



# Ohio High School Athletic Association

---

**TO:** Soccer Coaches and Directors of Athletics

**FROM:** Kate Barnett, Sport Administrator

**DATE:** July 19, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Boys and Girls Soccer Pre-Season Update

## **OHSAA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

---

### Guidance for COVID-19

Ohio has lifted most statewide pandemic-related health orders, effective June 2, 2021. While these requirements have been lifted, Ohioans are still at risk for COVID-19 illness. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) urges all Ohioans to continue to follow safe protocols to protect themselves and others, especially those individuals who are not fully vaccinated.

### Tournament Divisions Remain the Same in 2021-22 (Competitive Balance)

Per action by the OHSAA Board of Directors on October 1, 2020, current 2020-21 enrollment data and tournament divisions will be utilized again in the 2021-22 school year. Constitution Article 6-1-9 allowed the Executive Director's Office to make this change, and it was subsequently approved by the Board. With some schools not offering sports along with many students transferring to nontraditional learning modules this past fall due to COVID-19, the Executive Director's Office deliberated on how to handle enrollment data, since October 2020 is when the OHSAA traditionally would have received that data (EMIS) from the Ohio Department of Education for use in tournament representation, tournament division breakdowns and classifications for OHSAA District Athletic Board elections. While understanding many schools had various unique enrollment situations this year, it was determined that utilizing the same data for a third and final year was the fairest for all OHSAA member schools since any new data collected would likely be severely skewed and/or an unreliable representation. **In fall 2022, division assignments will be based on fall 2021 EMIS data obtained from ODE combined with Competitive Balance roster data submitted from the 2021 season.**

## **NFHS ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES**

---

### NFHS Virtual National Student Leadership Summit August 8-10

The National Federation of State High School Association will present the second year of its virtual National Student Leadership Summit (NSLS) on August 8, 9 and 10. There is no cost for students to participate, although registration is required. The virtual conference will begin each of those three days at 12:45 p.m., with presentations between 1:00 and 3:00. The NSLS will focus on relevant and contemporary issues facing students participating in interscholastic athletics. For more information, [click here](#).

NFHS Learning Center

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Learning Center is an education tool that offers online courses for coaches, contest officials, administrators, students and parents, many of which are free. Examples of courses include the following, and more information can be found [here](#).

- Protecting Students from Abuse
- First Aid, Health and Safety
- Fundamentals of Coaching
- Concussion in Sport
- Title IX
- Implicit Bias
- The Collapsed Athlete (a “must” for coaches as they begin their fall sports seasons)

## **OFFICIATING AND RULES UPDATE**

---

### Rules Meeting Reminder

The State Rules Interpretation Meeting will be made available beginning **Thursday July 22, 2021**. This meeting will be completed online and accessed through your individual myOHSAA account.

If you are a new coach, please consult your Athletics Director to assist with getting your account set up in myOHSAA. Confirmation of completing this meeting is required. Failure to complete this meeting prior to **Friday August 13, 2021, at 11:59pm** will result in a late fee.

### NFHS 2021-22 Soccer Rule Books

Athletics Directors should receive the OHSAA pre-season mailing, including the 2021-22 NFHS Soccer Rule Book, the first week of August. If you are interested in purchasing additional NFHS publications, please visit the NFHS website [here](#).

## **REGULAR SEASON UPDATES AND REMINDERS**

---

### Important Dates

|         |                                  |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| Aug. 1  | First Day of Coaching            |
| Aug. 2  | First Day H.S. Preview Permitted |
| Aug. 13 | Friday Night Futbol              |
| Aug. 20 | First date of competition        |
| Sept. 7 | Non-Interscholastic Date         |

### Mandatory Preseason Meetings

Per Bylaw 3-1-4, schools are required to conduct a mandatory, preseason meeting with all student-athletes who wish to participate in the upcoming sports seasons, their parents and booster club officer(s) no later than two weeks after the beginning of each sports season. Please contact your athletic director about materials available to assist with these meetings.

### Scrimmages

- Four dates of competition for a maximum of three hours per date.

- May be scheduled anytime during the soccer season, including tournament time.
- May charge admission. (**\*New for 2021 only**)

#### Preview

- One per team each season and half the length of a regular season contest.
- Must be completed between Aug. 2 and Aug. 19 or the team's first date of regular season competition.
- May charge admission.

#### Travel Party and Roster Sizes

The OHSAA does not have any restrictions regarding roster size limits for the regular season. However, roster size limits are in place for post season competition.

#### College ID Camps

The OHSAA is not granting waivers for College ID Camps. Student-athletes may participate in College ID Camps anytime June 1 – July 31.

Beginning August 1, student-athletes may participate in College ID Camps if they have not triggered member of a team status. A student-athlete triggers member of a team status when they participate in a scrimmage, preview, or regular season contest. Practicing with the school team does not trigger member of a team status. (EX: A scrimmage is scheduled for Aug. 4 and the College ID Camp is scheduled for Aug. 7. The student-athlete may not participate in the scrimmage Aug. 4 to be eligible to participate in the College ID Camp on Aug. 7.)

#### Non-interscholastic Participation (i.e. Club, AAU, College ID Camps, etc.)

Once a student-athlete triggers member of a team status, the student-athlete may NOT participate in an athletic contest, a tryout or any type of team or group training or practices (including open gyms/fields) with a non-interscholastic team in that same sport during the school team's season. **September 7<sup>th</sup>** is the final date a student-athlete may participate in non-interscholastic activity and still be eligible for post season competition.

#### Promotional Events

Schools may host one (1) special event each season that supports a specific cause. In conjunction with the event, schools may request a waiver for NFHS Rule 4-1-1 which would permit teams to wear an alternate-colored jersey and/or socks in support of the specific cause. The Special Event Request waiver form can be found under the Regulations, Policies & Manual sidebar [here](#).

#### Friday Night Futbol

Forms are due by **Thursday August 12, 2021**. The form can be found under 2021 Season Information [here](#).

### **SPORT REGULATION HIGHLIGHTS AND REMINDERS**

---

- **Soccer Regulations: 1.6 Special Waiver**

A scrimmage or preview scheduled against a Special Olympics team, or a team of similar designation, may be approved by the OHSAA to be played in addition to the maximum allowable number of scrimmages or previews. A waiver for approval of such contests can be found on the "Soccer" section of the OHSAA website. This waiver must be submitted to, and approved by, the OHSAA soccer administrator prior to the contest taking place.

- **Soccer Regulations: 1.7 Overtime Procedures**

Overtime procedures have been established for OHSAA tournament play only. There is no overtime during regular season matches. Schools may request use of approved tournament overtime procedures for league / conference tournaments only. All requests must be made to the OHSAA soccer administrator and are subject to approval.

- **Soccer Regulations: 1.8 Goal Differential/Running Clock**

During any regular season or tournament contest, any time the score differential reaches 6 goals or more AFTER the first half of the contest, a running clock shall be used. After the 6-goal differential has been met but the score drops below 6 goals, the clock reverts to regular timing. The clock shall be stopped only for an injured player on the field or when there is any unusual delay deemed necessary by the officials.

###

**KATE BARNETT**

**Sport Administrator**

[kbarnett@ohsaa.org](mailto:kbarnett@ohsaa.org)

Office: 614-267-2502 x127