

# 2011 – 2012 Ice Hockey Manual For Coaches and Officials



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**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Ice Hockey Coaches and Officials  
**From:** Steve Neil, Assistant Commissioner  
**Date:** September 8, 2011  
**Re:** Information for the 2011-12 Ice Hockey Season

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Please find an updated NFHS Ice Hockey rules book enclosed in this mailing that will help you to prepare for the upcoming ice hockey season. For the updated OHSAA Ice Hockey regulations visit the hockey page of the OHSAA website.

Please note that the state rules interpretation meeting is **mandatory** for high school coaches and all officials. If you are not able to attend the rules interpretation meetings feel free to reach out to rules interpreter Gary Wilkins to set up a make-up meeting at [gwilkinschc@colsicerefs.com](mailto:gwilkinschc@colsicerefs.com).

We have encouraged coaches to invite local officials to meet with their team during pre-season workouts. It allows the officials to meet the athletes and discuss new rules. It gives athletes an opportunity to ask questions and have a discussion prior to competition days. We also recommended inviting an official(s) to a pre-season meeting with team parents. Again, it provides a forum for healthy discussions and an opportunity for parents to learn more about the sport. Many of you already participate in such activities, but for those that do not, please get involved!

We appreciate you taking the time to carefully review this information and **have a terrific ice hockey season!**

**NOTE:** If this mailing has been received by the high school principal, please see that it is forwarded to the coach. Team assignments and OHSAA ice hockey tournament information will be posted to the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)) under sports and tournaments, ice hockey.

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**From the National Federation (NFHS) Rules Book:  
2011 – 2012 Ice Hockey Rules Changes**

- 2-3-4** By state association adoption, at the conclusion of a period, teams must remain at their bench area until the referee signals the players to proceed directly to their respective dressing rooms.
- 2-7** Each state association may, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual 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.
- 5-1-3** The officials retain clerical authority over the contest through the completion of any reports, including those imposing disqualifications that are responsive to actions occurring while the officials had jurisdiction. State associations may intercede in the event of unusual incidents after the officials' jurisdiction has ended or in the event that a contest is terminated prior to the conclusion of regulation play.
- 6-8** No player shall make contact with an opposing player's head or neck area in any manner.  
**PENALTY:** MINOR or MAJOR or DISQUALIFICATION
- 6-29-2** If an attacking player precedes the puck, which is shot, passed or deflected, into the attacking zone, but a defending player is able to play the puck, the official shall signal a delayed offside. If the puck enters the defending team's goal during a delayed offside or immediately after the offside, the goal is disallowed.
- 6-39-1** NOTE: All games may be played under overtime policies adopted by the state high school association.

## **From the National Federation (NFHS) Rules Book: 2011 – 2012 Points of Emphasis**

The NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Committee continues in its belief that the main threat to the health of high school ice hockey is violent and reckless play. The committee wishes to address the following areas in the hope that violence and reckless play will be minimized.

### **CONCUSSION RECOGNITION AND MANAGEMENT**

For the past several years, the NFHS has been at the forefront of national sports organizations in emphasizing the importance of education, recognition and proper management of concussions. Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be immediately removed from the game. State association protocol pertaining to concussion management must be reviewed and followed. Please review Rule 2-6-1 and the Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussions on page 80.

### **CONTACT TO THE HEAD**

Ice hockey is a fast, physical and emotional game. Hits to the head are never to be considered a part of the game. These hits from high hands, elbows, forearms, high sticks and shoving the head into the glass add no value to the game and only increase the risk of injury to players. It is imperative to have helmets securely fastened. To help deter contact to the head, it has become a stand-alone rule. Rule 6-8 is not entitled “Contact to the Head” and no longer exists within “Unnecessary Roughness.” It was felt because of the great potential for injury, it should be its own separate rule.

### **FACEOFF PROCEDURES**

The **nine**- location faceoff procedure is now being used by other governing bodies. This procedure was viewed by the NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Committee as simplifying faceoff applications. Rule 6-13 and other corresponding regulations were revised to reflect adoption of the **nine**-location faceoff procedure in the 2009-10 rules book. The rule was cleaned up for the 2010-11 rules book to include the center ice faceoff spot used for faceoffs other than after a goal and the start of periods. Readers are encouraged to carefully review these changes on pages 37-39 [of the NFHS 2010-11 Ice Hockey Rules Book].

### **ABUSIVE LANGUAGE**

Obscene and abusive language continues to persist as a major problem in high school ice hockey. This type of behavior is completely unacceptable for players or coaches and penalties must be assessed for every occurrence. The penalty for this behavior is a minor and a misconduct. This was reconfirmed by the 2011-2012 NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Committee. Placing the team of the offender at a disadvantage sends a clear message regarding the expectation that such behavior will not be tolerated. Officials must be held to the same standard and any incident should be reported to the appropriate state authority. The rules are clear the minor and misconduct must be assessed in addition to any other penalties assessed at that stoppage of play.

## NFHS Points of Emphasis (continued)

### **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Respect and civility are expectations of all who are a part of the game. They are especially important in the interactions of players, coaches and officials. Obscene and abusive language, especially when directed at others, has no place in high school ice hockey. This type of behavior is unacceptable of players or coaches and penalties shall be assessed for every occurrence. **The penalty for this behavior was changed to include a minor and a misconduct in the 2008-09 rules book.** Placing the team of the offender at a disadvantage sends a clear message regarding the expectation that such behavior will not be tolerated. Officials must be held to the same standard and any incident should be reported to the appropriate state authority. The NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Committee feels that the reckless play situations listed below should never be tolerated or accepted as a part of hockey. The rules are clear and are to be enforced at all times regardless of on-ice strength of the teams, the score or the period.

### **CHECKING FROM BEHIND**

Checking from behind is one of the most dangerous situations in ice hockey. This is due to the potential for catastrophic injuries that could possibly result in paralysis or loss of life. Injuries such as concussions, broken collarbones, separated shoulders and sprained necks are also a result of this reckless play. Coaches need to instruct their players to pull up from body checks when they see the backs of their opponents, especially near the boards.

## 1. 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.

## 2. NFHS SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT

Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation of State High School Associations 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.

### 3. OHSAA SPORTSMANSHIP, ETHICS, AND INTEGRITY

As we prepare for the upcoming seasons, we wish to emphasize to each of you the importance of your leadership role in 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 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 the players, officials, coaches, and fans. Thank you and have a great season.

**Respect  
THE  
GAME**<sup>SM</sup>



### 4. 2011-12 ICE HOCKEY STATE RULES INTERPRETATION MEETINGS

By OHSAA Board of Directors regulation, any school sponsoring interscholastic contests in high school ice hockey must have the head ice hockey coach, assistant ice hockey coach or athletic administrator attend one of the rules interpretation meetings. Any school failing to meet this requirement will be ineligible for any OHSAA sponsored tournament competition.

Officials who fail to attend one of these meetings will be suspended the following year. Attendance is also required in order to be eligible for state tournament assignments in the current year.

It will be the responsibility of the head ice hockey coach, assistant ice hockey coach or athletic administrator of each school and officials to be in attendance within 10 minutes of the start of the meeting and stay until the conclusion of the meeting in order to receive credit for attendance.

Current sites, dates, locations, and times for rules interpretation meetings can be found at:  
<http://myohsaa.ohsaa.org/public/stateMeetings.aspx>

Those coaches or officials who do not attend a regularly scheduled rules interpretation meeting or the scheduled make-up meeting may request a special make-up meeting from rules interpreter Gary Wilkins (614.599.9760). Such meeting must be held no later than Friday, November 18, 2011. The fee for a special make-up meeting is \$50.00. Requests after the above date must be addressed to the Commissioner.

## 5. 2011-12 ICE HOCKEY LOCAL OFFICIALS ASSOCIATIONS

Local ice hockey officials associations please check *MYOHSAA* for updates:  
<http://myohsaa.ohsaa.org/ohsaahome.aspx>

## 6. SPECIAL EMPHASIS: UPCOMING NFHS ICE HOCKEY RULES CHANGES

### 1. Changes for goaltender equipment.

*(Strongly recommended for the 2011-12 season and mandatory in 2012-2013)*

- a. The goalkeeper's leg pads shall not exceed 11 inches in width. The maximum length shall not exceed 38 inches when measured on the leg of the player. The boot of the goal pad shall be no less than 7 inches in length and must be flat or concave in appearance
  - b. The goalkeeper's blocker glove shall not exceed 8 inches in length at any point. The flap protecting the thumb and wrist must follow the contour of the thumb and wrist. The protective piece shall not exceed 7 inches in length when measured from the top of the blocking surface
  - c. The goalkeeper's catching glove shall be a maximum of 45 inches measured around the perimeter of the glove. The wrist cuff of the catching glove shall be no more than 4 inches in height or 8 inches in width.
- 2. The positioning of all face offs will now take place at one of the nine designated faceoff spots (eight plus center ice).**
- a. In addition, following any penalty against a team, the ensuing faceoff will take place at the face off spot in the offending team's defensive zone (circle near goaltender)
  - b. Also, following any hand pass, the ensuing faceoff will take place at the faceoff spot in the offending team's defensive zone
- 3. Special emphasis is being called to the observance of NFHS Rule 2, Article 2b, which reads as follows:**

It is required that the visiting team shall wear dark-colored jerseys; the home team shall wear white-/light-colored jerseys.

## 7. 2011-12 OHSAA HANDBOOK POINTS OF EMPHASIS: ICE HOCKEY

**\*\*\*New for 2011-2012\*\*\***

### **General Sports Regulation 13.1- Ejection for Unsporting Conduct (p. 68):**

In the sport of ice hockey, any player ejected for unsporting conduct during a scrimmage or preview shall be ineligible for all scrimmages or previews for the remainder of that day. If a scrimmage occurs prior to the season, the player shall also be ineligible for the first regular season contest (previews are only permitted prior to the first regular season contest). If a scrimmage occurs after the first regular season contest, the player shall be ineligible for the next regular season or OHSAA tournament contest. In addition, any second ejection in a scrimmage, preview, regular season contest or OHSAA tournament contest will result in the student being suspended for the remainder of the season.

### **Section B. Specific Regulations- Grades 9-12 (p.112)**

#### **7) Regular Season Games**

**7.1):** Beginning with the **2012-13** season, the maximum number of regular season games shall be **35** plus OHSAA tournament. Each contest played will count in the maximum of **35** contests permitted during the regular season.

## 8. 2011-12 OHSAA REMINDERS

The following guidelines should be adhered to prior to the start of practice on November 4, 2011:

- School coaches may lead conditioning drills with players using sticks but a **puck may not be used.**
- Players can divide up and scrimmage during open ice but there can be no adults on the ice during this time. Coaches, parents or other adults may observe but **may not provide instruction**, direct the activity, select the teams, etc.
- Players can participate on non-interscholastic teams prior to the school season providing there are **no more than five (5) players** from the same school **on that non-interscholastic team.**
- Preseason instructional programs may **not** be **mandatory, exclusive, or evaluative** (i.e., used to make roster decisions).
- Weightlifting and conditioning, are permitted **off-ice** activities.
- **No drills** may be conducted **involving team play, power play, penalty kill or offensive or defensive schemes** of any kind.

These OHSAA rules must be strictly adhered to in order to protect the fairness and integrity of the sport.

Please review the 2011-2012 OHSAA Constitution, Bylaws and Sports Regulations for any other questions

**Respect**<sup>SM</sup>  
**THE**  
**GAME**



## 9. 2011-2012 CALENDAR AND IMPORTANT DATES

<b>Coaching begins</b>	<b>November 4, 2011</b>
<b>Earliest preview date</b>	<b>November 18, 2011</b>
<b>Season begins</b>	<b>November 25, 2011</b>
<b>Non-interscholastic date</b>	<b>January 23, 2012</b>
<b>District</b>	<b>February 13 – March 3, 2012</b>
<b>State</b>	<b>March 10 – March 11, 2012</b>
<b>Season ends</b>	<b>March 11, 2012</b>
<b>No contact period (coaches)</b>	<b>August 6 – September 3, 2012</b>

## 10. OHSAA CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>	<b>e-mail</b>
Steve Neil	Assistant Commissioner	Oversees the sport & coordinates the tournaments; Rules Interpreter	<a href="mailto:sneil@ohsaa.org">sneil@ohsaa.org</a>
Henry Zaborniak	Assistant Commissioner	Oversees officials programs & tournament assignments	<a href="mailto:hزابorniak@ohsaa.org">hزابorniak@ohsaa.org</a>
Gary Wilkins	State Rules Interpreter	Rules meetings & Officials issues	<a href="mailto:gwilkinschc@colsicerefs.com">gwilkinschc@colsicerefs.com</a>
Renee Moore	Administrative Assistant	Assists in the coordination of the sport & tournaments	<a href="mailto:rmoore@ohsaa.org">rmoore@ohsaa.org</a>

## 11. IMPORTANT LINKS

National Federation of State High School Associations	<a href="http://www.nfhs.org">http://www.nfhs.org</a>
Ohio High School Athletic Association	<a href="http://www.ohsaa.org">http://www.ohsaa.org</a>
myOHSAA	<a href="http://myohsaa.ohsaa.org">http://myohsaa.ohsaa.org</a>

## 12. MEDICAL AND SAFETY

The safety of our student-athletes is of utmost concern at all times. Information regarding the following important topics can be found at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org):

- Stress and Athletic Participation
- Recommendations for Hydration to Prevent Heat Illness
- Suggested Guidelines for Management of Head Trauma in Sports
- Communicable Disease Procedures (also found in the NFHS Rules Book)
- Disordered Eating
- Information on Nutritional Supplements
- 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 NewsHeat

### **Statement on medical hardware:**

On the advice of the National Federation of State High School Association's (NFHS) Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, the following guidelines are provided.

Unless the specific rules code stipulates otherwise, athletes in sports of a collision/contact nature should not be permitted to wear devices such as insulin pumps, heart monitoring equipment and/or other diagnostic or therapeutic appliances while participating in interscholastic contests. In its deliberations on this issue, the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee of the NFHS could find no medical reason to authorize the wearing of these appliances during competition.

However, in the event that a physician requires a student-athlete to wear a therapeutic device during competition, such medical necessity shall be specified in writing and signed by the prescribing physician and the device shall be padded and securely attached to the player's body underneath the uniform. The medical statement shall be shown to the head contest official prior to the athlete being permitted to participate.

### 13. OFFICIATING ETHICS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

(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.

#### **Officiating code of ethics:**

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.

## 14. OFFICIATING ETHICS AND CODE OF CONDUCT (CONT'D.)

### **Pre-season preparations:**

We have encouraged coaches to invite local officials to meet with their team during pre-season workouts. It allows the officials to meet the athletes and discuss new rules. It gives athletes an opportunity to ask questions and have a discussion prior to competition days. We also recommended inviting an official(s) to a pre-season meeting with team parents. Again, it provides a forum for healthy discussions and an opportunity for parents to learn more about the sport. Many of you already participate in such activities, but for those that do not, please get involved!

**NOTE:** Annual renewal cards are sent to the address the OHSAA has on file, failure to notify the OHSAA will result in your not receiving the renewal card.

Address changes are now to be submitted via [www.myOHSAA.org](http://www.myOHSAA.org) . Please log-on in order to make the appropriate changes.

### **Website resources**

Our website includes a great deal of information specifically geared for officials. Go to [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and click on “officiating” on the left side of the home page. On the officiating page you will find the following information. When you have questions, this may be a great place to start!

Topics include:

- OHSAA officiating FAQ's
- OHSAA rules meetings – information on local & state meetings, how to maintain your officiating permit
- Directory of officiating information & forms – assigners, instructors, local & district secretaries, OHSAA staff
- How to become an OHSAA official – info for beginning and experienced officials, suspended and retired officials wanting to reinstate
- How to change the status of your officiating permit – information on upgrades, retired status, active military duty and address changes
- How to renew your OHSAA officiating permit – information on annual renewal procedures and fees
- Game assignments – regular season and tournament selection processes and voting results
- Officials needed posting
- Coach and player game ejections – ejection forms and procedures
- Officiating uniforms, equipment and supplies – uniform regulations, authorized dealers, pins & patches
- Officiating ethics and code of conduct
- OHSAA officiating hall of fame – members, selection process and banquet information
- OHSAA officiating clinics