

To: All Boys' & Girls' Head Soccer Coaches  
From: Jerry Snodgrass, OHSAA Assistant Commissioner  
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*This is the first of many communications you will receive directly from me and our staff to help you with various changes and reminder for the upcoming 2016 soccer season. Though the "Ohio Soccer Weekly" webpage will still be utilized, we have found it to be much more effective to send these communications directly to you.*

### **The Summer's Most Common Question**

More than any other question, we are asked if '8<sup>th</sup> graders can play on a JV/Varsity team during the summer at a team tournament'. The answer is YES. Any of the hundreds of events that take place in the summer (or ANY time outside the season) are NOT school athletic contests that we regulate. So, we do not regulate 'who plays with who' at these events. Only during the actual season of play do we prohibit 7-8 graders from practicing or playing with 9-12 players.

### **Major Rule Change by Ohio Adoption**

As you may know, the NFHS permits each state to adopt certain rules called "State Adoptions". One of those adoptions is a 'score differential' – often referred to as a "mercy rule". Ohio has not adopted this in the past, however, beginning the 2016 season, any game with a 6 goal differential in the second half will now require a running clock. Should the score drop back below the 6 goal differential, normal timing methods return. This will be detailed in the upcoming Rules Interp Meeting and Coaches Manual.

### **Rules Interpretation Meeting & Coaches Manual**

The mandatory Rules Interpretation Meeting for head coaches will become available on the Boys/Girls' Soccer webpages from [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) on **July 26 at 4:00 p.m.** The Coaches' Manual should be posted either late this week or just after July 4.

### **Uniform Reminders – Special Event Uniforms**

One of the most common questions I receive now deals with the uniform regulations. Please keep in mind that ALL WHITE JERSEYS are required for HOME uniforms. The shorts are NOT required to be white and ALL WHITE means no stripes on the sleeves. Also, as you are planning, if you KNOW you are wanting to wear a 'special' jersey for an event such as "Kick for the Cure", we do permit this and you simply have to complete a very simple waiver request that you can find at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/SOspecialeventuniformrequest.pdf>

### **Friday Night Futbol!**

Yes....we ARE promoting this again! The *"only game in town"* will be on Friday night, August 19. More will be coming out on this and it is my hope this is even bigger and better than last year. I am still working with the Columbus Crew SC to obtain tickets for host schools to raffle off. Start to encourage your band to perform at halftimes if you are hosting a game – halftime can be extended to 15:00 minutes for this.

### **Important Dates/Reminder**

Remember to schedule your parent meetings prior to your first game of the season. 2 other dates that are important:

- July 26 – Rules Meeting Available
- August 1 – Practice Begins

### **Indoor Soccer Revision**

This will have little effect until the 2016 season is complete, however I want to pass this along now and it is also covered in the Rules Interp. Meeting and Coaches Manual. Since facilities are being built continually to accommodate soccer (and other sports) being played INDOORS, I have revised the permissions for indoor soccer. Previously, in order to be exempt from the 50% limitation (5 players from the same school on the same Indoor Soccer Team), the game had to be played **exactly by USSF Indoor Soccer Rules**. This required the use of dasher boards. Most newer/larger facilities are playing games indoors as 6 v 6 but simply are not designed to install boards. So....beginning the 2016-17 school year, **Indoor soccer shall be defined as a game played by two teams each consisting of not more than 6 players, one of whom must be the goalkeeper, and played indoors between the end of the school's soccer season and the day before the first day of coaching for the interscholastic season is permitted. The number of interscholastic soccer players from the same school on a non-interscholastic squad of an indoor soccer roster is not limited provided none of the interscholastic coaching staff, paid or unpaid, is coaching the indoor team.**

***There is no longer requirement to play by USSF Indoor Rules – there is simply a limit on the number playing on each team on the 'field' of play (6).***

### **Ohio Soccer Weekly**

We have many documents posted on the Ohio Soccer Weekly webpage at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/2015OSW/2015OhioSoccerWeekly.htm>  
These documents are designed to help you find the answers to questions that you may not always know or do not encounter on a daily basis. In addition, PLEASE make sure you check with your Athletic Director first – especially in cases with transfer student-athletes.