

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



2021 OHSAA SOCCER OFFICIALS' GUIDE

A Season's Guide for OHSAA Soccer Officials



A Message from OHSAA Director of Soccer Officiating Development, Don Muenz



Good day, everyone.

On behalf of Executive Director Douglas Ute, Director of Sport Management for Soccer Kate Barnett, the Officiating Department and yours truly, thank you, for all that you do for the student-athletes and our sport. Without your devotion, they do not play, missing out on the great classroom of the field.

I understand how much everyone eagerly awaits moving forward. Let's physically and mentally prepare for the upcoming season. Consult your physician and begin a program of stretching and running, which, combined with a healthy diet, will put you in great shape and mindset for the season. Referees kid only themselves if they expect the season to round them into shape.

Remember all of those days cooped up in the house or the office? Get outside and enjoy nature.

Remember, any player, coach or bench personnel who receives a subsequent caution is ineligible for the remainder of that match, the remainder of that day and until one match has been played at the level of the disqualification.

Always have a prematch conference. Always. No excuses. Our goal is no surprises during our match.

Last year, once more, violence was the main reason for ejection across all OHSAA sports. Up your game by communicating more often and better, and by lending your preventive presence to play. Be there and let them know that you are there.

Hit that rulebook and hit it hard! If you do not hit it hard enough, it has a nasty habit of hitting you when and where you least expect it.

Here's wishing each of you the best season ever,

Don Muenz

OHSAA Director of Soccer Officiating Development



The OHSAA's Mission Statement

The Ohio High School Athletic Association's mission is to regulate and administer interscholastic athletic competition in a fair and equitable manner while promoting the values of participation in interscholastic athletics as an integral part of a student's educational experience. The OHSAA represents its member schools by recognizing and promoting academics, the safety of participants, good citizenship and lifelong values as the foundation of interscholastic athletics.



Important Soccer Dates

August 1	Coaching & Tryouts Begin
August 13	Friday Night Futbol
August 20	First game permitted
October 10	Tournament Seed/Draw Date Boys: 2:00 p.m. Girls: 3:00 p.m.
October 18 – 23	Sectional Tournaments
October 25 – 30	District Tournaments
November 2— 6	Regional Tournaments
November 9--13	State Semi-Finals & Finals
November 13	Last date for Games

OHSAA Soccer Contact Information

Kate Barnett, Director of Sport Management kbarnett@ohsaa.org

Administers the sport of soccer and oversees tournament, writes Soccer Sports' Regulations, Soccer Tournament Regulations

Don Muenz, Director of Soccer Official Development butsir@columbus.rr.com

Responsible for overseeing soccer officials in Ohio. Serves as liaison with NFHS and oversees the education and recruitment of soccer officials in Ohio.

Communicating with the OHSAA

It is understandable with 817 schools in Ohio and the number of soccer teams in Ohio from Junior High to High School, the volume of calls and emails coming into the office is quite high and nearly impossible to answer at peak times. Most questions can and should be answered by the Athletic Director at your school. To make our communication as efficient as possible, we ask school ADMINISTRATORS (including your Athletic Director) to communicate directly with us...therefore our policy of not answering calls by parents and community members. One can only imagine the impossibility of that.

Additionally, every effort is being made to provide useful information via our website. I encourage you to check the website (both the main page and soccer specific page) and additional information is provided in this manual regarding weekly informational items (Ohio Soccer Weekly) that should prove beneficial for coaches at all levels.

The Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association is also an excellent resource for coaches. I encourage your membership in that organization to help strengthen the great sport of soccer in Ohio.

Mandatory Rules Interpretation Meeting

Rules Interpretation Meeting are MANDATORY for all Officials and Head Coaches. IF you are a coach and have an OHSAA Official's license, **you will be required to complete both meetings, since the content is specific to each group.**

How to Complete the Rules Interpretation Meeting Online

Go to your myOHSAA account and look for Find State Meeting in the menu on the left-hand side. Click on it. Click on the online state rules meeting and rock and roll. There will also be in-person state rules meetings listed. I hope to see you at one.

The ONLINE Rules Meeting link will be live on THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

A \$50.00 late fee will be charged for access to the online state rules meeting after August 13, 2021. The last day for completion of the online version with a late fee, is 11:59 p.m. on Friday, Friday, October 1, 2021.

AFTER COMPLETION:

1. Your Official's myOHSAA profile will be updated to reflect your attendance.
2. Please do not call the OHSAA office for verification. Attendance WILL be reflected in the profile.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
7/20/2021	7:15	Walsh Jesuit H.S., Main Commons Area 4550 Wyoga Lake Road, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44224	Roy Miller, IV
7/26/2021	7:15	Sylvania Southview High School, Commons 7225 Sylvania Avenue, Sylvania, OH 43560	Barbara Nye
7/28/2021	7:15	City of Parma Recreation Dept. Office 7335 Ridge Road, Parma, OH 44129	George Balasko
7/29//2021	7:15	Ohio University—Zanesville Campus Elson Hall Auditorium, 1425 Newark Rd., Zanesville 43701	Larry Normansell
7/30/2021	7:15	Youngstown St. Univ., Beeghly Ctr., Rooms 114-115, One Univ. Plaza, Youngstown, OH 44555	Martin Milush
8/2/2021	7:15	West Chester Lakota West High School Auditorium, 8940 Union Center Blvd., West Chester, OH 45069	Susan Kukanza
8/3/2021	7:15	Mid-Ohio Select Soccer League 670 Lakeview Plaza Blvd., Worthington, OH 43085	James R. Potter
8/4/2021	7:15	Lorain County Community College, Room HS-101 1005 North Abbe Road, Elyria, OH 44035	John Hunter

2021-2022 NFHS RULES CHANGES EXPLAINED

By Don Muenz, Director of Soccer Officiating Development

Good day, everyone.

Following is a summary of major rules changes for the upcoming season along with Comments on the Rules and, (hopefully) helpful examples.

My discussion of the changes is labeled "Discussion."

THE 2020-21 NFHS RULES CHANGES, COMMENTS ON THE RULES AND POINTS OF EMPHASIS.



2021-2022 NFHS Rules Changes

4-2-10 NEW: Head coverings worn for religious reasons shall not be made of abrasive or hard materials; and must fit securely.

Rationale: This rule addition will allow student-athletes to express their religious beliefs through the wearing of headwear without the approval from the state.

Discussion: This rule replaces former NF 4.2.10(b). The new rule no longer requires OHSA approval of head coverings or wraps worn for religious reasons. The new rule imposes the safety requirements of former NF 4.2.10(b), with the exception that there is no requirement that the covering/wrap be attached such that it is highly unlikely to come off during play.

4-2-11 NEW ARTICLE: In addition to the above permitted uses, state associations (or designee) may on an individual basis permit a player to participate while wearing a head covering for medical or cosmetic reasons if it is required by a licensed physician. A physician's statement is required before the state association can approve a covering which is not abrasive, hard or dangerous to any other player and which is attached in such a way it is 13-3-2 The ball shall be kicked while it is stationary on the ground at the spot specified by the official. To be in play, the ball shall be moved in any direction. Failure to kick the ball as specified shall result in a rekick."

Discussion: Very similar to former NF 4.2.10(a). The physician's statement must be sent to the OHSAA, along with photos of the wrap/covering on the student-athlete. The OHSAA approval must accompany the student-athlete to each match. The same safety requirements remain: the wrap/covering may not be dangerous, hard or abrasive and must be attached such that it is highly unlikely to come off during play.

13-3-2 The ball shall be kicked while it is stationary on the ground at the spot specified by the official. To be in play, the ball shall be moved in any direction. Failure to kick the ball as specified shall result in a rekick." The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.

Rationale: Replace with wording from 16-1-3- says more simply "the ball is in play when it is kicked and moves." Consistency in language will help prevent misunderstanding by officials that the requirement is different. Rule 13-3-2 and Rule 16-1-3 establish that a ball is in play on a free kick from inside the penalty area and from a goal kick when kicked and moved but do so in different language.

Discussion: This change harmonizes the language of NF 13.3.2 and NF 16.1.3.

16-1-2 Players opposing the kicker shall remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play. If, when a goal kick is taken, opponents are inside of the penalty area because they did not have time to leave, play continues.

Rationale: The addition is with the administration of quick free kicks elsewhere on the field. The kicking team is permitted to forgo the protection of distance, should they choose to do so, e.g., 13.3.1 SITUATION B, p. 68.

Discussion: This change adopts an IFAB interpretation explicitly. If the free is put into play before the opponent has an opportunity to exit the PA, play continues.

2021-2022 NFHS EDITORIAL CHANGES

3.5.1 SITUATION A A goalkeeper reports to the scoring table and, when the ball is dead, is beckoned onto the field by a referee. The goalkeeper immediately takes position without verbally notifying a referee. As soon as the new goalkeeper handles the ball, the referee awards an indirect free kick. **RULING:** Incorrect. When a referee beckoned the goalkeeper from the scoring table, this was sufficient "reporting or notifying" of a referee. The goalkeeper is dressed in a different uniform and could be recognized by his attire. A referee should not have stopped play. Play shall restart with an indirect free kick dropped ball awarded to the new goalkeeper's team.

Rationale: This change conforms the Ruling to the recent changes in rules 9-2-1c and 9-2-3. The restart should be a dropped ball to the goalkeeper, as the ball was within the penalty area at the time of the inadvertent whistle and was last played in the penalty area by the goalkeeper.

Discussion: This ruling was corrected to reflect the restart required by NF 9.2.1(c) and NF 9.2.3.

5.3.1 SITUATION C Player A2 is fouled just outside the opponent's penalty area. The referee signals visibly and verbally "play on." (a) A2 then stumbles and within a couple of seconds falls to the ground; (b) A2 keeps the ball and gets off a shot that sails wide of the goal; (c) A2 manages to continue and is immediately fouled again, this time within the penalty area. The referee whistles and awards a direct free kick from the point of the original foul. **RULING:** (a) correct. The advantage did not materialize, and the foul must be penalized; (b) incorrect. The advantage was gained even though the shot missed; (c) incorrect. Since the subsequent foul results in a greater penalty, a penalty kick should be awarded to Team A. Since the advantage was realized by allowing A2 to continue and A2 was then fouled within the penalty area, a penalty kick is awarded to Team A.

Rationale: This change cleans up language concerning the advantage.

11.1.3 SITUATION A A2, in an offside position, receives the ball directly from (a) A3; or (b) B2 who was participating in a drop-ball situation. **RULING:** (a) offside; (b) not offside because ball was last deliberately played by an opponent.

Rationale: This amendment renders the language of the play ruling consistent with 11.1.4.

11.1.4 SITUATION A A10, in an offside position, receives a ball that was deliberately played by B3. **RULING:** Not offside because the ball was last deliberately played by an opponent.

Rationale: This amendment renders the language of the play ruling consistent with 11.1.4.

11.1.4 SITUATION D A10, in an offside position, receives a header from B7. **RULING:** Not offside because the ball was last deliberately played by an opponent.

Rationale: This amendment renders the language of the play ruling consistent with 11.1.4.

Soccer Comments on the Rules - 2021-2022

4-2-10: This change removes the need for state association permission for religious head coverings. It is now automatically allowed.

Soccer Points of Emphasis - 2021-2022

Properly Worn Uniforms and Marked Fields. It is important that games are played on fields marked in a consistent manner, and players wear uniforms according to NFHS rules. If a field is improperly marked and/or if a team wears an illegal uniform the referee shall contact the state association, who will work with school administrators to make appropriate changes. In addition, during pregame communication with school administration, game officials are also encouraged to communicate these corrective actions directly to administrators.

Discussion: It is a matter of professionalism that the pitch be properly marked, just as it is a high honor for student-athletes to wear their school colors properly. If the field is improperly marked, but a safe match can be played, the head referee must file a game report with the OHSA. If a team cannot correct illegal uniforms, but a safe match can be played, the head referee must file a game report with the OHSA.

Reckless and Serious Foul Play. Soccer is a contact sport and as such officials must be prepared to effectively manage the flow and intensity of the game. Understanding the differences between fair and hard play and a foul that is either Reckless or Serious is important to ensuring fair play and the safety of the players. Reckless play is defined as “a player has acted with disregard of the danger to, or consequences for, the opponent. A player who displays reckless play shall be cautioned.” Serious Foul Play is defined as “any play in which the player commits one of the offenses punishable with a direct free kick and uses disproportionate and unnecessary force against an opponent while playing for the ball.” It is critical that officials recognize the differences between the two and the corresponding penalty. Although officials cannot eliminate a player from engaging in reckless or serious foul play, there are Preventive mechanics that can be used to control this type of play from occurring during the match by:

- Addressing fair play and good sportsmanship during the pregame meeting with the coach- es and captains. Let them know your expectations for competitive and fair play.
- Talk to the players and captains during the match. When the intensity of play increases and fouls become more prevalent remind the players of your expectations. Control the temperature of play by warning, whistle and when necessary cards.
- Deal with reckless or serious foul play immediately. Be sure to let the players and coach- es know that you will not tolerate that level of play during the match. When warranted use cards to address these behaviors.
- Use of Headsets. Officials who have used headsets in communicate between and among the crew have found this to be an effective tool in helping to control play and deal immediately with unsporting and dangerous play.

Discussion: Officials are challenged to know the difference between these two misconducts, not just definitionally, but practically. They must lend their preventive presence to the match. They must use preventive mechanics to minimize misconduct. Always hold a prematch conference, communicate with players and coaches throughout the match and deal with reckless play and serious foul play immediately. Headsets can be effective in match control and preventive refereeing.

High School Athletics is Education-Based. High school athletics are education-based, and for this reason some mechanics of our game are intentionally different from other levels of soccer. Playing sports and participating in interscholastic activities is a privilege that students earn by maintaining academic standards and good conduct in and outside the classrooms.

As an extension of the classroom, the goal of education-based athletics, in addition to core academic subjects learned in the classroom, is that students experience additional educational opportunities through their participation in sports. Beyond the specific skills of a sport, these individuals have the opportunity to learn important principles that can guide them the rest of their lives. Learning the life skills of sportsmanship, playing by the rules, teamwork and perseverance will pay huge dividends throughout these students' lives. Certainly, improving skills and winning games is a part of the overall goal, but the quest to win games, events, and championships cannot come at the expense of providing these educational opportunities. The required pregame meeting is a time for officials to communicate expectations to both head coaches and captains. This meeting for both head coaches and captains should cover pertinent rules, sportsmanship, the coin toss, and legally equipped players. This meeting is a purposeful start to an education-based interscholastic match.

Discussion: Yes, our mechanics, rules, the calling of fouls and allowance of advantage differ from the IFAB, whose laws are written for the highest level of the game, i.e., the World Cup. The NFHS rules are written for high school varsity competition.

If our sport were not education-based, there would be little reason for schools to sponsor it.

Sportsmanship: Interscholastic athletic programs must promote good character, enhance the integrity of education, and foster civility in society. Student-athletes, coaches and all others associated with interscholastic athletic programs, as well as those who attend interscholastic athletic events, should adhere to the fundamental values of honesty, integrity, respect, caring, cooperation, trustworthiness, leadership, tolerance, and personal responsibility.

The message of good sportsmanship should be addressed by school administration with their students, coaches, parents, and spectators alike, which includes a message which prohibits taunting and the use of profanity during games. Coaches and officials should model good sportsmanship during the pregame, game, and post-game. A short but firm statement by the official outlining the action that will be taken for unsporting conduct would be appropriate. Check with your state association. They may have provided a statement for use by officials in the pre-game meeting.

Discussion: I cannot improve on the foregoing. We can all work much harder on the effective implementation of sportsmanship, on breathing life into the spirit of sportsmanship.

Professional Responsibilities for Officials. Officials are an integral part of education-based athletics and for this reason it is important that officials conduct themselves in a professional manner that upholds the dignity of this vital role. For this reason, an official shall prepare themselves both physically and mentally, shall dress neatly and appropriately, shall master both the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to enforce the rules, shall exercise impartial authority in a firm and controlled manner and shall stay up to date with game management and health and safety requirements. Additionally, officials shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession in all interactions with student-athletes, coaches, school administrators and spectators alike.

It is important that officials take steps to educate themselves with the NFHS Officials Code of Ethics in the soccer rules book as well as their state association's officials' handbooks.

Discussion: Take a look at the "Official's Code of Ethics" on p. 7 of the rulebook. Follow them and see how much you improve as an official.....and as a person.

Concussion Legislation & Officiating

CONCUSSION REGULATIONS

Implementation of State Law and NFHS Playing Rules Related to Concussion and Concussed Athletes and Return to Play Protocol

It is important for all individuals involved in interscholastic athletics to recognize the potential for catastrophic injury and even death from concussions. Thus it is extremely important that each coach, administrator, contest official and medical support personnel review their responsibilities in protecting students. Further both students and parents have responsibilities in this area as well.

Note: It has always been the ultimate responsibility of the coaching staff, in all sports, to ensure that students are only put into practice or contests if they are physically capable of performing. However, all individuals involved in the conduct of interscholastic competition have responsibilities in this endeavor.

In January 2011, the OHSAA Board of Directors adopted a sports regulation which incorporated the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) playing rules related to concussion recognition and management. On April 26, 2013, legislation adopted by Ohio's General Assembly on concussion and head injuries in youth sports became effective. On February 14, 2013, the OHSAA Board of Directors mandated that these regulations become effective on April 26, 2013, for the remainder of the spring sports season and thereafter. This OHSAA regulation, as amended to incorporate this recent legislation, now reads:

Any student, while practicing for or competing in an interscholastic contest, who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the practice or contest by either of the following:

- 1) The individual who is serving as the student's coach during that practice or competition.
- 2) An individual who is serving as a contest official or referee during that practice or competition.

RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL

If a student is removed from practice or competition due to a suspected concussion or head injury, the coach or referee who removes the student shall not permit the student, **ON THE SAME DAY THE STUDENT IS REMOVED**, to return to that practice or competition or to participate in any other practice or competition for which the coach or contest official is responsible. Thereafter, which means no earlier than the next day, the coach or contest officials shall not permit the student to return to practice or competition until both of the following conditions are satisfied:

1) The student's condition is assessed by either of the following: a. A physician, who is a person authorized under Chapter 4731 of the Ohio Revised Code (OCR) to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine or surgery (M.D. or D.O.) b. Any other licensed health care provider that the school district board of education or other governing authority of a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school, authorizes to assess the student who has been removed from practice or competition.

2) The student receives **written authorization** that it is safe for the student to return to practice or competition from a physician or other licensed health care provider authorized to grant the clearance. Go to the "Sports Medicine" Section of the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org) to retrieve the OHSAA's Medical Authorization to Return To Play (RTP) form.

A school district board of education or governing authority of a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school may authorize a licensed health care provider who is NOT a PHYSICIAN to make an assessment and grant authorization for a student to return to participation ONLY if the provider is acting in accordance with one of the following as applicable to the provider's authority to practice in Ohio:

- 1) In consultation with a physician;
- 2) Pursuant to the referral of a physician;
- 3) In collaboration with a physician, or
- 4) Under the supervision of a physician.

Note: A physician or other licensed health care provider who makes an assessment or grants clearance for a student to return to participation may be a volunteer.

COACHES' REQUIREMENTS

All coaches, paid and volunteer, must possess a current Department of Education-issued Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit. When renewing this permit, the coach will be required to complete an online concussion education course as stipulated in the section entitled **Approved Online Concussion Education Course**. This course is valid for three years and expires at the time the Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit expires.

CONTEST OFFICIALS REQUIREMENTS

Legislation signed into law by the Governor provides that no school "shall permit" an individual to referee interscholastic athletic contests unless the individual holds a Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or has successfully completed within the last three years a training program in concussion recognition. Therefore, all OHSAA licensed officials shall possess either a current Department of Education issued Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or **show evidence of completing an approved online concussion education course** as stipulated in the section entitled **Approved Online Concussion Education Courses**. This course is valid for three years from the date of completion and must be entered on the official's myOHSAA profile.

STUDENT AND PARENT REQUIREMENTS

All students and their parents or legal guardians shall review and sign the "Concussion Information Sheet" which has been developed by the Ohio Department of Health and which shall be distributed by OHSAA member schools to all students and their parents prior to each sports season. Students and parents shall review and sign this form each year and should keep a copy of the form. In addition, parents and students are encouraged to complete an approved concussion education course. The Concussion Information Sheet can be found here: : https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports-Medicine/PPE_2020-21.pdf

APPROVED ONLINE CONCUSSION EDUCATION COURSES

The following free online training courses have been approved by the Ohio Department of Health for coaches and contest officials: **National Federation of State High School Associations Concussion in Sports:**

<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/61151/concussion-in-sports>

This free online course is available through the NFHS. Complete a brief registration form to take the course. In addition:

1. Click the "order course" button to access the free concussion course. Continue following prompts. Although it may look like you will be charged for the course, there is no cost.
2. Once you've completed "Checkout," you will be able to take the free online course.
3. When you have completed and passed the course, you have the option of printing a certificate of completion.
4. All Ohio Officials should select this option to print, retain a copy of the certificate and carry it with them to all contests.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Heads Up Concussion in Youth Sports Online Training Program:

<https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/training/index.html>

PLEASE NOTE: Both courses offer a "certificate of completion" upon successful passage. The **NFHS course** allows organizations to search for and track coaches and other individuals such as contest officials who have completed the course, while the CDC course does not.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What are the "signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion?"

The National Federation rule lists some of the signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with a concussion. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has published the following list of signs, symptoms and behaviors that are consistent with a concussion:

SIGNS OBSERVED BY OTHERS

• Appears dazed or stunned • Is confused about assignment • Forgets plays • Is unsure of game score or opponent • Moves clumsily • Answers questions slowly • Loses consciousness • Shows behavior or personality changes • Cannot recall events prior to hit • Cannot recall after hit

SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY ATHLETE

• Headache • Nausea • Balance problems or dizziness • Double or fuzzy vision • Sensitivity to light or noise • Feeling sluggish • Feeling foggy or groggy • Concentration or memory problems • Confusion

2. Who is responsible for administering this rule? All individuals who have responsibilities and duties in the interscholastic athletics environment are responsible: coaches, contest officials, administrators, students, parents and medical personnel.

3. What is the role of coaches in administering this rule?

- Coaches are to review and know the signs and symptoms of concussion and to prohibit any athlete who displays these signs or symptoms from participating in a practice or a contest.
- Coaches are not medical professionals and have no authority to determine whether or not a student has sustained a concussion. The coach is responsible for insuring that the student's parents are notified and the student is referred to a medical professional.
- Coaches shall be aware that any student removed from a practice or a contest due to a suspected concussion or head injury **shall not return to participation on the same day as the removal.**

- Coaches shall possess a current Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit and shall take one of the approved online concussion courses upon renewal of the permit.

4. What is the role of contest officials in administering the rule?

- Officials are to review and know the signs and symptoms of concussion and to direct immediate removal of any student who displays these signs or symptoms. When informing the head coach about removal of an athlete, the official shall be accompanied by another (second) official if possible.
- An official **shall not permit the athlete who has been removed under this rule to return to competition that same day.**
- If a contest official is aware that a student has been permitted to return to competition on the same day as removal, that official shall immediately stop play and remove that student from competition and report the incident to the OHSAA.
- Note that officials are not medical professionals and have no authority to determine whether or not a student has sustained a concussion. The official is responsible for directing removal when he or she observes signs and symptoms that may indicate a student is concussed.
- All Officials shall possess either a current Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or shall complete one of the online concussion courses which are valid for three years from the date of completion.
- At initial licensure or renewal of the OHSAA officiating permit, the official shall indicate that he or she has either a current Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or has completed one of the approved online concussion courses.
- All officials should carry with them evidence of completion of one of these options at all times while officiating a contest.
- Officials are required to submit to the OHSAA the "OHSAA Concussion Report" within 48 hours whenever a student has been removed from a contest under this regulation.

5. What are the expectations of student-athletes in concussion management?

- While all individuals involved in the interscholastic athletics program have a responsibility to recognize the potential for catastrophic injury and even death from concussions, it is also the responsibility of student-athletes to recognize the signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with a concussion.
- Student-athletes who exhibit symptoms such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems, have the responsibility to report these immediately to their coach and/or health care professional. Teammates also share the responsibility to report these symptoms when they are exhibited by a fellow student-athlete.
- Student-athletes shall review and sign, on an annual basis, along with their parents or legal guardians, the Ohio Department of Health's Concussion Information Sheet found on the OHSAA website and at this link: https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports-Medicine/PPE_2020-21.pdf

6. Who decides if an athlete has not been concussed and/or who has recovered from a concussion?

- **Only** an M.D. (Medical Doctor), D.O. (Doctor of Osteopathy), or another health care provider approved by the school's Board of Education or other governing body who is acting in accordance with one of the following as applicable to the provider's authority to practice in Ohio:
 - 1) In consultation with a physician;
 - 2) Pursuant to the referral of a physician;
 - 3) In collaboration with a physician;
 - 4) Under the supervision of a physician is empowered to make the on-site determination that an athlete has not received a concussion. **Even if that determination has been made, however, the student may not return to practice or competition on the same day he/she has been removed from a practice or competition** (see No. 7 below).
- If any one of these physicians or authorized medical providers has answered that "yes" there has been a concussion, that decision is final.

7. Can an athlete return to play on the same day as he/she has been removed from a practice or competition for a suspected concussion?

- No, under no circumstances can that athlete return to play that day. • No coach or contest official shall allow a student to return to practice or to competition on any day after the initial removal until that student has been assessed and cleared for return with **written authorization** by a physician or licensed health care provider authorized by the school.
- If the event continues over multiple days, then the designated event physician has ultimate authority over return to play decisions.

8. Once the day has concluded, who can issue authorization to return to practice/competition in the sport for a student who has diagnosed with a concussion?

- Once a concussion has been diagnosed by a physician or other approved health care provider, only a physician or approved provider can authorize subsequent Return To Play (RTP), and such authorization shall be in writing to the administration of the school. This written **RTP authorization shall be kept at the school indefinitely** as a part of that student's permanent record. Go to the "Sports Medicine" section of the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org) to access the OHSAA "Medical Authorization to Return to Play" Form.
- School administration shall then notify the coach as to the permission to return to practice or play.

9. What should be done after the student is cleared by an appropriate health care professional?

- After a clearance has been issued, the student's actual return to practice and play should follow a graduated protocol.

• The National Federation of State High School Associations has included the following graduated protocol in its Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion in Sports: (**Note:** This is simply a suggested protocol. The appropriate health care professional who issues the clearance may wish to establish a different graduated protocol.)

NFHS SUGGESTED MEDICAL CLEARANCE RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL

1. No exertional activity until asymptomatic.
 2. When the athlete appears clear, begin low-impact activity such as walking, stationary bike, etc.
 3. Initiate aerobic activity fundamental to specific sport such as running or skating, and may also begin progressive strength training activities.
 4. Begin non-contact skill drills specific to sport such as dribbling, fielding, batting, etc.
 5. Full contact in practice setting.
 6. Game play/competition.
- Athlete must remain asymptomatic to progress to the next level. (It is often suggested that an athlete not be allowed to progress more than one level per day.)
 - If symptoms recur, athlete must return to previous level and should be reevaluated by an appropriate health care professional.
 - Medical check should occur before contact. (Final written clearance from the medical professional shall be obtained before the athlete engages in any unrestricted or full contact activity.)

QUICK LINKS FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Information for Coaches, Officials, Parents and Students, Plus Additional Resources –

<https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/child-injury-Prevention/youthconcussions/>

Ohio's Return to Play Law – <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/child-injury-prevention/resources/rtp-law>

ADDITIONAL CONCUSSION RESOURCES

Nationwide Children's Hospital – Concussion Information Toolkit <http://www.nationwidechildrens.org/concussion-toolkit>

CDC Materials on Returning to School for Parents, School Nurses and Educators

<https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/schools/index.html>

NEVER may a player who has been removed for a SUSPECTED concussion RE-ENTER a contest on the same day as an event.

NEVER

Wilson & Game Ball Information



Wilson is the official game ball for the OHSAA and is used at all REGIONAL and STATE games. Other National Federation (NFHS) approved balls are able to be used for regular season play and for tournament play at the Sectional & District levels. The approved Wilson ball is the "Forte FYBrid II" Please note that 'pink' (or other commemorative colored) balls are **not permitted** to be used when playing games for 'special occasions' such as "Kick for the Cure".

The Field

The following dimensions are **recommended**:

Junior High Fields (7-8): 100 yards long by 55 yards wide

Soccer Field Diagram

*Measurements are taken from outside to outside of the line.

If used on a football field, portable goals should be anchored at least 2 yards in front of the base of the existing football goalposts.

HASH MARK
1 yard in length, 6 inches beyond goal line and touch line, and 11 yards from corner located at each corner of field)

For information on recommended specifications for lighting, you may contact:
Illuminating Engineering Society of North America
345 East 47th Street
New York, NY 10017
212-248-5000

Dotted line is minimum boundary for spectators, fencing or any objects.

Except as specifically stated within the rules, any dimensions or other information in diagrams of fields is suggestive only; it is not required by NFHS rules. The construction and layout of all facilities used for high school competition are subject to any applicable laws and building codes, and to the sound judgments of the persons in charge of the facilities.

Touchline

Goal Line

Goal

Goal Area

Penalty Mark

Penalty Area

Optional Mark

Official Area

Training and Coaching Area

5' Spot

10 yd. Radius

Halfway Line
(Flags optional,
1 yd. outside
touch line on
both sides)

Touchline

1 yd. Radius

Pole: Minimum 1" diameter.
Flag: Minimum 9" high.
Install touching the outer edge
of the lines at the corner.

NOTE: An engineered natural turf soccer field should have a minimum of one-and-one-half percent (1.5%) slope for fields which are surface drained. For natural turf fields with a sub-surface drain system the slope should be no less than one (1.0%) percent. For synthetic turf fields with a sub-surface drain system the slope should be no less than one half of one (0.5%) percent. Slope is measured from center to side. For consulting services, contact SportsPLAN Studio, 816-842-5200.

NOTE: An engineered natural turf soccer field should have a minimum of one-and-one-half percent (1.5%) slope for fields which are surface drained. For natural turf fields with a sub-surface drain system the slope should be no less than one (1.0%) percent. For synthetic turf fields with a sub-surface drain system the slope should be no less than one half of one (0.5%) percent. Slope is measured from center to side. For consulting services, contact SportsPLAN Studio, 816-842-5200.

Game Management

In cooperation with Officials, the Information below is **also** provided to Athletic Administrators and Coaches relative to game management.

Placement of Teams: The Board of Directors strongly recommends that when possible, team benches be placed on opposite sides of the field. This will be at the direction of the home Athletic Department. When teams are placed on opposite sides of the field, the team area shall extend 10 yards from the halfway line on each side of the field of play. The home team shall supply a person who is situated at a table at the halfway line on each side of the field to signal substitutions. If time is kept at field level, the official time shall be kept on the home side.

Officials to Leave Immediately at End of Match: All contest officials are to leave the field immediately at the conclusion of the match. Supervision of all post-match activities of any nature is not the responsibility of the match officials. Supervision of all post-match activities is the responsibility of the authorized institutional representatives of the participating schools.

Administrator at Varsity Matches: The Board of Directors **strongly** recommends that a school administrator be present at all varsity boys' and girls' soccer matches. Coaches should note (and be prepared) that when no school administrator is present at games, they should be prepared to deal with administrative issues such as Crisis Management Plans, etc.

Lightning and Inclement Weather

(OHSA Sports Regulation)



These guidelines provide a default policy to those responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of practices and contests based on the presence of lightning or thunder. The preferred sources from which to request such a policy for your facility would include the nearest office of the National Weather Service.

Proactive Planning

1. Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during practices and contests.
2. Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safer areas, and determine the amount of time needed to get everyone to the designated safer area:
 - a.) designated safer place is a substantial building with plumbing and wiring where people live or work, such as a school, gymnasium or library. An alternate safer place from the threat of lightning is a fully enclosed (not convertible or soft top) metal car or school bus.
3. Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:
 - a.) When thunder is heard or lightning is seen*, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for at least 30 minutes and vacate the outdoor activity to the previously designated safer location immediately.
 - b.) 30-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or lightning is witnessed* prior to resuming play.
 - c.) Any subsequent thunder or lightning* after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
 - d.) When lightning-detection devices or mobile phone apps are available, this technology could be used to assist in making a decision to suspend play if a lightning strike is noted to be within 10 miles of the event location. However, you should never depend on the reliability of these devices and, thus, hearing thunder or seeing lightning* should always take precedence over information from a mobile app or lightning-detection device.

*At night, under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it may be safe to continue an event. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low on the horizon, the storm may not pose a threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty.

4. Review the lightning safety policy annually with all administrators, coaches and game personnel and train all personnel.
5. Inform student-athletes and their parents of the lightning policy at the start of the season.

Suspended and Complete Matches

Every fall, Ohio weather brings attention to the **Official NFHS Rule** regarding Duration and Length of Games (Rule 7.1.3, page 36 of the 2021-22 NFHS Rules Book).

NFHS 7.1.3 states:

...In the event a game must be suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue play, the head referee shall declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been played. If less than one-half of the game has been played, the game may be rescheduled from the start or restarted from the suspension of play according to state association adoption [18.1.1(pp)].

Important Notes Regarding Rule 7.1.3:

- Weather and lack of sufficient lighting are conditions that *normally* make it impossible to continue play.
- ANY time a complete half is played and conditions make it impossible to continue play, **the game is considered complete and the score is FINAL. FINAL.**
- Games that are unable to be completed and a complete half is played **cannot be completed at a later date.**
- Games that are unable to be completed and a complete half has **NOT** been played: the game shall resume from the exact point of suspension. Coaches/game personnel should make note of time on clock, position of ball, etc. The game is **NOT replayed from the opening kickoff.**

The NFHS does not provide for 'State Adoptions,' here, so, League or Conference Rules may **NOT** override this NFHS Rule.

Noisemakers, Vuvuzelas....Pep Bands?

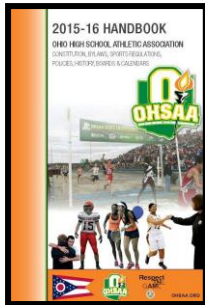
Those in attendance at last season's State Tournament witnessed the increased fan support for high school soccer in Ohio. Pep Bands **ARE PERMITTED** at soccer games. Horns that pep band members have are NOT considered compressed air horns. The World Cup has made the 'Vuvuzela' popular and while many may consider them *annoying*, they ARE permitted at soccer games. There are several leagues/conferences that HAVE made regulations prohibiting various noisemakers and they ARE permitted to create and enforce that rule for league/conference contests.

Compressed air horns and horns connected to outside power sources are **NOT permitted** at contests.

Friday Night Futbol!

This year, the OHSAA's Board of Directors accepted a recommendation to change the start date of soccer contests to Friday, August 13, with the hope and encouragement that schools will participate in our "Friday Night Futbol" initiative. This initiative, which the Columbus Crew SC has become a partner, is simply an encouragement for schools to play a soccer game 'under the lights' where possible on the first Friday of the school year. High school fOOTball does not begin until the following week. Please note that for these games, we are permitting halftimes to be extended with the additional encouragement for high school bands to perform at halftime of their games. At the time of this printing, there are MANY schools that have chosen to participate and we anticipate great media coverage for the various contests around the state.

OHSAA's General Sports Regulations



School teams, student-athletes and coaches are bound by regulations that are approved by the OHSAA's Board of Directors on an annual basis. Such items as "number of contests", "number of halves per day of participation", etc. are examples of these regulations. These regulations are detailed for coaches in THEIR pre-season Coaches' Guide and the basis for their Rules Interpretations. Which is the main reason we have separate rules meetings for Officials and Coaches.

It is NOT the responsibility of OHSAA Officials to enforce or interpret the OHSAA's Sports Regulations

The Uniform Rules for Soccer



1. The **SOLID WHITE RULE** is for **VISITORS' JERSEYS** and **SOCKS** only.
2. This is no requirement for the **SHORTS** to be all white (Uniform rules do not address color of shorts)

4.1.1(a) The visiting team shall wear solid white jerseys and solid white socks, and the home team shall wear dark jerseys and socks (dark is defined as any color which contrasts with white).

4.1.1(h)(1) All jerseys, including the goalkeeper's jersey, shall be numbered on the back with a different Arabic number at least 6 inches in height and on the front (jersey or shorts) with the same number which shall be at least 4 inches in height. Numbers shall be of a solid contrasting color to the jersey (or shorts) and clearly visible.

4.1.1(h)(2) Only those names, patches, emblems, logos or insignias referencing the school are permitted on the team jersey and/or shorts, as well as on visible undergarments and goalkeeper pants, except as in 4.1.1(e). The player's name may also appear on the team uniform.

NONE of these jerseys meet the visitors' current NFHS Uniform Rule Requirements:



OBVIOUSLY, the intent of any rule is to COMPLY with the rule.

In the event a team's uniforms do not comply, officials in Ohio are instructed to:

1. **PLAY THE GAME. PLAY THE GAME. PLAY THE GAME.** Games should never be 'cancelled' because the officials deem the uniforms unacceptable or noncompliant. **PLAY THE GAME.**
2. Submit a report to the OHSAA via the normal reporting system. The OHSAA will follow-up with the report and inquire as to the school's uniform rotation, etc.
3. **Officials should understand that the solid white jersey and socks apply only at the varsity level.**

Tape, Straps & Stays on Socks

A common trend has already been noted to use tape, straps or stays on socks to create an 'artificial' stripe. By NFHS rule, **any tape, strap or stay on the sock must also be similar in color to that part of the sock to which it is applied, NF 4.1.1(b).** This was a Point of Emphasis way back in 2015!

TEAM Uniforms & “Special Event” Games

The OHSAA is certainly supportive of the many ‘special events’ coaches and teams assist with for local charities. “Kick for the Cure” has been one of several different ‘special events’ that teams across Ohio have become involved in. A few important notes for those participating in those events:

Special Uniforms

Requests often are received by schools to permit alternate uniforms for participating in games that have a charitable tie. The OHSAA’s policy as recommended by the NFHS is to permit such requests one time with number requirements still intact. Though the use of a pink jersey may be permitted for a home game, the “number requirements” outlined in Article 1 of Rule 4 must comply with NFHS regulations. Any requests should be made utilizing the Request Form located in the back of this manual OR online at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/SOspecialeventuniformrequest.pdf>. Once Waiver Requests are approved, they will be returned to the school and a copy should be made available for contest officials. Coaches/School Administration should notify the opposing school as well as the contest officials in advance.

2021 OFFICIAL’S Required Uniform

C. Required Uniform

- i. Each soccer official is required to have the new, solid, U.S. Soccer yellow and green jerseys, both long and short sleeves. These are the required OHSAA jerseys.
- ii. The referee crew, with the approval of the head referee, may wear the red, black or blue solid U.S. Soccer referee jerseys rather than the gold or green U.S. Soccer referee jersey, provided that all officials wear the same color and sleeve length and the jersey contrasts with all field players of both teams. All officials are to wear the same color and sleeve length.
- iii. All-black shorts which may contain the U.S. Soccer logo.
- iv. Black socks with two or three white rings.
- v. Predominantly black shoes and laces.
- vi. An all-black baseball cap may be worn.
- vii. The OHSAA soccer official’s patch shall be worn on the left breast pocket. No other logos, patches, emblems or numbers are permitted on the uniform. **Exception:** An American Flag patch/emblem is optional and, if worn, shall be on the left sleeve approximately two inches below the shoulder with the star field facing to the front.
- viii. Jewelry shall not be worn except for a wedding band and/or a medical alert necklace or bracelet. A religious medallion which is not visible is permitted. A watch is permitted only when an official has a duty for timing during the contest.



Officials’ Code of Ethics

(From www.ohsaa.org and the OHSAA Handbook for Officials)

V. Officiating Code of Ethics

Schools have entrusted the OHSAA and sports officials to assist them in the education and development of their youth through athletics. The proper operation of such a process requires that officials be independent, impartial and responsible to people they serve. In recognition of these expectations there is hereby established a Code of Ethics for all officials. The purpose of the code is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all officials.

- An Official must devote time, thought and study to the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to carry out these rules so that one may render effective and creditable service in a fair and unbiased manner.

- An Official must work with fellow officials and the state association in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that may arise during debate of issues.
- An Official must resist every temptation and outside pressure to use one's position as an official to benefit oneself. Under all circumstances, officials must avoid promoting the special interest of any person or group of persons other than the athletes we serve.
- An Official must constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the officiating industry in all personal conduct and relations with student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public, to be a worthy example to the athletes under one's jurisdiction.
- An Official will be prepared both physically and mentally, dress according to expectations of sport standards, and maintain a proper appearance that is befitting the importance of the game.
- An Official shall avoid the use of tobacco and tobacco products at the contest site.
- An Official shall not consume alcohol (or any illegal/illicit drug or controlled substance) prior to or during the contest.
- An Official must remember and recognize that it is important to honor contracts regardless of possible inconvenience or financial loss. Every member of the officiating profession carries a responsibility to act in a manner becoming a professional person. The conduct of any official influences the attitude of the public toward the profession in general as well as toward the official in particular.
- An Official shall not delay the process of completing and returning paperwork provided by a site needed to process the game payments and will provide a W-9 when requested.



Coaches' Code of Ethics

From the NFHS Soccer Rules Book

The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. An interscholastic program should be designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each student should be treated with the utmost respect and his or her welfare should be considered in decisions by the coach at all times. Accordingly, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the NFHS Board of Directors.

The Coach shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.

The Coach shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with students, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

The Coach shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse.

The Coach shall avoid the use of alcohol and tobacco products when in contact with players.

The Coach shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct the program in harmony with the total school program.

The Coach shall master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team members. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.

The Coach shall exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.

The Coach shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

The Coach should meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the event before and after the contest.

The Coach shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give students special consideration.

The Coach shall not scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the league and/or state high school athletic association.

Important Sports' Medical Information

The safety of our student-athletes is of utmost concern at all times. Information regarding the following important topics can be found at the OHSAA's "Healthy Lifestyles and Sports Medicine" webpage at <http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/default.asp>. Additional information listed below relative to various equipment and rules relative to medical issues can be found in the following pages of this Officials' Guide.

- Heat Stress and Athletic Participation
- Recommendations for Hydration to Prevent Heat Illness
- Suggested Guidelines for Management of Head Trauma in Sports
- Links to the following sites:
 - Joint Advisory Committee on Sports Medicine
 - Ohio Athletic Trainers Association
 - American Medical Society for Sports Medicine
 - Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth
 - National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA)
 - Gatorade Sports Science Institute News

Heat Stress & Athletic Participation

HEAT ACCLIMATIZATION AND EXERTIONAL HEAT ILLNESS PREVENTION

The following information should be reviewed with coaching and sports medicine staff prior to any interscholastic practice this August. Please remember that there are four OHSAA sports that have a required acclimatization period prior to the commencing of any contests or physical contact, which is the case for football. The other sports are boys' and girls' cross country and 7-8th grade track and field, which require a minimum of 10 days of interscholastic practice prior to any competition for a student. The following is the regulation that addresses the mandatory five-day period in football.

Five Days of Acclimatization Required — *Acclimatization is a period of time when players can become accustomed to the heat and humidity. Health professionals recommend at least a five-day period. All football candidates must participate in five days of pre-season, non-contact acclimatization prior to any physical contact. No pads may be worn on the first two days. Shorts, helmets, shoes may be worn. Shoulder pads may be added on day three and four, but no contact is permitted. Full equipment may be worn on the fifth day, but contact is prohibited. Candidates reporting late must participate in five days of non-contact acclimatization. This rule applies to all school teams from grades 7-12.*

All coaching and medical staff personnel shall observe the following precautions for **all sports competed outdoors and/or in a hot, humid environment**:

- **Stress to participants the importance of properly hydrating** themselves during the day leading up to the contest, and also to drink 8-to-12 ounces of water or sport drinks 20 minutes prior to the contest. This practice can help prevent problems during practice and contests.

- **Schools should have unlimited amounts of water** and sport drinks on hand during a contest, and coaches in team sports should be prepared to play a lot of players rather than just the starters.

- **Contest officials are permitted to establish predetermined breaks** during a contest, such as halfway through each period. At that time players can drink water and remove their equipment, which should also take place at halftime (the more skin that is exposed, the more cooling that can take place). **This provision applies to all sports.**

- **NFHS football playing rules allow the referee to shorten periods** per mutual agreement by the opposing coaches. In addition, by mutual agreement a game may be terminated at any time.

- **Contest managers are advised to monitor conditions** for others affiliated with the contest, like cheerleaders, band members, coaches, officials and especially spectators.

- **In football, if schools decide NOT to play a contest, it becomes an open date for both.** If one school desires to play but the other does not, there are no forfeits involved. Again, it would become an open date for both schools. However, schools do have the option to reschedule contests, and OHSAA regulations do permit schools to play more than one contest per week. There also are no OHSAA regulations that prohibit games from being played on Sundays. The same concepts apply to all other OHSAA sports.

- **Know both the Temperature and Humidity.** The greater the humidity, the more difficult it is for the body to cool itself. Test the air prior to practice or a game using a wet bulb, globe, temperature index (WBGT index) which is based on the combined effects of air temperature, relative humidity, radiant heat and air movement. The following precautions are recommended when using the WBGT Index: (ACSM's Guidelines for the Team Physician, 1991):

Below 64 - Unlimited activity

65-72 - Moderate risk

74-82 - High Risk

82 plus - Very high risk

One other method of measuring the relative humidity is the use of a sling psychrometer, which measures wet bulb temperature. The wet bulb temperature should be measured prior to practice, and the intensity and duration of practice should be adjusted accordingly.

Recommendations are as follows:

Under 60 F Safe but always observe athletes

61-65 F Observe players carefully

66-70 F Caution

71-75 F Shorter practice sessions and more frequent water and rest breaks

75+ F Danger level and extreme caution

The OHSAA advises careful monitoring of the weather and plans to modify training and competition including:

1.) Modification of equipment, if applicable to the sport;

2.) Allowance for more frequent rest breaks and the use of shaded areas for those breaks;

3.) Modification of practice time;

4.) Availability of water always;

5.) Availability of cold water immersion tubs for onsite cooling;

6.) If exertional heat stroke is suspected, immediate onsite cooling using cold water immersion before transport by EMS, and

7.) Review and practice of the OHSAA's recommended Emergency Action Plan, "Anyone Can Save

A Life," or similar plan for all sports teams with special emphasis on the heat illness section.

OHSAA Media Regulation

Section 3. — Regular Season and OHSAA Tournament Contests

Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones)

a.) For purposes of this policy, an unmanned aerial vehicle ("UAV"), commonly known as a drone, is any aircraft without a human pilot aboard the device.

b.) The use of drones can only be authorized by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). If a license is granted to an individual by the FCC for use of a drone and that authorization is verified, it is the responsibility of each local school district to establish additional policies for the use of drones during home regular season contests (including previews and scrimmages) and practices.

c.) The use of drones is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at OHSAA tournament contests or practices beginning an hour before the scheduled start time to an hour after the contest ends. At tournament contests, if management discovers that a drone is being used, management shall attempt to locate the operator to have the drone removed from the facility area, but the contest shall not be delayed. Management shall remove anyone attempting to use a drone and/or confiscate

the drone until the event has been completed

Note: An exception to this policy may be made in specific cases for the OHSA's official television partner or official photographer, provided the operator of the drone is licensed by the FCC, that authorization can be verified and the management of the tournament facility permits the presence of drones for broadcast purposes under the control of the OHSA.

Comments by Coaches to News Media

B. Coaches' and Participants' Comments to the News Media

OHSA Bylaw 8, Section 2, reads in part, "Great care shall be exercised in the selection of officials, well in advance of the contest and agreed upon by schools involved. When the contest begins each school waives all of its rights so far as objecting to the officials." Public criticism of officials is a direct reflection upon those who were responsible for assigning the officials to the game.

Officials are trained and expected to make no derogatory public comments directly to the media or through the use of social media regarding other officials, the players, coaches or schools. Coaches and participants are expected to follow the same procedure and make no derogatory public comments directly to the media or through the use of social media regarding not only the officials, but also the players, coaches or schools. Failure to follow this request will result in penalties as outlined in Bylaw 11.

Equipment/Safety Information

Headgear

Please note, the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee has concluded that, "While padded headbands may assist in reducing the incidence of abrasions, the risk of concussions and other serious head injuries will remain a concern in the sport of soccer. A head band is not a substitute for an appropriate post-injury recuperative period."

In 2017-2018, the NFHS promulgated NFHS 4.2.9: Soft-padded headgear is permitted.

Notes:

1. The use of soft-padded soccer headgear is permitted but not required. Schools, parents and students are free to make their own assessments relative to this piece of equipment. The relevant ASTM standard can be found at www.astm.org/Standards/F2439.htm.
2. No headgear can stop athletes from suffering concussions, and all sports should be played, coached and officiated in recognition of that fact. (Appendix C, page 107)

4.2.9 SITUATION (2017): During pregame warmup, the referee observes A5 is wearing (a) soft-padded headband; (b) soft-padded headgear of an approved material. **RULING:** (a) and (b) are legal. **COMMENT:** The use of a soft-padded soccer headband or headgear is permitted but not required.

2017 NFHS Points of Emphasis #1 Headgear: Though not required equipment, soft-padded headgear is permitted to be used by any soccer player. The SMAC emphasizes that there is no research or data available that shows that wearing soft-padded headgear prevents or lessens the possibility of a concussion. The determination regarding wearing soft-padded headgear is entirely up to the individual or school district. Schools, parents and students are free to make their own assessments relative to this piece of equipment. The relevant ASTM standard for the soft-padded headband can be found at www.astm.org/Standards/F2439.htm.

2017 NFHS Comments on the Rules: The use of soft-padded headgear is now permitted but not required. The change provides an expanded scope of the use of headwear to include soft padded headgear and headbands. Coaches, parents and players are able to make their own assessment on the need to use headwear.

Protective Facemasks

RULE 4.2.8: "A protective face mask may be worn by a player with a facial injury. The mask may be made of a hard material, but must be worn molded to the face. A medical release for the injured player signed by an appropriate health care professional shall be available at the game site."

NFHS Soccer Rules Committee Rationale: "Permits participation by an injured player when a doctor signs a release. Masks protect the player and do not pose a threat to other players."

NFHS Comments on the Rules (from 2006-07): “Prior to this rule [i.e., NFHS 4.2.8], face protection of any kind was declared illegal. Manufacturers have now developed protection for the face that is safe to the player wearing it and to other players. The committee is concerned that players would play without protection, putting them at serious risk. This new rule allows players to play as long as they have a medical release from an appropriate health care professional. Officials still have the authority to declare any equipment illegal if it is dangerous or confusing.”

NFHS Press Release, from February 2, 2006: “Rule 4-2-8 was added so that players who have incurred facial injuries can continue to play without fear of re-injury. This rule was made possible as a result of new technology in protective face masks. ‘The new masks are molded to the face... , providing no additional risks to the player or opponents, and are legal with appropriate medical sign-offs,’ said Bob Lombardi, chair of the NFHS Soccer Rules Committee and associate executive director of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association. According to Lombardi, this new rule will also prevent players with facial injuries from continuing to play with no protection.”

Shinguards

All players are required to wear shinguards with the NOCSAE seal **and height range permanently marked** on the **front of each** shinguard.

- **Shinguards** need NOT have the NFHS seal on them.



OHSAA State Association Adoptions



The National Federation identifies certain rules that may or may not be adopted by each state's Athletic Association. These are known as “state adoptions”. These state adoptions are identified below and the OHIO High School Athletic Association's adoption is indicated for each.

1. **Commemorative or memorial patches may be worn on the jersey for special occasions, not to exceed 4 square inches [4.1.1(f)].—Adopted in Ohio.** Schools must apply, using form at end of this manual.
2. **Players may wear caps in inclement weather** (NFHS 4-2-1h Exception 2) – **Adopted in Ohio**
Players may wear soft and yielding caps in inclement weather. Caps must be the same color.
3. **Artificial limbs** (NFHS 4-2-5) – **Adopted in Ohio**
The coach or athletic administrator must request permission in writing from the OHSAA in order to secure permission for the prosthesis to be worn during play. Photos of the prosthesis in place on the individual must accompany the written request. Once it has been determined that the prosthesis meets the guidelines in NFHS 4-2-5, written permission will be provided. No student may play with an artificial limb until such permission has been granted.
4. **Systems of Officiating** (NFHS 5-1-1) – **Adopted in Ohio**
The game officials shall be a head referee and a referee (dual system of officiating), a head referee and two assistant referees (diagonal system of officiating), or a center referee and two side referees (double dual system of officiating) assisted by a timer, scorer and at least two ball holders. An additional fourth official can also be used for the three referee systems (see fourth official sample guidelines). Note: Schools may choose a system by prior agreement.
5. **Officials' Shirt Color** (NFHS 5-1-3) – **Adopted in Ohio**
The officiating uniform for soccer officials is provided in the OHSAA Handbook for Officials, on our website (www.ohsaa.org) and within this manual. The uniform indicated shall be worn in all OHSAA games, preseason, regular season and the entire post-season tournament.
6. **Time kept on field** (NFHS 6-2-1) – **Adopted in Ohio** (in part)

The home school timer shall be the official timer. However, the head referee is permitted, at his/her discretion, to take the clock onto the field when the timer has failed in his/her duty so many times as to imperil match control.

7. **Score kept by referee** (NFHS 6-3-1) – **NOT Adopted in Ohio**
8. **Fourth Official as scorer** (NFHS 6-3-3) – **NOT Adopted in Ohio**
Refer to OHSA tournament regulations for additional information regarding use of fourth officials during tournament play.
9. **Four equal quarters rather than halves** (NFHS 7-1-1) – **NOT adopted in Ohio**
10. **Shortened periods** (NFHS 7-1-2) – **NOT Adopted in Ohio**
11. **Suspended games** (NFHS 7-1-3) – **Adopted in Ohio**
In the event a game must be suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue play, the head referee shall declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been played. **Per OHSA Board adopted policy**, if less than one half has been completed, the game may be restarted from the point of suspension of play.

Tournament games interrupted because of events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority shall be continued from the point of suspension. Any ejected player or coach cannot participate in the resumed game. Teams playing short will continue to play short. NFHS 7-1-3 is not in effect for tournament games.
12. **Goal differential** (NFHS 7-1-5) – **Adopted in Ohio, 2021 OHSA Soccer Reg. 12(A)(1.7): 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.
13. **Regular Season Overtime procedure** (NFHS 7-3-1) – **NOT adopted in Ohio**
NFHS 7-3-1 refers to overtime procedures during regular season play. No overtime procedures will be conducted during regular season play in Ohio.
14. **Disqualified player barred from competition** (NFHS 12-8-3 Note) – **Adopted in Ohio**
Refer to OHSA Soccer Regulations for specific penalties for disqualified or ejected players and / or coaches.
15. **Sample Tie-Breaking Procedure** – **Adopted in Ohio, in part**
Please refer to "Game Procedures: Tournament Overtime Procedures", above.
16. **Incidental Use of Vulgar or Profane Language** (12.8.1(d) NOTE) – **Not adopted in Ohio**
17. **Sample Fourth Official/duties** – **Adopted in Ohio, in part for post-season tournament play only**

Soccer Player and Coach Ejection Protocol

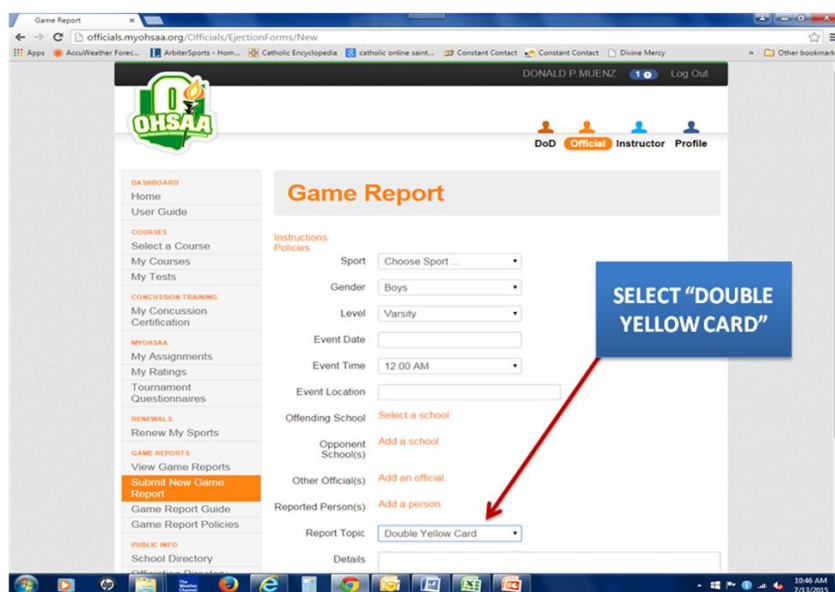
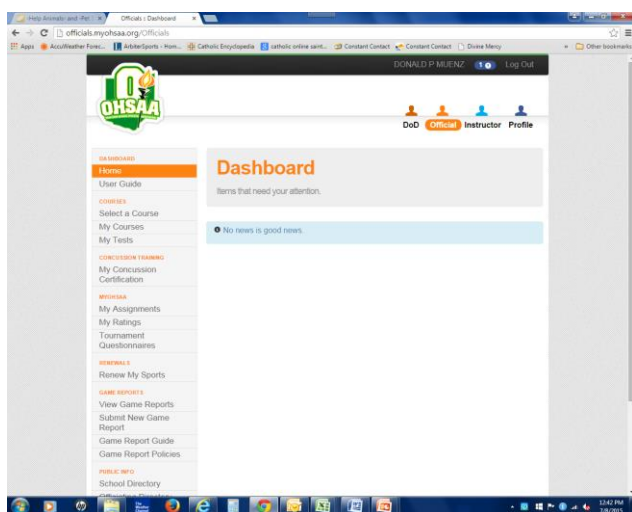
ALL PLAYER and COACH EJECTIONS ARE FINAL

No later than noon of the first SCHOOL day following an ejection, the officials are required to make contact with the Athletic Director or Principal of the violator's school to advise the administration of the ejection. Contact may be made with a school administrator after the match. Also, upon a disqualification or ejection, the official **files a report ONLINE in the myOHSA system with the OHSA**. Since the procedures listed below are all triggered by the submission of the Officials' Report online, officials are penalized in accordance with OHSA adopted policies in the event they do not submit the report. After this written report that includes narrative is submitted:

- **The report is automatically sent electronically to the OHSA and copies to the school's Athletic Director.**

- The school's Athletic Director is required to submit a reply that includes the school and coach/player side of the events/ejection/disqualification.
- In the submitted reply from the school's Athletic Director, he/she is required to submit the coach's email address
- Upon the Athletic Director's submission of the "Response Form", an email is sent to the ejected coach explaining the consequences (below) of the ejection:
 - An ejected coach is suspended from ALL GAMES for the remainder of the day of the ejection PLUS ALL GAMES UNTIL THE REQUISITE NUMBER OF GAMES AT THE LEVEL OF THE EJECTION ARE COMPLETED. For example, a JV coach ejected from a JV contest cannot coach a JV OR Varsity contest until the requisite number of JV contests have been played.
 - Ejected coaches must also pay a \$100.00 fine and complete the National Federation of State High School Association's (NFHS) "Teaching and Modeling Behavior" course within 30 days of the ejection. The payment of the fine is completed with an online payment per the instructions provided to the coach on the email he/she receives that is triggered by submission of the School Response Form.
 - Consequences of ejections are to be enforced by the school administration and served by coaches/players even if the above protocol is not completed.

1. All Scrimmage Ejections MUST be Reported
2. All Subsequent Cautions MUST be Reported



Specific Soccer Ejection Policy Explanations

- The Ejection Policy for players now permits the individual player to be on the bench and in the locker room area during the period of suspension. The suspended player, as a result of an ejection, is not permitted to be in any school warm-up or uniform during the time of suspension and is strictly prohibited from being on the field during pre-game or halftime warm-up time.

Specific Card Procedures

Straight RED CARD

- Given to player, coach or bench personnel under NF 12-8-2(a), -(b), -(d), -(e), -(f), -(g); to a coach under NF 12.8.3; to coach, player or bench personnel under OHSAA Tobacco Regulation for tobacco use or to a player under OHSAA Soccer Regulation 12(A)(1.1) for playing more than three halves in one day or more than 42 halves in one season.
- A red card only is displayed.
- The official is required to submit the online Game Report and follow the Ejection Protocol.
- The ejected individual is also prohibited from playing, coaching or participating in any match for the rest of the day of the ejection.

- The ejected coach or player is suspended from all matches until **the requisite number of** matches at the level of the ejection have been played.
- The number of players on the field is reduced for a straight red card given to a player.

The SUBSEQUENT CAUTION or “DOUBLE YELLOW” for Players, Coaches and Bench Personnel

- Given to a player, coach or bench personnel for a second yellow-card offense in the same match, under NF12-8-2(c).
- The disqualified person is prohibited from participation in the remainder of the match and the remainder of the day.
- The disqualified person is ineligible for all levels of soccer until one match has been played at the level of the disqualification. For example, a jv player is disqualified in the jv (i.e., the first) match of a jv-varsity doubleheader. That player would not be eligible to participate in the second (i.e., varsity) match that day, and would also be ineligible for all levels of soccer until one jv match has been played.
- The disqualified coach is subject to an OHSAA fine and required online education.
- A person disqualified under NF 12.8.2(c) is NOT considered “ejected” for purposes of OHSAA Regulations.
- The yellow card is first displayed and returned to the pocket. The red card is then displayed and returned to the pocket.
- **A Game Report is required and the official must follow the Ejection Protocol.**
- **The school MUST be contacted by the official.**
- Number of players on the field **IS** reduced for a “double yellow” or subsequent caution to a player.

Sportsmanship

NFHS Sportsmanship Mission Statement

Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. The ideals of sportsmanship apply equally to all activity disciplines. Individuals, regardless of their role in activities, are expected to be aware of their influence on the behavior of others and model good sportsmanship.

The OSSCA & Sportsmanship

Good Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association (OSSCA) stands tall in its commitment to good sportsmanship. The school-based experience is one that affords tremendous opportunities to student-athletes that they will remember for a lifetime. Those experiences are dependent on the role model the head coach provides. The OSSCA encourages all coaches to exhibit behavior that serves as a role model for the student-athletes we serve. In conjunction with the OHSAA's Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity (SEI) Committee, the OHSCA annually selects a recipient of the SEI Award.

The Official's Role in Sportsmanship

In 2004 the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO) conducted a survey of 550 sports officials and asked “*what is the number-one problem in our games today?*” Not too surprising, the number one response was “Poor Sportsmanship”. As a result, the NASO brought together some of the best and brightest in youth, high school, collegiate and pro sports to examine the issue and explore the official's role in promoting positive on-field behavior. The results were published in the book at the right and identified 3 critical ideas:

1. What is at Stake
2. What is Expected, and,
3. What steps to Take



As a result, the following are important results of this study and publication:

1. 65% of respondents indicated their respective associations do not do *enough* to help improve sportsmanship.
2. 89% of officials responding consider themselves PARTNERS with players, coaches and administrators in improving sportsmanship.
3. 54% of officials responding indicated they felt they DO have the training, authority and knowledge to make an impact.

The conclusion:

Sportsmanship is EVERYONE'S job and we are all partners in this endeavor.

Special Note on Sportsmanship

Expectations need to be placed on team members relative to sporting behavior. High School soccer continues to grow and improve each and every year. I urge coaches to be at the forefront of setting examples of behavior and translating that into expectations for their student-athletes. It is good for the game and will allow the continued growth of soccer.

During my years administrating sports, I have 'heard it all' and the most common response from ejected coaches is "*I was only sticking up for my players*". I can assure you that NO official has ever set out to degrade or disrespect the game of soccer and we ALL need to remember that the game is 'for the players.' I continue to urge you to keep that at the forefront of the leadership and guidance you are entrusted with. Two areas of concern that have arisen in the past few years that coaches can assist:

Warm Up at Conclusion of JV Game

During the first game of a 'doubleheader' night (JV game or the boys/girls' playing prior to the second game), teams will often begin their warm-up prior to the conclusion of the first game. This often leads to a team 'circling the field' prior to the first game ending. We are discouraging this as nearly 30 minutes are provided as ample time for warm-up when the game concludes. Additionally, there are growing sportsmanship issues with players unsupervised as they cross paths with opponents' team areas. This is an area that COACHES can assist with.

Running over to Fans at the Conclusion of a Game

Yes, it may be an 'accepted' thing...a 'soccer thing'; a team runs across the field together to the opposite touch line at the conclusion of a game to share the joy of victory with other students. But...we are encountering more and more acts of unsporting behavior that occurs when fans of the OTHER team are in that same area. Please utilize your leadership role and prevent issues before they occur. Address this frequently with team members.



The OHSAA & Sportsmanship

As we prepare for the upcoming seasons, the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) wishes to emphasize to each of you the importance of your leadership role in the promotion of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity. The professional manner in which officials and coaches conduct themselves prior to, during and following a contest unquestionably impacts the behavior of others who may be involved.

The OHSAA has joined the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) in its quest to improve sportsmanship, ethics and integrity. We are involved in an ongoing campaign in every sport to do just that. Printed below is the mission statement of the NFHS concerning sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity. Please take the time to read and digest this statement and then carefully consider your impact upon students, officials, coaches, and fans. Thank you and have a great season!

The Ohio High School Athletic Association challenges all of us in the soccer community to take positive steps toward the goal of attaining the high ideal of good sportsmanship. It is the responsibility of each of us to serve as a positive role model and set high expectations for others.

Roxanne Price
Assistant Commissioner

ADMINISTRATORS

Athletic departments are comprehensive, pre-eminent teaching departments with a subject matter all their own: self-confidence, leadership, teamwork, discipline, perseverance, respect for others, strategic thinking, dedication, the importance of rules, and sportsmanship. These are true life lessons and participation in athletics provides another forum for learning. Coaches and Officials are responsible for promoting sportsmanship and positive behavior on the field. Administrators, we need your continued assistance in promoting sportsmanship and controlling fan behavior in the stands! Let the parents and fans know what you expect!

COACHES

Your athletes will demonstrate the attitudes and behaviors they have learned from you, either through direct instruction or through observation of your actions. ***Never underestimate the influence you have on your players!*** You must:

- Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
- Set a good example for players and spectators to follow.

- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will serve to create a positive impression of you and your team.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Develop a program that rewards participants and spectators for displaying proper sportsmanship and enforces penalties on those who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.

It is difficult to develop a great finisher, a great centerback or a great goalkeeper. That is true. However, your greatest challenge is to develop mature young adults who will become great citizens and role models in your community.

OFFICIALS

Your job is not an easy one, but the official must be aware that they are an important component in the educational development of students. To carry out this responsibility, you must:

- Know the rules and mechanics of our sport and the philosophy behind them.
- Get fit and stay fit. An official with all of the rules and mechanics knowledge and people skills in the world does no good if he or she cannot physically keep up with play.
- Maintain professional and ethical relationships with athletic administrators, especially in the area of fulfilling game contracts.
- Work cooperatively with fellow officials during games and within the referees' association to improve members' performances.
- Maintain at all times and when interacting with all participants, an attitude of civility and professionalism.
- Practice effective preventive officiating as much as possible before, during, and after a match. The quiet word, proper signals, timely verbal instructions, a simple thank-you to a player for avoiding an unsporting act, and well-thought-out pre-game conferences with the teams and other game officials will result in an improvement of sportsmanship by eliminating the chance for things to go wrong.

STUDENT-ATHLETES

You serve as a role model for your younger siblings, young fans in the stands, your teammates, and your classmates. Set high expectations for everyone and help them follow-through! You must:

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility, and the privilege of representing your school and the community.
- Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with others. This will assist everyone in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Treat opponents as you would like to be treated.....with respect.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will serve to create a positive impression of you and your team.

CONCLUSION

Good sportsmanship is everyone's responsibility. It is the essence of interscholastic athletics. Remember...some may question an official's call or a coach's substitution, but no one can question the value of good sportsmanship.

Sportsmanship Online Resources

On the OHSAA's "Respect the Game" pages you will find **Fair Play Codes** for athletes, coaches, and fans, as well as additional information regarding **parents' role in interscholastic athletics**. The sportsmanship page also includes information about the Harold A. Meyer Sportsmanship Award and the Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award. Please feel free to contact us with any additional questions. Please take time to visit this from the OHSAA's website along with MANY helpful items previously mentioned on the NFHSlearn website at www.nfhslearn.com.