



Ohio High School Athletic Association

TO: Soccer Coaches and Directors of Athletics

FROM: Kate Barnett, Sport Administrator

DATE: June 28, 2021

SUBJECT: Boys and Girls Soccer Summer Update

STAFF UPDATE

My name is Kate Barnett, and I wanted to introduce myself as the new sport administrator for boys and girls soccer at the OHSAA. Prior to moving to Columbus, I served as the Assistant Commissioner for Championships at the Ohio Valley Conference (NCAA Division I FCS) located in Brentwood, TN. I have spent most of my career within college athletics but am excited for this new opportunity to serve at the high school level. I am a northeast Ohio native and graduated from Lakeview High School in Cortland. I look forward to serving and working with all of you!

IMPORTANT DATES

July 22	Online State Rules Interpretation information is available
Aug. 1	First Day of Coaching
Aug. 2	First Day H.S. Preview Permitted
Aug. 13	Friday Night Futbol
Aug. 20	First date of competition
Sept. 6	Non-Interscholastic Date
Oct. 10	OHSAA Tournament Draw
Oct. 18-23	Sectional Tournament
Oct. 25-30	District Tournament
Nov. 2-6	Regional Tournament
Nov. 9	Girls Soccer State Semifinals
Nov. 10	Boys Soccer State Semifinals
Nov. 12	Girls State Finals
Nov. 13	Boys State Finals

OHSAA BOARD APPROVED UPDATES

Out of state travel: Per Bylaw 9-2-1 below, a form is required for a team to travel out of state to any location that does not border Ohio.

Bylaw 9-2-1: Schools may travel out of state to compete in contests in states or provinces in Canada that border Ohio regardless of distance to travel. The states are Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. The province is Ontario. Additionally, schools may travel out of state one time per sport per

interscholastic season to compete in contests in any location that does not border Ohio subject to approval from the Executive Director's Office. (Obtain the required form to request this travel permission [here](#)).

OFFICIATING AND RULES UPDATE

Don Muenz serves as the OHSAA Soccer Director of Officiating Development. He is also our NFHS rules interpreter and happy to assist with any questions regarding the sport rules. His contact information is: butsir@columbus.rr.com.

Each year, all head soccer coaches are required to participate in a State Rules Interpretation Meeting. This meeting will be completed online and accessed through myOHSAA. The meeting will be made available beginning **Thursday July 22, 2021**. Coaches and administrators will be notified when the meeting is live.

If you are a new coach, please consult your Athletics Director to assist with getting your account set up in myOHSAA. Confirmation of completing this meeting is required. Failure to complete this meeting prior to **Thursday August 12, 2021, at 11:59pm ET** will result in a late fee.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Promotional Events

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

Friday Night Futbol

Overview: Friday Night Futbol initiative allows soccer programs the opportunity to start the season one week early with the intent to play on the football field under the lights. For the 2021 season, Friday Night Futbol will take place Friday August 13th. The game shall count as one additional game beyond the permissible sixteen (16) contests for the regular season. Schools that choose to participate in the Friday Night Futbol initiative, may compete in a maximum of seventeen (17) contests during the regular season.

Participation: Teams choosing to participate in Friday Night Futbol, whether home or visitor, must complete a service project and send documentation to the OHSAA (Kate Barnett – kbarnett@ohsaa.org). The form can be found under 2021 Season Information [here](#).

SPORT REGULATION HIGHLIGHTS AND REMINDERS

- 2021-22 Boys and Girls Soccer Sport Regulations: The 2021-22 boys and girls soccer regulations have been approved by the Board and will be available online next month.
 - Covid-19 Update: The OHSAA's upmost priority is the health and safety of the student-athletes, coaches, and staff. More information regarding Covid-19 guidelines and safety precautions for the 2021-22 season will be announced soon.
- Uniform policy: As a reference for the regular season, the home team shall wear dark jerseys and socks (dark is defined as any color which contrasts with white), and the visiting team shall wear solid white jerseys and solid

white socks. The complete soccer uniform policy can be referenced on our website [here](#).

- Permissible contests: Soccer teams are permitted to schedule four (4) scrimmages and one (1) preview in addition to the sixteen (16) permissible regular season contests. **Note**: seventeen (17) regular season contests are permitted with the participation in the Friday Night Futbol initiative.
 - Scrimmages and previews: New for the 2021-22 season, schools may charge admission for a scrimmage. Scrimmages and the preview count as dates of competition. Therefore, teams are permitted four (4) scrimmage dates of competition and one (1) preview date of competition. The length of the scrimmage is limited to a maximum of three (3) hours per squad or individual per day for grades 9-12 and two hours per squad or individual per day for grades 7-8.
- Summer Contact Period:
 - **GSR 8.3.2 From June 1 through July 31 From School Coaches** – Individual skill/coaching instruction may be received by a member of a school team or individuals at any time from school coaches provided that instruction is not mandatory.

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KATE BARNETT

Sport Administrator

kbarnett@ohsaa.org

Office: 614-267-2502 x127