

Sectional/District Seed Meetings

Sunday, October 11, 2015
2:00 p.m.

OHIO SOCCER WEEKLY



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Get Your Pupil Activity Certificate Updated!

Schools that permit coaches to coach (Paid or volunteer) without a valid Pupil Activity Certificate issued by the ODE will be fined \$250.00 per coach. You can access simple instructions for obtaining your permit at:
<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Teaching/Educator-Licensure/Audiences/Coaching-Permits>

Scrimmage Note

Each team in your program is permitted to schedule 4 scrimmages PLUS 1 Preview. You may use these **scrimmages** at any time during the season and many teams do hold 1 to use during the tournament season.

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Important Note on Previews

Teams are permitted to schedule 1 "Preview" if they wish to do so. Previews are clearly defined and MUST be one HALF in length (40 min. Varsity) Admission may be charged and can be held anytime after the first day of practice but before your first scheduled game.

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

Friday Night Futbol – a HUGE Success

Many thanks to the 164 schools that took part in the inaugural "Friday Night Futbol" across the state. Our goal was to put high school soccer on center stage for a night. Extending halftime for bands to perform, cheerleaders in some cases and having the "First Friday" of the school year for many highlight soccer helped us reach this goal. We received numerous reports that schools saw the largest crowds they have played for while also helping raise money for a variety of great causes. We will continue this next year with the 2016 date being **Friday, August 19, 2016.**

Helmets, Head Wear, etc.

Ok...when one 'product' appears at a contest, it quickly appears all over the state. Thus is the case with various types of head wear that is appearing. First, we need to look at the NFHS Rule regarding head wear:

Section 2, Article 1 of Rule 4 indicates types of ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT. In this, 'helmets' are prohibited for **any player**. Helmets in soccer are identified as *anything that covers the crown on the head*. So, simply put, a player may not wear any item that covers the crown of the head. There are products that may be worn by players that meet this requirement. Though this is not an endorsement "Full 90" is one of the more common equipment items that CAN be worn by a player.

BUT...WAIT A MINUTE.....

There are "EXCEPTIONS" listed to this rule that DOES permit a goalkeeper to wear a head protector.. However, IF a head protector is worn by a GK, the item must not have a 'bill', shall not cover the face, and shall be secured by a chinstrap. **Legal** for Field Players



Legal for Goalkeepers



NOT LEGAL for Goalkeepers or Field Players

- Covers the Crown
- No Chin Straps

But What About Player Safety?

This is the number 1 comment returned to me when a player is denied a specific piece of equipment – the general (wrong) belief that "we" are forcing an athlete to play without proper equipment and endangering the athlete. But, just the *opposite* is true – PLAYER SAFETY is number 1 for all NFHS Rules. And, think about it – if a player has a medical condition that requires them to wear a specific piece of equipment that is not permitted by rule – the safety of the player is paramount and the overriding belief is that if the player can't play with permitted equipment – **they should not be playing at all.**

Non-Interscholastic "Stuff"

If I had one wish for all coaches 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 and please do not assume they know AND follow this rule.

What About Private Instruction

Based on the above premise that players are not permitted to do what is outlined, Individual Instruction is still permitted, BUT.... I urge caution with this. The basis of the OHSAA's Non-Interscholastic Rules are to restrict players in all sports from having contact with non-school coaches during their school season so their focus remains with the high school team/program. In some sports, non-school instructors often give 'advice' about playing time, player positions, etc. that are not always helpful but demeaning to the school coach. OHSAA regulations DO permit individuals to receive individual skill instruction from non-school individuals during the season **unless you have a policy against it**. However, any instruction MUST be INDIVIDUAL SKILL INSTRUCTION. The 'red flag' goes up if/when that "Individual Skill Instruction" is provided by the player's "Club/Travel" coach. IF you continue to permit 'outside instruction', I urge you to seek advice from your Athletic Director who will in turn contact me regarding some safeguards to prevent players from violating the Non-Interscholastic Rule