

To: All OHSAA Head Soccer Coaches
From: Jerry Snodgrass, Assistant Commissioner
Emily Gates, Program Coordinator

Here we go! Monday's season start is right around the corner. Here are a few reminders and helpful suggestions as we enter the 2017 soccer season. We are wishing each of you the best as you start the 2017 season.

“Weekly” Memos and “Ohio Soccer Weekly”

As most of you know, in the past I have communicated with soccer coaches on a regular basis during the season by posting documents on a landing page called “Ohio Soccer Weekly”. Since my postings were not on a consistent day of the week, it was necessary for coaches to go find the page and see when communications were posted. To improve communications, we have decided to send a memo directly to you via email (this being one of those!) on a ‘weekly’ (hopefully) basis. It should improve the communication considerably. And....the “Ohio Soccer Weekly” page (<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/2015OSW/2015OhioSoccerWeekly.htm>) remains the site for various documents that address specific topics such as the “Individual Instruction Regulation”, etc. Also, each weekly document (including this one) will be posted on the soccer specific web page that you can always refer back to. Thanks to Emily Gates and other Program Coordinators that help with this and make suggestions to improve our dialogue.

Ask Your Athletic Director

Despite all the efforts to improve communication, PLEASE ask your Athletic Director when you have specific questions. With over 1,000 head coaches alone in the sport of soccer AND the fact Emily and I administrate multiple team sports, we often cannot answer individual calls and the backlog often makes us appear inefficient. That is far from our intended goal so PLEASE consult with your “AD” first. He/she has a direct line of communication with us and if he/she does not know the answer to your question, they can get it answered from us much quicker.

Mandatory Rules Meeting Now Available

The mandatory Rules Interpretation Meeting is now available online on our website (www.OHSAA.org) on the Girls and Boys Soccer pages. Though many view this as a time consuming mandate, please know it is designed to HELP you. I DO believe that most coaches want to follow regulations, but they also want to know clearly and concisely what they are. This is the attempt to do just that. So, we encourage you to have your assistant coaches view this also. It helps everyone – including us! This is a reminder to not use a tablet or mobile device to view the rules meeting.

Take the Survey

Part of the Rules Interp. Meeting includes a short survey for coaches. Ultimately, the data collected helps us help you. Simply due to a technology I have yet to figure out, some of you will be able to click on the link directly which will take you to the survey. Others will need to select the “Resource Tab” and be directed to another screen (this is explained on the Rules Meeting slide). The bottom line – we are asking you to make sure you take just a few short minutes to answer the questions. I look forward to sharing the results with you in upcoming Weekly Memos.

Coaches Manual

We now post the annual “Coaches’ Manual” on the soccer webpage. Please take some time to download this now, print it and share it with your assistant coaches. It is a helpful written guide for year-round regulations affecting soccer. You can get that directly at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/SOCoachesManual.pdf>

Friday Night Futbol!

It was an incredible success last year and bigger this year. Friday night, August 19 – soccer is #TheOnlyGameInTown and I hope your team is participating. Schools will soon receive an information email so we can keep track of who is participating. Host teams will be provided 2 complimentary Columbus Crew SC tickets for a game down the road to raffle off. This is just another way to encourage the event at your school and provide a small source of additional revenue. Please encourage your band to perform at halftime since halftimes can be extended to 15 minutes and many high school marching band camps are ending at this time.

ID Camps – Words of Caution

Ohhhh the “ID Camps”. There was a day when recruiting of high school players by college coaches was done by coming to high school games and watching. What a great idea. However, many have now realized it is easier for them to hold a camp at their college campus, invite players and “ID” them as to whether are getting the all elusive college scholarship or not (and charge them money to come). But here is the problem – the OHSAA considers college tryouts (or ID Camps) to be NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC events. And, players are not permitted to participate in non-interscholastic events **after they become members of the school team**. So, that brings up the next question – when DOES a player become a member of a school team? Answer – when he/she participates in their first scrimmage, Preview or game for the school team. I know of at least one university conducting a camp on or after August 7. If a player has played in a scrimmage or game for your school, he/she would become ineligible if he/she would attend that College ID Camp.

Soccer Coaches Association (OSSCA) Membership

While the ‘Soccer Coaches Association’ is an independent group from the OHSAA, they do represent school coaches in many ways. Suggestions and recommendations on regulation changes are done in concert with the OSSCA and they serve as one voice representing soccer coaches across the state. For that reason alone, I encourage you to become a member of the OSSCA. You will find their membership information and dues chart on one of the slides of the mandatory Rules Interpretation Meeting. Additionally, at the end of the season, post-season district and state honors for your players require membership in order to nominate individuals from your school. I encourage you to take care of this now before your season gets underway.