



Ohio High School Athletic Association

TO: Soccer Coaches and Directors of Athletics

FROM: Kate Barnett, Sport Administrator

DATE: May 2, 2023

SUBJECT: Boys and Girls Soccer Spring Reminders

IMPORTANT DATES

July 20	Online State Rules Interpretation information is available
July 31	First Day of Coaching
Aug. 11	First date of competition
Sept. 4	Non-Interscholastic Date
Oct. 8	OHSAA Tournament Draw
Oct. 16-21	Sectional Tournament
Oct. 23-28	District Tournament
Oct. 31-Nov. 4	Regional Tournament
Nov. 7	Girls Soccer State Semifinals
Nov. 8	Boys Soccer State Semifinals
Nov. 10	Girls State Finals
Nov. 11	Boys State Finals

OFFICIATING

After much consideration, Don Muenz has decided to resign from his duties as the Director of Officiating Development at the OHSAA. Don has served as the OHSAA State Rules Interpreter since December 1996 and the Director of Officiating Development since January 2010. He has extensive knowledge, passion, and proven service to the sport of soccer from officiating, assigning and leadership among various levels of the game. Don was recently inducted in the Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association (OSSCA) Hall of Fame for his service as a referee.

The staff at the OHSAA consider Don a friend and appreciate his dedication and service over the years. He has kindly offered to assist in the transition of a new Director of Officiating Development. If you have any rule questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or Don.

2023 SEASON REMINDERS

Regular Season Start

Teams may begin regular season competition as early as Aug. 11, 2023 and may compete in a maximum of seventeen (17) regular season contests. **Teams are not required to begin contests Aug. 11th and are not required to play the maximum number of contests.**

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 and two hours per squad or individual per day for grades 7-8. Scrimmages may take place at anytime during the season. Previews must be completed prior to the first regular season contest.

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 will be accessible later this summer on the OHSAA website.

Non-Interscholastic 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 form may be accessed on the OHSAA website later this summer.

OHSAA Tournament Soccer Ball

The soccer ball that will be used for the 2023 OHSAA Soccer Tournament is the Wilson VIVIDO. Schools are not required to purchase or use this ball; however, schools must use a NFHS approved ball for all regular season contests. The information flyer regarding the Wilson VIVIDO can be found [here](#).

SPORT REGULATIONS REVIEW

Summer Contact Days Beginning May 15, 2023 – NEW Beginning Spring/Summer 2023

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 do have contests on or near the permissible start date are encouraged to use those five days between July 17 and 30 to help get their players acclimated.

FAQ's – Summer Contact Days

Q: May I conduct all my 18 summer contact days July 13th-July 30th?

A: Yes.

Q: Do I have to use all 18 contact days?

A: No. Coaches may choose to use any amount of the 18 days permitted.

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

A: No. Due to the condensed start of the regular season, the intent of providing additional days close to the start of the season is to allow teams more opportunities to prepare for contests.

Q: May I use all my 18 days prior to July 17th?

A: No. A maximum of 13 days may be used prior to July 17, 2023.

Individual Skill Instruction

Individual skill/coaching instruction is permitted any time prior to and after the school season and outside the defined no contact period from school coaches.

***Note: This has been modified to expand the number of groups of students that can receive individual skill instruction at the same time in the same facility, if:**

1. The number of student-athletes working together in each specific group does not exceed 6;
2. The student-athletes remain in their specific groups of [a maximum of] 6 during the entire instruction session*;
3. The number of student-athletes in their groups of [a maximum of] 6 do not engage in team play against students in any of the other groups.

*The specific groups can rotate together to different coaches at the facility in which the instruction is being provided, but there should never be more than 6 working together with any one coach and/or a group of coaches.

For FAQ's regarding Individual Skill Instruction please review the October 2022 Coaches Memo [HERE](#).

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