

# OHSAA

## OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



### 2013

## OHSAA SOCCER OFFICIALS GUIDE

*A Season Guide for Soccer Officials*



## A Message from OHSAA Assistant Commissioner, Jerry Snodgrass



Things change. First, we are attempting to 'go green' by reducing the amount of printed materials printed in our office. This year as you know by reading this, the traditional "Pre-Season Manual" is now posted ONLINE. Those taking the required State Rules Meeting online will be provided instructions and a direct link to download the manual to their computer. Those attending face-to-face meetings will be given instructions for downloading. This is also met with an attempt to separate the materials that are relevant to coaches from the information that is relevant strictly to officials.

The second major 'change' will require COACHES to complete the rules meeting strictly online. The purpose of this primarily lies with a major General Sports Regulation change that will affect coaches and it is imperative they all receive the same consistent message across the board. This can best be accomplished by requiring all coaches to take the exact same meeting with the exact same presentation – followed by several quiz questions to insure the necessary understanding. With significant changes in Sports Regulations that affect coaches, it is my goal to provide a clear, consistent and concise message to all soccer coaches in Ohio.

The changes described above highlight the necessity to keep the lines of communication open between coaches and officials. A major 'plus' of having joint meetings was certainly the interaction between officials and coaches at these meetings. Since coaches are required to conduct pre-season player/parent meetings at their schools, I encourage them to invite an official from their local association to address parents and players regarding the rules and an attempt to 'see the game through an official's eyes'. I encourage officials to do the same; invite a coach to speak at your local association meeting and help officials in your association see and understand the game 'through the coaches' eyes'. One thing remains constant – it takes everyone working together to continue the improvement of soccer in Ohio.

Emphasis with school administrators and coaches this year stresses the importance of Administrative Responsibility at contests. Though administrative attendance is not required for soccer (only football and basketball require an administrator's presence), someone from the school MUST be the administrative oversight at a contest that oversees the safety of officials, takes responsibility for crowd actions and handles all weather and crisis situations. In many cases, especially at sub-varsity contests, that person may often be the coach himself/herself. This is being stressed to coaches and Athletic Directors.

Keep in mind that all questions surrounding officiating should be handled through Don Muenz, our Director of Development. I strongly encourage before you pick up the phone and dial up the OHSAA for a question to be answered, you do 3 things:

1. Consult the subject areas in this manual
2. Consult with your local association secretary
3. Check the Officiating Handbook, Rule Book or other materials provided by the NFHS and the Officiating page at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)

Statistics gathered from last year's online Rules Meeting provides proof of the increased number of non-school coaches in ALL sports, with Soccer being as high as any other. This Coaches Guide has kept in mind that contact with the school's administration is not always as common place as some other school sports. Keep in mind also this Coaches Guide is in step with **required** State Rules Interpretation Meetings

All rules governing OHSAA soccer stem from the National Federation (NFHS) and the OHSAA. The **NFHS Rules** are specific to the playing rules while **OHSAA Sports Regulations (and Bylaws)** govern specific administrative rules to Ohio. No coach, administrator, or official has the authority to modify or set aside these rules. This includes such things as 'game ending procedures' detailed in this manual.

This is wishing each of you a successful baseball 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

### *The OHSAA's 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.*



## OHSAA Soccer Contact Information

### Important Soccer Dates

August 1	Coaching & Tryouts Begin
August 1 – First Game	Previews Permitted
August 17	First game permitted
September 23	Non-Interscholastic Date
October 6	Tournament Seed/Draw Date Boys: 2:00 p.m. Girls: 3:00 p.m.
October 14 - 19	Sectional Tournaments
October 23 -26	District Tournaments
October 29 – Nov. 2	Regional Tournaments
November 5 - 9	State Semi-Finals & Finals
November 9	Last date for Games

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.

## ***Mandatory Rules Interpretation Meeting***

Rules Interpretation Meeting are MANDATORY for all Officials and Head Coaches. IF you are a coach and have an OHSAA Officials license, you will be required to complete both since the content is specific to each group.

### **How to Complete the Rules Interpretation Meeting Online**

Coaches should access the online version by navigating to the OHSAA's OFFICIATING web page (<http://www.ohsaa.org/officials/default.htm>) You will need your **OFFICIALS PERMIT NUMBER** to receive credit. 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 23, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.**

The last day for completion of the online version is **Friday, August 16, 2013 at 12:00 midnight** or a \$50.00 late fee is charged for access to the online version.

#### **AFTER COMPLETION:**

1. Your Officials's *myOHSAA* profile will be updated to reflect your attendance.
2. Please do not call the OHSAA office for verification. Attendance WILL be reflected in the profile.

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Contact</u></b>
7/23/2013	7:15	Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy (CVCA), Auditorium 4687 Wyoga Lake Road, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44224	Keith Kline
7/25/2013	7:15	Waverly High School, Rear Entrance - Auditorium 1 Tiger Drive, Waverly OH 45690	Jon Dick
7/26/2013	7:15	Ashland High School, Cafeteria 1440 King Road, Ashland, OH 44905	Jeff Meyers
7/30/2013	7:15	Sylvania Southview High School, Auditorium 7225 Sylvania Avenue, Sylvania, OH 43560	Barbara Nye
7/31/2013	7:15	Cuyahoga Community College – Western Campus 11000 West Pleasant Valley Road, Parma, OH 44130	Brian Miller
8/1/2013	7:15	Ohio University – Zanesville, Elson Hall Auditorium 1425 Newark Road, Zanesville, OH 43701	Junior McCutcheon
8/2/2013	7:15	Niles Wellness Center 213 Sharkey Drive, Niles, OH 44445	David Anderson
8/5/2013	7:15	Mason High School, Auditorium 6100 S. Mason-Montgomery Rd., Mason, OH 45040	Stephen Frechtling
8/7/2013	7:15	Lorain County Community College, Room HS-201 1005 N. Abbe Road, Elyria, OH 44035	Tim Church
8/8/2013	7:15	Dublin Coffman High School, PAC Theatre 6780 Coffman Road, Dublin, OH 43017	Russell Annis
8/10/2013	10:00 a.m.	Centerville High School	Robert Sherman

## *Pupil Activity Permits & Concussion Legislation*

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**
- **Complete one of two approved Concussion Recognition courses**

You can look up all requirements in detail on the ODE's website at:

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEPrimary.aspx?page=2&TopicRelationID=1328>

Schools are required to submit coaches' names along with valid permit numbers on the Official OHSAA Tournament Entry Form. Entry forms are audited on a random basis at the conclusion of each season.

### **Recently Enacted Concussion Legislation as it relates to Coaching Requirements**

Though the entire law is explained later, all coaches today **MUST** Complete one of two (2) approved Concussion Education programs online upon renewal of their Pupil Activity Permit anytime **after April 26, 2013**. Individual student-athletes removed from contests with a suspected concussion are no longer permitted to return to play on the same day of the contest – regardless of the diagnoses. If they are removed by one of the individuals given this authority, they simply cannot return to play the same day. Written authorization IS required to return anytime thereafter and must be kept on file with the school Athletic Administrator.

## *Rating Officials*

***It's Free; It's Easy; and....it is REQUIRED!***

**Rating Officials is REQUIRED by Varsity Soccer Head Coaches.** The process is one that is vital and necessary for the Tournament Assignment Process. Due to the importance of this:

1. Coaches who do not comply with the rating requirement are fined \$150.00 at the end of the season, and,
2. Athletic Administrators who do not VOTE for a designated number of officials are fined \$150.00 at the end of the season.
- 3.

The process basically works like this:

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

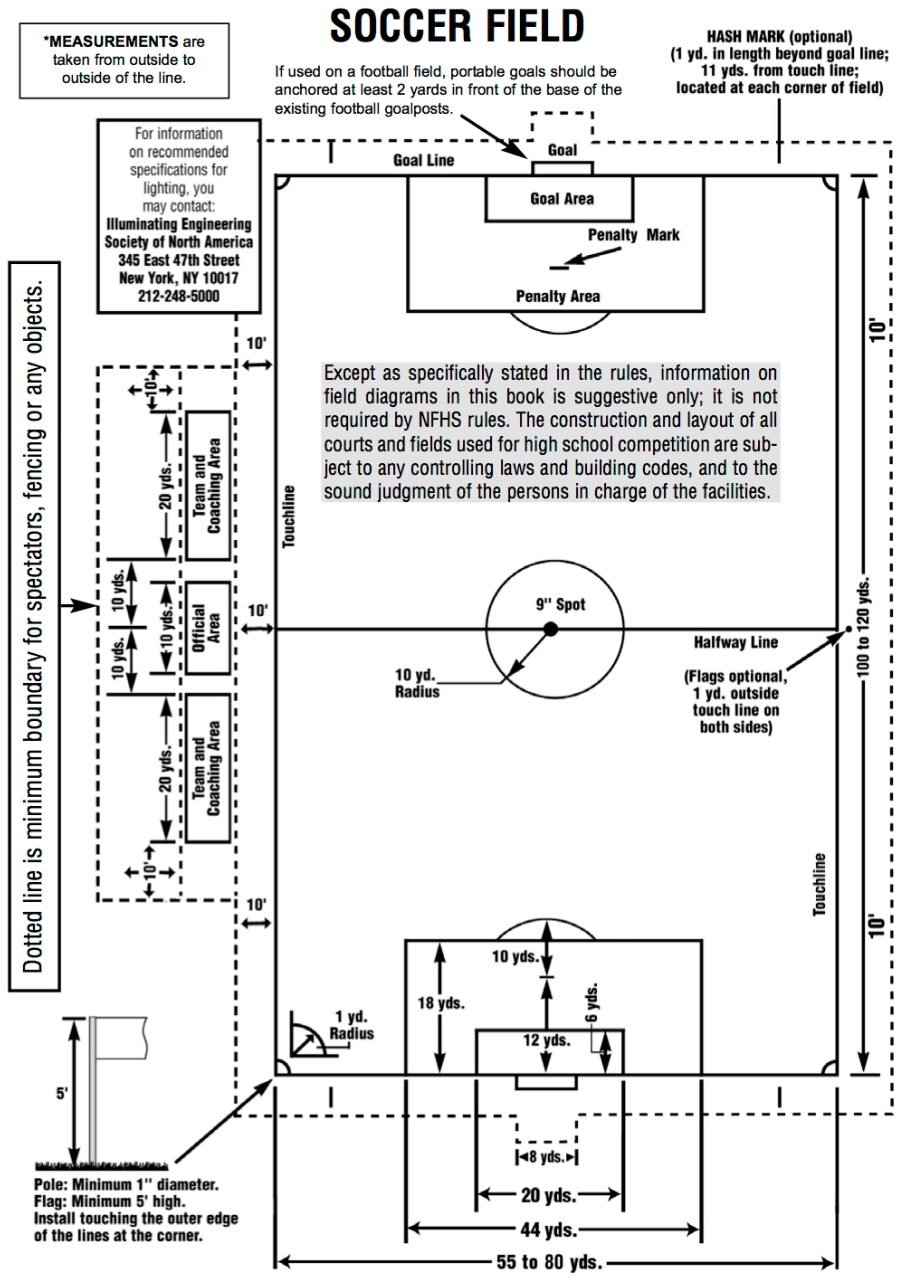
1. **Access your team's schedule:** In the left column locate the drop down box labeled "Select Calendar", using the drop down select your teams calendar from the list.
2. Once your team's schedule has appeared, **click on the double red stars** in the rating column.
3. Repeat the steps under Number 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. The following are required to VOTE for officials at the conclusion of the season in addition to Athletic Administrators:

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

# The Field

By rule, a soccer field shall be between 100 to 120 yards long and 55 to 80 yards wide. The following dimensions are recommended:  
 High School Fields (9-12): 110 yards long by 65 yards wide  
 Junior High Fields (7-8): 100 yards long by 55 yards wide



An engineered natural turf soccer field should have a minimum of one-and-one-half percent (1.5%) slope for fields which are surface drained. For natural turf fields with a sub-surface drain system the slope should be no less than one (1.0%) percent. For synthetic turf fields with a sub-surface drain system the slope should be no less than one half of one (0.5%) percent. Slope is measured from center to side. For consulting services, contact SportsPLAN Studio, 816-842-5200.

## Administrating Soccer

Communication is a key in the successful administration of any of our sports. I encourage you to ask questions or seek assistance, but *please* consult with your Athletic Administrator FIRST. 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 "Boys or Girls 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 "club" coaches. We encourage YOUR communication with them to help us operate as efficiently as possible. As with last season, I will be posting "Ohio Soccer Weekly" to address current issues and reminders for coaches. I continually update the "Off-Season Q and A's" to address the number of questions involving off-season regulations; all with the idea of HELPING coaches. Coaches are reminded that every coach that coaches school soccer is responsible for understanding and knowing the regulations affecting them and their sport. Since this manual is done in concert with the State Rules Interpretation Meetings, it is encouraged that ALL coaches attend. We have put meetings online (see later in this manual) to make it more convenient for coaches to be aware of the regulations that affect them AND the eligibility of their athletes. Ignorance of the rule is no defense for consequences that occur as a result of rule/regulation violations.



## Game Management

In cooperation with Officials, 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.

## "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>.



## OHSAA's General Sports Regulations



Regulations governing the sport of soccer are divided into two basic categories: **GENERAL Sports' Regulations** and **SOCCER Regulations (sport specific)**. Though understanding of these is required of all school Athletic Administrators, many have an effect on Officials. These are reviewed annually and approved by the OHSAA's Board of Directors.

### It is NOT the responsibility of OHSAA Officials to enforce or interpret the OHSAA's Sports Regulations

#### The OHSAA 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/GenSportsReg13-14.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 coaches' guide, a *few* of the more common ones that affect coaches and teams are:

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

Open Gyms (or facilities) are clearly defined in the OHSAA's General Sports Regulation #10. 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.

#### Sports Regulation – "Out of Season Individual Instruction"

Please see the end of this section for complete details on the revised General Sports Regulations that will permit school coaches to provide INDIVIDUAL instruction outside the season of play.

#### The OHSAA 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.

Note Regarding Individual Participation: Though there is no limitation on the number of HALVES an **individual** may participate in for scrimmages, **Individual players are not permitted to participate in more than 4 scrimmages and 1 Preview.**

### 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'.

Note Regarding Individual Participation: Though there is no limitation on the number of HALVES an **individual** may participate in for scrimmages, **Individual players are not permitted to participate in more than 1scrimmage and 1 Preview.**

### 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 that time period (August 1 – August 16). No Previews may be scheduled or played after August 16.

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

Note Regarding Individual Participation: **No Individual players is permitted to participate in more than 1 Preview.**

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

There has been considerable misunderstanding about the **No Contact** period outlined in General Sports Regulation 11. 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. See information detailing this earlier in this manual.

### Out of State Travel

A soccer team may travel out of state to compete in contest scrimmages, previews and 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 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/rqlts/GenSportsReg13-14.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 Previews, scrimmages, 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 Are Not Part of High School Soccer and Will NOT be Considered

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.

## The “New” Uniform Rules for Soccer



After 3 years to implement this ‘new’ rule, many questions still exist. Here are a few facts regarding the “new” Uniform Rule:

1. The rule was passed AND communicated in 2010 – for implementation THIS year (2013)
2. The rule is a NATIONAL rule (NFHS), not just an OHSAA rule ‘we’ created
3. The rule is a VARSITY team uniform rule with the intent in years to come to require this at lower levels
4. The rule DOES take effect THIS year –the 2013 Soccer Season
5. The rule is for HOME JERSEYS and SOCKS only – there is no change to the AWAY uniform regulations
6. This is no requirement for the SHORTS to be all white (Uniform rules do not address colors of shorts)

### Comments:

Basically, the “all white” uniform regulation is a NFHS rule that was passed in 2010 and indicates that a HOME jersey for varsity teams and becomes effective in 2013. The reason for the long time for implementation was knowing that teams/schools order uniforms on a rotating basis with other school teams and most teams have their uniforms replaced every 3-6 years. NO teams have or will be required to purchase new uniforms IF they are not on their rotating basis.

**4.1.1(b)** The home team shall wear white or light jerseys and socks and the visiting team shall wear dark jerseys and socks. Beginning with the 2013 fall season, the home team shall wear solid white jerseys and solid white socks, and the visiting team shall wear dark jerseys and socks. Prior to and during the game, jerseys shall be tucked into the shorts, unless manufactured to be worn outside.

**4.1.1(i)(1)** All jerseys, except those worn by goalkeepers, shall be numbered on the back with a different Arabic number at least 6 inches in height and on the front (jersey or shorts) with the same number which shall be at least 4 inches in height. Numbers shall be of contrasting color to the jersey (or shorts) and clearly visible.

**4.1.1(i)(1) (Continued)** Beginning with the 2012 fall season, all jerseys shall be numbered on the back with a different Arabic number at least 6 inches in height and on the front (jersey or shorts) with the same number which shall be at least 4 inches in height. Numbers shall be of contrasting color to the jersey (or shorts) and clearly visible.

**4.1.1(i)(2)** Only those names, patches, emblems, logos or insignias referencing the school are permitted on the team uniform, except as in 4.1.1(d), -(f) and -(g). The player’s name may also appear on the team uniform.

Beginning in the THIS YEAR, NONE of these jerseys will be legal:



## WHAT TO DO WHEN UNIFORMS DO NOT COMPLY

**OBVIOUSLY**, the intent of any rule is to COMPLY with the rule.

In the event a team’s uniforms do not comply, officials in Ohio are instructed to:

1. PLAY THE GAME. PLAY THE GAME. Games should never be ‘cancelled’ because the officials deem the uniforms unacceptable or non-compliant. PLAY THE GAME.
2. Submit a report to the OHSAA via their normal reporting system. The OHSAA will follow-up with the report and inquire as to the school’s uniform rotation, etc.

## TAPE & “SHINGUARD BANDS” ON SOCKS

A common trend has already been noted to use tape on socks to create an ‘artificial’ stripe. By NFHS Interpretation, any tape on the sock must also be the same color as the sock.

## *TEAM Uniforms & “Special Event” Games*

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” outlined in Article 1 of Rule 4 must comply with NFHS regulations. Any requests should be made utilizing the Request Form located in the back of this manual OR online at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/SOspecialeventuniformrequest.pdf>. Once Waiver Requests are approved, they will be returned to the school and a copy should be made available for contest officials. Coaches/School Administration should notify the opposing school as well as the contest officials in advance.

## *OFFICIALS’ Required Uniform Information*

- 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.
- 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.
  - a. There is no preference as to the red or black jersey as an alternate.
- The officials may wear a mixture of pinstripes and broader stripes and still be considered properly uniformed.
- All black shorts which may contain the USSF logo.
- Black socks with three white rings near the top of the sock
- All black shoes and laces.
- The OHSAA soccer official’s patch shall be worn on the left breast pocket. No other logos, patches, emblems or numbers are permitted on the uniform.

**Exception:** An American Flag patch/emblem is optional and, if worn, shall be on the left sleeve approximately two inches below the shoulder with the star field facing to the front.
- Jewelry shall not be worn except for a wedding band and/or a medical alert necklace or bracelet. A religious medallion which is not visible is permitted. A watch is permitted only when an official has a duty for timing during the contest.

**The BLUE or 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.

## *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 “Catalyst” and the Model Number is: **SC2273-167** 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.

## *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.

## *Suspended Games*

Every fall, Ohio weather brings attention to the Official NFHS Rule regarding Duration and Length of Games (Rule 7, pages 34-35 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 completed 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 replayed from the opening kickoff.**

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



## *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.



## *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.





## *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 at the end of the NFHS 2013-14 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

### Implementation of State Law and NFHS Playing Rules Related to Concussion and Concussed Athletes and Return to Play Protocol

It is important for all individuals involved in interscholastic athletics to recognize the potential for catastrophic injury and even death from concussions. Thus it is extremely important that each coach, administrator, contest official and medical support personnel review their responsibilities in protecting students. Further both students and parents have responsibilities in this area as well.

**Note:** It has always been the ultimate responsibility of the coaching staff, in all sports, to ensure that students are only put into practice or contests if they are physically capable of performing. However, all individuals involved in the conduct of interscholastic competition have responsibilities in this endeavor.

In January 2011, the OHSAA Board of Directors adopted a sports regulation which incorporated the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) playing rules related to concussion recognition and management. On April 26, 2013, legislation adopted by Ohio's General Assembly on concussion and head injuries in youth sports became effective. On February 14, 2013, the OHSAA Board of Directors mandated that these regulations become effective on April 26, 2013, for the remainder of the spring sports season and thereafter. This OHSAA regulation, as amended to incorporate this recent legislation, now reads:

Any student, while practicing for or competing in an interscholastic contest, who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the practice or contest by either of the following:

- 1) The individual who is serving as the student's coach during that practice or competition.
- 2) An individual who is serving as a contest official or referee during that practice or competition.

### RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL

If a student is removed from practice or competition due to a suspected concussion or head injury, the coach or referee who removes the student shall not permit the student, **ON THE SAME DAY THE STUDENT IS REMOVED**, to return to that practice or competition or to participate in any other practice or competition for which the coach or contest official is responsible. Thereafter, which means no earlier than the next day, the coach or contest officials shall not permit the student to return to practice or competition until both of the following conditions are satisfied:

- 1) The student's condition is assessed by either of the following:
  - a. A physician, who is a person authorized under Chapter 4731 of the Ohio Revised Code (OCR) to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine or surgery (M.D. or D.O.)
  - b. Any other licensed health care provider that the school district board of education or other governing authority of a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school, authorizes to assess the student who has been removed from practice or competition.
- 2) The student receives **written authorization** that it is safe for the student to return to practice or competition from a physician or other licensed health care provider authorized to grant the clearance. Click here <http://ohsaa.org/medicine/AuthorizationToReenter.pdf> to retrieve the OHSAA's Medical Authorization to Return To Play (RTP) form.

A school district board of education or governing authority of a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school may authorize a licensed health care provider who is NOT a PHYSICIAN to make an assessment and grant authorization for a student to return to participation ONLY if the provider is acting in accordance with one of the following as applicable to the provider's authority to practice in Ohio:

- 1) In consultation with a physician;
- 2) Pursuant to the referral of a physician;
- 3) In collaboration with a physician, or
- 4) Under the supervision of a physician.

**Note:** A physician or other licensed health care provider who makes an assessment or grants clearance for a student to return to participation may be a volunteer.

### COACHES REQUIREMENTS

All coaches, paid and volunteer, must possess a current Department of Education-issued Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit. When

renewing this permit, the coach will be required to complete an online concussion education course as stipulated in the section entitled **Approved Online Concussion Education Course**. This course is valid for three years and expires at the time the Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit expires.

### **CONTEST OFFICIALS REQUIREMENTS**

New legislation signed into law by the Governor provides that no school “shall permit” an individual to referee interscholastic athletic contests unless the individual holds a Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or has successfully completed within the last three years a training program in concussion recognition. Therefore, all OHSAA licensed officials shall possess either a current Department of Education-issued Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or **show evidence of completing an approved online concussion education course** as stipulated in the section entitled **Approved Online Concussion Education Courses**. This course is valid for three years from the date of completion.

### **STUDENT AND PARENT REQUIREMENTS**

All students and their parents or legal guardians shall review and sign the “Concussion Information Sheet” which has been developed by the Ohio Department of Health and which shall be distributed by OHSAA member schools to all students and their parents prior to each sports season. Students and parents shall review and sign this form each year and should keep a copy of the form. In addition, parents and students are encouraged to complete an approved concussion education course. The Concussion Information Sheet can be found here:

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/-/media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Interscholastic%20Concussion%20Form%20-%20ODH%20Revised%202.ashx>

### **NFHS SUGGESTED MEDICAL CLEARANCE RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL**

1. No exertional activity until asymptomatic.
2. When the athlete appears clear, begin low-impact activity such as walking, stationary bike, etc.
3. Initiate aerobic activity fundamental to specific sport such as running or skating, and may also begin progressive strength training activities.
4. Begin non-contact skill drills specific to sport such as dribbling, fielding, batting, etc.
5. Full contact in practice setting.
6. Game play/competition.
  - Athlete must remain asymptomatic to progress to the next level. (It is often suggested that an athlete not be allowed to progress more than one level per day.)
  - If symptoms recur, athlete must return to previous level and should be reevaluated by an appropriate health care professional.
  - Medical check should occur before contact. (Final written clearance from the medical professional shall be obtained before the athlete engages in any unrestricted or full contact activity.)

## **QUICK LINKS FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

Ohio Department of Health Concussion Information Sheet

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/-/media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Interscholastic%20Concussion%20Form%20-%20ODH%20Revised%202.ashx>

Online Concussion Management Training

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/concussion.aspx#Training>

Ohio's Return to Play Law: Frequently Asked Questions

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/-/media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Frequently%20Asked%20Questions%20Updated%202513.ashx>

Ohio's Return to Play Law: What Coaches and Referees Need to Know

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/-/media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Return%20to%20Play%20-%20What%20Coaches%20Need%20to%20Know%20-%20School%20Sports%20-%20Final.ashx>

Ohio's Return to Play Law: What Parent/Guardians Need to Know

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/-/media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Return%20to%20Play%20-%20What%20Parents-Guardians%20Need%20to%20Know%20-%20School%20Sports%20-%20Final.ashx>

## **ADDITIONAL CONCUSSION RESOURCES**

Ohio Department of Health, Violence and Injury Prevention Program - Sports/Recreation Traumatic Brain Injuries

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/vipp/child/tbi.aspx>

CDC Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports

Nationwide Children's Hospital – Concussion Information Toolkit <http://www.nationwidechildrens.org/concussion-toolkit>

CDC Materials on Returning to School for Parents, School Nurses and Educators

<http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/schools.html>

Ohio Legislative Service Commissioner HB 143 Bill Analysis

<http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/analyses129/12-hb143-129.pdf>

Brain Injury Association of Ohio

[www.biaoh.org](http://www.biaoh.org)

## Return to Play Form for Schools

Ohio High School Athletic Association  
4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214  
PH:614-267-2502; FAX:614-267-1677  
[www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)

**MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION TO RETURN TO PLAY WHEN A STUDENT HAS BEEN REMOVED DUE TO A SUSPECTED CONCUSSION**  
Ohio State Law as well as NFHS rules and OHSAA policy require a student who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors associated with concussion to be removed from a practice or contest and **not permitted to reenter practice or competition on the same day as the removal.** Thereafter, **written medical authorization from a physician (M.D. or D.O.)** or another licensed medical provider, who works in consultation with, collaboration with or under the supervision of an M.D. or D.O. or who is working pursuant to the referral by an M.D. or D.O., AND is authorized by the Board of Education or other governing board, **is required to grant clearance for the student to return to participation.** This form shall serve as the authorization that the physician or licensed medical professional has examined the student, and has cleared the student to return to participation. The physician or licensed medical professional must complete this form and submit to a school administrator prior to the student's resumption of participation in practice and/or a contest. **To reiterate, this student is not permitted to reenter practice or competition on the same day as the removal.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, M.D., D.O. or \_\_\_\_\_ (other licensed medical provider) have examined the following student, \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ High School/7-8th grade school, who was removed from a \_\_\_\_\_ (sport) contest at the \_\_\_\_\_ level (V, JV, 9th, 7-8th) due to exhibition of signs/symptoms/behaviors consistent with a concussion. I have examined this student, provided an appropriate return to play regimen, if necessary, and determined that the student is cleared to resume participation in practice and competition on this date \_\_\_\_\_.

Signature of Medical Professional \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PRESENT THIS FORM TO THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR**

**Note: The school must retain this form indefinitely as a part of the student's permanent record.**



## 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)

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 **Lightning and 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 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

This procedure is to be used until such time as the temperature is below 84 degrees as no combination of heat and humidity at that level will result in a need to curtail activity.

### **Under 95 degrees Heat Index—**

- Optional water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration to allow hydration as a group.
- Have towels with ice for cooling of athletes as needed.
- Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.
- Re-check temperature and humidity every 30 minutes if temperature rises in order to monitor for increased Heat Index.

### **95 degrees to 99 degrees Heat Index—**

- Water should always be available and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.
- Mandatory water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration to allow for hydration as a group.
- Have towels with ice for cooling of athletes as needed.
- Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.
- Helmets and other equipment should be removed when athlete not directly involved with competition, drill or practice and it is not otherwise required by rule.

**Notes:** Reduce time of outside activity. Consider postponing practice to later in the day. Recheck temperature and humidity every 30 minutes to monitor for increased Heat Index.

### **100 degrees (above 99 degrees) to 104 degrees Heat Index—**

- Water should always be available and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.
- Mandatory water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration to allow for hydration as a group.
- Have towels with ice for cooling of athletes as needed.
- Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.
- Alter uniform by removing items if possible and permissible by rules.
- Allow athletes to change to dry shirts and shorts at defined intervals.
- Reduce time of outside activity as well as indoor activity if air conditioning is unavailable.
- Postpone practice to later in day.
- If helmets or other protective requirement are required to be worn by rule or normal practice, suspend practice or competition immediately.

**Note:** Re-check temperature and humidity every 30 minutes to monitor for changes in Heat Index.

### **Above 104 degrees Heat Index—**

- Stop all outside activity in practice and/or play, and stop all inside activity if air conditioning is unavailable.



## *Coaches & Officials “Getting Along the Right Way”*

**By Don Muenz, OHSAA Director of Development for Officiating**

You've made the call and it is unpopular with half of the participants. A coach wants a word with you. If the coach is civil and there is an appropriate time in the match, give a listen. Don't blow off the coach. You do not have to say anything. Often, the *listening* is sufficient. Do not, however, permit the coach to change your call or to influence future calls. If appropriate, consult your colleague or assistant referee if a correctable error is possible.

On the subject of *listening*, we, as referees, do not always have to have the last word in a conversation with a coach or player. If we toughen our skin just a bit and let the player or coach have the final word (not dissent or worse, of course), the situation often is put behind us and we go forward without baggage. Think of how many times in the family or in the workplace that we gain respect and cooperation by showing the self-confidence and humility of allowing someone else to have the last say. Often, having had the “last word” has been for me, a battle won and a war lost.

If you've made an uncorrectable mistake, i.e., play has been restarted, be honest and own up to it. Trying to avoid responsibility weakens you and costs you the participants' cooperation.

Before, during and after the match, be cordial, friendly and approachable. Put yourself into the players' boots. If they cannot even speak with you (again, not dissent or worse), they are unlikely to cooperate. The same applies to coaches.

I cannot make it simpler. If you cannot or will not, keep up with play, find another sport. Get to that goal line on every shot, cross or pass to the goalkeeper. Be in position, consistently, to judge offside position.

A word about fairness and consistency. Though entire seminars could be given on these words, suffice it to say that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. What does *the* match need, at this point, to be fair? Note, I did not refer to the match as “*my*” match as a referee, for the match belongs to the players, not to the coaches, fans or referees. If there is a 100% penalty kick in the first minute of a middle school match, give it. If there is a 100% penalty in the last minute of overtime in the state final, give it. That is fair. That is consistent. That is what the match needs.

How much fun is there in our matches? Surely, there should be quite a bit for everyone. The other “rewards” of officiating, e.g., money and exercise, are insufficient for referees to last very long in our demanding sport. Years ago, those who worked the World Cup Final received no pay. Think about it.

**“There are referees who bring gladness *wherever* they go and those who bring gladness *whenever* they go.”**

-Soccertes

## *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 and height range permanently marked on the front of each shinguard.

- Shinguards need NOT have the NFHS seal on them.



## 2013 Rules Information

### Rules CHANGES for 2013

#### 3-3-2b(1)

During a dead ball as the result of an injury, either or both coaches can now give coaching instruction to his/her team.

#### 3-3-2 (new) and 3-4-1b

Before they enter the field, substitutes must be beckoned onto the field by the referee except at the start of a period.

#### 4-1-1c

Clarifies that tape applied to the socks cannot change the basic color of the socks.

#### 12-8-1e

The use of electronic communication devices is allowed in the bench area. These devices, however, cannot be used to communicate with athletes on the field during the game.

#### 12-8-1f(14)

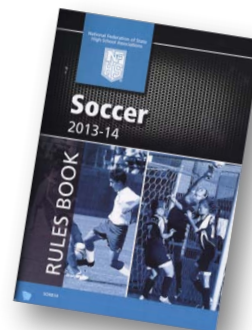
An unsuccessful attempt to deny an opponent an obvious goal scoring opportunity by a foul (i.e., a goal is scored anyway) is now unsporting conduct and a caution (yellow card). Previously this was a disqualification (red card).

#### 12-8-2d(2)

A successful attempt to deny an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a foul (goal is NOT scored) is still serious foul play and a disqualification (red card).

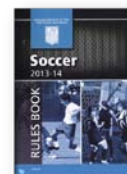
#### 18-1-1n

This change defines that on a free kick the ball has not been properly kicked into play when a player merely taps or steps on the top of the ball with his/her foot. The ball must now also move.





## EDITORIAL Changes for 2013



*Each of the following are Editorial Changes to the 2013-14 NFHS Soccer Rules Book. "Editorial Changes" are changes that are not changes to existing rules, but EDITORIAL changes that clarify or define better the rule as it was originally written.*

### Soccer Field Diagram

Except as specifically stated in the rules, information on field diagrams in this book is suggestive only; it is not required by NFHS rules. The construction and layout of all courts and fields used for high school competition are subject to any controlling laws and building codes, and to the sound judgment of the persons in charge of the facilities.

### 2-2-5

Shift NFHS Authenticating Mark examples below Rule 2-2-5

### 3-1-3

Each team shall submit a team roster, containing the first and last names and number of all players, and substitutes, 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, substitutes, numbers, bench personal 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.

### 3-3-7

A team that elects or is required to play shorthanded for reasons other than misconduct may have the player(s) re-enter the game during a dead ball.

### 3-3-8

A team which starts a game with fewer than 11 players, but at least seven players, may have its additional player(s) enter the game during a dead ball provided that the names of the additional players are on the team roster (3-1-3).

### 3-3-3 Situation B

Goalkeeper A fouls Opponent B in the penalty area resulting in a penalty kick for Team B. Goalkeeper A is disqualified for committing serious foul play. Team A is permitted to substitute a goalkeeper from the bench but must have a field player leave the field.

**RULING:** Team A must play short due to the disqualification (12-8-2) but must have a goalkeeper (3-1-1).

### 3-4-1 Situation A

Substitute A12 reports to the scorer as the kickoff takes place. Eight minutes elapse before the first opportunity for a substitution occurs. The referee beckons A12 on the field; however, A12 is withdrawn by the coach of Team A. **RULING:** Substitute A12 is now a player because he/she was beckoned onto the field by the referee; therefore, player A12 must enter the game once beckoned.

### 3-5

Change title to: SECTION 5 GOALKEEPER CHANGE

### 3-6

Change title to: SECTION 6 EXCESSIVE PLAYER SUBSTITUTIONS

### 4-2-5, Note

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, heighten risk to the athlete/others or place opponents at a disadvantage.

### 5-2-2d (4)

Inquire of each head coach whether each of his/her players will be properly and legally equipped at the kickoff. Any questions regarding legality of a player's equipment shall be determined by the head referee, or the center referee in a game officiated using the double dual system of officiating.

### **5-3-1 Situation A**

During a shot on goal, B2, in the penalty area, reaches out and deflects the ball. Just as B2 deflects the ball with the hands, A2 kicks the free ball and (a) it goes into the goal; (b) does not go into the goal. **RULING:** In (a), award a goal and caution B2 for unsporting conduct; in (b) call handling, award a penalty kick, and disqualify B2 for serious foul play. (12-8-1-f13, 14), (12-8-2-d1), (14-1-1),

### **12-4-2, Note**

Delete Note

### **12-4-3**

The goalkeeper in possession of the ball shall not be interfered with or impeded in any manner by an opponent. This includes the act of bouncing the ball or dropping the ball for a kick or attempting to throw the ball or tossing the ball in the air to recatch. When goalkeepers put the ball on the ground, they relinquish their privileges as goalkeepers.

### **12-7-2 Situation**

An attacking player takes a shot on goal which (a) goes directly at the goalkeeper who is able to deflect it to the ground so he can dribble it with the feet to the edge of the penalty area and then pick the ball up with his hands to distribute; or (b) the goalkeeper must dive in order to reach the ball, deflect it away from the goal, then scramble to pick it up with his hands to distribute. **RULING:** In (a) illegal. Goalkeeper is penalized for infringing when he/she picks up the ball with the hands after parrying; in (b) legal. The deflection is not considered a parry.

### **12-7-4 Situation**

On a throw-in, player A throws the ball (a) directly to his/her own goalkeeper A within the penalty area who touches the ball with the hands; (b) to a teammate who heads the ball to his/her own goalkeeper within the penalty area who picks the ball up with the hands; (c) the ball is thrown to his/her own goalkeeper outside the penalty area by a teammate. The goalkeeper traps the ball with the feet and dribbles it into the penalty area where it is picked up. **RULING:** In (a), an indirect free kick is awarded to the opponent; in (b), there has been no violation; in (c) illegal. Award an indirect kick to opponent at spot of touching.

### **12-8-2 Situation B**

Player A2 dribbles along the goal line into the penalty area. The goalkeeper comes out of the goal mouth to challenge, A2. A2 pushes the ball by the goalkeeper and steps off the field to go around the goalkeeper. The goalkeeper then steps off the field and violently contacts A2 to prevent A2 from completing the play. **RULING:** the referee must stop play, disqualify the goalkeeper for exhibiting violent conduct and restart play with an indirect free kick from the location of the ball at the stoppage or the goal area line as appropriate.

### **13-2-4 (new)**

If a direct or indirect free kick taken from outside a team's penalty area goes untouched into a team's own goal, a corner kick shall be awarded to the opposing team.

### **18-1-1e**

DEAD BALL – A term used to indicate a time when the ball is out-of-play. A goal can never be scored while the ball is dead. A restart can never be changed due to what occurs during a dead ball.

### **Rules Comparison**

The 2013-14 rules book will contain an updated comparison of the major differences among NFHS and NCAA rules and FIFA laws.

## 2013 Points of Emphasis

1. Goalkeeper Injury
2. Excessive Player Substitutions
3. Required Equipment
4. Penalty Kick
5. Concussion Management

*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.*

### **Goalkeeper Injury**

*The official may stop the clock to check on the injured goalkeeper during a game. If a coach or appropriate health-care professional are not permitted on the field, the goalkeeper may stay in the game.*

### **Excessive Player Substitutions**

*When a team repeatedly substitutes to consume time, a referee shall order the timer to stop the time clock during such substitutions and shall notify the coach of the offending team. The repetition may be construed as unsporting conduct.*

### **Required Equipment**

*The home team shall wear solid white jerseys and solid white socks with shorts of any color. When tape or similar material is applied on any sock, it must be similar in color to the sock. This will help create less confusion which is the intent of the new uniform regulation.*

### **Penalty Kick**

*The rule reads: "Once the kicker starts his/her approach toward the ball, he/she may not interrupt his/her movement." A stutter step is not permitted, and the action must be continuous forward motion throughout the approach.*

### **Concussion Management**

*The NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee has noted an increase in reported and diagnosed concussions in the 2011-2012 National High School Sports Related Injury Surveillance Study. The position of the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee is that no athlete should return to play or practice on that same day after suffering a concussion. Studies have shown medical professionals that the school-aged brain does not recover quickly enough for an interscholastic 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" at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org) for further information.*

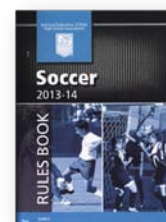


## OHSAA State Association Adoptions



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 the same 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. As noted elsewhere in this manual, the USSF Green or Blue shirt is NOT permitted.
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 12-8-3 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.



## 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 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 Player and Coach Ejection Protocol

No later than noon of the first SCHOOL day following an ejection, the officials are required to make contact with the Athletic Director or Principal of the violator's school to advise the administration of the ejection. Also, upon an ejection, the official **files a report ONLINE in the myOHSAA system with the OHSAA**. Since the procedures listed below are all triggered by the submission of the Officials' Report online, officials are penalized in accordance with OHSAA adopted policies in the event they do not submit the report. After this written report that includes narrative is submitted:

- The report is automatically sent electronically to the OHSAA and copies to the school's Athletic Director.
- The school's Athletic Director is required to submit a reply that includes the school and coach/player side of the events/ejection
- In the submitted reply from the school's Athletic Director, he/she is required to submit the coach's email address
- Upon the Athletic Director's submission of the "Response Form", an email is sent to the ejected coach explaining the consequences (below) of the ejection:
  - An ejected coach is suspended from ALL GAMES for the remainder of the day of the ejection PLUS ALL GAMES UNTIL 2 AT THE LEVEL OF THE EJECTION ARE COMPLETED. Thus, a JV coach ejected from a JV contest cannot coach a JV OR Varsity contest until 2 JV contests have been played.
  - 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. The payment of the fine is completed with an online payment per the instructions provided to the coach on the email he/she receives that is triggered by submission of the School Response Form.
  - Consequences of ejections are to be enforced by the school administration and served by coaches/players even if the above protocol is not completed.
  -

**ALL PLAYER and COACH EJECTIONS ARE FINAL AND NOT PERMITTED TO BE APPEALED per the OHSAA's Board of Directors.**

### Specific Soccer Ejection Policy Explanations

- 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(c), or for a coach or bench personnel
- 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 required to leave the facility immediately upon ejection. In the event there is no coach remaining to coach/supervise the team, the game is completed at that point.

### Specific Card Procedures

#### Straight RED CARD

- Given to player, coach or bench personnel under NF 12-8-2(a), -(b), -(d), -(e), -(f), -(g) **to a coach under NF 12.8.3**, 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.
- A red card only is displayed.
- The Official is required to submit the online ejection report.
- 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 ejected.
- The ejected coach or player is suspended for all matches until 2 matches at the level of the ejection have been played. A coach or player who receives a straight red card is considered "ejected" for purposes of OHSAA Soccer Regulations.
- The number of players on the field is reduced for a straight red card given to a player.

#### The SUBSEQUENT CAUTION or "DOUBLE YELLOW" for Players, Coaches and Bench Personnel

- Given to a player, **coach or bench personnel** for a second yellow-card offense in the same match, under NF 12-8-2(c).
- The disqualified **person** is prohibited from participation in the remainder of the match.
- The disqualified **person** can **participate** in OTHER matches on the same day.
- The disqualified **person** is not subject to any additional suspension.
- A **person so** disqualified under NF 12.8.2(c) is NOT considered "ejected" for purposes of OHSAA Regulations.

- The yellow card is first displayed and returned to the pocket. The red card is then displayed and returned to the pocket.
- An official report is not required.
- The school does not need to be notified.
- Number of players on the field IS reduced for a "double yellow" or subsequent caution (effective 2012).

In a nutshell: For a Subsequent Caution or "Double Yellow-Card" Disqualification for a player, coach or bench personnel: the total penalty for the disqualified player is limited to sitting out the remainder of the match in which disqualified and the player's team finishing the match shorthanded.

# Sportsmanship

## 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 on-field 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.

## Special Soccer Coaches' Note on Sportsmanship

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.



## *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 the OHSAA's "Respect the Game" pages 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. Please take time to visit this from the OHSAA's website along with MANY helpful items previously mentioned on the NFHSlearn website at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com).

### *Comments by Coaches to News Media*

Emotions run high at the end of a contest and coaches are often tempted to make inappropriate comments to the news media covering a game. 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 78, OHSAA Handbook).



## OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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### SPECIAL PERMIT REQUEST-Waiver to Uniform

Please complete and return to Jerry Snodgrass at [jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org](mailto:jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org)

NFHS Soccer rules and OHSAA regulations permit schools to request a waiver to the Uniform Regulations in Rule 4-1-1 of the NFHS Soccer Rules Book. The waiver is granted 1 time per season for schools participating in a contest conducted for a specific cause, such as but not limited to "Kick for the Cure" events. Upon approval, the waiver will permit schools to wear an alternate colored jersey that may include the sponsoring event's logo but will still require all teams to meet the 'number requirements' outlined in Article 1 (i) of Rule 4, (6" player unique numbers on back of jersey).

Name of School Making Request:

Type of Event/Sponsoring Organization:

Nature of Request (sponsoring agency's logo on jersey, etc.):

Date of Contest:

Opponent:

Head Coach's Name:

Head Coach's Email:

Athletic Director's Name:

Email request to [jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org](mailto:jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org) or Fax to 614-267-1677 Attn: Jerry Snodgrass

