

OHSAA

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



2016

OHSAA SOCCER COACHES GUIDE

A Year-Round Guide for School Soccer Coaches



A Message from OHSAA Assistant Commissioner, Jerry Snodgrass



To 'go green', the decision was made to put this manual online and give YOU the opportunity to download this to your computer via the online rules meeting. I strongly encourage before you pick up the phone and dial up the OHSAA for a question to be answered, you do 3 things:

1. Consult the subject areas in this manual
2. Consult with your school's Athletic Director. He/She most likely knows the answer or has the resource to answer it.
3. Go to the Soccer webpage at www.ohsaa.org. Various items are located on this site to assist you.

Statistics gathered from last year's online rules meeting provides proof of the increased number of non-school coaches in ALL sports, with Soccer being as high as any other. This Coaches Guide has kept in mind that contact with the school's administration is not always as common place as some other school sports. Keep in mind also this Coaches Guide is in step with **required** State Rules Interpretation Meetings.

Now, maybe more than any other time in our existence, 'we' as coaches and sport administrators need to step forward and provide the leadership to high school student-athletes. There are so many great things about high school athletics and those must be at the forefront every single day we work with students in our schools. Players don't play for million dollar contracts and though I wish every player that takes the field could go on and play at the 'next level', the statistics continue to say that most do not. The high school experience can and should be one of the best they ever have; and YOU as the coach provide the leadership for that experience. I hope ALL of us can work **together** to make this happen. The OSSCA and the OHSAA have committed themselves to this mission and 'together we can accomplish this.

All rules governing OHSAA soccer stem from the National Federation (NFHS) *and* the OHSAA. The **NFHS Rules** are specific to the playing rules while **OHSAA Sports Regulations (and Bylaws)** govern specific administrative rules to Ohio. No coach, administrator, or official has the authority to modify or set aside these rules.

This is wishing each of you a successful Soccer season. I commend you for your time and effort working with the student-athletes in Ohio.

Yours In High School Sports,
Jerry Snodgrass
Assistant Commissioner

OHSAA Mission Statement

The Ohio High School Athletic Association's mission is to regulate and administer interscholastic athletic competition in a fair and equitable manner while promoting the values of participation in interscholastic athletics as an integral part of a student's educational experience. The OHSAA represents its member schools by recognizing and promoting academics, the safety of participants, good citizenship and lifelong values as the foundation of interscholastic athletics.



Important Soccer Dates

August 1	Coaching & Tryouts Begin
August 2	Previews Permitted
August 19	Friday Night Futbol! - First Game Permitted
September 26	Non-Interscholastic Date
October 9	Tournament Seed/Draw Date Boys: 2:00 p.m. Girls: 3:00 p.m.
October 17 – 22	Sectional Tournaments
October 24 – 29	District Tournaments
November 1 – 5	Regional Tournaments
November 8 – 12	State Semi-Finals & Finals
November 12	Last date for Games

OHSAA Soccer Contact Information

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Don Muenz	Officials' Development Coordinator <i>Responsible for overseeing Soccer officials in Ohio. Serves as liaison with NFHS and oversees the education and recruitment of soccer officials in Ohio.</i>	butsir@columbus.rr.com
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Rules Interpretation Meetings

This year **all Rules Interpretation Meetings for COACHES will be required ONLINE**. This is explained on the following page. Rules meetings become 'live' on Tuesday, July 26, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. on the OHSAA's Soccer webpage

Important NON-Interscholastic Note

The OHSAA feels that student-athletes that have committed themselves to the school's Soccer team should keep that commitment and be free of distractions and potential dissenting coaching opinions through the school Soccer season. Therein lies the basis for the "**Non-Interscholastic Rule**". This General Sports Regulation basically prohibits a member of the school team from TRYING OUT, PRACTICING or COMPETING with any non-interscholastic team while a member of the school team. Remind your players...continually. And, this includes any **college tryouts/workouts**. Anything outside the high school practice, workouts or games (including college tryouts/workouts) is considered NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC.

The Non-Interscholastic Date

The "Non-Interscholastic Date" is a date that is set 42 days prior to the State Soccer Tournament. Though participation in ANY form of non-interscholastic Soccer while a member of a school team is prohibited, any participation in a non-interscholastic contest **on or after this date** results in the individual being INELIGIBLE for the OHSAA tournament in addition to any other suspensions issued.

For the 2016 Soccer season, this date is: **September 26, 2016**

Please put this date on your calendar and REMIND the players on your team!

Communicating with the OHSAA

It is understandable with 831 schools in Ohio and the number of soccer teams in Ohio from Junior High to High School, the volume of calls and emails coming into the office is quite high and nearly impossible to answer at peak times. Most questions can and should be answered by the Athletic Director at your school. To make our communication as efficient as possible, we ask school ADMINISTRATORS (including your Athletic Director) to communicate directly with us...therefore our policy of not answering calls by parents and community members. One can only imagine the impossibility of that.

Additionally, every effort is being made to provide useful information via our website. I encourage you to check the website (both the main page and soccer specific page) and additional information is provided in this manual regarding weekly informational items (Ohio Soccer Weekly) that should prove beneficial for coaches at all levels.

The Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association is also an excellent resource for coaches. I encourage your membership in that organization to help strengthen the great sport of soccer in Ohio.

“Friday Night Futbol” in Ohio!

“Friday Night Futbol” is an initiative created by the OHSAA with the goal of providing schools an early season Friday night specifically geared toward SOCCER. High school Football does not begin until the following week and there is hope that schools will make this “first Friday night” of the fall sports season and the 2016-17 school year a dedication to high school Soccer. Since most schools are concluding ‘Band Camps’, we have lengthened halftime to 15:00 with the encouragement to have high school bands perform at halftime. Additional information was sent to schools this past spring and more will be forthcoming – including a great partnership with The Columbus Crew SC that will provide incentives to schools participating. There is NO CHARGE, NO FEE, NO APPLICATION....just an effort to promote one of the continually growing sports in the state! I encourage your participation!



Goal Differential – Running Clock



After the first half, any time the score differential reaches 6 goals or more for any 7-12 regular season and tournament contests, the following changes, and only these changes, will be made regarding rules determining when the clock will be stopped. The clock will be stopped when:

- 1) An official’s time-out is called for an injured player
- 2) Any unusual delay deemed necessary by the officials

The clock will start again on the ready for play signal for the first play after the above situations.

Note 1: The clock will continue to run in all other situations.

Note 2: The use of this rule does not preclude the use of NFHS Rule 7-1-2 which reads: *“Periods may be shortened by state high school association adoption, or if mutually agreed upon or in any emergency, by agreement of coaches or ordered by the head referee, provide it is determined to shorten the periods before the game or before the second half begins and all remaining periods are the same length.”*

Note 3: After the 6 goal difference has been met, if the score drops below the 6 goal differential, the clock reverts to regular timing.

PA Announcement when Point Differential has Been Reached:

“Ladies and Gentlemen, this game will now be played with a running clock per the new OHSAA point differential rule. The clock will still be stopped should there be an injured player on the field or by any unusual delay deemed necessary by the officials. If the point differential should fall beneath 6 goals, normal clock operations will resume.”



Indoor Soccer ; Re-Defined



Since facilities are being built each year to accommodate soccer being played INDOORS – this is a NEW interpretation relative to INDOOR SOCCER

Indoor Soccer shall be defined as a game played by two teams each consisting of not more than 6 players, one of whom must be the goalkeeper, and played indoors between the end of the school’s soccer season and the day before the first day of coaching for the interscholastic season is permitted. The number of interscholastic soccer players from the same school on a non-interscholastic squad of an indoor soccer roster is not limited provided none of the interscholastic coaching staff, paid or unpaid, is coaching the indoor team.

No longer required to play by USSF Indoor Rules – simply limit on the number playing on a team.

College “ID Camps”

“Everybody’s doing it”. Basically that is how I sum up the dozens of “College ID Camps” that have developed. The fact that many college/universities are conducting these in early August after the start of high school Soccer practice presents many challenges AND legitimate questions. This should answer these. Here are the facts:

- College ID Camps are Non-Interscholastic Events per OHSAA Regulations.
- Athletes are not permitted to attend non-interscholastic workouts, tryouts, practices, or competitions while a member of the school team.
- An athlete becomes a member of the school Soccer team when he/she competes in a scrimmage, preview or a game for the school team.

So, these facts should answer whether a player from your team is permitted to attend a “College ID Camp” without fear of ineligibility (the penalty for violating the non-interscholastic rules).

A student-athlete could attend a “College ID Camp” if they are not a member of the school team yet.

Mandatory Rules Interpretation Meeting

Rules Interpretation Meetings are MANDATORY for all Head Coaches. For the 2016 Soccer Season, **ALL MANDATORY RULES INTERPRETATION MEETINGS FOR COACHES WILL BE CONDUCTED ONLINE.** The “Online” meeting for Coaches is geared exclusively FOR coaches; Officials will have their own meetings with the content exclusively directed to them. IF you are a coach and have an OHSAA Officials license and wish to complete both, **you will be required to complete both since the content is specific to the audience (you would view two separate rules meetings).**

Regarding Rules Meetings:

1. OHSAA Soccer Sports Regulations are covered in detail as well as General Regulations and Bylaws as they pertain to coaches and players. Though the main purpose is to provide knowledge and advice on the various OHSAA regulations, this is the educational mechanism to insure compliance with the various rules and regulations.
2. The major shift in OHSAA policy that will permit INDIVIDUAL instruction outside the season of play will also demand a complete and thorough knowledge of the regulation and its limitations. Completion of the meeting is essential for **all coaches** to understand the regulation as well as consequences for violations.
3. With the addition of the ‘out of season instruction’ permission, **coaches of all school teams are REQUIRED to understand the regulation, its implications and its consequences for non-compliance.** ALL coaches, paid or volunteer and varsity through Junior High are STRONGLY encouraged to take the time to view the online meeting to grasp an understanding of the regulation (and others).

How to Complete the Rules Interpretation Meeting Online

Coaches should access the online version by navigating to the OHSAA’s BOYS’ SOCCER (<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/boys/default.asp>) or GIRLS’ SOCCER (<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/girls/default.asp>) webpage. You will need your **SCHOOL ID NUMBER**, which can be provided by your school’s Athletic Director. Please note that **all screens of the presentation must be viewed** for attendance credit to be provided.

Please do NOT use a tablet or mobile device—these devices will not record attendance. You must use a desktop or laptop computer.

The ONLINE Rules Meeting link will be live on **TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2016 at 4:00 p.m**

The deadline for completion of the online version is **Wednesday, August 31 at 11:59 pm** or a \$50.00 late fee is charged for access to the online version. The deadline WITH the \$50.00 penalty will be Friday, September 30th at 11:59 pm. ***If you do not complete the rules meeting by these deadlines, your school will be removed from the post-season tournament.***

AFTER COMPLETION:

1. Your School's myOHSAA profile will be updated to reflect your attendance. Athletic Directors have access to this.
2. Please do not call the OHSAA office for verification. Attendance WILL be reflected in the school's PROFILE.

Mandatory Parent Pre-Season Meeting

Pre-season meetings with parents are MANDATED by OHSAA Bylaws and will most likely occur at your school along with other fall sport teams. This is determined by each school's Athletic Administrator **and must be held no later than 2 weeks after the start of the season** (August 1 – August 14, 2016). This is the time to cover such things as eligibility requirements, individual school policies, individual sport policies, sportsmanship issues and expectations travel plans for away contests, etc.

I encourage coaches to use this time to their advantage and provide as much education as possible to parents. There are GREAT resources available for coaches to use at these meetings at the "Locker Room", an NFHS online education center. You can access this directly at: <http://www.nfhslearn.com/LockerRoom.aspx>



Pupil Activity Permits & Concussion Legislation

As outlined in Ohio Administrative Code, all Coaches of Middle School/Jr. High and High School teams **MUST** possess a "Pupil Activity Validation Certificate" to coach in Ohio. This includes paid coaches AND volunteer coaches. School administrators are responsible for maintaining records on compliance and most schools provide opportunities for their coaches to obtain the necessary coursework. The actual regulations AND the certificate can be downloaded from the OHSAA's Sports' Medicine page or directly at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/default.asp>. To obtain the required certificate through the ODE, one must:



- Have completed a Sports' First Aid Course
- Possess a valid CPR Card
- Have been approved by their local Board of Education or similar governing body
- **Complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course**
- **Complete one of two approved Concussion Recognition courses**

You can look up all requirements in detail on the ODE's website at:

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEPrimary.aspx?page=2&TopicRelationID=1328>

Schools are required to submit coaches' names along with valid permit numbers on the Official OHSAA Tournament Entry Form. Entry forms are audited on a random basis at the conclusion of each season.

Concussion Legislation as it relates to Coaching Requirements

Though the entire law is explained later, all coaches today **MUST** complete one of two (2) approved Concussion Education programs online upon renewal of their Pupil Activity Permit anytime **after April 26, 2013**. Individual student-athletes removed from contests with a suspected concussion are no longer permitted to return to play on the same day of the contest – regardless of the diagnoses. If they are removed by one of the individuals given this authority, they simply cannot return to play the same day. Written authorization IS required to return anytime thereafter and must be kept on file with the school Athletic Administrator.

Rating Officials

It's Free; It's Easy; and.....it is REQUIRED!

Rating Officials is REQUIRED by Varsity Soccer Head Coaches. The process is one that is vital and necessary for the Tournament Assignment Process. Due to the importance of this:

1. Coaches who do not comply with the rating requirement are fined \$150.00 at the end of the season, and,
2. Athletic Administrators who do not VOTE for a designated number of officials are fined \$150.00 at the end of the season.

The process basically works like this:

1. Coaches **RATE** Officials, other approved individuals **VOTE FOR** Officials.
2. Ratings are done at the conclusion of a game; voting is done at the end of the season.
3. "Pools" of tournament officials are created as a result of ratings and votes.
4. District Athletic Boards utilize the various pools to assign officials to sectional and district tournaments in their respective Athletic Districts.
5. The OHSAA Office utilizes the pools to assign officials to the Regional and State Tournament.
6. All Rating and Voting is done through *myOHSAA*.
7. Coaches obtain a User Name and Password for access to the *myOHSAA* system



In order for the process, games and officials must be entered into *myOHSAA* by a school's Athletic Administrator. Schools that are the home team in a contest are the ones required to enter the contest and the officials. In some cases, league assignors have this capability. IF a contest is not entered, there can be no rating of officials. If this is not done, eventually, this will lead to a fine for not rating officials. Please encourage your Athletic Administrator to enter contests into the system.

You will note that using the *myOHSAA* system will allow you to view other teams' schedules to assist you with possible scouting opportunities as well as serve as a 'double check' with often changing schedules due to cancellations or additions of contests.

Complete Rating Instructions are found online at:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/myOHSAA/OfficialRatingInstructions.pdf>

Administrating Soccer

Communication is a key in the successful administration of any of our sports. I encourage you to ask questions or seek assistance, but *please* consult with your Athletic Administrator FIRST. With the extremely high volume of calls and emails, it truly is the most efficient way for us to meet the needs of our schools. Additionally, nearly all informational items can be found on the web at www.ohsaa.org and navigating to the "Boys or Girls Soccer" site. **Please** take the time to review the materials provided. At the beginning and the conclusion of the season we receive such a high volume of calls from sub-varsity coaches and "club" coaches. We encourage YOUR communication with them to help us operate as efficiently as possible. As with last season, I will be posting "Ohio Soccer Weekly" to address current issues and reminders for coaches. I continually update the "Off-Season Q and A's" to address the number of questions involving off-season regulations; all with the idea of HELPING coaches. **Coaches** are reminded that every coach that coach school soccer are responsible for understanding and knowing the regulations affecting them and their sport. Since this manual is done in concert with the State Rules Interpretation Meetings, it is encouraged that ALL coaches attend. We have put meetings online (see later in this manual) to make it more convenient for coaches to be aware of the regulations that affect them AND the eligibility of their athletes. Ignorance of the rule is no defense for consequences that occur as a result of rule/regulation violations.



Game Management

In cooperation with Officials, the Information below is **also** provided to Athletic Administrators and Coaches relative to game management.

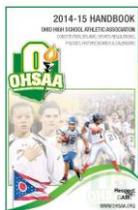
Placement of Teams: The Board of Directors strongly recommends that **when possible**, team benches be placed on opposite sides of the field. This will be at the direction of the home Athletic Department. When teams are placed on opposite sides of the field, team benches are to be placed diagonal from one another beginning 10 yards from the halfway line and extending 20 yards toward the goal line. Team benches are NOT to straddle the halfway line. The home team shall supply a person who is situated at a table at the halfway line on each side of the field to signal substitutions. If time is kept at field level, the official time shall be kept on the home side.

Officials to Leave Immediately at End of Match: All contest officials are to leave the field immediately at the conclusion of the match. Supervision of all post-match activities of any nature is not the responsibility of the match officials. Supervision of all post-match activities is the responsibility of the authorized institutional representatives of the participating schools.

Administrator at Varsity Matches: The Board of Directors **strongly** recommends that a school administrator be present at all varsity boys' and girls' soccer matches. Coaches should note (and be prepared) that when no school administrator is present at games, they should be prepared to deal with administrative issues such as Crisis Management Plans, etc.

OHSAA's General Sports Regulations

How do the OHSAA's Sports Regulations Affect Coaches and Players



Regulations governing the sport of soccer are divided into two basic categories: **GENERAL Sports' Regulations** and **SOCCER Regulations (sport specific)**. These are reviewed annually and approved by the OHSAA's Board of Directors.



The OHSAA General Sports' Regulations

These regulations can be accessed and address regulations that affect all sports governed by the OHSAA. They include, but are not limited to, such things as Instructional Programs outside the window of the season, Physical Fitness (Conditioning) Programs, Open Gym/Field Regulations, No Contact Periods, Player and Coach Ejection Policies. These are important and *most* areas of concern can be addressed simply by reading through these Regulations or contacting your Athletic Administrator. They are easily accessed via the web by navigating to the "Soccer" webpage and clicking on "General Sports' Regulations" on the left hand side or directly going to <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rglts/GeneralSportsRegulations.pdf> I **strongly encourage** you to take the time to read these to familiarize yourself and your staff with the various rules approved by our Board of Directors that govern all sports.

Though there are far too many to list in this coaches' guide, a *few* of the more common ones that affect coaches and teams are:

Open Gyms/Facilities/Fields at Member Schools

Open Gyms (or facilities) are clearly defined in **the OHSAA's General Sports Regulation #10**. An abbreviated version states:

- A school may open its athletic facilities for **unstructured free play** provided the activity is supervised by a school employee who may remove participants or spectators for disciplinary reasons.
- The school may designate the sport or sports that will be played during the free play period, but **may not limit participation** to a select group of students from within the school. Participation **may** be limited to students enrolled in that specific school.
- There can be no designation of who will play on which team or who will play whom. Only those students participating may be involved in the selection of teams.
- Regulation timing of games is not permitted.
- Written scorekeeping is not permitted.
- No individual invitations, written or oral, are permitted.
- A coach, paid or volunteer, violates the provision of these regulations when the coach requires, suggests or in any way implies that a student's chance to be selected for an interscholastic squad is contingent upon participation at an open gymnasium or facilities program.
- Mandatory attendance at open gyms/facilities is **not permitted**.
- Transporting athletes to a school or non-school open gym/facility is a violation for any member of the coaching staff, paid or volunteer.
- Coaches **may participate** in the unstructured free play in the open gym/facilities.

Schools MAY restrict individuals from observing the open gym/facility activity.

Sports Regulation – "Out of Season Individual Instruction"

Please see the end of this section for complete details on the revised General Sports Regulations that will permit school coaches to provide INDIVIDUAL instruction outside the season of play.

The OHSAA Soccer Specific Regulations

Each spring, regulations for the upcoming school year are approved by the Board of Directors for every sport the OHSAA sponsors. These address areas such as (but not limited to) non-Interscholastic competition, number of contests (game, scrimmage or preview) that are permitted, season start and end dates, out of state travel, etc. All coaches should familiarize themselves with these regulations. Coaches should familiarize their entire staff with the importance of these Regulations as they directly affect the eligibility of student-athletes. Upon approval, they are submitted for printing to the annual OHSAA Handbook (which every administrator has been provided). These are also available through soccer web page at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/boys/default.asp> or <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/girls/default.asp> Soccer specific AND the General Sports' Regulations are found on the left side of the page. A few of the Sports' Regulation **highlights** are listed but you are encouraged to read the entire regulations at the above listed website.

Game & Scrimmage Limitations (Grades 9-12)

Maximum number of games permitted: 16 Games

Scrimmages/Previews: Maximum of 4 scrimmages PLUS 1 Preview.

Scrimmage Note: Scrimmages MAY be held at any time during pre-season, post-season or during the season, but MUST count as the same for both competing teams. In other words, Team A cannot count it as a 'scrimmage' while Team B counts the competition as a 'game'. This is especially noteworthy during post-season.

Alumni games: These have gained popularity and may be played...but they MUST be counted as a scrimmage.

Practicing with Other Schools: This also has become popular and may occur but again, any such practice MUST be counted as one of the team's 4 permitted scrimmages.

Note Regarding Individual Participation: Though there is no limitation on the number of HALVES an **individual** may participate in for scrimmages, **Individual players are not permitted to participate in more than 4 scrimmages and 1 Preview.**

Individual Contest & Halves Limitations (Grades 9-12)

Scrimmages Permitted: No Individual may participate in more than 4 scrimmages

Previews Permitted: No individual may participate in more than 1 Preview (a player is NOT permitted to play in a JV Preview and also a Varsity Preview).

Halves Permitted: No individual may participate in more than 3 halves in any one day OR **42 halves on the season. The increase from 38 to 42 halves was NEW in 2015.**

Game & Scrimmage Limitations (Grades 7-8)

Maximum number of games permitted: 14 and 1 Post-Season tournament not to exceed 4 games

Scrimmages: Maximum of 1 scrimmage PLUS 1 Preview

Scrimmage Note: Scrimmages MAY be held at any time during the season but MUST count as the same for both competing teams. In other words, Team A cannot count it as a 'scrimmage' while Team B counts the competition as a 'game'.

Note Regarding Individual Participation: Though there is no limitation on the number of HALVES an **individual** may participate in for scrimmages, **Individual players are not permitted to participate in more than 1scrimmage and 1 Preview.**

Individual Contest & Halves Limitations (Grades 7-8)

Scrimmages Permitted: No Individual may participate in more than 1 scrimmage.

Previews Permitted: No individual may participate in more than 1 Preview

Halves Permitted: No individual may participate in more than 3 halves in any one day OR **28 halves on the season (any post season tournament would be permitted up to 8 halves)**

Previews

OHSAA Regulations permit teams to participate in ONE preview in addition to their 4 scrimmages (9-12) prior to their first game. Previews may be scheduled and played during that time period (August 1 – before first game). No Previews may be scheduled or played after the school's first contest.

Previews may ONLY consist of a maximum of one-half the length of a regular season contest. Admission may be charged for Previews.

Note Regarding Individual Participation: No Individual players is permitted to participate in more than 1 Preview.

No Contact Period ("Dead Period")

There has been considerable misunderstanding about the **No Contact** period outlined in General Sports Regulation 11. Any coach, **paid or volunteer**, is prohibited from athletic or athletic-related contact with squad members in the same sport for the period of time starting with the **first day after the school's last interscholastic contest and ending 28 days later**. This includes any contact in tryouts in or out of school, physical fitness, weight training, open gyms, etc. It also includes verbal contact which encourages discusses or promotes any activity related to soccer. Exceptions to this are all-star contests, awards ceremonies, contact with seniors to facilitate college recruiting and contact as a faculty member assigned to teach in the regular curriculum, pick up school-issued equipment and attendance at OHSAA tournaments. See information detailing this elsewhere in this manual.

Out of State Travel

A Soccer team may travel out of state to compete in contest scrimmages, previews and games in states OR provinces in Canada that are **contiguous** to Ohio regardless of distance. This would include the states of Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia and the province of Ontario in Canada. A team may travel out of state **one time** to state or province NOT contiguous to Ohio but only if there is no loss of school time. Teams **may not travel out of state only to practice.**

Comments to News Media

Each year unpleasant situations arise as a result of comments made to the news media by coaches. The OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws reads in part "Great care shall be exercised in the selection of officials, well in advance of the contest and agreed upon by schools involved." Public criticism of officials is a direct reflection upon those who were responsible for assigning the officials to the game. Officials are trained and expected to make

no derogatory comments regarding the players, coaches, or schools. Coaches are expected to follow the same procedure in regard to the officials. Coaches violating this rule may be asked to discuss the problem personally with the Commissioner. (See Sports Regulations "Media Regulations")

Videotaping Regulations

The improvement of various electronic devices, especially cell phones, has drawn much attention to the rules regarding recording soccer contests. Complete regulations available within the OHSAA Handbook or through the General Sports Regulations on the web at <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rqits/GeneralSportsRegulations.pdf> under Section "A" of the Media Regulations. A few highlights of this include but are not limited to:

- It is permissible for a school to videotape or photograph regular season contests in which the school team is participating, but such tapes or photographs may not be used for coaching purposes until after the contest is completed. In other words, it is not possible to use photographs or any recorded information at halftime of a game.
- It is **not permissible for a school or school representative to videotape or photograph Previews, scrimmages, regular season OR tournament contests of other schools** without the written consent of the schools participating in the contest.

Scoreboard-Video Replay Board Regulations

As more and more schools erect video replay boards at their shared facilities with football, there has been much concern about their use. First, replays on scoreboards are NOT considered any form of coaching device and therefore are permissible for use. It is cautioned however...replays of CONTROVERSIAL plays are NOT to be run on replay boards. This is consistent with football regulations and discussion should take place with those individuals operating those boards.

Officials

Varsity: Minimum of TWO OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 officials are required. Regardless of how many are officiating the game, ALL must be OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2.

Junior Varsity: Minimum of TWO OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 officials are required.

Freshmen: OHSAA Class 1, 2, or 3 *recommended*.

Note: If only one OHSAA official is present to officiate a contest, the game may be played if participating coaches agree.

Protests Are Not Part of High School Soccer (ALL SPORTS) and Will NOT be Considered

Bylaw 8, Section 3(1) of the OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws reads in part, "*Protests arising from the decisions of interpretations of the rules by officials during the game will **not be considered**.* Their decisions and interpretations are final." This means that correctable errors must be corrected during the game and within the time established by playing rules.

Tracking "Double Yellow Cards" or "Subsequent Cautions"

Beginning with last year's 2015 Soccer season, officials will be required to submit Officials' Reports for all "double yellow" cards. This data will help determine any changes in subsequent years' ejection policies.

Ejections from Scrimmages

Beginning with last year's 2015 Soccer season, any ejection that takes place during a scrimmage will be reported on the Officials' Report and will require all players to be suspended in accordance with the OHSAA's Ejection Policy.

Sports Regulations and Coaching Restrictions

The OHSAA's General Sports Regulations define what coaches may do outside the season of play. These regulations **MUST BE UNDERSTOOD BY ALL COACHES**. A few simple facts:

- **Coaches are expected to know, understand and abide by all General Sports Regulations**
- **Member schools AGREE to abide and self-enforce the General Sports Regulations**
- **All Coaches, whether PAID or VOLUNTEER are bound by ALL General Sports Regulations**

The following areas are often misunderstood and violated. Though difficult in today's world, it is important to understand the role of ETHICS as they relate to high school sports – not only in Ohio but across the nation. The regulations governing high school athletics in Ohio are voluntarily enforced **by the member schools**. No doubt, this is a challenge in today's world. But the fact remains; the regulations are created by the very member schools of the OHSAA. It is the responsibility of the OHSAA to help with the education of these regulations and the schools AND COACHES to self-enforce them. It is generally 'easiest' to break these regulations affecting coaches into FOUR general categories:

- **Summer Rules (June 1 – July 31)**
- **During the Season**
- **The No- Contact Period**
- **Outside the Season (except during June/July)**

Summer Rules: June 1 – July 31

Between June 1 and July 31, the out-of season and non-interscholastic regulations change considerably. The regulations governing school programs are often known as "Summer Rules". OHSAA Regulations in place during this time period have an impact on both **coaches** and **players**. Below is an overview of how the period between June 1 and July 31 affect each:

Coaches

1. Coaches may provide individual or team instruction anytime between June 1 and July 31. **INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION** is defined as 'one on one' anytime 4 individuals or less that played for the school team the previous season are present. **TEAM INSTRUCTION** is defined as any instruction – team or individual – that takes place when MORE THAN 4 individuals that played for the school team the previous season are present.
2. There is a limit of 10 total days that an entire coaching staff combined may provide any team instruction (more than 4 present).
3. There is a 'separation' of the team instruction days permitted for 7-8 grade and 9-12 grade. In other words, there are 10 total days of instruction permitted for 7-8 graders and 10 total days permitted for 9-12 graders.
4. General Sports' Regulation 8.6 (soon to be renumbered) is in effect during June and July, as it is in other times of the year. This simply means that anytime ALL the conditions of this regulation are met, the regulation may be used independently of the 10 days permitted for TEAM instruction.
5. EXAMPLE: If a "JV coach" is providing instruction to one player or several players, and the head coach is providing instruction to one player or several players at another location on the same day – it counts as one of the 10 days permitted.
6. Volunteer coaches and Paid coaches are treated the same – they are under the same OHSAA Regulations.
7. All Volunteer coaches and Paid coaches are identified by where they coached the previous season.
EXAMPLE: If a volunteer coach that coached during the most recent season indicates he/she will not return to coach at the school the next season, they are STILL regulated by the OHSAA 'out of season' coaching regulations.
8. New coaches to a school district are not provided exceptions – they are NOT given 'more' days nor are they permitted any extension of the 10 days past July 31.
9. A new coach to a school district is considered a coach at that school and immediately under the 'out of season' coaching regulations as soon as the school names him/her as the coach of that school – regardless of when that person signs a contract.
10. When school coaches coach a team comprised of members of the previous year's team's **IN TEAM PLAY** (important), anytime there are more than 2 individuals that played for the school's 9-12 teams the previous season present on the team (whether on the court/field or as substitutes) the day of coaching is counted as 1 of the 10 days permitted. Anytime there are 2 or less **IN TEAM PLAY**, the day would not count as one of the 10 permitted.
11. Attendance at "Team Play" or "Individual Instruction" **CANNOT** be mandated to individuals or be part of any implied decision for team selection during the regular season.
12. School Administrators are expected and required to monitor compliance as a condition of membership in the OHSAA.

Players

1. "Players" are identified as those that played for the 9-12 school sponsored team the previous season and those that played for 7-8 school sponsored team the previous season.
EXAMPLE: All players that played for a freshmen, JV or Varsity team the previous season 'count together'. All players that played for a 7-8 team the previous season are counted together but separately from 9-12.
2. Individuals that did not play for a school sponsored team the previous season do not count in any of the out-of-season regulations affecting players.
3. Individuals that "indicate" they are NOT going to play NEXT season still count in the out-of-season regulations if they played the previous season.
4. There is NO LIMIT to the number of players from the previous year's school sponsored teams that may play together between June 1 and July 31.
5. There is no restriction anytime outside the season of play (including June and July) that would prohibit 8th graders from playing with 9-12 graders. The restriction ONLY exists during the defined sports season.
6. Players are considered in their 'current grade' until August 1, 2014.
7. During the June 1 – July 31 period of time, there is no regulation that prohibits a player from "School A" playing on a team with members of "School B". "Anyone may play with anyone" during the June/July period of time.

Soccer "Camps" and Individual Instruction

The above often leads to questions regarding "Camps" and "individual instruction".

Camps: Many different types of instruction often fall under the general term of "camps". Camps can be conducted by school coaches but must fall under all previously mentioned OHSAA regulations regarding out of season instruction. A camp conducted during June and July would be permissible and would count toward the 10 days of instruction permitted **anytime there are more than 4 individuals present that played for the school teams the previous season.**

And again, these could only be conducted during June and July. The following "Q and A's" are designed to give additional help:

Q: Can I charge for athletes to attend a camp that I conduct as a coach?

A: A very complex question. Though not an area the OHSAA regulates, it is an issue ethically and legally between you and the school district. Essentially, it depends a little on whether YOU are conducting the camp (you would therefore be a private business individual) or the school district is conducting the camp (you would then be considered an employee of the school). I **STRONGLY** recommend you sit down and discuss all legal and ethical ramifications with your school administration prior to holding a camp in which a fee is charged.

Q: Am I permitted to bring a private instructor in to conduct a camp?

A: Yes, you could. Keeping all the above mentioned items in mind, if YOU organize it as the coach, it would still be considered one of the 10 days of instruction permitted. If you have absolutely nothing to do with the organization of the camp, it still could only be done during June/July but would not be part of the 10 days. Again, if you had *absolutely nothing* to do with the organization of the camp.

Individual Instruction: This is all defined within Sports Regulation 7 of the OHSAA's General Sports Regulations. Here are a few basics of the regulation:

- **Team members may receive INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION anytime outside the season of play**
- **Team members may receive INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION DURING the season of play by 'outside' individuals unless the school or team coach has a policy against it.**
- **INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION is defined as nothing more than 1 vs 1**
- **Team members may receive any INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION in an Individual or Group lesson**
- **School coaches, whether paid or volunteer, may only provide individual instruction during the season or for 10 days total during June and July**
- **Each day of Instruction by a school coach, whether paid or volunteer, during June and July must count as 1 of the 10 days of instruction permitted from June 1 – July 31 if there are more than 4 individuals present.**
- **General Sports Regulation 8.2 that permits SCHOOL COACHES to provide instruction outside the season to 'no more than 4 individuals in all the combined facilities where the instruction takes place' IS PERMITTED during the summer months also. Anytime there are MORE than 4 individuals present, the day of instruction would have to count toward the 10 days permitted to a coaching staff.**

During the Season

This is probably the easiest to understand (and certainly EXPLAIN on my part). You and all Board approved coaches may COACH your team. Coach them up! A few common Q and A's here:

Q: When can we begin practice?

A: Monday, August 1, 2016.

Q: Though practice does begin on August 1, when are we permitted to have TRYOUTS?

A: Tryouts and practice are 'one in the same'...and you may begin those on **Monday, August 1, 2016** also.

Q: How many days do I have to give before making 'cuts' or 'team selections'?

A: The OHSAA does not regulate this. But, common sense is always urged and I STRONGLY recommend you ask this question to your Athletic Director prior to making any 'cuts' or team selections (JV-A, JV-B, etc.)

Q: Can we practice on Sunday?

A: That is entirely up to your school. The OHSAA has no restriction prohibiting Sunday practice, like many regulations, we leave it up to the individual school district.

Q: Can kids from a middle school travel team practice or train with us?

A: No. OHSAA Regulations do not permit 7-8 graders to practice or train with 9-12 graders anytime during the defined soccer season (August 1 – until the last game).

Q: Can we practice along with a neighboring school?

A: You may, but it must count as a scrimmage. Anytime two different schools practice together, it must be counted as a scrimmage.

Q: Can I, as the school coach, coach a travel team during my school season?

A: Yes. There are no regulations that prohibit this. I always remind coaches doing this they are NOT exempt from any "Recruiting Bylaws" within the OHSAA's Bylaws.

Q: During the season, a player is invited by a college to 'workout' for them to determine if they might get athletic grant-in-aid money. Is this permissible for the player?

A: **NO.** This is a growing concern and any participation violates the Non-Interscholastic Regulations and will result in **ineligibility** for the player.

Q: There continues to be a reference to "non-interscholastic" soccer. What is considered 'non-interscholastic' soccer?

A: **ANYTHING** that is not the school sponsored team. This includes but is not limited to 'club', 'travel', 'Rec.', collegiate tryouts/workouts, and includes any training, practicing, competing or even 'trying out'.

Q: Does a volunteer helping just 1 day a week have to have a Pupil Activity Permit?

A: YES. Ohio Administrative Code requires ALL coaches, whether paid OR volunteer, to possess the "PAP" before doing any coaching.

The No-Contact Period

The No-Contact period for Soccer runs from the end of each team's last contest for 28 consecutive days. The No-Contact period is designed to provide student-athletes an opportunity to participate in winter sports without undue influence to start training right away for the next Soccer season. ALL team sports have a 28 day no-contact period at the end of their sports. A few common Q and A's regarding this period of time:

Q: Can players meet to turn in equipment and be provided an evaluation of the previous season?

A: Yes. That is permitted as long as it is done during the equipment turn-in time. You can provide them information for your season-ending awards program, etc.

Q: Can players attend Awards Banquets during this time?

A: Yes.

Q: Are players permitted to meet regarding college plans or with a college recruiter that may come?

A: Yes.

Q: Can players 'weight lift' in the school's weight room during the no-contact period?

A: Yes, but the supervision cannot be from a Board approved Soccer Coach. Your weight room must be supervised by another individual other than a board approved soccer coach. Many schools have supplemental contracts for a separate strength coach for this very reason.

Q: Does the No-Contact Period apply to someone that was just a volunteer on my staff?

A: Yes. All coaches, whether paid or volunteer must be approved by your board of education, must have an ODE issued Pupil Activity Permit and are under all regulations of the OHSAA just as the paid coaches are.

Out-of-Season Regulations

For explanation purposes, the "Out-of-Season" period is defined as the period:

- Outside the defined season of play (official start date to team's last contest),
- Outside the "No-Contact Period"
- Outside of June 1 – July 31

Below is an overview of the "Out-of-Season" Regulations and its effect on coaches and players.

COACHES

1. All OHSAA sponsored sports have a defined Start Date and End Date for each sport season.
2. Sports Regulation 7 defines all activities that can be conducted by coaches and participated in by players during 'Out-of-Season' time.
COMMENT: All Sports Regulations are approved annually by the OHSAA's elected Board of Directors that represent the schools that voluntarily join the OHSAA. Their voluntary membership (which is free) is also an agreement to monitor, comply and administrate the OHSAA's Sport Regulations.
3. During the Out-of-Season period, school soccer coaches for grades 9-12 are not permitted to coach individuals in grades 9-12 that played for **their school team** the previous season in team play at any time. They MAY utilize the permissions in Gen. Sports Reg. 8.2. (Individual Instruction Regulation)
COMMENT: A school **7-8 coach** may coach an individual in **grades 9-12** in team play during the Out-of-Season period.
4. During the Out-of-Season period, school soccer coaches in grades 7-8 **ARE NOW** permitted to coach individuals in grades 7-8 that played for **their school team** in team play at any time. They MAY utilize the permissions in Gen. Sports Reg. 8.2 (Individual Instruction Regulation)
COMMENT: A school 9-12 coach may coach an individual in grades 7-8 in team play during the Out-of-Season period.
5. Effective with the 2016-17 school year, ALL SCHOOL COACHES may coach players in grades 7-8 in team play outside the season.
COMMENT: Keep in mind 2 things; first, the 50% limitation (5 in soccer) is still in effect outside the season for players. So, though a coach MAY coach players in team play from his/her own school, there may still only be 5 players from the school team on the non-school team. Secondly, this is permitted for **players in Junior High ONLY – NOT High School (9-12)**. Since there is not a significant number of 7-8 grade soccer programs in the state, this will not have a significant effect on previous rules.
6. Players grade is considered to be the current grade they played in the previous season until August 1 of the next school year.
EXAMPLE: An 8th grader that played soccer for Spiro T. Agnew Junior High during the previous season remains considered an 8th grader for this regulation until August 1 of the next school year.
7. Volunteer coaches and Paid coaches must comply with all regulations.
COMMENT: All individuals in the state of Ohio that work with student-athletes as part of a school program whether paid or volunteer, are required to be approved by their respective Boards of Education (or governing body). Therefore, there is no distinction regarding off-season regulations whether a coach is paid or not and must comply. ALL must comply.
8. Coaches that indicate they will not return to coach the team the next season are still under the Out-of-Season Regulations for the school they coached at the previous season.
9. There is no regulation that would prohibit a school coach from coaching individuals in team play from other schools.
10. There is no regulation that would prohibit a school coach from coaching individuals in team play that played for a non-member school.
COMMENT: Many middle schools/junior highs are members of the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) and not the OHSAA. Individuals that play in the CYO programs are not under OHSAA regulations and therefore there is no regulation prohibiting school coaches from coaching them.
11. A school coach (paid OR volunteer) that is also a parent of a player that plays for the same school is not provided an exception that would permit him/her to coach his/her son/daughter on an out-of-season team.
EXAMPLE: Mary Doe is a volunteer assistant coach for Will Ferrell High School's girls' soccer team. Mary has a daughter that played freshmen soccer during the previous season for WFHS. Mary is NOT permitted to coach a 'travel/club' team outside the season of play that her daughter is on - except during June and July.
12. School Administrators are expected and required to monitor compliance as a condition of membership in the OHSAA.
13. Attendance at any Out-of-Season Activity cannot be made mandatory nor considered to be criteria for team selection in the coming year.

PLAYERS

1. Individuals that played for a school sponsored team the previous season are governed by the Out-of-Season Regulations.
2. Individuals that played for a school sponsored team the previous season are permitted to receive INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION anytime during the season or out-of-season. They may receive this instruction individually OR in a group **BUT** the instruction must be INDIVIDUAL instruction.

COMMENT: Individuals are not permitted to receive TEAM instruction. This prohibits a group of players that played for a school team the previous season from getting together and being coached in team concepts outside the season.

A few common Q and A's regarding coaching OUT-OF-SEASON:

Q: Can I coach athletes from my school's team in the off-season?

A: No. Current regulations prohibit you from coaching individuals from your school in TEAM or INDIVIDUAL instruction anytime outside the season of play (except of course during June and July).

Q: Can I coach athletes from other schools in the off-season?

A: Yes. There is no regulation that would prohibit you from coaching athletes at any level from another school. In fact, we would encourage it.

Q: How many players from our school are permitted to be on the same NON-school team (such as club or travel)?

A: No more than 5 players that played for the 9-12 school team(s) are permitted to be on the same NON-school team anytime outside the season of play except during June and July.

Q: When are players from our school team permitted to play for their 'club' or 'travel' team (non-interscholastic team)?

A: As soon as their season is complete.

Q: If a player is a JV player only, do they have to wait until the Varsity team is out of the OHSAA Tournament before playing in club or travel soccer?

A: No, however, once a player DOES play in club or travel soccer (non-interscholastic), they are not eligible to dress or compete on the tournament roster.

Q: Are players from our school team permitted to play "Futsal" in excess of the 50% limitation?

A: Yes. Since Futsal is played on a 'unique' surface AND a different ball is used, it does not fall under normal OHSAA Soccer Regulations.

Q: If players are permitted to play Futsal outside the season of play in excess of the 50% limitation, does that mean I can coach my own players in Futsal?

A: No. It is still not permissible to coach players that played on your own school team the previous season (except graduating seniors).

Note: There is a separate section in this manual addressing all "Indoor Soccer" regulations.

Out-of-Season Regulations – INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION

The newly adopted **Out-of-Season Individual Instruction Regulations** became effective **last season**. These regulations were adopted by the OHSAA's Board of Directors to provide an opportunity to school coaches for them to provide fundamental skill instruction to individuals. **They were NOT designed to increase or add any additional time for TEAM instruction.**

Effective with the implementation of this regulation, coaches approved by a school's Board of Education (or other governing body) will be permitted to provide **INDIVIDUAL SKILL INSTRUCTION** to individuals that participated on their school team(s) the previous season. A few of the parameters:

- Mandatory attendance at any Individual Instruction is not permitted.
- Individual instruction may NOT take place during currently defined 'no-contact periods'. The 28 day 'no-contact period' at the conclusion of a team's season does not change.
- There will be a limit of 4 (four) individuals in all combined facilities where the instruction is taking place. There is no designation of whether any of the 4 played for the school team or not. In other words, there is a limit of 4 individuals whether they played the sport the previous season or not. FOUR individuals, period. There cannot be 4 'offensive players' and 4 'defensive players'. There will be a limit of FOUR total in all combined facilities. "Four means FOUR".
- 10 days of instruction will continue to exist during June and July. Any part of a day during June and July in which more than 4 individuals are present (as currently defined in the General Sports Regulation 7.9) permitting Individual instruction will count toward one of the 10 days permitted.
- It is the responsibility of each school to understand, comply and enforce the parameters of this General Sports Regulation.

Individual Instruction Regulation - Q and A's

*The OHSAA's Board of Directors approved the revisions to the OHSAA's General Sports Regulation #8.6 that will permit school coaches to provide **INDIVIDUAL** instruction outside the season of play to players that were part of their school teams the previous season.*

1. Now that a school coach is permitted to provide INDIVIDUAL instruction outside the season of play, what is the intent of this regulation?
Answer: First, the regulation intends to permit EDUCATION-based (school) coaches to be on the same level as non-school based coaches. School coaches are trained as education-based coaches and the feeling is to provide the same opportunity for these coaches that non-school coaches currently have.
2. Does this mean I can coach my TEAM during AAU and other times outside the season now?
Answer: No...no more than you were permitted in the past. The OHSAA permits a school's entire coaching staff a total of 10 days of instruction/team coaching between June 1 and July 31. This regulation has not changed. There was no intent to increase or decrease the number of days before or during June 1 – July 31. The regulation was changed to provide coaches the opportunity to provide INDIVIDUAL instruction to players.
3. So, how do you define INDIVIDUAL instruction?
Answer: The coach may provide individual instruction (utilizing the definition of 'coaching') for no more than FOUR players in all combined facilities where the instruction is taking place.
4. What if I have 1 player present, is that ok?
Answer: Yes, because the limit is 4.
5. What if I have 4 players present, is that ok?
Answer: Yes, because the LIMIT is 4.
6. What if I have 4 players present and 4 of my coaches present, is that ok?
Answer: Yes, because the limit is 4 INDIVIDUALS receiving instruction present.
7. What if I am working with 4 players and a volunteer assistant coach is working with 4 others on the other end of the field, is that ok?
Answer: No, because the limit is 4 in all combined facilities where the instruction is taking place.
8. What if we simply 'drop a curtain' in the gym so 4 players are being instructed on one end of a gym while 4 others are being instructed on the other. Is this ok?
Answer: No, because the limit is 4 in all combined facilities where the instruction is taking place.
9. If there are other individuals on the field but the coach(es) are only working with 4 individuals at a time, is this ok?
Answer: No, because the limit is 4 in all combined facilities where the instruction is taking place.
10. Can I have 2 current 11th graders and 2 current 8th graders present to make the total number 4 receiving instruction?
Answer: Yes, because the limit is 4 and the restriction on 9-12 players with 7-8 players is not in effect outside the season of play.
11. But, based upon the above, I thought 7-8th graders could not participate/play with 9-12th graders.
Answer/Comment: That regulation is true during the season of play and not in effect outside the season. Local school policy may determine whether you are permitted to do this or not. Ask your school Athletic Director?
12. But, wouldn't this new regulation permit me to coach my son or daughter's team in the off-season such as in Club Soccer, JO Volleyball or AAU Basketball...since my son/daughter would only be ONE person?
Answer: No. First, because it would be in TEAM play and not individual skill instruction. Secondly because "4 MEANS 4" – though your son or daughter may be ONE person, there are going to be MORE than 4 present in the competition in all team sports.
13. May a player receive individual skill instruction during the school's sport season from a non-interscholastic ("Club"/"Travel"/"AAU", etc.) coach?
Answer: While it is not the position of the OHSAA to encourage outside instruction during the school season, individual skill instruction MAY be received by a squad member at any time in individual lessons *provided* that these individual skill instructions do not violate any Board of Education, school administrators' or coaches' policies.

Uniform Rules for Soccer



Comments:

Basically, the “all white” uniform regulation is a NFHS rule that was passed in 2010 and indicates that a HOME jersey for varsity teams and became effective last season. The reason for the long time for implementation was knowing that teams/schools order uniforms on a rotating basis with other school teams and most teams have their uniforms replaced every 3-6 years. NO teams have or will be required to purchase new uniforms IF they are not on their rotating basis.

4.1.1(b) The home team shall wear **solid white jerseys** and **solid white socks**, and the visiting team shall wear dark jerseys and socks. Prior to and during the game, jerseys shall be tucked into the shorts, unless manufactured to be worn outside.

4.1.1(i)(1) All jerseys, except those worn by goalkeepers, shall be numbered on the back with a different Arabic number at least 6 inches in height and on the front (jersey or shorts) with the same number which shall be at least 4 inches in height. Numbers shall be of contrasting color to the jersey (or shorts) **and clearly visible**.

4.1.1(i)(1) (Continued) Beginning with the 2012 fall season, all jerseys shall be numbered on the back with a different Arabic number at least 6 inches in height and on the front (jersey or shorts) with the same number which shall be at least 4 inches in height. Numbers shall be of contrasting color to the jersey (or shorts) **and clearly visible**.

4.1.1(i)(2) Only those names, patches, emblems, logos or insignias referencing the school are permitted on the team uniform, except as in 4.1.1(d), -(f) and -(g). The player’s name may also appear on the team uniform.

NONE of these jerseys to the right are legal:



WHAT TO DO WHEN UNIFORMS DO NOT COMPLY

OBVIOUSLY, the intent of any rule is to COMPLY with the rule.

In the event a team’s uniforms do not comply, the officials in Ohio are instructed to:

1. **PLAY THE GAME. PLAY THE GAME.** Games should never be ‘cancelled’ because the officials deem the uniforms unacceptable or non-compliant. **PLAY THE GAME.**
2. Submit a report to the OHSAA via their normal reporting system. The OHSAA will follow-up with the report and inquire as to the school’s uniform rotation, etc.



OSSCA

Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association

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The Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches' Association

The purpose of the **O**hio **S**cholastic **S**occer **C**oaches **A**ssociation is to unify all soccer coaches in the state of Ohio, to promote high school soccer, to create an official line of communication with the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA), to foster higher standards of professionalism and ethics, and to maintain a strong contact with national, state, and local coaches organizations of soccer. The OSSCA Executive Board, consisting of the District Presidents and Officers of the OSSCA, meets at least 6 times yearly. The OSSCA is represented at each OHSAA Board of Directors' meeting.

What the OSSCA does for You

1. Works to improve Soccer Regulations in Ohio
2. Develops and fosters relationship with the OHSAA
3. Works to improve soccer tournament sites
4. Maintains the OSSCA website at www.ossca.org
5. Conducts the State Coaches' Poll
6. Selects All-State Teams in each Division
7. Provides Scholarships to graduating sons/daughters of member coaches
8. Selects All-Academic awards
9. Honors coaches with Service and Victory Awards
10. Honors Assistant Coaches through the "Assistant Coach of the Year" honor
11. Works closely with Ohio State's Men's Soccer Coach to offer the annual OSSCA Soccer Clinic

Joining the OSSCA

Memberships are available through the OHSBCA website at:

<http://www.ossca.org/home.asp>

The OSSCA Poll

Member coaches of the OSSCA representing each district conduct the state poll. There are 10 districts and each district has a representative per division. There will be 7 polls total, with the last poll being the last weekend of the regular season.

Process

1. Each district representative is to send the top three teams from their district to the divisional chair.
 - a. The process of how each district determines their top three is set by the district.
2. The information is to be sent on Friday evening during the season. The reason for Friday evening is it allows voting to be completed on Saturday or at latest Sunday morning. This allows the regional/national voters to time meet regional deadlines for the NSCAA poll.
 - a. The information is to include the teams, their record, and results from the week.
 - b. Saturday games do not count in that week's poll and they will be taken into consideration the following week.
3. If a coach from a district fails to send in nominations then that district will not be included in that weekly poll.
4. Once all information has been received, then each representative will send who they think are the top 10 teams in the state to the divisional chair. The votes are totaled and the poll is completed. The coaches who assist with the poll are volunteers and the OSSCA asks that they not be contacted about how they voted or why certain teams are not in the poll. Polls are always subjects of debate, but this is the process that has been approved and will be used

Nike & Game Ball Information

Nike is the official game ball for the OHSAA and is used at all REGIONAL and STATE games. Other National Federation (NFHS) approved balls are able to be used for regular season play and for tournament play at the Sectional & District levels. The approved Nike ball is the “Premier Team” and the Model Number is: **SC2367-177 Size 5 (see below)**. Please note that ‘pink’ (or other commemorative colored) balls are **not permitted** to be used when playing games for ‘special occasions’ such as “Kick for the Cure”.



Uniforms & “Special Event” Games

The OHSAA is certainly supportive of the many ‘special events’ coaches and teams assist with for local charities. “Kick for the Cure” has been one of several different ‘special events’ that teams across Ohio have become involved in. A few important notes for those participating in those events:

Special Uniforms

Requests often are received by schools to permit alternate uniforms for participating in games that have a charitable tie. The OHSAA’s policy as recommended by the NFHS is to permit such requests one time with number requirements still intact. Though the use of a pink jersey may be permitted for a home game, the “number requirements” outlined in Article 1 of Rule 4 must comply with NFHS regulations. Any requests should be made utilizing the Request Form located in the back of this manual OR online at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/SOspecialeventuniformrequest.pdf>. Once Waiver Requests are approved, they will be returned to the school and a copy should be made available for contest officials. Coaches/School Administration should notify the opposing school as well as the contest officials in advance.

Noisemakers, Vuvuzelas....Pep Bands?

Those in attendance at last season’s State Tournament witnessed the increased fan support for high school soccer in Ohio. Pep Bands **ARE PERMITTED** at soccer games. Horns that pep band members have are NOT considered as compressed air horns. The World Cup has made the ‘Vuvuzela’ popular and while many may consider them *annoying*, they ARE permitted at soccer games. There are several leagues/conferences that HAVE made regulations prohibiting various noisemakers and they ARE permitted to create and enforce that rule for league/conference contests. Compressed air horns and horns connected to outside power sources are **NOT permitted** at contests.

Suspended Games

Every fall, Ohio weather brings attention to the **Official NFHS Rule** regarding Duration and Length of Games (Rule 7, pages 34-35 of the NFHS Rules Book).

Article 3 of Rule 7 states:

...In the event a game must be suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue play, the head referee shall declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been played. If less than one-half of the game has been played, the game may be rescheduled from the start or restarted from the suspension of play according to state association adoption.

Important Notes Regarding Rule 7.3:

- Weather and lack of sufficient lighting are conditions that *normally* make it impossible to continue play.

- ANY time a complete half is played and conditions make it impossible to continue play, **the game is considered complete and the score is FINAL. FINAL.**
- Games that are unable to be completed and a complete half is played **cannot be completed at a later date.**
- Games that are unable to be completed and a complete half has **NOT** been played, the game shall resume from the exact point of suspension. Coaches/game personnel should make note of time on clock, position of ball, etc. The game is **NOT replayed from the opening kickoff.**

This rule through the NFHS does not provide for '*State Adoptions*', therefore, League or Conference Rules may NOT override this NFHS Rule



Coaches' Code of Ethics

From the NFHS Soccer Rules Book

The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. An interscholastic program should be designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each student should be treated with the utmost respect and his or her welfare should be considered in decisions by the coach at all times. Accordingly, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the NFHS Board of Directors.

The Coach shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.

The Coach shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. IN all personal contact with students, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

The Coach shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse.

The Coach shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct the program in harmony with the total school program.

The Coach shall master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team members. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.

The Coach shall exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.

The Coach shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

The Coach should meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the event before and after the contest.

The Coach shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give students special consideration.

The Coach shall not scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the league and/or state high school athletic association.

Non-Interscholastic Competition

A member of an interscholastic soccer squad (grades 7-12) sponsored by the Board of Education **cannot participate in a non-interscholastic Soccer program** (such as 'club' or 'travel'), which includes tryouts, practice and contests as an individual OR a member of a team in the sport of Soccer anytime during the school team's season. This is explained in OHSAA Bylaw 10-3-1. A student-athlete becomes a member of the school team when he/she participates in a scrimmage, preview OR regular season or tournament game as a substitute OR as a starter.

Recently, there are a growing number of colleges/universities inviting students to 'tryouts' or 'workouts' DURING the high school soccer season. These are considered NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC in nature and are NOT PERMITTED. You are encouraged to review this with your team members!

A member of an interscholastic soccer team sponsored by the Board of Education **MAY** participate in non-interscholastic soccer (such as 'club' or 'travel') PRIOR TO and AFTER the school season under the following conditions:

- The number of interscholastic soccer players from the same school on a non-interscholastic team is limited to **FIVE on the roster** of that non-interscholastic team. This number includes all players that played on the school team in the previous season from grades 9-11*.
- A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament only in excess of the five player limit until the squad is eliminated but no later than Labor Day.
- A player may play in non-interscholastic soccer ONLY WHEN the student's team has completed its season.

*Graduating seniors are exempt from this particular 5 player limitation.

Indoor Soccer

Over the course of the past several years, there has been an increase in the number of Indoor facilities being built across the state. Years ago, generally the only place Indoor Soccer could take place was in Ice Arenas. At that time, the OHSAA adopted the understanding and subsequent policy that "Indoor Soccer" was permitted in excess of the 50% limitation of players (5 from a school). However, as newer and LARGER facilities were being built, an interpretation appeared to have developed that basically led coaches to believe that "if it was played INDOORS, it was legal". That was never the interpretation that existed and every effort will be undertaken through this mailing and Rules Interpretation meetings to correct this misunderstanding.

Prior to this year, the regulation read:

*Participation in indoor soccer is not a violation of OHSAA non-interscholastic team Sports' Regulation 4.5 for student-athletes provided the rules of The United States Soccer Federation(USSF) **Indoor Soccer Rules** are followed that specifically include the team limitations outlined in these rules and the facilities uses 'boards' as outlined within these same rules.*

Key Points:

1. Team limitations defined in USSF Indoor Soccer Regulations must be followed
2. "Boards" must be used as are required in the official USSF Rules of Indoor Soccer.

EFFECTIVE THE 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR, this regulation now reads:

Indoor Soccer shall be defined as a game played by two teams each consisting of not more than 6 players, one of whom must be the goalkeeper, and played indoors between the end of the school's soccer season and the day before the first day of coaching for the interscholastic season is permitted. The number of interscholastic soccer players from the same school on a non-interscholastic squad of an indoor soccer roster is not limited provided none of the interscholastic coaching staff, paid or unpaid, is coaching the indoor team.

No longer required to play by USSF Indoor Rules – simply limit on the number defined that play on an Indoor Soccer team.

"Futsal"

Many facilities are now offering "Futsal" leagues. The OHSAA currently interprets Futsal being different than the sport of soccer, due to the type and size of the ball used, the field dimensions, etc. Playing in "Futsal" is not in violation of the OHSAA Non-Interscholastic Team Sports Regulation provided they are playing under the **official rules of Futsal**. You can read about these rules at: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Futsal>

Important Sports' Medical Information

The safety of our student-athletes is of utmost concern at all times. Information regarding the following important topics can be found at the OHSAA's "Healthy Lifestyles and Sports Medicine" webpage at <http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/default.asp>. Additional information relative to various equipment and rules relative to medical issues can be found throughout this manual as well.

- Heat Stress and Athletic Participation
- Recommendations for Hydration to Prevent Heat Illness
- Suggested Guidelines for Management of Head Trauma in Sports
- Communicable Disease Procedures (can also be found on at the end of the NFHS 2013-14 Rules Book)
- Links to the following sites:
 - Joint Advisory Committee on Sports Medicine
 - Ohio Athletic Trainers Association
 - American Medical Society for Sports Medicine
 - Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth
 - National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA)
 - Gatorade Sports Science Institute News

Concussion Management

Implementation of State Law and NFHS Playing Rules Related to Concussion and Concussed Athletes and Return to Play Protocol

It is important for all individuals involved in interscholastic athletics to recognize the potential for catastrophic injury and even death from concussions. Thus it is extremely important that each coach, administrator, contest official and medical support personnel review their responsibilities in protecting students. Further both students and parents have responsibilities in this area as well.

Note: It has always been the ultimate responsibility of the coaching staff, in all sports, to ensure that students are only put into practice or contests if they are physically capable of performing. However, all individuals involved in the conduct of interscholastic competition have responsibilities in this endeavor.

In January 2011, the OHSAA Board of Directors adopted a sports regulation which incorporated the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) playing rules related to concussion recognition and management. On April 26, 2013, legislation adopted by Ohio's General Assembly on concussion and head injuries in youth sports became effective. On February 14, 2013, the OHSAA Board of Directors mandated that these regulations become effective on April 26, 2013, for the remainder of the spring sports season and thereafter. This OHSAA regulation, as amended to incorporate this recent legislation, now reads:

Any student, while practicing for or competing in an interscholastic contest, who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the practice or contest by either of the following:

- 1) **The individual who is serving as the student's coach during that practice or competition.**
- 2) **An individual who is serving as a contest official or referee during that practice or competition.**

RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL

If a student is removed from practice or competition due to a suspected concussion or head injury, the coach or referee who removes the student shall not permit the student, **ON THE SAME DAY THE STUDENT IS REMOVED**, to return to that practice or competition or to participate in any other practice or competition for which the coach or contest official is responsible. Thereafter, which means no earlier than the next day, the coach or contest officials shall not permit the student to return to practice or competition until both of the following conditions are satisfied:

- 1) The student's condition is assessed by either of the following:
 - a. A physician, who is a person authorized under Chapter 4731 of the Ohio Revised Code (OCR) to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine or surgery (M.D. or D.O.)

- b. Any other licensed health care provider that the school district board of education or other governing authority of a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school, authorizes to assess the student who has been removed from practice or competition.

2) The student receives **written authorization** that it is safe for the student to return to practice or competition from a physician or other licensed health care provider authorized to grant the clearance. Click here <http://ohsaa.org/medicine/AuthorizationToReenter.pdf> to retrieve the OHSAA's Medical Authorization to Return To Play (RTP) form.

A school district board of education or governing authority of a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school may authorize a licensed health care provider who is NOT a PHYSICIAN to make an assessment and grant authorization for a student to return to participation ONLY if the provider is acting in accordance with one of the following as applicable to the provider's authority to practice in Ohio:

- 1) In consultation with a physician;
- 2) Pursuant to the referral of a physician;
- 3) In collaboration with a physician, or
- 4) Under the supervision of a physician.

Note: A physician or other licensed health care provider who makes an assessment or grants clearance for a student to return to participation may be a volunteer.

COACHES REQUIREMENTS

All coaches, paid and volunteer, must possess a current Department of Education-issued Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit. When renewing this permit, the coach will be required to complete an online concussion education course as stipulated in the section entitled **Approved Online Concussion Education Course**. This course is valid for three years and expires at the time the Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit expires.

CONTEST OFFICIALS REQUIREMENTS

New legislation signed into law by the Governor provides that no school "shall permit" an individual to referee interscholastic athletic contests unless the individual holds a Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or has successfully completed within the last three years a training program in concussion recognition. Therefore, all OHSAA licensed officials shall possess either a current Department of Education-issued Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or **show evidence of completing an approved online concussion education course** as stipulated in the section entitled **Approved Online Concussion Education Courses**. This course is valid for three years from the date of completion.

STUDENT AND PARENT REQUIREMENTS

All students and their parents or legal guardians shall review and sign the "Concussion Information Sheet" which has been developed by the Ohio Department of Health and which shall be distributed by OHSAA member schools to all students and their parents prior to each sports season. Students and parents shall review and sign this form each year and should keep a copy of the form. In addition, parents and students are encouraged to complete an approved concussion education course. The Concussion Information Sheet can be found here:

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Interscholastic%20Concussion%20Form%20-%20ODH%20Revised%202.ashx>

NFHS SUGGESTED MEDICAL CLEARANCE RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL

1. No exertional activity until asymptomatic.
2. When the athlete appears clear, begin low-impact activity such as walking, stationary bike, etc.
3. Initiate aerobic activity fundamental to specific sport such as running or skating, and may also begin progressive strength training activities.
4. Begin non-contact skill drills specific to sport such as dribbling, fielding, batting, etc.
5. Full contact in practice setting.
6. Game play/competition.
 - Athlete must remain asymptomatic to progress to the next level. (It is often suggested that an athlete not be allowed to progress more than one level per day.)
 - If symptoms recur, athlete must return to previous level and should be reevaluated by an appropriate health care professional.
 - Medical check should occur before contact. (Final written clearance from the medical professional shall be obtained before the athlete engages in any unrestricted or full contact activity.)

QUICK LINKS FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Ohio Department of Health Concussion Information Sheet

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Interscholastic%20Concussion%20Form%20-%20ODH%20Revised%202.ashx>

Online Concussion Management Training

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/concussion.aspx#Training>

Ohio's Return to Play Law: Frequently Asked Questions

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Frequently%20Asked%20Questions%20Updated%202513.ashx>

Ohio's Return to Play Law: What Coaches and Referees Need to Know

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Return%20to%20Play%20-%20What%20Coaches%20Need%20to%20Know%20-%20School%20Sports%20-%20Final.ashx>

Ohio's Return to Play Law: What Parent/Guardians Need to Know

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Return%20to%20Play%20-%20What%20Parents-Guardians%20Need%20to%20Know%20-%20School%20Sports%20-%20Final.ashx>

ADDITIONAL CONCUSSION RESOURCES

Ohio Department of Health, Violence and Injury Prevention Program - Sports/Recreation Traumatic Brain Injuries

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/vipp/child/tbi.aspx>

CDC Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports

Nationwide Children's Hospital – Concussion Information Toolkit <http://www.nationwidechildrens.org/concussion-toolkit>

CDC Materials on Returning to School for Parents, School Nurses and Educators

<http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/schools.html>

Ohio Legislative Service Commissioner HB 143 Bill Analysis

<http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/analyses129/12-hb143-129.pdf>

Brain Injury Association of Ohio

www.biaoh.org

Return to Play Form for Schools

Ohio High School Athletic Association
4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214
PH:614-267-2502; FAX:614-267-1677
www.ohsaa.org

MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION TO RETURN TO PLAY WHEN A STUDENT HAS BEEN REMOVED DUE TO A SUSPECTED CONCUSSION

Ohio State Law as well as NFHS rules and OHSAA policy require a student who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors associated with concussion to be removed from a practice or contest and **not permitted to reenter practice or competition on the same day as the removal.** Thereafter, **written medical authorization from a physician (M.D. or D.O.)** or another qualified licensed medical provider, who works in consultation with, collaboration with or under the supervision of an M.D. or D.O. or who is working pursuant to the referral by an M.D. or D.O., AND is authorized by the Board of Education or other governing board, **is required to grant clearance for the student to return to participation.** This form shall serve as the authorization that the physician or licensed medical professional has examined the student, and has cleared the student to return to participation. The physician or licensed medical professional must complete this form and submit to a school administrator prior to the student's resumption of participation in practice and/or a contest. **To reiterate, this student is not permitted to reenter practice or competition on the same day as the removal.**

I, _____, M.D., D.O. or _____ (other qualified licensed medical provider) have examined the following
(Print name of MD, DO or Other)
student, _____ from _____ High School/7-8th grade school
(Name of Student),
who was removed from a _____ (sport) contest at the _____ level (V, JV, 9th, 7-8th) due to exhibition of signs/symptoms/behaviors consistent with a
concussion. I have examined this student, and determined that the student is cleared to resume participation upon the completion of the directions provided below.

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR DIRECTIONS BELOW

- Return to play protocol for concussion as outlined in Zurich Consensus Statement 2012 or as attached.
 Return to play protocol for concussion required under direction of Licensed Athletic Trainer or other qualified Licensed medical provider as approved in above directive
 Return to play protocol for concussion not required, and the student may return to participation in practice and competition on this date _____
 Other: (explain): _____

VALID ONLY WITH ALL INFORMATION COMPLETED

Signature of Medical Professional _____
(MD, DO or other qualified Licensed Medical Provider as Approved in the Above Directive)

Date: _____

Contact Information: _____

(Print or Stamp) Address: _____

Phone: _____

Return to play is also subject to clarification of this document, as deemed necessary, by Licensed Athletic Trainer, other qualified Licensed medical providers authorized by Board of Education or other governing body, or school district administration. Return to play decisions are also subject to recognized principles of conditioning, skill development, mental preparedness, etc.

Parent(s)/Guardian and student are reminded that the initial signature document of awareness of signs and symptoms of concussion and need/requirement to report are still in effect. Parent(s)/Guardian and student have a responsibility to report any further signs or symptoms of a concussion or head injury to coaches, administrators and the student-athlete's doctor. Information regarding signs and symptoms are available from school district personnel or OHSAA website.

PRESENT THIS FORM TO THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

Note: The school must retain this form indefinitely as a part of the student's permanent record. Medical Providers should retain a copy for their own records.

Communicable Disease Procedures

Though most schools have a Certified Athletic Trainer present at Varsity contests **and** all coaches are required to maintain a valid Pupil Activity Certificate through the Ohio Department of Education that includes a Sports' First Aid component, it is important to keep up to date on the remote risk that blood borne infectious diseases can be transmitted during basketball practice and contests. For example, Hepatitis B can be present in blood as well as other bodily fluids. Procedures for reducing the potential transmission of these infectious diseases should include, but should not be limited to the following:

1. The bleeding must be stopped, the open wound covered and if there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed before the athlete may participate.
2. Routine use of gloves or other precautions to prevent skin and mucous-membrane exposure when contact with blood and other body fluids is anticipated.
3. Immediately wash hands and other skin surfaces if contaminated (in contact) with blood or other body fluids. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves.
4. Clean all contaminated surfaces and equipment with an appropriate disinfectant before competition resumes.
5. Practice proper disposal procedures to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels and other sharp instruments or devices.
6. Although saliva has not been implicated in HIV transmission, to minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, or other ventilation devices should be available for use.
7. Athletic trainers/coaches with bleeding or oozing skin conditions should refrain from all direct athletic care until the condition resolves.
8. Contaminated towels should be properly disposed of/disinfected.
9. Follow acceptable guidelines in the immediate control of bleeding and when handling dressings, mouthguards and other articles containing body fluids.

You are encouraged to log on to the OHSAA's website at www.ohsaa.org and refer to the Sports' Medicine dropdown menu for additional information.

H1N1 Influenza Policy

The OHSAA's Board of Directors approved the following policy with advice from the Ohio Department of Health and shall observe this policy at tournament time in the event of an H1N1 Influenza outbreak.

1. The Ohio Department of Health has advised that it will be the decision of each local health authority in Ohio as to whether or not to close a school or university due to an influenza outbreak; however, at this time the Centers for Disease Control are not recommending closures except in extreme circumstances.
2. In the event schools remain open, competitors and teams shall be expected to play tournament contests on the dates scheduled.
3. In the event schools are closed, the OHSAA, in conjunction with our District Athletic Boards and tournament personnel, shall reschedule the tournament contest for the schools thus affected.
4. Please watch the OHSAA web site home page at www.ohsaa.org and the specific sport page on the web site for more information.

Lightning and Inclement Weather

(OHSAA Sports Regulation)

Please review these carefully. Though all officials received these procedures in pre-season communication, it would be wise to review with them prior to the game. The Lightning and Inclement Weather Policy is relative to ALL OHSAA Sports and is contained within **Lightning and Inclement Weather Policy**.

WEATHER

Recognition:

Coaches, athletic trainers, athletes, administrators and contest officials should be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm development. Since the average distance between successive lightening flashes is approximately two to three miles ANYTIME that lightning can be seen or heard, the risk is already present. Weather can be monitored using the following methods:

- **Monitor Weather Patterns** – Be aware of potential thunderstorms by monitoring local weather forecasts the day before and morning of the competition, and by scanning the sky for signs of potential thunderstorm activity.
- **National Weather Service** – Weather can also be monitored using small, portable weather radios from the NWS. The NWS uses a system of severe storm watches and warnings watch indicates conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a warning indicates severe weather has been reported in an area, and everyone should take proper precautions. Any thunderstorm poses a risk of injury or death even if it does not meet the criteria for severe weather. Therefore, anytime thunderstorms are in the forecast (even if it is only a 20 percent chance), event organizers should be at a heightened level of awareness to the potential danger of lightning.

Management:

- **Evacuation-** If lightening is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators shall evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues.
- **Thirty-minute rule-** Competition or practice shall be suspended once lightning has been recognized or thunder is heard. It is required to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard prior to resuming practice or competition. Given the average rates of thunderstorm travel, the storm should move 10-12 miles away from the area. This significantly reduces the risk of local lightning flashes.

Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count shall reset the clock, and another count shall begin.

Heat Stress & Athletic Participation

This procedure is to be used until such time as the temperature is below 84 degrees as no combination of heat and humidity at that level will result in a need to curtail activity.

Under 95 degrees Heat Index—

- Optional water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration to allow hydration as a group.
- Have towels with ice for cooling of athletes as needed.
- Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.
- Re-check temperature and humidity every 30 minutes if temperature rises in order to monitor for increased Heat Index.

95 degrees to 99 degrees Heat Index—

- Water should always be available and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.
- Mandatory water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration to allow for hydration as a group.
- Have towels with ice for cooling of athletes as needed.
- Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.
- Helmets and other equipment should be removed when athlete not directly involved with competition, drill or practice and it is not otherwise required by rule.

Notes: Reduce time of outside activity. Consider postponing practice to later in the day. Recheck temperature and humidity every 30 minutes to monitor for increased Heat Index.

100 degrees (above 99 degrees) to 104 degrees Heat Index—

- Water should always be available and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.
- Mandatory water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration to allow for hydration as a group.
- Have towels with ice for cooling of athletes as needed.
- Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.
- Alter uniform by removing items if possible and permissible by rules.
- Allow athletes to change to dry shirts and shorts at defined intervals.
- Reduce time of outside activity as well as indoor activity if air conditioning is unavailable.
- Postpone practice to later in day.
- If helmets or other protective requirement are required to be worn by rule or normal practice, suspend practice or competition immediately.

Note: Re-check temperature and humidity every 30 minutes to monitor for changes in Heat Index.

Above 104 degrees Heat Index—

- Stop all outside activity in practice and/or play, and stop all inside activity if air conditioning is unavailable.

Coaches & Officials “Us and Us”

By Don Muenz, OHSAA Director of Development for Officiating

When I played in college, I wondered where they got “those guys.” When I coached, I wondered where they got “those guys.” When I finished playing and coaching, I wondered why I became one of “those guys.”

Having played, coached and refereed, I came to the realization that it is not “us vs. them,” but “us and us.”

Though coaches and officials may never quite achieve a “warm and fuzzy” relationship, we are surely allies, cooperators, if you will, in the achievement of the goals of our high school sport: teaching and modeling integrity, fairness, respect for others, teamwork and respect for authority.

Let’s look at “those guys and gals.” Many of our officials started as youth soccer parents, acquiring a love of the game as they watched their children grow up. Some began to play in adult leagues and continued for as long as their bodies could stand the punishment. Some started as youth coaches (often because they were the coach of last resort), saw what they believed to be substandard officiating and determined that they could do better. Others reached the point in their competitive athletics lives, where they could no longer get it done as players on the field, but still wanted to compete, though in a different way. Still others took a separate avenue, not having played or coached our sport, but still wanting to officiate.

However they come to us, they are required to attend a 25-hour entry-level class, covering each of the 18 NFHS rules, OHSAA’s regulations and the three systems of mechanics: Dual, Diagonal and Double-Dual. Each new referee receives four hours of on-field instruction and evaluation, must pass a one-hour rules test, a one-hour mechanics test (each with a minimum 75% score) and pass a short exam on OHSAA regulations.

After the initial year of licensure, each referee must attend the state rules interpretation meeting as well as five hours of local association-based training. In order to become eligible for postseason tournament assignments, officials must have officiated a minimum of eight boys’ and eight girls’ varsity matches in each of the past two seasons, have received two favorable observations on varsity matches and have scored 80% on the rules test and the mechanics test. Even after satisfying each of the requirements, your coach’s ratings can deny postseason assignments.

Many of our referees (about 70%) are also licensed by the U.S. Soccer Federation (USSF), which requires an additional nine hours of entry-level classroom work, four hours of online courses, two hours of on-field experience and a minimum score of 75% on the examination. Each year, the referee must attend five hours of in-service training. The majority of officials has received entry-level training of 40 hours, including 6 hours on-field, has passed four written exams and participates in eleven hours of in-service training each year, to maintain certified status.

Many referees work matches from March through the end of October. In the past few years, traveling teams have played outdoors through mid-December. It is not unusual for a referee to work in excess of 300 matches each season, club, high school and college.

By working together, us and us, modeling reasonable and adult behavior when encountering a problem before, during or after a match, we can teach the life lessons necessary to those who will be future leaders of society. Together, us and us, we build respect for self (without which there can be no respect for anyone or anything else), for others and for lawful authority.

Each of us, coach and referee, shares a desire to give back to this wonderful sport and to better the lives of the players by modeling the life-long values so necessary to a civil society. Each is necessary to the educational process and neither should consider the other “them.”

Equipment/Safety Information

Headgear

There are many questions regarding whether or not certain headgear (e.g., Full90) is permissible for field players. NFHS 4-2-1 (g) indicates that types of equipment which are illegal include helmets, hats, caps, or visors. So as a general rule, protective headgear is illegal for field players. However, if in the opinion of the official, a headband is made of soft material that is soft in its final form and does not contain any hard and unyielding materials it may be deemed legal.

Please note, the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee has concluded that, "While padded headbands may assist in reducing the incidence of abrasions, the risk of concussions and other serious head injuries will remain a concern in the sport of soccer. A head band is not a substitute for an appropriate post-injury recuperative period."

Protective Facemasks

RULE 4.2.8: "A protective face mask may be worn by a player with a facial injury. The mask may be made of a hard material, but must be worn molded to the face with no protrusions. A medical release for the injured player signed by an appropriate health care professional (AHCP) shall be available at the game site."

NFHS Soccer Rules Committee Rationale: "Permits participation by an injured player when a doctor signs a release. Masks protect the player and do not pose a threat to other players."

NFHS Comments on the Rules (from 2006-07): "Prior to this rule [i.e., NFHS 4.2.8], face protection of any kind was declared illegal. Manufacturers have now developed protection for the face that is safe to the player wearing it and to other players. The committee is concerned that players would play without protection, putting them at serious risk. This new rule allows players to play as long as they have a medical release from an appropriate health care professional (AHCP) have the authority to declare any equipment illegal if it is dangerous or confusing."

NFHS Press Release, from February 2, 2006: "Rule 4-2-8 was added so that players who have incurred facial injuries can continue to play without fear of re-injury. This rule was made possible as a result of new technology in protective face masks. 'The new masks are molded to the face with no protrusions, providing no additional risks to the player or opponents, and are legal with appropriate medical sign-offs,' said Bob Lombardi, chair of the NFHS Soccer Rules Committee and associate executive director of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association. According to Lombardi, this new rule will also prevent players with facial injuries from continuing to play with no protection."

Shinguards

All players are required to wear shinguards with the NOCSAE seal **and height range permanently marked on the front of each** shinguard.

- **Shinguards** need NOT have the NFHS seal on them.

2016 Rules Changes

4.2.9 (new) A soft-padded headband is permitted.

11.1.4 A player is offside and penalized if, at the time the ball touches or is played by a teammate, the player is involved in active play and interferes with play or with an opponent or seeks to gain an advantage by being in that position. A player in an offside position receiving the ball from an opponent, who deliberately plays the ball (except for a deliberate save), is not considered to have gained an advantage.

14.1.4 Once the kicker starts his/her approach toward the ball, he/she may not interrupt his/her movement. Failure to kick the ball as specified shall be considered a violation by the attacking team, and the appropriate penalties shall apply.

18.1.1 (new o) **GAINING AN ADVANTAGE BY BEING IN THAT POSITION**—A player who plays a ball that rebounds to him/her off a goal post or the crossbar after having been in an offside position, or a player who after being in an offside position plays a ball that rebounds to him/her off an opponent, who has not deliberately played the ball or made a deliberate save.

18.1.1 (new u) **INTERFERING WITH AN OPPONENT**—Preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponent's line of vision or movement or challenging an opponent for the ball.

18.1.1 (new v) **INTERFERING WITH PLAY**—Playing or touching the ball passed or touched by a teammate.

2016 Points of Emphasis

1. Rough Play—Rough play, including contact above the shoulder often results in player injury. Officials and players must eliminate rough play from the game. Officials should deal with rough play by giving appropriate penalties immediately when rough play occurs.

2. Team Member Equipment Check—Because of the number of recent rules changes involving uniforms and equipment, officials are encouraged to informally check the equipment of team members before the game to prevent possible player equipment violations during the game.

3. Referee Checking for Injury After a Goal—After the clock is stopped for a goal and the referee examines a player including a goalkeeper for a possible injury, that player will not have to leave the game unless the coach and/or medical personnel are beckoned onto the field to check the player. If the referee beckons the coach and/or medical personnel, the player including a goalkeeper is required to leave the field.

4. Ball Holders—Because the clock is running when the ball goes out of bounds, it is essential that ball holders be available to get the ball back in play quickly. At least two ball holders are to be provided by the home team each game. The ball holders are under the direct supervision of the officials.

2016 Comments on the Rules

4.2.9 (new): This change permits the use of soft-padded headbands, referencing relevant ASTM standards. This clarifies that soft-padded headbands are permitted for all players.

11.1.4: This change clarifies that a player in an offside position that receives the ball from an opponent who deliberately plays the ball is not guilty of an offside infraction. However, if the player receives the ball from a deliberate save, he/she gains an advantage and is considered offside.

14.1.4: This rule change affects a player taking a penalty kick who interrupts his/her movement to the ball. The referee will now consider it as any other violation by a member of the attacking team and will use the Penalty Kick Situations Chart for guidance on how to handle the infraction.

Rule 18.1.1 (new) Offside Definitions: Three definitions have been added to clarify offside interpretation:

- Gaining an Advantage
- Interfering with Play
- Interfering with an Opponent

These do not change existing rules but simply utilize definitions consistent with other rules-making bodies.



OHSAA State Association Adoptions



The National Federation identifies certain rules that may or may not be adopted by each state's Athletic Association. These are known as "state adoptions". These state adoptions are identified below and the OHIO High School Athletic Association's adoption is indicated for each.

1. **Players may wear caps in inclement weather** (NFHS 4-2-1h Exception 3) – **Adopted in Ohio**
Players may wear soft and yielding caps in inclement weather. Caps must be the same color.
2. **Artificial limbs** (NFHS 4-2-5) – **Adopted in Ohio**
The coach or athletic administrator must request permission in writing from the OHSAA in order to secure permission for the prosthesis to be worn during play. Photos of the prosthesis in place on the individual must accompany the written request. Once it has been determined that the prosthesis meets the guidelines in NFHS 4-2-5, written permission will be provided. No student may play with an artificial limb until such permission has been granted.
3. **Systems of Officiating** (NFHS 5-1-1) – **Adopted in Ohio**
The officials shall be a head referee and a referee, a single referee and two assistant referees, or a center referee and two side referees assisted by a timer, scorer and at least two ball holders. Competing schools may select one of the above systems by mutual agreement.
4. **Officials' Shirt Color** (NFHS 5-1-3) – **Adopted in Ohio**
The officiating uniform for soccer officials is provided in the OHSAA Handbook for Officials, on our website (www.ohsaa.org) and within this manual. The uniform indicated shall be worn in all OHSAA games, regular season and the entire post-season tournament.
5. **Time kept on field** (NFHS 6-2-1) – **Adopted in Ohio** (in part)
The home school timer shall be the official timer. However, the head referee is permitted, at his/her discretion, to take the clock onto the field when the timer has failed in his/her duty so many times as to imperil match control.
6. **Score kept by referee** (NFHS 6-3-1) – **NOT Adopted in Ohio**
7. **Fourth Official as scorer** (NFHS 6-3-3) – **NOT Adopted in Ohio**
Refer to OHSAA tournament regulations for additional information regarding use of fourth officials during tournament play.

8. **Four equal quarters rather than halves** (NFHS 7-1-1) – **NOT adopted in Ohio**
9. **Shortened periods** (NFHS 7-1-2) – **NOT Adopted in Ohio**
10. **Suspended games** (NFHS 7-1-3) – **Adopted in Ohio**
 In the event a game must be suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue play, the head referee shall declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been played. **Per OHSAA Board adopted policy**, if less than one half has been completed, the game may be restarted from the point of suspension of play.

Tournament games interrupted because of events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority shall be continued from the point of suspension. Any ejected player or coach cannot participate in the resumed game. Teams playing short will continue to play short. NFHS 7-1-3 is not in effect for tournament games.

11. **Goal differential** (NFHS 7-1-5) – **Adopted in Ohio** 

12. **Regular Season Overtime procedure** (NFHS 7-3-1) – **NOT adopted in Ohio**
 NFHS 7-3-1 refers to overtime procedures during regular season play. No overtime procedures will be conducted during regular season play in Ohio.

13. **Disqualified player barred from competition** (NFHS 12-8-3 Note) – **Adopted in Ohio**
 Refer to OHSAA Soccer Regulations for specific penalties for disqualified or ejected players and / or coaches.



14. **Sample Tie-Breaking Procedure** – **Adopted in Ohio, in part**
 Please refer to “Game Procedures: Tournament Overtime Procedures”, above.

15. **Incidental Use of Vulgar or Profane Language** (12.8.1(d)) – **Not adopted in Ohio**

16. **Sample Fourth Official/duties** – **Adopted in Ohio, in part for post-season tournament play only**

Miscellaneous Information



- **Professionalism**
Your professionalism is of the utmost importance. Your athletes and fans will follow your lead. If you are respectful of the game and the officials, your athletes and fans are more likely to do the same. If you are disrespectful of the game and the officials, it will be reflected in the words and actions of your athletes and fans. Officials aren't perfect and mistakes will be made, but it is all part of the learning process for our young student-athletes. So please take those disappointments and turn them into positive learning experiences. What you permit, you promote.
- **Pre-Season Preparations**
*As you know, pre-season meetings are **required**. As part of your pre-season preparations, you are encouraged invite a local official(s) to meet with your team during pre-season workouts. It allows the officials to meet your athletes and discuss new rules. It gives your athletes an opportunity to ask questions and have a discussion prior to game days. We would also recommend inviting an official to a pre-season meeting with your parents. Again, it provides a forum for healthy discussions and an opportunity for your parents to learn more about the game.*

- **Scheduling Conflicts**

*Certainly, scheduling conflicts are going to arise. **PLEASE COORDINATE WITH YOUR ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATOR TO ENSURE THAT OFFICIALS ARE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE OF ANY CHANGES.** When dates, times, and / or locations are changed it not only affects the officials scheduled for that game, but also other games they are scheduled to work. They will appreciate your help in this area.*

- **Importance of Coaches Rating System**

*The Rating/Voting procedures have changed in recent years, however the coaches' vote is an important part of the officials' tournament selection process. Ratings are done at the conclusion of each game, allowing you to rate each official you have. Voting is now done at the conclusion of the season by your athletic administrator online with information being sent to him/her electronically. **Please vote conscientiously in your rating.** Your involvement is critical to ensuring that we can provide the best officials for our tournament.*

- **Inquiries**

Our OHSAA office is here to help as needed, but depending on the time of the year it can be difficult to reach us. However, there are other sources of assistance. Our website (www.ohsaa.org) includes a great deal of information that covers many of the inquiries we often receive. The website provides soccer regulations, general sport regulations, tournament regulations, uniform regulations, etc. Your OHSBCA Officers are another great resource for you as well. Their contact information can be found on their website (www.ohsbca.org).

- **Coaches' Comments to the News Media**

OHSAA Bylaw 8, Section 2, reads in part, "Great care shall be exercised in the selection of officials, well in advance of the contest and agreed upon by schools involved. When the contest begins each school waives all of its rights so far as objecting to the officials." Public criticism of officials is a direct reflection upon those who were responsible for assigning the officials to the game. Officials are trained and expected to make no derogatory comments regarding the players, coaches, or schools. Coaches are expected to follow the same procedure. Failure to follow this request will result in disciplinary action.

Soccer Player and Coach Ejection Protocol

No later than noon of the first SCHOOL day following an ejection, the officials are required to make contact with the Athletic Director or Principal of the violator's school to advise the administration of the ejection. Also, upon an ejection, the official **files a report ONLINE in the myOHSAA system with the OHSAA**. Since the procedures listed below are all triggered by the submission of the Officials' Report online, officials are penalized in accordance with OHSAA adopted policies in the event they do not submit the report. After this written report that includes narrative is submitted:

- **The report is automatically sent electronically to the OHSAA and copies to the school's Athletic Director.**
- **The school's Athletic Director is required to submit a reply that includes the school and coach/player side of the events/ejection**
- **In the submitted reply from the school's Athletic Director, he/she is required to submit the coach's email address**
- **Upon the Athletic Director's submission of the "Response Form", an email is sent to the ejected coach explaining the consequences (below) of the ejection:**
 - An ejected coach is suspended from ALL GAMES for the remainder of the day of the ejection PLUS ALL GAMES UNTIL 2 AT THE LEVEL OF THE EJECTION ARE COMPLETED. Thus, a JV coach ejected from a JV contest cannot coach a JV OR Varsity contest until 2 JV contests have been played.
 - Ejected coaches must also pay a \$100.00 fine and complete the National Federation of State High School Association's (NFHS) "Teaching and Modeling Behavior" course within 30 days of the ejection. The payment of the fine is completed with an online payment per the instructions provided to the coach on the email he/she receives that is triggered by submission of the School Response Form.
 - Consequences of ejections are to be enforced by the school administration and served by coaches/players even if the above protocol is not completed.

ALL PLAYER and COACH EJECTIONS ARE FINAL AND NOT PERMITTED TO BE APPEALED per the OHSAA's Board of Directors.

Specific Soccer Ejection Policy Explanations

- **OHSAA NOW REQUIRES SUBMISSION OF the Official Report for a double yellow card disqualification, i.e., for a subsequent caution for a player, NF 12.8.2(c), or for a coach or bench personnel. This will be tracked for the 2016 season and data collected will be studied for any further changes to the current ejection policy.**
- Per OHSAA Bylaw 4.5.4, any student ejected or disqualified from a match must immediately be placed under direct supervision of a school official or coach. This may be on the bench or in the team area but the player is NOT to be removed from the site. Coaches ARE required to leave the facility immediately upon ejection. In the event there is no coach remaining to coach/supervise the team, the game is completed at that point.
- **Effective the 2015 season** – All Double Yellow/Subsequent Cautions and Ejections occurring during scrimmages must be reported via the online submission of the Officials' Report.
- **Effective the 2015 season** – though ejected players are suspended for all contests the remainder of the day AND the ALL CONTESTS until 2 at the level of the ejection are completed,
- **Effective the 2016-17 season** – Any Player OR COACH ejected from a scrimmage held prior to the start of the regular season are suspended from the **first regular season contest**. If the ejection occurs from a scrimmage held DURING the season, the player is suspended from the next regular season contest or OHSAA Tournament contest.
- Other pertinent Ejection Information:
 - During the suspension period, the player MAY practice with the team
 - During the suspension period, the player MAY be in the bench area and in the locker room before during and after the contest
 - During the suspension period, the player MAY travel with the team to an away contest
 - During the suspension period, the player **is not permitted in uniform at any time before during or after the contest and may not be on the field for warm-up or to assist with warm-ups**

Specific Card Procedures

Straight RED CARD

- Given to player, coach or bench personnel under NF 12-8-2(a), -(b), -(d), -(e), -(f), -(g) **to a coach under NF 12.8.3**, OHSAA Tobacco Regulation for tobacco use, or to a player under OHSAA Soccer Regulation 10.A.1.1 for playing more than three halves in one day or more than 38 halves in one season.
- A red card only is displayed.
- The Official is required to submit the online ejection report.
- The ejected individual is also prohibited from playing, coaching or participating in any match for the rest of the day on which he/she is ejected.
- The ejected coach or player is suspended for all matches until **2** matches at the level of the ejection have been played. A coach or player who receives a straight red card is considered “ejected” for purposes of OHSAA Soccer Regulations.
- The number of players on the field is reduced for a straight red card given to a player.

The SUBSEQUENT CAUTION or “DOUBLE YELLOW” for Players, Coaches and Bench Personnel

- Given to a player, **coach or bench personnel** for a second yellow-card offense in the same match, under NF 12-8-2(c).
- The disqualified **person** is prohibited from participation in the remainder of the match.
- The disqualified **person** can **participate** in OTHER matches on the same day.
- The disqualified **person** is not subject to any additional suspension for the 2016 season. This may potentially change with the collection of data submitted in 2015.
- A **person so** disqualified under NF 12.8.2(c) is NOT considered “ejected” for purposes of OHSAA Regulations.
- **The yellow card is first displayed and returned to the pocket. The red card is then displayed and returned to the pocket.**
- An Official Report IS **REQUIRED TO BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY**.
- The school does not need to be notified.
- Number of players on the field IS reduced for a “double yellow” or subsequent caution (effective 2012).

In a nutshell: For a Subsequent Caution or “Double Yellow-Card” Disqualification for a coach or bench personnel: the total penalty for the disqualified player is limited to sitting out the remainder of the match in which disqualified.

Sportsmanship

NFHS Sportsmanship Mission Statement

Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. The ideals of sportsmanship apply equally to all activity disciplines. Individuals, regardless of their role in activities, are expected to be aware of their influence on the behavior of others and model good sportsmanship.

The OSSCA & Sportsmanship

Good Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association (OSSCA) stands tall in its commitment to good sportsmanship. The school-based experience is one that affords tremendous opportunities to student-athletes that they will remember for a lifetime. Those experiences are dependent on the role model the head coach provides. The OSSCA encourages all coaches to exhibit behavior that serves as a role model for the student-athletes we serve. In conjunction with the OHSAA's Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity (SEI) Committee, the OHSCA annually selects a recipient of the SEI Award.

The Official's Role in Sportsmanship

In 2004 the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO) conducted a survey of 550 sports officials and asked "what is the number-one problem in our games today?" Not too surprising, the number one response was "Poor Sportsmanship". As a result, the NASO brought together some of the best and brightest in youth, high school, collegiate and pro sports to examine the issue and explore the official's role in promoting positive on-field behavior. The results were published in the book at the right and identified 3 critical ideas:

1. What is at Stake
2. What is Expected, and,
3. What steps to Take



As a result, the following are important results of this study and publication:

1. 65% of respondents indicated their respective associations do not do *enough* to help improve sportsmanship.
2. 89% of officials responding consider themselves PARTNERS with players, coaches and administrators in improving sportsmanship.
3. 54% of officials responding indicated they felt the DO have the training, authority and knowledge to make an impact.

The conclusion:

Sportsmanship is EVERYONE'S job and we are all partners in this endeavor.

Special Soccer Coaches' Note on Sportsmanship

Expectations need to be placed on team members relative to sporting behavior. High School soccer continues to grow and improve each and every year. I urge coaches to be at the forefront of setting examples of behavior and translating that into expectations for their student-athletes. It is good for the game and will allow the continued growth of soccer.

During my years administrating sports, I have 'heard it all' and the most common response from ejected coaches is "I was only sticking up for my players". I can assure you that NO official has ever set out to degrade or disrespect the game of soccer and we ALL need to remember that the game is 'for the players'. I continue to urge you to keep that at the forefront of the leadership and guidance you are entrusted with. Two areas of concern that have arisen in the past few years that coaches can assist:

Warm Up at Conclusion of JV Game

During the first game of a 'doubleheader' night (JV game or the boys/girls' playing prior to the second game), teams will often begin their warm-up prior to the conclusion of the first game. This often leads to a team 'circling the field' prior to the first game ending. We are discouraging this as nearly 30 minutes are provided as ample time for warm-up when the game concludes. Additionally, there are growing sportsmanship issues with players unsupervised as they cross paths with opponents' team areas. This is an area that COACHES can assist with.

Running over to Fans at the Conclusion of a Game

Yes, it may be an 'accepted' thing...a 'soccer thing'; a team runs across the field together to the opposite touch line at the conclusion of a game to share the joy of victory with other students. But...we are encountering more and more acts of unsporting behavior that occurs when fans of the OTHER team are in that same area. Please utilize your leadership role and prevent issues before they occur. Address this frequently with team members.



The OHSAA & Sportsmanship

As we prepare for the upcoming seasons, the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) wishes to emphasize to each of you the importance of your leadership role in the promotion of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity. The professional manner in which officials and coaches conduct themselves prior to, during and following a contest unquestionably impacts the behavior of others who may be involved.

The OHSAA has joined the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) in its quest to improve sportsmanship, ethics and integrity. We are involved in an ongoing campaign in every sport to do just that. Printed below is the mission statement of the NFHS concerning sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity. Please take the time to read and digest this statement and then carefully consider your impact upon students, officials, coaches, and fans. Thank you and have a great season!

The Ohio High School Athletic Association challenges all of us in the soccer community to take positive steps toward the goal of attaining the high ideal of good sportsmanship. It is the responsibility of each of us to serve as a positive role model and set high expectations for others.

Roxanne Price

Assistant Commissioner

ADMINISTRATORS

Athletic departments are comprehensive, pre-eminent teaching departments with a subject matter all their own: self-confidence, leadership, teamwork, discipline, perseverance, respect for others, strategic thinking, dedication, the importance of rules, and sportsmanship. These are true life lessons and participation in athletics provides another forum for learning. Coaches and Officials are responsible for promoting sportsmanship and positive behavior on the field. Administrators, we need your continued assistance in promoting sportsmanship and controlling fan behavior in the stands! Let the parents and fans know what you expect!

COACHES

Your athletes will demonstrate the attitudes and behaviors they have learned from you, either through direct instruction or through observation of your actions. ***Never underestimate the influence you have on your players!*** You must:

- Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
- Set a good example for players and spectators to follow.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will serve to create a positive impression of you and your team.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Develop a program that rewards participants and spectators for displaying proper sportsmanship and enforces penalties on those who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.

It is difficult to develop a great finisher, a great centerback or a great goalkeeper. That is true. However, your greatest challenge is to develop mature young adults who will become great citizens and role models in your community.

OFFICIALS

Your job is not an easy one, but the official must be aware that they are an important component in the educational development of students. To carry out this responsibility, you must:

- Know the rules and mechanics of our sport and the philosophy behind them.

- Get fit and stay fit. An official with all of the rules and mechanics knowledge and people skills in the world does no good if he or she cannot physically keep up with play.
- Maintain professional and ethical relationships with athletic administrators, especially in the area of fulfilling game contracts.
- Work cooperatively with fellow officials during games and within the referees' association to improve members' performances.
- Maintain at all times and when interacting with all participants, an attitude of civility and professionalism.
- Practice effective preventive officiating as much as possible before, during, and after a match. The quiet word, proper signals, timely verbal instructions, a simple thank-you to a player for avoiding an unsporting act, and well-thought-out pre-game conferences with the teams and other game officials will result in an improvement of sportsmanship by eliminating the chance for things to go wrong.

STUDENT-ATHLETES

You serve as a role model for your younger siblings, young fans in the stands, your teammates, and your classmates. Set high expectations for everyone and help them follow-through! You must:

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility, and the privilege of representing your school and the community.
- Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with others. This will assist everyone in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Treat opponents as you would like to be treated.....with respect.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will serve to create a positive impression of you and your team.

CONCLUSION

Good sportsmanship is everyone's responsibility. It is the essence of interscholastic athletics. Remember...some may question an official's call or a coach's substitution, but no one can question the value of good sportsmanship.

Sportsmanship Online Resources

On the OHSAA's "Respect the Game" pages you will find **Fair Play Codes** for athletes, coaches, and fans, as well as additional information regarding **parents' role in interscholastic athletics**. The sportsmanship page also includes information about the Harold A. Meyer Sportsmanship Award and the Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award. Please feel free to contact us with any additional questions. Please take time to visit this from the OHSAA's website along with MANY helpful items previously mentioned on the NFHSlearn website at www.nfhslearn.com.

Comments by Coaches to News Media

Emotions run high at the end of a contest and coaches are often tempted to make inappropriate comments to the news media covering a game. The OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws reads in part **"Great care shall be exercised in the selection of officials, well in advance of the contest and agreed upon by schools involved."** Public criticism of officials is a direct reflection upon those who were responsible for assigning the officials to the game. Officials are trained and expected to make no derogatory comments regarding the players, coaches, or schools. Coaches are expected to follow the same procedure in regard to the officials. Coaches violating this rule may be asked to discuss the problem personally with the Commissioner. (See Sports Regulations "Media Regulations", Section B, page 78, OHSAA Handbook).

Looking Ahead to Tournament

The OHSAA sponsors the OHSAA Soccer Tournament in 3 Divisions for Boys' and 3 divisions for Girls'. Each of the state's District Athletic Boards are empowered by the OHSAA Constitution to organize and conduct soccer tournaments at the Sectional and District levels. They are conducted according to the tournament regulations adopted by the Board of Directors at their December meeting. The divisions are determined by the EMIS reports from the **August 2015** count. These divisions will be in effect for the 2015 and 2016 soccer seasons – though "Competitive Balance" is **scheduled** to come in for the 2017 season.

<u>Division</u>	<u>Boys Enrolled</u>	<u>Total Schools</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Girls Enrolled</u>	<u>Total Schools</u>
I	342 and more	189	I	330 and more	172
II	178 - 341	191	II	174 - 329	175
III	177 and less	191	III	173 and less	175

Tournament Draw Dates

The draw date for tournaments is established by the Board of Directors. The official date for 2016 is **October 9, 2016 @ 2:00 p.m.** for boys and 3:00 P.M. for girls.

Sectional/District Sites and Assignments

It is the responsibility of each District Athletic Board (DAB) to assign schools to Sectional/District tournaments and determine play dates for that level of tournament play. A few noteworthy items:

1. Tournaments are built "back" from State and Regional tournaments. Therefore, Regional and State tournament dates will not change from published and Board approved dates.
2. There is no requirement whether games are to be played on home sites at the Sectional/District level. Games may NOT be played on home sites at the Regional or State Semi-Final level.
3. There is no requirement whether games are to be played on artificial or natural grass surfaces at any level. Great effort is made to assign games to good facilities with good management.

Regional, State Semi-Final and State Final Dates

Regional Girls' Semi-Finals & Finals	November 1 & November 5 @ Sites TBA
Regional Boys' Semi-Finals & Finals	November 2 & November 5 @ Sites TBA
Girls' State Semi-Finals	Tuesday, November 8 @ Sites TBA
Boys' State Semi-Finals	Wednesday, November 9 @ Sites TBA
Girls' State Finals	Friday, November 11 @ MAPFRE Stadium, Columbus
Boys' State Finals	Saturday, November 12 @ MAPFRE Stadium, Columbus

Athletic Districts

Representation to the Regional tournament (the number of Regional 'qualifiers') from District winners is determined by a formula based upon the number of teams participating in the previous year's tournament. The complete tournament regulations that were adopted by the Board of Directors at its' December meeting will be able to be read in their entirety by logging on to www.ohsaa.org and navigating to the SOCCER webpage under the "Sports and Tournaments" pull down menu. With a few exceptions, most schools in the counties listed below are assigned sites from the respective District Athletic Boards. You are encouraged to visit their websites for additional information.

Northwest District: www.nwdab.org

Central District: www.cdab.org

Southwest District: www.swdab.org

Northeast District: www.nedab.org

East District: www.eastohsaa.org

Southeast District: www.sedab.org



OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214
614-267-2502
FAX 614-267-1677
www.ohsaa.org

SPECIAL PERMIT REQUEST-Waiver to Uniform

Please complete and return to Emily Gates at egates@ohsaa.org

NFHS Soccer rules and OHSAA regulations permit schools to request a waiver to the Uniform Regulations in Rule 4-1-1 of the NFHS Soccer Rules Book. The waiver is granted 1 time per season for schools participating in a contest conducted for a specific cause, such as but not limited to "Kick for the Cure" events. Upon approval, the waiver will permit schools to wear an alternate colored jersey that may include the sponsoring event's logo but will still require all teams to meet the 'number requirements' outlined in Article 1 (i) of Rule 4, (6" player unique numbers on back of jersey).

Name of School Making Request:

Type of Event/Sponsoring Organization:

Nature of Request (sponsoring agency's logo on jersey, etc.):

Date of Contest:

Opponent:

Head Coach's Name:

Head Coach's Email:

Athletic Director's Name:

Email request to egates@ohsaa.org or Fax to 614-267-1677 Attn: Emily Gates, Program Coordinator

