

**Online Rules Meetings  
Available until August 19!**  
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# OHIO SOCCER WEEKLY



The Ohio High School Athletic Association

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## **Get Your Pupil Activity Certificate Updated!**

Beginning this fall, a school that permits coaches to coach (Paid or volunteer) without a valid Pupil Activity Certificate issued by the ODE will be fined \$250.00 per coach. Log onto the "Sports Medicine" Page at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) for more information on how to obtain your Certificate.

## **Scrimmage Note**

Each team in your program is permitted to schedule 4 scrimmages PLUS 1 Preview. You may use these scrimmages at any time during the season and many teams do hold 1 to use during the tournament season.

## **Important Note on Previews**

Teams are permitted to schedule 1 "Preview" if they wish to do so. Previews are clearly defined and MUST be one HALF in length (40 min. Varsity) Admission may be charged and can be held between August 13 and the date of your first game.

## **Alumni Scrimmages?**

Many teams elect to hold an "Alumni Scrimmage. This is permissible since Ohio remains one of the few states that permits its schools to play teams that are not members of the state association. Please note, however, any Alumni Scrimmage is just that...1 of the 4 permitted scrimmages. Of course if you do this as 1 of the 10 permissible Instructional Days in June/July, the 'event' would not be considered an OHSAA event.

## **Here We Go!**

All the anticipation and hard to believe the season is upon us. This is the first of several postings of "Ohio Soccer Weekly" to keep you informed and up-to-date on current issues in Ohio High School Soccer.

## **Had Your Pre-Season Meeting?**

Though most schools have conducted meetings with parents/players for several years, this is the first year these meetings are actually **mandated**. Why? Simple...they have been required since 2006 but many were increasingly discouraged by those schools that would NOT conduct them...with no penalty. Now, there is a penalty to schools for non-compliance and school AD's actually record the date of their meeting(s) in the myOHSAA data management system. There could not be a better opportunity to review the expectations with parents AND players. Make the message clear, make certain you provide them written copies of your 'team rules'. Address 'playing time' and players that 'move up and down'. Being 'up front' now with YOUR expectations will go a long way down the road when issues develop. And in a long season, they always do! We even provide sample agenda's, video resources, etc. for these meetings. You can even log on and show the NFHS' "Concussion Course" or "The Role of the Parent In Sports" during these pre-season meetings.

## **Need Help? The NFHS "Locker Room" is Waiting to Help You!**

We all know the issues that arise during the year; "my son or daughter is not seeing enough playing time", the out of control parent that doesn't really know his/her role, etc. How about a little help? The NFHS has devoted considerable time and expense to developing helpful tools for coaches at its "Learning Center". Take a look, in addition to some excellent video resources (most are FREE!), there are also excellent resources (called "Tool Kits") at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com).

## **Keep Your Emergency Medical Forms**

Just a short reminder as team rosters are developed, make certain you keep copies of your "Emergency Medical" forms with you. These can prove invaluable in the event of an injury on the road. With so many non-school individuals coaching at the sub-varsity level, I encourage you to remind the coaches of your sub-varsity teams.

## **"Common Sense 101"**

It should go without saying but ALL athletes are required to complete a "Pre-Participation Examination". The word "Pre-Participation" means just that...BEFORE participating. Common sense. The player that comes and says "I'll bring it tomorrow" or the player that is the 3 year letterwinner and just hasn't brought it in yet; THOSE are the perfect examples we all face. Use it as the PERFECT discipline that you want to instill in your team. Again, you may wonder why I mention it but I do hear more and more that players 'slip through the cracks'. Do your part and you may be thankful.

## **Volunteers Need Certification Also!**

Though it is a major part of the Rules Interpretation Meetings, **any individual that works with student-athletes** is required to possess a "Pupil Activity Permit" issued by the Ohio Department of Education. This requirement and the steps to obtain it is explained in detail in the Soccer Pre-Season Manual. This requirement includes all PAID and VOLUNTEER coaches for a school.

## **Reminder Players to STOP participation with Non-School Teams**

A basic regulation for student-athletes does not permit them to participate in Non-Interscholastic athletics of the same sport while a member of a school team. I will address this repeatedly on "Ohio Soccer Weekly" postings, but this is a good time to REMIND your players. The penalty is severe and could have an effect on your TEAM, so an "ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" on this one.

## **Important Dates for Soccer Coaches**

Coaching Begins: 8/1/2011

Earliest Preview Date: 8/13/2011

**First Game: 8/20/2011**

Sectional Play Begins: 10/15/2011

District Play Begins: 10/24/2011

Regional Play: 11/1 – 11/5

State Semi-Finals – Boys: November 8, 2011

State Championships – Boys: November 11, 2011

State Semi-Finals – Girls: November 9, 2011

State Championships – Girls: November 12, 2011