

Online Rules Meetings Available until August 15!

Available through
www.ohsaa.org

Change in OHSAA Soccer Tournament Schedule

In an attempt to reduce the number of conflicts between school sports' teams competing in different state/regional level tournaments at the same time, all STATE tournament game times will be scheduled as "TBA" until after the Regional Final games on Saturday, November 1. For example, with the addition of a division in football and the resulting increase in the number of teams entering the FB playoffs, there ultimately are more conflicts with a school competing in the OHSAA Football Playoffs, the State Volleyball Tournament and the State Soccer Tournament. So, the entire picture will be looked at after Regional Final games to designate game times for each Division in an attempt to avoid conflicts for schools. It may not be possible to eliminate EVERY conflict but it provides a bit more latitude. Boys' State Championships will still be played on Saturday, November 7, and Girls' State Championships will still be played on Friday, November 6 with game times still at 12:00 noon, 3:30 and 7:00; divisional assignments will be done at the end of the Regional Tournament.

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Out of State Travel

Teams traveling out of state for games is increasing each year. Please keep in mind the OHSAA's Regulation relative to 'out of state travel' that permits a team to travel to a bordering state an unlimited amount of times while limiting non-bordering state travel to ONE time per season with no school being permitted to be missed for the travel or competition. The penalty for violating this rule is tournament exclusion – so please double check now.

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Rules Meeting Reminder

1 week and counting! Please make sure you complete your mandatory "Rules Interpretation Meeting" online. This is a requirement before your team plays its first game. Non-completion means not being in the OHSAA tournament. This online meeting is a consistent communication regarding OHSAA regulations as well as a review of the NFHS' Points of Emphasis and Rule Changes. It is a tough phone call to tell a school they are not permitted to play in the tournament because of failure to complete this. This is available online from the boys/girls' soccer webpages or directly at: <http://ohsaa.articulate-online.com/ContentRegistration.aspx?DocumentID=45fbce98-7b74-4186-825c-ee085f87a2ff&Cust=42440&ReturnUrl=/p/4244097719>

Non-Interscholastic "Stuff"

If I had one wish for all besides winning a state title it would be to have every coach **remind their players weekly** NOT to participate in any 'club/travel team' tryout, workout, training session or game during the school season. Doing so results in ineligibility of a player and potentially results in forfeiture of any victorious contest. Please remind your players – WEEKLY!

Hazing in High School Sports

If you are a new coach, I URGE you to take 'nothing for granted'. Much goes on without coaches knowing. Each year, some hazing situation develops across the nation that results in a serious court case or worse. Each week I mention the "NFHS Learning Center" designed to help coaches. This week... "**Creating a Safe & Respectful Environment**" is one of many that are **FREE** focuses on **Inappropriate Relationships, Hazing, Bullying and Cyberbullying**. We may think it 'never happens to us' and maybe it won't...but if you have a young assistant coach or a volunteer – go the extra step and have them take this course. An 'ounce of prevention.....'

"Kick for the Cure".....Have a "Special Event" Game?

These and other 'special event contests' are a tribute to the efforts school coaches put forth to call attention to a significant and important cause. The OHSAA will waive the usual uniform requirements upon request for MOST requests. The 'number requirements' on a jersey/short must remain, however, use of "Pink" for jerseys, socks, etc .will be waived upon request. Your request will be reviewed and response provided your Athletic Director. Download the request at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/SOspecialeventuniformrequest.pdf>

Alumni Game?

Many teams elect to hold an "Alumni Scrimmage or Game. Ohio remains one of the few states that permits its member schools to play 'anyone'. In other words, Ohio school teams can play against "Club/Travel" teams or any non-school team. That permits participation against an Alumni group. Please note, however, any Alumni Scrimmage is just that...1 of the 4 permitted scrimmages. Of course if you would do this as 1 of the 10 permissible Instructional Days in June/July, the 'event' would not be considered an OHSAA event. However, since that time has passed – I am saving that discussion for another day.

Private Instructors During the Season

OHSAA Sports Regulations DO permit players to receive INDIVIDUAL instruction during the season of play **BUT** only **with your approval**. This gives you – the coach' the right to not permit this. Though soccer coaches by and large utilize outside instructors such as "keeper coaches" as well as any sport – many sport teams do not want their players getting 'second opinions' on skills they are teaching their players. You can imagine the scenario – a player is not seeing a lot of playing time for your team. That same player goes to a private instructor and the private instructor informs the player they SHOULD be playing more. And it goes on and on. Therefore YOU have the right to deny it. I also caution coaches on this, however. It does NOT give the permission for players to participate in workouts (disguised as "instruction") with their club/travel/non-interscholastic teams. Generally, if the individual is *paying* for instruction it probably meets the permission.