



# Ohio High School Athletic Association

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

**FROM:** Kate Barnett, Sport Administrator

**DATE:** July 6, 2023

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

## **PRE-SEASON INFORMATION**

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### Summer Contact Days

The Board of Directors voted to expand the non-mandatory summer coaching period for all sports to include 13 days of coaching instead of 10 and to open the summer period on May 15 instead of June 1.

Additionally, the Board approved adding 5 additional contact days for the sport of soccer between July 17, 2023 - July 30, 2023. **Therefore, soccer is permitted a total of 18 days between May 15, 2023 - July 30, 2023.** The additional contact days were added because of the compressed soccer pre-season prior to when the first contest is permitted, so schools that have contests on or near the permissible start date are encouraged to use those five days get their players acclimated. See FAQs below.

**Q:** May I conduct all my 18 summer contact days July 13<sup>th</sup>-July 30<sup>th</sup>?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** Do I have to use a minimum of 5 contact days between July 17<sup>th</sup>-July 30<sup>th</sup>?

**A:** No. The intent of providing additional days close to the start of the season is to allow teams more opportunities to prepare for contests.

### State Rules Interpretation Meeting Reminder

The State Rules Interpretation Meeting will be made available for coaches beginning **Thursday July 20, 2023**. This meeting will be completed online and accessed through your individual myOHSAA account.

If you are a new coach, please consult your athletics director to assist with getting your contact information updated in Final Forms. Confirmation of completing this meeting is required. Failure to complete this meeting prior to **Friday August 11, 2023, at 11:59pm will result in a late fee.**

### NFHS 2023-24 Soccer Rule Books

The OHSAA pre-season mailing, including the 2023-24 NFHS Soccer Rule Book, were mailed out and athletics directors should be receiving them by the first week of August. If you are interested in purchasing additional NFHS publications, please visit the NFHS website [HERE](#).

## OFFICIATING UPDATE

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The OHSAA welcomes Holly Herrholtz to serve as the Director of Officiating Development and State Rules Interpreter for boys and girls soccer in Ohio. Holly serves as an OHSAA Class 1 official for the sports of soccer, softball and basketball. She established and currently leads a local soccer officials association in the Youngstown area. She brings excitement and passion for sport and the student-athlete experience. She also has a strong desire to support, educate and assist in the professional development of high school officials. Holly is from Northeast Ohio and her contact is [hherrholtz@ohsaa.org](mailto:hherrholtz@ohsaa.org).

We look forward having Holly join our Director of Officiating Development program!

## 2023 SEASON UPDATES AND REMINDERS

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### Regular Season Reminders

- **First permissible practice:** July 31, 2023
- **First permissible contest:** Friday August 11, 2023
- **Maximum number of regular season contests:** 17
- **Maximum number of scrimmages:** 4
- **Maximum number of previews:** 1
- **Maximum number of halves per individual:** 42 (OHSAA Tournament matches do not count toward the max.)
- **Maximum halves per day:** 3 (e.g. a JV player can play two JV halves and one half of the Varsity match)
- **Regular season roster limit:** No restrictions (Limit established for OHSAA Tournament only)
- **OHSAA Tournament soccer ball:** [Wilson Vivido](#) (Not required for regular season)

### Scrimmages and Previews

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. Scrimmages may take place at any time during the season. Previews must be completed prior to the first regular season contest.

### Non-Interscholastic College ID Camp Waiver

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 may be used for any events that take place from July 31, 2023 through the non-interscholastic date of September 4, 2023. The waiver request form may be accessed [HERE](#).

### Special Event Team Uniform Waiver

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 Team Uniform Waiver application can be accessed [HERE](#).

## 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](#)).

**\*\*All these submission forms can be accessed on the left sidebar of the [OHSAA Soccer Webpage](#).**

## **SPORT REGULATION HIGHLIGHTS AND REMINDERS**

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### **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 student-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. Girls competing on both the girls and boys teams may only enter one tournament, either the boys tournament or the girls 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 Regulation – Uniform Violation Penalty - **EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2026****

In accordance with NFHS Rule 4.1, teams who are found to be in violation of the uniform requirements shall be subject to a \$100 fine per occurrence. Failure to have NFHS complaint uniforms by the start of the OHSAA post season shall result in removal from the OHSAA Tournament. Please see uniform regulations [HERE](#).

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