

Online Rules Meetings
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OHIO SOCCER WEEKLY



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Get Your Pupil Activity Certificate Updated!

Schools that permit 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 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 12 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.

Ready, Set.....Almost!

We're *almost* there with the start of the season is right around the corner. But hold on....The time between the end of July when coaching IS permitted (10 days) until the start of practice on August 6 has been a confusing period of time for many coaches. It is **not** a 'dead period', **but** that doesn't mean you can bend other regulations to begin practice early. August 1 – August 6 is clearly *outside the season of play* and there are limitations. This is detailed in your Pre-Season Manual on pages 5-8. Please take some time to read this. Pay close attention to this as the penalty for beginning practice early is severe.

Have You Scheduled Your Pre-Season Meeting?

Pre-Season Parent/Athlete meetings are **mandated** by the OHSAA. As a Head Coach you KNOW the importance of good communication. 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.



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.

Pre-Season Manuals for Coaches

A great deal of effort has gone into making the Pre-Season Manual for Coaches a **resource** for coaches to use throughout the year. Everything from off-season regulations to Rule Changes are addressed to better communicate with coaches. Have a question? Most likely it is addressed in the Manual. Manuals were sent out in June to all school Athletic Directors for distribution to coaches. IF your manual didn't find it's way to you, you can always access it online at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/manual.pdf>