



# Ohio Soccer Weekly

The Ohio High School Athletic Association

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## Focus on Concussions

As coaches have learned through attendance at Rules Interpretation Meetings, the major rule change in ALL sports involves "Concussion Management". Rule 3-3-1 c3 reads: *"Any player 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 by an appropriate health-care professional."*

What this means to you:

-Officials have the jurisdiction to remove players exhibiting signs of concussion from a contest. They receive education on this through state and local meetings. They do not have to 'diagnose', but are being trained to recognize.

-Ohio has formally adopted the following individuals as the only approved health-care providers that will permit 'return to play':

- Medical Doctor (M.D.)
- Doctor of Osteopathy (D.O.)
- Certified Athletic Trainer (A.T.C.)

-Players will only be permitted to return to play with written approval from one of the approved 'HCP's' listed above.

-Officials are not required to see the written approval. They are to assume the coach has that written approval.

-Schools and coaches are encouraged to develop their OWN forms to meet this important requirement.

-Coaches should make certain to educate sub-varsity & assistant coaches of this new and important rule.

## QUESTIONS?

If you have questions that you would like to see answered and know they would benefit soccer coaches throughout Ohio, simply email those to [jnograss@ohsaa.org](mailto:jnograss@ohsaa.org). I'll include those in future bulletins!



## By the Numbers

**38**

Number of halves  
players may play in  
regular season

**3**

Number of halves players  
may play in any one day

**4**

Number of Scrimmages  
permitted between August 9  
and the end of the season

**497**

Number of Girls' Soccer teams  
that participated in 2009 OHSAA  
soccer tournament

This is the first of several Weekly Bulletins to keep coaches in Ohio up-to-date with current topics and issues for OHSAA soccer coaches. I encourage you to share this information with JV and Assistant Coaches. This initial bulletin will address several items leading up to the start of practice.

## PLAN YOUR PRE-SEASON MEETINGS NOW

All schools are required to conduct Pre-Season meetings for their parents and players. Now is a great time to plan your agenda. Your Athletic Director will have a general agenda, including a DVD explaining eligibility, etc. Game/Bus schedules, expectations, practice schedules are great agenda items. Consider inviting a local official to discuss rules, this goes a long way in improving adult sportsmanship issues. Reviewing issues relative to playing time and providing information on 'letter' policies will go a long way toward reducing issues at the END of the season.

## SCRIMMAGES BETTER DEFINED THIS YEAR

There was much confusion in the past relative to permitted scrimmages, due to the wording in the Soccer Sports' Regs. The language (and policy) has been clarified to clearly permit four scrimmages plus 1 Preview. Now is a great time to insure you are within those guidelines. This regulation permits each level team you sponsor this number of pre-season contests. A few reminders about scrimmages:

- there is a 3 hour limitation on scrimmages from start to finish
- schools may not charge admission for scrimmages (you *may* for a Preview)
- schools may not 'swap' an unused Preview for another scrimmage
- you may scrimmage any time during the season
- you may scrimmage any school or club program but it must count as a scrimmage. Ohio is one of the few states that permits its member schools to compete against non-member schools or teams.

you may choose to have an alumni 'game', however it must follow all scrimmage guidelines and count as a scrimmage or Preview.

## COACH CERTIFICATION REQUIRED IN OHIO!

Administrative Code in Ohio requires that ALL coaches, paid and volunteer obtain certification through the Ohio Department of Education. Each school (generally through their Athletic Department) is responsible for maintaining records for their coaching staff. Basically, all coaches must obtain the ODE's "Pupil Supervisors' Activity Permit". The permit requires completion of:

- an approved Sports' First Aid course
- current CPR card
- Fundamentals of Coaching (through the NFHS)
- BCI background check

These requirements and available courses are available at the following:

- <http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/default.asp>
- <http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/pupilactivity.htm>
- <http://www.ohsaa.org/members/coaches/coachfstaid.htm>

