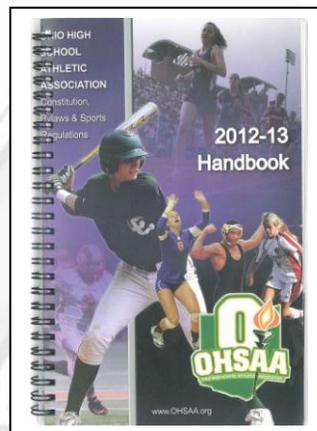


Soccer Frequently Asked Questions

The OHSAA receives a *large* volume of calls and email at the conclusion of the season in regard to what coaches 'can and cannot do'. Though this is not inclusive, a few guidelines are listed below to assist you AND your middle school and sub-varsity coaches. Please remove, copy and share this page with others on your staff. Please go through your Athletic Administrator for questions related to the OHSAA's Bylaws and Sports' Regulations. All are contained within the OHSAA's Handbook, pictured to the right and are also available online at www.ohsaa.org.



Can Middle School Players practice or play with High School players?

Answer: No. OHSAA Bylaws prohibit middle school players from practicing or competing with High School players during the season of play in all sports.

Can Middle School Players participate in Open Gyms/Fields at the High School level?

Answer: Yes. OHSAA Bylaws and Sports Regulations do not prevent anyone from participating in Open Gyms/Fields/Facilities.

Isn't August 1 – August 8 a “Dead Period”?

Answer: No. The only “No Contact Period” (Dead Period) for soccer is 28 days after the last contest.

Can coaches run “Open Fields” in the August 1 – August 8 period of time?

Answer: Yes, but under the strict guidelines of the definition of “Open Fields/Facilities/Gyms”. No instruction can take place during any Open Field.

What can we as coaches do during an Open Field?

Answer: Coaches may supervise the Open Field. Open Fields cannot be made mandatory. Open Fields must be 'free and unstructured play, so NO coaching may take place during an Open Gym. Open Gyms are defined in their entirety in Sports' Regulation #7 on pages 66-67. Under no circumstances may Open Fields be a disguise for an early start to practice.

What can we as coaches do during Conditioning Programs?

Answer: Conditioning programs cannot be made mandatory. Sports' Regulation #6 on page 66 of the OHSAA Handbook defines Physical Fitness/Conditioning Programs. Obviously, conditioning programs cannot be used as a 'disguise' for conducting out of season practices.

Who can volunteer to be a member of the coaching staff?

Answer: To work with student-athletes in any school program, an individual must receive his/her Pupil Activity Certificate through the Ohio Department of Education and be approved by the school's Board of Education. Once achieving these requirements, a volunteer falls under all Bylaws and Sports Regulations of the OHSAA.

Can a volunteer coach players from the school team during the June 1 – July 31 period of time?

Answer: Basically, 'yes', but when teams are playing with more than 50% of a school's roster, the days of coaching/instruction must be counted in the 10 total permitted to the staff.

Can a volunteer coach players from the school team during the “Off-season” in club or travel soccer?

Answer: No. A volunteer coach is restricted to the same out-of-season (non-interscholastic) rules that a paid coach is restricted to.

If my son or daughter plays on a Non-Interscholastic team (such as “club” or “travel”) can I coach them if I am a school coach?

Answer: **Only** during the June 1 – July 31 period of time. Coaching one's own players is prohibited outside the season other than those dates and no exception is provided for families.

Can a player on my team participate in non-interscholastic team(s) at the same time as the season?

Answer: No. Sports' Regulation #4 prohibits student-athletes from participating in programs such as “Travel, Club” and like programs during the season of play. Coaches should go to great lengths to explain this to players on their teams and remind them periodically throughout the season.

When CAN a player on my team participate in Non-Interscholastic Soccer?

Answer: As soon as his season is complete. This means a Varsity player may participate as soon as his last game (including tournament) is played. Any sub-varsity player may play non-interscholastically when his season is complete but it must be kept in mind that he cannot return to dress/participate in any OHSAA tournament game. Many Athletic Administrations will safeguard this by allowing no level of player to participate in non-interscholastic soccer until the varsity's last tournament game. Though not entirely necessary, this DOES safeguard all athletes.

How many players can play together on a Non-Interscholastic team (such as “club” or “travel”)?

Answer: FIVE(5). OHSAA Sports Regulations limit the number of participants on any non-interscholastic roster during all months except June and July to no more than 50% of those that make up a starting lineup of a team. In soccer that magic number is 5.

How are players 'classified' when in Middle School/Junior High and High School?

Answer: Players are considered middle school/junior high until the beginning of their 9th grade year and are considered separate as it relates to participating on non-interscholastic teams. For example; a 2 8th graders could participate on a "Club" (non-interscholastic) team along with 2 9th graders from the same school. They are considered separate. Please keep in mind this cannot occur during the season of play.

During the summer when instruction is permitted (June 1 – July 31), how many days are we permitted to coach our players?

Answer: TEN (10). From June 1 – July 31, a coaching staff is permitted to coach a total 10 days, known as 'instructional days'.

Does a day of my own summer camp count toward these 10 days?

Answer: Yes. Any day of instruction is considered one of the 10 total permitted between June 1 and July 31.

How about if I coach a team (from June 1 – July 31) that consists of only 5 players from my school team? (less than 50% of the roster)

Answer: Currently the OHSAA does not view that as an instructional day, but one must remember it MUST be between June 1 and July 31.

Does each member of my staff receive 10 separate days?

Answer: No. Obviously, if this were to occur, a school could have upwards of 40 and 60 days of permitted instruction. The 10 days permitted are per staff.

Do Volunteers count in the 10 day total?

Answer: Yes. As mentioned earlier, all volunteers fall under the Bylaws and Sports Regulations of the OHSAA. The 10 days permitted to a staff are inclusive of paid and volunteer coaches.

Can I travel out of state to Play a contest?

Answer: Yes, with certain restrictions. Teams may travel out of state to a bordering state (contiguous state) an unlimited number of times to play. Teams may travel to NON-bordering (contiguous states) **one time** per sport per season to compete provided there is no loss of school time.

There are many special events today, such as "Kick for the Cure". Can my team wear 'pink' jerseys for a special event such as this?

Answer: Yes. Until 2012 when all white jerseys are required at home games, a pink jersey is permissible provided it is contrasting to the opposing team. It should be noted that all uniform requirements (per NFHS Rule 4) relative to numbers, etc. must be followed.

Can I take my team out of state to practice?

Answer: No.

Can I have a scrimmage during the season or during tournament time?

Answer: Yes. As long as a team has a scrimmage remaining, they may use it at any time. It IS important to note that any scrimmage with another school must be a scrimmage for THAT school also; it cannot be a 'game' for one school and a 'scrimmage' for another school.

Can teams practice with another school?

Answer: Yes, BUT, it must be counted as a scrimmage.

