

To: All Boys' and Girls' High School Head Soccer Coaches
From: Jerry Snodgrass, Assistant Commissioner/Soccer Sport Administrator
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As the 2014 soccer season winds down, this correspondence is intended to provide some helpful hints on many often misunderstood out-of-season Soccer Regulations for both coaches and players. This will include "Indoor Regulations" as well as recap some important items to wind down this season.

1. PLEASE make certain you rate your game officials. A password is required from your Athletic Director and the 'window' to do this is closing soon. Since it is such an important part of the tournament assignment process, fines are issued for non-compliance. Simple directions for this are found at:
<http://www.ohsaa.org/myOHSAA/OfficialRatingInstructions.pdf>
2. The "No-Contact Period" begins after the team's last contest and continues for 28 days. The specifics of the no-contact period can be found on a posting on the "Ohio Soccer Weekly" page directly at:
<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/2014OSW/SoccerNoContactRule.pdf>
3. The start of Practice next year is August 1, 2016. Though the OHSAA Handbook indicates a start date of August 20 for games, the actual start date is **FRIDAY, AUGUST 19 – to again promote Friday Night Futbol.**
4. **Off-Season Coaching:** One regulation that governs **all** off-season non-interscholastic play prohibits you as the school coach from coaching players from their own school team's roster (7-12) in team play outside the season that played on a school team the *previous* season. Since Ohio Administrative Code requires all coaches in Ohio to be approved by their respective Boards of Education, there is no difference between a 'volunteer' coach or a paid coach in the eyes of this regulation. Relative to Soccer, this means that school coaches are not permitted to coach players from their school in indoor OR outdoor soccer outside the season (except of course for 10 days during June and July). The above was detailed in Pre-Season Rules meetings and is also detailed in the Pre-Season Manual for coaches. Those same detailed explanations can be found at:
<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/SOCoachesManual.pdf>
5. **Futsal:** This 'foot skill' game that has increased in popularity to develop soccer players. Futsal is not regulated by the OHSAA and is considered to be *different* than the sport of soccer – which it is. Athletes that were members of school soccer teams are permitted to play Futsal with no restrictions relative to the number of players on a team from the same school, etc. Coaches, as indicated earlier, may NOT coach players from their own school team's roster in Futsal.
6. **Four (4) Player Instruction (OHSAA Sport Regulation 8.2):** This regulation is detailed in the pre-season coaches' guide referenced in #4 above and the 10 minute presentation on this, complete with download materials, can be viewed at: <http://ohsaa.articulate-online.com/4244037503>
7. Coaches that do not plan on returning to your school and underclassmen that do not plan on coming out for soccer next year **still count in all OHSAA regulations** affecting soccer. They could always change their mind so all regulations refer to 'where they played or coached the previous season'.
8. **College Tryouts:** More and more colleges are inviting high school aged players to their campuses and inviting them to tryout with their teams. As long as it is not during the high school season, there is nothing that prohibits high school players from doing this. Again, as long as it is OUTSIDE the high school season.
9. **Indoor Soccer:** Years ago, it was deemed that "Indoor Soccer" is different than "outdoor soccer". And, this was true since "indoor soccer" was played in ice arenas with a grass mat that had 'walls' (boards). There are actual USSF (the governing body of US Soccer) for "indoor soccer" that stipulates 6 players on a side and the required use of "Boards" or walls. **When indoor soccer is played by USSF Indoor Soccer Rules (6 per team and walls/boards are used), the following remains:**
 - a. **There is no restriction on the number of players from any one school on the same INDOOR team**

- b. **School coaches CANNOT coach Indoor soccer teams that have players on them from their own school teams.**

Our regulations (4.7) **clearly** state:

*"Participation in indoor soccer, **exactly as written** under the rules of The United States Soccer Federation **Indoor Soccer Rules**, is not a violation of OHSAA non-interscholastic team Sports Regulation 4.5 for student-athletes."*

When Indoor soccer is played in the larger indoor facilities and there are more than 6 on a side and no 'boards' or 'walls' are used, there remains the restriction of only 5 individuals from the same school teams permitted on the same soccer team.

For those still participating in the OHSAA Tournament, I wish you the best of luck and a delayed "no-contact period"! For everyone, we thank you for your efforts to help soccer continue to grow in the state of Ohio. In 6 of the past 7 years our attendance has increased at our state soccer finals and I hope you can get to a day of competition at Crew Stadium. It is a great experience for players and coaches and The Columbus Crew SC welcomes high school soccer.