



Ohio Soccer Weekly

The Ohio High School Athletic Association

Issue #6, September 13, 2010



Now that we are in the midst of the season, MANY items creep onto the scene and it is a good time to address them. Though it may sound repetitive, nearly all ARE addressed in our Pre-Season Manual

Mark your Calendar!

Tournament Draw: Sunday, Oct. 10
Sectional Tournament: Oct. 18
District Tournament: October 25-30
Regional Tournament: November 2 - 6
State Semi-Finals: November 9 - 10
State Finals: November 12 - 13

Are the Numbers Misleading?

Player ejections...people read them but do the numbers tell the WHOLE story in soccer? MANY do not realize the actual playing rules can lead to an ejection in soccer like no other sport. Consider this... Deliberate handling in the penalty area can result in an ejection if performed by a defender to prevent the ball's entering the goal (NF 12.8.3(d)(1)). Deliberate handling in the penalty area by a defending field player can also result in an ejection if committed against an opponent moving toward his/her offensive goal with an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (NF 12.8.3(d)(2)). So, the numbers CAN be a 'little' misleading.

How can I appeal?

A question heard with nearly everything in today's society..."how can I appeal that?" It is heard with every Red Card.

- Officials' Calls are FINAL
- There are NO appeals of Red Cards and/or any officials' decision made on the field of play.

More About Weather

In some situations, the game administrator (coach or Athletic Director) observes lightning/thunder. Officials should work WITH game administrators to follow the Lightning policy. No one, coaches, administrators OR officials should EVER 'turn the other way'.

ADMINISTRATION vs. OFFICIATING THE GAME

One of the items covered at the *mandatory* State Rules Meetings dealt with "Game Administration". This was covered knowing that at many soccer events, there is no administrator present. Bylaw 3-2-1 of the OHSAA Bylaws indicates:

"The principal or representative(s) authorized by the principal, in addition to the coaches, shall be present throughout all varsity football and varsity basketball games. In all other sports, the coach or a person authorized by the Board of Education shall be present throughout the contest."

In the absence of a school administrator at a soccer game, the COACH assumes that authority. So...there IS administrative coverage at all soccer games. Herein lies one of the major issues that come to my desk each season: where does the administration of the game and the officiating of the game find a balance? Commonly, there are many items that officials take upon themselves to regulate when in fact it is something that should be controlled by the school administration. Again...highlighting that in absence of a school administrator, that administration is assumed by the coach of the team. Most of these are codified within Bylaw 3 of the OHSAA Bylaws – Administrative Responsibility.

Let's consider the common questions surfacing through the first few weeks of the season:

- Q:** Is it the officials' responsibility to stop a contest because the "Heat Index" is too high?
A: No. School coaches and administrators are trained to deal with that issue. Officials ARE authorized to stop play and provide additional water breaks...but NOT stop a game or prevent one from being played due to a high heat index.
- Q:** Is it the officials' responsibility to stop the use of the 'vuvuzelas'?
A: No. Noisemakers (other than whistles & compressed air horns) are permitted at all outdoor sporting events.
- Q:** Is it the officials' responsibility to remove a player when exhibiting signs or symptoms Of a concussion?
A: Yes. The rule change for ALL NFHS sports gives the official that authority.
- Q:** Is it the officials' responsibility to observe for lightning and thunder and make the subsequent decision to delay/postpone play?
A: Yes. NFHS rules for all outdoor sports are the same and require a **mandatory** 30 minute delay after the last observance of lightning or thunder.
- Q:** How long does an official need to wait before a game is cancelled?
A: This is a decision to be addressed with the school administrator. School administrators take into consideration curfews, school work, etc.
- Q:** Does an official get extra pay for staying late for a delayed game?
A: Officials play one of the most important roles in any contest, yet are seldom given Praise for their efforts. There is nothing written into game contracts with officials to Provide extra pay for delayed games. Any additional compensation is at the discretion of the contracting school.

POSTPONED or CANCELLED?

Just a reminder that a game that completes one full half of play is considered a complete game in the event it cannot be restarted that day. A game that does not complete one full half of play is considered a 'suspended' game and picked up at the exact point of interruption.

By the Numbers

37

The number of BOYS' player ejections through Sept. 11.

16

The total number of GIRLS' player ejections through Sept. 11.

92

The number of Athletic Directors NEW on the job in Ohio this year (that attended the OHSAA's NEW AD Workshop).

84

The number of Athletic Directors NEW on the job in Ohio LAST YEAR (that attended the OHSAA's NEW AD Workshop).

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