



Ohio Soccer Weekly

The Ohio High School Athletic Association

Issue #3 August 16, 2010



Tryouts are over, 2-a-days are winding down...and school is rapidly approaching. And GAMES are almost here. I hope preparation is going well and scrimmages are serving their purpose for player and team evaluation.

Hazing?

Be Diligent in Your Efforts!

We sometimes think "hazing" is something of the past. We're so concerned now with team selection, injuries, team chemistry, etc., and we might want to overlook some of the 'other' things. Now that we are through the first week of practice and teams are set, student-athletes become a little more comfortable knowing they have 'made the team'. So often, this is where 'lines are drawn in the sand' and leadership transitions into unacceptable behaviors. I would encourage ALL coaches in Ohio to spend some time with your team, bring your captains in separately and review issues as they relate to 'hazing'. Hazing can be a difficult term to precisely define as the hazing activity may be engaged in on a voluntary basis or be seemingly "light-hearted" in nature. Typically in the high school setting, older members of the group force new members to show subservience to the veteran team members. As a result, the self-esteem of the new members is lowered because of being forced to complete humiliating acts or to endure intimidation. Hazing is an act, including physical, mental, or psychological, which subjects another person, voluntarily or involuntarily, to anything that may abuse, mistreat, degrade, humiliate, harass, or intimidate him/her, or which may, in any fashion, compromise his/her inherent dignity as a person. In most hazing incidents, student athletes are asked to violate school policies and state or federal law (i.e., use of tobacco or alcohol).

Definition of hazing from the NFHS' *Interscholastic Athletic Administration* magazine (Winter, 2002): *any act or ceremony which creates the risk of harm to the student or to any other party and that is committed as a form of initiation into a particular club or activity. Hazing includes, but is not limited to, activities that involve the risk of physical harm, whipping, branding, ingesting vile substances, sleep deprivation, over-exposure to heat or cold, restraint, nudity, or kidnapping. Hazing could also include actions or simulations of a sexual nature, activities that create a hostile, abusive, or intimidating environment for the student*

DON'T OVERLOOK IT...it may be too late!

SCRIMMAGE LIMITATIONS

As mentioned in the Pre-season manual, language was changed to insure all teams are permitted 4 scrimmages PLUS a Preview. We have had a few questions arise:

Q: May we have a scrimmage in the morning and have a Preview that evening?

A: **Yes.** Remember the limitations on the length of a Preview however

Q: Is there a limit on the length of a scrimmage?

A: **Yes...**the limit is 3 hours per team or individual (2 hours for grades 7-8)

Q: If I do not use all our allotted scrimmages, may we use one DURING the season?

A: **Yes.** MANY coaches 'save' a scrimmage to be used during the season, especially during tournament time.

Q: Can we have an "Alumni Scrimmage"?

A: **Yes.** Ohio is one of the few states that allows its members to play non-member schools and teams. The important part is that it MUST be counted as one of the permitted number of scrimmages (or a Preview).

It's always good to be able to say "Yes"!

You can reference all Sports Regulations at <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rglts/GenSportsReg10-11.pdf>

WHO DETERMINES OUR RULES?

Ever wonder why we 'do the things we do' and who makes these rules? Our GAME rules are developed by the NFHS (www.nfhs.org). There is an interesting process on this and I will explain in later "OSW" postings.

Our ADMINISTRATIVE rules come from 3 areas:

- **The OHSAA Bylaws.** Our MEMBER schools vote on changes to these bylaws every spring. Bylaws include such regulations as Eligibility, Transfer, Coach requirements, etc. Read them all at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/general/about/Bylaws.pdf>
- **The OHSAA General Sports Regulations.** These are more specific and encompass all sports. Sports Regulations include such things as non-interscholastic regulations, no-contact periods, open field/conditioning regulations, out-of-state travel regulations, etc. Read them all at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rglts/GenSportsReg10-11.pdf>
- **Soccer SPECIFIC Regulations.** These are specific to the sport of soccer and are more definitive interpretations and applications of the General Sports Regulations. They include such things as start date for practice, contest limitations, etc. Read them all at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rglts/SO10-11.pdf>

Great Resources to cover with your players:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/RTG/Resources/hazing/hazing.htm>

By the Numbers

358,935

The number of high school BOYS' Soccer Players in the United States

4,398

The number of NCAA Senior Boys' Soccer Players.