

Get Your Online Rules Meeting Completed!

Last Date is



OHIO

SOCCER WEEKLY



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Review Inclement Weather Policies & Procedures

Though the oppressive heat of the summer has subsided a bit, we are still in the period of time that severe weather can hit anytime. Your school maintains a "Crisis Management" plan to be utilized in the event of inclement weather. Now that team selections are complete, photo day is out of the way, etc., this is a good time to review this plan with your Athletic Director. Where do players, fans and officials go in the event of inclement weather? Are you prepared? Bring your assistant coaches, especially JV coaches that have 'stand alone' games into this discussion so THEY are aware. No one WANTS to deal with it...but be prepared when you HAVE to deal with it.

Oh No...not Vuvuzelas?

Interesting how they were 'an issue' last year but don't seem to be THIS year. Like 'em or hate 'em, they are legal within our regulations. The OHSAA has a ban on artificial noisemakers at indoor events but not for outdoor events (with a few exceptions). Last year, a few conferences instituted their OWN ban on the noisemakers and should the conference wish to enforce it, they certainly may..



More on Noisemakers

Compressed Air Horns are not permitted at soccer games. Many sites use these by an alternate official to 'horn in' subs so they are not permitted by fans. A trumpet or tuba or a band instrument is NOT considered a "compressed air horn".

College Tryouts...Now?

This seems to have surfaced more and more lately, especially at the NAIA collegiate level; high school players being asked to 'work out' for a particular college. I encourage you to remind your players this is **not permitted**. Participation at any college 'workout' or 'tryout' is a violation of the non-interscholastic rule; OHSAA Sports Regulation 6.3 that prohibits players from tryouts, practicing or competing with any non-interscholastic group during the season of play of the same sport. You can read this in its entirety at <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rglts/GenSportsReg11-12.pdf>. I have made contact with the NAIA to ask their help communicating with NAIA member schools and they have agreed to notify them in scheduled communications.

Didn't Use All Your Scrimmages?

I am often asked if teams are permitted to scrimmage during the season if they did not use all of the scrimmages in pre-season. The answer to that is "Yes", BUT, it must be counted as a scrimmage for both/all teams involved. In other words, if Team A has a scrimmage left on their schedule and Team B has a GAME or two left on their schedule, this will not work. A scrimmage is a scrimmage...for BOTH teams. Many save a scrimmage for tournament time and the same regulations apply.

Foreign Exchange Students Coming to Your School?

Though they may often arrive 'late' relative to when you started practice, your school may accept Foreign Exchange Students. Where do they fit in as far as eligibility is concerned? First, before *any* Foreign Exchange student is eligible to participate in ANY level of a contest, they must first **be approved by the Commissioner's Office**. Please consult with your Athletic Director for submission of the required form. He/She will submit this form to the OHSAA office. It may take a few days, but your Athletic Director will receive a response granting or denying their eligibility based upon the requirements that must be met for all Foreign Exchange students. The main point....do not let them participate without being approved.

Ineligible Athletes

Another common question arises surrounding ineligible athletes; can they practice with our team? Yes the can, as long as your school permits it (and most do). They cannot be in uniform during any scrimmage or game, however. Assuming these ineligible athletes meet the requirements for eligibility during the first grading period, when do they BECOME eligible? Not until the FIFTH SCHOOL DAY following the official end of the grading period. There is a small exception to this that will allow them back a day or two earlier, but rather than go into that, simply consult with your Athletic Director. Do 'mid-term' grades have any effect on these students gaining their eligibility back? No, the eligibility bylaw clearly states that on grading period FINAL grades are used.

That 'Elite' Junior High Player

A reminder to all coaches that 7th and 8th graders are not permitted to practice or compete at any time during the season with 9-12 graders. So, if you are thinking about that 'elite' player in the 8th grade that plays for a travel team practicing with you to improve his/her skills...don't be tempted.

Pep Bands at Soccer Games

Pep bands playing at soccer games...what a great addition. I receive calls about it, often after the game, wondering if there are regulations against this. None whatsoever, and I hope there never are. Play on.

Common Q and A's in Early Season

Generally, a question that comes to our office from a coach has an answer that could best serve all coaches across the state. Here are a few commons ones :

Q: How many players can I "roster"?

A: First, "rostering" is a term we do not address. WE identify eligibility of athletes by an OHSAA Official Eligibility Form. We do not limit how many are on that form and anyone you have in uniform simply must be *eligible* and *on that form*. We DO limit the number in uniform at tournament time to **22**.

Q: Can girls' play on a boys' team?

A: Yes. However, they cannot 'move back and forth' from boys' teams to girls' teams. Once They establish themselves on the boys' team by playing in a contest, they must stay there the remainder of the season.

Respect
THE
GAME