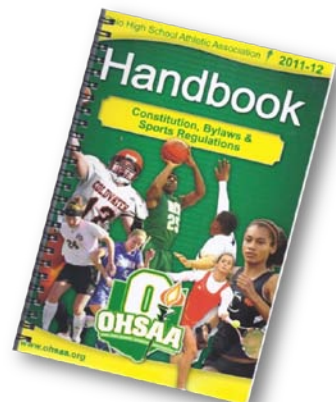
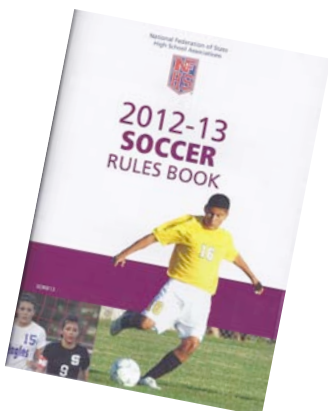


OHSAA

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



2012 COACH & OFFICIAL PRE-SEASON MANUAL



A Message from OHSAA Assistant Commissioner, Jerry Snodgrass



This "Pre-Season Manual" has been compiled for coaches and officials to help with the growing complexity of regulations that affect Junior High and High School soccer in Ohio. It includes materials you have received in the past along with many items from the soccer sports' regulations highlighted throughout. Though information is contained for coaches and officials, both will receive the same manual.

Before you pick up the phone to call to get a question answered, check this manual or the Soccer Web Page at www.ohsaa.org. Most likely, the answer can be found in this manual OR online. Nearly everything can also be found on the SOCCER WEBPAGE at www.ohsaa.org.

Statistics gathered from last year's online Rules Meeting provides proof of the increased number of non-school coaches in the sport of soccer. This manual has kept in mind that contact with the school's administration is not always as common place as some other school sports. Keep in mind also this manual is in step with **required** State Rules Interpretation Meetings

Now, maybe more than any other time in our existence 'we' as coaches and sport administrators need to step forward and provide the leadership to high school student-athletes. There are so many great things about high school athletics and those must be at the forefront every single day we work with students in our schools. Players don't play for million dollar contracts and though I wish every player that takes the field could go on and play at the 'next level', the statistics continue to say that most do not. The high school experience can and should be one of the best they ever have; and YOU as the coach provide the leadership for that experience. I hope ALL of us can work together to make this happen. The OSSCA and the OHSAA have committed themselves to this mission and 'together we can accomplish this.

Coaches should remember something about our Regulations. You may or may not always think they are best for your soccer team. But...the OHSAA's mission is NOT to make every player an MLS player. We want our student-athletes to gain the values of team play while understanding soccer is simply a PART of their life. It is NOT their entire life. Coaches have passion and we are glad they do. But our mission is to look at the entire experience and the student-athlete as a whole. Please consider that when you question why our regulations do not permit you to coach your team 365 days per year.

All rules governing OHSAA soccer stem from the National Federation (NFHS) and the OHSAA. The **NFHS Rules** are specific to the playing rules while **OHSAA Sports Regulations (and Bylaws)** govern specific administrative rules to Ohio. No coach, administrator, or official has the authority to modify or set aside these rules.

This is wishing each of you a successful baseball season. I commend you for your time and effort working with the student-athletes in Ohio.

Yours In High School Sports,
Jerry Snodgrass
Assistant Commissioner



OHSAA Mission Statement

The Ohio High School Athletic Association's mission is to regulate and administer interscholastic athletic competition in a fair and equitable manner while promoting the values of participation in interscholastic athletics as an integral part of a student's educational experience. The OHSAA represents its member schools by recognizing and promoting academics, the safety of participants, good citizenship and lifelong values as the foundation of interscholastic athletics.



OHSAA Contact Information

Important Soccer Dates

Jerry Snodgrass Assistant Commissioner jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org
Administrates the sport of soccer and oversees tournament, writes Soccer Sports' Regulations, Soccer Tournament Regulations

Don Muenz Officials' Development Coordinator butsir@columbus.rr.com
Responsible for overseeing soccer officials in Ohio. Serves as liaison with NFHS and oversees the education and recruitment of soccer officials in Ohio.

Sharon Shoemaker Administrative Assistant sshoemaker@ohsaa.org
Serves as assistant to all soccer regular season and tournament issues

August 6	Coaching & Tryouts Begin
August 7 – First Game	Previews
August 18	First game permitted
September 24	Non-Interscholastic Date
October 7	Tournament Seed/Draw Date Boys: 2:00 p.m. Girls: 3:00 p.m.
October 15 - 20	Sectional Tournaments
October 22-27	District Tournaments
October 30 – Nov. 3	Regional Tournaments
November 6-10	State Semi-Finals & Finals
November 10	Last date for Game

Important Notes:

*-Beginning this season, the GIRLS Regional Semi-Finals and State Semi-Finals will be played on **Tuesdays** and the BOYS Regional Semi-Finals and State Semi-Finals will be on **Wednesdays**.*

*-Beginning this season, the GIRLS' State Finals will take place on **FRIDAY** and the BOYS will take place on **Saturday**.*

*-Beginning in 2013 and continuing beyond, all fall sport practices will begin on **August 1** of that year.*

Non-Interscholastic Soccer

The OHSAA feels that student-athletes that have committed themselves to the school's soccer team should keep that commitment and be free of distractions and potential dissenting coaching opinions through the school soccer season. Therein lies the basis for the "**Non-Interscholastic Rule**". This General Sports Regulation basically prohibits a member of the school team from TRYING OUT, PRACTICING or COMPETING with any non-interscholastic team while a member of the school team. Remind your players...continually. And, this includes any **college tryouts/workouts**. Anything outside the high school practice, workouts or games (including college tryouts/workouts) is considered NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC.

The "Non-Interscholastic Date"

The "Non-Interscholastic Date" is a date that is set 42 days prior to the state soccer tournament. Though participation in ANY form of non-interscholastic soccer while a member of a school team is prohibited, any participation in a non-interscholastic contest **on or after this date** results in the individual being INELIGIBLE for the OHSAA tournament in addition to any other suspensions issued. Coaches....put this date on your calendar and REMIND the players on your team!



Communicating with the OHSAA

It is understandable with 831 schools in Ohio and the number of soccer teams in Ohio from Junior High to High School, the volume of calls and emails coming into the office is quite high and nearly impossible to answer at peak times. *Most* questions can and should be answered by the Athletic Director at your school. To make our communication as efficient as possible, we ask school ADMINISTRATORS (including your Athletic Director) to communicate directly with us...therefore our policy of not answering calls by parents and community members. One can only imagine the impossibility of that.

Additionally, every effort is being made to provide useful information via our website. I encourage you to check the website (both the main page and soccer specific page) and additional information is provided in this manual regarding weekly informational items (*Ohio Soccer Weekly*) that should prove beneficial for coaches at all levels.

The Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association is also an excellent resource for coaches. I encourage your membership in that organization to help strengthen the great sport of soccer in Ohio.

Rules Interpretation Meeting Information

Though we encourage EVERYONE to complete the Rules Interpretation meeting ONLINE, a limited number of 'face to face' meetings will be offered in 2012. Completion of the meeting, whether online or face to face, is **MANDATORY**. Few coaches realize that all referees in Ohio must not ONLY attend the State Rules meeting, but must also attend 4 LOCAL Association meetings that are educational in their nature. It is important to understand the purpose of the State Rules Interpretation Meeting. The "Online" meeting for Coaches is geared exclusively FOR coaches while the "Online" meeting for Officials is exclusive for Officials. Quizzes are embedded within each online presentation.

Note to Coaches: OHSAA Soccer Sports Regulations will be covered as well as General Regulations and Bylaws as they pertain to coaches and players. Though the main purpose is to provide knowledge and advice on the various OHSAA regulations, this is the educational mechanism to insure compliance with the various rules and regulations. In light of the many infractions that occur throughout the year, information provided in these meetings, whether face to face OR online is designed to reduce and prevent these infractions.

Note to Officials: Though the 'face to face' meetings are a blend of information given to coaches AND officials (since both will be in attendance), if you elect the online version, it will be exclusive to soccer officials. Most of the OHSAA's rules and regulations affect the administration of the sport, from Athletic Administrators and Soccer Coaches. Enforcement of such things as "coach certification", practice start dates, number of contests, etc., are assigned to school administrators and coaches and will not be covered in the online presentation. Don Muenz, Director of Development for Soccer Officiating, will have a key role in the online delivery as well as the officiating portion of "face to face" meetings.

ONLINE METHOD OF COMPLETION

For Officials:

Officials should access their *myOHSAA* account. Once in the system, there will be a link for the OFFICIALS online Rules Meeting. Simply log in, completing the required fields and complete the course. Please note that **all screens of the presentation must be viewed and any quizzes completed** for credit to be provided. Officials' "Profiles" in *myOHSAA* will be updated periodically to reflect attendance credit. PLEASE note that this is NOT INSTANTANEOUS and is generally done once per week. PLEASE do not call the OHSAA Office to verify your attendance.

The ONLINE Rules Meeting link will be live on **WEDNESDAY, July 25, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.**

The last day for completion of the online version is **Friday, August 17, 2012 at 12:00 midnight** or a \$50.00 late fee is charged for access to the online version.

PLEASE do not call the office for verification after completing the online version, IF you 'attend'....TRUST the system and it will record your attendance and **you will be able to verify your attendance through your personal "Profile" in your *myOHSAA* Account.**

For Coaches:

Coaches should access the online version by navigating to the OHSAA's BOYS' SOCCER (<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/boys/default.asp>) or GIRLS' SOCCER (<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/girls/default.asp>) webpage. You will need your **SCHOOL ID NUMBER**, which can be provided by your school's Athletic Director. Please note that **all screens of the presentation must be viewed and any quizzes or surveys must be completed** for attendance credit to be provided.

The ONLINE Rules Meeting link will be live on **WEDNESDAY, July 25, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.**

The last day for completion of the online version is **Friday, August 17, 2012 at 12:00 midnight** or a \$50.00 late fee is charged for access to the online version.

PLEASE do not call the office for verification after completing the online version, IF you 'attend'....TRUST the system and it will record your attendance and **you will be able to verify your attendance through the School's "Profile" in their *myOHSAA* Account.**

"FACE TO FACE" RULES MEETINGS

IF you choose to attend a "Face to Face" State Rules Interpretation meeting, please take the **CARD** that is located in the inside jacket of the mailing to coaches and referees and turn this in at the conclusion of the meeting you attend. Though any member of your school staff may attend, we *strongly encourage the HEAD COACH* to attend. "Face to Face" meetings will be a combination of Officiating and Coaching information since it is presumed that both groups will be in attendance. Attendees **MUST** be in attendance within 10 minutes of the start of the meeting and remain through the entire presentation to receive credit. Meetings and their locations are listed below and can also be viewed at <http://myohsaa.ohsaa.org/public/stateMeetings.aspx>

2012 Soccer "Face to Face" State Rules Interpretation Meeting Schedule & Locations

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
7/24/2012	7:15	Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy (CVCA), Auditorium 4687 Wyoga Lake Road, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44224	Doug Mathews
7/26/2012	7:15	Waverly High School, Rear Entrance - Auditorium 1 Tiger Drive, Waverly OH 45690	Jon Dick
7/27/2012	7:15	Ashland High School, Cafeteria 1440 King Road, Ashland, OH 44905	Jeff Meyers
7/30/2012	7:15	Southview High School, Auditorium 7225 Sylvania Avenue, Sylvania, OH 43560	Theresa Potter
7/31/2012	7:15	Cuyahoga Community College – Western Campus 11000 West Pleasant Valley Road, Parma, OH 44130	Brian Miller
8/1/2012	7:15	Dublin Coffman High School, PAC Theatre 6780 Coffman Road, Dublin, OH 43017	Russell Annis
8/2/2012	7:15	Ohio University – Zanesville, Elson Hall Auditorium 1425 Newark Road, Zanesville, OH 43701	Junior McCutcheon
8/3/2012	7:15	Niles Wellness Center 213 Sharkey Drive, Niles, OH 44445	David Anderson
8/6/2012	7:15	Mason High School, Auditorium 6100 S. Mason-Montgomery Rd., Mason, OH 45040	Stephen Frechtling
8/8/2012	7:15	Lorain County Community College, Room HS-201 1005 N. Abbe Road, Elyria, OH 44035	Tim Church
8/11/2012	10:00 a.m.	Centerville High School 500 E. Franklin Street, Centerville, OH 45459	Robert Sherman

Parent/Player Pre-Season Meetings

Pre-season meetings with parents are mandatory and will most likely occur at your school along with other fall sport teams. This is determined by each school's Athletic Administrator **and must be held no later than 2 weeks after the start of the season**. This is the time to cover such things as eligibility requirements, individual school policies, individual sport policies, sportsmanship issues and expectations travel plans for away contests, etc.

Administrating Soccer

Communication is a key in the successful administration of any of our sports. I encourage you to ask questions or seek assistance, but *please* consult with your Athletic Administrator FIRST. With the extremely high volume of calls and emails, it truly is the most efficient way for us to meet the needs of our schools. Additionally, nearly all informational items can be found on the web at www.ohsaa.org and navigating to the 'Boys or Girls Soccer' site. *Please* take the time to review the materials provided. At the beginning and the conclusion of the season we receive such a high volume of calls from sub-varsity coaches and "club" coaches. We encourage YOUR communication with them to help us operate as efficiently as possible. As with last season, I will be posting "Ohio Soccer Weekly" to address current issues and reminders for coaches. I continually update the "Off-Season Q and A's" to address the number of questions involving off-season regulations; all with the idea of HELPING coaches.



Coaches are reminded that every coach that coaches school soccer is responsible for understanding and knowing the regulations affecting them and their sport. Since this manual is done in concert with the State Rules Interpretation Meetings, it is encouraged that ALL coaches attend. We have put meetings online (see later in this manual) to make it more convenient for coaches to be aware of the regulations that affect them AND the eligibility of their athletes. Ignorance of the rule is no defense for consequences that occur as a result of rule/regulation violations.

Officials are reminded that school administration is responsible for administrating the various OHSAA Regulations (follow-up on ejections, game and match limitations, crowd control, etc. The official's jurisdiction lies within the enforcement of the NFHS Playing rules. Though attendance at Soccer contests is not required by OHSAA Bylaws, most school have administrative oversight simply to prevent issues from occurring. No doubt there are many areas that overlap such as inclement weather issues but we continue to strive to improve our communication with administrators AND coaches to help them with game management.

"Ohio Soccer Weekly"

As in past years, "Ohio Soccer Weekly" is posted approximately once per week with the goal of providing better communication with soccer coaches in Ohio *and* to continue to improve soccer in the state. In addition to communicating current administrative items, many non-interscholastic and Off-Season regulations are covered at key times. This communicative tool will include administrative items, important reminders and various unusual rule interpretations that come up from time to time. I encourage you to go online for this weekly 'bulletin'. This can be viewed from a link off the Boys' and Girls' Soccer webpages at <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/boys/default.asp> or <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/girls/default.asp>.

What Can Coaches Do Between August 1 and August 6?

This may be one of the most misunderstood 'regulations' that exists in Ohio High School Soccer. The period of time from August 1 to the **start of practice on August 6** obviously falls outside the June 1 – July 31 window in which coaches are permitted to instruct players from their own school for a total of 10 days (per staff). So, the period of time from August 1 – August 6 falls into the same category as any other time OUTSIDE THE SEASON OF PLAY. So what can you do? The same thing you can do any other time outside the season of play (except during June and July). You can have Physical Conditioning. You can have "Open Field". You can have Weight Lifting. You **cannot** instruct. You **cannot** conduct Physical Conditioning and/or Open Field under a *disguise* to start practice early. OHSAA Regulations even exist to prevent this from happening based upon the definitions of "Physical Training" and "Open Gym/Facilities". August 1 – August 6 is NOT a 'dead period' or a no-contact period'. But, I emphasize again...you cannot COACH and INSTRUCT during this time.

To **BEST** understand this, it is best to look at the different periods of time throughout the year: I will categorize those periods this way:

- During the Season
- No Contact Period
- Outside the Season (except during June/July)
- June and July

During the Season

This is probably the easiest to understand (and certainly EXPLAIN on my part). You and all Board approved coaches may COACH your team. Coach them up! A few common Q and A's here:

Q: When can we begin practice?

A: Monday, August 6, 2012

Q: Though practice does begin on August 6, when are we permitted to have TRYOUTS?

A: Tryouts and practice are 'one in the same'...and you may begin those on Monday, August 6, 2012 also.

Q: How many days do I have to give before making 'cuts' or 'team selections'?

A: The OHSAA does not regulate this. But, common sense is always urged and I STRONGLY recommend you ask this question to your Athletic Director prior to making any 'cuts' or team selections (JV-A, JV-B, etc.)

Q: Can we practice on Sunday?

A: That is entirely up to your school. The OHSAA has no restriction prohibiting Sunday practice, like many regulations, we leave it up to the individual school district.

Q: Can kids from a middle school travel team practice or train with us?

A: No. OHSAA Regulations do not permit 7-8 graders to practice or train with 9-12 graders anytime during the defined soccer season.

Q: Can we practice along with a neighboring school?

A: You may, but it must count as a scrimmage. Anytime two different schools practice together, it must be counted as a scrimmage.

Q: Can I, as the school coach, coach a travel team during my school season?

A: Yes. There are no regulations that prohibit this. I always remind coaches doing this they are NOT exempt from any "Recruiting Bylaws" within the OHSAA's Bylaws.

Q: During the season, a player is invited by a college to 'workout' for them to determine if they might get athletic grant-in-aid money. Is this permissible for the player?

A: **NO.** This is a growing concern and any participation violates the Non-Interscholastic Regulations and will result in **ineligibility** for the player.

Q: There continues to be a reference to "non-interscholastic" soccer. What is considered 'non-interscholastic' soccer?

A: **ANYTHING** that is not the school sponsored team. This includes but is not limited to 'club', 'travel', 'Rec.', collegiate tryouts/workouts, and includes any training, practicing, competing or even 'trying out'.

Q: Does a volunteer helping just 1 day a week have to have a Pupil Activity Permit?

A: **YES.** Ohio Administrative Code requires ALL coaches, whether paid OR volunteer, to possess the "PAP" before doing any coaching.

The "No Contact" Period

*The No-Contact period for soccer runs from the end of each team's last contest for 28 consecutive days. The No-Contact period is designed to provide student-athletes an opportunity to participate in winter sports without undue influence to start training right away for the next soccer season. ALL team sports have a 28 day no-contact period at the end of their sports. Currently there are several sports that have a **second** no-contact period for 28 days prior to Labor Day to protect FALL sports. A few common Q and A's regarding this period of time:*

Q: Can players meet to turn in equipment and be provided an evaluation of the previous season?

A: Yes. That is permitted as long as it is done during the equipment turn-in time. You can provide them information for your season-ending awards program, etc.

Q: Can players attend Awards Banquets during this time?

A: Yes.

Q: Are players permitted to meet regarding college plans or with a college recruiter that may come?

A: Yes.

Q: Can players 'weight lift' in the school's weight room during the no-contact period?

A: Yes, but the supervision cannot be from a Board approved Soccer Coach. Your weight room must be supervised by another individual other than a board approved soccer coach. Many schools have supplemental contracts for a separate strength coach for this very reason.

Q: Does the No-Contact Period apply to someone that was just a volunteer on my staff?

A: Yes. All coaches, whether paid or volunteer must be approved by your board of education, must have a ODE issued Pupil Activity Permit and are under all regulations of the OHSAA just as the paid coaches are.

Outside the Season

*This period of time has some of the complexities that coaches often WANT to interpret in their own way. During this time, there are limitations currently defined in the OHSAA's Sports Regulations. It is important to keep in mind that while many coaches want to develop their teams during the off-season, the OHSAA's mission is not to permit year-round coaching. The age old argument of 'that is the only way these kids will get to the next level (college scholarships), is NOT the mission of the OHSAA. While many strive for that college scholarship and to play professionally, the facts remain that nearly 98% of the 350,000 student-athletes in Ohio will **not** continue their athletic careers at 'the next level'. OHSAA Regulations are built with this in mind. And, it is important to note that ALL regulations of the OHSAA are voted upon and approved by the member schools and/or those elected (the OHSAA Board of Directors) by the member schools with this mission in mind.*

Q: Can I coach athletes from my school's team in the off-season?

A: No. Current regulations prohibit you from coaching individuals from your school in TEAM or INDIVIDUAL instruction anytime outside the season of play (except of course during June and July).

Q: Can I coach athletes from other schools in the off-season?

A: Yes. There is no regulation that would prohibit you from coaching athletes at any level from another school. In fact, we would encourage it.

Q: How many players from our school are permitted to be on the same NON-school team (such as club or travel)?

A: No more than 5 players that played for the 9-12 school team(s) are permitted to be on the same NON-school team anytime outside the season of play except during June and July.

Q: When are players from our school team permitted to play for their 'club' or 'travel' team (non-interscholastic team)?

A: As soon as their season is complete.

Q: If a player is a JV player only, do they have to wait until the Varsity team is out of the OHSAA Tournament before playing in club or travel soccer?

A: No, however, once a player DOES play in club or travel soccer (non-interscholastic), they are not eligible to dress or compete on the tournament roster.

Q: Are players from our school team permitted to play "Futsal" in excess of the 50% limitation?

A: Yes. Since Futsal is played on a 'unique' surface AND a different ball is used, it does not fall under normal OHSAA Soccer Regulations.

Q: If players are permitted to play Futsal outside the season of play in excess of the 50% limitation, does that mean I can coach my own players in Futsal?

A: No. It is still not permissible to coach players that played on your own school team the previous season (except graduating seniors).

Note: There is a separate section in this manual addressing all "Indoor Soccer" regulations.

During June and July

Years ago, the OHSAA 'listened' to coaches requests to be able to spend time out of the season of play with their teams. Hearing this, the OHSAA's Board of Directors approved a regulation that would permit coaches from schools to do this (now identified in Sports Regulation 6.9) but contains the following restrictions:

- All instruction, whether TEAM or INDIVIDUAL must occur between June 1 and July 31
- All members of a coaching staff are limited to 10 total days of instruction (team OR individual) per staff
- No instruction (team or individual) is permitted to be mandatory
- Any part of a day is counted as a day
- No activity that occurs during this time is considered an OHSAA event; it is considered Non-Interscholastic

Q: Does each of our coaches have 10 days? In other words, if I have 3 coaches, does that mean we have 30 days total to coach?

A: No. The regulation clearly states that all combined coaches get a total of 10 days per staff.

Q: Is an incoming freshman permitted to compete along with any of our 9-12 graders in a summer tournament?

A: Yes. Any 'event' you participate in during the summer is not considered an 'inter-scholastic' event and therefore is not regulated by any OHSAA Regulations. The regulation prohibiting 7-8 graders from participating with 9-12 graders is only during the season of play.

Q: Is a player from another school permitted to play with 'our school team' during June and July?

A: Yes, we do not consider anything in the summer (or anytime out of season) as an OHSAA sponsored school event, so there are no restrictions on 'who' plays for a team during this time.



Soccer "Camps" and Individual Instruction

The above often leads to questions regarding "Camps" and "individual instruction".

Camps: Many different types of instruction often fall under the general term of "camps". Camps can be conducted by school coaches but must fall under all previously mentioned OHSAA regulations regarding out of season instruction. A camp conducted during June and July would be permissible and would count toward the 10 days of instruction permitted provided any member of the school team from the previous season is in attendance. Regardless of *how many* are in attendance, each day of the camp would count toward one of the 10 permitted days. And again, these could only be conducted during June and July. The following "Q and A's" are designed to give additional help:

Q: Can I charge for athletes to attend a camp that I conduct as a coach?

A: A very complex question. Though not an area the OHSAA regulates, it is an issue ethically and legally between you and the school district. Essentially, it depends a little on whether YOU are conducting the camp (you would therefore be a private business individual) or the school district is conducting the camp (you would then be considered an employee of the school). I **STRONGLY** recommend you sit down and discuss all legal and ethical ramifications with your school administration prior to holding a camp in which a fee is charged.

Q: Am I permitted to bring a private instructor in to conduct a camp?

A: Yes, you could. Keeping all the above mentioned items in mind, if YOU organize it as the coach, it would still be considered one of the 10 days of instruction permitted. If you have absolutely nothing to do with the organization of the camp, it still could only be done during June/July but would not be part of the 10 days. Again, if you had *absolutely nothing* to do with the organization of the camp.

Individual Instruction: This is all defined within Sports Regulation 7 of the OHSAA's General Sports Regulations. Here are a few basics of the regulation:

- o Team members may receive **INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION** anytime outside the season of play
- o Team members may receive **INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION** DURING the season of play by 'outside' individuals unless the school or team coach has a policy against it.
- o **INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION** is defined as nothing more than 1 vs 1
- o Team members may receive any **INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION** in a an **Individual** or **Group** lesson
- o School coaches, whether paid or volunteer, may only provide individual instruction during the season or for 10 days total during June and July
- o Each day of Instruction by a school coach, whether paid or volunteer, during June and July must count as 1 of the 10 days of instruction permitted from June 1 – July 31.
- o Whether 1 player from the school team is present or 50 players from the school team, each day must count as 1 of the 10 days of instruction permitted from June 1 – July 31.

THE “NEW UNIFORM RULE” FOR SOCCER

A few facts regarding the “new” Uniform Rule:

1. The rule was implemented in 2010
2. The rule is a NATIONAL rule (NFHS)
3. The rule is a VARSITY team uniform rule
4. The rule takes effect in 2013
5. The rule is for HOME JERSEYS and SOCKS only
6. This is no requirement for the SHORTS to be all white

Comments:

Basically, the ‘new’ rule is a NFHS rule that was passed in 2010 and indicates that a HOME jersey for varsity teams and becomes effective in 2013. The reason for the long time for implementation was knowing that teams/schools order uniforms on a rotating basis with other school teams and most teams have their uniforms replaced every 3-6 years. If teams were ordering now, they would want to comply with the regulation for 2013. NO team will be required to purchase new uniforms IF they are not on their rotating basis. More on that at Rules Interpretation meetings.

4.1.1(b) The home team shall wear white or light jerseys and socks and the visiting team shall wear dark jerseys and socks. Beginning with the 2013 fall season, the home team shall wear solid white jerseys and solid white socks, and the visiting team shall wear dark jerseys and socks. Prior to and during the game, jerseys shall be tucked into the shorts, unless manufactured to be worn outside.

4.1.1(i)(1) All jerseys, except those worn by goalkeepers, shall be numbered on the back with a different Arabic number at least 6 inches in height and on the front (jersey or shorts) with the same number which shall be at least 4 inches in height. Numbers shall be of contrasting color to the jersey (or shorts) **and clearly visible**.

4.1.1(i)(1) (Continued) Beginning with the 2012 fall season, all jerseys shall be numbered on the back with a different Arabic number at least 6 inches in height and on the front (jersey or shorts) with the same number which shall be at least 4 inches in height. Numbers shall be of contrasting color to the jersey (or shorts) **and clearly visible**.

4.1.1(i)(2) Only those names, patches, emblems, logos or insignias referencing the school are permitted on the team uniform, except as in 4.1.1(d), -(f) and -(g). The player’s name may also appear on the team uniform.

Beginning in the FALL OF 2013, NONE of these jerseys will be legal:



From the Desk of the OHSAA's Director of Development

By Don Muenz, OHSAA "DOD"

"There is a fifth dimension beyond that which is known to the referee. It is a dimension as vast as space and as timeless as infinity. It is the middle ground between light and shadow, between science and superstition, between the referee's duties and those of school administrators, and it lies between the pit of the referee's fears and the summit of the referee's knowledge. This is the dimension of imagination. It is an area which we call 'the Administration Zone.' " ~with copious apologies to Rod Serling

We, as referees, can avoid aggravation, conflict and self-induced mental trauma by staying within the bounds of our authority and duties and leaving the rest of the Administration Zone to school administration, its indigenous denizen.

The home school postpones the regular match prior to kickoff. This, per NF 1.7.1 and the collected play rulings, is the home match administrator's decision. If the administrator postpones before the regular season match is kicked off, that is that. The referees have no say in the matter. If, however, the home match administrator wishes to play and the head referee feels it unsafe to do so, the match must be kicked off and then play whistled dead immediately, also in accord with NF 1.7.1. In this latter circumstance, the head referee should notify both schools of the decision not to play and the referee team should leave the field together. The head referee should then send a match report to each school, indicating what is needed for the match to be completed. Note: no OHSAA Official Report is to be filed. Incidents of at-the-field disagreement between home match administration and the head referee should be rare indeed. It would be more common for the home match administrator to call the visitors and the referee team well in advance of kickoff, cancelling the match.

"Ref, they are going to use a suspended player." This is a sticky situation for the referees. The referee team has no responsibility in enforcing the OHSAA suspension of player, coach or bench personnel. Enforcement of the suspension falls to the school of the suspended participant. What does the referee team do? They do not prohibit any player, coach or bench personnel from participating. They would note the name and team of the putatively suspended participant and the head referee would file an OHSAA Official Report of the matter, following the protocol, which can be found on the OHSAA website. It would also be good practice for the head referee to notify the coach of the putatively suspended player or bench personnel of the suspension question raised by the opposing team. Notification gives the coach the opportunity to decide what is best for the team.

"Ref, this player played both halves of the JV match, the first half of the varsity and is now playing the second half of the varsity." Enforcement of the "Too Many Halves Rule," OHSAA Soccer Reg. 10(A)(1.1), is the responsibility of the player's school and of the referee team. The referees should refer to the official scorebook of the first match and the second match as the best means of verifying the player's participation. Absent the official scorebooks, the referee may make inquiry of the team of the allegedly infringing player. The referees may also rely on their own memories, but this is not a very strong basis for enforcing the regulation unless the athlete in question has been booked or otherwise noted on the referees' game cards. The matter should be discussed with the coaches of both teams. Should the referees not have sufficient evidence to indicate a violation, then the athlete should be permitted to participate in one or both halves of the second game. An Official Report must be made of any violation which has sufficient evidence to support it. Where the alleged violation is not supported by the referees' game cards, the official scorebooks, or the offending team's verification of its own violation, then the matter need not be reported to OHSAA, because there is no evidence to support it.

"Ref, I know that this coach does not have a valid Pupil Activity Permit." The referees should note the name of the informant and the name of the coach. The referee team should permit the reported coach to coach the team. The head referee is to note the name of the reported coach and the informant in an OHSAA Official Report, following the protocol.

"Ref, I know that player number 12 is still playing on a non-interscholastic team." The referees should note the name of the informant and the name of the player. The referee team should permit the reported player to play in the match. The head referee should notify the coach of the reported player's team, so that the coach can decide whether to play the reported player. The head referee is to note the name of the reported player and the informant in an OHSAA Official Report, following the protocol.



OSSCA

Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association

OSSCA Officers

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Executive Director

Brian Stevens, Centerville (ret.)

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Vice President, Banquet

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Northwest

John Orozco, President

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TBA

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Mathew Thomas, President

The Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches' Association

The purpose of the Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association is to unify all soccer coaches in the state of Ohio, to promote high school soccer, to create an official line of communication with the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA), to foster higher standards of professionalism and ethics, and to maintain a strong contact with national, state, and local coaches organizations of soccer. The OSSCA Executive Board, consisting of the District Presidents and Officers of the OSSCA, meets at least 6 times yearly. The OSSCA is represented at each OHSAA Board of Directors' meeting.

What the OSSCA does for You

1. Works to improve Soccer Regulations in Ohio
2. Develops and fosters relationship with the OHSAA
3. Works to improve soccer tournament sites
4. Maintains the OSSCA website at www.ossca.org
5. Conducts the State Coaches' Poll
6. Selects All-State Teams in each Division
7. Provides Scholarships to graduating sons/daughters of member coaches
8. Selects All-Academic awards
9. Honors coaches with Service and Victory Awards
10. Honors Assistant Coaches through the "Assistant Coach of the Year" honor
11. Works closely with Ohio State's Men's' Soccer Coach to offer the annual OSSCA Soccer Clinic

Joining the OSSCA

Memberships are available through the OHSBCA website at
[:http://www.ossca.org/home.asp](http://www.ossca.org/home.asp)

The OSSCA Poll

Member coaches of the OSSCA representing each district conduct the state poll. There are 10 districts and each district has a representative per division. There will be 7 polls total, with the last poll being the last weekend of the regular season.

Process

1. Each district representative is to send the top three teams from their district to the divisional chair.
 - a. The process of how each district determines their top three is set by the district.
2. The information is to be sent on Friday evening during the season. The reason for Friday evening is it allows voting to be completed on Saturday or at latest Sunday morning. This allows the regional/national voters to time meet regional deadlines for the NSCAA poll.
 - a. The information is to include the teams, their record, and results from the week.
 - b. Saturday games do not count in that week's poll and they will be taken into consideration the following week.
3. If a coach from a district fails to send in nominations then that district will not be included in that weekly poll.
4. Once all information has been received, then each representative will send who they think are the top 10 teams in the state to the divisional chair. The votes are totaled and the poll is completed. The coaches who assist with the poll are volunteers and the OSSCA asks that they not be contacted about how they voted or why certain teams are not in the poll. Polls are always subjects of debate, but this is the process that has been approved and will be used

Nike & Game Ball Information

Nike is the official game ball for the OHSAA and is used at all REGIONAL and STATE games. Other National Federation (NFHS) approved balls are able to be used for regular season play and for tournament play at the Sectional & District levels. The approved Nike ball is the T-90 Catalyst and the Model Number is: **SC1921-129**. Please note that 'pink' (or other commemorative colored) balls are **not permitted** to be used when playing games for 'special occasions' such as "Kick for the Cure". See below.

Uniforms & "Special Event" Games

The OHSAA is certainly supportive of the many 'special events' coaches and teams assist with for local charities. "Kick for the Cure" has been one of several different 'special events' that teams across Ohio have become involved in. A few important notes for those participating in those events:

Special Uniforms

Requests often are received by schools to permit alternate uniforms for participating in games that have a charitable tie. The OHSAA's policy as recommended by the NFHS is to permit such requests one time with number requirements still intact. Though the use of a pink jersey may be permitted for a home game, the number requirements must comply with NFHS regulations. Any requests should be made in writing (either US Mail or email) to the OHSAA at jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org. Once any waivers are permitted, officials should be notified in advance.

Coach Certification & Education Requirements

As outlined in Ohio Administrative Code, all Coaches of Middle School/Jr. High and High School teams **MUST** possess a "Pupil Activity Validation Certificate" to coach in Ohio. This includes paid coaches AND volunteer coaches. School administrators are responsible for maintaining records on compliance and most schools provide opportunities for their coaches to obtain the necessary coursework. The actual regulations AND the certificate can be downloaded from the OHSAA's Sports' Medicine page or directly at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/default.asp>. To obtain the required certificate through the ODE, one must:



- Have completed a Sports' First Aid Course
- Possess a valid CPR Card
- Have been approved by their local Board of Education or similar governing body
- ***Complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course***

Completion of the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course was made part of the requirement to coach in Ohio as a result of Board of Directors action in June of 2008. Though there was confusion in the initial action, the timetable for coaches to complete the course is tied directly to the Pupil Activity Validation Certificate. To obtain a new certificate, the Fundamentals of Coaching course is required. Simply put:

- **NEW COACHES** must take the course to apply for the ODE's certificate,
- **VETERAN COACHES** must take the course upon renewal of their certificate. This is so indicated by the school's superintendent's signature on the application to the ODE. All applications submitted for the certificate require the signature of the superintendent where board approved. The signature verifies completion of the course.

You can look up all requirements in detail on the ODE's website at:
<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEPrimary.aspx?page=2&TopicRelationID=1328>

Schools are required to submit coaches' names along with valid permit numbers on the Official OHSAA Tournament Entry Form. Entry forms are audited on a random basis at the conclusion of each season.



Coaches' Code of Ethics

From the NFHS Soccer Rules Book

The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. An interscholastic program should be designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each student should be treated with the utmost respect and his or her welfare should be considered in decisions by the coach at all times. Accordingly, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the NFHS Board of Directors.

The Coach shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.

The Coach shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. IN all personal contact with students, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

The Coach shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse.

The Coach shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct the program in harmony with the total school program.

The Coach shall master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team members. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.

The Coach shall exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.

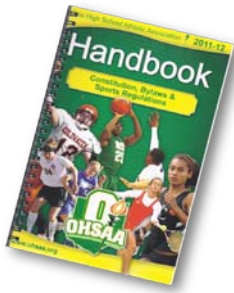
The Coach shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

The Coach should meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the event before and after the contest.

The Coach shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give students special consideration.

The Coach shall not scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the league and/or state high school athletic association.





OHSAA Sports' Regulations



Regulations governing the sport of soccer are divided into two basic categories: **GENERAL Sports' Regulations** and **SOCCKER Regulations (sport specific)**. These are reviewed annually and approved by the OHSAA's Board of Directors.



General Sports' Regulations

These regulations can be accessed and address regulations that affect all sports governed by the OHSAA. They include, but are not limited to, such things as Instructional Programs outside the window of the season, Physical Fitness (Conditioning) Programs, Open Gym/Field Regulations, No Contact Periods, Player and Coach Ejection Policies. These are important and *most* areas of concern can be addressed simply by reading through these Regulations or contacting your Athletic Administrator. They are easily accessed via the web by navigating to the "Soccer" webpage and clicking on "General Sports' Regulations" on the left hand side or directly going to <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rglts/GenSportsReg12-13.pdf>. I **strongly encourage** you to take the time to read these to familiarize yourself and your staff with the various rules approved by our Board of Directors that govern all sports.

Though there are far too many to list in this manual, a *few* of the more common ones that affect soccer squads are:

Open Gyms/Facilities/Fields at Member Schools

Open Gyms (or facilities) are clearly defined in **Rule 7 of the OHSAA Sports' Regulations**. An abbreviated version states:

- A school may open its athletic facilities for **unstructured free play** provided the activity is supervised by a school employee who may remove participants or spectators for disciplinary reasons.
- The school may designate the sport or sports that will be played during the free play period, but **may not limit participation** to a select group of students from within the school. Participation **may** be limited to students enrolled in that specific school.
- There can be no designation of who will play on which team or who will play whom. Only those students participating may be involved in the selection of teams.
- Regulation timing of games is not permitted.
- Written scorekeeping is not permitted.
- No individual invitations, written or oral, are permitted.
- A coach, paid or volunteer, violates the provision of these regulations when the coach requires, suggests or in any way implies that a student's chance to be selected for an interscholastic squad is contingent upon participation at an open gymnasium or facilities program.
- Mandatory attendance at open gyms/facilities is **not permitted**.
- Transporting athletes to a school or non-school open gym/facility is a violation for any member of the coaching staff, paid or volunteer.
- Coaches **may participate** in the unstructured free play in the open gym/facilities.

Schools MAY restrict individuals from observing the open gym/facility activity.

Soccer Specific Regulations

Each spring, regulations for the upcoming school year are approved by the Board of Directors for every sport the OHSAA sponsors. These address areas such as (but not limited to) Non-Interscholastic competition, number of contests (game, scrimmage or preview) that are permitted, season start and end dates, out of state travel, etc. All coaches should familiarize themselves with these regulations. Coaches should familiarize their entire staff with the importance of these Regulations as they directly affect the eligibility of student-athletes. Upon approval, they are submitted for printing to the annual OHSAA Handbook (which every administrator has been provided). These are also available through soccer web page at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/boys/default.asp> or <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/girls/default.asp> Soccer specific AND the General Sports' Regulations are found on the left side of the page. A few of the Sports' Regulation **highlights** are listed but you are encouraged to read the entire regulations at the above listed website.

Game & Scrimmage Limitations (Grades 9-12)

Maximum number of games permitted: **16 Games**

Scrimmages/Previews: Maximum of **4** scrimmages PLUS **1** Preview.

Scrimmage Note: Scrimmages MAY be held at any time during pre-season, post-season or during the season, but MUST count as the same for both competing teams. In other words, Team A cannot count it as a 'scrimmage' while Team B counts the competition as a 'game'. This is especially noteworthy during post-season.

Alumni games: These have gained popularity and may be played...but they MUST be counted as a scrimmage.

Practicing with Other Schools: This also has become popular and may occur but again, any such practice MUST be counted as one of the team's 4 permitted scrimmages.

Note Regarding Individual Participation: Though there is no limitation on the number of HALVES an **individual** may participate in for scrimmages, **Individual players are not permitted to participate in more than 4 scrimmages and 1 Preview.**

Game & Scrimmage Limitations (Grades 7-8)

Maximum number of games permitted: **14 and 1 Post-Season tournament not to exceed 4 games**

Scrimmages: Maximum of **1** scrimmage PLUS **1** Preview

Scrimmage Note: Scrimmages MAY be held at any time during the season but MUST count as the same for both competing teams. In other words, Team A cannot count it as a 'scrimmage' while Team B counts the competition as a 'game'.

Note Regarding Individual Participation: Though there is no limitation on the number of HALVES an **individual** may participate in for scrimmages, **Individual players are not permitted to participate in more than 1scrimmage and 1 Preview.**

Previews

OHSAA Regulations permit teams to participate in ONE preview in addition to their 4 scrimmages (9-12). For 2012 and due to the short period of time between the start of practice (August 6) and the first contest date (August 18), Previews may be scheduled and played during that time period (August 6 – August 18). No Previews may be scheduled or played after August 18.

Previews may ONLY consist of a maximum of one-half the length of a regular season contest. Admission may be charged for Previews.

Note Regarding Individual Participation: No **Individual** players is permitted to participate in more than **1** Preview.

No Contact Period ("Dead Period")

There has been considerable misunderstanding about the **No Contact** period outlined in General Sports Regulation 8. Any coach, **paid or volunteer**, is prohibited from athletic or athletic-related contact with squad members in the same sport for the period of time starting with the **first day after the school's last interscholastic contest and ending 28 days later.** This includes any contact in tryouts in or out of school, physical fitness, weight training, open gyms, etc. It also includes verbal contact which encourages discusses or promotes any activity related to soccer. Exceptions to this are all-star contests, awards ceremonies, contact with seniors to facilitate college recruiting and contact as a faculty member assigned to teach in the regular curriculum, pick up school-issued equipment and attendance at OHSAA tournaments. See information detailing this earlier in this manual.

Out of State Travel

A soccer team may travel out of state to compete in contest scrimmages, previews and games games in states OR provinces in Canada that are **contiguous** to Ohio regardless of distance. This would include the states of Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia and the province of Ontario in Canada. A team may travel out of state **one time** to state or province NOT contiguous to Ohio but only if there is no loss of school time. Teams **may not travel out of state only to practice.**

Comments to News Media

Each year unpleasant situations arise as a result of comments made to the news media by coaches. The OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws reads in part "Great care shall be exercised in the selection of officials, well in advance of the contest and agreed upon by schools involved." Public criticism of officials is a direct reflection upon those who were responsible for assigning the officials to the game. Officials are trained and expected to make no derogatory comments regarding the players, coaches, or schools. Coaches are expected to follow the same procedure in regard to the officials. Coaches violating this rule may be asked to discuss the problem personally with the Commissioner. (See Sports Regulations "Media Regulations")

Videotaping Regulations

The improvement of various electronic devices, especially cell phones, has drawn much attention to the rules regarding recording soccer contests. Complete regulations available within the OHSAA Handbook or through the General Sports Regulations on the web at <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rq/its/GenSportsReg12-13.pdf> under Section "A" of the Media Regulations. A few highlights of this include but are not limited to:

- It is permissible for a school to videotape or photograph regular season contests in which the school team is participating, but such tapes or photographs may not be used for coaching purposes until after the contest is completed. In other words, it is not possible to use photographs or any recorded information at halftime of a game.
- It is **not permissible for a school or school representative to videotape or photograph Previews, scrimmages, regular season OR tournament contests of other schools** without the written consent of the schools participating in the contest.

Scoreboard-Video Replay Board Regulations

As more and more schools erect video replay boards at their shared facilities with football, there has been much concern about their use. First, replays on scoreboards are NOT considered any form of coaching device and therefore are permissible for use. It is cautioned however...replays of CONTROVERSIAL plays are NOT to be run on replay boards. This is consistent with football regulations and discussion should take place with those individuals operating those boards.

Officials

Varsity: Minimum of TWO OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 officials are required. Regardless of how many are officiating the game, ALL must be OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2.

Junior Varsity: Minimum of TWO OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 officials are required.

Freshmen: OHSAA Class 1, 2, or 3 *recommended*.

Note: If only one OHSAA official is present to officiate a contest, the game may be played if participating coaches agree.

Protests Are Not Part of High School Soccer and Will NOT be Considered

Bylaw 8, Section 3(1) of the OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws reads in part, "*Protests arising from the decisions of interpretations of the rules by officials during the game will **not be considered***. Their decisions and interpretations are final." This means that correctable errors must be corrected during the game and within the time established by playing rules.

Special Note Regarding Suspended Games

Every fall, Ohio weather brings attention to the Official NFHS Rule regarding Duration and Length of Games (Rule 7, pages 33-34 of the NFHS Rules Book).

Article 3 of Rule 7 states:

...In the event a game must be suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue play, the head referee shall declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been played. If less than one-half of the game has been played, the game may be rescheduled from the start or restarted from the suspension of play according to state association adoption.

Important Notes Regarding Rule 7.3:

- Weather and lack of sufficient lighting are conditions that *normally* make it impossible to continue play.
- ANY time a complete half is played and conditions make it impossible to continue play, the game is considered complete and the score is FINAL. FINAL.
- Games that are unable to be completed and a complete half is played cannot be completed at a later date.
- Games that are unable to be completed and a complete half has **NOT** been played, the game shall resume from the exact point of suspension. Coaches/game personnel should make note of time on clock, position of ball, etc. The game is **NOT** replayed from the opening kickoff.

This rule through the NFHS does not provide for 'State Adoptions', therefore, League or Conference Rules may **NOT** override this NFHS Rule

Non-Interscholastic Competition

A member of an interscholastic soccer squad (grades 7-12) sponsored by the Board of Education **cannot participate in a non-interscholastic Soccer program** (such as 'club or 'travel'), which includes tryouts, practice and contests as an individual OR a member of a team in the sport of Soccer anytime during the school team's season. This is explained in OHSAA Bylaw 10-3-1. A student-athlete becomes a member of the school team when he/she participates in a scrimmage, preview OR regular season or tournament game as a substitute OR as a starter.

Recently, there are a growing number of colleges/universities inviting students to 'tryouts' or 'workouts' DURING the high school soccer season. These are considered NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC in nature and are **NOT PERMITTED**. You are encouraged to review this with your team members!

A member of an interscholastic soccer team sponsored by the Board of Education **MAY** participate in non-interscholastic soccer (such as 'club' or 'travel') PRIOR TO and AFTER the school season under the following conditions:

- The number of interscholastic soccer players from the same school on a non-interscholastic team is limited to **FIVE on the roster** of that non-interscholastic team. This number includes all players that played on the school team in the previous season from grades 9-11*.
- A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament only in excess of the five player limit until the squad is eliminated but no later than Labor Day.
- A player may play in non-interscholastic soccer **ONLY WHEN** the student's team has completed its season.

*Graduating seniors are exempt from this particular 5 player limitation.

Indoor Soccer

Over the course of the past several years, there has been an increase in the number of Indoor facilities being built across the state. Years ago, generally the only place Indoor Soccer could take place was in Ice Arenas. At that time, the OHSAA adopted the understanding and subsequent policy that "Indoor Soccer" was permitted in excess of the 50% limitation of players (5 from a school). However, as newer and LARGER facilities were being built, an interpretation appeared to have developed that basically led coaches to believe that "if it was played INDOORS, it was legal". That was **never** the interpretation that existed and every effort will be undertaken through this mailing and Rules Interpretation meetings to correct this misunderstanding.

By 2012 OHSAA Soccer Regulations (4.7)

*Participation in indoor soccer is not a violation of OHSAA non-interscholastic team Sports' Regulation 4.5 for student-athletes provided the rules of The United States Soccer Federation (USSF) **Indoor Soccer Rules** are followed that specifically include the team limitations outlined in these rules and the facilities uses 'boards' as outlined within these same rules.*

Key Points:

1. Team limitations defined in USSF Indoor Soccer Regulations must be followed
2. "Boards" must be used as are required in the official USSF Rules of Indoor Soccer.

"Futsal"

Many facilities are now offering "Futsal" leagues. The OHSAA currently interprets Futsal being different than the sport of soccer, due to the type and size of the ball used, the field dimensions, etc. Playing in "Futsal" is not in violation of the OHSAA Non-Interscholastic Team Sports Regulation 4.5; provided they are playing under the **official rules of Futsal**. You can read about these rules at: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Futsal>

Rating & Voting for Officials

Coaches that fail to RATE Officials and Athletic Administrators that fail to VOTE for Officials are fined \$150.00 at the conclusion of the Soccer Season!!

You often hear at tournament contests that "the tournament officials have been selected by a process approved by the Board of Directors". That 'process' is an important one for both coaches AND officials. To make this process work it requires Coaches and Athletic Directors to do their part. Officials take this process seriously and it is in everyone's best interest to have the correct input for the assignment of officials. A few important things to note:

1. Coaches **RATE** Officials, other approved individuals **VOTE FOR** Officials.
2. Ratings are done at the conclusion of a game; voting is done at the end of the season.
3. "Pools" of officials are created as a result of ratings and votes.
4. District Athletic Boards utilize the various pools to assign officials to sectional and district tournaments in their respective Athletic Districts.
5. The OHSAA Office utilizes the pools to assign officials to the Regional and State Tournament.
6. All Rating and Voting is done through the *myOHSAA* Data Management System.
7. Coaches obtain a User Name and Password for access to the *myOHSAA* system



In order for the process, games and officials must be entered into the *myOHSAA Data Management System* by a school's Athletic Administrator. Schools that are the home team in a contest are the ones required to enter the contest and the officials. In some cases, league assignors have this capability. IF a contest is not entered, there can be no rating of officials. If this is not done, eventually, this will lead to a fine for not rating officials. Please encourage your Athletic Administrator to enter contests into the system.

You will note that using the *myOHSAA* system will allow you to view other teams' schedules to assist you with possible scouting opportunities as well as serve as a 'double check' with often changing schedules due to cancellations or additions of contests.

Instructions for Rating Officials

1. Access the *myOHSAA* system at <http://myohsaa.ohsaa.org> OR from the home page of the www.ohsaa.org
2. Logon to *myOHSAA* using the login credentials provided by your athletic administrator. After logging in, you may be directed to set a new password and provide a security question and answer. Follow the on screen instructions for setting a new password and save your account information.
3. The home page will appear which contains all the tools and information currently available to a Head Coach. A summary of post game reports appears at the top of the home page.
 1. Click on your sport in the list of post game reports. The varsity schedule will appear.
 2. Click "Record" under the score column of the varsity schedule. The *Report Score/Rate Officials* page will appear.
4. To Report The Score:
 - Click "Report" in the section labeled "Score".
 - Enter the score for each team and click "Save".
5. To Rate Officials:
 - Scroll down to the "Rate Officials" section.
 - In the box marked "Requested Officials", the names of those officials that did not accept the contract prior to the contest will appear. If these officials worked the contest, click the box in front of their name(s) and then click the "Add Official" button. This adds the official(s) to the rating form below. Note: officials that electronically accepted the contract before the contest will automatically display on the rating form.
 - If you were the away team and your opponent has not entered the officials for the contest, "Click to Add Officials for Rating" will allow you to enter the officials for rating after the event has occurred.

- **Officials may now be rated as a group or individually.**
 - *To rate officials as a group:* simply click the number of the rating.
 - *To rate officials individually:* remove the check mark from the "Rate All Officials" box by clicking on it. Each official's name will activate. Uncheck any official you do not want to rate or that did not officiate the contest. Click on the number of the rating you want to give to the official.
- **CLICK the "Submit Ratings" Button.**
NOTE: for volleyball the button is labeled "Submit Scores/Ratings" The list of rated officials will appear in the "Details" section of the page.
- **Exit the page by clicking the "Cancel" button.** You will be directed back to your varsity schedule.
- **Repeat** these steps to report the scores and rate officials of all your varsity contests (home or away). Sub-varsity contests may be rated but are not required.

Official's Ratings may also be accessed through the team's schedule page. To do this, simply

1. **Access your team's schedule:** In the left column locate the drop down box labeled "Select Calendar", using the drop down select your teams calendar from the list.
2. Once your team's schedule has appeared, **click on the double red stars** in the rating column.
3. Repeat the steps under Number 3 above parts c through h to complete the ratings.

Athletic Administrators receive separate instructions for VOTING for officials at the conclusion of the season. Additional individuals that VOTE for officials include:

1. League Assignors
2. Local Associations
3. District Athletic Board Members
4. OHSAA Commissioners

Important Sports' Medical Information

The safety of our student-athletes is of utmost concern at all times. Information regarding the following important topics can be found at the OHSAA's "Healthy Lifestyles and Sports Medicine" webpage at <http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/default.asp>. Additional information relative to various equipment and rules relative to medical issues can be found throughout this manual as well.

- Heat Stress and Athletic Participation
- Recommendations for Hydration to Prevent Heat Illness
- Suggested Guidelines for Management of Head Trauma in Sports
- Communicable Disease Procedures (can also be found on page nine of the NFHS 2009-10 Rules Book)
- Links to the following sites:
 - Joint Advisory Committee on Sports Medicine
 - Ohio Athletic Trainers Association
 - American Medical Society for Sports Medicine
 - Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth
 - National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA)
 - Gatorade Sports Science Institute News

Concussion Management

The OHSAA has made a concerted effort to provide educational resources to member schools on this vital topic of concussion management. The following are resources that are currently available:

1. **Suggested Guidelines for Concussion Management in Sport** – a publication from the NFHS
<http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/Suggested%20Guidelines%20for%20Concussion%20Management%20in%20Sports.pdf>
2. **Questions vital to diagnosing concussion** – Q& A and a video from an ESPN special on concussions -
<http://sports.espn.go.com/espn/e60/news/story?id=5162747>
3. **Concussion in Sports – What you Need to Know** - A 20-minute course will be available by June 1 at no cost to the user and will be available on www.nfhslearn.com. The course was designed for coaches, parents, officials and students to assist in recognizing the signs and symptoms of concussion and to take the appropriate steps to manage them. The OHSAA strongly suggests that schools include this course in the preseason meetings with coaches, parents and students.
4. **Centers for Disease Control – Resources to Prevent and Recognize Concussions** - <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/Concussion>
5. **Fact Sheets for Parents, Coaches and Athletes** - <http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/ParentsFactsheet.pdf>
<http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/CoachGuide%20on%20Concussion.pdf>; <http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/AthleteFactsheet.pdf>
6. Video from the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association – Recognizing Sports Concussions
http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/Concussion%20Stuff/DVD_1_0000.wmv

OHSAA Sports' Regulation on Concussions

The OHSAA has adopted the following sports regulation on Concussions:

Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared with written authorization by an appropriate health care professional.

THE WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION MUST BE GIVEN TO THE HEAD REFEREE BEFORE BEING PERMITTED RETURN TO PLAY THE SAME DAY AS THE REMOVAL TOOK PLACE.

In Ohio, an "appropriate health care professional" shall be a physician, as authorized under ORC Chapter 4731 and includes both doctors of medicine (M.D.) and doctors of osteopathy (D.O.) and an athletic trainer, licensed under ORC Chapter 4755.

Return to Play Form for Schools

The form below has been provided to schools to assist them with "RTP" procedures. Though this exact form is not required to be used by the school, a form of **written authorization IS REQUIRED** for a player to return after being removed for suspected concussion. Just keep in mind that any written authorization is the official word from one of the individuals permitted to make the decision (M.D., D.O., Licensed Athletic Trainer) that a concussion was NOT suffered and the individual is permitted to return.

Ohio High School Athletic Association- 4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214-Telephone: 614-267-2502; Facsimile – 614-267-1677-www.ohsaa.org

MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION TO RETURN TO PLAY WHEN A STUDENT HAS NOT RECEIVED A CONCUSSION

NFHS rules and OHSAA policy require a student who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors associated with concussion to be removed from a contest and not permitted to reenter competition without written medical authorization from a physician (M.D. or D.O.) or an Athletic Trainer. This form shall serve as the authorization that the medical professional has examined the student on site, has determined that the student is NOT concussed, and has cleared the student to reenter the contest on the same day. The physician or athletic trainer must complete both the top and bottom portions of this form and submit to both the head contest official (top portion) and a school administrator or the head coach (bottom portion) prior to the student's entry back into the contest. The official shall make a copy of the form, retain one and forward the copy to the OHSAA.

I, _____, M.D., D.O. or A.T. have examined the following student,
_____ from _____ High School/7-8th grade school, who was
removed from a _____ (sport) contest at the _____ level (V, JV, 9th, 7-8th) due to exhibition of signs/symptoms/behaviors consistent with a
concussion. I have examined this student and determined that **he/she has not received a concussion** and is cleared to reenter the competition
today.

Signature of Medical Professional _____

Date: _____

PRESENT THIS FORM TO THE HEAD CONTEST OFFICIAL WHO WILL COPY AND RETURN TO OHSAA: ATTENTION BRANDY YOUNG

(Tear at broken line)



Ohio High School Athletic Association- 4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214-Telephone: 614-267-2502; Facsimile – 614-267-1677-www.ohsaa.org

MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION TO RETURN TO PLAY WHEN A STUDENT HAS NOT RECEIVED A CONCUSSION

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I, _____, M.D., D.O. or A.T. have examined the following student,
_____ from _____ High School/7-8th grade school, who was
removed from a _____ (sport) contest at the _____ level (V, JV, 9th, 7-8th) due to exhibition of signs/symptoms/behaviors consistent with a
concussion. I have examined this student and determined that **he/she has not received a concussion** and is cleared to reenter the competition
today.

Signature of Medical Professional _____

Date: _____

PRESENT THIS FORM TO THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR OR HEAD COACH

Note: The school must retain this form for two years after the student's 18th birthday.

Communicable Disease Procedures

Though most schools have a Certified Athletic Trainer present at Varsity contests and all coaches are required to maintain a valid Pupil Activity Certificate through the Ohio Department of Education that includes a Sports' First Aid component, it is important to keep up to date on the remote risk that blood borne infectious diseases can be transmitted during basketball practice and contests. For example, Hepatitis B can be present in blood as well as other bodily fluids. Procedures for reducing the potential transmission of these infectious diseases should include, but should not be limited to the following:

1. The bleeding must be stopped, the open wound covered and if there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed before the athlete may participate.
2. Routine use of gloves or other precautions to prevent skin and mucous-membrane exposure when contact with blood and other body fluids is anticipated.
3. Immediately wash hands and other skin surfaces if contaminated (in contact) with blood or other body fluids. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves.
4. Clean all contaminated surfaces and equipment with an appropriate disinfectant before competition resumes.
5. Practice proper disposal procedures to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels and other sharp instruments or devices.
6. Although saliva has not been implicated in HIV transmission, to minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, or other ventilation devices should be available for use.
7. Athletic trainers/coaches with bleeding or oozing skin conditions should refrain from all direct athletic care until the condition resolves.
8. Contaminated towels should be properly disposed of/disinfected.
9. Follow acceptable guidelines in the immediate control of bleeding and when handling dressings, mouthguards and other articles containing body fluids.

You are encouraged to log on to the OHSAA's website at www.ohsaa.org and refer to the Sports' Medicine dropdown menu for additional information.

H1N1 Influenza Policy

The OHSAA's Board of Directors approved the following policy with advice from the Ohio Department of Health and shall observe this policy at tournament time in the event of an H1N1 Influenza outbreak.

1. The Ohio Department of Health has advised that it will be the decision of each local health authority in Ohio as to whether or not to close a school or university due to an influenza outbreak; however, at this time the Centers for Disease Control are not recommending closures except in extreme circumstances.
2. In the event schools remain open, competitors and teams shall be expected to play tournament contests on the dates scheduled.
3. In the event schools are closed, the OHSAA, in conjunction with our District Athletic Boards and tournament personnel, shall reschedule the tournament contest for the schools thus affected.
4. Please watch the OHSAA web site home page at www.ohsaa.org and the specific sport page on the web site for more information.

Lightning and Inclement Weather

(OHSAA Sports Regulation)

Please review these carefully. Though all officials received these procedures in pre-season communication, it would be wise to review with them prior to the game. The Lightning and Inclement Weather Policy is relative to ALL OHSAA Sports and is contained within **Lightning and Inclement Weather Policy**.

WEATHER

Recognition:

Coaches, athletic trainers, athletes, administrators and contest officials should be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm development. Since the average distance between successive lightening flashes is approximately two to three miles ANYTIME that lightning can be seen or heard, the risk is already present.

Weather can be monitored using the following methods:

- **Monitor Weather Patterns** – Be aware of potential thunderstorms by monitoring local weather forecasts the day before and morning of the competition, and by scanning the sky for signs of potential thunderstorm activity.

- **National Weather Service** – Weather can also be monitored using small, portable weather radios from the NWS. The NWS uses a system of severe storm watches and warnings watch indicates conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a warning indicates severe weather has been reported in an area, and everyone should take proper precautions. Any thunderstorm poses a risk of injury or death even if it does not meet the criteria for severe weather. Therefore, anytime thunderstorms are in the forecast (even if it is only a 20 percent chance), event organizers should be at a heightened level of awareness to the potential danger of lightning.

Management:

- **Evacuation-** If lightening is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators shall evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues.

- **Thirty-minute rule-** Competition or practice shall be suspended once lightning has been recognized or thunder is heard. It is required to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard prior to resuming practice or competition. Given the average rates of thunderstorm travel, the storm should move 10-12 miles away from the area. This significantly reduces the risk of local lightning flashes.

Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count shall reset the clock, and another count shall begin.

Heat Stress & Athletic Participation

By Frederick O. Mueller, Ph.D.
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC 27599

Early fall football, cross country, soccer and field hockey practice are conducted in very hot and humid weather in many parts of the United States. Due to the equipment and uniform needed in football most of the heat problems have been associated with football.

Under such conditions the athlete is subject to the following:

Heat Cramps- painful cramps involving abdominal muscles and extremities caused by intense, prolonged exercise in the heat and depletion of salt and water due to profuse sweating.

Heat Syncope - weakness, fatigue and fainting due to loss of salt and water in sweat and exercise in the heat. Predisposes to heat stroke.

Heat Exhaustion (Water Depletion) - excessive weight loss, reduced sweating, elevated skin and deep body temperature, excessive thirst, weakness, headache and sometimes unconsciousness.

Heat Exhaustion (Salt Depletion) - exhaustion, nausea, vomiting, muscle cramps, and dizziness due to profuse sweating and inadequate replacement of body salts.

Heat Stroke - an acute medical emergency related to thermoregulatory failure. Associated with nausea, seizures, disorientation, and possible unconsciousness or coma. It may occur suddenly without being preceded by any of the other clinical signs. The individual is usually unconscious with a high body temperature and hot, dry skin (heat stroke victims, contrary to popular belief, may sweat profusely).

It is believed that the above mentioned heat stress problems can be controlled provided certain precautions are taken. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Sports Medicine, heat related illnesses are all preventable. (Sports Medicine: Health Care for Young Athletes, American Academy of Pediatrics, 1991). The following practices and precautions are recommended.

1. Each athlete should have a physical examination with a medical history when first entering a program and an annual health history update. History of previous heat illness and type of training activities before organized practice begins should be included. State High School Associations recommendations should be followed.
2. It is clear that top physical performance can only be achieved by an athlete who is in top physical condition. Lack of physical fitness impairs the performance of an athlete who participates in high temperatures. Coaches should know the **Physical Condition** of their athletes and set practice schedules accordingly.
3. Along with physical conditioning the factor of acclimatization to heat is important. Acclimatization is the process of becoming adjusted to heat and it is essential to provide for **Gradual Acclimation to Hot Weather Activities**. It is necessary for an athlete to exercise in the heat if he/she is to become acclimatized to it. It is suggested that a graduated physical conditioning program be used and that 80% acclimatization can be expected to occur after the first 7-10 days. Final stages of acclimatization to heat are marked by increased sweating and reduced salt concentration in the sweat.
4. The old idea that water should be withheld from athletes during workouts has **NO SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATION**. The most important safeguard to the health of the athlete is the replacement of water. Water must be on the field and readily available to the athlete at all times. It is recommended that a minimum of 10 minutes water break be scheduled for every half-hour of heavy exercise in the heat. Athletes should rest in a shaded area during the break. **WATER SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN UNLIMITED QUANTITIES**. Check and be sure athletes are drinking the water. Cold water is preferable. Taking ample water before practice or games has also been found to aid performance in the heat.

5. Salt should be replaced daily. Modest salting of foods after practice or games will accomplish this purpose. Salt tablets are not recommended. ATTENTION MUST BE DIRECTED TO REPLACING WATER -- FLUID REPLACEMENT IS ESSENTIAL.
6. Know both the Temperature and Humidity. The greater the humidity the more difficult it is for the body to cool itself. Test the air prior to practice or game using a wet bulb, globe, temperature index (WBGT index) which is based on the combined effects of air temperature, relative humidity, radiant heat and air movement. The following precautions are recommended when using the WBGT Index: (ACSM's Guidelines for the Team Physician, 1991)
 - Below 64 - Unlimited activity
 - 65-72 - Moderate risk
 - 74-82 - High Risk
 - 82 plus - Very high risk

There is also a weather guide for activities that last 30 minutes or more (Fox and Mathews, 1981) which involves knowing the relative humidity and air temperature:

AIR TEMP	DANGER ZONE	CRITICAL ZONE
70 F	80% RH	100% RH
75 F	70% RH	100% RH
80 F	50% RH	80% RH
85 F	40% RH	68% RH
90 F	30% RH	55% RH
95 F	20% RH	40% RH
100 F	10% RH	30% RH

RH = RELATIVE HUMIDITY

One other method of measuring the relative humidity is the use of a sling psychrometer, which measures wet bulb temperature. The wet bulb temperature should be measured prior to practice and the intensity and duration of practice adjusted accordingly. Recommendations are as follows:

Under 60 F	Safe but always observe athletes
61-65 F	Observe players carefully
66-70 F	Caution
71-75 F	Shorter practice sessions and more frequent water and rest breaks
75+ F	Danger level and extreme caution

7. Cooling by evaporation is proportional to the area of skin exposed. In extremely hot and humid weather reduce the amount of clothing covering the body as much as possible. Never Use Rubberized Clothing.

Equipment/Safety Information

Headgear

There are many questions regarding whether or not certain headgear (e.g., Full90) is permissible for field players. NFHS 4-2-1 (g) indicates that types of equipment which are illegal include helmets, hats, caps, or visors. So as a general rule, protective headgear is illegal for field players. However, if in the opinion of the official, a headband is made of soft material that is soft in its final form and does not contain any hard and unyielding materials it may be deemed legal.

Please note, the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee has concluded that, "While padded headbands may assist in reducing the incidence of abrasions, the risk of concussions and other serious head injuries will remain a concern in the sport of soccer. A head band is not a substitute for an appropriate post-injury recuperative period."

Protective Facemasks

RULE 4.2.8: "A protective face mask may be worn by a player with a facial injury. The mask may be made of a hard material, but must be worn molded to the face with no protrusions. A medical release for the injured player signed by a physician (MD/DO) shall be available at the game site."

NFHS Soccer Rules Committee Rationale: "Permits participation by an injured player when a doctor signs a release. Masks protect the player and do not pose a threat to other players."

NFHS Comments on the Rules (from 2006-07): "Prior to this rule [i.e., NFHS 4.2.8], face protection of any kind was declared illegal. Manufacturers have now developed protection for the face that is safe to the player wearing it and to other players. The committee is concerned that players would play without protection, putting them at serious risk. This new rule allows players to play as long as they have a medical release from a physician (MD/DO). Officials still have the authority to declare any equipment illegal if it is dangerous or confusing."

NFHS Press Release, from February 2, 2006: "Rule 4-2-8 was added so that players who have incurred facial injuries can continue to play without fear of re-injury. This rule was made possible as a result of new technology in protective face masks. 'The new masks are molded to the face with no protrusions, providing no additional risks to the player or opponents, and are legal with appropriate medical sign-offs,' said Bob Lombardi, chair of the NFHS Soccer Rules Committee and associate executive director of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association. According to Lombardi, this new rule will also prevent players with facial injuries from continuing to play with no protection."

Shinguards

All players are required to wear shinguards with the NOCSAE seal and height range permanently marked on the front of each shinguard.

- Shinguards need NOT have the NFHS seal on them.



The Officials Program

OHSAA Staff

Henry Zaborniak, Assistant Commissioner
Angie Lawler, Adm. Ass't.
Kim Zaborniak, Adm. Ass't.

Officials Development Coordinators

Lori Powers-Basinger: Gymnastics
Gary Wilkins: Ice Hockey
Don Muenz: Soccer
Jerry Fick: Softball
Ken Gipe: Swimming & Diving
Diane Plas: Volleyball
Jim Vreeland: Wrestling
Bruce Mauer: Football
Dennis Morris: Basketball
Kyle McNeely: Baseball
Dale Gabor: Track & Field
Bill Gardiner: Field Hockey



A Message from Don Muenz, OHSAA Soccer Officials Development Director

Welcome to another soccer season. Everyone has contributed to the growth of High School soccer, evident with the addition of the 3rd division in Girls' Soccer. This "Pre-Season Manual" has been compiled for coaches and officials to serve as a reference from pre-season to post-season.

We enter our second season with the change to "Directors of Development" for Officiating. The OHSAA's Board of Directors has a plan to incorporate individuals directly responsible for officiating oversight in each specific sport. On the left column of this page, you will read the various directors hired to serve in this important role.

Education and Recruitment are the basic cornerstones for the Official Development Directors and as we make strides to improve these areas; the entire sport will stand to reap the benefits. I have developed a close 'hand in hand' working relationship with Jerry Snodgrass, the OHSAA's Assistant Commissioner responsible for the administration of soccer and will continue to serve as the lead interpreter of the NFHS soccer rules. The utilization of each local association is critical in the communication necessary to meet our goals for providing quality, continuing education while also emphasizing the recruitment of new, young officials into the soccer officiating ranks.

Questions surrounding officiating should come directly to me, preferably through email at butsir@columbus.rr.com.

I look forward to the continued opportunities this position provides. *Everyone's* efforts, from coaching to administrating to officiating soccer ultimate benefit our greatest resource: the student-athletes in Ohio.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve the officials in Ohio!

Yours In High School Sports,

Don Muenz

Officiating Development Director



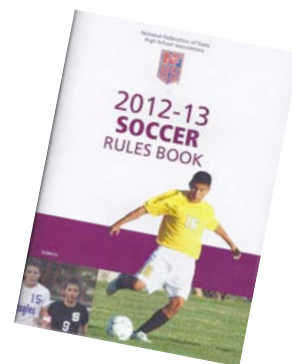
2012 Rules Information

Rules CHANGES for 2012

12-8-1f(13) (new) and 12-8-2d(1)

There is a change in the penalty for an intentional hand ball by a player – other than the goalkeeper in the penalty box – who attempts to prevent a goal from being scored. If the goal is prevented, the penalty remains a disqualification of the player, however, if the goal is scored, the penalty will now be a caution to the player who deliberately handled the ball.

(For Ohio, this means that the disqualification in the event the goal is prevented is NOT considered an EJECTION)



12-8-2c

When a player receives a second caution in the same game, he/she will be disqualified with a red card and the team will now play the remainder of the game without replacing the disqualified player (play shorthanded). The yellow and red card that was previously given for the caution has been eliminated.

14-1-7 (new)

When, in the taking of a penalty kick, there is an unusual situation that causes a temporary suspension of play before the ball is played or touched by another player, or before the ball hits the goalpost or crossbar, the kick is retaken. Previously, this would have resulted in a drop ball.



EDITORIAL Changes for 2012

Soccer Field Diagram

Change flag height to a "minimum" 5 ft. high

3-1-3

Each team shall submit a team roster, containing the first and last names and number of all players, substitutes, all bench personnel and all coaches, to the officials at least five minutes prior to the start of the contest. The game shall not begin until this is complete. Players, bench personal and coaches may be added to the roster, a goalkeeper's number and a field player's number.



3-3-1c1

A coach or appropriate health-care professional may not enter the field without approval from the referee. During the time a coach or appropriate health-care professional is permitted on the field by a referee to attend to an injured player, coaching instruction shall not be given to any player on either team.

3-4-1b

A substitute may enter the field of play after a score, when a player is injured and removed from the field or at the beginning of the period without being beckoned by the referee.

4-2-8

A protective face mask may be worn by a player with a facial injury. The mask may be made of hard material, but must be worn molded to the face with no protrusions. A medical release for the injured player signed by an appropriate health-care professional shall be available at the game site.

5-1-2

The jurisdiction of the officials shall begin 15 minutes prior to the start of the game and end with their leaving the field of play and its immediate surroundings. They shall enforce the rules, and their decisions on points of fact are final. The officials can only correct a decision so long as the game has not been restarted. The officials retain clerical authority over the contest through the completion of any reports, including those imposing disqualifications, that are responsive to actions occurring while the referees had jurisdiction. State associations may intercede in the event of unusual incidents that occur before, during or after the officials' jurisdiction has ended or in the event that a contest is terminated prior to the conclusion of a regulation play. Protests of NFHS rules are not recognized. The officials shall not use video replays to assist in any decision. The officials shall not use any tobacco products during this period.

5-3-1g – Notes: 1

If a player, coach or bench personnel is being disqualified for a subsequent act of misconduct, the referee will show a yellow card indicating the subsequent caution followed immediately by showing a red card.

9-1-3

The referee shall sound the whistle when needed to indicate that the ball is out of play or for a foul. As soon as the ball is in position to be played, it may be played without a second whistle. A second whistle is required to restart play for the taking of a penalty kick, after a substitution is made, after a caution, disqualification, injury and after setting a wall prior to free kick.

12-1-2 Situation

Player A2 trips B2 but B2 maintains control of the ball. **RULING:** Foul. The referee may stop play and award a direct free kick or invoke the advantage clause.

12-4-3 Situation

The goalkeeper in possession of the ball shall not be interfered with or impeded in any manner by an opponent. This includes the act of bouncing the ball or dropping the ball for a kick or attempting to throw the ball or tossing the ball in the air to recatch. When goalkeepers put the ball on the ground, they relinquish their rights as goalkeepers.

14-1-3 Situation

The opposing goalkeeper shall stand on the goal line, between the goal posts, until the ball is kicked. Lateral movement is allowed but the goalkeeper is not permitted to come off the line by stepping or lunging forward until the ball is in play.

PENALTY (ARTICLES 2 AND 3): Infringement by the defending team is not penalized if the goal is scored. If a goal is not scored on the penalty kick, it is retaken. If there is an infringement by the attacking team and the ball enters the goal, the goal does not count and the kick shall be retaken. If there is encroachment by the attacking team and the ball does not go into the goal, there is no rekick. If the ball rebounds into play or is deflected out of bounds by the goalkeeper, the game shall be stopped and restarted with an indirect free kick for the defending team at the location of the encroachment. If the ball is saved and held by the goalkeeper, play shall continue. In cases where players from both teams are guilty of infringements, the kick shall be retaken regardless of the outcome of the kick.

17-1 Situation

EXCEPTION: A corner kick shall be awarded to the opposing team when a free kick taken from outside the penalty area goes untouched into a team's own goal.

Dual Officiating System (Pregame Conference)

NOTE: A reserve official may be assigned to a tournament in order to assure game officiating continuity in the event one of the assigned officials is unable to officiate as assigned. When a reserve official is assigned, the tournament authority will clearly state the officiating position to be assumed by the reserve official in the event a head referee or referee is unable to officiate. The reserve official is under the jurisdiction of the head referee and performs those duties assigned by the head referee. The reserve official's normal station is at the table inside the officials' area during play.

Dual-Officiating System (Penalty Kicks)

Deleted arrow in center circle of diagram

Diagonal-Officiating System (Free Kick at the Halfway Line)-

Align AR1 with the second to last defender

Double-Dual System (The Goal Kick)

Delete second soccer ball and second CR from diagram

Rules Comparison

The 2012-13 rules book will contain an updated comparison of the major differences among NFHS and NCAA rules and FIFA



2012 Points of Emphasis

1. Player Equipment
2. Equipment Changes
3. Coaching During an Injury
4. Goals
5. Concussion Management

The NFHS Soccer Rules Committee and the NFHS Board of Director believes there are areas of the game of interscholastic soccer that need to be addressed and given special attention. These areas of concern are often cyclical, some areas need more attention than others, and that is why they might appear in the rules book for consecutive editions.

These concerns are identified as "Points of Emphasis." These topics are important enough to reinforce *or* they are not being given the proper attention.

- 1) **Player Equipment** – Enforcement of player equipment rule (NFHS 4-1 and 4-2) begins with the players wearing only legal equipment. Coaches, as the adults of their teams, must work with their players and officials to ensure that player equipment is safe and legal. Officials must also emphasize player safety and legal equipment throughout the match.
- 2) **Equipment Changes** – It is now required that the NOCSAE seal and height range shall be permanently marked on the front of the shinguard. Goalkeepers are now required to have numbers on the back of their jersey and on the front of their jersey or pants/shorts. Beginning with the 2013 fall season, the home team shall wear solid white jerseys and solid white socks, and the visiting team shall wear dark jersey and socks.
- 3) **Coaching During an Injury** – When a coach or appropriate health-care professional is called onto the field to attend to an injured player, neither coach shall give instruction to his or her players. The coach may give instructions to a substitute who is entering the game during this stoppage. The rationale for this is to make sure that no advantage is given to the team of the non-injured players.
- 4) **Goals** – Schools, coaches and officials are reminded that all soccer goals shall be adequately anchored, secured or counterweighted to the ground for the safety of all involved.
- 5) **Concussion Management** – The NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee has noted an increase in reported and diagnosed concussions in the 2010-2011 National High School Sports Related Injury Surveillance Study. The position of the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee is that no athlete should return to play or practice on that same day after suffering a concussion. Studies have shown medical professionals that the school-aged brain does not recover quickly enough for an interscholastic athlete to return to activity in such a short time. No athlete should return to sport or other at-risk participation when symptoms of concussion are present and recovery is ongoing. Please see the "NFHS Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion" at www.nfhs.org for further information.

OHSAA State Association Adoptions



The National Federation identifies certain rules that may or may not be adopted by each state's Athletic Association. These are known as "state adoptions". These state adoptions are identified below and the OHIO High School Athletic Association's adoption is indicated for each.

1. **Players may wear caps in inclement weather** (NFHS 4-2-1f exception 3) – **Adopted in Ohio**
Players may wear soft and yielding caps in inclement weather. Caps must be the same color.
2. **Artificial limbs** (NFHS 4-2-5) – **Adopted in Ohio**
The coach or athletic administrator must request permission in writing from the OHSAA in order to secure permission for the prostheses to be worn during play. Photos of the prostheses in place on the individual must accompany the written request. Once it has been determined that the prostheses meets the guidelines in NFHS 4-2-5, written permission will be provided. No student may play with an artificial limb until such permission has been granted.
3. **Systems of Officiating** (NFHS 5-1-1) – **Adopted in Ohio**
The officials shall be a head referee and a referee, a single referee and two assistant referees, or a center referee and two side referees assisted by a timer, scorer and at least two ball holders. Competing schools may select one of the above systems by mutual agreement.
4. **Officials Shirt Color** (NFHS 5-1-3) – **Adopted in Ohio**
The officiating uniform for soccer officials is provided in the OHSAA Handbook for Officials, on our website (www.ohsaa.org) and within this manual. The uniform indicated shall be worn in all OHSAA games, regular season and the entire post-season tournament. As noted elsewhere in this manual, the USSF Green or Blue shirt is NOT permitted.
5. **Time kept on field** (NFHS 6-2-1) – **Adopted in Ohio** (in part)
The home school timer shall be the official timer. However, the head referee is permitted, at his / her discretion, to take the clock onto the field when the timer has failed in his / her duty so many times as to imperil match control.
6. **Score kept by referee** (NFHS 6-3-1) – **NOT Adopted in Ohio**
7. **Reserve official as scorer** (NFHS 6-3-3) – **NOT Adopted in Ohio**
Refer to OHSAA tournament regulations for additional information regarding use of reserve officials during tournament play.
8. **Four equal quarters rather than halves** (NFHS 7-1-1) – **NOT adopted in Ohio**
9. **Shortened periods** (NFHS 7-1-2) – **NOT Adopted in Ohio**
10. **Suspended games** (NFHS 7-1-3) – **Adopted in Ohio**
In the event a game must be suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue play, the head referee shall declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been played. Per OHSAA Board adopted policy, if less than one half has been completed, the game may be restarted from the point of suspension of play.

Tournament games interrupted because of events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority shall be continued from the point of suspension. Any ejected player or coach cannot participate in the resumed game. Teams playing short will continue to play short. NFHS 7-1-3 is not in effect for tournament games.
11. **Goal differential** (NFHS 7-1-5) – **NOT adopted in Ohio**
12. **Regular Season Overtime procedure** (NFHS 7-3-1) – **NOT adopted in Ohio**
NFHS 7-3-1 refers to overtime procedures during regular season play. No overtime procedures will be conducted during regular season play in Ohio.
13. **Disqualified player barred from competition** (NFHS 12-8-3 Note) – **Adopted in Ohio**
Refer to OHSAA Soccer Regulations for specific penalties for disqualified or ejected players and / or coaches.
14. **Tournament progression** – **Adopted in Ohio**
Please refer to "Game Procedures: Tournament Overtime Procedures", above.

Looking Ahead to Tournament Time

The OHSAA sponsors the OHSAA Soccer Tournament in 3 Divisions for Boys' and 3 divisions for Girls'. Each of the state's District Athletic Boards are empowered by the OHSAA Constitution to organize and conduct soccer tournaments at the Sectional and District levels. They are conducted according to the tournament regulations adopted by the Board of Directors at their December meeting. The divisions are determined by the EMIS reports from the **October 2010** count. These divisions will be in effect for the 2011 and 2012 soccer seasons.

<u>Division</u>	<u>Boys Enrolled</u>	<u>Total Schools</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Girls Enrolled</u>	<u>Total Schools</u>
I	379 and more	187	I	371 and more	169
II	204 - 378	186	II	202 - 370	169
III	203 and less	186	III	201 and less	169

Tournament Draw Dates

The draw date for tournaments is established by the Board of Directors. The official date for 2012 is **October 7, 2012 @ 2:00 p.m.** for boys and 3:00 P.M. for girls.

Sectional/District Sites and Assignments

It is the responsibility of each District Athletic Board (DAB) to assign schools to Sectional/District tournaments and determine play dates for that level of tournament play. A few noteworthy items:

1. Tournaments are built "back" from State and Regional tournaments. Therefore, Regional and State tournament dates will not change from published and Board approved dates.
2. There is no requirement whether games are to be played on home sites at the Sectional/District level. Games may NOT be played on home sites at the Regional or State Semi-Final level.
3. There is no requirement whether games are to be played on artificial or natural grass surfaces at any level. Great effort is made to assign games to good facilities with good management.

Regional, State Semi-Final and State Final Dates

Regional Girls' Semi-Finals & Finals	October 30 & November 3 @ Sites TBA
Regional Boys' Semi-Finals & Finals	October 31 & November 3 @ Sites TBA
Girls' State Semi-Finals	Tuesday, November 6 @ Sites TBA
Boys' State Semi-Finals	Wednesday, November 7 @ Sites TBA
Girls' State Finals	Friday, November 9 @ Crew Stadium, Columbus
Boys' State Finals	Saturday, November 10 @ Crew Stadium, Columbus

Athletic Districts

Representation to the Regional tournament (the number of Regional 'qualifiers') from District winners is determined by a formula based upon the number of teams participating in the previous year's tournament.

The complete tournament regulations that were adopted by the Board of Directors at its' December meeting will be able to be read in their entirety by logging on to www.ohsaa.org and navigating to the SOCCER webpage under the "Sports and Tournaments" pull down menu. With a few exceptions, most schools in the counties listed below are assigned sites from the respective District Athletic Boards. You are encouraged to visit their websites for additional information.





Miscellaneous Information

- **Professionalism**
Your professionalism is of the utmost importance. Your athletes and fans will follow your lead. If you are respectful of the game and the officials, your athletes and fans are more likely to do the same. If you are disrespectful of the game and the officials, it will be reflected in the words and actions of your athletes and fans. Officials aren't perfect and mistakes will be made, but it is all part of the learning process for our young student-athletes. So please take those disappointments and turn them into positive learning experiences. What you permit, you promote.
- **Pre-Season Preparations**
As you know, pre-season meetings are **required**. As part of your pre-season preparations, you are encouraged invite a local official(s) to meet with your team during pre-season workouts. It allows the officials to meet your athletes and discuss new rules. It gives your athletes an opportunity to ask questions and have a discussion prior to game days. We would also recommend inviting an official to a pre-season meeting with your parents. Again, it provides a forum for healthy discussions and an opportunity for your parents to learn more about the game.
- **Scheduling Conflicts**
Certainly, scheduling conflicts are going to arise. **PLEASE COORDINATE WITH YOUR ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATOR TO ENSURE THAT OFFICIALS ARE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE OF ANY CHANGES.** When dates, times, and / or locations are changed it not only affects the officials scheduled for that game, but also other games they are scheduled to work. They will appreciate your help in this area.
- **Importance of Coaches Rating System**
The Rating/Voting procedures have changed in recent years, however the coaches' vote is an important part of the officials' tournament selection process. Ratings are done at the conclusion of each game, allowing you to rate each official you have. Voting is now done at the conclusion of the season by your athletic administrator online with information being sent to him/her electronically. **Please vote conscientiously in your rating.** Your involvement is critical to ensuring that we can provide the best officials for our tournament.
- **Inquiries**
Our OHSAA office is here to help as needed, but depending on the time of the year it can be difficult to reach us. However, there are other sources of assistance. Our website (www.ohsaa.org) includes a great deal of information that covers many of the inquiries we often receive. The website provides soccer regulations, general sport regulations, tournament regulations, uniform regulations, etc. Your OHSBCA Officers are another great resource for you as well. Their contact information can be found on their website (www.ohsbca.org).
- **Coaches' Comments to the News Media** – OHSAA Media Regulation 18
OHSAA Bylaw 8, Section 2, reads in part, "Great care shall be exercised in the selection of officials, well in advance of the contest and agreed upon by schools involved. When the contest begins each school waives all of its rights so far as objecting to the officials." Public criticism of officials is a direct reflection upon those who were responsible for assigning the officials to the game. Officials are trained and expected to make no derogatory comments regarding the players, coaches, or schools. Coaches are expected to follow the same procedure. Failure to follow this request will result in disciplinary action.



Soccer Game Procedures

Ejection Procedures

Following the contest, the official shall contact the Athletic Director or Principal of the violator's school to advise the administration of the ejection. Contact shall be made with the offender's principal/athletic director no later than **noon of the first school day** following the ejection. An official failing to follow the ejection protocol and/or failing to file the Officials' Report may be penalized in accordance with Section VIII of the Officiating Handbook.

- **Officials shall file a written report with the OHSAA office whenever a coach or player is ejected.**
- Officials should use the "Officials' Report Form" located at <http://www.ohsaa.org/officials/sptsmsnshp/ejections.htm>. The report is submitted ONLINE and shall be filed with the OHSAA within 2 business days of the ejection.
- **The OHSAA will send a copy to the reported school along with a copy of the "School Response Form"**
- In the event of an ejection, a coach is ejected from ALL GAMES for the remainder of the day of the ejection PLUS two additional games. Ejected coaches must also pay a \$100.00 fine and complete the National Federation of State High School Association's (NFHS) "Teaching and Modeling Behavior" course within 30 days of the ejection. These are to be enforced by the school administration.
- **ALL EJECTIONS ARE FINAL AND NOT PERMITTED TO BE APPEALED** per the OHSAA's Board of Directors.

General Soccer Ejection Procedures

- OHSAA does not require an Official Report for a double yellow card disqualification, i.e., for a subsequent caution for a player, NF 12.8.2(c), or for a coach or bench personnel
- Per OHSAA Bylaw 4.5.4, any student ejected or disqualified from a match must immediately be placed under direct supervision of a school official or coach. This may be on the bench or in the team area but the player is NOT to be removed from the site. Coaches ARE to leave the facility immediately upon ejection.

Specific Card Procedures

Straight RED CARD

- Given to player, coach or bench personnel under NF 12-8-2(a), -(b), -(d), -(e), -(f), -(g) ~~or -(h)~~, **to a coach under NF 12.8.3**, OHSAA Tobacco Regulation for tobacco use, or to a player under OHSAA Soccer Regulation 10.A.1.1 for playing more than three halves in one day or more than 38 halves in one season.
- A red card only is displayed.
- File an Official Report online at <http://www.ohsaa.org/officials/sptsmsnshp/ejections.htm> and follow the Ejection Protocol (see above).
- The ejected individual is also prohibited from playing, coaching or participating in any match for the rest of the day on which he/she is ejected.
- The ejected coach or player is suspended for all matches until **two** matches at the level of the ejection have been played. A coach or player who receives a straight red card is "ejected" for purposes of OHSAA Soccer Regulations.
- Number of players on the field is reduced for a straight red card given to a player.

The SUBSEQUENT CAUTION or "DOUBLE YELLOW" for Players, Coaches and Bench Personnel

- Given to a player, coach or bench personnel for a second yellow-card offense in the same match, under NF 12-8-2(c).
- The disqualified **person** is prohibited from participation in the remainder of the match.
- The disqualified **person** can **participate** in OTHER matches on the same day.

- The disqualified **person** is not subject to any additional suspension.
- A person so disqualified under NF 12.8.2(c) is NOT considered "ejected" for purposes of OHSAA Regulations.
- The yellow card is first displayed and returned to the pocket. The red card is then displayed and returned to the pocket.
- An official report is not required.
- The school does not need to be notified.
- Number of players on the field shall ~~not~~ be reduced.

In a nutshell: For a Subsequent Caution or "Double Yellow-Card" Disqualification for a player, coach or bench personnel: the total penalty for the disqualified player is limited to sitting out the remainder of the match in which disqualified.

In a nutshell: For a Subsequent Caution or "Double Yellow-Card" Disqualification for a coach or bench personnel: the total penalty for the disqualified player is limited to sitting out the remainder of the match in which disqualified.

Official Specific Information



Tournament Selection Process



Tournament selection and contracting is done through the *myOHSAA* management system. It is utilized to capture and certify the availability and eligibility of OHSAA tournament eligible officials in ALL sports. All officials who are tournament eligible are sent an email with step-by-step instructions on how to access and complete the OHSAA tournament application. Applications **must** be completed in *myOHSAA* by the posted deadline and officials will receive this notification approximately 14-20 days prior to the application deadline. Contracts for tournament contests are issued electronically through the *myOHSAA* system. District Athletic Boards are given the responsibility of assignment of officials at the Sectional/District level; the OHSAA office is responsible for Regional and State assignments. Being an OHSAA tournament ELIGIBLE official is **not a guarantee** of an OHSAA Tournament assignment.

State & Local Meetings

State Rules Interpretation meetings are listed within this manual. Additionally, OHSAA Local Association Meetings are available at on the web at www.ohsaa.org. Under "Officiating" select "Local/State Rules Meetings" then "Local Rules Meetings" and on the left side, select "SOCCER".



Officials' Code of Ethics

(From www.ohsaa.org and the OHSAA Handbook for Officials)

Our member schools have entrusted officials to assist them in the education and development of their youth through athletics. This requires officials to be independent, impartial, and responsible to the people they serve. In recognition of these expectations there is an established **Code of Ethics** and **Code of Conduct** for all officials. The purpose of the code is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all officials.

An Official must devote time, thought and study to the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to carry out these rules so that one may render effective and credible service in a fair and unbiased manner.

An Official must work with fellow officials and the state association in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that may arise during debate of points or rules at issue.

An Official must resist every temptation and outside pressure to use one's position as an official to benefit oneself. Under all circumstances, officials must avoid promoting the special interest of any person or group of persons other than the athletes we serve.

An Official must constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the avocation in all personal conduct and relations with the student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public, to be a worthy example to the athletes under one's jurisdiction.

An Official will be prepared both physically and mentally, dress accordingly to expectations and maintain a proper appearance that is befitting the importance of the game.

An Official shall avoid the use of **tobacco and related products** at the contest site.

An Official must remember and recognize that it is important to honor contracts regardless of possible inconvenience or financial loss.

Every member of the officiating profession carries a responsibility to act in a manner becoming a professional person. The conduct of any official influences the attitude of the public toward the profession in general as well as toward the official in particular.

Sports officials bear great responsibility for engendering public confidence in sports. They are critical to the health of athletic competitions. Officials ensure games are played fairly, by the rules, within the spirit of the rules and in a safe manner. Officiating takes a great deal of preparation, continuing education and commitment of time.



Uniform Information



The OHSAA soccer official's uniform is the gold jersey with black pinstripes or broader black stripes, either long- or short-sleeved. All officials are to wear the same color and sleeve length. All-black shorts, black socks with three white rings near the top of the sock and black shoes and laces are required.

Officials may wear either the red jersey with black pinstripes or broader black stripes or the black jersey with white pinstripes or broader white stripes, when the head referee determines that the gold shirt does not contrast with the jerseys of either team's field players. There is no preference as to the red or black jersey as an alternate. All officials must wear the same color and sleeve length. There are no other alternate jerseys.

The officials may wear a mixture of pinstripes and broader stripes and still be considered properly uniformed.

The OHSAA soccer official's patch shall be worn on the left breast pocket. Jewelry may not be worn, except for a medical identification, wedding band and watch.

The BLUE or GREEN USSF JERSEY IS NOT A PERMISSIBLE JERSEY FOR OHSAA SOCCER

Penalty - Fine not to exceed \$100.

Fines will continue to be assessed for those not wearing the proper uniform.

Pre-Match Conference

Regular Season

- Coaches are guaranteed a minimum of 20 minutes of uninterrupted warm-up time
- Pre-match sportsmanship conference takes place 10 minutes prior to kickoff (captains and head coaches remain for the coin toss)
- Only captains and coaches are required to attend the pre-match sportsmanship conference; NF 5.2.2(d)(2).

Tournament

- Refer to tournament regulations for information regarding timing during tournament play.

The Approve Patch & Game Flip Coin

The OHSAA through Walt Erasing, approves the Official "Commemorative Patch" for officials as well as a Custom designed Game Flip Coin. Sale of these items benefits the **Player Scholarship Fund** and are Available through Walt Erasing at the address below.



Walter F. Erasing – PO
2230 Swansea Road
Columbus, OH 43221

Commemorative Patch

Cost of Patch: \$3.50 each

Shipping & Handling:
 1-3 Patches: .50
 4-8 Patches: 1.00
 9-14 Patches: 2.00
 15 + Patches: 3.00

Game Flip Coin

Cost of Coin: \$3.50 each

Shipping & Handling:
 1-3 Coins: .75
 4-8 Coins: 1.50
 9-14 Coins: 3.00
 15 + Coins: 4.00



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Being an OHSAA tournament ELIGIBLE official is not a guarantee of an OHSAA Tournament assignment.

Weather Related Issues/Policies

Hot, Humid Weather Break: On hot, humid days, the referee may stop play for a water break. Note: This is usually done at a stoppage midway through each half. The referee should inform the teams of the water break stoppages prior to the match, to avoid any misunderstandings.

Lightning & Inclement Weather Policy

WEATHER

Recognition:

Coaches, athletic trainers, athletes, administrators and contest officials should be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm development. Since the average distance between successive lightening flashes is approximately two to three miles ANYTIME that lightning can be seen or heard, the risk is already present. Weather can be monitored using the following methods:

- **Monitor Weather Patterns** – Be aware of potential thunderstorms by monitoring local weather forecasts the day before and morning of the competition, and by scanning the sky for signs of potential thunderstorm activity.
- **National Weather Service** – Weather can also be monitored using small, portable weather radios from the NWS. The NWS uses a system of severe storm watches and warnings watch indicates conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a warning indicates severe weather has been reported in an area, and everyone should take proper precautions. Any thunderstorm poses a risk of injury or death even if it does not meet the criteria for severe weather. Therefore, anytime thunderstorms are in the forecast (even if it is only a 20 percent chance), event organizers should be at a heightened level of awareness to the potential danger of lightning.

Management:

- **Evacuation-** If lightening is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators should evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues.
- **Thirty-minute rule-** Competition or practice should be suspended once lightning has been recognized or thunder is heard. It is recommended to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard prior to resuming practice or competition. Given the average rates of thunderstorm travel, the storm should move 10-12 miles away from the area. This significantly reduces the risk of local lightning flashes. **Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count shall reset the clock, and Another count shall begin.**



Game Management

The Information below is **also** provided to Athletic Administrators and Coaches relative to game management.

Placement of Teams: The Board of Directors strongly recommends that when possible, team benches be placed on opposite sides of the field. This will be at the direction of the home Athletic Department. When teams are placed on opposite sides of the field, the team area shall extend 10 yards from the halfway line on each side of the field of play. The home team shall supply a person who is situated at a table at the halfway line on each side of the field to signal substitutions. If time is kept at field level, the official time shall be kept on the home side.

Officials to Leave Immediately at End of Match: All contest officials are to leave the field immediately at the conclusion of the match. Supervision of all post-match activities of any nature is not the responsibility of the match officials. Supervision of all post-match activities is the responsibility of the authorized institutional representatives of the participating schools.

Administrator at Varsity Matches: The Board of Directors **strongly** recommends that a school administrator be present at all varsity boys' and girls' soccer matches. Coaches should note (and be prepared) that when no school administrator is present at games, they should be prepared to deal with administrative issues such as Crisis Management Plans, etc.

Signals

Signals are required. Foul specific signals are no longer mandatory but may be used as a communication tool. They are an important way to communicate with the players, coaches, and fans. Your signals let them know what is going on with the game. They can be found on the NFHS website (www.nfhs.org) and in the soccer rules book on page 104.

Use signals.....they are not optional.

Noisemakers, Vuvuzelas....Pep Bands?

Those in attendance at last season's State Tournament witnessed the increased fan support for high school soccer in Ohio. Pep Bands **ARE PERMITTED** at soccer games. Horns that pep band members have are NOT considered as compressed air horns. The World Cup has made the 'Vuvuzela' popular and while many may consider them *annoying*, they ARE permitted at soccer games. There are several leagues/conferences that HAVE made regulations prohibiting various noisemakers and they ARE permitted to create and enforce that rule for league/conference contests. Compressed air horns and horns connected to outside power sources are **NOT permitted** at contests.



Sportsmanship

NFHS Sportsmanship Mission Statement

Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. The ideals of sportsmanship apply equally to all activity disciplines. Individuals, regardless of their role in activities, are expected to be aware of their influence on the behavior of others and model good sportsmanship.

The OSSCA & Sportsmanship

Good Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association (OSSCA) stands tall in its commitment to good sportsmanship. The school-based experience is one that affords tremendous opportunities to student-athletes that they will remember for a lifetime. Those experiences are dependent on the role model the head coach provides. The OSSCA encourages all coaches to exhibit behavior that serves as a role model for the student-athletes we serve. In conjunction with the OHSAA's Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity (SEI) Committee, the OHSCA annually selects a recipient of the SEI Award.

The Official's Role in Sportsmanship

In 2004 the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO) conducted a survey of 550 sports officials and asked "*what is the number-one problem in our games today?*" Not too surprising, the number one response was "Poor Sportsmanship". As a result, the NASO brought together some of the best and brightest in youth, high school, collegiate and pro sports to examine the issue and explore the official's role in promoting positive on-field behavior. The results were published in the book at the right and identified 3 critical ideas:

1. What is at Stake
2. What is Expected, and,
3. What steps to Take



As a result, the following are important results of this study and publication:

1. 65% of respondents indicated their respective associations do not do *enough* to help improve sportsmanship.
2. 89% of officials responding consider themselves PARTNERS with players, coaches and administrators in improving sportsmanship.
3. 54% of officials responding indicated they felt the DO have the training, authority and knowledge to make an impact.

The conclusion:

Sportsmanship is EVERYONE'S job and we are all partners in this endeavor.

Special Soccer Coaches' Note on Sportsmanship

Expectations need to be placed on team members relative to sporting behavior. High School soccer continues to grow and improve each and every year. I urge coaches to be at the forefront of setting examples of behavior and translating that into expectations for their student-athletes. It is good for the game and will allow the continued growth of soccer.

During my years administrating sports, I have 'heard it all' and the most common response from ejected coaches is "*I was only sticking up for my players*". I can assure you that NO official has ever set out to degrade or disrespect the game of soccer and we ALL need to remember that the game is 'for the players'. I continue to urge you to keep that at the forefront of the leadership and guidance you are entrusted with. Two areas of concern that have arisen in the past few years that coaches can assist:

Warm Up at Conclusion of JV Game

During the first game of a 'doubleheader' night (JV game or the boys/girls' playing prior to the second game), teams will often begin their warm-up prior to the conclusion of the first game. This often leads to a team 'circling the field' prior to the first game ending. We are discouraging this as nearly 30 minutes are provided as ample time for warm-up when the game concludes. Additionally, there are growing sportsmanship issues with players unsupervised as they cross paths with opponents' team areas. This is an area that COACHES can assist with.

Running over to Fans at the Conclusion of a Game

Yes, it may be an 'accepted' thing...a 'soccer thing'; a team runs across the field together to the opposite touch line at the conclusion of a game to share the joy of victory with other students. But...we are encountering more and more acts of unsporting behavior that occurs when fans of the OTHER team are in that same area. Please utilize your leadership role and prevent issues before they occur. Address this frequently with team members.



The OHSAA & Sportsmanship

As we prepare for the upcoming seasons, the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) wishes to emphasize to each of you the importance of your leadership role in the promotion of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity. The professional manner in which officials and coaches conduct themselves prior to, during and following a contest unquestionably impacts the behavior of others who may be involved.

The OHSAA has joined the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) in its quest to improve sportsmanship, ethics and integrity. We are involved in an ongoing campaign in every sport to do just that. Printed below is the mission statement of the NFHS concerning sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity. Please take the time to read and digest this statement and then carefully consider your impact upon students, officials, coaches, and fans. Thank you and have a great season!

The Ohio High School Athletic Association challenges all of us in the soccer community to take positive steps toward the goal of attaining the high ideal of good sportsmanship. It is the responsibility of each of us to serve as a positive role model and set high expectations for others.

Roxanne Price

Assistant Commissioner

ADMINISTRATORS

Athletic departments are comprehensive, pre-eminent teaching departments with a subject matter all their own: self-confidence, leadership, teamwork, discipline, perseverance, respect for others, strategic thinking, dedication, the importance of rules, and sportsmanship. These are true life lessons and participation in athletics provides another forum for learning. Coaches and Officials are responsible for promoting sportsmanship and positive behavior on the field. Administrators, we need your continued assistance in promoting sportsmanship and controlling fan behavior in the stands! Let the parents and fans know what you expect!

COACHES

Your athletes will demonstrate the attitudes and behaviors they have learned from you, either through direct instruction or through observation of your actions. ***Never underestimate the influence you have on your players!*** You must:

- Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
- Set a good example for players and spectators to follow.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will serve to create a positive impression of you and your team.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Develop a program that rewards participants and spectators for displaying proper sportsmanship and enforces penalties on those who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.

It is difficult to develop a great finisher, a great centerback or a great goalkeeper. That is true. However, your greatest challenge is to develop mature young adults who will become great citizens and role models in your community.

OFFICIALS

Your job is not an easy one, but the official must be aware that they are an important component in the educational development of students. To carry out this responsibility, you must:

- Know the rules and mechanics of our sport and the philosophy behind them.

- Get fit and stay fit. An official with all of the rules and mechanics knowledge and people skills in the world does no good if he or she cannot physically keep up with play.
- Maintain professional and ethical relationships with athletic administrators, especially in the area of fulfilling game contracts.
- Work cooperatively with fellow officials during games and within the referees' association to improve members' performances.
- Maintain at all times and when interacting with all participants, an attitude of civility and professionalism.
- Practice effective preventive officiating as much as possible before, during, and after a match. The quiet word, proper signals, timely verbal instructions, a simple thank-you to a player for avoiding an unsporting act, and well-thought-out pre-game conferences with the teams and other game officials will result in an improvement of sportsmanship by eliminating the chance for things to go wrong.

STUDENT-ATHLETES

You serve as a role model for your younger siblings, young fans in the stands, your teammates, and your classmates. Set high expectations for everyone and help them follow-through! You must:

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility, and the privilege of representing your school and the community.
- Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with others. This will assist everyone in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Treat opponents as you would like to be treated.....with respect.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will serve to create a positive impression of you and your team.

CONCLUSION

Good sportsmanship is everyone's responsibility. It is the essence of interscholastic athletics. Remember...some may question an official's call or a coach's substitution, but no one can question the value of good sportsmanship.

Sportsmanship Online Resources

On our website (www.ohsaa.org – click on “Sportsmanship” on the right side of the screen) you will find **Fair Play Codes** for athletes, coaches, and fans, as well as additional information regarding **parents' role in interscholastic athletics**. The sportsmanship page also includes information about the Harold A. Meyer Sportsmanship Award and the Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award. Please feel free to contact us with any additional questions.

Coaches' Comments to the News Media

Each year unpleasant situations arise as a result of comments made to the news media by coaches. The OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws reads in part "Great care shall be exercised in the selection of officials, well in advance of the contest and agreed upon by schools involved." Public criticism of officials is a direct reflection upon those who were responsible for assigning the officials to the game. Officials are trained and expected to make no derogatory comments regarding the players, coaches, or schools. Coaches are expected to follow the same procedure in regard to the officials. Coaches violating this rule may be asked to discuss the problem personally with the Commissioner. (See Sports Regulations “Media Regulations”, Section B, page 78, OHSAA Handbook).