siena v Tamalpais
San Marin v San Rafael
Marin Catholic v Novato
Drake v Branson

Matchday 5 - Jan 3rd

San Rafael v Justin-Siena
Terra Linda v Marin Catholic
Novato v Redwood
Branson v San Marin
Tamalpais v Drake

Matchday 6 - Jan 6th

Drake v Terra Linda
Tamalpais v San Marin
San Rafael v Redwood
Novato v Justin-Siena
Marin Catholic v Branson

Matchday 7 - Jan 9th

Redwood v Justin-Siena
San Rafael v Marin Catholic
Drake v Novato
Branson v Tamalpais
San Marin v Terra Linda

Matchday 8 - Jan 13th

San Marin v Drake
Tamalpais v San Rafael
Terra Linda v Novato
Justin-Siena v Marin Catholic
Redwood v Branson

Matchday 9 - Jan 17th

Marin Catholic v Redwood
Novato v San Marin
Branson v San Rafael
Justin-Siena v Drake
Terra Linda v Tamalpais

Matchday 10 - Jan 20th

Branson v Terra Linda
Tamalpais v Redwood
San Rafael v Novato
Drake v Marin Catholic
San Marin v Justin-Siena

Matchday 11 - Jan 23rd

Justin-Siena v Branson
Marin Catholic v San Marin
Terra Linda v San Rafael
Redwood v Drake
Novato v Tamalpais

Matchday 12 - Jan 27th

Justin-Siena v Terra Linda
Marin Catholic v Tamalpais
Drake v San Rafael
Redwood v San Marin
Branson v Novato

Matchday 13 - Jan 31st

Tamalpais v Justin-Siena
Novato v Marin Catholic
Terra Linda v Redwood
San Rafael v San Marin
Branson v Drake

Matchday 14 - Feb 2nd

Marin Catholic v Terra Linda
Drake v Tamalpais
Justin-Siena v San Rafael
Redwood v Novato
San Marin v Branson

MCAL COMBINED TABLE

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts
Branson					
Drake					
Justin-Siena					
Marin Catholic					
Novato					
Redwood					
San Marin					
San Rafael					
Tamalpais					
Terra Linda					

A LOOK AHEAD AT THE NCS

(Will begin after week two of MCAL play)

MCAL

Overall Record

Notes

NCS Magic Number*

Others

Overall Record

Notes

NCS Magic Number*

*2 pts for a win, 1 for a draw. Team needs to be .500 overall, in league, or in classification to be eligible.

Varsity Non-Conference Tracker

Branson (D4) 11/28 at El Molino (D4) 11/30 at Marin Academy (D4) 12/12 v Sonoma Academy (D4) 12/14 at Urban (D4) 12/21 v Richmond (D2)	Drake (D3, 3-0-0) 5-0 v Piner (D3) 3-0 at El Cerrito (D3) 3-0 v Pinole (D3) 11/30 v Encinal (D3) 12/13 v Hercules (D3)	Justin-Siena (D4) 11/29 at Vintage 11/30 at Sonoma Acad. (D4)																			
Marin Catholic (D4) 12/1 at Urban (D4) 12/14 at Napa	Novato (D2) 11/30 at Windsor (D2) 12/18 at American Canyon 12/20 at Richmond (D2)	Redwood (D2) 11/28 v Marin Academy (D4) 11/30 v Casa Grande (D2) 12/7 at Montgomery (D2)																			
San Marin (D3) 11/28 v Cardinal Newman (D4) 12/7 v Petaluma (D3) 12/13 at Tennyson (D3) 12/14 at Sonoma Acad. (D4) 12/22 v Elsie Allen (D3) 1/5 at Montgomery (D2)	San Rafael (D3, 3-1-0) 2-0 at Richmond (D2) 0-6 at Alhambra (D3) 2-0 at Hercules (D3) 3-1 at Elsie Allen (D3) 11/29 at Tennnyson (D3) 12/7 at Concord (D3) 12/12 at Encinal (D3) 12/18 at Ygnacio Valley (D3)	Tamalpais (D2, 1-1-0) 2-3 v Windsor (D2) 8-0 v Richmond (D2) 11/29 at Miramonte (D3) 12/7 v Lowell 12/13 v Las Lomas (D2) 1/15 v Marin Academy (D4)																			
Terra Linda (D3, 1-0-0) 10-0 v Healdsburg (D4) 11/29 v Piner (D3) 12/11 v Petaluma (D3) 12/13 at Rancho Cotate (D3) 12/21 at Templeton	MCAL v Others <table><tr><td>vs BCL West</td><td>vs NBL</td><td>0-1-0</td></tr><tr><td>vs DFAL</td><td>0-1-0</td><td>vs SCL</td><td>1-0-0</td></tr><tr><td>vs DVAL</td><td></td><td>vs EBAL</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>vs MVAL</td><td></td><td>Other</td><td>2-0-0</td></tr><tr><td>vs TCAL</td><td>5-0-0</td><td>Overall</td><td>8-2-0</td></tr></table>		vs BCL West	vs NBL	0-1-0	vs DFAL	0-1-0	vs SCL	1-0-0	vs DVAL		vs EBAL		vs MVAL		Other	2-0-0	vs TCAL	5-0-0	Overall	8-2-0
vs BCL West	vs NBL	0-1-0																			
vs DFAL	0-1-0	vs SCL	1-0-0																		
vs DVAL		vs EBAL																			
vs MVAL		Other	2-0-0																		
vs TCAL	5-0-0	Overall	8-2-0																		

Other Contenders

<u>D4 - University</u>	<u>D4 - Head-Royce</u>	<u>D4 - Marin Academy</u>	<u>D4 - Lick-Wilmerding</u>	<u>D4 - Urban</u>
11/28 v Sonoma Acad. 12/1 v Madera 12/6 v St Joe's 12/8 at Head-Royce 12/12 v Crystal Springs 12/15 v Lowell 1/5 at Vintage 1/6 at Napa 1/10 at Lick-Wilmerding 1/12 at Marin Academy 1/16 at Urban 1/18 at St Joe's 1/24 v Head-Royce 1/26 v Lick-Wilmerding 1/30 v Marin Academy 2/2 v Urban	11/30 v Piedmont 12/5 v Moreau Catholic 12/8 v University 12/19 at Albany 12/21 at St. Mary's 1/5 at Urban 1/10 at Marin Academy 1/12 v St. Joe's 1/17 v Lick-Wilmerding 1/19 v Urban 1/24 at University 1/26 v Marin Academy 1/30 at St Joe's 2/2 at Lick-Wilmerding	11/28 at Redwood 11/30 v Branson 12/5 at Lick-Wilmerding 12/8 v Sacred Heart Cath. 1/3 at Urban 1/6 v De Anza 1/10 v Head-Royce 1/13 v University 1/15 at Tam 1/16 v St. Joe's 1/19 v Lick-Wilmerding 1/24 v Urban 1/26 at Head-Royce 1/30 at University 2/1 at St. Joe's	12/1 at Lowell 12/5 v Marin Academy 12/8 at St. Joe's 12/12 v Piedmont 1/5 at Miramonte 1/10 v University 1/12 v Urban 1/17 at Head-Royce 1/19 at Marin Academy 1/24 v St. Joe's 1/26 at University 1/30 at Urban 2/2 v Head-Royce	11/29 at Menlo 12/1 v Marin Catholic 12/5 v Moreau Cath. 12/8 v Castilleja 12/12 at Lowell 12/14 v Branson 12/21 at Sacred HC 12/22 at Berean Chr. 12/28 at Mercy 1/3 v Marin Academy 1/5 v Head-Royce 1/10 at St Joe's 1/12 at Lick 1/16 v Uni 1/19 at Head-Royce 1/24 at Marin Acad. 1/26 v St Joe's 1/30 v Lick Wilmerding 2/2 at University
<u>D4 - Piedmont</u>	<u>D4 - Sonoma Academy</u>	<u>D3 - Analy</u>	<u>D3 - Acalanes</u>	<u>D3 - Miramonte</u>
11/28 v Acalanes 11/30 at Head-Royce 12/5 at Kennedy Freemont 12/12 at Lick-Wilmerding 12/14 v Northgate 12/19 at Miramonte 12/21 v Pittsburg 1/8 v Campolindo 1/10 at Mt. Eden 1/12 v Bishop O'Dowd 1/17 v Castro Valley 1/19 at Arroyo 1/22 at Berean Christian 1/24 at Berkeley 1/26 v Mt. Eden 1/30 at Bishop O'Dowd 2/2 at Castro Valley 2/7 v Arroyo 2/9 v Berkeley	11/28 at University 11/30 v Justin-Siena 12/4 v St. Pat. St. Vin. 12/8 at Napa 12/12 at Branson 12/14 v San Marin 12/18 v Piner 12/21 at Healdsburg 1/3 v Elsie Allen 1/10 v Sonoma Valley 1/17 at Analy 1/19 v El Molino 1/22 v Petaluma 1/24 at Elsie Allen 1/26 at Piner 1/29 v Sonoma Valley 1/31 v Healdsburg 2/2 at Petaluma 2/7 v Analy 2/9 at El Molino	11/28 v Maria Carrillo 12/4 v Rancho Cotate 12/6 at Windsor 12/12 at Ukiah 1/3 at El Molino 1/5 at Petaluma 1/10 v Elsie Allen 1/12 at Piner 1/15 v Healdsburg 1/17 v Sonoma Academy 1/19 v Sonoma Valley 1/24 v El Molino 1/26 v Petaluma 1/29 at Elsie Allen 1/31 v Piner 2/2 at Healdsburg 2/7 at Sonoma Academy 2/9 at Sonoma Valley	12/1 v Antioch 12/5 at Livermore 12/13 v Clayton Valley 12/16 at Northgate 1/3 v Montgomery 1/10 v College Park 1/12 v Alhambra 1/13 at California 1/17 at Campolindo 1/19 at Las Lomas 1/24 v Miramonte 1/26 at College Park 1/31 at Alhambra 2/2 v Campolindo 2/7 v Las Lomas 2/9 at Miramonte	12/1 at El Cerrito 12/4 at Deer Valley 12/6 v Northgate 12/16 v Castro Valley 12/19 v Piedmont 1/10 v Campolindo 1/12 v Las Lomas 1/17 at Alhambra 1/19 v College Park 1/24 at Acalanes 1/26 at Campolindo 1/29 v Alameda 1/31 at Las Lomas 2/2 v Alhambra 2/7 at College Park 2/9 v Acalanes
<u>D3 - Campolindo</u>	<u>D2 - Montgomery</u>	<u>D2 - Livermore</u>	<u>D2 - Las Lomas</u>	<u>D2 - Casa Grande</u>
11/30 at Ygnacio Valley 12/2 v Madera 12/4 v De Anza 12/7 v Clayton Valley Ch. 12/9 v Windsor 1/10 at Miramonte 1/12 at College Park 1/17 v Acalanes 1/19 at Alhambra 1/22 v Castro Valley 1/24 v Las Lomas 1/26 v Miramonte 1/29 at Berean Christian 1/31 v College Park 2/2 at Acalanes 2/7 v Alhambra 2/9 at Las Lomas	11/30 at Davis 12/7 v Redwood 12/8 v Santa Rosa 12/12 at Napa 12/16 v Maria Carillo 12/20 v Cardinal Newman 12/22 at Ukiah 1/3 at Acalanes 1/5 v San Marin 1/10 v Windsor 1/12 at Casa Grande 1/17 v Rancho Cotate 1/19 at Santa Rosa 1/24 v Maria Carillo 1/26 v Cardinal Newman 1/31 v Ukiah 2/2 at Windsor 2/7 v Casa Grande 2/9 at Rancho Cotate	12/4 v Washington 12/5 v Acalanes 12/14 at Amador Valley 12/16 v Windsor 12/19 at Dublin 12/21 v Foothill 1/8 v Alameda 1/9 v Granada 1/11 v Dougherty Valley 1/18 at California 1/23 at San Ramon Valley 1/25 at Monte Vista 1/30 v Amador Valley 2/1 v Dublin 2/6 at Foothill 2/8 at Granada	12/5 v Monte Vista 12/9 at Northgate 12/13 at Tamalpais 12/15 at Benicia 1/10 v Alhambra 1/12 at Miramonte 1/17 v College Park 1/19 v Acalanes 1/24 at Campolindo 1/26 at Alhambra 1/29 at Concord 1/31 v Miramonte 2/2 at College Park 2/7 at Acalanes 2/9 v Campolindo	11/28 v Petaluma 11/30 at Redwood 12/6 at Sonoma Aca. 12/8 v Rancho 12/15 at Windsor 12/16 v California 12/20 v Carillo 12/22 at Newman 1/5 at Alameda 1/10 at Ukiah 1/12 v Montgomery 1/17 at Santa Rosa 1/19 at Rancho 1/24 v Windsor 1/26 at Carillo 1/31 v Newman 2/2 v Ukiah 2/7 at Montgomery 2/9 v Santa Rosa