

To: All OHSAA Head Soccer Coaches
From: Jerry Snodgrass, Assistant Commissioner
Emily Gates, Program Coordinator
Re: 2016 Coaches Memo #3
Date: August 3, 2016

We're off and running – literally. Roster cuts, picture day, scrimmages – things went from calm to frantic in a matter of a few days. Here are a few reminders and suggestions with the season underway. Please remember to complete your Rules Interpretation Meeting that can be found on our website (www.OHSAA.org), on the Girls and Boys Soccer pages.

Transfer Students

Current transfer regulations have increased the number of students transferring schools and participating for a different school than they did a year ago. Please note – it is the Athletic Director's responsibility to understand and comply with the "Transfer Bylaw" so I will not get into the specifics of the bylaw. We receive MANY calls and emails from coaches inquiring about the eligibility of a new soccer player at their school. Please – consult with your Athletic Director. Any approval of a student's eligibility can ONLY come from our Compliance Office directly to your school administration – usually your Athletic Director.

Transfer Students – Part 2

We strongly suggest that you look at your 9-12 roster and identify any student that was not part of your program last year (excluding freshmen). Obviously one or more of those students could well have been a student at your school last year and simply did not play soccer. But, doing this will help identify any player on your roster that did not attend your school last year. If they did not, they would be considered a "Transfer Student". Whether they are eligible to play for you or not is something your Athletic Director will determine but YOU must help identify them first. Just a suggestion that may prevent problems for you (forfeitures and fines) in the coming weeks.

Transfer Students – Part 3

Given the above, any student-athlete that is not eligible for the first 50% of the season due to a transfer is ***ineligible to participate in any scrimmage, Preview or regular season game until 8 games at the Varsity level have been played.*** They may practice with your team (provided your school permits it – which every school I know does).

NFHS Concussion and Social Media Courses

We realize how hectic the first weeks are. However, during the pre-season before school starts, many coaches are looking for a few coaching ideas off the field. The NFHS (National Federation) has become a leader in providing online educational opportunities for coaches, players and parents. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of a few free courses for your players. They are short, concise, free....and GOOD. They are:

Concussion Course for Students (Athletes)

With concussions in soccer continuing to be of great concern, I am not sure we can do enough to educate and help prevent concussions for student-athletes. This course is geared directly to the student-athlete and can be found at:

<http://nfhslearn.com/courses/61059/concussion-for-students>

Social Media Course for Students

This course, also free, addresses many of the long-term consequences of irresponsible use of social media. We all talk about it to student-athletes but this is a well designed course that has a great impact. You can access this directly at:

<http://nfhslearn.com/courses/61062/social-media-for-students>

Scrimmage Notes

Each team in your program is permitted 4 scrimmages and 1 Preview. Please make certain no player participates in more than 4 scrimmages; if you have a sophomore that may 'move up' and play for your varsity team but also plays on the JV team, that person cannot participate in more than 4 total scrimmages.

Scrimmage Notes – Alumni Games

Alumni Games have gained popularity in the last few years, especially in the sport of soccer. These are permissible but they MUST count as a scrimmage or a game on your schedule. Ohio remains one of the few states that permits its teams to participate against non-member 'schools' or programs. So, you CAN do this but just make sure you count it as one of your 4 permitted scrimmages.