Streaming a Soccer Game – Single Camera

Equipment checklist:

- ❏ Camera and power supply
- ❏ Tripod
- ❏ Camera RCA or composite cable
- ❏ Power strip
- ❏ Extension cord
- ❏ Ethernet cable
- ❏ Video capture device
- ❏ Laptop and power supply
- ❏ Roster

1   Pre-Production and Setup

1. Go to cms.playonsports.com (PlayOn Manager) to schedule your event

   a. Be sure to schedule games at least **two weeks** before the event is to occur so that you can promote your broadcast to your potential viewers (i.e. school, parents, community)

   b. Give you event a descriptive name/title. For example: "Varsity Girls Soccer – Northside at Central"

2. Give yourself at least an hour to and hour and a half to set up and prepare your overlays.

3. Whenever possible, try to set up your equipment in the field's press box.

4. If the press box is not an option, try to find a good position where your shot will not be blocked.

   a. In bleachers at mid-field. Position yourself as high in the bleachers as possible.

   b. Behind the goalie. You'll want to set up behind the opposing team so that you can film your team making a shot into the goal.

5. Make sure you have access to electricity in the field and a long enough extension cord. Power supplies can be scarce at soccer fields.

6. Make sure you have enough room to set up your tripod.

7. Set up your camera so that you are not shooting into the sun.

8. Set up your equipment, and start your laptop.

   a. Test your Internet speed by go to www.speedtest.net and note your upload speed. You'll end up choosing your streaming bitrate based on the following table:

Internet Speed	Streaming Bitrate
Upload speed **> 1.5 Mbps**	640x360_846 kbps
Upload speed **between 1.0 – 1.5 Mbps**	640x360_696 kbps
Upload speed **between 0.7 – 1.0 Mbps**	640x360_496 kbps
Upload speed **< 0.7 Mbps or wireless**	640x360_126 kbps

   b. Start PlayOn! Producer

      i. Choose Live Stream (and sign in) or

      ii. On Demand is your Internet connection is not strong enough to handle a Live stream

      iii. In the PlayOn! Producer Settings, choose the following:

Video Device	Elgato
Video Input	(Composite or S-Video)
Overlay	Soccer
Preset	Choose from the table above

   c. Find the event you previously scheduled by date, highlight the name and hit **Continue**

d.   Enter in your team, your opponents team information, and appropriate logos in all of the Overlays

e.   Queue up any videos/commercials you plan to play during the broadcast.

2   Starting Production

1.   Make sure there are no menu settings showing up on your camera screen (this can be distracting to viewers)

2.   10 minutes before the event starts, click **Start Stream.**

3.   2 minutes before the event starts, click **Go On Air** and **Mark In**.

4.   You may want to consider using the **Starting Line Up** overlay before the game begins/during the pre-game announcements

3   Tips for the Camera Person

1.   When you're setting up, make sure the tripod is level.

   a.   Most tripods come with a bubble level. Make sure the bubble is in the center circle.

   b.   If you do not have a bubble level, you can run a test by starting at one goal and panning to the opposite goal and making sure the each goal post hits the same spot in the frame.

2.   **WHITE BALANCE!** It's very important, *especially* when going from indoor to outdoor sports (or vice versa), to white balance your camera so it can adjust to the new lighting. That way, your coloration will look much more natural. Each camera's white balance functions are different, so refer to the camera's manual when adjusting it.

3.   Before kick off, scan the soccer field to show the two teams and their respective positions.

4.   Don't frame your shot too tightly.

5.   A good rule of thumb is to keep at least 20 yards of action in your frame; 10 yards on either side of the ball.

6.   Follow the ball and zoom in and out frequently, but not so often that you give a viewer motion sickness.

7.   If you do not feel comfortable zooming in and zooming out, then at least make sure the players stay the same "size" in your frame throughout the game.

8.   You'll want to zoom in when the ball is at the opposite end of the field/near the goal.

9.   When there is a lag in the action, pan to the scoreboard to get footage of time left in the game.

10.   If there is a foul on the field and ball keeps rolling, stay with the player, not the ball.

11.   If the player is truly injured, cut to commercial, or pant to the scoreboard. It is respectable not keep the camera on a player that is in a lot of pain or has a visible injury.

12.   Keep the camera rolling a few minutes after the game to catch team reactions/team comradely/team-coach interaction.

4   Tips for Announcers

1. Since there is a lot of running (dead space) in soccer, you may want to consider using two announcers.

2. If you only have one announcer, make sure to catch plenty of natural sound and crowd noise (just be cautious of passionate parents that may use foul language).

3. Research the players a little bit before the game. This will give you some interesting facts to talk about during the broadcast.

4. Describe the game in great detail. This adds entertainment value for viewers.

5. Repeat time left in the game frequently.

6. If you have no announcers, just be sure to record plenty of natural sound and crowd noise.

5   Scoring and Overlay Timing

1. After you use the **Starting Line Up** overlay, you may want to use the **Team Locator** overlay until kickoff.

2. Use the **Score Bug – Top** during the game to keep track of the score, period, and if there's a yellow or red card on the play.

3. Use the **Scoreboard/Scoreboard – Logos** in between the two halves of the game

4. Write down the times and a brief description of any highlights that occur. You can cut highlights later in PlayOn! Manager.

5. Consider interviewing the players/coaches after the game.

6   Post Production

1. If you are streaming the game Live, email **support@playonsports.com** with the event ID number and a message that says, "Event id# _____ is complete. Please upload."

2. If you are recording this game for On Demand viewing, upload your video file either through the PlayOn Producer Uploader or PlayOn Manager.

3. If you wrote down any highlights, go ahead and use the Highlight Creator in PlayOn! Manager to cut them.