

**Online Rules Meetings
To Be Offered for 2011**
Details will be in Pre-Season
Manual for Coaches



The Ohio High School Athletic Association

Off-Season Update, May 2011

**Get Your Pupil Activity
Certificate Updated!**

Beginning this fall, a school that permits coaches to coach (Paid or volunteer) without a valid Pupil Activity Certificate issued by the ODE will be fined \$250.00 per coach. Log onto the "Sports Medicine" Page at www.ohsaa.org for more information on how to obtain your Certificate.

Scrimmage Note

Each team in your program is permitted to schedule 4 scrimmages PLUS 1 Preview. You may use these scrimmages at any time during the season and many teams do hold 1 to use during the tournament season.

Important Note on Previews

Teams are permitted to schedule 1 "Preview" if they wish to do so. Previews are clearly defined and MUST be one HALF in length. Admission may be charged and can be held between August 13 and the date of your first game.

Alumni Scrimmages?

Many teams elect to hold an "Alumni Scrimmage. This is permissible since Ohio remains one of the few states that permits its schools to play teams that are not members of the state association. Please note, however, any Alumni Scrimmage is just that...1 of the 4 permitted scrimmages. Of course if you do this as 1 of the 10 permissible Instructional Days in June/July, the 'event' would not be considered an OHSAA event.

August 1 Start Date Creates MANY Questions

Over the years, many soccer coaches have come to believe that the week prior to the start of fall practices is a "Dead Period". Without trying to ascertain how that misconception came about, the ONLY "Dead Period" (properly defined as a "No-Contact Period") exists for 28 days following your team's last game. To fully understand what you 'can and cannot' do, a coach must understand two (2) basic Concepts: "In-Season" and "Out of Season" regulations. The "In-Season" is *easy*. Practice may begin on a specified date each year. Recently the OHSAA's Board of Directors voted to align ALL fall sports start date on the same date each year: the first Monday in August. This year, that date is August 1, in 2012 that date is August 6. Now, lets look at the "OUT of Season" regulations that often have led to the confusion:

Sports Regulation 4.9 – Members of the Interscholastic Coaching Staff – Team Sports

This regulation states that members of the school's coaching staff may coach interscholastic squad members from the school district where employed for a maximum of 10 days from June 1 to July 31.

So...this Regulation clearly identifies that the only COACHING of athletes from your school teams can be done between June 1 and July 31; No other time. Now, let's take a further look at 2 other Sport Regulations:

Sports Regulation 6 (Physical Fitness Programs) & Sports Regulation 7 (Open Facilities)

These 2 regulations clearly lay out the boundaries for what can be done during "conditioning" programs and "Open Fields". Both fall as permissible activities OUTSIDE the season of play and as mention, have clear boundaries.

Since there is extreme latitude permitted (limited to 10 days!) during June and July and *most years* have seen practice start *about* a week after July 31, there was a sharp contrast in those few days between July 31 and the start of practice. With the drastic change from what was permitted up until July 31, the perception of a "dead period" seems to have developed.

So What Does This All Mean?

Quite simply, except for the 28 days following your season, school-approved coaches may conduct Physical Fitness Programs (conditioning, weight lifting) and Open Fields. Don't confuse this with "practice" which can occur ONLY during the defined season of play (August 1 – last contest). This should help you understand there is no "dead period" in the week prior to the start of practice. Here are a few Q & A's associated with the above:

Q: How Many Days can I actually coach my team in the summer?

A: Your staff may have 10 days TOTAL of INSTRUCTION from June 1 – July 31 with players that played on your school team a year ago. Do not confuse these with "practice" since they cannot be mandatory.

Q: Can I have these 10 days in the days just prior to the start of practice on August 1?

A: You may, BUT...remember, they cannot be mandatory, cuts/team assignments cannot be made during this time. And remember, in 2012 the start date for practice will be August 6.

Q: What all is permitted during an Open Field?

A: First and foremost, NO INSTRUCTION is permitted. It must be 'free and unstructured play'. For a complete listing (and I encourage this!), please go to the OHSAA's Sports Regulations at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rglts/GenSportsReg10-11.pdf> and read Regulation #7 (pgs. 68-69).

Divisional Alignments Complete for 2011 & 2012

	<u>Boys</u>		<u>Girls</u>	
Division I	379 and More	187 Teams	371 and More	169 Teams
Division II	204 – 378	186 Teams	202 – 370	169 Teams
Division III	203 and Less	186 Teams	201 and Less	169 Teams

Important Dates for Soccer Coaches

Coaching Begins: 8/1/2011	Earliest Preview Date: 8/13/2011	First Game: 8/20/2011
Sectional Play Begins: 10/15/2011	District Play Begins: 10/24/2011	Regional Play: 11/1 – 11/5
State Semi-Finals – Boys: November 8, 2011	State Championships – Boys: November 11, 2011	
State Semi-Finals – Girls: November 9, 2011	State Championships – Girls: November 12, 2011	