



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Kathleen Coughlin, Director of Sport Management

Soccer Coach Memo July 22, 2020

OHSAA Covid-19 Update Page: Our organization has created a page where all 'Administrator Update' communications can be found, and a record of them will live. Additionally, there are resources that may also be helpful. <https://www.ohsaa.org/Home/OHSAA-COVID-19-Correspondance>

Required Rules Meeting

The rules meeting is a requirement for all head coaches and will be available through your "myOHSAA" account starting on TODAY. IF you are a new head coach and are unfamiliar on how to access the meeting OR what your "myOHSAA" account is – please consult with your athletic director as soon as possible. After viewing the entire meeting, please reach out to your AD and have them check to make sure you received credit.

OHSAA Coach Manual

The OHSAA Soccer Coach Manual is available on the soccer page (<https://www.ohsaa.org/sports/soccer>). This will be a helpful document to refer to in terms of any rule changes, as well as NFHS Soccer Considerations in 2020 related to Covid-19.

2020-21 Covid-19 Soccer Recommendations

In support of the Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities, the NFHS Soccer Rules Committee offers this document for state associations to consider whether any possible rules could be altered for the 2020-21 season. The considerations outlined below are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment.

The below recommendations are to help give guidance in the forthcoming season. These will also be posted on the soccer website, and sent to all school athletic administrators, in concert with the OHSAA overall guidance.

Return to Competition

1. Soccer Rules Considerations

- ***Pregame Conference (5-2-2d)***
 - Limit attendees to head referee or center referee, the head coach from each team, and a single captain from each team.
 - Move the location of the pregame conference to center of the field. All individuals maintain a social distance of 6 feet.
 - Suspend handshakes prior to and following the Pregame Conference.
- ***Ball Holders (6-1)***
 - Encourage social distancing of 6 feet
- ***Team Benches (1-5-1)***
 - Encourage bench personnel to observe social distancing of 6 feet.
- ***Substitution Procedures (3-4)***
 - Maintain social distancing of 6 feet between the substitute, officials and/or teammate(s) by encouraging substitutions to occur closer to the center line.
- ***Officials Table (6-2; 6-3)***
 - Limit to essential personnel which includes home team scorer and timer with a recommend distance of 6 feet between individuals. Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential personnel and will need to find an alternative location.

2. Pre and Post Match Ceremony

- a. Suspend the pregame world cup introduction line and send players to their field positions with bench personnel lined up on the touch line (6 feet apart) for introductions.
- b. Suspend post game protocol of shaking hands.

3. Soccer Rules Interpretations

- **Rule 4-1 EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES**
 - Cloth face coverings are permissible.
 - Gloves are permissible.
- **Rule 4-2 LEGAL UNIFORM**
 - Long sleeves are permissible. (4-1-1)
 - Long pants are permissible. (4-1-1)
 - Under garments are permissible but must be of a similar length for the individual and a solid like color for team. (4-1-1d)
- **Rule 5-3 OFFICIALS UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT**
 - By state association adoption, long-sleeved shirt/jackets are permissible. (5-1-3)
 - Electronic whistles are permissible (supplies are limited).
 - Choose a whistle whose tone will carry outside.
 - Fox 40 Mini -
 - Fox 40 Unisex Electronic - 3 tone
 - Ergo-Guard - (3 tone) - orange
 - Windsor - (3 tone) grey
 - Check the market for other choices
 - Cloth face coverings are permissible.
 - Gloves are permissible.