



Ohio High School Athletic Association

TO: Soccer Coaches and Directors of Athletics

FROM: Kate Barnett, Sport Administrator

DATE: August 30, 2022

SUBJECT: Boys and Girls Soccer In-Season Updates

OHSAA REGULAR SEASON REMINDERS

Promotional Events

Schools may host one (1) special event each season that supports a specific cause (i.e. Kick for a Cure). 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 and Manual sidebar [here](#).

Scrimmages

Scrimmages count as dates of competition. Therefore, teams are permitted four (4) scrimmage dates of competition. **Scrimmages may take place at anytime during the season, including during the OHSAA Tournament.**

Travel Party and Roster Sizes

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

The Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association (OSSCA)

The Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association serves as a consulting group to the OHSAA regarding soccer sport regulations, tournament sites and overall tournament management. There are many other membership benefits such as involvement with award selections, conducting coaches' polls, and professional development opportunities. Membership with the OSSCA is voluntary, but requires a unified membership with the OSSCA, District Membership and United Soccer Coaches. Those interested in becoming a member may reach out to your appropriate district representative linked below or go to the website [here](#).

District Contacts:

1. [Akron](#)
2. [Central](#)
3. [Cleveland](#)
4. [East](#)
5. [Miami Valley](#)
6. [North Central](#)
7. [Northwest](#)
8. [Southeast](#)
9. [Southwest](#)
10. [Youngstown](#)

NFHS RULE CLARIFICATION

Injured Players and Substitutions

In the event of an injury or the referee's stopping the clock for an apparent injury, the injured player, whether field player or goalkeeper must leave the field of play and may be replaced.

- If the player is the goalkeeper, the goalkeeper must be replaced, NF 3.1.1.
- If the injured field player is not replaced at that time, then that team can only bring themselves up to full strength at the next dead ball by having the injured player reenter and NOT during the run of play.
- If the injured player's team decides not to replace him/her and the injured player is not able to reenter at the next dead ball, that team may only substitute for the injured player at their next substitution opportunity, NF 3.3.7.
- At NO TIME, may the team play short and have the injured player return during the run of play. They must wait for the next dead ball.
 - **NF 3.3.7 states:** A team that elects or is required to play shorthanded for reasons other than misconduct may have the player(s) re-enter the game during a dead ball.
- At an injury, there are unlimited substitutions for both teams, whether from the bench or those who have already reported in.

OHSAA GENERAL SPORT REGULATIONS (GSR) AND SOCCER SPECIFIC REGULATION REVIEW

GSR 14.1 – Red Card Ejection

Regulation: GSR 14. 1 addresses the penalty for a soccer player who receives a red card. He or she shall be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, the player shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until the student has sat out two contests at the same level as the ejection or disqualification.

Situation: A player is ejected (receives a red card) in the JV match on Aug. 27th and the coach informs him that he is suspended from the next two JV matches. There is a Varsity match scheduled for Aug. 30th and the coach wants to know if he can play in the Varsity match. The player is on the football team and has a game coming up on Friday and the athletic director wants to know if the player can play in the football game since he was suspended in his soccer match earlier in the week.

Ruling: The player is not permitted to play in a Varsity match until the player has served the suspension for the two JV matches. Regarding the football game, the player is permitted to play in the football game because the suspension is sport specific.

GSR 14.1.6 – Ejections for Fighting

Regulation: Any player ejected for fighting shall be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, the player shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until four regular contests are played at the same level as the ejection or disqualification.

Fighting Definition: The definition of fighting is found in the NFHS playing rules and reads as follows: “Fighting is any attempt by a player or non-player to strike or engage a player or non-player in a combative manner unrelated to the sport. Such acts include, but are not limited to, attempts to strike an opponent(s) with the arm(s), hand(s), leg(s), or foot (feet), whether or not there is contact.”

Video Review Process: Ejections are judgment calls by officials and by OHSAA Bylaws, may not be changed. However, GSR 14.1.6 states: If video is presented to the Director of Officiating, or their designee, and the video clearly shows the ejection action did not meet the NFHS definition of fighting (as written above), the suspension length may be reduced. The player(s) in question is ineligible until such time as the designee rules on the submitted video or the four-game penalty has been fulfilled.

Under this provision, and after reviewing the video, the Director of Officiating may reduce the suspension (Ex: from four to two matches). Any video review submissions may be sent directly to [Beau Rugg](#) and [Charles Anderson](#).

Soccer Sport Regulation 1.5 – Girls playing on Boys Teams

Per Bylaw 1-6-1, girls may participate on a boys team. A girl is permitted to play on both the boys and girls soccer teams, and go back and forth, as long as the student adheres to participation in the maximum allowable number of 42 total halves per season (See Soccer Reg 1.1). Girls participating on the boys team must count toward that team’s competitive balance roster.

Any team with a boy on it is consider a boys team. Boys teams, either consisting of all boys or co-ed athletes, shall compete against other boys teams (either consisting of all boys or co-ed athletes). A boys team with girls on it is only eligible to compete in the boys OHSAA Tournament.

NOTE: NFHS Rule 3.1.2 permits teams to begin a match with seven (7) players. Therefore, if schools choose not to have mixed teams or have a specific gender team with a small roster, the team may still compete under this NFHS rule.

Soccer Sport Regulations 6.2 – Non-Interscholastic Soccer Participation Exceptions during the Scholastic Season

For the sport of soccer, there are only two excpetions regarding non-interschilasitc participation during the school season.

1. National Governing Body: If the student-athelte has been selected to compete as a member of a junior or senior United States (or other country) national team in the sport, then a waiver request may be filed through the sport administrator.
2. College ID Camp (Aug. 1-Sept 5, 2022): A student-athlete may use a one-time waiver to attend an identification camp after the student-athlete has participated in an interscholastic scrimmage, preview or contest. The definition of an identification camp refers to an individual workout or individual camp being offered by a college or university and not any other type of team showcase or non-school competition or practice. The waiver submission is filed through an online form.

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