

Mark Your Calendar
Tournament Draw:
Sunday, October 7

OHIO SOCCER WEEKLY



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NFHS "Coaching Today" Magazine

Among the many excellent resources available to coaches is the NFHS' publication of "Coaching Today". This is a national publication by the NFHS for high school coaches. You can access this directly at: <http://www.nfhs.org/CoachingToday/>

Reminder on Ejections

Yes, unfortunately there have been a few ejections already. The good news, through the weekend, they are significantly lower than last year's first weekend. Just remember, ejections result in a 2 game suspension and are **not** **appealable**.



From the NFHS Locker Room at www.nfhslearn.com



Take a few minutes. The NFHS has provided a **FREE** (I really DID say FREE!) course titled **"Creating a Safe and Respectful Environment"**. It defines and makes recommendation s in 3 areas:

1. Inappropriate relationships and behaviors,
 2. Hazing, and,
 3. Bullying, including cyberbullying
- It cannot hurt!

Let the Games Begin!

All the off-season, all the preparation...all behind you. A short pre-season 'yes' but ready or not...let the games begin.

Short Pre-Season

With dates printed ahead of time and board action to determine season start dates, we were locked in to the situation that dictated a short pre-season. In years to come, however, all fall practices for soccer (and other sports except football) will always begin on August 1. More, of course, on that at a later date.

GK Jerseys....continued...again

After the first weekend of games, we had a great number of reports that GK's did not have numbers. Please remember, effective this year, ALL players must have a 'unique' number and all rules regarding size and placement of numbers is the same for all players. Rule 4.1.1(h) states, "When an illegally uniformed team is unable to correct the situation or cannot verify state association approval of the uniform, **the game shall be played**. **The referee must, however, notify the state association following the game.**" You still must make certain you get GK jerseys numbered. In a nutshell:

- Every player must have a unique number.
- Each goalkeeper is a player.
- Each goalkeeper must have a unique number.
- 5 goalkeepers on your team? They must have 5 unique numbers and cannot share a jersey.

NFHS Rules

Why did the OHSAA say GK jerseys need to be numbered? Why did the OHSAA mandate white home jerseys for next year? If you paid attention to the mandatory Rules Meetings, you will have picked up on the fact that these are NATIONAL rules meetings...not me sitting around dreaming up the next rule I would like to see. In an upcoming issue I am going to get into the 'how and why' of national playing rules and how these rules change.

Pre-Game Music

This has nothing to do with what defense you play or how good your midfielder is. You might wonder why I want to 'go there' with this one. As a coach, I always told players I would choose the music. As you might expect, they easily agreed not to have ANY music if my choices were going to be played. But...each year, I receive calls from irate community members that came to a contest to watch a team, a granddaughter, or a neighbor. They were appalled at the music that was being played. A swear word here, a swear word there. An obscene reference. So...I STRONGLY encourage you to make certain you are not taking the 'CD' the players provide and having them put it in the PA system to play. Despite the claims that it 'psych's 'em up' or gets 'em ready to play, the 'norm' players think might not be the 'norm' accepted in schools. Preview all the music first. Don't know the lyrics? Try "Soundhound" or even "Shazaam". They are free downloads that allow you to call up the lyrics to a song. Do it...you might thank me later.

Rating Your Officials

Due to the importance of tournament official selections/assignments, RATING officials is a requirement of all Varsity Soccer Head Coaches in Ohio. ALL of this was explained in the Pre-Season Rules meetings and in the pre-season manuals. You can locate the specific instructions for rating on the OHSAA's website directly at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/myOHSAA/OfficialRatingInstructions.pdf>. Officials should be rated after each Varsity contest you play. I will mention this in nearly every upcoming "OSW" as well. Why? First, it is important; YOU and OFFICIALS want the best working tournament contests. Secondly....you are fined at the end of the season if you don't rate officials!

By the Numbers

398,351 The no. of BOYS participating in soccer across the US in 2011

361,556 The no. of GIRLS participating in soccer across the US in 2011

11,503 The no. of BOYS teams participating in soccer across the US in 2011

11,047 The no. of GIRLS teams participating in soccer across the US in 2011

50 No. of states that sponsor Soccer and conduct state championships.