



# Ohio Soccer Weekly

The Ohio High School Athletic Association

Issue #2 August 9, 2010



We're off and running! Welcome back to another soccer season. Between "Picture Day", mandatory meetings, "Meet the Teams", etc., everyone will be busy with the day to day routines that lead right into the start of school in a few short weeks.

## From the Officiating Side "Rules of the Game"

This past year, the OHSAA's Board of Directors took one of the biggest strides in officiating by creating "Directors of Development" for each sport. These directors, in addition to other responsibilities are assuming the task of educating officials as well as leading the charge of recruiting new officials. **Don Muenz**, long-time State Rules Interpreter in soccer for the OHSAA was placed in this role. It provides a greater resource for local associations while providing soccer specific education for our officials. The following is provided by Don to assist coaches with "Rules of the Game".

### Faking on a Penalty Kick

The situation: The kicker runs to the ball, and then stops at the ball, faking the kick to one side, and fooling the goalkeeper into making a dive to the wrong side. Then, the kicker kicks the ball to the other side of the keeper and scores. Can he do this and what should the official do?

Answer:

No it is **NOT** legal. The official should let the kick finish out. If the penalty kick does NOT result in a goal, there is no rekick unless a defender or both teams also infringed. If the kicker interrupts the approach or stops and misses the goal, then you should award an indirect free kick to the goalkeeper's team from the penalty mark and have the discretion to caution the kicker. If the kick goes into goal, stop play, caution, in your discretion, and order a retake of the penalty kick. If the kick is controlled by the goalkeeper, you have the discretion to allow play to continue and caution at the next stoppage. In the official's discretion, he **may** treat interrupted approaches or stopping before kicking as **unsportsmanlike conduct** and issue a caution to the kicker under NF 12.8.1(f).

## TAKE HEAT STRESS SERIOUSLY!

I encourage everyone to take special precautions relative to heat and humidity during the soccer season. Many athletes, especially in the younger grades have not had as strenuous activity over the past 2 months as they will experience in the coming weeks. It is extra difficult to get them acclimated. Though it is mandated that all athletes have a pre-examination **before** participating in tryouts, practice, or contests, go the extra step (especially with sub-varsity coaches) to insure all paper work is complete and on file with proper signatures. An ounce of prevention..... The combination of heat and humidity can make it extremely difficult for the body to cool itself. Often, athletic trainers are with football teams and hopefully they will be in constant communication with you. However, the nature of football calls many away from other locations. The weather forecast for the first week of practice is calling for excessive heat and humidity. Don't underestimate the importance of being prepared. Everyone wins in the long run.

## WHY CAN'T I FINISH A GAME?

Last year, weather issues played havoc on games. We all know the '30 minute rule' when lightning/thunder forces a suspension of play. Issues surfaced however when games could not be completed the night they were started. Rules for **most high school sports** are created by the National Federation (NFHS), which Ohio is a member. These rules are created and revised annually by the National Rules Committee with representation from each of the different "Sections" of the United States. (Ohio is part of Section 2). The NFHS Rules on soccer (nationally) require the following:

### Games in which a full half is NOT completed:

*The game is made-up at a time worked out between the schools and the game is restarted from the point of interruption.* It is important for coaches/officials to record the exact time remaining, score, position of throw-in, players on the field, etc.

In the event the game is NOT rescheduled for completion, the game goes down as a "no-contest" and does not count in a team's 16 permitted contests.

### Games in which a full half (or more) IS completed:

The game is declared an "official game" and the score stands. League rules can NOT override this rule to finish the game.

Since this is a NATIONAL with the NFHS, it must be followed. Ohio has submitted a proposal on several occasions to allow individual states to determine 'end of game' protocol on suspended games, however, that proposal has never passed the National Rules Committee.

## CONCUSSIONS IN SOCCER?

You bet. And you thought they were only in the 'other' football? The latest statistics show the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> highest incidence of concussion to be in girls' and boys' soccer respectively. Let's all work together to change this statistic. Encourage your coaches to go to [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com) and take the FREE "Concussion in Sports" course. Put it on a projector and show it at your parent meeting. Everything we can do to correct this trend is a positive step.

Watch this at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXgAnK7lutE> Click on "1. Show de Neymar - Remo 0x4 Santos - Copa do Brasil 2010." in "Search Results."  
Drag the video timeline to 3:13 and follow to about the 3:45 mark to see the penalty kick awarded and taken.

## By the Numbers

**8** The number of signals now required by soccer officials.

**3** Number of Girls' coaches ejected in Ohio during the 2009 soccer season.

**13** The number of Boys' coaches ejected in Ohio during the 2009 soccer season.

**100** Amount in dollars coaches at any level must pay if ejected from a contest.