



Ohio Soccer Weekly

The Ohio High School Athletic Association

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Let the games begin! Best of luck to all coaches across Ohio. As I did in our Rules' Interp. Meetings, I STRONGLY encourage you to "Respect the Game" in your important role. I understand the pressures, the effort, and the stress involved in coaching...but high school sports are EDUCATIONAL based and we need to keep that at the center of our focus.

Equipment Check? Remember YOUR Responsibilities

Occasionally, we receive inquires and comments about equipment checks as it relates to Shinguard rules. Remember recently, the rule was changed (Rule 4.3 of the NFHS Rule Book) to read:

"Each head coach shall be responsible for ensuring that each of his/her players is properly and legally equipped"

Nothing in the rule book requires the head referee to inspect players' shinguards. Player equipment inspection provisions were removed at this same time when Rule 5.2.2(d)(4) was added which reads:

"The head referee shall inquire of each head coach whether each of his/her players is properly and legally equipped...."

So, how does all this work together? Officials look for the obvious small shinguard and bring it to the attention of the coach, before the match if possible, and check it out. If the official observes an obvious small shinguard on a player during a game, play is stopped immediately and if it is an immediate dangerous situation, cards the coach or the player, orders the player off the field to rectify the shinguards and the team plays shorthanded.

What about PRACTICE? Obviously there is nothing in the NFHS GAME rules about practice. Suffice to say...ALL safety rules of the NFHS and the OHSAA should be enforced at practice and players and parents should expect such.

The bottom line.....

Respect THE GAME

COLLEGE TRYOUTS...Now???

I have received quite a few calls in the past week regarding various colleges (all levels of college play) inviting high school players to their practices AND practicing with them. I am glad several coaches inquired about this as it is a violation of the OHSAA's Sports' Regulation 4.3 that essentially says:

"A member of an interscholastic squad sponsored by the board of education board in a team sport, shall not participate in an athletic contest, tryouts or any type of training or practices on a non-interscholastic squad or as an individual in a team sport in the same sport during the school's interscholastic sports season"

A collegiate practice falls into that category. Your high school players establish themselves as a member of your school team by participation in a scrimmage or game....most would have done so by now.

COMMON Q & A's THROUGH PRE-SEASON

Generally, any question that comes to our office from a coach has an answer that could best serve ALL coaches in Ohio. Sometimes you might think your question is unique but with nearly 1250 boys' and girls' VARSITY teams in Ohio, chances are, it will surface somewhere else. Some of the common ones (and their Answers) that I have received to date:

Q: Can we play our Alumni?

A: Yes. Ohio rules permit a school to play any member or non-member. However, it MUST be counted as a contest (scrimmage or game)

Q: How many players can I keep on my roster?

A: Unlimited. We (the OHSAA) do not regulate how many players you keep OR dress for any given regular season game. We limit the number that dress for any tournament contest (22) and limit the number of halves (38)

Q: Can girls' play on a boys' team, even if we have a girls' team?

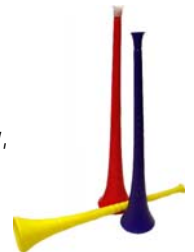
A: Yes. However, they cannot 'move back and forth' from boys' team to girls' team. Once they establish themselves on the boys' team, they must stay there the duration of the season AND tournament.

Q: I have an ineligible player. Can they still PRACTICE with the team?

A: Yes...if your school permits it as it is up to each school. They may NOT be in uniform at games, however.

WHAT ABOUT THOSE VUVUZELAS?

Like 'em or hate 'em...they're probably here to stay. I do address these horns made popular in this year's World Cup in our Pre-Season manual. First, nearly all noisemakers at outdoor sporting events are nearly impossible to control. Secondly, they are legal within any of our regulations anyhow. They might be annoying to many...but they are not illegal. Noisemakers such as those, are NOT permissible at ANY indoor sporting event.



No Posting Next Week: Due to Labor Day next Monday, the next posting of Ohio Soccer Weekly is scheduled for Monday, September 13. Best of luck until then!

By the Numbers

1305 The number of registered Soccer Officials in Ohio

14661 The total number of ALL registered Officials in Ohio

198 The number of BOYS' player ejections in 2009

35 The number of GIRLS' player ejections in 2009