

OHSAA

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



2016

OHSAA SOCCER OFFICIALS' GUIDE

A Season Guide for OHSAA Soccer Officials



A Message from OHSAA Assistant Commissioner, Jerry Snodgrass



Once again, in our continuing effort to 'go green', the traditional "Pre-Season Manual" is now posted ONLINE. Those taking the required State Rules Meeting online will be provided instructions and a direct link to download the manual to their computer. Those attending face-to-face meetings will be given instructions for downloading. This is also met with an attempt to separate the materials that are relevant to coaches from the information that is relevant strictly to officials.

Though our normal compliment of 'face to face meetings' for officials exists, COACHES are required to complete the rules meeting strictly online. Though I am a big believer in the importance of face to face meetings, it simply is more efficient and provides for a more consistent delivery of information. It is imperative they all receive the **same consistent** message across the board. This can best be accomplished by requiring all coaches to take the exact same meeting with the exact same presentation – followed by several quiz questions to insure the necessary understanding.

I continue to emphasize the need to keep the lines of communication open between coaches and officials. A major 'plus' of having joint meetings was certainly the interaction between officials and coaches at these meetings. Since coaches are required to conduct pre-season player/parent meetings at their schools, I encourage them to invite an official from their local association to address parents and players regarding the rules and an attempt to 'see the game through an official's eyes'. I encourage officials to do the same; invite a coach to speak at your local association meeting and help officials in your association see and understand the game 'through the coaches' eyes'. One thing remains constant – it takes everyone working together to continue the improvement of soccer in Ohio.

Emphasis with school administrators and coaches this year stresses the importance of Administrative Responsibility at contests. Though administrative attendance is not required for soccer (only football and basketball require an administrator's presence), someone from the school **MUST** be the administrative oversight at a contest that oversees the safety of officials, takes responsibility for crowd actions and handles all weather and crisis situations. In many cases, especially at sub-varsity contests, that person may often be the coach himself/herself. This is being stressed to coaches and Athletic Directors.

Keep in mind that all questions surrounding officiating should be handled through Don Muenz, our Director of Development. I strongly encourage before you pick up the phone and dial up the OHSAA for a question to be answered, you do 3 things:

1. Consult the subject areas in this manual
2. Consult with your local association secretary
3. Check the Officiating Handbook, Rule Book or other materials provided by the NFHS and the Officiating page at www.ohsaa.org

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 includes such things as 'game ending procedures' detailed in this manual.

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

Yours In High School Sports,
Jerry Snodgrass
Assistant Commissioner

The OHSAA's 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 Soccer Contact Information

Important Soccer Dates

August 1	Coaching & Tryouts Begin
August 2	Previews Permitted
August 21	First game permitted
September 28	Non-Interscholastic Date
October 11	Tournament Seed/Draw Date Boys: 2:00 p.m. Girls: 3:00 p.m.
October 19 – 24	Sectional Tournaments
October 26 – 31	District Tournaments
November 3 – 7	Regional Tournaments
November 10 – 14	State Semi-Finals & Finals
November 14	Last date for Games



Jerry Snodgrass	Assistant Commissioner <i>Administrates the sport of soccer and oversees tournament, writes Soccer Sports' Regulations, Soccer Tournament Regulations</i>	jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org
Don Muenz	Officials' Development Coordinator <i>Responsible for overseeing soccer officials in Ohio. Serves as liaison with NFHS and oversees the education and recruitment of soccer officials in Ohio.</i>	butsir@columbus.rr.com
Emily Gates	Administrative Assistant <i>Team Sport Program Coordinator</i>	egates@ohsaa.org
Tyler Brooks	Administrative Assistant <i>Soccer Officials Program Coordinator</i>	tbrooks@ohsaa.org

Communicating with the OHSAA

It is understandable with 820+ 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.

Mandatory Rules Interpretation Meeting

Rules Interpretation Meeting are **MANDATORY** for all Officials and Head Coaches. IF you are a coach and have an OHSAA Officials license, you will be required to complete both since the content is specific to each group.

How to Complete the Rules Interpretation Meeting Online

Coaches should access the online version by navigating to the OHSAA's OFFICIATING web page (<http://www.ohsaa.org/officials/default.htm>) You will need your **OFFICIALS PERMIT NUMBER to receive credit**. 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 TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

The last day for completion of the online version is **Wednesday, August 31, 2016 at 12:00 midnight** or a \$50.00 late fee is charged for access to the online version.

AFTER COMPLETION:

1. Your Official's *myOHSAA* profile will be updated to reflect your attendance.
2. Please do not call the OHSAA office for verification. Attendance WILL be reflected in the profile.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
7/26/2016	7:15	Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy (CVCA), Auditorium 4687 Wyoga Lake Road, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44224	Jack Renkel, Jr.
7/28/2016	7:15	Waverly High School, Rear Entrance, Auditorium 1 Tiger Drive, Waverly OH 45690	Jon Dick
7/29/2016	7:15	Ashland High School, Cafeteria 1440 King Road, Ashland, OH 44905	Jeff Meyers
8/2/2016	7:15	Sylvania Southview High School, Commons 7225 Sylvania Avenue, Sylvania, OH 43560	Barbara Nye
8/3/2016	7:15	Cuyahoga Community College, Western Campus, Room A223 11000 West Pleasant Valley Road, Parma, OH 44130	Brian Miller
8/4/2016	7:15	Ohio University—Zanesville Campus Elson Hall Auditorium, 1425 Newark Rd., Zanesville 43701	Junior McCutcheon
8/5/2016	7:15	Niles Wellness Center 213 Sharkey Drive, Niles, OH 44445	David Anderson
8/8/2016	7:15	Sycamore High School, Auditorium 7400 Cornell Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45242	Michael Schuler
8/9/2016	7:15	Dublin Coffman High School, PAC Theatre 6780 Coffman Road, Dublin, OH 43017	Russell Annis
8/10/2016	7:15	Lorain County Community College, Room HS-101 1005 N. Abbe Road, Elyria, OH 44035	Tim Church
8/13/2016	10:00 a.m.	Centerville High School, Auditorium 500 E. Franklin Street, Centerville, OH 45459	Cathy Rau

The Many Facets of Professionalism

by Don Muenz, Soccer Director of Development

Sadly, when some of us hear the word, “professionalism,” we immediately close our minds. We either believe that we know it all or that professionalism is a waste of time.

What does it mean, being a “professional”? Being a professional means being governed by a code of ethics. Our code of ethics is simple, but very far-reaching. Take out the new rulebook and turn to page 7. Read through the Code.

We are teachers out there. The first line strikes me. How many of us have ever thought of ourselves as teachers on the pitch, yet we are. For some players, we may be the most effective teacher that they have in their lives, so we have to *get it right*. *We have to get the life lessons right*. What life lessons am I, a referee, teaching and how effectively am I teaching them?

Most importantly, I teach and model how to act respectfully toward all participants. If I cannot model this as an adult, a referee, a teacher, then I have failed as an adult, a referee and a teacher. I must give respect, especially when I am not receiving respect in return. That is being professional. That is being an adult. That is being a good teacher.

That I am in charge and have the hammer is the very reason that I should use it with the greatest of care and judgment. It is better to use the least-intrusive means of match control, earning respect by giving it. For example, how many referees line players up during warm-ups, in order to inspect their equipment? Should we not jog around them, not interfering with their warm-up, but accomplishing our task? Give respect. Be professional.

Each of us has a personality, a part of our toolbox or way to “make things work” on the field. At one end of the toolbox is ignoring what occurred. At the other end is termination of the match. In between those parameters are various other tools: the “dirty look” that we give a player who has done something that we do not want to see again, the public word, the advantage, calling the foul instead of giving advantage, the private word after a foul/advantage, the public word after a foul/advantage, tightening up on all foul calls, the caution, the red card, calling a timeout to reestablish match control and suspension of play. Knowing what your match needs means being able to effectively read it and choose which tool precisely satisfies that need. It’s what professionals do. No need of a hammer where a screwdriver will do. No need of a saw where Emery cloth will suffice.

We have lots of tools. I’ll bet that you can fill in the spaces between my suggested tools with effective ones of your own.

Getting to the field on time shows respect for the match. It’s what professionals do. Soccertes once said, “If a match is important enough for the players to play, the coaches to coach and the fans to watch, it was important enough for the referee team to officiate to its very best.” It’s what professionals do. We are required to be at the field no later than fifteen minutes prior to kickoff, NF 5.1.2, but it is very difficult to inspect the field, the balls, the goals, the nets, the corner flags, the team and official areas and the players, obtain rosters and hold an effective prematch conference with the scorer, timer, ball holders and the rest of the referee team within such a short time. Aim for at least thirty minutes, more if you can, so that the referee team can slowly and psychologically build up to the kickoff by professionally discharging its duties. If the referee team cannot arrive sufficiently early to have a thorough prematch on match day, try having one a few days before the match, filling in at the match, anything that might materialize later. Players, coaches, fans and administrators will observe your professionalism in going about the safety inspections so necessary for the protection of the student-athletes and the quality of the match. Do not forget to allow yourselves sufficient time to warm up, so that you avoid injury.

The theme of a good prematch conference is “no surprises.” It’s the goal of the professional. Gauge the experience of your referee team and tailor the prematch to their abilities. Cover every restart, as well as substitutions, misconduct behind play, cautions, disqualifications, bad weather, mass confrontation, spectator

interference (whether from the stands or on the field), etc. Have another conference at the halftime and get feedback from your A.R.'s. Give them feedback, too. At the end of the match, grab your gear and get out of Dodge. Please, no hanging around to bask in the apocryphal glory of a most excellently officiated match. Each call or non-call irritates *at least half* of those playing, coaching and watching. Sometimes, your best call irritates *everyone*. Professionals know this.

Remember to carefully and timely follow the Ejection Protocol. OHSAA's administrators rely on your game report to determine what occurred in your match. They were not there, so be specific, giving all pertinent information and stating the proper reasons for whatever action you took. Those who read your report should come away with a complete understanding of what happened. Of course, rules references must be accurate. Professionals do this.

A word about assigners. Plainly stated, without their hard work, you would not have one high school match to officiate. Cooperate with them. Enter your very best availability. Update your availability as it changes. If there is a question about your availability due to job, family, school, etc., check with your assigner before taking a full schedule. It is much easier to assign someone else initially, and have them follow through on refereeing those matches, than to have to replace you after all of the assignments have been made. In such a situation, many assigners prefer you as a substitute. They prefer not having to potentially reassign a number of your matches to a depleted pool of referees. If you cannot take a full schedule, fill in by substituting. Assigners love to have good substitutes to call upon in emergencies. Again, confer with your assigner on the best way to go. When offered a contract, accept or decline as soon as you can. Do not delay. When you accept a contract, referee the match. After all, it's what professionals do.

Concussion Legislation & Officiating

Concussion Legislation as it relates to Officiating

Effective **April 26, 2013** and signed into law, all officials must have completed one of the two approved Concussion Awareness programs to receive their officiating license.

Officials continue to possess the authority to remove a player for a **suspected** concussion and it is therefore imperative for ALL officials to be diligent in recognizing the signs and symptoms of a student-athlete that exhibits these characteristics.

Individual student-athletes removed from contests with a suspected concussion are **NOT permitted to return to play on the same day of the contest** – regardless of any diagnoses. If they are removed by one of the individuals given this authority, they simply cannot return to play the same day. Good communication is necessary between Officials and Coaches and Athletic Trainers. Written authorization IS required to return anytime thereafter and is a protocol followed by the school administration.

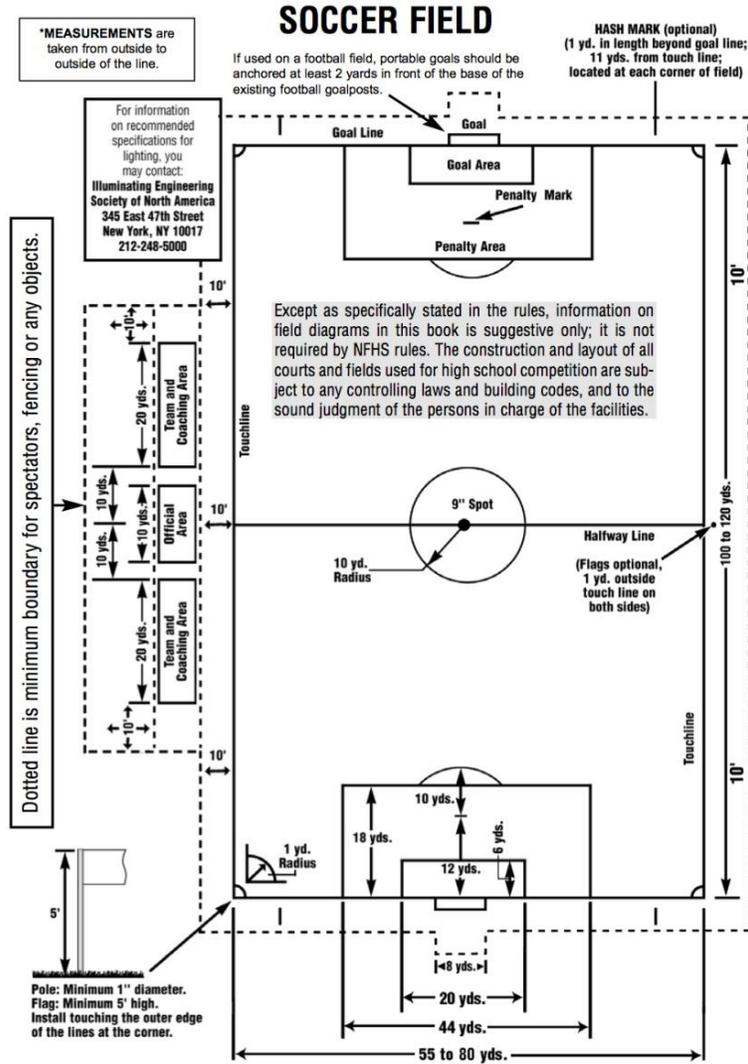
The signs, symptoms and characteristics of concussion are detailed in Appendix B – page 111 of the 2014-15 Soccer Rules Book and Officials are strongly encouraged to review these on a regular basis. Additional detailed Concussion Management information is located later in this Officials Guide.

The Field

By rule, a soccer field shall be between 100 to 120 yards long and 55 to 80 yards wide. The following dimensions are **recommended**:

High School Fields (9-12): 110 yards long by 65 yards wide

Junior High Fields (7-8): 100 yards long by 55 yards wide



An engineered natural turf soccer field should have a minimum of one-and-one-half percent (1.5%) slope for fields which are surface drained. For natural turf fields with a sub-surface drain system the slope should be no less than one (1.0%) percent. For synthetic turf fields with a sub-surface drain system the slope should be no less than one half of one (0.5%) percent. Slope is measured from center to side. For consulting services, contact SportsPLAN Studio, 816-842-5200.

Game Management

In cooperation with Officials, 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.

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.

Suspended Games

Every fall, Ohio weather brings attention to the **Official NFHS Rule** regarding Duration and Length of Games (Rule 7, page 35 of the NFHS Rules Book).

NFHS 7.1.3 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 [18.1.1(oo)].

Important Notes Regarding Rule 7.1.3:

- 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.**

The NFHS does not provide for 'State Adoptions,' here, so, League or Conference Rules may NOT override this NFHS Rule.

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.

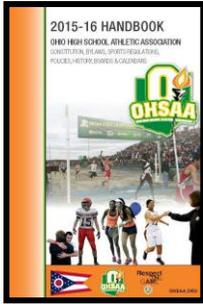
Nike & Game Ball Information

Though Nike is the official game ball for the OHSAA and is used at all REGIONAL and STATE TOURNAMENT 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. Any soccer ball with the NFHS Authentication mark is legal for play in OHSAA sponsored soccer matches.

Friday Night Futbol!

This year, the OHSAA's Board of Directors accepted a recommendation to change the start date of soccer contests to Friday, August 21 with the hope and encouragement that schools will participate in our "Friday Night Futbol" initiative. This initiative, which the Columbus Crew SC has become a partner, is simply an encouragement for schools to play a soccer game 'under the lights' where possible on the first Friday of the school year. High school FOOTball does not begin until the following week. Please note that for these games, we are permitting halftimes to be extended with the additional encouragement for high school bands to perform at halftime of their games. At the time of this printing, there are MANY schools that have chosen to participate and we anticipate great media coverage for the various contests around the state.

OHSAA's General Sports Regulations



School teams, student-athletes and coaches are bound by regulations that are approved by the OHSAA's Board of Directors on an annual basis. Such items as "number of contests", "number of halves per day of participation", etc. are examples of these regulations. These regulations are detailed for coaches in THEIR pre-season Coaches' Guide and the basis for their Rules Interpretations. Which is the main reason we have separate rules meetings for Officials and Coaches.

It is NOT the responsibility of OHSAA Officials to enforce or interpret the OHSAA's Sports Regulations

The Uniform Rules for Soccer



This is not a new rule. It was passed in 2010 and implementation delayed until 2013. Here are a few facts regarding the NFHS Uniform Rule.

1. The rule was passed AND communicated in 2010, and implementation was required in 2013.
2. The rule is a NATIONAL rule (NFHS), not just an OHSAA rule 'we' created
3. The rule is a VARSITY team uniform rule.
4. The rule IS in effect now – however, given the length of time for schools to implement uniform replacement schedules, the 'consequences' for not following the rule remain as described in the 'comments' below.
5. The rule is for HOME JERSEYS and SOCKS only – there is no change to the AWAY uniform regulations
6. This is no requirement for the SHORTS to be all white (Uniform rules do not address color of shorts)

Comments:

Basically, the "all white" uniform regulation is a NFHS rule that was passed in 2010 and mandating the HOME jersey and socks for varsity teams and became effective in 2013. The long lead time for implementation was an acknowledgment that teams/schools order uniforms on a rotating basis with other school teams and most teams have their uniforms replaced every 3-6 years – probably even longer for some schools. NO teams have or will be required to purchase new uniforms IF they are not on their rotating basis. Therefore, any uniform that does not meet this particular requirement should be submitted on the OHSAA's Official's Report. Follow-up is done by the OHSAA with the reported school.

4.1.1(a) The home team shall wear white or light jerseys and socks and the visiting team shall wear dark jerseys and socks (dark is defined as any color which contrasts with white). Prior to and during the game, jerseys shall be tucked into the shorts, unless manufactured to be worn outside.

4.1.1(h)(1) All jerseys, including the goalkeeper's jersey, 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(h)(2) Only those names, patches, emblems, logos or insignias referencing the school are permitted on the team jersey and/or shorts, as well as on visible undergarments and goalkeeper pants, except as in 4.1.1(f). The player's name may also appear on the team uniform.

NONE of these jerseys meet the current NFHS Uniform Rule requirement:



WHAT TO DO WHEN UNIFORMS DO NOT COMPLY

OBVIOUSLY, the intent of any rule is to COMPLY with the rule.

In the event a team's uniforms do not comply, officials in Ohio are instructed to:

1. **PLAY THE GAME. PLAY THE GAME. PLAY THE GAME.** Games should never be 'cancelled' because the officials deem the uniforms unacceptable or noncompliant. **PLAY THE GAME.**
2. Submit a report to the OHSAA via the normal reporting system. The OHSAA will follow-up with the report and inquire as to the school's uniform rotation, etc.
3. **Officials should understand that the solid white jersey and socks apply only at the varsity level.**

TAPE, STRAPS & STAYS ON SOCKS

A common trend has already been noted to use tape, straps or stays on socks to create an 'artificial' stripe. By NFHS Interpretation, **any tape, strap or stay on the sock must also be similar in color to that part of the sock to which it is applied, NF 4.1.1(b).** This was a Point of Emphasis for 2015!

TEAM 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" outlined in Article 1 of Rule 4 must comply with NFHS regulations. Any requests should be made utilizing the Request Form located in the back of this manual OR online at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/SOspecialeventuniformrequest.pdf>. Once Waiver Requests are approved, they will be returned to the school and a copy should be made available for contest officials. Coaches/School Administration should notify the opposing school as well as the contest officials in advance.

2016 OFFICIAL'S Required Uniform

Required Uniform

i. Gold jersey with black pinstripes or broader black stripes, either long- or short-sleeved.

The referee crew, with the approval of the head referee, may wear the red alternate with black pinstripes or broader black stripes, black alternate with white pinstripes or broader white stripes, blue with black pinstripes or broader black stripes or green with black pinstripes or broader black stripes, rather than the gold jersey, provided that all officials wear the same color and sleeve length and the jersey contrasts with all field players of both teams.

All officials are to wear the same color and sleeve length.

- a. The red and black jerseys are the only required OHSAA alternate jerseys.
- b. There is no preference as to the red or black jersey as an alternate.

ii. **Provided that the head referee agrees and there is no conflict with the field players of either team, the entire referee team shall wear the same sleeve length of:**

- a. **all pinstriped jerseys,**
- b. **all broader-striped jerseys, or**
- c. **a mixture of pinstriped jerseys and broader- striped jerseys.**

iii. As an alternative to section (ii.), and provided that the head referee agrees and that there is no conflict with the field players of either team, the entire referee team shall wear the same sleeve length and color of the new U.S. Soccer jerseys.

a. We do not wish to prohibit wearing of the new solid yellow jersey with two vertical bars by those who wish to buy it “early.” However, we do recognize that purchase of ten new jerseys (one of each color in short sleeves and one in long sleeves) is an investment of between \$260 and \$480, depending on the manufacturer.

b. We do want the officiating team to look “uniform” and professional. To that end, if the new yellow jersey is worn, everyone in the referee team must wear the same color and sleeve length, just as we require for the pin-striped or broadly-striped “old-to-be” U.S. Soccer jerseys currently worn in OHSAA matches.

c. Before any new U.S. Soccer jersey other than the new yellow jersey may be worn, the head referee must determine that the color selected does not conflict with the field players of either team and that all members of the referee team will wear the same color and sleeve length. These requirements are consistent with other, current uniform requirements.

d. Soon, we will determine which of the new colors, or all of them, must be purchased as required alternate jerseys and which are permissible, but not required, alternate jerseys, much as we already have implemented with the existing jersey setup. Before that determination is made, we will permit wearing of the new, U.S. Soccer yellow, red or green jerseys, with the additional caveat that, after our determination, they may or may not be “required” or “permissible.”

iii. All black shorts which may contain the USSF logo.

iv. Black socks with three white rings near the top of the sock.

v. Predominantly black shoes and laces.

vi. The OHSAA soccer official’s patch shall be worn on the left breast pocket. No other logos, patches, emblems or numbers are permitted on the uniform. Exception: An American Flag patch/emblem is optional and, if worn, shall be on the left sleeve approximately two inches below the shoulder with the star field facing to the front.

vii. Jewelry shall not be worn except for a wedding band and/or a medical alert necklace or bracelet. A religious medallion which is not visible is permitted. A watch is permitted only when an official has a duty for timing during the contest.



PRIMARY SHIRT



ALTERNATE SHIRT



ALTERNATE SHIRT



ALTERNATE SHIRT



NEW: TOUCHLINE OFFICIALS FOR REGIONALS AND STATES

C. Touchline Officials (Fourth Officials)

1. During regional and state tournament play, site managers are encouraged to provide one touchline official where both teams are on the same side of the field and two where the teams are on opposite sides of the field. Regardless of your chosen set-up, please ensure that both teams are treated equitably.
2. Each touchline official shall dress in the OHSAA-approved official's uniform and shall bring the short-sleeved and long-sleeved: gold jersey with black stripes and each of the OHSAA-approved alternate official's jerseys, i.e., red with black stripes and black with white stripes. It is strongly recommended that each touchline official also bring both long-sleeved and short-sleeved blue jerseys with black stripes and green jerseys with black stripes.
3. Each touchline official shall arrive a minimum of sixty (60) minutes prior to the scheduled kickoff and shall fully participate in all of the officials' pre-match duties and their pre-match conferences.
4. During the match, the touchline official's normal position is in the official area, standing near the scorer's table.
5. The touchline official(s) shall be responsible for signaling substitutions and each shall be provided with an air horn and an adequate supply of propellant.
6. The touchline official(s) shall not use a whistle to signal for substitutions.
7. The touchline official shall keep records of goals scored and misconduct cards issued and shall inform the referee of any irregularity in starting and stopping of clock.
8. The touchline official performs any equipment, uniform, blood-on-the-person or blood-on-the-uniform check as determined by the referee in the prematch conference. The inspection shall be accomplished prior to a substitute's entry of the match or the reentry of a player.
9. The touchline official(s) shall notify the referee as quickly as possible if a player, coach or bench personnel has been cautioned or disqualified based on an incorrect identification; if a player, coach or bench personnel has not been disqualified despite having received a second caution or if violent conduct has been committed by anyone outside of the view of the referee and assistant referees.
10. The touchline official(s) shall: keep each team area and each official area under observation, manage bench decorum and be prepared to bring to the attention of the referee any instances of misconduct in or outside of either area, or of players, coaches or bench personnel entering the field of play without permission of the referee.
11. The touchline official is to employ less-intrusive solutions when a situation may be resolved without creating greater conflict, tension or confusion.
12. The touchline official is to involve the coach(es) and/or team officials in identifying and preventing unacceptable behavior within the team areas and is to solicit their assistance when necessary to prevent or correct problem situations. The touchline official is to invoke the referee's authority as a last resort in these situations.
13. The touchline official(s) shall have such additional duties as are assigned by the head referee.
14. In the event that one of the OHSAA-assigned officials cannot officiate, the officials shall determine among themselves who will be head referee and who will be the assistant referees. Where able, the official who cannot officiate shall fill the open touchline official's position.
15. Per OHSAA Bylaw 8-3-1, the decisions and interpretations of the rules by officials are final



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.



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.

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 listed below relative to various equipment and rules relative to medical issues can be found in the following pages of this Officials' Guide.



- Heat Stress and Athletic Participation
- Recommendations for Hydration to Prevent Heat Illness
- Suggested Guidelines for Management of Head Trauma
- Communicable Disease Procedures (can also be found on at the end of the NFHS 2013-14 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

Implementation of State Law and NFHS Playing Rules Related to Concussion and Concussed Athletes and Return to Play Protocol

It is important for all individuals involved in interscholastic athletics to recognize the potential for catastrophic injury and even death from concussions. Thus it is extremely important that each coach, administrator, contest official and medical support personnel review their responsibilities in protecting students. Further both students and parents have responsibilities in this area as well.

Note: It has always been the ultimate responsibility of the coaching staff, in all sports, to ensure that students are only put into practice or contests if they are physically capable of performing. However, all individuals involved in the conduct of interscholastic competition have responsibilities in this endeavor.

In January 2011, the OHSAA Board of Directors adopted a sports regulation which incorporated the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) playing rules related to concussion recognition and management. On April 26, 2013, legislation adopted by Ohio's General Assembly on concussion and head injuries in youth sports became effective. On February 14, 2013, the OHSAA Board of Directors mandated that these regulations become effective on April 26, 2013, for the remainder of the spring sports season and thereafter. This OHSAA regulation, as amended to incorporate this recent legislation, now reads:

Any student, while practicing for or competing in an interscholastic contest, who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the practice or contest by either of the following:

- 1) The individual who is serving as the student's coach during that practice or competition.
- 2) An individual who is serving as a contest official or referee during that practice or competition.

RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL

If a student is removed from practice or competition due to a suspected concussion or head injury, the coach or referee who removes the student shall not permit the student, **ON THE SAME DAY THE STUDENT IS REMOVED**, to return to that practice or competition or to participate in any other practice or competition for which the coach or contest official is responsible. Thereafter, which means no earlier than the next day, the coach or contest officials shall not permit the student to return to practice or competition until both of the following conditions are satisfied:

- 1) The student's condition is assessed by either of the following:
 - a. A physician, who is a person authorized under Chapter 4731 of the Ohio Revised Code (OCR) to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine or surgery (M.D. or D.O.)
 - b. Any other licensed health care provider that the school district board of education or other governing authority of a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school, authorizes to assess the student who has been removed from practice or competition.
- 2) The student receives **written authorization** that it is safe for the student to return to practice or competition from a physician or other licensed health care provider authorized to grant the clearance. Click here <http://ohsaa.org/medicine/AuthorizationToReenter.pdf> to retrieve the OHSAA's Medical Authorization to Return To Play (RTP) form.

A school district board of education or governing authority of a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school may authorize a licensed health care provider who is NOT a PHYSICIAN to make an assessment and grant authorization for a student to return to participation ONLY if the provider is acting in accordance with one of the following as applicable to the provider's authority to practice in Ohio:

- 1) In consultation with a physician;
- 2) Pursuant to the referral of a physician;
- 3) In collaboration with a physician, or
- 4) Under the supervision of a physician.

Note: A physician or other licensed health care provider who makes an assessment or grants clearance for a student to return to participation may be a volunteer.

NEVER may a player who has been removed for a **SUSPECTED** concussion **RE-ENTER** a contest on the same day as an event.

NEVER

COACHES REQUIREMENTS

All coaches, paid and volunteer, must possess a current Department of Education-issued Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit. When renewing this permit, the coach will be required to complete an online concussion education course as stipulated in the section entitled **Approved Online Concussion Education Course**. This course is valid for three years and expires at the time the Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit expires.

CONTEST OFFICIALS REQUIREMENTS

New legislation signed into law by the Governor provides that no school “shall permit” an individual to referee interscholastic athletic contests unless the individual holds a Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or has successfully completed within the last three years a training program in concussion recognition. Therefore, all OHSAA licensed officials shall possess either a current Department of Education-issued Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or **show evidence of completing an approved online concussion education course** as stipulated in the section entitled **Approved Online Concussion Education Courses**. This course is valid for three years from the date of completion.

STUDENT AND PARENT REQUIREMENTS

All students and their parents or legal guardians shall review and sign the “Concussion Information Sheet” which has been developed by the Ohio Department of Health and which shall be distributed by OHSAA member schools to all students and their parents prior to each sports season. Students and parents shall review and sign this form each year and should keep a copy of the form. In addition, parents and students are encouraged to complete an approved concussion education course. The Concussion Information Sheet can be found here:

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Interscholastic%20Concussion%20Form%20-%20ODH%20Revised%202.ashx>

NFHS SUGGESTED MEDICAL CLEARANCE RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL

1. No exertional activity until asymptomatic.
2. When the athlete appears clear, begin low-impact activity such as walking, stationary bike, etc.
3. Initiate aerobic activity fundamental to specific sport such as running or skating, and may also begin progressive strength training activities.
4. Begin non-contact skill drills specific to sport such as dribbling, fielding, batting, etc.
5. Full contact in practice setting.
6. Game play/competition.
 - Athlete must remain asymptomatic to progress to the next level. (It is often suggested that an athlete not be allowed to progress more than one level per day.)
 - If symptoms recur, athlete must return to previous level and should be reevaluated by an appropriate health care professional.
 - Medical check should occur before contact. (Final written clearance from the medical professional shall be obtained before the athlete engages in any unrestricted or full contact activity.)

QUICK LINKS FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Ohio Department of Health Concussion Information Sheet

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Interscholastic%20Concussion%20Form%20-%20ODH%20Revised%202.ashx>

Online Concussion Management Training

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/concussion.aspx#Training>

Ohio’s Return to Play Law: Frequently Asked Questions

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Frequently%20Asked%20Questions%20Updated%202513.ashx>

Ohio’s Return to Play Law: What Coaches and Referees Need to Know

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Return%20to%20Play%20->

[%20What%20Coaches%20Need%20to%20Know%20-%20School%20Sports%20-%20Final.ashx](#)

Ohio's Return to Play Law: What Parent/Guardians Need to Know

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Return%20to%20Play%20-%20What%20Parents-Guardians%20Need%20to%20Know%20-%20School%20Sports%20-%20Final.ashx>

ADDITIONAL CONCUSSION RESOURCES

Ohio Department of Health, Violence and Injury Prevention Program - Sports/Recreation Traumatic Brain Injuries

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/vipp/child/tbi.aspx>

CDC Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports

Nationwide Children's Hospital – Concussion Information Toolkit <http://www.nationwidechildrens.org/concussion-toolkit>

CDC Materials on Returning to School for Parents, School Nurses and Educators

<http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/schools.html>

Ohio Legislative Service Commissioner HB 143 Bill Analysis

<http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/analyses129/12-hb143-129.pdf>

Brain Injury Association of Ohio

www.biaoh.org

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.

Heat Stress & Athletic Participation

This procedure is to be used until such time as the temperature is below 84 degrees as no combination of heat and humidity at that level will result in a need to curtail activity.

Under 95 degrees Heat Index—

- Optional water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration to allow hydration as a group.
- Have towels with ice for cooling of athletes as needed.
- Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.
- Re-check temperature and humidity every 30 minutes if temperature rises in order to monitor for increased Heat Index.

95 degrees to 99 degrees Heat Index—

- Water should always be available and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.
- Mandatory water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration to allow for hydration as a group.
- Have towels with ice for cooling of athletes as needed.
- Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.
- Helmets and other equipment should be removed when athlete not directly involved with competition, drill or practice and it is not otherwise required by rule.

Notes: Reduce time of outside activity. Consider postponing practice to later in the day. Recheck temperature and humidity every 30 minutes to monitor for increased Heat Index.

100 degrees (above 99 degrees) to 104 degrees Heat Index—

- Water should always be available and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.
- Mandatory water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration to allow for hydration as a group.
- Have towels with ice for cooling of athletes as needed.
- Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.
- Alter uniform by removing items if possible and permissible by rules.
- Allow athletes to change to dry shirts and shorts at defined intervals.
- Reduce time of outside activity as well as indoor activity if air conditioning is unavailable.
- Postpone practice to later in day.
- If helmets or other protective requirement are required to be worn by rule or normal practice, suspend practice or competition immediately.

Note: Re-check temperature and humidity every 30 minutes to monitor for changes in Heat Index.

Above 104 degrees Heat Index—

- Stop all outside activity in practice and/or play, and stop all inside activity if air conditioning is unavailable.

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.(h) 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, new NFHS 4.2.9 permits use of soft-padded headbands. The NFHS NOTE to this new rule states: The use of a soft-padded soccer headband is permitted but not required. Schools, parents and students are free to make their own assessments relative to this piece of equipment. The relevant ASTM standard can be found at www.astm.org/Standards/F2439.htm.

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."

For 2016-2017, the NFHS has promulgated new NFHS 4.2.9: "A soft-padded headband is permitted.

NOTE: The use of a soft-padded soccer headband is permitted but not required. Schools, parents and students are free to make their own assessments relative to this piece of equipment. The relevant ASTM standard can be found at www.astm.org/Standards/F2439.htm.

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. A medical release for the injured player signed by an appropriate health care professional (AHCP) 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 an appropriate health care professional (AHCP) 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 ... , 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.



2016 Rules Information

2016 Rules Changes

4.2.9 (new) A soft-padded headband is permitted.

11.1.4 A player is offside and penalized if, at the time the ball touches or is played by a teammate, the player is involved in active play and interferes with play or with an opponent or seeks to gain an advantage by being in that position. A player in an offside position receiving the ball from an opponent, who deliberately plays the ball (except for a deliberate save), is not considered to have gained an advantage.

14.1.4 Once the kicker starts his/her approach toward the ball, he/she may not interrupt his/her movement. Failure to kick the ball as specified shall be considered a violation by the attacking team, and the appropriate penalties shall apply.

18.1.1 (new o) **GAINING AN ADVANTAGE BY BEING IN THAT POSITION**—A player who plays a ball that rebounds to him/her off a goal post or the crossbar after having been in an offside position, or a player who after being in an offside position plays a ball that rebounds to him/her off an opponent, who has not deliberately played the ball or made a deliberate save.

18.1.1 (new u) **INTERFERING WITH AN OPPONENT**—Preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponent's line of vision or movement of challenging an opponent for the ball.

18.1.1 (new v) **INTERFERING WITH PLAY**—Playing or touching the ball passed or touched by a teammate.

2016 Points of Emphasis

1. Rough Play—Rough play, including contact above the shoulder often results in player injury. Officials and players must eliminate rough play from the game. Officials should deal with rough play by giving appropriate penalties immediately when rough play occurs.

2. Team Member Equipment Check—Because of the number of recent rules changes involving uniforms and equipment, officials are encouraged to informally check the equipment of team members before the game to prevent possible player equipment violations during the game.

3. Referee Checking for Injury After a Goal—After the clock is stopped for a goal and the referee examines a player including a goalkeeper for a possible injury, that player will not have to leave the game unless the coach and/or medical personnel are beckoned onto the field to check the player. If the referee beckons the coach and/or medical personnel, the player including a goalkeeper is required to leave the field.

4. Ball Holders—Because the clock is running when the ball goes out of bounds, it is essential that ball holders be available to get the ball back in play quickly. At least two ball holders are to be provided by the home team each game. The ball holders are under the direct supervision of the officials.

2016 Comments on the Rules

4.2.9 (new): This change permits the use of soft-padded headbands, referencing relevant ASTM standards. This clarifies that soft-padded headbands are permitted for all players.

11.1.4: This change clarifies that a player in an offside position that receives the ball from an opponent who deliberately plays the ball is not guilty of an offside infraction. However, if the player receives the ball from a deliberate save, he/she gains an advantage and is considered offside.

14.1.4: This rule change affects a player taking a penalty kick who interrupts his/her movement to the ball. The referee will now consider it as any other violation by a member of the attacking team and will use the Penalty Kick Situations Chart for guidance on how to handle the infraction.

Rule 18.1.1 (new) Offside Definitions: Three definitions have been added to clarify offside interpretation:

- Gaining an Advantage
- Interfering with Play
- Interfering with an Opponent

These do not change existing rules but simply utilize definitions consistent with other rules-making bodies.



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 4-2-1h 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 prosthesis to be worn during play. Photos of the prosthesis in place on the individual must accompany the written request. Once it has been determined that the prosthesis 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.
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. **Fourth Official as scorer** (NFHS 6-3-3) – **NOT Adopted in Ohio**
Refer to OHSAA tournament regulations for additional information regarding use of fourth 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.

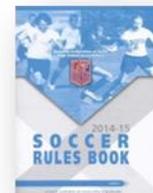
11. **Goal differential** (NFHS 7-1-5) – **NOT adopted in Ohio**

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. **Sample Tie-Breaking Procedure** – **Adopted in Ohio, in part**

Please refer to “Game Procedures: Tournament Overtime Procedures”, above.

15. **Incidental Use of Vulgar or Profane Language** (12.8.1(d)) – **Not adopted in Ohio**

16. **Sample Fourth Official/duties** – **Adopted in Ohio, in part for post-season tournament play only**

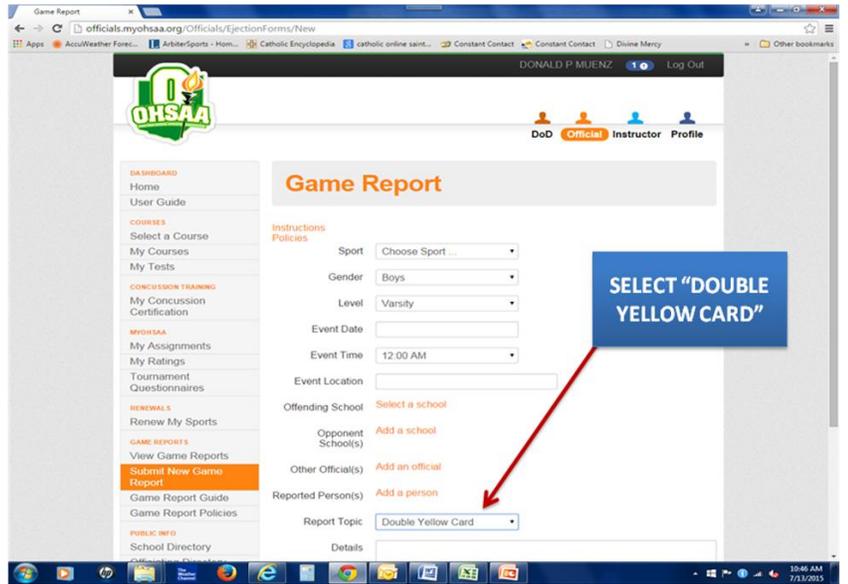
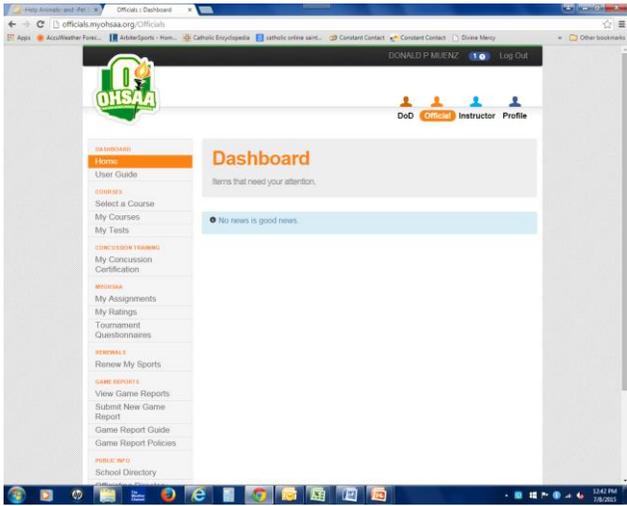
Soccer Player and Coach Ejection Protocol

ALL PLAYER and COACH EJECTIONS ARE FINAL

No later than noon of the first SCHOOL day following an ejection, the officials are required to make contact with the Athletic Director or Principal of the violator’s school to advise the administration of the ejection. Also, upon an ejection, the official **files a report ONLINE in the myOHSAA system with the OHSAA**. Since the procedures listed below are all triggered by the submission of the Officials’ Report online, officials are penalized in accordance with OHSAA adopted policies in the event they do not submit the report. After this written report that includes narrative is submitted:

- **The report is automatically sent electronically to the OHSAA and copies to the school’s Athletic Director.**
- **The school’s Athletic Director is required to submit a reply that includes the school and coach/player side of the events/ejection**
- **In the submitted reply from the school’s Athletic Director, he/she is required to submit the coach’s email address**
- **Upon the Athletic Director’s submission of the “Response Form”, an email is sent to the ejected coach explaining the consequences (below) of the ejection:**
 - An ejected coach is suspended from ALL GAMES for the remainder of the day of the ejection PLUS ALL GAMES UNTIL 2 AT THE LEVEL OF THE EJECTION ARE COMPLETED. Thus, a JV coach ejected from a JV contest cannot coach a JV OR Varsity contest until 2 JV contests have been played.
 - 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. The payment of the fine is completed with an online payment per the instructions provided to the coach on the email he/she receives that is triggered by submission of the School Response Form.
 - Consequences of ejections are to be enforced by the school administration and served by coaches/players even if the above protocol is not completed.

- 1. All Scrimmage Ejections MUST be Reported**
- 2. All Subsequent Cautions MUST be Reported**



Specific Soccer Ejection Policy Explanations

- The Ejection Policy for players now permits the individual player to be on the bench and in the locker room area during the period of suspension. The suspended player, as a result of an ejection, is not permitted to be in any school warm-up or uniform during the time of suspension and is strictly prohibited from being on the field during pre-game or halftime warm-up time.

Specific Card Procedures

Straight RED CARD

- Given to player, coach or bench personnel under NF 12-8-2(a), -(b), -(d), -(e), -(f), -(g); **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 42 halves in one season.
- A red card only is displayed.
- The Official is required to submit the online ejection report.
- 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 **2** matches at the level of the ejection have been played. A coach or player who receives a straight red card is considered “ejected” for purposes of OHSAA Soccer Regulations.
- The 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 required.
- The school does not need to be notified.
- Number of players on the field **IS** reduced for a “double yellow” or subsequent caution.

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 and the player’s team finishing the match shorthanded.

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 the OHSAA's "Respect the Game" pages 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. Please take time to visit this from the OHSAA's website along with MANY helpful items previously mentioned on the NFHSlearn website at www.nfhslearn.com.

Comments by Coaches to News Media

Emotions run high at the end of a contest and coaches are often tempted to make inappropriate comments to the news media covering a game. 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).



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SPECIAL PERMIT REQUEST-Waiver to Uniform

Please complete and return to Emily Gates at egates@ohsaa.org

NFHS Soccer rules and OHSAA regulations permit schools to request a waiver to the Uniform Regulations in Rule 4-1-1 of the NFHS Soccer Rules Book. The waiver is granted 1 time per season for schools participating in a contest conducted for a specific cause, such as but not limited to “Kick for the Cure” events. Upon approval, the waiver will permit schools to wear an alternate colored jersey that may include the sponsoring event’s logo but will still require all teams to meet the ‘number requirements’ outlined in Article 1 (i) of Rule 4, (6” player unique numbers on back of jersey).

Name of School Making Request:

Type of Event/Sponsoring Organization:

Nature of Request (sponsoring agency’s logo on jersey, etc.):

Date of Contest:

Opponent:

Head Coach’s Name:

Head Coach’s Email:

Athletic Director’s Name:

Email request to egates@ohsaa.org or Fax to 614-267-1677 Attn: Emily Gates, Program Coordinator

