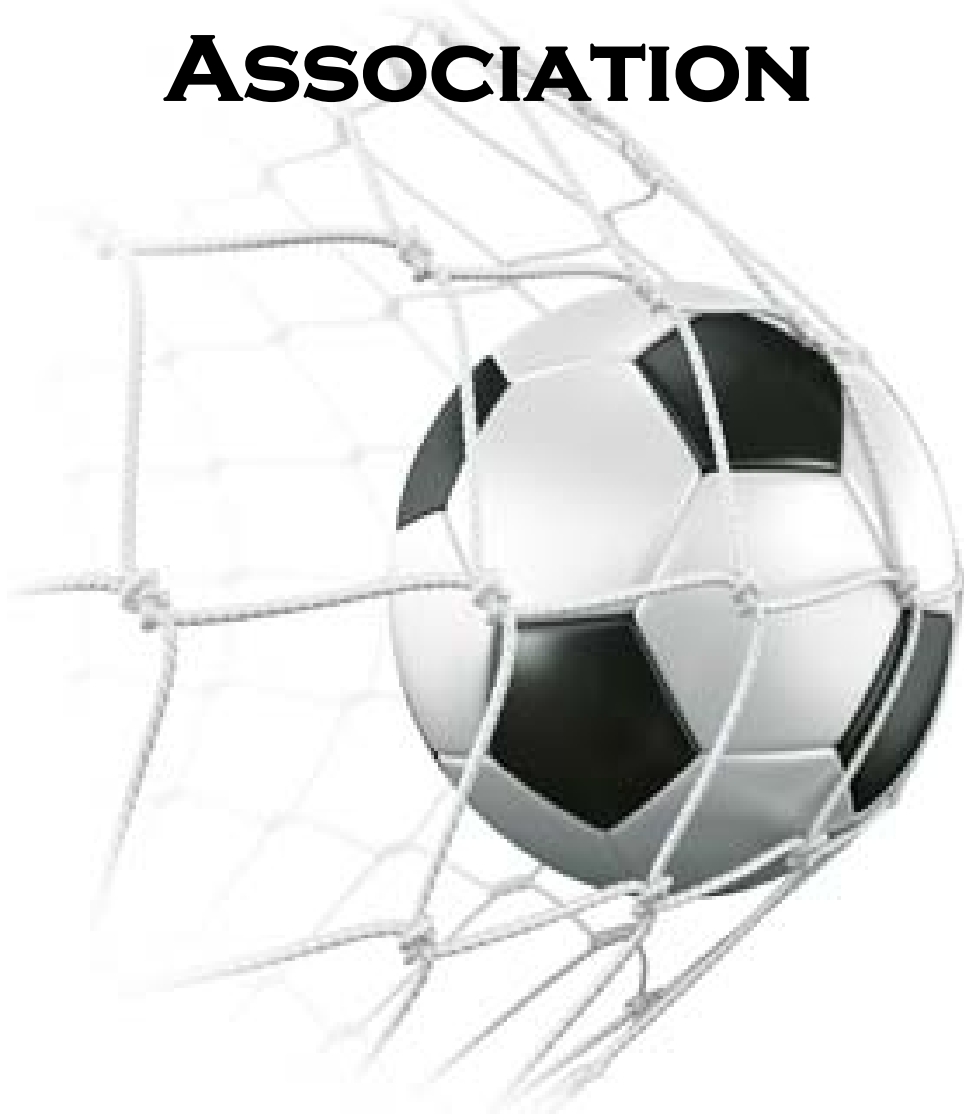




# **OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**



***2011***  
***Coach-Official***  
***Pre-Season Manual***



## A Message from OHSAA Assistant Commissioner, Jerry Snodgrass

### 2011 Soccer Pre-Season Manual

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Welcome to another school year and the continued growth of High School Soccer in Ohio. This year marks a milestone with the addition of a 3<sup>rd</sup> division in Girls' Soccer Tournament play.

This "Pre-Season Manual" has been compiled for coaches and officials to serve as a reference from pre-season to post-season. This, combined with the mandatory pre-season meetings serves as important informational tools necessary for coaches. Changes in Sports' Regulations and Soccer Specific Regulations are explained throughout and ultimately are designed to reduce the number of infractions. This same manual is posted in its entirety on the web at <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/boys/default.asp> (same manual for boys' & girls') and I *strongly* encourage you to print one for your assistant and/or JV coaches.

Though change is always difficult, we have moved toward on-line State Rules Interpretations meetings as an option, still offering face to face meetings on a limited basis throughout the state., OHSAA Bylaws require the head varsity coach, assistant coach, or an athletic administrator attend at least one meeting but I obviously encourage HEAD coaches to attend. Attendance is required in order to be eligible to enter the OHSAA sponsored tournament. Attendance is also mandatory for all officials. A scan card is included in this mailing and should be brought to the meeting to verify attendance. Locations and times can always be found on the web at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

Playing rules governing OHSAA soccer stem from the National Federation (NFHS) *and* the OHSAA. **NFHS Rules** govern all playing rules while **OHSAA Sport Regulations** govern specific administrative rules to unique to Ohio. No coach, administrator, or official has the authority to modify or set aside these rules.

Please pay special attention to the sections dedicated to Off-Season Soccer and INDOOR SOCCER. Much misunderstanding has developed through the years and correct interpretations are contained herein. ALL coaches in Ohio are expected through this publication to understand the rules and regulations relative to player eligibility in Off-Season (non-interscholastic) and Indoor Soccer.

As you probably know by now, the start date of for all Fall Sports is the "first Monday in August" which is August 1, 2011. There are some important aspects of this covered in this manual.

Communication is a key in the successful administration of any of our sports. I encourage you to ask questions or seek assistance by *first* going through your Athletic Administrator. With the extremely high volume of calls and emails, it truly is the most efficient way for us to meet the needs of our schools. Additionally, nearly all informational items can be found on the web at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and navigating to the 'SOCCER' site. *Please* take the time to review the materials provided. At the beginning and the conclusion of the season we receive such a high volume of calls from sub-varsity coaches and "summer" coaches. We encourage YOUR communication with them to help us operate as efficiently as possible. As always, however, if you have any questions, or I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Simply due to the incredible high volume of calls, email is preferred ([jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org](mailto:jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org)).

This is wishing each of you a successful soccer season. I commend you for your time and effort working with the student-athletes in Ohio.

Yours In High School Sports,  
*Jerry Snodgrass*  
Assistant Commissioner



## **OSSCA**

Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association

### **OSSCA Officers**

#### **President**

*John Johnson, Wadsworth*

#### **Executive Director**

*Brian Stevens, Centerville (ret.)*

#### **Vice President, Honors**

*George Hunter*

#### **Vice President, Banquet**

*John Sabol, Barberton*

#### **Treasurer**

*Bob Ellis, Kettering Alter*

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*Scott Dempsey, Bexley*

#### **Secretary**

*Bob Eakins, Jamestown Greenview*

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*Dave Sebeck, Olentangy*

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#### **Greater Akron**

*Ruth Coney, Ross Coney, Co-Presidents*

#### **Central**

*Gene DeWeese, President*

#### **Southwest**

*Mike Haney, President*

#### **North Central**

*Jerry White, President*

#### **Greater Cleveland**

*John Scramling, President*

#### **Northwest**

*John Orozco, President*

#### **East**

*Dave Kridler, President*

#### **Southeast**

*Jason Herbert, President*

#### **Miami Valley**

*TBA*

#### **Youngstown**

*Mathew Thomas, President*

# **The Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches' Association**

The purpose of the Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association is to unify all soccer coaches in the state of Ohio, to promote high school soccer, to create an official line of communication with the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA), to foster higher standards of professionalism and ethics, and to maintain a strong contact with national, state, and local coaches organizations of soccer. The OSSCA Executive Board, consisting of the District Presidents and Officers of the OSSCA, meets at least 6 times yearly. The OSSCA is represented at each OHSAA Board of Directors' meeting.

### **What the OSSCA does for You**

1. Works to improve Soccer Regulations in Ohio
2. Develops and fosters relationship with the OHSAA
3. Works to improve soccer tournament sites
4. Maintains the OSSCA website at [www.ossca.org](http://www.ossca.org)
5. Conducts the State Coaches' Poll
6. Selects All-State Teams in each Division
7. Provides Scholarships to graduating sons/daughters of member coaches
8. Selects All-Academic awards
9. Honors coaches with Service and Victory Awards
10. Honors Assistant Coaches through the "Assistant Coach of the Year" honor
11. Works closely with Ohio State's Men's' Soccer Coach to offer the annual OSSCA Soccer Clinic

### **Joining the OSSCA**

Memberships are available through the OHSBCA website at

<http://www.ossca.org/home.asp>

### **The OSSCA Poll**

*Member coaches of the OSSCA representing each district conduct the state poll. There are 10 districts and each district has a representative per division. There will be 7 polls total, with the last poll being the last weekend of the regular season.*

#### **Process**

1. Each district representative is to send the top three teams from their district to the divisional chair.
  - a. The process of how each district determines their top three is set by the district.
2. The information is to be sent on Friday evening during the season. The reason for Friday evening is it allows voting to be completed on Saturday or at latest Sunday morning. This allows the regional/national voters to time meet regional deadlines for the NSCAA poll.
  - a. The information is to include the teams, their record, and results from the week.
  - b. Saturday games do not count in that week's poll and they will be taken into consideration the following week.
3. If a coach from a district fails to send in nominations then that district will not be included in that weekly poll.
4. Once all information has been received, then each representative will send who they think are the top 10 teams in the state to the divisional chair. The votes are totaled and the poll is completed. The coaches who assist with the poll are volunteers and the OSSCA asks that they not be contacted about how they voted or why certain teams are not in the poll. Polls are always subjects of debate, but this is the process that has been approved and will be used



# OHSAA Mission Statement

The Ohio High School Athletic Association's mission is to regulate and administer interscholastic athletic competition in a fair and equitable manner while promoting the values of participation in interscholastic athletics as an integral part of a student's educational experience. The OHSAA represents its member schools by recognizing and promoting academics, the safety of participants, good citizenship and lifelong values as the foundation of interscholastic athletics.

## Important Soccer Dates

August 1	Coaching Begins for schools with classes beginning August 20 or before
August 12	First day Previews are permitted
August 20	First game permitted
October 9	Tournament Seed/Draw Date
October 17-22	Sectional Tournaments
October 24-29	District Tournaments
November 1-5	Regional Tournaments
November 8	State Finalists Meeting (11:15)
November 8-12	State Semi-Finals & Finals

## OHSAA Contact Information

Jerry Snodgrass	Assistant Commissioner	<a href="mailto:jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org">jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org</a>
<i>Administrates the sport of soccer and oversees tournament, writes Soccer Sports' Regulations, Soccer Tournament Regulations</i>		
Don Muenz	Officials' Development Coordinator	<a href="mailto:butsir@columbus.rr.com">butsir@columbus.rr.com</a>
<i>Responsible for overseeing soccer officials in Ohio. Serves as liaison with NFHS and oversees the education and recruitment of soccer officials in Ohio.</i>		
Sharon Shoemaker	Administrative Assistant	<a href="mailto:sshoemaker@ohsaa.org">sshoemaker@ohsaa.org</a>
<i>Serves as assistant to all soccer regular season and tournament issues</i>		



## Communicating with the OHSAA

It is understandable with 831 schools in Ohio and the number of soccer teams in Ohio from Junior High to High School, the volume of calls and emails coming into the office is quite high and nearly impossible to answer at peak times. *Most* questions can and should be answered by the Athletic Director at your school. To make our communication as efficient as possible, we ask school ADMINISTRATORS (including your Athletic Director) to communicate directly with us...therefore our policy of not answering calls by parents and community members. One can only imagine the impossibility of that. Additionally, every effort is being made to provide useful information via our website. I encourage you to check the website (both the main page and soccer specific page) and additional information is provided in this manual regarding weekly informational items (Ohio Soccer Weekly) that should prove beneficial for coaches at all levels. The Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association is also an excellent resource for coaches. I encourage your membership in that organization to help strengthen the great sport of soccer in Ohio.

## ***Rules Interpretation Meeting Information***

Though we encourage EVERYONE to complete the Rules Interpretation meeting ONLINE, a limited number of 'face to face' meetings will be offered in 2011. Completion of the meeting, whether online or face to face, is MANDATORY. Few coaches realize that all umpires in Ohio must not ONLY attend the State Rules meeting, but must also attend 4 LOCAL Association meetings that are educational in their nature. It is important to understand the purpose of the State Rules Interpretation Meeting. The "Online" meeting for Coaches is geared exclusively FOR coaches while the "Online" meeting for Officials is exclusive for Officials. Quizzes are embedded within each online presentation.

**Note to Coaches:** OHSAA Soccer Sports Regulations will be covered as well as General Regulations and Bylaws as they pertain to coaches and players. Though the main purpose is to provide knowledge and advice on the various OHSAA regulations, this is the education mechanism to insure compliance with the various rules and regulations. In light of many infractions that occur throughout the year, information provided in these meetings, whether face to face OR online is designed to reduce and prevent these infractions.

**Note to Officials:** Though the 'face to face' meetings are a blend of information given to coaches AND officials (since both will be in attendance), if you elect the online version, it will be exclusive to soccer officials. Most of the OHSAA's rules and regulations affect the administration of the sport, from Athletic Administrators and Soccer Coaches. Enforcement of such things as "coach certification", practice start dates, number of contests, etc., are assigned to school administrators and coaches and will not be covered in the online presentation. Don Muenz, Director of Development for Soccer Officiating, will have a key role in the online delivery as well as the officiating portion of "face to face" meetings.

### **ONLINE METHOD OF COMPLETION**

#### **For Officials:**

Officials should access their *myOHSAA* account. Once in the system, there will be a link for the OFFICIALS online Rules Meeting. Simply log in, completing the required fields and complete the course. Please note that all screens of the presentation must be viewed and the quiz completed for credit to be provided. Officials' "Profiles" in *myOHSAA* will be updated periodically to reflect attendance credit. PLEASE note that this is NOT INSTANTANEOUS and is generally done once per week. PLEASE do not call the OHSAA Office to verify your attendance.

The ONLINE Rules Meeting link will be live on TUESDAY, July 26, 2011 at 12:00 noon

The last day for completion of the online version is Friday, August 19, 2011 at 12:00 midnight or a \$50.00 late fee is charged for access to the online version. On or about Monday, August 15, Officials who have NOT attended will be notified. Therefore, there is no need to double check attendance until after this notification is sent out on August 15.

PLEASE do not call the office for verification after completing the online version, IF you 'attend'....TRUST the system and it will record your attendance. Our notification of those who have NOT attended on or around August 15 will serve as the back-up method to insure those who have attended receive credit.

#### **For Coaches:**

Coaches should access the online version by navigating to the OHSAA's BOYS' SOCCER (<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/boys/default.asp>) or GIRLS' SOCCER (<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/girls/default.asp>) webpage. You will need your SCHOOL ID NUMBER, which can be provided by your school's Athletic Director. Please note that all screens of the presentation must be viewed and any quizzes or surveys must be completed for attendance credit to be provided.

The ONLINE Rules Meeting link will be live on TUESDAY, July 26, 2011 at 12:00 noon

The last day for completion of the online version is Friday, August 19, 2011 at 12:00 midnight or a \$50.00 late fee is charged for access to the online version. On or about Monday, August 15, schools (through their Athletic Director) will be notified if they have NOT attended. Therefore, there is no need to double check attendance until after this notification is sent out on August 15.

PLEASE do not call the office for verification after completing the online version, IF you 'attend'....TRUST the system and it will record your attendance. Our notification of those who have NOT attended on or around August 15 will serve as the back-up method to insure those who have attended receive credit.

## "FACE TO FACE" RULES MEETINGS

IF you choose to attend a "Face to Face" State Rules Interpretation meeting, please take the CARD that is located in the inside jacket of the mailing to Coaches and Umpires and turn this in at the conclusion of the meeting you attend. Though any member of your school staff may attend, we *strongly encourage the* HEAD COACH to attend. "Face to Face" meetings will be a combination of Officiating and Coaching information since it is presumed that both groups will be in attendance. Attendees MUST be in attendance within 10 minutes of the start of the meeting and remain through the entire presentation to receive credit. Meetings and their locations are listed below and can also be viewed at <http://myohsaa.ohsaa.org/public/stateMeetings.aspx>

### 2011 Soccer "Face to Face" State Rules Interpretation Meeting Schedule & Locations

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
7/26/2011	7:15	Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy 4687 Wyoga Lake Rd. Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44224	Kevin Clark
7/28/2011	7:15	Waverly High School (Rear Entrance) 1 Tiger Drive, Waverly OH 45690	Jon Dick
7/29/2011	7:15	Ashland High School (Cafeteria) 1440 King Road, Ashland, OH 44905	Jeff Meyers
8/1/2011	7:15	Findlay High School (Auditorium) 1200 Broad Avenue Findlay, OH 45840	Nate Weihrauch
8/3/2011	7:15	Dublin Coffman High School (Auditorium) 6780 Coffman Road, Dublin, OH 43017	Russell Annis
8/4/2011	7:15	Ohio University – Zanesville 1425 Newark Road, Zanesville, OH 43701	Junior McCutcheon
8/5/2011	7:15	Niles Wellness Center 213 Sharkey Drive, Niles, OH 44445	David Anderson
8/8/2011	7:15	Mason High School (Auditorium) 6100 S. Mason-Montgomery Rd., Mason, OH 45040	Scott Stemple
8/10/2011	7:15	Lorain County Community College 1005 N. Abbe Road, Elyria, OH 44035	Steven Zeise
8/13/2011	10:00 a.m.	Centerville High School 500 E. Franklin Street, Centerville, OH 45459	Robert Sherman

### *Parent/Player Pre-Season Meetings*

Pre-season meetings with parents are mandatory and will most likely occur at your school along with other fall sport teams. This is determined by each school's Athletic Administrator and must be held no later than 2 weeks after the start of the season. This is the time to cover such things as eligibility requirements, individual school policies, individual sport policies, sportsmanship issues and expectations travel plans for away contests, etc. A sample agenda is provided to all school Athletic Directors and other helpful ideas to cover are included in a Pre-Season posting of "Ohio Soccer Weekly" (See below).

I also encouraged coaches to invite local officials to meet with their team and parents during these pre-season meetings or even during an early season practice. It allows the Officials to meet the athletes and discuss new rules. It provides athletes an opportunity to ask questions, understand the expectations of officials and have a discussion prior to game days. During the required Pre-season meetings, parents often gain a better understanding of the game as well as the 'officiating side' of things.

## *“Ohio Soccer Weekly”*

As in past years, “Ohio Soccer Weekly” is posted approximately once per week with the goal of providing better communication with soccer coaches in Ohio *and* to continue to improve soccer in the state. In addition to communicating current administrative items, many non-interscholastic and Off-Season regulations are covered at key times. This communicative tool will include administrative items, important reminders and various unusual rule interpretations that come up from time to time. I encourage you to go online for this weekly ‘bulletin’. This can be viewed from a link off the Boys’ and Girls’ Soccer webpages at <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/boys/default.asp> or <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/girls/default.asp>.

## *Season Start Dates, End Dates, Etc.*

Beginning this year, all fall sports will begin practice on the first Monday in August. That date, of course, is August 1 for 2011. Since this was adopted after the printing of the 2010-11 OHSAA Handbook, the date was not able to be changed. However, the NEW 2011-12 OHSAA Handbook that Athletic Directors will receive in July will have the correct start date of August 1, 2011. There is no longer an earlier start date permitted for schools that start school at an earlier date. Though many of the “Q and A’s” surrounding the beginning of practice are answered later in this manual, a few important items of concern:

### No Contact Period

Per OHSAA Regulations, the only Non-Contact (“Dead”) Period for soccer is a 28 day period following your team’s last contest. Many coaches have perceived there to be a ‘dead period’ or ‘no-contact’ period prior to the start of practice. This has never been the case. The “No Contact” period is defined in the OHSAA’s Sports Regulation 8.

### Summer Instructional Days

Most coaches will note the 10 days permitted for instruction during June and July (OHSAA Sports’ Regulation 4.9) could possibly run up against the start of practice on August 1. Please remember that no off-season programs can be mandated. Coaches are cautioned not to tie the 10 permitted days to ‘practice’. Tryouts, team assignments, etc., cannot be done until practices begin on August 1. Though we do not restrict how many tryout days have to occur, coaches are cautioned to use common sense. Your Athletic Director will certainly provide you guidance in this area.

### Season End Date

A team’s season ends on the day of the last game for that team. Upon the season ending, the 28 day ‘no-contact’ period becomes effective and all student-athletes and coaches fall under the OHSAA’s Non-Interscholastic Regulations. These will be covered in detail at Rules Interpretation meetings. Should weather issues cause postponements or cancellations of games, the last date games may be played in Ohio is November 12, 2011.

## *Sportsmanship Note*

Though a separate “Sportsmanship” section exists in this manual, a few general soccer specific items are mentioned here.

- 2 years ago (the 2009 Season), Coach ejections were at their lowest point since records were kept in 1994
- Last year (2010 Season), Coach ejections were the highest since records were kept in 1994.

Expectations need to be placed on team members relative to sporting behavior. High School soccer continues to grow and improve each and every year. I urge coaches to be at the forefront of setting examples of behavior and translating that into expectations for their student-athletes. It is good for the game and will allow the continued growth of soccer.

During my years administrating sports, I have ‘heard it all’ and the most common response from ejected coaches is “*I was only sticking up for my players*”. I can assure you that NO official has ever set out to degrade or disrespect the game of soccer and we ALL need to remember that the game is ‘for the players’. I continue to urge you to keep that at the forefront of the leadership and guidance you are entrusted with. Two areas of concern that have arisen in the past few years that coaches can assist:

### Warm Up at Conclusion of JV Game

During the first game of a ‘doubleheader’ night (JV game or the boys/girls’ playing prior to the second game), teams will often begin their warm-up prior to the conclusion of the first game. This often leads to a team ‘circling the field’ prior to the first game ending. We are discouraging this as nearly 30 minutes are provided as ample time for warm-up when the game concludes. Additionally, there are growing sportsmanship issues with players unsupervised as they cross paths with opponents’ team areas. This is an area that COACHES can assist with.

### Running over to Fans at the Conclusion of a Game

Yes, it may be an ‘accepted’ thing...a ‘soccer thing’; a team runs across the field together to the opposite touch line at the conclusion of a game to share the joy of victory with other students. But...we are encountering more and more acts of unsporting behavior that occurs when fans of the OTHER team are in that same area. Please utilize your leadership role and prevent issues before they occur. Address this frequently with team members.

## Nike & Game Ball Information

Nike is the official game ball for the OHSAA and is used at all REGIONAL and STATE games. Other National Federation (NFHS) approved balls are able to be used for regular season play and for tournament play at the Sectional & District levels. The approved Nike ball is the T-90 Catalyst and the Model Number is: SC1789-162. Please note that 'pink' (or other commemorative colored) balls are not permitted to be used when playing games for 'special occasions' such as "Kick for the Cure". See below.

## Uniforms & "Special Event" Games

A reminder that with last season's rule change, ALL WHITE jerseys will be required by NFHS Rule for all HOME teams beginning the 2013 season. This will be covered in detail in Rules Interpretation Meetings, but coaches should consider this when ordering new uniforms.

The OHSAA is certainly supportive of the many 'special events' coaches and teams assist with for local charities. "Kick for the Cure" has been one of several different 'special events' that teams across Ohio have become involved in. A few important notes for those participating in those events:

### Special Uniforms

Requests often are received by schools to permit alternate uniforms for participating in games that have a charitable tie. The OHSAA's policy as recommended by the NFHS is to permit such requests one time with number requirements still intact. Though the use of a pink jersey may be permitted for a home game, the number requirements must comply with NFHS regulations. Any requests should be made in writing (either US Mail or email) to the OHSAA at [jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org](mailto:jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org). Once any waivers are permitted, officials should be notified in advance.

## Coach Certification & Education Requirements

As outlined in Ohio Administrative Code, all Coaches of Middle School/Jr. High and High School teams MUST possess a "Pupil Activity Validation Certificate" to coach in Ohio. This includes paid coaches AND volunteer coaches. School administrators are responsible for maintaining records on compliance and most schools provide opportunities for their coaches to obtain the necessary coursework. The actual regulations AND the certificate can be downloaded from the OHSAA's Sports' Medicine page or directly at:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/default.asp>. To obtain the required certificate through the ODE, one must:



- Have completed a Sports' First Aid Course
- Possess a valid CPR Card
- Have been approved by their local Board of Education or similar governing body
- **Complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course**

Completion of the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course was made part of the requirement to coach in Ohio as a result of Board of Directors action in June of 2008. Though there was confusion in the initial action, the timetable for coaches to complete the course is tied directly to the Pupil Activity Validation Certificate. To obtain a new certificate, the Fundamentals of Coaching course is required. Simply put:

- **NEW COACHES** must take the course to apply for the ODE's certificate,
- **VETERAN COACHES** must take the course upon renewal of their certificate. This is so indicated by the school's superintendent's signature on the application to the ODE. All applications submitted for the certificate require the signature of the superintendent where board approved. The signature verifies completion of the course.

Effective the 2011-12 school year, audits will be conducted for compliance with fines administered to non-complying schools.



# *Coaches' Code of Ethics*

From the NFHS Soccer Rules Book

The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. An interscholastic program should be designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each student should be treated with the utmost respect and his or her welfare should be considered in decisions by the coach at all times. Accordingly, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the NFHS Board of Directors.

The Coach shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.

The Coach shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. IN all personal contact with students, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

The Coach shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse.

The Coach shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct the program in harmony with the total school program.

The Coach shall master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team members. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.

The Coach shall exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.

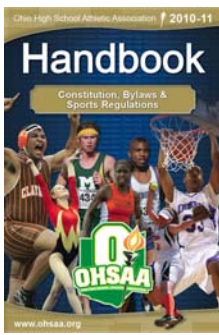
The Coach shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

The Coach should meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the event before and after the contest.

The Coach shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give students special consideration.

The Coach shall not scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the league and/or state high school athletic association.





# OHSAA Sports' Regulations



Regulations governing the sport of soccer are divided into two basic categories: GENERAL Sports' Regulations and SOCCKER Regulations (sport specific). These are reviewed annually and approved by the OHSAA's Board of Directors.



## General Sports' Regulations

These regulations can be accessed and address regulations that affect all sports governed by the OHSAA. They include, but are not limited to, such things as Instructional Programs outside the window of the season, Physical Fitness (Conditioning) Programs, Open Gym/Field Regulations, No Contact Periods, Player and Coach Ejection Policies. These are important and *most* areas of concern can be addressed simply by reading through these Regulations or contacting your Athletic Administrator. They are easily accessed via the web by navigating to the "Soccer" webpage and clicking on "General Sports' Regulations" on the left hand side or directly going to <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rglts/GenSportsReg11-12.pdf>. I strongly encourage you to take the time to read these to familiarize yourself and your staff with the various rules approved by our Board of Directors that govern all sports.

Though there are far too many to list in this manual, a *few* of the more common ones that affect soccer squads are:

### Open Gyms/Facilities/Fields at Member Schools

Open Gyms (or facilities) are clearly defined in Rule 7 of the OHSAA Sports' Regulations. An abbreviated version states:

- A school may open its athletic facilities for unstructured free play provided the activity is supervised by a school employee who may remove participants or spectators for disciplinary reasons.
- The school may designate the sport or sports that will be played during the free play period, but may not limit participation to a select group of students from within the school. Participation may be limited to students enrolled in that specific school.
- There can be no designation of who will play on which team or who will play whom. Only those students participating may be involved in the selection of teams.
- Regulation timing of games is not permitted.
- Written scorekeeping is not permitted.
- No individual invitations, written or oral, are permitted.
- A coach, paid or volunteer, violates the provision of these regulations when the coach requires, suggests or in any way implies that a student's chance to be selected for an interscholastic squad is contingent upon participation at an open gymnasium or facilities program.
- Mandatory attendance at open gyms/facilities is not permitted.
- Transporting athletes to a school or non-school open gym/facility is a violation for any member of the coaching staff, paid or volunteer.
- Coaches may participate in the unstructured free play in the open gym/facilities.

Schools MAY restrict individuals from observing the open gym/facility activity.

## Soccer Specific Regulations

Each spring, regulations for the upcoming school year are approved by the Board of Directors for every sport the OHSAA sponsors. These address areas such as (but not limited to) Non-Interscholastic competition, number of contests (game, scrimmage or preview) that are permitted, season start and end dates, out of state travel, etc. All coaches should familiarize themselves with these regulations. Coaches should familiarize their entire staff with the importance of these Regulations as they directly affect the eligibility of student-athletes. Upon approval, they are submitted for printing to the annual OHSAA Handbook (which every administrator has been provided). These are also available through soccer web page at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/boys/default.asp> or <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/girls/default.asp> Soccer specific AND the General Sports' Regulations are found on the left side of the page. A few of the Sports' Regulation *highlights* are listed but you are encouraged to read the entire regulations at the above listed website.

### Game & Scrimmage Limitations (Grades 9-12)

Maximum number of games permitted: 16 Games

Scrimmages/Previews: Maximum of 4 scrimmages PLUS 1 Preview.

Scrimmage Note: Scrimmages MAY be held at any time during pre-season, post-season or during the season, but MUST count as the same for both competing teams. In other words, Team A cannot count it as a 'scrimmage' while Team B counts the competition as a 'game'. This is especially noteworthy during post-season.

Alumni games: These have gained popularity and may be played...but they MUST be counted as a scrimmage.

Practicing with Other Schools: This also has become popular and may occur but again, any such practice MUST be counted as one of the team's 4 permitted scrimmages.

### Game & Scrimmage Limitations (Grades 7-8)

Maximum number of games permitted: 14 and 1 Post-Season tournament not to exceed 4 games

Scrimmages: Maximum of 1 scrimmage PLUS 1 Preview

Scrimmage Note: Scrimmages MAY be held at any time during the season but MUST count as the same for both competing teams. In other words, Team A cannot count it as a 'scrimmage' while Team B counts the competition as a 'game'.

### Previews

OHSAA Regulations permit teams to participate in ONE preview in addition to their 4 scrimmages (9-12). Previews may be scheduled and played during the period of time from Friday, August 12, 2011 before the season begins and ending with the date of the first regular season game of the teams involved.

Preview Note: Previews may ONLY consist of a maximum of one-half the length of a regular season contest. Admission may be charged for Previews.

### No Contact Period ("Dead Period")

There has been considerable misunderstanding about the No Contact period outlined in General Sports Regulation 8. Any coach, paid or volunteer, is prohibited from athletic or athletic-related contact with squad members in the same sport for the period of time starting with the first day after the school's last interscholastic contest and ending 28 days later. This includes any contact in tryouts in or out of school, physical fitness, weight training, open gyms, etc. It also includes verbal contact which encourages discusses or promotes any activity related to soccer. Exceptions to this are all-star contests, awards ceremonies, contact with seniors to facilitate college recruiting and contact as a faculty member assigned to teach in the regular curriculum, pick up school-issued equipment and attendance at OHSAA tournaments.

### Out of State Travel

A soccer team may travel out of state to compete in contest scrimmages, previews and games games in states OR provinces in Canada that are contiguous to Ohio regardless of distance. This would include the states of Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia and the province of Ontario in Canada. A team may travel out of state one time to state or province NOT contiguous to Ohio but only if there is no loss of school time.

Teams may not travel out of state only to practice.

### Comments to News Media

Each year unpleasant situations arise as a result of comments made to the news media by coaches. The OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws reads in part "Great care shall be exercised in the selection of officials, well in advance of the contest and agreed upon by schools involved." Public criticism of officials is a direct reflection upon those who were responsible for assigning the officials to the game. Officials/Officials are trained and expected to make no derogatory comments regarding the players, coaches, or schools. Coaches are expected to follow the same procedure in regard to the officials. Coaches violating this rule may be asked to discuss the problem personally with the Commissioner. (See Sports Regulations "Media Regulations")

### Videotaping Regulations

The improvement of various electronic devices, especially cell phones, has drawn much attention to the rules regarding recording soccer contests. Complete regulations available within the OHSAA Handbook or through the General Sports Regulations on the web at <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rqfts/GenSportsReg11-12.pdf> under Section "A" of the Media Regulations. A few highlights of this include but are not limited to:

- It is permissible for a school to videotape or photograph regular season contests in which the school team is participating, but such tapes or photographs may not be used for coaching purposes until after the contest is completed. In other words, it is not possible to use photographs or any recorded information at halftime of a game.
- It is not permissible for a school or school representative to videotape or photograph regular season OR tournament contests of other schools without the written consent of the schools participating in the contest.

### Scoreboard-Video Replay Board Regulations

As more and more schools erect video replay boards at their shared facilities with football, there has been much concern about their use. First, replays on scoreboards are NOT considered any form of coaching device and therefore are permissible for use. It is cautioned however...replays of CONTROVERSIAL plays are NOT to be run on replay boards. This is consistent with football regulations and discussion should take place with those individuals operating those boards.

### Officials

**Varsity:** Minimum of TWO OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 officials are required. Regardless of how many are officiating the game, ALL must be OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2.

**Junior Varsity:** Minimum of TWO OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 officials are required.

**Freshmen:** OHSAA Class 1, 2, or 3 *recommended*.

*Note: If only one OHSAA official is present to officiate a contest, the game may be played if participating coaches agree.*

### Protests

Bylaw 8, Section 3(1) of the OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws reads in part, "*Protests arising from the decisions of interpretations of the rules by officials during the game will not be considered.* Their decisions and interpretations are final." This means that correctable errors must be corrected during the game and within the time established by playing rules.

## *Special Note Regarding Suspended Games*

Every fall, Ohio weather brings attention to the Official NFHS Rule regarding Duration and Length of Games (Rule 7, pages 33-34 of the NFHS Rules Book).

Article 3 of Rule 7 states:

*...In the event a game must be suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue play, the head referee shall declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been played. If less than one-half of the game has been played, the game may be rescheduled from the start or restarted from the suspension of play according to state association adoption.*

Important Notes Regarding Rule 7.3:

- Weather and lack of sufficient lighting are conditions that *normally* make it impossible to continue play.
- ANY time a complete half is played and conditions make it impossible to continue play, the game is considered complete and the score is FINAL. FINAL.
- Games that are unable to be completed and a complete half is played cannot be continued at a later date.
- Games that are unable to be completed and a complete half has NOT been played, the game shall resume from the exact point of suspension. Coaches/game personnel should make note of time on clock, position of ball, etc. The game is NOT restarted.

This rule through the NFHS does not provide for 'State Adoptions', therefore, League or Conference Rules may NOT override this NFHS Rule

## *Non-Interscholastic Competition*

A member of an interscholastic soccer squad (grades 7-12) sponsored by the Board of Education cannot participate in a non-interscholastic Soccer program (such as 'club' or 'travel'), which includes tryouts, practice and contests as an individual OR a member of a team in the sport of Soccer anytime during the school team's season. This is explained in OHSAA Bylaw 10-3-1. A student-athlete becomes a member of the school team when he/she participates in a scrimmage, preview OR regular season or tournament game as a substitute OR as a starter.

A member of an interscholastic soccer team sponsored by the Board of Education MAY participate in non-interscholastic soccer (such as 'club' or 'travel') PRIOR TO and AFTER the school season under the following conditions:

- The number of interscholastic soccer players from the same school on a non-interscholastic team is limited to FIVE on the roster of that non-interscholastic team. This number includes all players that played on the school team in the previous season from grades 9-11\*.
- A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament only in excess of the five player limit until the squad is eliminated but no later than Labor Day.
- A player may play in non-interscholastic soccer ONLY WHEN the student's team has completed its season.

\*Graduating seniors are exempt from this particular 5 player limitation.

## *Indoor Soccer*

Over the course of the past several years, there has been an increase in the number of Indoor facilities being built across the state. Years ago, generally the only place Indoor Soccer could take place was in Ice Arenas. At that time, the OHSAA adopted the understanding and subsequent policy that "Indoor Soccer" was permitted in excess of the 50% limitation of players (5 from a school). However, as newer and LARGER facilities were being built, an interpretation appeared to have developed that basically led coaches to believe that "if it was played INDOORS, it was legal". That was never the interpretation that existed and every effort will be undertaken through this mailing and Rules Interpretation meetings to correct this misunderstanding.

By 2011 OHSAA Soccer Regulations (4.7)

*Participation in indoor soccer is not a violation of OHSAA non-interscholastic team Sports' Regulation 4.5 for student-athletes provided the rules of The United States Soccer Federation(USSF) Indoor Soccer Rules are followed that specifically include the team limitations outlined in these rules and the facilities uses 'boards' as outlined within these same rules.*

Key Points:

1. Team limitations defined in USSF Indoor Soccer Regulations must be followed
2. "Boards" must be used as are required in the official USSF Rules of Indoor Soccer.

## *"Futsal"*

Many facilities are now offering "Futsal" leagues. The OHSAA currently interprets Futsal being different than the sport of soccer, due to the type and size of the ball used, the field dimensions, etc. Playing in "Futsal" is not in violation of the OHSAA Non-Interscholastic Team Sports Regulation 4.5; provided they are playing under the official rules of Futsal. You can read about these rules at:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Futsal>

## Rating & Voting for Officials

You often hear at tournament contests that “the tournament officials have been selected by a process approved by the Board of Directors”. That ‘process’ is an important one for both coaches AND officials. To make this process work it requires Coaches and Athletic Directors to do their part. Officials take this process seriously and it is in everyone’s best interest to have the correct input for the assignment of officials. A few important things to note:

1. Coaches RATE Officials, other approved individuals VOTE FOR Officials.
2. Ratings are done at the conclusion of a game; voting is done at the end of the season.
3. “Pools” of officials are created as a result of ratings and votes.
4. District Athletic Boards utilize the various pools to assign officials to sectional and district tournaments in their respective Athletic Districts.
5. The OHSAA Office utilizes the pools to assign officials to the Regional and State Tournament.
6. All Rating and Voting is done through the *myOHSAA* Data Management System.
7. Coaches obtain a User Name and Password for access to the *myOHSAA* system



In order for the process, games and officials must be entered into the *myOHSAA Data Management System* by a school’s Athletic Administrator. Schools that are the home team in a contest are the ones required to enter the contest and the officials. In some cases, league assignors have this capability. IF a contest is not entered, there can be no rating of officials. If this is not done, eventually, this will lead to a fine for not rating officials. Please encourage your Athletic Administrator to enter contests into the system.

You will note that using the *myOHSAA* system will allow you to view other teams’ schedules to assist you with possible scouting opportunities as well as serve as a ‘double check’ with often changing schedules due to cancellations or additions of contests.

### Instructions for Rating Officials

1. Access the *myOHSAA* system at <http://myohsaa.ohsaa.org> OR from the home page of the [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)
2. Logon to *myOHSAA* using the login credentials provided by your athletic administrator. After logging in, you may be directed to set a new password and provide a security question and answer. Follow the on screen instructions for setting a new password and save your account information.
3. The home page will appear which contains all the tools and information currently available to a Head Coach. A summary of post game reports appears at the top of the home page.
  1. Click on your sport in the list of post game reports. The varsity schedule will appear.
  2. Click “Record” under the score column of the varsity schedule. The *Report Score/Rate Officials* page will appear.
4. To Report The Score:
  - Click “Report “ in the section labeled “Score”.
  - Enter the score for each team and click “Save”.
5. To Rate Officials:
  - Scroll down to the “Rate Officials” section.
  - In the box marked “Requested Officials”, the names of those officials that did not accept the contract prior to the contest will appear. If these officials worked the contest, click the box in front of their name(s) and then click the “Add Official” button. This adds the official(s) to the rating form below. Note: officials that electronically accepted the contract before the contest will automatically display on the rating form.
  - If you were the away team and your opponent has not entered the officials for the contest, “Click to Add Officials for Rating” will allow you to enter the officials for rating after the event has occurred.
  - Officials may now be rated as a group or individually.
    - To rate officials as a group: simply click the number of the rating.

- *To rate officials individually.* remove the check mark from the “Rate All Officials” box by clicking on it. Each official’s name will activate. Uncheck any official you do not want to rate or that did not officiate the contest. Click on the number of the rating you want to give to the official.

- **CLICK** the “Submit Ratings” Button.

**NOTE:** for volleyball the button is labeled “Submit Scores/Ratings” The list of rated officials will appear in the “Details” section of the page.

- **Exit** the page by clicking the “Cancel” button. You will be directed back to your varsity schedule.
- **Repeat** these steps to report the scores and rate officials of all your varsity contests (home or away). Sub-varsity contests may be rated but are not required.

Official’s Ratings may also be accessed through the team’s schedule page. **To do this, simply**

1. **Access your team’s schedule:** In the left column locate the drop down box labeled “Select Calendar”, using the drop down select your teams calendar from the list.
2. Once your team’s schedule has appeared, **click on the double red stars** in the rating column.
3. Repeat the steps under Number 3 above parts c through h to complete the ratings.

**Athletic Administrators** receive separate instructions for VOTING for officials at the conclusion of the season. Additional individuals that VOTE for officials include:

1. League Assignors
2. Local Associations
3. District Athletic Board Members
4. OHSAA Commissioners

## Important Sports' Medical Information

The safety of our student-athletes is of utmost concern at all times. Information regarding the following important topics can be found at the OHSAA's "Healthy Lifestyles and Sports Medicine" webpage at <http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/default.asp>. Additional information relative to various equipment and rules relative to medical issues can be found throughout this manual as well.

- Heat Stress and Athletic Participation
- Recommendations for Hydration to Prevent Heat Illness
- Suggested Guidelines for Management of Head Trauma in Sports
- Communicable Disease Procedures (can also be found on page nine of the NFHS 2009-10 Rules Book)
- Links to the following sites:
  - Joint Advisory Committee on Sports Medicine
  - Ohio Athletic Trainers Association
  - American Medical Society for Sports Medicine
  - Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth
  - National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA)
  - Gatorade Sports Science Institute News

## Concussion Management

The OHSAA has made a concerted effort to provide educational resources to member schools on this vital topic of concussion management. The following are resources that are currently available:

1. Suggested Guidelines for Concussion Management in Sport – a publication from the NFHS  
<http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/Suggested%20Guidelines%20for%20Concussion%20Management%20in%20Sports.pdf>
2. Questions vital to diagnosing concussion – Q& A and a video from an ESPN special on concussions -  
<http://sports.espn.go.com/espn/e60/news/story?id=5162747>
3. Concussion in Sports – What you Need to Know - A 20-minute course will be available by June 1 at no cost to the user and will be available on [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com). The course was designed for coaches, parents, officials and students to assist in recognizing the signs and symptoms of concussion and to take the appropriate steps to manage them. The OHSAA strongly suggests that schools include this course in the preseason meetings with coaches, parents and students.
4. Centers for Disease Control – Resources to Prevent and Recognize Concussions - <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/Concussion>
5. Fact Sheets for Parents, Coaches and Athletes - <http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/ParentsFactsheet.pdf>  
<http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/CoachGuide%20on%20Concussion.pdf>; <http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/AthleteFactsheet.pdf>
6. Video from the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association – Recognizing Sports Concussions  
[http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/Concussion%20Stuff/DVD\\_1\\_0000.wmv](http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/Concussion%20Stuff/DVD_1_0000.wmv)

## OHSAA Sports' Regulation on Concussions

The OHSAA has adopted the following sports regulation on Concussions:

Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared with written authorization by an appropriate health care professional.

**EFFECTIVE THE 2011 SEASON, THE WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION MUST BE SHOWN TO THE OFFICIAL BEFORE BEING PERMITTED RETURN TO PLAY.**

In Ohio, an "appropriate health care professional" shall be a physician, as authorized under ORC Chapter 4731 and includes both doctors of medicine (M.D.) and doctors of osteopathy (D.O.) and an athletic trainer, licensed under ORC Chapter 4755.

## Communicable Disease Procedures

Though most schools have a Certified Athletic Trainer present at Varsity contests and all coaches are required to maintain a valid Pupil Activity Certificate through the Ohio Department of Education that includes a Sports' First Aid component, it is important to keep up to date on the remote risk that blood borne infectious diseases can be transmitted during basketball practice and contests. For example, Hepatitis B can be present in blood as well as other bodily fluids. Procedures for reducing the potential transmission of these infectious diseases should include, but should not be limited to the following:

1. The bleeding must be stopped, the open wound covered and if there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed before the athlete may participate.
2. Routine use of gloves or other precautions to prevent skin and mucous-membrane exposure when contact with blood and other body fluids is anticipated.
3. Immediately wash hands and other skin surfaces if contaminated (in contact) with blood or other body fluids. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves.
4. Clean all contaminated surfaces and equipment with an appropriate disinfectant before competition resumes.
5. Practice proper disposal procedures to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels and other sharp instruments or devices.
6. Although saliva has not been implicated in HIV transmission, to minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, or other ventilation devices should be available for use.
7. Athletic trainers/coaches with bleeding or oozing skin conditions should refrain from all direct athletic care until the condition resolves.
8. Contaminated towels should be properly disposed of/disinfected.
9. Follow acceptable guidelines in the immediate control of bleeding and when handling dressings, mouthguards and other articles containing body fluids.

You are encouraged to log on to the OHSAA's website at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and refer to the Sports' Medicine dropdown menu for additional information.

## H1N1 Influenza Policy

The OHSAA's Board of Directors approved the following policy with advice from the Ohio Department of Health and shall observe this policy at tournament time in the event of an H1N1 Influenza outbreak.

1. The Ohio Department of Health has advised that it will be the decision of each local health authority in Ohio as to whether or not to close a school or university due to an influenza outbreak; however, at this time the Centers for Disease Control are not recommending closures except in extreme circumstances.
2. In the event schools remain open, competitors and teams shall be expected to play tournament contests on the dates scheduled.
3. In the event schools are closed, the OHSAA, in conjunction with our District Athletic Boards and tournament personnel, shall reschedule the tournament contest for the schools thus affected.
4. Please watch the OHSAA web site home page at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and the specific sport page on the web site for more information.

## Lightning and Inclement Weather

### (OHSAA Sports Regulation)

Lightning and Inclement weather procedures are new for 2010. Please review these carefully. Though all officials received these procedures in pre-season communication, it would be wise to review with them prior to the game. The Lightning and Inclement Weather Policy is relative to ALL OHSAA Sports and is contained within **OHSAA Sports Regulation 20.**

#### WEATHER

##### **Recognition:**

*Coaches, athletic trainers, athletes, administrators and contest officials should be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm development. Since the average distance between successive lightening flashes is approximately two to three miles ANYTIME that lightning can be seen or heard, the risk is already present. Weather can be monitored using the following methods:*

- **Monitor Weather Patterns** – Be aware of potential thunderstorms by monitoring local weather forecasts the day before and morning of the competition, and by scanning the sky for signs of potential thunderstorm activity.
- **National Weather Service** – Weather can also be monitored using small, portable weather radios from the NWS. The NWS uses a system of severe storm watches and warnings watch indicates conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a warning indicates severe weather has been reported in an area, and everyone should take proper precautions. Any thunderstorm poses a risk of injury or death even if it does not meet the criteria for severe weather. Therefore, anytime thunderstorms are in the forecast (even if it is only a 20 percent chance), event organizers should be at a heightened level of awareness to the potential danger of lightning.

##### **Management:**

- **Evacuation-** If lightening is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators shall evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues.
- **Thirty-minute rule-** Competition or practice shall be suspended once lightning has been recognized or thunder is heard. It is required to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard prior to resuming practice or competition. Given the average rates of thunderstorm travel, the storm should move 10-12 miles away from the area. This significantly reduces the risk of local lightning flashes.

**Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count shall reset the clock, and another count shall begin.**

## Heat Stress & Athletic Participation

By Frederick O. Mueller, Ph.D.  
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Early fall football, cross country, soccer and field hockey practice are conducted in very hot and humid weather in many parts of the United States. Due to the equipment and uniform needed in football most of the heat problems have been associated with football.

Under such conditions the athlete is subject to the following:

**Heat Cramps**- painful cramps involving abdominal muscles and extremities caused by intense, prolonged exercise in the heat and depletion of salt and water due to profuse sweating.

**Heat Syncope** - weakness, fatigue and fainting due to loss of salt and water in sweat and exercise in the heat. Predisposes to heat stroke.

**Heat Exhaustion (Water Depletion)** - excessive weight loss, reduced sweating, elevated skin and deep body temperature, excessive thirst, weakness, headache and sometimes unconsciousness.

**Heat Exhaustion (Salt Depletion)** - exhaustion, nausea, vomiting, muscle cramps, and dizziness due to profuse sweating and inadequate replacement of body salts.

**Heat Stroke** - an acute medical emergency related to thermoregulatory failure. Associated with nausea, seizures, disorientation, and possible unconsciousness or coma. It may occur suddenly without being preceded by any of the other clinical signs. The individual is usually unconscious with a high body temperature and hot, dry skin (heat stroke victims, contrary to popular belief, may sweat profusely).

It is believed that the above mentioned heat stress problems can be controlled provided certain precautions are taken. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Sports Medicine, heat related illnesses are all preventable. (Sports Medicine: Health Care for Young Athletes, American Academy of Pediatrics, 1991). The following practices and precautions are recommended.

1. Each athlete should have a physical examination with a medical history when first entering a program and an annual health history update. History of previous heat illness and type of training activities before organized practice begins should be included. State High School Associations recommendations should be followed.
2. It is clear that top physical performance can only be achieved by an athlete who is in top physical condition. Lack of physical fitness impairs the performance of an athlete who participates in high temperatures. Coaches should know the **Physical Condition** of their athletes and set practice schedules accordingly.
3. Along with physical conditioning the factor of acclimatization to heat is important. Acclimatization is the process of becoming adjusted to heat and it is essential to provide for **Gradual Acclimation to Hot Weather Activities**. It is necessary for an athlete to exercise in the heat if he/she is to become acclimatized to it. It is suggested that a graduated physical conditioning program be used and that 80% acclimatization can be expected to occur after the first 7-10 days. Final stages of acclimatization to heat are marked by increased sweating and reduced salt concentration in the sweat.
4. The old idea that water should be withheld from athletes during workouts has **NO SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATION**. The most important safeguard to the health of the athlete is the replacement of water. Water must be on the field and readily available to the athlete at all times. It is recommended that a minimum of 10 minutes water break be scheduled for every half-hour of heavy exercise in the heat. Athletes should rest in a shaded area during the break. **WATER SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN UNLIMITED QUANTITIES**. Check and be sure athletes are drinking the water. Cold water is preferable. Taking ample water before practice or games has also been found to aid performance in the heat.

5. Salt should be replaced daily. Modest salting of foods after practice or games will accomplish this purpose. Salt tablets are not recommended. ATTENTION MUST BE DIRECTED TO REPLACING WATER -- FLUID REPLACEMENT IS ESSENTIAL.
6. Know both the Temperature and Humidity. The greater the humidity the more difficult it is for the body to cool itself. Test the air prior to practice or game using a wet bulb, globe, temperature index (WBGT index) which is based on the combined effects of air temperature, relative humidity, radiant heat and air movement. The following precautions are recommended when using the WBGT Index: (ACSM's Guidelines for the Team Physician, 1991)
  - Below 64 - Unlimited activity
  - 65-72 - Moderate risk
  - 74-82 - High Risk
  - 82 plus - Very high risk

There is also a weather guide for activities that last 30 minutes or more (Fox and Mathews, 1981) which involves knowing the relative humidity and air temperature:

AIR TEMP	DANGER ZONE	CRITICAL ZONE
70 F	80% RH	100% RH
75 F	70% RH	100% RH
80 F	50% RH	80% RH
85 F	40% RH	68% RH
90 F	30% RH	55% RH
95 F	20% RH	40% RH
100 F	10% RH	30% RH

RH = RELATIVE HUMIDITY

One other method of measuring the relative humidity is the use of a sling psychrometer, which measures wet bulb temperature. The wet bulb temperature should be measured prior to practice and the intensity and duration of practice adjusted accordingly. Recommendations are as follows:

Under 60 F	Safe but always observe athletes
61-65 F	Observe players carefully
66-70 F	Caution
71-75 F	Shorter practice sessions and more frequent water and rest breaks
75+ F	Danger level and extreme caution

7. Cooling by evaporation is proportional to the area of skin exposed. In extremely hot and humid weather reduce the amount of clothing covering the body as much as possible. Never Use Rubberized Clothing.

## *Equipment/Safety Information*

### Headgear

There are many questions regarding whether or not certain headgear (e.g., Full90) is permissible for field players. NFHS 4-2-1 (g) indicates that types of equipment which are illegal include helmets, hats, caps, or visors. So as a general rule, protective headgear is illegal for field players. However, if in the opinion of the official, a headband is made of soft material that is soft in its final form and does not contain any hard and unyielding materials it may be deemed legal.

Please note, the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee has concluded that, "While padded headbands may assist in reducing the incidence of abrasions, the risk of concussions and other serious head injuries will remain a concern in the sport of soccer. A head band is not a substitute for an appropriate post-injury recuperative period."

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### Protective Facemasks

**RULE 4.2.8:** "A protective face mask may be worn by a player with a facial injury. The mask may be made of a hard material, but must be worn molded to the face with no protrusions. A medical release for the injured player signed by a physician (MD/DO) shall be available at the game site."

**NFHS Soccer Rules Committee Rationale:** "Permits participation by an injured player when a doctor signs a release. Masks protect the player and do not pose a threat to other players."

**NFHS Comments on the Rules (from 2006-07):** "Prior to this rule [i.e., NFHS 4.2.8], face protection of any kind was declared illegal. Manufacturers have now developed protection for the face that is safe to the player wearing it and to other players. The committee is concerned that players would play without protection, putting them at serious risk. This new rule allows players to play as long as they have a medical release from a physician (MD/DO). Officials still have the authority to declare any equipment illegal if it is dangerous or confusing."

**NFHS Press Release, from February 2, 2006:** "Rule 4-2-8 was added so that players who have incurred facial injuries can continue to play without fear of re-injury. This rule was made possible as a result of new technology in protective face masks. 'The new masks are molded to the face with no protrusions, providing no additional risks to the player or opponents, and are legal with appropriate medical sign-offs,' said Bob Lombardi, chair of the NFHS Soccer Rules Committee and associate executive director of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association. According to Lombardi, this new rule will also prevent players with facial injuries from continuing to play with no protection."

### Shinguards

All players are required to wear shinguards with the NOCSAE seal of approval, either by a tag whose connection to the shinguard has not been severed or by embossing or imprint directly on the shinguard.

- Those shinguards need NOT have the NFHS seal on them. These shinguards must also contain a height maximum or height range.
- Shinguards with BOTH the NOCSAE and NFHS seals are legal for play, as long as they also contain a height maximum or height range.
- Shinguards with ONLY the NFHS seal are not legal.
- The Ohio High School Athletic Association's "8-Inch Rule" for shinguards has been superseded by the NOCSAE seal requirement and will no longer be enforced. There is no longer any "8-Inch Rule" for Ohio high school soccer. Referees will only enforce the NOCSAE seal and height maximum or height range requirement.



## The Officials Program

### OHSAA Staff

Henry Zaborniak, Assistant Commissioner  
Kerri Hudson, Adm. Ass't.  
Angie Lawler, Adm. Ass't.  
Kim Zaborniak, Adm. Ass't.

### Officials Development Coordinators

*Lori Powers-Basinger:* Gymnastics  
*Gary Wilkins:* Ice Hockey  
*Don Muenz:* Soccer  
*Jerry Fick:* Softball  
*Ken Gipe:* Swimming & Diving  
*Diane Plas:* Volleyball  
*Jim Vreeland:* Wrestling  
*Bruce Mauer:* Football  
*Dennis Morris:* Basketball  
*Kyle McNeely:* Baseball  
*Dale Gabor:* Track & Field  
*Bill Gardiner:* Field Hockey



## A Message from Don Muenz, OHSAA Soccer Officials Development Director

Welcome to another soccer season. Everyone has contributed to the growth of High School soccer, evident with the addition of the 3<sup>rd</sup> division in Girls' Soccer. This "Pre-Season Manual" has been compiled for coaches and officials to serve as a reference from pre-season to post-season.

We enter our second season with the change to "Directors of Development" for Officiating. The OHSAA's Board of Director's a plan to incorporate individuals directly responsible for officiating oversight in each specific sport. On the left column of this page, you will read the various directors hired to serve in this important role.

Education and Recruitment are the basic cornerstones for the Official Development Directors and as we make strides to improve these areas; the entire sport will stand to reap the benefits. I have developed a close 'hand in hand' working relationship with Jerry Snodgrass, the OHSAA's Assistant Commissioner responsible for the administration of soccer and will continue to serve as the lead interpreter of the NFHS soccer rules. The utilization of each local association is critical in the communication necessary to meet our goals for providing quality, continuing education while also emphasizing the recruitment of new, young officials into the soccer officiating ranks.

Questions surrounding officiating should come directly to me, preferably through email at [butsir@columbus.rr.com](mailto:butsir@columbus.rr.com).

I look forward to the continued opportunities this position provides. *Everyone's* efforts, from coaching to administrating to officiating soccer ultimate benefit our greatest resource: the student-athletes in Ohio.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve the officials in Ohio!

Yours In High School Sports,  
*Don Muenz*  
Officiating Development Director

## *Solid Advice from the Officiating Department*

### **“The Good Official”**

*By: Don Muenz, OHSAA Director of Soccer Refereeing Development*

I was asked by several local associations to address professionalism during the state rules meeting process.

Put your hand over your heart. Feel the beat. That is where professionalism resides. It has to be in your heart to do the best possible job that you can, because you *want* to do the best possible job that you can. No one can “make” you do that. No one can put that “want” in your heart, except you. I can write article after article about professionalism and harp on it forever, but nothing will move you if you do not care about yourself, the players and the game.

It is up to you: how you present yourself in public, how you conduct yourself on and off of the field and how you interact with others, whether match participants, administrators or your own referee team. If you care about these things, and desire to have that “want” grow within you, then please read on. If you do not care, reading on will be a waste of your time.

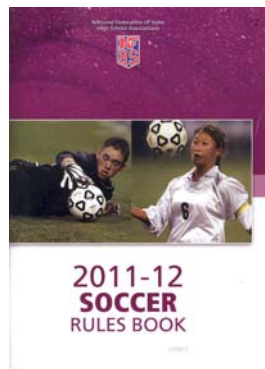
#### *The good official.....*

- Renews her license on time & keeps “Personal Profile” up to date and current in *myOHSAA*.
- Timely updates contact information and availability with assigner.
- Does not turn back assignments except for job, physical or family emergency reasons.
- Timely accepts contest contracts from schools.
- Calls assigner right away about any “problem” game.
- Her word is her bond.
- Is willing to pitch in in an emergency.
- No game is “beneath” this official.
- Does not “jump” a contract for a perceived better assignment.
- Is well-groomed and clean shaven.
- This official steps out of his car, dressed to referee.
- Complies with OHSAA & NFHS Uniform Rules; follows the uniform requirements and makes sure that her referee team does, too.
- Wears no illegal jewelry.
- Receives respect by giving it, i.e., by earning it; behaves professionally toward all.
- Uses only language fit for the dinner table with the grandparents present.
- Supports the officiating team.
- Does not publically criticize any official in any sport, at any level.
- Never disparages others. Civility always!
- Maintains composure when all around are losing theirs.
- Is able to find the field.
- Gets along with match administrators, AD’s, coaches, timers, scorekeepers, announcers, ball holders, trainers and colleagues.
- Follows the maxim, “The game belongs to the players.”
- Is a match facilitator, not a dictator.
- Asserts her authority only after cooperative attempts to achieve compliance with the rules fail.
- Remembers that he is not the final authority because he is infallible, but he is “*infallible*” only because he is the *final* authority.
- Does more because she wants to be more.
- Goes to clinics, studies the rulebook and interpretative materials and visits OHSAA website to keep current.
- Concentrates each minute of the match and especially during dead ball situations.
- Tries to understand the psychology of the player.
- Reads the game well.
- Meets her “moment of truth” with concentration, presence of mind, rules knowledge and common sense.
- Makes the match-critical call and does not use the excuse that “the players should decide the game.” Failure to make that match-critical call is abdication of the referee’s responsibility to the game.
- Does not fail the game or the referee team.
- Devours every morsel in “Ohio Soccer Weekly.”
- Conducts a thorough pre-match conference for every match, at every level.
- Respects the game, the efforts of players coaches, parents and administrators at every level.
- Maintains physical fitness all year ‘round.
- Leaves the day’s troubles in the car and does not bring them onto the pitch.
- Competes within himself/herself to always referee to the very best level.
- While this referee has never refereed the “perfect game,” that is always this referee’s goal.
- Takes time to study coaching tactics as a means of better reading the game.
- Has fun refereeing and it shows.



## 2011 Rules Information

### Rules CHANGES for 2011



#### 3-1-3 Art. 3

Each team shall submit a team roster, containing the first and last names and numbers of all players, all bench personnel and all coaches, to the officials at least five minutes prior to the start of the contest. The game shall not begin until this is complete. Players, bench personnel and coaches may be added to the roster after the start of play. Goalkeepers may have two numbers listed on the roster, a goalkeeper's number and a field player's number.

#### 4-1-1i3

The jersey of the goalkeeper shall be distinctly different from that of any teammate or opponent, except the other goalkeeper. The shorts or pants and socks of the goalkeeper are not required to be the same color as his/her teammates but must comply with 4-1-1f.

#### 4-1-3 (new) Art. 3

It is recommended that substitutes wear distinguishing pinnies when warming up outside of the team area.

#### 4-3

Each head coach shall be responsible for ensuring that each of his/her players is properly and legally equipped.

#### **PENALTY: Illegally Equipped Players (18-1-1r)**

The head coach shall receive the first caution issued (yellow card) for an illegally equipped player. All subsequent cautions (yellow cards) for illegally equipped player(s) shall be issued directly to the player(s) and not to the head coach.

Illegally equipped player(s) shall be instructed to leave the field of play when the ball next ceases to be in play. Play shall not be stopped for an infringement of this rule except where the referee may stop play immediately where there is a dangerous situation.

The player must be removed and may be replaced at the time of the caution to the coach or player(s).

The removed player(s) may re-enter at the next legal substitution opportunity only after reporting to an official who shall be satisfied the player's equipment and uniform are in order.

#### 12-8-1f(10) ; 12-8-1f(11) and 12-8-1f(12) (new)

A player, coach or bench personnel shall be cautioned (yellow card) for:

- a. entering or leaving the field of play (except through the normal course of play) without the permission of an official;
- b. persistent infringement of any of the rules of the game;
- c. objecting by word of mouth or action to any decision given by an official (dissent);
- d. any incidental use of vulgar or profane language;
- e. any use of video or audio communication with players or other persons to assist in coaching during the game or any intervals. Examples: Amplifying devices, wireless communication devices such as cell phones, headphones, personal digital assistant, etc.;

**NOTE:** A coach may engage in verbal communications with his or her own team during play.

f. unsporting conduct, including, but not limited to:

1. coaching outside the team area;
2. unnecessary delay (kicking, throwing the ball away on a free kick, etc.);
3. holding a shirt, short, etc.;
4. deliberate verbal tactics;
5. encroachment;
6. deliberate handball to stop an attack;
7. deliberate tactical foul;
8. faking an injury;
9. simulating a foul;

10. player who displays reckless play.
11. illegally equipped player, per 4.3.
12. any delayed, excessive or prolonged act(s) by which a player(s) attempts to focus attention upon himself/herself and/or prohibits a timely restart of the game.

### 18-1-1ff (new) Reckless Play

A player has acted with complete disregard of the danger to, or consequences for, the opponent. A player who displays reckless play shall be cautioned.

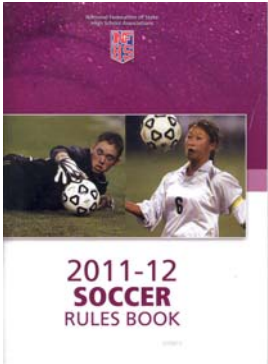
### NFHS Official Soccer Signals

The NFHS Official Soccer Signals have been modified to add "Goal" as an official signal.



## *2011 Rules Information*

### EDITORIAL Changes for 2011



#### 1-4-1

...if used on a football field, the front of portable goals should be anchored, at least 2 yards in front of The base of the existing football goalposts.

#### 3-3-1c2

The player(s) A player, including the goalkeeper, who is injured and attended to on the field or who is Deemed injured by the referee shall leave the field and may be replaced.

#### 3-6-1

Change Section 6 title to ~~Illegal~~ Excessive Player Changes

### 4-1 – Play Rulings

Situation D: ...RULING: Legal. Striped jerseys are permissible for the visiting team as long as the predominant color is dark. Jerseys with equal sized stripes, that have both dark and white stripes, do not have a predominant dark color and would be illegal.

#### 4-2-1f

f. knee ~~and~~ ankle braces which are altered from manufacturer's original design/production. Knee and ankle braces that are unaltered are legal and do not require any additional padding. ~~Ankle braces may be worn outside a stocking;~~

g. ankle braces which are altered from the manufacturer's original design/production. Non-metal ankle braces that are unaltered are legal and may be worn outside a stocking sock. Ankle braces of metal or unyielding material that are unaltered are legal if covered by a sock.

g. h. helmets, hats, caps or visors

#### 4-2-5

~~Artificial limbs, which in the judgment of the state high school association are no more dangerous to players than the corresponding human limb and do not place an opponent at a disadvantage, may be permitted. Upper limb prostheses and above knee leg prostheses are discouraged. Hinges shall be lateral and covered by suitable material. All permissible artificial limbs must be padded with a closed-cell, slow recovery foam padding no less than a 1/2 -inch thick.~~

Note: Each state association may, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individuals participants with disabilities and/or special needs, as well as those individuals with unique and extenuating circumstances. The accommodations should not fundamentally alter the sport, allow an otherwise illegal piece of equipment, create risk to the athlete/others or place opponents at a disadvantage.

5-3-2b

5-3-2b Situation B: The game is terminated...RULING: In (a), (b) and (c), no ~~score~~ winner is declared by the official...

5-3-2e

Have the authority to suspend play or terminate the game whenever the elements, spectators or other causes require (~~be familiar with guidelines on page 8~~); (7-1-3)

6-3-2a

ART. 2...The scorer shall:

Verify that each team's complete ~~lineup~~ roster (first and last name and number ~~and position~~ of each player and substitute) is submitted at least five minutes prior to kickoff:

Other Rules Affected: 3-3-3, pg. 15

12-8-3e

12.8.3 SITUATION E: Player !2 is moving towards his opponent's goal with an obvious chance to score a goal...RULING: Illegal in (a) or (b)...Penalty in (a) will be a direct free kick and in (b) a penalty kick unless a goal was scored, in which case a kick off will be the restart.

NFHS Official Soccer Signals, #8

Corner Kick

(point to ~~spot~~ corner)



## 2011 Points of Emphasis

1. Concussion Management
2. Elbows
3. Player Equipment
4. Handling
5. Online Education

The NFHS Soccer Rules Committee and the NFHS Board of Director believes there are areas of the game of interscholastic soccer that need to be addressed and given special attention. These areas of concern are often cyclical, some areas need more attention than others, and that is why they might appear in the rules book for consecutive editions.

These concerns are identified as “Points of Emphasis.” These topics are important enough to reinforce *or* they are not being given the proper attention.

### Concussion Management:

The NFHS has been at the forefront of national sports organizations in emphasizing the importance of concussion education, recognition and proper management for the past several years. In 2008, the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) advocated that a concussed athlete be removed from play and not allowed to return to play on that same day. To highlight the continuing importance of this issue, the NFHS SMAC and each sport’s rules committee took unprecedented steps last year of including Concussion Recognition and Management as a point of emphasis in each NFHS sport rules. The position of the NFHS SMAC is that no athlete should return to play or practice on the same day after suffering a concussion. Studies have shown medical professionals that the school-aged brain does not recover quickly enough for a high school athlete to return to activity in such a short time. No athlete should return-to-sport or other at-risk participation when symptoms of concussion are present and recovery is ongoing. Please see the “NFHS Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion in Sports” at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org) for further information.

### Elbows:

Officials should continue to monitor players for the dangerous and illegal use of the elbows in striking opponents. Such misconduct can produce serious injury and, if allowed, threatens the integrity of the game.

### Player Equipment:

Enforcement of player equipment rule (4-1 and 4-2) begins with the players wearing only legal equipment. Coaches, as the adult leaders of their teams must work with their players and officials to ensure that player equipment is safe and legal. Officials must also emphasize player safety and legal equipment throughout the match.

### Handling:

Concern has been expressed that the infraction is not being officiated properly. Officials and players should continue to strive to ensure the integrity of the game is not compromised. (see page 67 of the Rules Book for the definition of “handling”).

### Online Education:

The NFHS Web site ([www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org)) offers coaches online educational opportunities. These include rule changes, situational videos, tactical and technical instructions, concussion education, and management skills.

## OHSAA State Association Adoptions



The National Federation identifies certain rules that may or may not be adopted by each state's Athletic Association. These are known as "state adoptions". These state adoptions are identified below and the OHIO High School Athletic Association's adoption is indicated for each.

1. Players may wear caps in inclement weather (NFHS 4-2-1f exception 3) – Adopted in Ohio  
Players may wear soft and yielding caps in inclement weather. Caps must be alike in color.
2. Artificial limbs (NFHS 4-2-5) – Adopted in Ohio  
The coach or athletic administrator must request permission in writing from the OHSAA in order to secure permission for the prostheses to be worn during play. Photos of the prostheses in place on the individual must accompany the written request. Once it has been determined that the prostheses meets the guidelines in NFHS 4-2-5, written permission will be provided. No student may play with an artificial limb until such permission has been granted.
3. Systems of Officiating (NFHS 5-1-1) – Adopted in Ohio  
The officials shall be a head referee and a referee, a single referee and two assistant referees, or a center referee and two side referees assisted by a timer, scorer and at least two ball holders. Competing schools may select one of the above systems by mutual agreement.
4. Officials Shirt Color (NFHS 5-1-3) – Adopted in Ohio  
The officiating uniform for soccer officials is provided in the OHSAA Handbook for Officials, on our website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)) and within this manual. The uniform indicated shall be worn in all OHSAA games, regular season and the entire post-season tournament. Please see "How the New USSF Uniform Affects Your OHSAA Uniform", above.
5. Time kept on field (NFHS 6-2-1) – Adopted in Ohio (in part)  
The home school timer shall be the official timer. However, the head referee is permitted, at his / her discretion, to take the clock onto the field when the timer has failed in his / her duty so many times as to imperil match control.
6. Score kept by referee (NFHS 6-3-1) – NOT Adopted in Ohio
7. Reserve official as scorer (NFHS 6-3-3) – NOT Adopted in Ohio  
Refer to OHSAA tournament regulations for additional information regarding use of reserve officials during tournament play.
8. Four equal quarters rather than halves (NFHS 7-1-1) – NOT adopted in Ohio
9. Shortened periods (NFHS 7-1-2) – NOT Adopted in Ohio
10. Suspended games (NFHS 7-1-3) – Adopted in Ohio  
In the event a game must be suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue play, the head referee shall declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been played. Per OHSAA Board adopted policy, if less than one half has been completed, the game may be restarted from the point of suspension of play.  
  
Tournament games interrupted because of events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority shall be continued from the point of suspension. Any ejected player or coach cannot participate in the resumed game. Teams playing short will continue to play short. NFHS 7-1-3 is not in effect for tournament games.
11. Goal differential (NFHS 7-1-5) – NOT adopted in Ohio
12. Regular Season Overtime procedure (NFHS 7-3-1) – NOT adopted in Ohio  
NFHS 7-3-1 refers to overtime procedures during regular season play. No overtime procedures will be conducted during regular season play in Ohio.
13. Disqualified player barred from competition (NFHS 12-8-5 Note) – Adopted in Ohio  
Refer to OHSAA Soccer Regulations for specific penalties for disqualified or ejected players and / or coaches.
14. Tournament progression – Adopted in Ohio  
Please refer to "Game Procedures: Tournament Overtime Procedures", above.

## *Looking Ahead to Tournament Time*

The OHSAA sponsors the OHSAA Soccer Tournament in 3 Divisions for Boys' and 3 divisions for Girls'. Each of the state's District Athletic Boards are empowered by the OHSAA Constitution to organize and conduct soccer tournaments at the Sectional and District levels. They are conducted according to the tournament regulations adopted by the Board of Directors at their December meeting. The divisions are determined by the EMIS reports from the October 2010 count. These divisions will be in effect for the 2011 and 2012 soccer seasons.

<u>Division</u>	<u>Boys Enrolled</u>	<u>Total Schools</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Girls Enrolled</u>	<u>Total Schools</u>
I	379 and more	187	I	371 and more	169
II	204 - 378	186	II	202 - 370	169
III	203 and less	186	III	201 and less	169

### Tournament Draw Dates

The draw date for tournaments is established by the Board of Directors. The official date for 2011 is October 9, 2011 @ 2:00 p.m.

### Sectional/District Sites and Assignments

It is the responsibility of each District Athletic Board (DAB) to assign schools to Sectional/District tournaments and determine play dates for that level of tournament play. A few noteworthy items:

1. Tournaments are built "back" from State and Regional tournaments. Therefore, Regional and State tournament dates will not change from published and Board approved dates.
2. There is no requirement whether games are to be played on home sites at the Sectional/District level. Games may NOT be played on home sites at the Regional or State Semi-Final level.
3. There is no requirement whether games are to be played on artificial or natural grass surfaces at any level. Great effort is made to assign games to good facilities with good management.

### Regional, State Semi-Final and State Final Dates

Regional Boys' Semi-Finals & Finals	November 1 & 5
Regional Girls' Semi-Finals & Finals	November 2 & 5
State Semi-Finals & Finals	November 8 - 12 Crew Stadium, Columbus

### Athletic Districts

Representation to the Regional tournament (the number of Regional 'qualifiers') from District winners is determined by a formula based upon the number of teams participating in the previous year's tournament.

The complete tournament regulations that were adopted by the Board of Directors at its' December meeting will be able to be read in their entirety by logging on to [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and navigating to the SOCCER webpage under the "Sports and Tournaments" pull down menu. With a few exceptions, most schools in the counties listed below are assigned sites from the respective District Athletic Boards. You are encouraged to visit their websites for additional information.



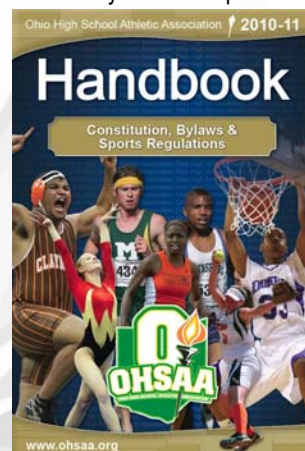


## Miscellaneous Information

- **Professionalism**  
Your professionalism is of the utmost importance. Your athletes and fans will follow your lead. If you are respectful of the game and the officials, your athletes and fans are more likely to do the same. If you are disrespectful of the game and the officials, it will be reflected in the words and actions of your athletes and fans. Officials aren't perfect and mistakes will be made, but it is all part of the learning process for our young student-athletes. So please take those disappointments and turn them into positive learning experiences. What you permit, you promote.
- **Pre-Season Preparations**  
As you know, pre-season meetings are required. As part of your pre-season preparations, you are encouraged invite a local official(s) to meet with your team during pre-season workouts. It allows the officials to meet your athletes and discuss new rules. It gives your athletes an opportunity to ask questions and have a discussion prior to game days. We would also recommend inviting an official to a pre-season meeting with your parents. Again, it provides a forum for healthy discussions and an opportunity for your parents to learn more about the game.
- **Scheduling Conflicts**  
Certainly, scheduling conflicts are going to arise. **PLEASE COORDINATE WITH YOUR ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATOR TO ENSURE THAT OFFICIALS ARE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE OF ANY CHANGES.** When dates, times, and / or locations are changed it not only affects the officials scheduled for that game, but also other games they are scheduled to work. They will appreciate your help in this area.
- **Importance of Coaches Rating System**  
The Rating/Voting procedures have changed in recent years, however the coaches' vote is an important part of the officials' tournament selection process. Ratings are done at the conclusion of each game, allowing you to rate each official you have. Voting is now done at the conclusion of the season by your athletic administrator online with information being sent to him/her electronically. Please vote conscientiously in your rating. Your involvement is critical to ensuring that we can provide the best officials for our tournament.
- **Inquiries**  
Our OHSAA office is here to help as needed, but depending on the time of the year it can be difficult to reach us. However, there are other sources of assistance. Our website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)) includes a great deal of information that covers many of the inquiries we often receive. The website provides soccer regulations, general sport regulations, tournament regulations, uniform regulations, etc. Your OHSBCA Officers are another great resource for you as well. Their contact information can be found on their website ([www.ohsbca.org](http://www.ohsbca.org)).
- **Coaches' Comments to the News Media** – OHSAA Media Regulation 18  
OHSAA Bylaw 8, Section 2, reads in part, "Great care shall be exercised in the selection of officials, well in advance of the contest and agreed upon by schools involved. When the contest begins each school waives all of its rights so far as objecting to the officials." Public criticism of officials is a direct reflection upon those who were responsible for assigning the officials to the game. Officials are trained and expected to make no derogatory comments regarding the players, coaches, or schools. Coaches are expected to follow the same procedure. Failure to follow this request will result in disciplinary action.

## Soccer Frequently Asksed 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](http://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 schools' 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 9<sup>th</sup> grade year and are considered separate as it relates to participating on non-interscholastic teams. For example; a 2 8<sup>th</sup> graders could participate on a "Club" (non-interscholastic) team along with 2 9<sup>th</sup> 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.





## Soccer Game Procedures

### Ejection Procedures

Following the contest, the official shall contact the Athletic Director or Principal of the violator's school to advise the administration of the ejection. Contact shall be made with the offender's principal/athletic director no later than the first school day following the ejection. An official failing to follow the ejection protocol and/or failing to file the Officials' Report may be penalized in accordance with Section VIII of the Officiating Handbook.

- Officials shall file a written report with the OHSAA office whenever a coach or player is ejected.
- Officials should use the "Officials' Report Form" located at <http://www.ohsaa.org/officials/sptsmnshp/ejections.htm> The report shall be filed with the OHSAA within 2 business days of the ejection.
- The OHSAA will send a copy to the reported school along with a copy of the "School Response Form"
- In the event of an ejection, a coach is ejected from ALL GAMES for the remainder of the day of the ejection PLUS two additional games. Ejected coaches must also pay a \$100.00 fine and complete the National Federation of State High School Association's (NFHS) "Teaching and Modeling Behavior" course within 30 days of the ejection. These are to be enforced by the school administration.
- ALL EJECTIONS ARE FINAL AND NOT PERMITTED TO BE APPEALED per the OHSAA's Board of Directors.

#### General Soccer Ejection Procedures

- OHSAA does not require an Official Report for a double yellow card disqualification, i.e., for a subsequent caution for a player, NF 12.8.2(b), or for a coach or bench personnel, NF 12.8.3(c).
- Reporting procedures are unchanged for a straight red card, NF 12.8.3(a), -(b), -(d), -(e), -(f), -(g) and -(h) and for a red/yellow disqualification for focusing attention on oneself/preventing a timely restart after a goal (NF 12-8-2(a)).
- Per OHSAA Bylaw 4.5.4, any student ejected or disqualified from a match must immediately be placed under direct supervision of a school official or coach. This may be on the bench or in the team area but the player is NOT to be removed from the site. Coaches ARE to leave the facility immediately upon ejection.

#### Specific Card Procedures

##### Straight RED CARD

- Given to player, coach or bench personnel under NF 12-8-3(a), -(b), -(d), -(e), -(f), -(g) or -(h), OHSAA Tobacco Regulation for tobacco use, or to a player under OHSAA Soccer Regulation 10.A.1.1 for playing more than three halves in one day or more than 38 halves in one season. NOTE: NF 12.8.3(c) is NOT a straight red card offense for a coach or bench personnel. It is a double yellow or subsequent caution for coach or bench personnel and is discussed in a separate section below.
- A red card only is displayed.
- File an Official Report and follow the Ejection Protocol (see above) Go to <http://www.ohsaa.org/officials/sptsmnshp/ejections.htm> .
- The ejected individual is also prohibited from playing, coaching or participating in any match for the rest of the day on which he/she is disqualified.
- The ejected coach or player is suspended for all matches until two matches at the level of the ejection have been played. A coach or player who receives a straight red card is "ejected" for purposes of OHSAA Soccer Regulations.
- Number of players on the field is reduced for a straight red card given to a player.

**RED/YELLOW CARD for focusing attention on oneself/preventing timely restart after a goal**

- Given to player under NF 12-8-2(a) for focusing attention on oneself / preventing a timely restart after a goal. This misconduct and only be committed by a player after a goal.
- Exactly same prohibition against playing on the same day, same two-match suspension and same Official Report Requirements as for the Straight Red Card listed above.
- A player disqualified under NF 12.8.2(a) is considered “ejected” for purposes of OHSAA Regulations.
- Both the red and yellow cards are displayed in the same hand at the same time.
- Number of players on the field shall not be reduced.

**RED/YELLOW CARD---the *SUBSEQUENT CAUTION* or “*DOUBLE YELLOW*” for Players**

- Given to a player for a second yellow-card offense in the same match, under NF 12-8-2(b).
- The disqualified player is prohibited from participation in the remainder of the match.
- The disqualified player can play in OTHER matches on the same day.
- The disqualified player is not subject to any additional suspension.
- A player disqualified under NF 12.8.2(b) is NOT considered “ejected” for purposes of OHSAA Regulations.
- Both the red and yellow cards are displayed in the same hand at the same time.
- An official report is not required.
- The school does not need to be notified.
- Number of players on the field shall not be reduced.
- In a nutshell: For a Subsequent Caution or “Double Yellow-Card” Disqualification for a player, the total penalty for the disqualified player is limited to sitting out the remainder of the match in which disqualified.

**RED/YELLOW CARD—the *SUBSEQUENT CAUTION* or “*DOUBLE YELLOW*” for Coach or Bench Personnel**

- Given to a coach or bench personnel for a second yellow-card offense in the same match, under NF 12-8-3(c).
- The disqualified coach or bench personnel are prohibited from participation in the remainder of the match.
- The disqualified coach or bench personnel may participate in OTHER matches on the same day.
- The disqualified coach or bench personnel are not subject to any additional suspension.
- The yellow card is first displayed and returned to the pocket. The red card is then displayed and returned to the pocket. Though the mechanics are different for card display, this is STILL A DOUBLE YELLOW OR SUBSEQUENT CAUTION OFFENSE FOR THE COACH OR BENCH PERSONNEL. No suspension beyond the match wherein disqualified, is required. Coach or bench personnel disqualified under NF 12.8.3(c), is NOT considered “ejected” for purposes of OHSAA Regulations.
- An official report is not required.
- The school does not need to be notified.
- Number of players on the field shall not be reduced.

In a nutshell: For a Subsequent Caution or “Double Yellow-Card” Disqualification for a coach or bench personnel: the total penalty for the disqualified player is limited to sitting out the remainder of the match in which disqualified.

## Official Specific Information



### Tournament Selection Process



Tournament selection and contracting is done through the *myOHSAA* management system. It is utilized to capture and certify the availability and eligibility of OHSAA tournament eligible officials in ALL sports. All officials who are tournament eligible are sent an email with step-by-step instructions on how to access and complete the OHSAA tournament application. Applications must be completed in *myOHSAA* by the posted deadline and officials will receive this notification approximately 14-20 days prior to the application deadline.

Contracts for tournament contests are issued electronically through the *myOHSAA* system. District Athletic Boards are given the responsibility of assignment of officials at the Sectional/District level; the OHSAA office is responsible for Regional and State assignments.

Being an OHSAA tournament ELIGIBLE official is not a guarantee of an OHSAA Tournament assignment.

### State & Local Meetings

State Rules Interpretation meetings are listed within this manual. Additionally, OHSAA Local Association Meetings are available at on the web at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org). Under "Officiating" select "Local/State Rules Meetings" then "Local Rules Meetings" and on the left side, select "SOCCER".



### Officials' Code of Ethics

(From [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and the OHSAA Handbook for Officials)

Our member schools have entrusted officials to assist them in the education and development of their youth through athletics. This requires officials to be independent, impartial, and responsible to the people they serve. In recognition of these expectations there is an established Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct for all officials. The purpose of the code is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all officials.

An Official must devote time, thought and study to the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to carry out these rules so that one may render effective and credible service in a fair and unbiased manner.

An Official must work with fellow officials and the state association in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that may arise during debate of points or rules at issue.

An Official must resist every temptation and outside pressure to use one's position as an official to benefit oneself. Under all circumstances, officials must avoid promoting the special interest of any person or group of persons other than the athletes we serve.

An Official must constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the avocation in all personal conduct and relations with the student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public, to be a worthy example to the athletes under one's jurisdiction.

An Official will be prepared both physically and mentally, dress accordingly to expectations and maintain a proper appearance that is befitting the importance of the game.

An Official shall avoid the use of tobacco and related products at the contest site.

An Official must remember and recognize that it is important to honor contracts regardless of possible inconvenience or financial loss.

Every member of the officiating profession carries a responsibility to act in a manner becoming a professional person. The conduct of any official influences the attitude of the public toward the profession in general as well as toward the official in particular.

Sports officials bear great responsibility for engendering public confidence in sports. They are critical to the health of athletic competitions. Officials ensure games are played fairly, by the rules, within the spirit of the rules and in a safe manner. Officiating takes a great deal of preparation, continuing education and commitment of time.



## *Uniform Information*



The OHSAA soccer official's uniform is the gold jersey with black pinstripes or broader black stripes, either long- or short-sleeved. All officials are to wear the same color and sleeve length. Black shorts, black socks with three white rings and shoes are required.

Officials may wear either the red jersey with black pinstripes or broader black stripes or the black jersey with white pinstripes or broader white stripes, when the head referee determines that the gold shirt does not contrast with the jerseys of either team's field players. There is no preference as to the red or black jersey as an alternate. All officials must wear the same color and sleeve length. There are no other alternate jerseys.

The officials may wear a mixture of pinstripes and broader stripes and still be considered properly uniformed.

The OHSAA soccer official's patch shall be worn on the left breast pocket. Jewelry may not be worn, except for a medical identification, wedding band and watch.

### **The BLUE – GREEN USSF JERSEY IS NOT A PERMISSIBLE JERSEY FOR OHSAA SOCCER**

Penalty - Fine not to exceed \$100.

Fines will continue to be assessed for those not wearing the proper uniform.

## *Pre-Match Conference*

### **Regular Season**

- Coaches are guaranteed a minimum of 20 minutes of uninterrupted warm-up time
- Pre-match sportsmanship conference takes place 10 minutes prior to kickoff (captains and head coaches remain for the coin toss)
- Only captains and coaches are required to attend the pre-match sportsmanship conference; NF 5.2.2(d)(2).

### **Tournament**

- Refer to tournament regulations for information regarding timing during tournament play.

## *Tournament Selection Process*

Tournament selection and contracting is done through the *myOHSAA* management system. It is utilized to capture and certify the availability and eligibility of OHSAA tournament eligible officials in ALL sports. All officials who are tournament eligible are sent an email with step-by-step instructions on how to access and complete the OHSAA tournament application. Applications must be completed in *myOHSAA* by the posted deadline.

Contracts for tournament contests are issued electronically through the *myOHSAA* system. District Athletic Boards are given the responsibility of assignment of officials at the Sectional/District level; the OHSAA office is responsible for Regional and State assignments.

Being an OHSAA tournament ELIGIBLE official is not a guarantee of an OHSAA Tournament assignment.

## *Weather Related Issues/Policies*

**Hot, Humid Weather Break:** On hot, humid days, the referee may stop play for a water break. Note: This is usually done at a stoppage midway through each half. The referee should inform the teams of the water break stoppages prior to the match, to avoid any misunderstandings.

### Lightning & Inclement Weather Policy

#### WEATHER

##### Recognition:

Coaches, athletic trainers, athletes, administrators and contest officials should be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm development. Since the average distance between successive lightening flashes is approximately two to three miles ANYTIME that lightning can be seen or heard, the risk is already present. Weather can be monitored using the following methods:

- **Monitor Weather Patterns** – Be aware of potential thunderstorms by monitoring local weather forecasts the day before and morning of the competition, and by scanning the sky for signs of potential thunderstorm activity.
- **National Weather Service** – Weather can also be monitored using small, portable weather radios from the NWS. The NWS uses a system of severe storm watches and warnings watch indicates conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a warning indicates severe weather has been reported in an area, and everyone should take proper precautions. Any thunderstorm poses a risk of injury or death even if it does not meet the criteria for severe weather. Therefore, anytime thunderstorms are in the forecast (even if it is only a 20 percent chance), event organizers should be at a heightened level of awareness to the potential danger of lightning.

##### Management:

- **Evacuation-** If lightening is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators should evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues.
- **Thirty-minute rule-** Competition or practice should be suspended once lightning has been recognized or thunder is heard. It is recommended to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard prior to resuming practice or competition. Given the average rates of thunderstorm travel, the storm should move 10-12 miles away from the area. This significantly reduces the risk of local lightning flashes. Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count shall reset the clock, and Another count shall begin.



## *Game Management*

The Information below is also provided to Athletic Administrators and Coaches relative to game management.

**Placement of Teams:** The Board of Directors strongly recommends that when possible, team benches be placed on opposite sides of the field. This will be at the direction of the home Athletic Department. When teams are placed on opposite sides of the field, the team area shall extend 10 yards from the halfway line on each side of the field of play. The home team shall supply a person who is situated at a table at the halfway line on each side of the field to signal substitutions. If time is kept at field level, the official time shall be kept on the home side.

**Officials to Leave Immediately at End of Match:** All contest officials are to leave the field immediately at the conclusion of the match. Supervision of all post-match activities of any nature is not the responsibility of the match officials. Supervision of all post-match activities is the responsibility of the authorized institutional representatives of the participating schools.

**Administrator at Varsity Matches:** The Board of Directors strongly recommends that a school administrator be present at all varsity boys' and girls' soccer matches. Coaches should note (and be prepared) that when no school administrator is present at games, they should be prepared to deal with administrative issues such as Crisis Management Plans, etc.

## *Signals*

Signals are required. Foul specific signals are no longer mandatory but may be used as a communication tool. They are an important way to communicate with the players, coaches, and fans. Your signals let them know what is going on with the game. They can be found on the NFHS website ([www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org)) and in the soccer rules book on page 104.

**Use signals.....they are not optional.**

## *Noisemakers, Vuvuzelas....Pep Bands?*

Those in attendance at last season's State Tournament witnessed the increased fan support for high school soccer in Ohio. Pep Bands **ARE PERMITTED** at soccer games. Horns that pep band members have are **NOT** considered as compressed air horns. The World Cup has made the 'Vuvuzela' popular and while many may consider them *annoying*, they **ARE** permitted at soccer games. There are several leagues/conferences that **HAVE** made regulations prohibiting various noisemakers and they **ARE** permitted to create and enforce that rule for league/conference contests. Compressed air horns and horns connected to outside power sources are **NOT** permitted at contests.



## Sportsmanship

### *Sportsmanship is EVERYONE'S Responsibility!*

#### *NFHS Sportsmanship Mission Statement*

Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. The ideals of sportsmanship apply equally to all activity disciplines. Individuals, regardless of their role in activities, are expected to be aware of their influence on the behavior of others and model good sportsmanship.

#### *The OSSCA & Sportsmanship*

Good Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association (OSSCA) stands tall in its commitment to good sportsmanship. The school-based experience is one that affords tremendous opportunities to student-athletes that they will remember for a lifetime. Those experiences are dependent on the role model the head coach provides. The OSSCA encourages all coaches to exhibit behavior that serves as a role model for the student-athletes we serve. In conjunction with the OHSAA's Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity (SEI) Committee, the OHSCA annually selects a recipient of the SEI Award.



#### *The Official's Role in Sportsmanship*

In 2004 the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO) conducted a survey of 550 sports officials and asked "what is the number-one problem in our games today?" Not too surprising, the number one response was "Poor Sportsmanship". As a result, the NASO brought together some of the best and brightest in youth, high school, collegiate and pro sports to examine the issue and explore the official's role in promoting positive onfield/oncourt behavior. The results were published in the book at the right and identified 3 critical ideas:

1. What is at Stake
2. What is Expected, and,
3. What steps to Take

As a result, the following are important results of this study and publication:

1. 65% of respondents indicated their respective associations do not do *enough* to help improve sportsmanship.
2. 89% of officials responding consider themselves PARTNERS with players, coaches and administrators in improving sportsmanship.
3. 54% of officials responding indicated they felt the DO have the training, authority and knowledge to make an impact.



The conclusion:

Sportsmanship is EVERYONE'S job and we are all partners in this endeavor.



## *The OHSAA & Sportsmanship*

As we prepare for the upcoming seasons, the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) wishes to emphasize to each of you the importance of your leadership role in the promotion of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity. The professional manner in which officials and coaches conduct themselves prior to, during and following a contest unquestionably impacts the behavior of others who may be involved.

The OHSAA has joined the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) in its quest to improve sportsmanship, ethics and integrity. We are involved in an ongoing campaign in every sport to do just that. Printed below is the mission statement of the NFHS concerning sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity. Please take the time to read and digest this statement and then carefully consider your impact upon students, officials, coaches, and fans. Thank you and have a great season!

The Ohio High School Athletic Association challenges all of us in the soccer community to take positive steps toward the goal of attaining the high ideal of good sportsmanship. It is the responsibility of each of us to serve as a positive role model and set high expectations for others.

*Roxanne Price*

Assistant Commissioner

### ADMINISTRATORS

Athletic departments are comprehensive, pre-eminent teaching departments with a subject matter all their own: self-confidence, leadership, teamwork, discipline, perseverance, respect for others, strategic thinking, dedication, the importance of rules, and sportsmanship. These are true life lessons and participation in athletics provides another forum for learning. Coaches and Officials are responsible for promoting sportsmanship and positive behavior on the field. Administrators, we need your continued assistance in promoting sportsmanship and controlling fan behavior in the stands! Let the parents and fans know what you expect!

### COACHES

Your athletes will demonstrate the attitudes and behaviors they have learned from you, either through direct instruction or through observation of your actions. *Never underestimate the influence you have on your players!* You must:

- Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
- Set a good example for players and spectators to follow.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will serve to create a positive impression of you and your team.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Develop a program that rewards participants and spectators for displaying proper sportsmanship and enforces penalties on those who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.

It is difficult to develop a great finisher, a great centerback or a great goalkeeper. That is true. However, your greatest challenge is to develop mature young adults who will become great citizens and role models in your community.

### OFFICIALS

Your job is not an easy one, but the official must be aware that they are an important component in the educational development of students. To carry out this responsibility, you must:

- Know the rules and mechanics of our sport and the philosophy behind them.

- Get fit and stay fit. An official with all of the rules and mechanics knowledge and people skills in the world does no good if he or she cannot physically keep up with play.
- Maintain professional and ethical relationships with athletic administrators, especially in the area of fulfilling game contracts.
- Work cooperatively with fellow officials during games and within the referees' association to improve members' performances.
- Maintain at all times and when interacting with all participants, an attitude of civility and professionalism.
- Practice effective preventive officiating as much as possible before, during, and after a match. The quiet word, proper signals, timely verbal instructions, a simple thank-you to a player for avoiding an unsporting act, and well-thought-out pre-game conferences with the teams and other game officials will result in an improvement of sportsmanship by eliminating the chance for things to go wrong.

### STUDENT-ATHLETES

You serve as a role model for your younger siblings, young fans in the stands, your teammates, and your classmates. Set high expectations for everyone and help them follow-through! You must:

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility, and the privilege of representing your school and the community.
- Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with others. This will assist everyone in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Treat opponents as you would like to be treated.....with respect.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will serve to create a positive impression of you and your team.

### CONCLUSION

Good sportsmanship is everyone's responsibility. It is the essence of interscholastic athletics. Remember...some may question an official's call or a coach's substitution, but no one can question the value of good sportsmanship.

### *Sportsmanship Online Resources*

On our website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) – click on “Sportsmanship” on the right side of the screen) you will find Fair Play Codes for athletes, coaches, and fans, as well as additional information regarding parents' role in interscholastic athletics. The sportsmanship page also includes information about the Harold A. Meyer Sportsmanship Award and the Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award. Please feel free to contact us with any additional questions.

### *Coaches' Comments to the News Media*

Each year unpleasant situations arise as a result of comments made to the news media by coaches. The OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws reads in part "Great care shall be exercised in the selection of officials, well in advance of the contest and agreed upon by schools involved." Public criticism of officials is a direct reflection upon those who were responsible for assigning the officials to the game. Officials are trained and expected to make no derogatory comments regarding the players, coaches, or schools. Coaches are expected to follow the same procedure in regard to the officials. Coaches violating this rule may be asked to discuss the problem personally with the Commissioner. (See Sports Regulations “Media Regulations”, Section B, page 77, OHSAA Handbook).