

Sectional/District Seed Meetings

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

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Coaches' Manuals

I strongly encourage ALL coaches to download the "Coaches Guide" and provide to all assistant coaches in your program. You can download it here:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/SOCoachesManual.pdf>

Soccer Injury Study

Dawn Comstock, former physician with Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus is one of the leading authorities on high school sports' injuries. Along with her colleagues, Dr. Comstock has published a new study focusing on concussions in boys' and girls' soccer.

The study revealed that player-to-player contact is the most frequent injury mechanism leading to concussions.

See:

<http://www.usnews.com/news/sports/articles/2015/07/13/rough-play-is-riskier-than-heading-in-youth-soccer-study>

Inclement Weather Policy

PLEASE review the inclement weather policy as we are in a stretch of frequent storms across the state. You can read this at:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/OHSAAInclementWeatherPolicy.pdf>

Online Resources

NFHS Learning Center:

<http://nfhslearn.com/>

Soccer Field Diagram:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/girls/2013/SoccerFieldDimensions.pdf>

OHSAA Sports' Regulations:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/reg/GeneralSportsRegulations.pdf>

OHSAA Soccer Regulations:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/reg/Its/SO.pdf>

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Rating Varsity Officials

This is an extremely important requirement for all Head Soccer Coaches – RATING their officials at the conclusion of each varsity contest. So, you are wondering 'where, how, etc.'. First, this is all done through the school's "myOHSAA" data management account. Your school's Athletic Director needs to make sure each contest (home and away) is entered into the 'system' along with the names of the officials. And yes...you are at the mercy of the opposing school for away game officials. However, even if the opposing school does NOT enter the officials' names, YOU can do so after the contest is complete – just make it a point to know who the officials were. You will rate the officials from a 1 to a 4 (4 being the best). This rating is used as a multiplier in a formula that gives officials a 'composite' score at the end of the season. Those composite scores are then used to place officials into "State" eligible, "Regional" eligible, or "Sectional/District" pools for the *next year*. It IS a vital part of the tournament assignment process and one that results in a fine if not completed. You can get this detailed info online at:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/myOHSAA/OfficialRatingInstructions.pdf>

Player Safety – The NFHS Playing Rules Make this Number 1 Priority

Much feedback after last week's reference to NOT being able to wear certain types of head wear (helmets). All NFHS Playing Rules consider player safety as the basis for all rule making knowing there are always certain inherent risks in the physical demands of a sport. Rule 12 – Fouls and Misconduct – is a rule in place to help reduce contact leading to injuries. This letter is a reminder that there are rules in place to help reduce such contact. Active enforcement of Rule 12, can help minimize the incidence of concussions. The following is a list of notable sections under Rule 12:

1. **Rule 12, Section 1, Article 1**—A player shall not jump at an opponent.
2. **Rule 12, Section 4, Article 1**—A player shall be penalized for charging an opponent in a dangerous or reckless manner, or using excessive force.
3. **Rule 12, Section 6**—A player shall not participate in dangerous play, which is an act an official considers likely to cause injury to another player.
4. **Rule 12, Section 8, Article 1(f)(10)**—A player shall be cautioned (yellow card) for (f) unsporting conduct, including, but not limited to: (10) [a] player who displays reckless play.
5. **Rule 12, Section 8, Article 2(a) and (d)**—A player shall be disqualified (red card) for (a) exhibiting violent conduct [or] (d) committing serious foul play.

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>

Junior High Soccer Players – High School Soccer Players

One of the fundamental principles in Ohio has always been to NOT permit 7/8th graders to participate with 9-12 graders. Please remember that this is NOT permissible by OHSAA regulations and does result in suspension and fine for the coach. This is covered in pre-season Rules Meetings and in Coaches' Guides. I STRONGLY suggest you review this with your JV coach/assistant coaches – if you have them.