

To: All Boys' & Girls' Head Soccer Coaches  
From: Jerry Snodgrass, Assistant Commissioner  
Emily Gates, Team Sports Program Coordinator

Since the Soccer Tournament Draws are scheduled for this upcoming Sunday, there are a few items I wanted to make you aware of leading into those important meetings.

### **OHSAA Soccer Tournament Regulations**

Each OHSAA sponsored sport has a set of "Tournament Regulations" that are reviewed annually and ultimately approved by the OHSAA's Board of Directors. These regulations cover every detailed requirement for teams that participate as well as the administrative requirements for teams and host sites. I **strongly encourage** to download these regulations and read them carefully prior to your draw on Sunday and especially prior to any tournament game participation. Each District Athletic Board has specific "Sectional/District" regulations and make certain you pay attention to those that will be addressed at Sunday's Draw meetings. Doing so will help eliminate some potentially uncomfortable situations at tournament games. You can download these Regulations at:  
<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/sorglts.pdf>

### **Number in Uniform – Number in Bench Area**

Two of the items addressed in the official OHSAA Tournament Regulations are the 'number permitted to dress for each contest and the 'number permitted in the bench area'. Nearly every sport at every level of play puts some restriction on these numbers for obvious reasons. So, knowing this ahead of time will help you adjust game rosters and eliminate tough issues at game time.

**Number in Uniform:** You are permitted to dress **any 22 players that are on your school's OHSAA Eligibility List**. This means that you may switch from game to game but any 22 you dress in uniform must be on the eligibility list. Only the 22 in uniform are permitted to warm-up for the game – eliminating any thought of having the JV players that you do not dress out on the field for warm-up and simply leaving and going up to the stands when the game begins.

**Number in Bench Area:** There are **29 Total Individuals (counting the 11 on the field)** permitted in the bench area for all tournament games. This number includes players, coaches, trainers, managers and any other personnel you may choose to have in the area. Any school administrator (Principal, Supt. or Athletic Director) does not count in that number of 29.

### **Home Site Issues**

Since most districts have elected to play on sites of higher seeded teams through the first few rounds, it is extremely important that tournament sites adhere to all OHSAA Tournament Regulations. Every regulation dealing with admission, admission prices, pass lists and game management must be followed. Senior passes, school issued passes, etc., are NOT honored for any OHSAA Tournament, regardless of site. ONLY OHSAA Tournament Passes (District and State) are to be honored. Additionally, there can be no "Senior Nights" or "Parents' Nights" conducted at any OHSAA Tournament contest. Since "home team" designation may not always be the same as the placement of a team on a written bracket, ALWAYS make certain before traveling to a game that you are wearing the correct home or away uniform.

### **Non-Interscholastic Rules**

As the season winds down, it becomes extremely important for you to talk with your players and remind them NOT to participate in ANY club/travel/non-school workout, training, tryout or contest until their season is complete. Once any individual participates in a non-school 'event' (stated above) they become immediately ineligible to compete for a school team. PREVENT this from happening by continued reminders to your team.

### **Cold Weather Gear/Uniform Rules**

As colder weather sets in, many begin to inquire about permissible items to be worn under the uniform. NFHS Rules address this. Undergarments (tights) must be all the same color, all the same length for all individuals wearing them. They do not have a color requirement (they do not have to be the same color as the uniform) but again, all must be the SAME color.

### **Rating Officials**

IF you have not done so at this point, please make certain you meet with your Athletic Director to help you meet your requirement to rate officials. Your "AD" can show you how it is done and it NEEDS to be done to prevent you from being fined at the end of the year and more importantly – to make certain tournament officiating assignments have the input of coaches. Currently, coaches have the MOST input of those given this responsibility – do your part and make sure you do rate them (and save some money!).

Best wishes to you as you enter the tournament. Everyone competes for the trophy but more importantly, I hope you reached YOUR team goals this year. With the talent you have, a state championship is not always reachable but your team goals are. I hope you have reached those goals!