

# OHSAA

## OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



### 2019

## OHSAA SOCCER COACHES GUIDE

*A Year-Round Guide for School Soccer Coaches*



## A Message from OHSAA Director of Sport Management, Kathleen Coughlin



It is my sincere privilege and honor to serve as the sport administrator for soccer during the 2019-20 school year. With the excitement from the Women's FIFA World Cup Victory, let's keep the soccer buzz going all fall! I hope to see many of you participating in Friday Night Futbol and showcasing this event, and other special events via social media. It is such a joy to see what our teams are doing across the state, and sharing ideas together. During the season, please use the following hashtags: #ohsaa, Futbol Friday Night #TheOnlyGameInTown, Service Events #ohsaaServes

To 'go green', the decision was made to put this manual online and give YOU the opportunity to download this to your computer via the online rules meeting. I strongly encourage before you pick up the phone and dial up the OHSAA for a question to be answered, you do 3 things:

1. Consult the subject areas in this manual
2. Consult with your school's Athletic Director. He/She most likely knows the answer or has the resource to answer it.
3. Go to the Soccer webpage at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org). Various items are located on this site to assist you.

Statistics gathered from last year's online rules meeting provides proof of the increased number of non-school coaches in ALL sports, with Soccer being as high as any other. This Coaches Guide has kept in mind that contact with the school's administration is not always as common place as some other school sports. Keep in mind also this Coaches Guide is in step with **required** State Rules Interpretation Meetings.

Now, maybe more than any other time in our existence, 'we' as coaches and sport administrators need to step forward and provide the leadership to high school student-athletes. There are so many great things about high school athletics and those must be at the forefront every single day we work with students in our schools. Players don't play for million dollar contracts and though I wish every player that takes the field could go on and play at the 'next level', the statistics continue to say that most do not. **The high school experience can and should be one of the best they ever have; and YOU as the coach provide the leadership for that experience.** I hope ALL of us can work together to make this happen. The OSSCA and the OHSAA have committed themselves to this mission and together we can accomplish this.

All rules governing OHSAA soccer stem from the National Federation (NFHS) and the OHSAA. The NFHS Rules are specific to the playing rules while OHSAA Sports Regulations (and Bylaws) govern specific administrative rules to Ohio. No coach, administrator, or official has the authority to modify or set aside these rules.

This is wishing each of you a successful soccer season. I commend you for your time and effort working with the student-athletes in Ohio.

Kathleen Coughlin, CAA  
Director of Sport Management

### OHSAA Mission Statement

***The Ohio High School Athletic Association's mission is to serve our member schools and enrich interscholastic opportunities for students***

## OHSAA Soccer Contact Information

**Kathleen Coughlin** Director of Sport Management      kcoughlin@ohsaa.org  
*Adminstrates the sport of Soccer and oversees tournament, writes  
 Soccer Sports' Regulations, Soccer Tournament Regulations*

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

## Important Soccer Dates

<b>August 1</b>	Coaching & Tryouts Begin
<b>August 2</b>	Previews Permitted
<b>August 16</b>	Friday Night Futbol! First Game Permitted
<b>October 7</b>	Non-Interscholastic Date
<b>October 6</b>	Tournament Seed/Draw Date Boys: 2:00 p.m. Girls: 3:00 p.m.
<b>October 14 – 19</b>	Sectional Tournaments
<b>October 21 – 26</b>	District Tournaments
<b>October 29 – Nov. 2</b>	Regional Tournaments
<b>November 5 – 10</b>	State Semi-Finals & Finals
<b>November 10</b>	Last date for Games

## Rules Interpretation Meetings

**All Rules Interpretation Meetings for COACHES are required ONLINE.** This is explained on the following page. Rules meetings become 'live' on Wednesday, July 24, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. through your individual myOHSAA accounts. \*If you have any issues, please contact Kathleen Coughlin IMMEDIATELY\*

## Important NON-Interscholastic Note

The OHSAA feels that student-athletes that have committed themselves to the school's Soccer team should keep that commitment and be free of distractions and potential dissenting coaching opinions through the school Soccer season. Therein lies the basis for the **"Non-Interscholastic Rule"**. This General Sports Regulation prohibits a member of the school team from TRYING OUT, PRACTICING or COMPETING with any non-intercholastic team while a member of the school team. Remind your players...continually. And, this includes any **college tryouts/workouts**. Anything outside the high school practice, workouts or games (including college tryouts/workouts) is considered NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC.

## The Non-Interscholastic Date

The "Non-Interscholastic Date" is a date that is set 28 days prior to the Monday of the State Soccer Tournament. Though participation in ANY form of non-intercholastic Soccer while a member of a school team is prohibited, any participation in a non-intercholastic contest **on or after this date** results in the individual being INELIGIBLE for the OHSAA tournament in addition to any other suspensions issued.

For the 2018 Soccer season, this date is: **October 7, 2019**

Please put this date on your calendar and REMIND the players on your team!



## Communicating with the OHSAA

*It is understandable with 831 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 Meetings are MANDATORY for all Head Coaches.** For the 2019 Soccer Season, **ALL MANDATORY RULES INTERPRETATION MEETINGS FOR COACHES WILL BE CONDUCTED ONLINE.** The "Online" meeting for Coaches is geared exclusively FOR coaches; Officials will have their own meetings with the content exclusively directed to them. IF you are a coach and have an OHSAA Officials license, **you will be required to complete both since the content is specific to the audience (you would view two separate rules meetings).**

### **Regarding Rules Meetings:**

1. OHSAA Soccer Sports Regulations are covered in detail as well as General Regulations and Bylaws as they pertain to coaches and players. Though the main purpose is to provide knowledge and advice on the various OHSAA regulations, this is the educational mechanism to insure compliance with the various rules and regulations.
2. The major shift in OHSAA policy that will permit INDIVIDUAL instruction outside the season of play will also demand a complete and thorough knowledge of the regulation and its limitations. Completion of the meeting is essential for **all coaches** to understand the regulation as well as consequences for violations.
3. With the addition of the 'out of season instruction' permission, **coaches of all school teams are REQUIRED to understand the regulation, its implications and its consequences for non-compliance.** ALL coaches, paid or volunteer and varsity through Junior High are STRONGLY encouraged to take the time to view the online meeting to grasp an understanding of the regulation (and others).

### **How to Complete the Rules Interpretation Meeting Online**

All Coaches and Officials will access the state rules meetings through their myOHSAA accounts.

Coaches should contact their athletic administrator if they do not have an account. The athletic administrator will need to add the coach to the school's staff management in myOHSAA. This will generate an email invitation from [info@myOHSAA.org](mailto:info@myOHSAA.org) to the coach. Coaches should look for this email in their inbox, junk or spam folders. Once the email is received, coaches should open the email and click the link inside and use the "Register" portion of the screen to create an account. Follow all prompts to create login credentials, verify your email address and complete your contact information. Once the account is created and all dashboard items completed, a blue button for the school will be added to your account. Click the button and use the State Rules Meeting link in the left column to access the list of meetings.

**Please do NOT use a Google Chrome tablet—these devices will not record attendance.  
You must use a desktop or laptop computer.**

***The ONLINE Rules Meeting link will be live on WEDNESDAY, July 24, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.***

The deadline for completion of the online version is **Thursday, August 15 at 11:59 pm** or a \$50.00 late fee is charged for access to the online version. The deadline WITH the \$50.00 penalty will be Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:59 pm. **If you do not complete the rules meeting by these deadlines, your school will be removed from the post-season tournament.**

### **AFTER COMPLETION:**

1. Your 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.

## ***Mandatory Parent Pre-Season Meeting***

**Pre-season meetings with parents are MANDATED by OHSAA Bylaws** and will most likely occur at your school along with other fall sport teams. This is determined by each school's Athletic Administrator **and must be held no later than 2 weeks after the start of the season** (August 1 – August 14, 2019). This is the time to cover such things as eligibility requirements, individual school policies, individual sport policies, sportsmanship issues and expectations travel plans for away contests, etc.

I encourage coaches to use this time to their advantage and provide as much education as possible to parents. There are GREAT resources available for coaches to use at these meetings at the "Locker Room", an NFHS online education center. You can access this directly at: <http://www.nfhslearn.com/LockerRoom.aspx>



## *Pupil Activity Permits & Concussion Legislation*

As outlined in Ohio Administrative Code, all Coaches of Middle School/Jr. High and High School teams **MUST** possess a "Pupil Activity Validation Certificate" to coach in Ohio. This includes paid coaches AND volunteer coaches. School administrators are responsible for maintaining records on compliance and most schools provide opportunities for their coaches to obtain the necessary coursework. The actual regulations AND the certificate can be downloaded from the OHSAA's Sports' Medicine page or directly at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine>. To obtain the required certificate through the ODE, one must:



- Have completed a Sports' First Aid Course
- Possess a valid CPR Card
- Have been approved by their local Board of Education or similar governing body
- Complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course
- Complete one of two approved Concussion Recognition courses
- Complete the Sudden Cardiac Arrest video course offered by the Ohio Dept. of Health

You can look up all requirements in detail on the ODE's website at:

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEPrimary.aspx?page=2&TopicRelationID=1328>

Schools are required to submit coaches' names along with valid permit numbers on the Official OHSAA Tournament Entry Form. Entry forms are audited on a random basis at the conclusion of each season.

### **Concussion Legislation as it relates to Coaching Requirements**

Though the entire law is explained later, all coaches today **MUST** complete one of two (2) approved Concussion Education programs online upon renewal of their Pupil Activity Permit anytime **after April 26, 2013**. Individual student-athletes removed from contests with a suspected concussion are no longer permitted to return to play on the same day of the contest – regardless of the diagnoses. If they are removed by one of the individuals given this authority, they simply cannot return to play the same day. Written authorization IS required to return anytime thereafter and must be kept on file with the school Athletic Administrator.

## *Lindsay's Law- Sudden Cardiac Arrest*

ODE Website: <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/landing/Lindsays-Law.aspx>

Lindsay's Law, Ohio Revised Code [3313.5310](#), [3707.58](#) and [3707.59](#) becomes effective on August 1, 2017. In accordance with this law, the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio High School Athletic Association, the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Cardiology and other stakeholders jointly developed guidelines and other relevant materials to inform and educate students and youth athletes participating in or desiring to participate in an athletic activity, their parents, and their coaches about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest.

The following resources were developed to implement Lindsay's Law:

For **parents/guardians** and **student-athletes** in grades 7-12 in Ohio schools

- [Required video](#)
- [Required SCA Informational Handout](#)
- [Required Signature Form](#)

For **coaches**:

If you are a coach for an interscholastic sport and are licensed by the Ohio Department of Education (all paid and volunteer coaches in Ohio), please visit their [website](#) for information about their training requirements around Lindsay's Law <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/landing/Lindsays-Law.aspx>. The required video, informational handout and a post assessment test will be available shortly through the ODE's website. We will inform you when that component is available. If, however, you want to have your coaches view the video and review the information immediately, you may access those items below. Please be advised that as a school district, your superintendent must be able to verify that coaches have seen this video and read the informational handout if you choose to implement this requirement before it is available through ODE's LMS.

- [Required video](#)
- [Required SCA Informational Handout](#)

*Successful completion of this coaches' requirement will generate verification through the LMS.*

*These educational materials are all free of charge and are the only materials authorized for compliance with this new state law. No other course or training material is acceptable.*

## 2019 Rules Changes

**New 3.4.3:** “The clock shall be stopped when a substitute by the team in the lead is beckoned on the field in the final five minutes of the second period only.”

**New 7.4.3:** “The clock shall be stopped when a substitute by the team in the lead is beckoned onto the field in the final five minutes of the second period only.”

The new rules apply only to second half of regulation play, because our postseason overtimes are sudden victory.

When the leading team subs, the clock is stopped when the subs are beckoned on, and the clock restarts only after all subs are completed, a second whistle is given and the ball is properly put into play, 9.1.3.

The clock is stopped where the leading team and the trailing team both sub.

### Examples:

A.) In the last five minutes of the second half, only the trailing team subs. The clock does not stop.

B.) In the last five minutes of the second half, only the leading team subs. The clock is stopped when the referee beckons on the sub and the clock restarts after the subs are completed, the referee gives a second whistle and the ball is properly put into play.

C.) In the last five minutes of the second half, both the leading team and the trailing team sub. The clock is stopped when the referee beckons on the sub and the clock restarts after all of the subs are completed, the referee gives a second whistle and the ball is properly put into play.

Because this new stoppage rule is part of “regular” timing, the Ohio Mercy Rule, 2019 OHSA Soccer Regulation 10(A)(1.7), overrides it.

**“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.”

Where the Ohio Mercy Rule applies, there is no stoppage for subs in the final five minutes of the second half.

**Amended 4.1.1(h): New for this year.** The numbers of all players shall be of a **solid**, color contrasting with the jersey (or shorts or pants) and clearly visible.

**Amended 4.2.2 Situation A:** This play ruling has been amended to permit use of knotted prewrap for hair control or sweat prevention.

**4.2.2 Situation A(c):** “During pregame warm-up, the referee observes that (e) A6 is wearing knotted prewrap around the head.

**RULING:** Legal in ... (e) if worn to control the player’s hair or prevent sweat on the face.”

### **Amended 4.3 Improperly Equipped Players (18-1-1u)**

“Cautions will not be issued for improperly equipped player(s).

If not immediately correctable, improperly equipped player(s) shall be instructed to leave the field of play when the ball next ceases to be in play. The player(s) may be replaced. The removed player(s), if not replaced, may re-enter at the next dead ball only after reporting to an official, who shall be satisfied the player’s equipment and uniform are in order. Play shall not be stopped for an infringement of this rule except that the referee may stop play immediately where there is a dangerous situation.”

18.1.1(t) “**ILLEGALLY EQUIPPED** – A player not wearing equipment required by rule or wearing an item/items not allowed by rule.”

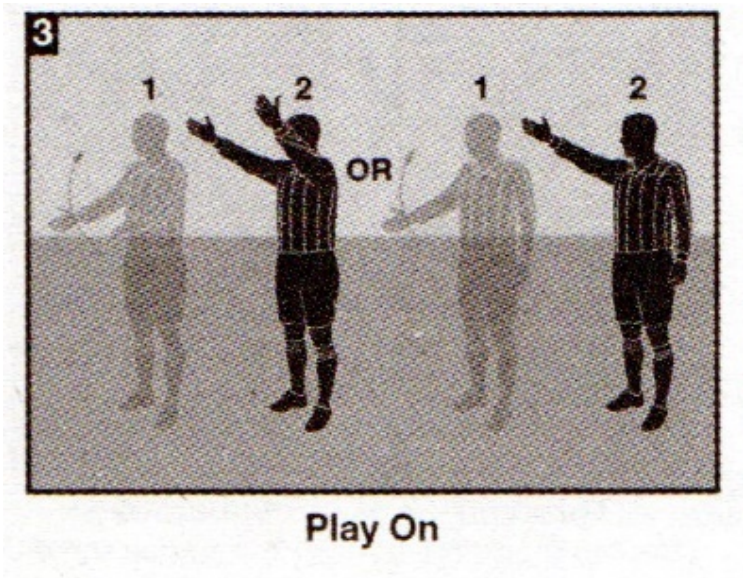
18.1.1(u) “**IMPROPERLY EQUIPPED** – A player wearing legal equipment that is being worn incorrectly or becomes illegal during play.”

**Explanation:** Amendments expressly permit improperly equipped players to fix the defect on the field and remain in the match or to be replaced by a substitute from the bench or a substitute who has already reported in. A team with an improperly equipped player does not have to play shorthanded. It may elect to do so. Before an improperly equipped player returns to play, the player must be inspected by an official to confirm that the improper condition has been rectified.

Remember, no one is cautioned for improper equipment.



**Amended 5.3.1(d):** Referees may now use one or both hands in signaling advantage. This adopts the FIFA Law Amendment of a couple of years ago.



**Amended 6.2.3(f):** “The official timer shall: (f) signal the last two minutes of any period when applicable.”  
**Explanation:** The official timer is to state OVER THE PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM that there are two minutes remaining in any half of regulation or overtime play. This is to be done vocally, NOT with a horn, whistle, or other noise-making device.

**Amended 6.2.3(g):** “The official timer shall: (g) signal the last two minutes before the end of the interval between the periods.”  
**Explanation:** The official timer is to state OVER THE PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM that there are two minutes remaining in the interval. This is to be done vocally, NOT with a horn, whistle, or other noise-making device. This new requirement applies to the interval between halves of regulation play and the interval between the end of regulation play and the first half of overtime during the postseason tournament. It cannot apply to the interval between overtime periods, which is only two minutes long, or the interval between the end of the second overtime and kicks from the penalty mark, which is also two minutes.

**Rule 9 has undergone substantial change, resulting in its being closer to, but not quite the same as, FiFA’s Law VIII.2.**  
 It is expected that players and coaches, going forward, will continue to exercise the highest degree of sporting behavior to which our high school game has long become accustomed.  
 Let’s look at it, piece by piece.

9-2-1	<p>The game is restarted with a drop ball:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. when the ball is caused to go out of bounds by two opponents simultaneously;</li> <li>b. when the ball becomes deflated;</li> <li>c. following temporary suspension of play for an injury or unusual situation <u>and a goalkeeper is not in possession of the ball</u></li> <li>d. when simultaneous fouls of the same degree occur by opponents.</li> </ul> <p><b>Rationale:</b> This rule changes the awarding of a free kick to a drop ball thereby possibly creating a scoring opportunity for a team underserving.</p>
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**NEW 13.2.3(b)** also comes into play. “The following indirect free kicks are taken from where the ball was when the referee stopped play: (Subject to restrictions in 13.1.3 and 13.1.4) ... (b) for temporary suspension of play for an injury or unusual situation and the goalkeeper has possession of the ball (9.3); ... .”

**Amended 9.3 is also pertinent:**

9-3	<p>In case of a temporary suspension due to injury or any unusual situation the game shall be started by <u>a drop ball</u> at the point where the ball was when the play was suspended (except as</p>
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noted in 14-1-7), provided the ball was not in the goal area and not in the possession of the goalkeeper. 12-8-2
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<b>Rationale:</b> This change will eliminate free kick opportunities that often create scoring opportunities that are not deserved.
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2019 Comments on the Rules: 9.2.1: "In situations where the play is temporarily suspended for an injury, play will now be resumed with a drop ball unless the goalkeeper was in possession of the ball at the time of the stoppage. This change eliminates the awarding of an indirect free kick to a team and prevents an otherwise undeserved potential goal-scoring opportunity."

2019 Comments on the Rules: 9.3: "Consistent with changes made in Rule 9.2, this change eliminates the awarding of an indirect free kick when play is temporarily suspended due to an injury or other unusual situation. The only exception to this is when the goalkeeper is in possession of the ball at the time of the stoppage."

Where the referee is required to stop play for an injury or any unusual situation, an indirect free kick will no longer be given to the team in possession, unless the goalkeeper possesses the ball with hands or like a field player, **WITHIN THE GOALKEEPER'S OWN DEFENSIVE PENALTY AREA**. Absent goalkeeper possession, there would be a dropped ball.

The goal of these amendments is to prevent the award of an "undeserved potential goal-scoring opportunity." Limiting the award of an indirect free kick to the goalkeeper when in possession within their own defensive penalty area achieves that goal. Whether the goalkeeper possesses the ball as a goalkeeper or as a field player, both possessions within the penalty area are treated consistently and equally. Equal treatment prevents giving the goalkeeper's team an indirect free kick outside of that penalty area, when the goalkeeper has pushed up on the attack or left her own penalty area. This interpretation also prevents award of a potentially contested dropped ball, an underserved potential goal-scoring opportunity for the attackers, where the goalkeeper possesses the ball as a field player within his own penalty area and play is stopped for an injury or other unusual situation. This latter instance becomes more important as goalkeepers' foot skills continue to improve and their teammates increasingly pass the ball to them to avoid the high-pressure tactics of their opponents.

Okay, what is goalkeeper possession?

**With the hands:** 12.4.2(a) states in pertinent part: "Possession or control of the ball includes any time the goalkeeper has the ball trapped by either or both hands, or when bouncing it to the ground or when releasing the ball into play." I would add that if the goalkeeper has the ball trapped with one or both hands against his/her body or that of a teammate (i.e., not a teammate's body area subject to handling), the ground, the goal or a referee, would also be possession. Trapping the ball against an opponent would not be possession.

**As a field player possesses the ball:** 18.1.1(ii): "POSSESSION – A live ball controlled by a team, player or a goalkeeper. A controlled ball is one which may be passed, thrown, dribbled or shot on goal by a player." 18.1.1: "PLAYING DISTANCE – The distance between the player and the ball which the official judges to be adequate to control the ball. It will seldom exceed two steps (six feet)."

#### **Examples:**

(A) B5 kicks the ball back to her goalkeeper, who is within her own defensive goal area. While the ball is at the goalkeeper's feet, ready for her to play it, the referee whistles play dead for a serious injury to A6, who is lying on the ground near the halfway line. Restart: Indirect free kick to the goalkeeper's team from any spot on the lines describing the goal area or wholly within the goal area, 13.1.3.

(B) B5 shoots on goal and the goalkeeper catches the ball, holding it in his hands just outside of his own goal area. The referee whistles play dead for a serious injury to B6, who is lying on the ground near the halfway line. Restart: Indirect free kick for the goalkeeper's team from the spot where the ball was when the whistle stopped play.

(C) B5 kicks the ball back to her goalkeeper, who is within her own defensive penalty area. The goalkeeper then dribbles beyond her penalty area. While the ball is at the goalkeeper's feet, ready for her to play it, the referee whistles play dead for a serious injury to A6, who is lying on the ground near the halfway line. Restart: Dropped ball from the spot where the ball was when the whistle stopped play. Rationale: Though in possession of the ball, the goalkeeper was outside of her defensive penalty area.

(D) The ball is in Team A's goal area, but no one is in possession when the referee stops play for an injury. Restart: A dropped ball on the goal area line parallel to the goal line, nearest where the ball was when play was stopped. The goalkeeper may participate in the dropped ball.

(E) The ball is in Team B's defensive penalty area (not the goal area). Team A is in possession when the referee stops play for a serious injury. Restart: A dropped ball from the spot where the ball was when play was whistled dead.

Summing up, where the goalkeeper, within his/her own defensive penalty area, is in possession of the ball, either as goalkeeper or as a field player, at the time that play is stopped for an injury or unusual situation, the goalkeeper's team will be awarded an indirect free kick. At any other such stoppage, there will be a dropped ball.

#### **Amended 9.2.3 Number of participants at a dropped ball**

9-2-3	The ball is dropped by an official from waist level to the ground. Any number of players may
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	<u>contest a dropped ball (including the goalkeepers); a referee cannot decide who may contest a dropped ball or its outcome.</u> <b>Rationale:</b> This addition helps to provide clarity in the application of this rule.
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Any number, from one to twenty-two, may participate, but may not interfere with, the dropped ball process. The referee may not decide who takes part in the dropped ball or determine the outcome of a dropped ball.

2019 Comments on the Rules: 9.2.3: "This change clarifies the procedure followed when resuming play through a dropped ball. It allows any number of players to take part in the dropped ball (including only one player) and specifically states the referee the referee cannot decide who may take part in the dropped ball."

**New 9.2.6:** a dropped ball is an indirect restart and must be touched by two players before a goal can be scored.

9-2-6 NEW	<u>ART. 6 . . . If a dropped ball enters the goal without touching at least two players, play is restarted with a goal kick if it enters the opponent's goal or a corner kick if it enters the team's own goal.</u>  <b>Rationale:</b> This addition helps to avoid confusion and allow the rule to be more equitable under the circumstances.
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**NEW 10.1.3:** "A goal MAY NOT be scored directly from a/an: ... (g) dropped ball."

The new rule mirrors FIFA Law VIII.2.

**Examples:**

(A) A9 and B4 participate in a dropped ball. A9 dribbles twice and kicks the ball directly into Team B's defensive goal. Restart: Goal kick. Two players did not touch the ball.

(B) A9 and B4 participate in a dropped ball. B4 touches the ball. A9 then kicks the ball directly into Team B's defensive goal. Restart: Kickoff for Team B. The goal counts because two players touched the ball.



## 2019-20 NFHS SOCCER RULES CHANGES

3-4-3 NEW	<u>The clock shall be stopped when a substitute by the team in the lead is beckoned on the field in the final five minutes of the second period only.</u> <b>Rationale:</b> Rule affected by change in 7-4-3.
4-3	Improperly Equipped Players (18-1-1u) Cautions will not be issued for improperly equipped player(s). <u>If not immediately correctable, improperly equipped player(s) shall be instructed to leave the field of play when the ball next ceases to be in play. The player(s) may be replaced. The removed player(s), if not replaced, may re-enter at the next dead ball only after reporting to an official, who shall be satisfied the player's equipment and uniform are in order. Play shall not be stopped for an infringement of this rule except that the referee may stop play immediately where there is a dangerous situation.</u> <b>Rationale:</b> The change corrects an injustice. For the far more serious infringement of illegal equipment, the offending team does not play shorthanded. For the less serious offense of improper equipment, they are required to play shorthanded. The change addresses this inequity.
5-3-1d	The officials shall: (d) call out "play on" and, with an underswing of <u>one or both</u> arms, indicate a foul which was observed but shall go unpenalized because penalizing the offending team would give an advantage to the offending team. If the referee applies the advantage, which was anticipated but does not develop at that time, the referee shall penalize the original offense.

	<b>Rationale:</b> This change permits the use of one arm to signal advantage.
7-4-3 NEW	<u>The clock shall be stopped when a substitute by the team in the lead is beckoned onto the field in the final five minutes of the second period only.</u> <b>Rationale:</b> Coaches in the lead will make multiple substitutions in the later stages of the match. This tactic is being used as a time-wasting ploy. Adding this rule will help the game to be decided by the players and not a coach who is wasting time when in the lead. These substitutes are usually players from the far side of the field that take more time off the clock. This addition would stop this practice.
9-2-1	The game is restarted with a drop ball: a. when the ball is caused to go out of bounds by two opponents simultaneously; b. when the ball becomes deflated; c. following temporary suspension of play for an injury or unusual situation <u>and a goalkeeper is not in possession of the ball</u> d. when simultaneous fouls of the same degree occur by opponents. <b>Rationale:</b> This rule changes the awarding of a free kick to a drop ball thereby possibly creating a scoring opportunity for a team underserving.
9-2-3	The ball is dropped by an official from waist level to the ground. <u>Any number of players may contest a dropped ball (including the goalkeepers); a referee cannot decide who may contest a dropped ball or its outcome.</u> <b>Rationale:</b> This addition helps to provide clarity in the application of this rule.
9-2-5 NEW	<u>ART. 5 . . . The ball shall be dropped again if it touches a player before it touches the ground or leaves the field of play after it touches the ground without touching a player.</u> <b>Rationale:</b> This addition helps to avoid confusion and allow the rule to be more equitable under the circumstances.
9-2-6 NEW	<u>ART. 6 . . . If a dropped ball enters the goal without touching at least two players, play is restarted with a goal kick if it enters the opponent's goal or a corner kick if it enters the team's own goal.</u> <b>Rationale:</b> This addition helps to avoid confusion and allow the rule to be more equitable under the circumstances.
9-3	In case of a temporary suspension due to injury or any unusual situation the game shall be started by <u>a drop ball</u> at the point where the ball was when the play was suspended (except as noted in 14-1-7), <u>provided the ball was not in the goal area and not in the possession of the goalkeeper.</u> 12-8-2 <b>Rationale:</b> This change will eliminate free kick opportunities that often create scoring opportunities that are not deserved.

## **2019-20 NFHS Comments on the Rules**

**3-4-3** – The procedure for substitution change was necessary because of the change made to 7-4-3 when substitutes are made in the last five minutes of the contest.

**4-3** – In the case of Improper Equipment, the offending player was previously required to leave the field and could not be replaced. Further, he could not come back onto the field of play until the next opportunity to substitute. With this change, the offending player now has the opportunity to immediately correct the issue without having to leave the field. If this is not possible, that player must still leave the field, but may be replaced. If the team chooses to play short (instead of replacing), the offending player may re-enter the game at the next stoppage so long as they have reported to an official who will ensure the issue has been corrected.

**5-3-1-d** – This rule change allows officials to use either one arm or both to signal advantage during the game.

**7-4-3** – This change helps prevent potential time wasting tactics utilized at the end of the game. The clock will now be stopped in the last five minutes of the game any time the team in the lead makes a substitution.

**9-2-1** – In situations where play is temporarily suspended for an injury or unusual situation, play will now be resumed with a drop ball unless the goalkeeper was in possession of the ball at the time of the stoppage. This change eliminates the awarding of an indirect free kick to a team and prevents an otherwise undeserved potential goal scoring opportunity.

**9-2-3** – This change clarifies the procedure followed when resuming play through a dropped ball. It allows any number of players to take part in the dropped ball (including only one player) and specifically states the referee cannot decide who may take part in the dropped ball.

**9-2 (5,6)** – A goal may no longer be scored directly from a dropped ball until at least two players touch the ball. This change helps ensure equity when resuming play through the use of a dropped ball.

**9-3** – Consistent with changes made in 9-2, this change eliminates the awarding of an indirect free kick when play is temporarily suspended due to an injury or other unusual situation. The only exception to this is when the goalkeeper is in possession of the ball at the time of the stoppage.

### ***2019 Points of Emphasis from NFHS***

**1. Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) Injury Prevention:** Injuries to the Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) are devastating to athletes at all levels of competition. An ACL tear requires surgery and results in 6 to 12 months of rehabilitation before return to sports. It also increases the risk of future knee osteoarthritis. The majority of ACL tears are noncontact injuries, occurring while cutting, pivoting, or landing from a jump. The remainder of the injuries result from a direct blow to the knee or leg.

ACL injuries are more common in girls' soccer than any other high school sport. In soccer, girls are 3 times more likely to tear their ACL than boys. Boys' soccer has the highest rate of ACL injuries of all non-collision boys' sports. Given the significant short-term and long-term consequences of ACL injuries, a great deal of research has focused on strategies for injury prevention. Protective bracing does not minimize the risk of injury. In fact, we have no studies showing that "contact" ACL injuries can be prevented. However, we do know that noncontact injuries, the ones that result from cutting, pivoting, or jumping, can be minimized through the use of specific neuromuscular training programs.

The goal of such training programs is to teach athletes proper body mechanics in jumping, landing, and running. Through a series of warm-up drills, athletes can improve physical skills and decrease the risk of a noncontact ACL injury. The NFHS is now offering a free online course on "ACL Injury Prevention" on NFHSLearn at The NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) strongly supports the implementation of this course in high school and middle school soccer programs in effort to decrease the risk of serious knee injuries.

2. **Pre-game communication between the school administration and game officials:** An authorized representative of the host school shall greet the officials upon their arrival. The host school principal, principal's designee or game administrator must indicate to the head official or center referee his/her location should a situation develop where his/her assistance is needed during a contest. The contest coaches should not serve as the principal's designee or game administrator. The expectation is that the principal's designee or game administrator will take positive action to maintain an atmosphere of good sportsmanship within the spectator seating area.

3. **Official's communicating misconduct with coaches:** NFHS Rule 5-3 states that game officials shall communicate the nature of misconduct to coaches, the scorer and other officials when a yellow/red card has been issued. This communication is a notification and not an explanation. It is not intended to be an opportunity for the coach to discuss or dissent the call. It is, however, an educational opportunity for the coach to address and/or correct the behavior of the carded individual. It is important to note that interscholastic athletics are an extension of the classroom and the behavior of all involved should reflect as such. Coaches and officials are expected to model good sportsmanship and to uphold the honor and dignity of their profession. This includes all interactions with student-athletes, other coaches and officials, school administration and spectators.

## ***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. **Players may wear caps in inclement weather** (NFHS 4-2-1h Exception 3) – **Adopted in Ohio**  
Players may wear soft and yielding caps in inclement weather. Caps must be the same color.
2. **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.
3. **Systems of Officiating** (NFHS 5-1-1) – **Adopted in Ohio**  
The officials shall be a head referee and a referee, a single referee and two assistant referees, or a center referee and two side referees assisted by a timer, scorer and at least two ball holders. Competing schools may select one of the above systems by mutual agreement.
4. **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](http://www.ohsaa.org)) and within this manual. The uniform indicated shall be worn in all OHSAA games, regular season and the entire post-season tournament.
5. **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.
6. **Score kept by referee** (NFHS 6-3-1) – **NOT Adopted in Ohio**
7. **Fourth Official as scorer** (NFHS 6-3-3) – **NOT Adopted in Ohio**  
Refer to OHSAA tournament regulations for additional information regarding use of fourth officials during tournament play.
8. **Four equal quarters rather than halves** (NFHS 7-1-1) – **NOT adopted in Ohio**
9. **Shortened periods** (NFHS 7-1-2) – **NOT Adopted in Ohio**
10. **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 OHSAA 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.

11. **Goal differential** (NFHS 7-1-5) – **Adopted in Ohio**

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.

12. **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.

13. **Disqualified player barred from competition** (NFHS 12-8-3 Note) – **Adopted in Ohio**

Refer to OHSAA Soccer Regulations for specific penalties for disqualified or ejected players and / or coaches.

14. **Sample Tie-Breaking Procedure** – **Adopted in Ohio, in part**

Please refer to "Game Procedures: Tournament Overtime Procedures", above.

15. **Incidental Use of Vulgar or Profane Language** (12.8.1(d)) – **Not adopted in Ohio**

16. **Sample Fourth Official/duties** – **Adopted in Ohio, in part for post-season tournament play only**



## 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".

## Uniform Rules for Soccer

**Comments:**

-Beginning last season, the home team wears dark jerseys and socks, reversing the practice of the past five years.

-Dark is defined as any color which contrasts with white.

-Visitors now wear solid white jerseys and solid white socks.

-The color of home or visitors' shorts is not specified in the rules, so wear your color of choice.

-Home socks must be of a single, dominant, dark color.

-Visitors' socks must be solid white.

-Visitors' and home socks may have a manufacturer's logo/trademark on each side of each sock.

**\*\*Remember, if tape, stays or straps are worn over the sock, the tape, stay or strap must be of a similar color to that part of the sock to which it is applied or which it covers.**





## *Uniform Reminders 2019*

**Article 1...** The required player equipment includes a jersey, shorts, socks, suitable shoes and shinguards. The shinguards shall provide adequate and reasonable protection, be professionally manufactured, age- and size-appropriate, not altered to decrease protection, worn under the socks and worn with the bottom edge no higher than 2 inches above the ankle. (see illustrations regarding shinguards). Shinguards must meet the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) specifications at the time of manufacture. The NOCSAE seal and height range shall be permanently marked on the front of the shinguard. Equipment shall not be modified from its original manufactured state and shall be worn in the manner the manufacturer intended it to be worn. It is also recommended that male players wear a supporter and a protective cup.

### **Requirements for Uniforms:**

**4-1-1a, b** a. 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**. Prior to and during the game, jerseys shall be tucked into the shorts, unless manufactured to be worn outside.

b. Both socks shall be the same color, with the home team wearing socks of a single dominant color, but not necessarily the color of the jersey and the visiting team wearing solid white sock. If tape or a similar material (stays/ straps) is applied externally to the socks, it must be of similar color as that part of the sock to which it is applied.

**4.1.1 (c)** A manufacturer's logo/trademark appearing on both sides of the socks is legal.

**4-1-1d, e** If visible apparel is worn under the jersey and/or shorts, it shall be of similar length for an individual and a solid like-color for the team.

**4.1.1 (f)** One manufacturer's logo/trademark or reference is permitted on the outside of each item which may not exceed 2 ¼ square inches and may not exceed 2 ¼ inches in any dimension. (Subject to the provisions in 4-1-1 (d))

**4.1.1 (g)** One American flag, not to exceed 2 inches by 3 inches, may be worn or occupy space on each item of uniform apparel. By state association adoption, to allow for special occasions, commemorative or memorial patches, not to exceed 4 square inches, may be worn on the jersey without compromising its integrity.

**4.1.1 (h)** When an illegally uniformed team is unable to correct the situation or cannot verify state association approval of the uniform, the game shall be played. The referee must, however, notify the state association following the game.

**4.1.1 (i)** Except for the uniform of the goalkeeper, jerseys, shorts, and socks of teammates shall be of similar color, design and pattern.

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 contrasting color to the jersey (or shorts) and clearly visible.

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 (f).

3. The jersey of the goalkeeper shall distinctly differ in color from that of any teammate or opposing field player. The shorts or pants of the goalkeeper are not required to be the same color as his/her teammates, but must comply with Rule 4-1-1h(1). The socks of the goalkeeper are not required to be the same color as his/her teammates, but shall differ in color from the opposing field players.

**4.1.1 (j)** Shoes must be worn by all participants in a game. Shoes with soles containing metal (aluminum, magnesium, titanium, etc.) leather, rubber, nylon, or plastic cleats, studs or bars, whether molded as part of the sole or detachable, are allowed as long as the referee does not consider them dangerous.

**Article 2...** It is recommended that team captains wear an upper arm band of a contrasting color. The captain's band, if worn, shall be worn on the upper arm.

**Article 3...** It is recommended that substitutes wear distinguishing pinnies when warming up outside of the team area.

- 4-1-1d, e      d. If visible apparel is worn under the jersey and/or shorts, it shall be of similar length for an individual and a solid liked-color for the team.

NONE of these jerseys to the right are legal:



## WHAT TO DO WHEN UNIFORMS DO NOT COMPLY

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

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

1. PLAY THE GAME. PLAY THE GAME. Games should never be 'cancelled' because the officials deem the uniforms unacceptable or non-compliant. PLAY THE GAME.
2. Submit a report to the OHSAA via their normal reporting system. The OHSAA will follow-up with the report and inquire as to the school's uniform rotation, etc.

### *Equipment/Safety Information*

#### 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 with no protrusions. A medical release for the injured player signed by an appropriate health care professional shall be available at the game site."

#### Headgear

**RULE 4.2.9:** "Soft-padded headgear is permitted."

#### 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.

## *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://ohsaa.org/sports/soccer>. 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.

## *OHSAA Regulations*

### **TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS**

Tournament Regulations and the State Tournament Draw will be available at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) (after approval at the August Board meeting). On the website, under “Sports & Tournaments” select Soccer. They are listed under Tournament Information on the left side of the Soccer page.

### **OHSAA GENERAL SPORTS REGULATIONS**

General Sports Regulations are available at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org). Under “Sports & Tournaments” select Soccer. The General Sports Regulations are listed under 2019 Soccer Info on left side.

## *OHSAA Soccer Sport Regulations*

### **SOCCER 2019-20**

## **10. SOCCER — BOYS AND GIRLS**

### **A. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

#### **1) Interscholastic Participation**

- 1.1) A player shall not be permitted to participate in more than three halves during any one day with a total of 42 halves for the season. Any part of a half is counted as one half. In an overtime game, the overtime shall be considered an extension of the second half. (Penalty — See Sports Regulation 20.)

If a player participates in more than three halves in one day, the player shall be disqualified from the game when discovered, the team shall play short for the remainder of the game. All halves played shall count as halves toward the maximum permitted.

- 1.2) Any scheduled regular season game in soccer which is not started due to unforeseen circumstances, such as failure of team to arrive, strikes, school closing, is “No Contest.” Games not played are not included in won-lost statistics and do not count toward the total number of games permitted to schedule.
- 1.3) Any OHSAA tournament game interrupted due to events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority shall be continued from the point of interruption.

- 1.4) All games shall consist of 2 halves of the following length:  
Varsity: 40 minutes  
Junior Varsity and Freshmen: 36 minutes  
Junior High: 30 minutes
- 1.5) **PREVIEW** — A preview may be scheduled and played starting with the first day after the official start date of coaching until date of the first regular season game of the teams involved. A Preview must conform to all requirements defined in General Sports Regulation 23 – Preview. All NFHS Soccer Rules must be followed and a school team or player may participate in only one preview per season.
- 1.6) **Overtime Procedures** — Overtime procedures have been established for OHSAA tournament play only. There is no overtime during regular season matches. Schools may request use of approved tournament overtime procedures for league/conference tournaments only. All requests must be made to the Executive Director’s Office and are subject to approval.
- 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.

## **2) Out-of-State Travel**

A soccer team may travel out of state to compete in contest scrimmages, previews and games in states or provinces in Canada that are contiguous to Ohio regardless of distance to travel. The states include Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The province includes Ontario. Additionally, a soccer team may travel out of state one-time per interscholastic season to compete in states or provinces in Canada that are not contiguous to Ohio provided there is no loss of school time.

“School time” is defined as any time during any day during which the school is in session as stipulated in its Board-adopted school calendar exclusive of contingency days. Penalty for violation: The school shall be ineligible for the OHSAA postseason tournament in the sport in which the out-of-state travel was involved and could be subject to additional penalties as referenced in Bylaw 11.

**EXCEPTION:** If, because of missed school days due to calamity situations, an otherwise non-school day(s) becomes a school day(s) in order to make-up for the missed school day, the school may compete in a contest(s) outside the state of Ohio provided:

- 1) The school had contracted for/committed to said trip/contest(s) at least three months prior to the contest(s) in question and;
- 2) The school receives written permission from the Executive Director’s Office at least one week in advance of the scheduled event.

A soccer team may not travel out of state only to practice.

## **3) Disqualification or Ejection for Unsporting Conduct**

- 3.1) Players and Bench Personnel

A soccer player or bench personnel is considered “disqualified” upon receiving a subsequent caution or “double yellow” (NF Rule 12-8-2(c)) and shall be ineligible to participate for the remainder of the current contest with no further penalties. The player is to remain with the team for the remainder of the contest.

A soccer player or bench personnel is considered “ejected” upon receiving a straight Red Card and shall be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, the student shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in soccer until two regular season/tournament contests are played at the same level as the ejection. The player is to remain with the team under the jurisdiction of the head coach for the remainder of the contest.

See the remainder of *Ejection Policies for Players and Coaches* under Sections 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations.

### 3.2) Coaches

A coach is considered “disqualified” upon receiving a subsequent caution or “double yellow” and shall be ineligible to participate for the remainder of the current contest with no further penalties.

A soccer coach is considered “ejected” upon receiving a straight Red Card and shall be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, the coach shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in soccer until two regular season/tournament contests are played at the same level as the ejection. The coach is required to leave the entire facility for the remainder of the contest. If there is no assistant coach or school personnel present to coach the contest, the game is either suspended or completed at that point.

See the remainder of *Ejection Policies for Players and Coaches* under Sections 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations.

## 4) Transfer Bylaw

While all questions regarding the transfer bylaw should be addressed to the appropriate school administrator, information regarding the transfer bylaw can be found on the OHSAA website at this link, <http://www.ohsaa.org/Eligibility/Transfer>. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to the transfer bylaw, and who participated in high school soccer within 12 months of the transfer date, are ineligible for all regular season contests, scrimmages, and the OHSAA postseason tournament beginning with regular season contest #9.

## 5) Non-Interscholastic Participation

### 5.1) Soccer Players Who Have Not Competed for Their School This Season:

A sports regulation identified as the Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Date stipulates that a soccer athlete who has not participated for the school team in soccer that season must cease non-interscholastic soccer competition four weeks (28 days) prior to the Monday of the week of the State Tournament in soccer in order to be eligible for OHSAA Tournament competition provided all other applicable bylaws and regulations have been followed.

In addition, an athlete who has participated for the school in soccer who violates this non-interscholastic competition date by participating in a non-interscholastic contest in soccer shall be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition in soccer in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed.

Date: October 7, 2019 – No non-interscholastic competition permitted on or after this date.



- 5.2) A member of an interscholastic soccer squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter sponsored by the Board of Education shall not participate in a non-interscholastic program (tryouts, practice or contest) as an individual or a member of a team in the sport of soccer during the school's season (Sports Regulation 7.2.1).

EXCEPTION: The Executive Director's Office may grant a waiver to this regulation in the event that the athlete has been selected to compete as a member of a junior or senior national team in the sport. – General Sports Reg 7.7 The intent of the waiver is to protect the integrity of the regulation and the interscholastic program while allowing the development of national-caliber athletes who have been invited to compete non-interscholastically during the school season. The procedure for requesting the waiver requires that the principal or official designee of the member school direct a request to the OHSAA soccer administrator. Please include the supporting documentation with the letter request. Each request will be reviewed on an individual basis.

- 5.3) A member of an interscholastic soccer squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education may participate in non-interscholastic soccer prior to and after the school season under the conditions of General Sports Regulations 7.3 and are detailed as follows:

- 5.31) The number of interscholastic soccer players from the same school on a non-interscholastic squad is limited to five on the roster of that non-interscholastic squad. A roster is defined as all the members of the entire squad on that non-interscholastic squad that would practice together OR participate together in any non-interscholastic event. "Rotating players" that would exceed this number (5) is not permitted and the use any "guest player" would be counted as one of the 5 players permitted on the non-interscholastic roster.

**Note:** Graduating seniors who are participating on a non-interscholastic soccer squad after their final interscholastic contest of the season in the sport of soccer are exempt from this limitation.

- 5.32) There is no limit on the number of soccer squad members from the same school participating on the same squad during the period June 1-July 31 in accordance with General Sports Regulation 7.5.
- 5.33) A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament in excess of the five player limitation after July 31 until the squad is eliminated but no later than Labor Day.
- 5.34) Non-interscholastic participation includes tryouts, training, practice and competition.
- 5.4) **Indoor Soccer** shall be defined as a game played by two teams, each consisting of no more than 6 players, one of whom must be the goalkeeper, and played indoors between the end of the school's soccer season and the day before the first day of coaching for the interscholastic season. There is no limit of players from the same school on an indoor soccer team.
- 5.5) A student may not play in a non-interscholastic soccer contest, game or scrimmage, while a member of the school soccer squad. Non-interscholastic programs and 'team membership' are defined in General Sports Regulation 7.1.

- 5.6) All-Star Games — “All-Star” events are non-interscholastic events by rule. Student-athletes in team sports who wish to participate in one of these “all-star” competitions outside the school soccer season may do so without jeopardy to eligibility provided the students maintain compliance with General Sports Regulation 7.3 and 7.6 that address “Non-interscholastic competition”.

The purpose of this special “All-Star” regulation is to provide an opportunity for the interscholastic team sport coach to coach players from his or her school. Coaches are permitted to coach in “All-Star” contests if they meet all the provisions of General Sports Regulation 7.6.

#### **6) Instructional Programs**

See *Regulations for Instructional Programs* under Section 8 of the General Sports Regulations.

#### **7) No Contact Period — Coaches**

See *Regulations for No Contact Period — Coaches* under Section 11 of the General Sports Regulations.

#### **8) Penalties**

- 8.1) The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2 (participation with a non-interscholastic soccer squad while a member of the school’s interscholastic soccer squad) or an OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic soccer season or the ensuing soccer season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year
- 8.2) The penalty for a coach for violation of Sports Regulation 7.5 (non-interscholastic teams) may include suspension, probation, public censure, fine not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence, or such other penalty as the Executive Director may deem appropriate.

### **B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12**

- 1) Coaching tryouts, and instruction may begin — August 1, 2019
- 2) First match — Friday, August 16, 2019
- 3) Friday Night Futbol – Friday, August 16, 2019
- 3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament — September 30, 2019
- 4) Tournament draw/seeding meeting — October 6, 2019, boys-2:00 p.m. and girls-3:00 p.m.
- 5) Coaching and Season end — November 9, 2019
- 6) Scrimmages or Previews — Maximum of four scrimmages plus one preview
- 7) Regular season contests permitted — 16
- 8) Rules — National Federation Soccer
- 9) Uniform Rules — National Federation Soccer
- 10) Officials
  - 10.1) Varsity — Regardless of the number of officials, minimum of two OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 officials required.

- 10.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity — Regardless of the number of officials, minimum of two OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 officials required.
- 10.3) Freshmen — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3. All other officials shall be OHSAA Class 1, 2, or 3 or officials in training.
- 10.4) All Levels - If only one OHSAA official is present to officiate the contest, the game may be played if participating coaches agree.

C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8

- 1) Coaching and instruction may begin — August 1, 2019
- 2) First match — Friday, August 16, 2019
- 3) Coaching and Season end — November 9, 2019
- 4) Scrimmages — One scrimmage or one preview permitted.
- 5) Regular season contests permitted — 14 plus 1 postseason tournament not to exceed 4 games.
- 6) Rules — National Federation (NFHS) Soccer.
- 8) Officials — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1, Class 2 or Class 3 official required. All other officials shall be OHSAA Class 1, 2, or 3 or officials in training.

Soccer	2019	2020	2021	2022
Coaching Begins	8/1	8/1	8/2	8/1
Season Begins	8/16	8/21	8/20	8/19
Sectional	10/14 – 10/19#	10/19 – 10/24#	10/18 – 10/23#	10/17-10/22#
District	10/21 – 10/26	10/26 – 10/31	10/25 – 10/30	10/24-10/29
Regional	10/29 – 11/2	11/3 – 11/7	11/2 – 11/6	11/1-11/5
State	11/5 – 11/0	11/10– 11/14	11/9 – 11/13	11/8-11/12
Season Ends	11/10	11/14	11/13	11/12
Thanksgiving	11/28	11/26	11/25	11/24

Coach — No Contact Period Begins with first day after last interscholastic contest and ends 28 days later.

#Unless an earlier date is established by a District Athletic board (no earlier than two days prior to the established date)

## “Friday Night Futbol” in Ohio!

“Friday Night Futbol” is an initiative created by the OHSAA with the goal of providing schools an early season Friday night specifically geared toward SOCCER. That date this year is Friday night, August 16. High school Football does not begin until the following week and there is hope that schools will make this “first Friday night” of the fall sports season and the 2019-20 school year a dedication to high school Soccer. Since most schools are concluding “Band Camps”, we have lengthened halftime to 15:00 with the encouragement to have high school bands perform at halftime. Additional information was sent to schools this past spring and more will be forthcoming – including a great partnership with The Columbus Crew SC that will provide incentives to schools participating. There is NO CHARGE, NO FEE, NO APPLICATION.... just an effort to promote one of the continually growing sports in the state! I encourage your participation!

## *Out of Season Coaching*

Effective with the 2017-18 school year, ALL SCHOOL COACHES may coach players in **ALL GRADES** 7-12 in team play outside the season. This permission was extended last year at the junior high level and is now permissible at the high school level as well. Keep in mind, the 50% limitation (5 in soccer) is still in effect outside the season for players. So, though a coach MAY coach players in team play from his/her own school, there may still only be 5 players from the school team on the non-school team.

Example: During April, a travel/club team consists of 5 returning players from your school. Any school approved coach may now coach that travel team during that time.

This is a significant change from year's past and is designed to help put more of 'our own' coaches into the club/travel area as well as provide more flexibility with obtaining new coaches that previously were restricted if they also coached at the club/travel level.

## *Goal Differential – Running Clock*

After the first half, any time the score differential reaches 6 goals or more for any 7-12 regular season and tournament contests, the following changes, and only these changes, will be made regarding rules determining when the clock will be stopped. The clock will be stopped when:

- 1) An official's time-out is called for an injured player
- 2) Any unusual delay deemed necessary by the officials

**The clock will start again on the ready for play signal for the first play after the above situations.**

**Note 1:** The clock will continue to run in all other situations.

**Note 2:** The use of this rule does not preclude the use of NFHS Rule 7-1-2 which reads: "*Periods may be shortened by state high school association adoption, or if mutually agreed upon or in any emergency, by agreement of coaches or ordered by the head referee, provide it is determined to shorten the periods before the game or before the second half begins and all remaining periods are the same length.*"

**Note 3:** After the 6 goal difference has been met, if the score drops below the 6 goal differential, the clock reverts to regular timing.

### **PA Announcement when Point Differential has Been Reached:**

"Ladies and Gentlemen, this game will now be played with a running clock per the new OHSA point differential rule. The clock will still be stopped should there be an injured player on the field or by any unusual delay deemed necessary by the officials. If the point differential should fall beneath 6 goals, normal clock operations will resume."

## *Indoor Soccer; Re-Defined*

**Since facilities are being built each year to accommodate soccer being played INDOORS – this was a NEW interpretation relative to INDOOR SOCCER that became effective in 2016-17.**

**Indoor Soccer** shall be defined as a game played by two teams each consisting of not more than 6 players, one of whom must be the goalkeeper, and played indoors between the end of the school's soccer season and the day before the first day of coaching for the interscholastic season is permitted. The number of interscholastic soccer players from the same school on a non-interscholastic squad of an indoor soccer roster is not limited provided none of the interscholastic coaching staff, paid or unpaid, is coaching the indoor team.

**There is no longer a requirement to play by USSF Indoor Rules to be considered 'indoor soccer' – there now is a simply limit on the number playing on a team that define it as 'indoor soccer'**

## *Futsal; Re-Defined*

Though the sport of "Futsal" is gaining popularity, played by the exact rules of the game – Futsal is 'different' than soccer. While it is a 'foot skill game', Futsal is truly 'different' from soccer and is not considered to be the sport of soccer in our regulations.

## *College "ID Camps"*

"Everybody's doing it". Basically, that is how I sum up the dozens of "College ID Camps" that have developed. The fact that many college/universities are conducting these in early August after the start of high school Soccer practice presents many challenges AND legitimate questions. This should answer these. Here are the facts:

- College ID Camps are Non-Interscholastic Events per OHSAA Regulations.
- Athletes are not permitted to attend non-interscholastic workouts, tryouts, practices, or competitions while a member of the school team.
- An athlete becomes a member of the school Soccer team when he/she competes in a scrimmage, preview or a game for the school team.

So, these facts should answer whether a player from your team is permitted to attend a "College ID Camp" without fear of ineligibility (the penalty for violating the non-interscholastic rules).

A student-athlete could attend a "College ID Camp" if they are not a member of the school team yet.

## *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 as 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.

## *Suspended Games*

Every fall, Ohio weather brings attention to the **Official NFHS Rule** regarding Duration and Length of Games (Rule 7, pages 34-35 of the NFHS Rules Book).

### Article 3 of Rule 7 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.*

### Important Notes Regarding Rule 7.3:

- 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.**
- 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.**

This rule through the NFHS does not provide for 'State Adoptions', therefore, League or Conference Rules may NOT override this NFHS Rule



## Non-Interscholastic Competition

A member of an interscholastic soccer squad (grades 7-12) sponsored by the Board of Education **cannot participate in a non-interscholastic Soccer program** (such as 'club' or 'travel'), which includes tryouts, practice and contests as an individual OR a member of a team in the sport of Soccer anytime during the school team's season. This is explained in OHSAA Bylaw 10-3-1. A student-athlete becomes a member of the school team when he/she participates in a scrimmage, preview OR regular season or tournament game as a substitute OR as a starter.

**Recently, there are a growing number of colleges/universities inviting students to 'tryouts' or 'workouts' DURING the high school soccer season. These are considered NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC in nature and are NOT PERMITTED. You are encouraged to review this with your team members!**

A member of an interscholastic soccer team sponsored by the Board of Education **MAY** participate in non-interscholastic soccer (such as 'club' or 'travel') PRIOR TO and AFTER the school season under the following conditions:

- The number of interscholastic soccer players from the same school on a non-interscholastic team is limited to **FIVE on the roster** of that non-interscholastic team. This number includes all players that played on the school team in the previous season from grades 9-11\*.
- A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament only in excess of the five-player limit until the squad is eliminated but no later than Labor Day. You **MUST** get approval IN ADVANCE from the OHSAA for this to be permitted.
- A player may play in non-interscholastic soccer **ONLY WHEN** the student's team has completed its season.

\*Graduating seniors are exempt from this 5-player limitation.

## OHSAA's General Sports Regulations

### How do the OHSAA's Sports Regulations Affect Coaches and Players

Regulations governing the sport of soccer are divided into two basic categories: **GENERAL Sports' Regulations** and **SOCCEER Regulations (sport specific)**. These are reviewed annually and approved by the OHSAA's Board of Directors.



### The OHSAA General Sports' Regulations

These regulations can be accessed and address regulations that affect all sports governed by the OHSAA. They include, but are not limited to, such things as Instructional Programs outside the window of the season, Physical Fitness (Conditioning) Programs, Open Gym/Field Regulations, No Contact Periods, Player and Coach Ejection Policies. These are important and *most* areas of concern can be addressed simply by reading through these Regulations or contacting your Athletic Administrator. They are easily accessed via the web by navigating to the "Soccer" webpage and clicking on "General Sports' Regulations" on the left hand side or directly going to

<http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports/GeneralSportsRegulations.pdf> I **strongly encourage** you to take the time to read these to familiarize yourself and your staff with the various rules approved by our Board of Directors that govern all sports.

Though there are far too many to list in this coaches' guide, a *few* of the more common ones that affect coaches and teams are:

#### Open Gyms/Facilities/Fields at Member Schools

Open Gyms (or facilities) are clearly defined in **the OHSAA's General Sports Regulation #10**. An abbreviated version states:

- A school may open its athletic facilities for **unstructured free play** provided the activity is supervised by a school employee who may remove participants or spectators for disciplinary reasons.
- The school may designate the sport or sports that will be played during the free play period, but **may not limit participation** to a select group of students from within the school. Participation **may** be limited to students enrolled in that specific school.
- There can be no designation of who will play on which team or who will play whom. Only those students participating may be involved in the selection of teams.
- Regulation timing of games is not permitted.
- Written scorekeeping is not permitted.
- No individual invitations, written or oral, are permitted.

- A coach, paid or volunteer, violates the provision of these regulations when the coach requires, suggests or in any way implies that a student's chance to be selected for an interscholastic squad is contingent upon participation at an open gymnasium or facilities program.
- Mandatory attendance at open gyms/facilities is **not permitted**.
- Transporting athletes to a school or non-school open gym/facility is a violation for any member of the coaching staff, paid or volunteer.
- Coaches **may participate** in the unstructured free play in the open gym/facilities.

Schools MAY restrict individuals from observing the open gym/facility activity.

### **Sports Regulation – “Out of Season Individual Instruction”**

Please see the end of this section for complete details on the revised General Sports Regulations that will permit school coaches to provide INDIVIDUAL instruction outside the season of play.

### **The OHSAA Soccer Specific Regulations**

Each spring, regulations for the upcoming school year are approved by the Board of Directors for every sport the OHSAA sponsors. These address areas such as (but not limited to) non-Interscholastic competition, number of contests (game, scrimmage or preview) that are permitted, season start and end dates, out of state travel, etc. All coaches should familiarize themselves with these regulations. Coaches should familiarize their entire staff with the importance of these Regulations as they directly affect the eligibility of student-athletes. Upon approval, they are submitted for printing to the annual OHSAA Handbook (which every administrator has been provided). These are also available through the soccer web page at:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports/Soccer/SOReglts.pdf> Soccer specific AND the General Sports' Regulations are found on the left side of the page. A few of the Sports' Regulation **highlights** are listed but you are encouraged to read the entire regulations at the above listed website.

#### **Game & Scrimmage Limitations (Grades 9-12)**

**Maximum number of games permitted: 16 Games**

**Scrimmages/Previews:** Maximum of 4 scrimmages PLUS 1 Preview.

**Scrimmage Note:** Scrimmages MAY be held at any time during pre-season, post-season or during the season, but MUST count as the same for both competing teams. In other words, Team A cannot count it as a 'scrimmage' while Team B counts the competition as a 'game'. This is especially noteworthy during post-season.

**Alumni games:** These have gained popularity and may be played...but they MUST be counted as a scrimmage.

**Practicing with Other Schools:** This also has become popular and may occur but again, any such practice MUST be counted as one of the team's 4 permitted scrimmages.

**Note Regarding Individual Participation:** Though there is no limitation on the number of HALVES an **individual** may participate in for scrimmages, **Individual players are not permitted to participate in more than 4 scrimmages and 1 Preview.**

#### **Individual Contest & Halves Limitations (Grades 9-12)**

**Scrimmages Permitted:** No Individual may participate in more than 4 scrimmages

**Previews Permitted:** No individual may participate in more than 1 Preview (a player is NOT permitted to play in a JV Preview and also a Varsity Preview).

**Halves Permitted:** No individual may participate in more than 3 halves in any one day OR **42 halves on the season.**

#### **Game & Scrimmage Limitations (Grades 7-8)**

**Maximum number of games permitted: 14 and 1 Post-Season tournament not to exceed 4 games**

**Scrimmages:** Maximum of 1 scrimmage OR 1 Preview

**Scrimmage Note:** Scrimmages MAY be held at any time during the season but MUST count as the same for both competing teams. In other words, Team A cannot count it as a 'scrimmage' while Team B counts the competition as a 'game'.

**Note Regarding Individual Participation:** Though there is no limitation on the number of HALVES an **individual** may participate in for scrimmages, **Individual players are not permitted to participate in more than 1 scrimmage or 1 Preview.**

#### **Individual Contest & Halves Limitations (Grades 7-8)**

**Scrimmages Permitted:** No Individual may participate in more than 1 scrimmage.

**Previews Permitted:** No individual may participate in more than 1 Preview

**Halves Permitted:** No individual may participate in more than 3 halves in any one day OR **28 halves on the season (any post season tournament would be permitted up to 8 halves)**

#### **Previews**

OHSAA Regulations permit teams to participate in ONE preview in addition to their 4 scrimmages (9-12) prior to their first game. Previews may be scheduled and played during that time period (August 1 – before first game). No Previews may be scheduled or played after the school's first contest.

**Previews may ONLY consist of a maximum of one-half the length of a regular season contest.** Admission may be charged for Previews.

**Note Regarding Individual Participation:** No Individual players is permitted to participate in more than 1 Preview.

### **No Contact Period ("Dead Period")**

There has been considerable misunderstanding about the **No Contact** period outlined in General Sports Regulation 11. Any coach, **paid or volunteer**, is prohibited from athletic or athletic-related contact with squad members in the same sport for the period of time starting with the **first day after the school's last interscholastic contest and ending 28 days later**. This includes any contact in tryouts in or out of school, physical fitness, weight training, open gyms, etc. It also includes verbal contact which encourages, discusses or promotes any activity related to soccer. Exceptions to this are all-star contests, awards ceremonies, contact with seniors to facilitate college recruiting and contact as a faculty member assigned to teach in the regular curriculum, pick up school-issued equipment and attendance at OHSAAs tournaments. See information detailing this elsewhere in this manual.

### **Out of State Travel**

A Soccer team may travel out of state to compete in contests, scrimmages, previews and games in states OR provinces in Canada that are **contiguous** to Ohio regardless of distance. This would include the states of Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia and the province of Ontario in Canada. A team may travel out of state **one time** to a state or province NOT contiguous to Ohio, but only if there is no loss of school time. Teams **may not travel out of state only to practice**.

### **Comments to News Media**

Each year unpleasant situations arise as a result of comments made to the news media by coaches. The OHSAAs Constitution and Bylaws 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." 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 comments regarding the players, coaches, or schools. Coaches are expected to follow the same procedure in regard to the officials. Coaches violating this rule may be asked to discuss the problem personally with the Executive Director. (See Sports Regulations "Media Regulations")

### **Videotaping Regulations**

The improvement of various electronic devices, especially cell phones, has drawn much attention to the rules regarding recording soccer contests. Complete regulations available within the OHSAAs Handbook or through the General Sports Regulations on the web at <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rqits/GeneralSportsRegulations.pdf> under Section "A" of the Media Regulations. A few highlights of this include but are not limited to:

- It is permissible for a school to videotape or photograph regular season contests in which the school team is participating, but such tapes or photographs may not be used for coaching purposes until after the contest is completed. In other words, it is not possible to use photographs or any recorded information at halftime of a game.
- It is **not permissible for a school or school representative to videotape or photograph Previews, scrimmages, regular season OR tournament contests of other schools** without the written consent of the schools participating in the contest.

### **Scoreboard-Video Replay Board Regulations**

As more and more schools erect video replay boards at their shared facilities with football, there has been much concern about their use. First, replays on scoreboards are NOT considered any form of coaching device and therefore are permissible for use. It is cautioned however...replays of CONTROVERSIAL plays are NOT to be run on replay boards. This is consistent with football regulations and discussion should take place with those individuals operating those boards.

### **Officials**

**Varsity:** Minimum of TWO OHSAAs Class 1 or Class 2 officials are required. Regardless of how many are officiating the game, ALL must be OHSAAs Class 1 or Class 2.

**Junior Varsity:** Minimum of TWO OHSAAs Class 1 or Class 2 officials are required.

**Freshmen:** OHSAAs Class 1, 2, or 3 *recommended*.

*Note: If only one OHSAAs official is present to officiate a contest, the game may be played if participating coaches agree.*

### **Protests Are Not Part of High School Soccer (ALL SPORTS) and Will NOT be Considered**

Bylaw 8, Section 3(1) of the OHSAAs Constitution and Bylaws reads in part, "Protests arising from the decisions of interpretations of the rules by officials during the game will **not be considered**. Their decisions and interpretations are final." This means that correctable errors must be corrected during the game and within the time established by playing rules.

### **Tracking "Double Yellow Cards" or "Subsequent Cautions"**

Beginning with the 2015 Soccer season, officials will be required to submit Officials' Reports for all "double yellow" cards. This data will help determine any changes in subsequent years' ejection policies.

### **Ejections from Scrimmages**

Any ejection that takes place during a scrimmage will be reported on the Officials' Report and will require all players to be suspended in accordance with the OHSAAs Ejection Policy.

**Important Note on Ejections:** Any ejection that takes place out of state or when not followed by the required paperwork that is to be submitted by the official must still follow all ejection protocol. Consequences of an ejection are required to be followed whether appropriate paperwork is filed by the official or not.

## *Sports Regulations and Coaching Restrictions*

The OHSA's General Sports Regulations define what coaches may do outside the season of play. These regulations **MUST BE UNDERSTOOD BY ALL COACHES**. A few simple facts:

- **Coaches are expected to know, understand and abide by all General Sports Regulations**
- **Member schools AGREE to abide and self-enforce the General Sports Regulations**
- **All Coaches, whether PAID or VOLUNTEER are bound by ALL General Sports Regulations**

The following areas are often misunderstood and violated. Though difficult in today's world, it is important to understand the role of ETHICS as they relate to high school sports – not only in Ohio but across the nation. The regulations governing high school athletics in Ohio are voluntarily enforced **by the member schools**. No doubt, this is a challenge in today's world. But the fact remains; the regulations are created by the very member schools of the OHSA. It is the responsibility of the OHSA to help with the education of these regulations and the schools AND COACHES to self-enforce them. It is generally 'easiest' to break these regulations affecting coaches into FOUR general categories:

- **Summer Rules (June 1 – July 31)**
- **During the Season**
- **The No- Contact Period**
- **Outside the Season (except during June/July)**

### **Summer Rules: June 1 – July 31**

Between June 1 and July 31, the out-of season and non-interscholastic regulations change considerably. The regulations governing school programs are often known as "Summer Rules". OHSA Regulations in place during this time period have an impact on both **coaches** and **players**. Below is an overview of how the period between June 1 and July 31 affect each:

#### **Coaches**

1. Coaches may provide individual or team instruction anytime between June 1 and July 31. **INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION** is defined as 'one on one' anytime 4 individuals or less that played for the school team the previous season are present. **TEAM INSTRUCTION** is defined as any instruction – team or individual – that takes place when MORE THAN 4 individuals that played for the school team the previous season are present.
2. There is a limit of 10 total days that an entire coaching staff combined may provide any team instruction (more than 4 present).
3. There is a 'separation' of the team instruction days permitted for 7-8 grade and 9-12 grade. In other words, there are 10 total days of instruction permitted for 7-8 graders and 10 total days permitted for 9-12 graders.
4. General Sports' Regulation 8.3 is in effect during June and July, as it is in other times of the year. This simply means that anytime ALL the conditions of this regulation are met, the regulation may be used independently of the 10 days permitted for TEAM instruction.
5. **EXAMPLE:** If a "JV coach" is providing instruction to one player or several players, and the head coach is providing instruction to one player or several players at another location on the same day – it counts as one of the 10 days permitted.
6. Volunteer coaches and Paid coaches are treated the same – they are under the same OHSA Regulations.
7. All Volunteer coaches and Paid coaches are identified by where they coached the previous season.  
**EXAMPLE:** If a volunteer coach that coached during the most recent season indicates he/she will not return to coach at the school the next season, they are STILL regulated by the OHSA 'out of season' coaching regulations.
8. New coaches to a school district are not provided exceptions – they are NOT given 'more' days nor are they permitted any extension of the 10 days past July 31.
9. A new coach to a school district is considered a coach at that school and immediately under the 'out of season' coaching regulations as soon as the school names him/her as the coach of that school – regardless of when that person signs a contract.
10. When school coaches coach a team comprised of members of the previous year's team's **IN TEAM PLAY** (important), anytime there are more than 5 individuals that played for the school's 9-12 teams the previous season present on the team (whether on the court/field or as substitutes) the day of coaching is counted as 1 of the 10 days permitted. Anytime there are 5 or less **IN TEAM PLAY**, the day would not count as one of the 10 permitted.
11. Attendance at "Team Play" or "Individual Instruction" **CANNOT** be mandated to individuals or be part of any implied decision for team selection during the regular season.
12. School Administrators are expected and required to monitor compliance as a condition of membership in the OHSA.

## **Players**

1. "Players" are identified as those that played for the 9-12 school sponsored team the previous season and those that played for 7-8 school sponsored team the previous season.  
**EXAMPLE:** All players that played for a freshmen, JV or Varsity team the previous season 'count together'. All players that played for a 7-8 team the previous season are counted together but separately from 9-12.
2. Individuals that did not play for a school sponsored team the previous season do not count in any of the out-of-season regulations affecting players.
3. Individuals that "indicate" they are NOT going to play NEXT season still count in the out-of-season regulations if they played the previous season.
4. There is NO LIMIT to the number of players from the previous year's school sponsored teams that may play together between June 1 and July 31.
5. There is no restriction anytime outside the season of play (including June and July) that would prohibit 8<sup>th</sup> graders from playing with 9-12 graders. The restriction ONLY exists during the defined sports season.
6. Players are considered in their 'current grade' until August 1, 2018.
7. During the June 1 – July 31 period of time, there is no regulation that prohibits a player from "School A" playing on a team with members of "School B". "Anyone may play with anyone" during the June/July period of time.

## **Soccer "Camps" and Individual Instruction**

*The above often leads to questions regarding "Camps" and "individual instruction".*

**Camps:** Many different types of instruction often fall under the general term of "camps". Camps can be conducted by school coaches but must fall under all previously mentioned OHSAA regulations regarding out of season instruction. A camp conducted during June and July would be permissible and would count toward the 10 days of instruction permitted **anytime there are more than 4 individuals present that played for the school teams the previous season.**  
And again, these could only be conducted during June and July. The following "Q and A's" are designed to give additional help:

**Q:** Can I charge for athletes to attend a camp that I conduct as a coach?

**A:** A very complex question. Though not an area the OHSAA regulates, it is an issue ethically and legally between you and the school district. Essentially, it depends a little on whether YOU are conducting the camp (you would therefore be a private business individual) or the school district is conducting the camp (you would then be considered an employee of the school). I **STRONGLY** recommend you sit down and discuss all legal and ethical ramifications with your school administration prior to holding a camp in which a fee is charged.

**Q:** Am I permitted to bring a private instructor in to conduct a camp?

**A:** Yes, you could. Keeping all the above mentioned items in mind, if YOU organize it as the coach, it would still be considered one of the 10 days of instruction permitted. If you have absolutely nothing to do with the organization of the camp, it still could only be done during June/July but would not be part of the 10 days. Again, if you had *absolutely nothing* to do with the organization of the camp.

**Individual Instruction:** This is all defined within Sports Regulation 7 of the OHSAA's General Sports Regulations. Here are a few basics of the regulation:

- **Team members may receive INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION anytime outside the season of play**
- **Team members may receive INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION DURING the season of play by 'outside' individuals unless the school or team coach has a policy against it.**
- **INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION is defined as nothing more than 1 vs 1**
- **Team members may receive any INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION in an Individual or Group lesson**
- **School coaches, whether paid or volunteer, may only provide individual instruction during the season or for 10 days total during June and July**
- **Each day of Instruction by a school coach, whether paid or volunteer, during June and July must count as 1 of the 10 days of instruction permitted from June 1 – July 31 if there are more than 4 individuals present.**
- **General Sports Regulation 8.2 that permits SCHOOL COACHES to provide instruction outside the season to 'no more than 4 individuals in all the combined facilities where the instruction takes place' IS PERMITTED during the summer months also. Anytime there are MORE than 4 individuals present, the day of instruction would have to count toward the 10 days permitted to a coaching staff.**



## During the Season

*This is probably the easiest to understand (and certainly EXPLAIN on my part). You and all Board approved coaches may COACH your team. Coach them up! A few common Q and A's here:*

**Q:** When can we begin practice?

**A:** Wednesday, August 1, 2019.

**Q:** Though practice does begin on August 1, when are we permitted to have TRYOUTS?

**A:** Tryouts and practice are 'one in the same'...and you may begin those on **August 1, 2019** also.

**Q:** How many days do I have to give before making 'cuts' or 'team selections'?

**A:** The OHSAAs does not regulate this. But, common sense is always urged and I STRONGLY recommend you ask this question to your Athletic Director prior to making any 'cuts' or team selections (JV-A, JV-B, etc.)

**Q:** Can we practice on Sunday?

**A:** That is entirely up to your school. The OHSAAs has no restriction prohibiting Sunday practice, like many regulations, we leave it up to the individual school district.

**Q:** Can kids from a middle school travel team practice or train with us?

**A:** No. OHSAAs Regulations do not permit 7-8 graders to practice or train with 9-12 graders anytime during the defined soccer season (August 1 – until the last game).

**Q:** Can we practice along with a neighboring school?

**A:** You may, but it must count as a scrimmage. Anytime two different schools practice together, it must be counted as a scrimmage.

**Q:** Can I, as the school coach, coach a travel team during my school season?

**A:** Yes. There are no regulations that prohibit this. I always remind coaches doing this they are NOT exempt from any "Recruiting Bylaws" within the OHSAAs's Bylaws.

**Q:** During the season, a player is invited by a college to 'workout' for them to determine if they might get athletic grant-in-aid money. Is this permissible for the player?

**A: NO.** This is a growing concern and any participation violates the Non-Interscholastic Regulations and will result in **ineligibility** for the player.

**Q:** There continues to be a reference to "non-interscholastic" soccer. What is considered 'non-interscholastic' soccer?

**A: ANYTHING** that is not the school sponsored team. This includes but is not limited to 'club', 'travel', 'Rec.', collegiate tryouts/workouts, and includes any training, practicing, competing or even 'trying out'.

**Q:** Does a volunteer helping just 1 day a week have to have a Pupil Activity Permit?

**A: YES.** Ohio Administrative Code requires ALL coaches, whether paid OR volunteer, to possess the "PAP" before doing any coaching.

## Out-of-Season Regulations – INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION

The newly adopted **Out-of-Season Individual Instruction Regulations** became effective **in 2015**. These regulations were adopted by the OHSAAs's Board of Directors to provide an opportunity to school coaches for them to provide fundamental skill instruction to individuals. **They were NOT designed to increase or add any additional time for TEAM instruction.**

Effective with the implementation of this regulation, coaches approved by a school's Board of Education (or other governing body) will be permitted to provide **INDIVIDUAL SKILL INSTRUCTION** to individuals that participated on their school team(s) the previous season. A few of the parameters:

- Mandatory attendance at any Individual Instruction is not permitted.
- Individual instruction may NOT take place during currently defined 'no-contact periods'. The 28 day 'no-contact period' at the conclusion of a team's season does not change.
- There will be a limit of 4 (four) individuals in all combined facilities where the instruction is taking place. There is no designation of whether any of the 4 played for the school team or not. In other words, there is a limit of 4 individuals whether they played the sport the previous season or not. FOUR individuals, period. There cannot be 4 'offensive players' and 4 'defensive players'. There will be a limit of FOUR total in all combined facilities. "Four means FOUR".

- 10 days of instruction will continue to exist during June and July. Any part of a day during June and July in which more than 4 individuals are present (as currently defined in the General Sports Regulation 7.9) permitting Individual instruction will count toward one of the 10 days permitted.
- It is the responsibility of each school to understand, comply and enforce the parameters of this General Sports Regulation.

## Individual Instruction Regulation - Q and A's

*The OHSAA's Board of Directors approved the revisions to the OHSAA's General Sports Regulation #7.5 that will permit school coaches to coach their kids in team play outside the season with certain restrictions.*

- Does this mean I can coach my TEAM during Club/Travel and other times outside the season now?  
**Answer: YES,** you can now coach players that played for your school teams in TEAM PLAY between the end of your no-contact period and June 1. This permission permits you to coach a team that has up to 5 players on that team but you must keep the following in mind:
  - Players cannot rotate on and off the roster of that team.
  - You cannot have 'guest players' in addition to the 5 individuals.
  - The same is true for Indoor Soccer. While a separate regulation does permit players to play in excess of the '5 player limit', it does not exempt coaches. So, if that indoor team has more than 5, coaches would still be restricted and could not coach that team.
  - Graduating seniors, exchange students, and players who have never played for your school teams do not count in that total of 5.
- Now that a school coach is permitted to provide INDIVIDUAL instruction outside the season of play, what is the intent of this regulation?  
**Answer: First, the regulation intends to permit EDUCATION-based (school) coaches to be on the same level as non-school based coaches. School coaches are trained as education-based coaches and the feeling is to provide the same opportunity for these coaches that non-school coaches currently have.**
- So, how do you define INDIVIDUAL instruction?  
**Answer: The coach may provide individual instruction (utilizing the definition of 'coaching') for no more than FOUR players in all combined facilities where the instruction is taking place.**
- What if I have 1 player present, is that ok?  
**Answer: Yes, because the limit is 4.**
- What if I have 4 players present and 4 of my coaches present, is that ok?  
**Answer: Yes, because the limit is 4 INDIVIDUALS receiving instruction present.**
- What if I am working with 4 players and a volunteer assistant coach is working with 4 others on the other end of the field, is that ok?  
**Answer: No, because the limit is 4 in all combined facilities where the instruction is taking place.**
- What if we simply 'drop a curtain' in the gym so 4 players are being instructed on one end of a gym while 4 others are being instructed on the other. Is this ok?  
**Answer: No, because the limit is 4 in all combined facilities where the instruction is taking place.**
- If there are other individuals on the field but the coach(es) are only working with 4 individuals at a time, is this ok?  
**Answer: No, because the limit is 4 in all combined facilities where the instruction is taking place.**
- Can I have 2 current 11th graders and 2 current 8<sup>th</sup> graders present to make the total number 4 receiving instruction?  
**Answer: Yes, because the limit is 4 and the restriction on 9-12 players with 7-8 players is not in effect outside the season of play.**
- But, based upon the above, I thought 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders could not participate/play with 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders.  
**Answer/Comment: That regulation is true during the season of play and not in effect outside the season. Local school policy may determine whether you are permitted to do this or not. Ask your school Athletic Director.**
- May a player receive individual skill instruction during the school's sport season from a non-interscholastic ("Club"/"Travel"/"AAU", etc.) coach?  
**Answer: While it is not the position of the OHSAA to encourage outside instruction during the school season, individual skill instruction MAY be received by a squad member at any time in individual lessons *provided* that these individual skill instructions do not violate any Board of Education, school administrators' or coaches' policies.**





## *Administrating Soccer*

**Communication** is a key in the successful administration of any of our sports. I encourage you to ask questions or seek assistance, but *please* consult with your Athletic Administrator FIRST. With the extremely high volume of calls and emails, it truly is the most efficient way for us to meet the needs of our schools. Additionally, nearly all informational items can be found on the web at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and navigating to the "Soccer" site.

**Please** take the time to review the materials provided. At the beginning and the conclusion of the season we receive such a high volume of calls from sub-varsity coaches and "club" coaches. We encourage YOUR communication with them to help us operate as efficiently as possible. As with last season, I will be posting "Ohio Soccer Weekly" to address current issues and reminders for coaches. I continually update the "Off-Season Q and A's" to address the number of questions involving off-season regulations; all with the idea of HELPING coaches.

**Coaches** are reminded that every coach that coaches school soccer are responsible for understanding and knowing the regulations affecting them and their sport. Since this manual is done in concert with the State Rules Interpretation Meetings, it is encouraged that ALL coaches attend. We have put meetings online to make it more convenient for coaches to be aware of the regulations that affect them AND the eligibility of their athletes. Ignorance of the rule is no defense for consequences that occur as a result of rule/regulation violations.

## *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, team benches are to be placed diagonal from one another beginning 10 yards from the halfway line and extending 20 yards toward the goal line. Team benches are NOT to straddle the halfway line. 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:** Recent bylaw passage **highly 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. With this now part of the OHSAA's Bylaws it is now REQUIRED that someone assigned by the school to be 'in charge' of the event in the event the Principal, Athletic Director, event manager or other individual is not in attendance at the event.

## *Rating and Voting for Officials*

***It's Free; It's Easy; and.....it is REQUIRED!***

**Make certain your contests AND officials' names are entered into the *Arbiter* data management system!**

Heard at all tournament contests: *"the tournament officials have been selected by a process approved by the Board of Directors"*. That 'process' is an important one for both coaches AND officials and is the basis for officials' assignments to OHSAA Tournaments.

The OHSAA's General Sports Regulation 3 **requires** head coaches and Athletic Directors to Rate/Vote for officials. Failure to participate in the rating/voting process results in a fine.

To make this process work it requires Coaches and Athletic Directors to do their part. Officials take this process seriously and it is in everyone's best interest to have the correct input for the assignment of officials. A few important things to note:



1. Coaches **RATE** Officials, 3 other categories of approved individuals **VOTE** for Officials. Those categories are: athletic administrators, each local Officials' Association and a group considered Leaders of Officiating. The Leaders of Officiating category include local Officials Association secretaries and interpreters, instructors currently teaching a class, OHSAA Directors of Officiating Development, OHSAA Administrators, and select OHSAA assigned tournament observers and others as determined by the Assistant Commissioner. A person serving in more than one of the leaders of officiating category may only vote from one of them. Officials can gain a maximum of 15 votes per voting category.
2. Ratings are done at the conclusion of a game; voting is done at the end of the season. As mentioned above, ratings are done by COACHES at the conclusion of a game. Officials **are NOT able** to see how a coach rated.
3. "Pools" of officials are created as a result of **ratings and votes**. These pools are arranged into a "State Pool", "Regional Pool" and "Sectional/District Pool". Each pool has more officials than are needed at that level. Pools are created by mathematically calculating the following:
  1. Coaches rate officials on a 1-5 scale for each Varsity game. If an official receives fewer than 15 ratings, the official receives a rating of 2.5 for each rating fewer than 15. The official's highest three and lowest five ratings are deleted and the officials remaining ratings are used to determine the mean, median and mode of the official's ratings. Those three are totaled for a possible maximum score of 15
  2. The coaches rating is added to votes from the 3 categories for a maximum score of 60 per official.
4. District Athletic Boards utilize the various pools to assign officials to **sectional and district tournaments** in their respective Athletic Districts. The process of assignment from approved pools is at the discretion of each District Athletic Board.

**Note:** The total score is not made available to those making assignments; merely the 'pool' itself is made available to them.
5. The OHSAA Office utilizes the pools to assign officials to the **Regional and State Tournament**.
6. All Rating and athletic administrator Voting is done through the myOHSAA Data Management System. Therefore, the data **MUST** be entered (official's name and event) in Arbiter in order to populate the myOHSAA system and receive ratings and/or votes to be included in a pool.

Coaches **RATE**  
Others **VOTE**



## *Coaches & Officials "Us and Us"*

**By Don Muenz, OHSAA Director of Development for Officiating**

*When I played in college, I wondered where they got "those guys." When I coached, I wondered where they got "those guys." When I finished playing and coaching, I wondered why I became one of "those guys."*

*Having played, coached and refereed, I came to the realization that it is not "us vs. them," but "us and us." Though coaches and officials may never quite achieve a "warm and fuzzy" relationship, we are surely allies, cooperators, if you will, in the achievement of the goals of our high school sport: teaching and modeling integrity, fairness, respect for others, teamwork and respect for authority.*

*Let's look at "those guys and gals." Many of our officials started as youth soccer parents, acquiring a love of the game as they watched their children grow up. Some began to play in adult leagues and continued for as long as their bodies could stand the punishment. Some started as youth coaches (often because they were the coach of last resort), saw what they believed to be substandard officiating and determined that they could do better. Others reached the point in their competitive athletics lives, where they could no*

*longer get it done as players on the field, but still wanted to compete, though in a different way. Still others took a separate avenue, not having played or coaches our sport, but still wanting to officiate.*

*However they come to us, they are required to attend a 25-hour entry-level class, covering each of the 18 NFHS rules, OHSA's regulations and the three systems of mechanics: Dual, Diagonal and Double-Dual. Each new referee receives four hours of on-field instruction and evaluation, must pass a one-hour rules test, a one-hour mechanics test (each with a minimum 75% score) and pass a short exam on OHSA regulations.*

*After the initial year of licensure, each referee must attend the state rules interpretation meeting as well as five hours of local association-based training. In order to become eligible for postseason tournament assignments, officials must have officiated a minimum of eight boys' and eight girls' varsity matches in each of the past two seasons, have received two favorable observations on varsity matches and have scored 80% on the rules test and the mechanics test. Even after satisfying each of the requirements, your coach's ratings can deny postseason assignments.*

*Many of our referees (about 70%) are also licensed by the U.S. Soccer Federation (USSF), which requires an additional nine hours of entry-level classroom work, four hours of online courses, two hours of on-field experience and a minimum score of 75% on the examination. Each year, the referee must attend five hours of in-service training. The majority of officials has received entry-level training of 40 hours, including 6 hours on-field, has passed four written exams and participates in eleven hours of in-service training each year, to maintain certified status.*

*Many referees work matches from March through the end of October. In the past few years, traveling teams have played outdoors through mid-December. It is not unusual for a referee to work in excess of 300 matches each season, club, high school and college.*

*By working together, us and us, modeling reasonable and adult behavior when encountering a problem before, during or after a match, we can teach the life lessons necessary to those who will be future leaders of society. Together, us and us, we build respect for self (without which there can be no respect for anyone or anything else), for others and for lawful authority.*

*Each of us, coach and referee, shares a desire to give back to this wonderful sport and to better the lives of the players by modeling the life-long values so necessary to a civil society. Each is necessary to the educational process and neither should consider the other "them."*



## **OSSCA Officers**

### **President**

*John Johnson, Wadsworth High School*

### **Executive Director**

*Gary Avedikian, Hilliard Davidson (ret.)*

### **Vice President, Honors**

*George Hunter*

### **Vice President, Banquet**

*John Orozco*

### **Treasurer**

*Bob Ellis, Kettering Alter*

### **Secretary**

*Bill Mees, Cincinnati Indian Hill*

### **Board of Controls**

*Bob Eakins, Jamestown Greenview*

### **Board of Controls**

*Dave Sebeck, Olentangy*

### **Board of Controls**

*Sean Humenansky, Kettering Alter*

## **OSSCA Districts**

### **Greater Akron**

*Ruth Coney, Ross Coney, Co-Presidents*

### **Central**

*Gene DeWeese, President*

### **North Central**

*Chris Laux, President*

### **Greater Cleveland**

*Robert Dougherty, President*

### **East**

*Dave Kridler, President*

### **Miami Valley**

*Jeff Monbeck, President*

### **Northwest**

*Mark Schwemer, President*

### **Southeast**

*Ian Riddlebarger, President*

### **Southwest**

*Mike Fee, President*

### **Youngstown**

*Scott MacMillan, President*

The purpose of the Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association is to unify all soccer coaches in the state of Ohio, to promote high school soccer, to create an official line of communication with the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA), to foster higher standards of professionalism and ethics, and to maintain a strong contact with national, state, and local coaches organizations of soccer. The OSSCA Executive Board, consisting of the District Presidents and Officers of the OSSCA, meets at least 6 times yearly. The OSSCA is represented at each OHSAA Board of Directors' meeting.

## **Joining the OSSCA:**

Memberships are available through the OHSBCA website at: <http://www.ossca.org/home.asp>

## **What the OSSCA does for You**

1. Works to improve Soccer Regulations in Ohio
2. Develops and fosters relationship with the OHSAA
3. Works to improve soccer tournament sites
4. Maintains the OSSCA website at [www.ossca.org](http://www.ossca.org)
5. Conducts the State Coaches' Poll
6. Selects All-State Teams in each Division
7. Provides Scholarships to graduating sons/daughters of member coaches
8. Selects All-Academic awards
9. Honors coaches with Service and Victory Awards
10. Honors Assistant Coaches through the "Assistant Coach of the Year" honor
11. Works closely with Ohio State's Men's' Soccer Coach to offer the annual OSSCA Soccer Clinic







## *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 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.

## ***Soccer Player and Coach Ejection Protocol***

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. Also, upon an ejection, the official **files a report ONLINE in the myOHSAA system with the OHSAA**. Since the procedures listed below are all triggered by the submission of the Officials' Report online, officials are penalized in accordance with OHSAA 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 OHSAA 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**
- **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 2 AT THE LEVEL OF THE EJECTION ARE COMPLETED. Thus, a JV coach ejected from a JV contest cannot coach a JV OR Varsity contest until 2 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.

**ALL PLAYER and COACH EJECTIONS ARE FINAL AND NOT PERMITTED TO BE APPEALED per the OHSAA's Board of Directors.**

### Specific Soccer Ejection Policy Explanations

- **OHSAA NOW REQUIRES SUBMISSION OF the Official Report for a double yellow card disqualification, i.e., for a subsequent caution for a player, NF 12.8.2(c), or for a coach or bench personnel. This will be tracked for the 2018 season and data collected will be studied for any further changes to the current ejection policy.**
- Per OHSAA Bylaw 4.5.4, any student ejected or disqualified from a match must immediately be placed under direct supervision of a school official or coach. This may be on the bench or in the team area but the player is NOT to be removed from the site. Coaches ARE required to leave the facility immediately upon ejection. In the event there is no coach remaining to coach/supervise the team, the game is completed at that point.
- **Effective the 2015 season** – All Double Yellow/Subsequent Cautions and Ejections occurring during scrimmages must be reported via the online submission of the Officials' Report.
- **Effective the 2015 season** – though ejected players are suspended for all contests the remainder of the day AND ALL CONTESTS until 2 at the level of the ejection are completed,
- **Effective the 2016-17 season** – Any Player OR COACH ejected from a scrimmage held prior to the start of the regular season are suspended from the **first regular season contest**. If the ejection occurs from a scrimmage held DURING the season, the player is suspended from the next regular season contest or OHSAA Tournament contest.
- Other pertinent Ejection Information:
  - During the suspension period, the player MAY practice with the team
  - During the suspension period, the player MAY be in the bench area and in the locker room before during and after the contest
  - During the suspension period, the player MAY travel with the team to an away contest
  - During the suspension period, the player **is not permitted in uniform at any time before during or after the contest and may not be on the field for warm-up or to assist with warm-ups**

### 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**, OHSAA Tobacco Regulation for tobacco use, or to a player under OHSAA Soccer Regulation 10.A.1.1 for playing more than three halves in one day or more than 38 halves in one season.
- A red card only is displayed.
- The Official is required to submit the online ejection report.
- The ejected individual is also prohibited from playing, coaching or participating in any match for the rest of the day on which he/she is ejected.
- The ejected coach or player is suspended for all matches until 2 matches at the level of the ejection have been played. A coach or player who receives a straight red card is considered “ejected” for purposes of OHSAA Soccer Regulations.
- 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 NF 12-8-2(c).
- The disqualified **person** is prohibited from participation in the remainder of the match.
- The disqualified **person** can **participate** in OTHER matches on the same day.
- The disqualified **person** is not subject to any additional suspension for the 2019 season. This may potentially change with the collection of data submitted.
- A **person so** 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.**
- An Official Report IS **REQUIRED TO BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY**.
- The school does not need to be notified.
- Number of players on the field IS reduced for a “double yellow” or subsequent caution (effective 2012).

**In a nutshell: For a Subsequent Caution or “Double Yellow-Card” Disqualification for a coach or bench personnel: the total penalty for the disqualified player is limited to sitting out the remainder of the match in which disqualified.**

# 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 OHSA'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 the 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 Soccer Coaches' 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 stated by student-athlete Julius Campbell in one of the most iconic sports movies *Remember the Titans*, “actions reflect leadership” The importance of your leadership role in the promotion of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity has never been greater. We count on you as coaches to work with your players, officials, and even set expectations for your fans (parents and students alike) to create a positive atmosphere and keep both words and actions respectful.

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 the standard for others.

Have a great season and enjoy the ride!

*Jacki Windon*

Assistant Director of Operations

### **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 OHSA'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 OHSA's website along with MANY helpful items previously mentioned on the NFHSlearn website at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com).

## *Comments by Coaches to News Media*

Emotions run high at the end of a contest and coaches are often tempted to make inappropriate comments to the news media covering a game. The OHSA Constitution and Bylaws 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."** 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 comments regarding the players, coaches, or schools. Coaches are expected to follow the same procedure in regard to the officials. Coaches violating this rule may be asked to discuss the problem personally with the Executive Director. (See Sports Regulations "Media Regulations", Section B, page 78, OHSA Handbook).

## *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>. Additional information relative to various equipment and rules relative to medical issues can be found throughout this manual as well.

- Heat Stress and Athletic Participation
- Recommendations for Hydration to Prevent Heat Illness
- Suggested Guidelines for Management of Head Trauma in Sports
- Communicable Disease Procedures (can also be found on at the end of the NFHS 2013-14 Rules Book)
- 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

## *Concussion Management*

### **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. Click here <http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports-Medicine/AuthorizationToReenter.pdf> 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**

**New 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.

### **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.

### **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**

### **Ohio Department of Health Concussion Information Sheet**

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Interscholastic%20Concussion%20Form%20-%20ODH%20Revised%202.ashx>

### **Online Concussion Management Training**

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/concussion.aspx#Training>

### **Ohio's Return to Play Law: Frequently Asked Questions**

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Frequently%20Asked%20Questions%20Updated%202513.ashx>

### **Ohio's Return to Play Law: What Coaches and Referees Need to Know**

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Return%20to%20Play%20-%20What%20Coaches%20Need%20to%20Know%20-%20School%20Sports%20-%20Final.ashx>

### **Ohio's Return to Play Law: What Parent/Guardians Need to Know**

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Return%20to%20Play%20-%20What%20Parents-Guardians%20Need%20to%20Know%20-%20School%20Sports%20-%20Final.ashxx>

## **ADDITIONAL CONCUSSION RESOURCES**

### **Ohio Department of Health, Violence and Injury Prevention Program - Sports/Recreation Traumatic Brain Injuries**

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/vipp/child/tbi.aspx>

### **CDC Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports**

**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>

### **Ohio Legislative Service Commissioner HB 143 Bill Analysis**

<http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/analyses129/12-hb143-129.pdf>

### **Brain Injury Association of Ohio**

[www.biaoh.org](http://www.biaoh.org)

## Return to Play Form for Schools

Ohio High School Athletic Association  
4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214  
PH:614-267-2502; FAX:614-267-1677  
[www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)

### MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION TO RETURN TO PLAY WHEN A STUDENT HAS BEEN REMOVED DUE TO A SUSPECTED CONCUSSION

Ohio State Law as well as NFHS rules and OHSAA policy require a student who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors associated with concussion to be removed from a practice or contest and **not permitted to reenter practice or competition on the same day as the removal.** Thereafter, **written medical authorization from a physician (M.D. or D.O.)** or another qualified licensed medical provider, who works in consultation with, collaboration with or under the supervision of an M.D. or D.O. or who is working pursuant to the referral by an M.D. or D.O., AND is authorized by the Board of Education or other governing board, **is required to grant clearance for the student to return to participation.** This form shall serve as the authorization that the physician or licensed medical professional has examined the student, and has cleared the student to return to participation. The physician or licensed medical professional must complete this form and submit to a school administrator prior to the student's resumption of participation in practice and/or a contest. **To reiterate, this student is not permitted to reenter practice or competition on the same day as the removal.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, M.D., D.O. or \_\_\_\_\_ (other qualified licensed medical provider) have examined the following  
(Print name of MD, DO or Other)  
student, \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ High School/7-8<sup>th</sup> grade school  
(Name of Student),  
who was removed from a \_\_\_\_\_ (sport) contest at the \_\_\_\_\_ level (V, JV, 9<sup>th</sup>, 7-8<sup>th</sup>) due to exhibition of signs/symptoms/behaviors consistent with a  
concussion. I have examined this student, and determined that the student is cleared to resume participation upon the completion of the directions provided below.

#### PLEASE INDICATE YOUR DIRECTIONS BELOW

☐ Return to play protocol for concussion as outlined in Zurich Consensus Statement 2012 or as attached.  
☐ Return to play protocol for concussion required under direction of Licensed Athletic Trainer or other qualified Licensed medical provider as approved in above  
directive  
☐ Return to play protocol for concussion not required, and the student may return to participation in practice and competition on this date \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Other: (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

#### VALID ONLY WITH ALL INFORMATION COMPLETED

Signature of Medical Professional \_\_\_\_\_  
(MD, DO or other qualified Licensed Medical Provider as Approved in the Above Directive)  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print or Stamp) Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to play is also subject to clarification of this document, as deemed necessary, by Licensed Athletic Trainer, other qualified Licensed medical providers  
authorized by Board of Education or other governing body, or school district administration. Return to play decisions are also subject to recognized principles of  
conditioning, skill development, mental preparedness, etc.

Parent(s)/Guardian and student are reminded that the initial signature document of awareness of signs and symptoms of concussion and need/requirement to report  
are still in effect. Parent(s)/Guardian and student have a responsibility to report any further signs or symptoms of a concussion or head injury to coaches,  
administrators and the student- athlete's doctor. Information regarding signs and symptoms are available from school district personnel or OHSAA website.

#### PRESENT THIS FORM TO THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

**Note: The school must retain this form indefinitely as a part of the student's permanent record. Medical Providers should  
retain a copy for their own records.**

## *Communicable Disease Procedures*

Though most schools have a Certified Athletic Trainer present at Varsity contests and all coaches are required to maintain a valid Pupil Activity Certificate through the Ohio Department of Education that includes a Sports' First Aid component, it is important to keep up to date on the remote risk that blood borne infectious diseases can be transmitted during basketball practice and contests. For example, Hepatitis B can be present in blood as well as other bodily fluids. Procedures for reducing the potential transmission of these infectious diseases should include, but should not be limited to the following:

1. The bleeding must be stopped, the open wound covered and if there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed before the athlete may participate.
2. Routine use of gloves or other precautions to prevent skin and mucous-membrane exposure when contact with blood and other body fluids is anticipated.
3. Immediately wash hands and other skin surfaces if contaminated (in contact) with blood or other body fluids. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves.
4. Clean all contaminated surfaces and equipment with an appropriate disinfectant before competition resumes.
5. Practice proper disposal procedures to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels and other sharp instruments or devices.
6. Although saliva has not been implicated in HIV transmission, to minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, or other ventilation devices should be available for use.
7. Athletic trainers/coaches with bleeding or oozing skin conditions should refrain from all direct athletic care until the condition resolves.
8. Contaminated towels should be properly disposed of/disinfected.
9. Follow acceptable guidelines in the immediate control of bleeding and when handling dressings, mouthguards and other articles containing body fluids.

You are encouraged to log on to the OHSAA's website at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and refer to the Sports' Medicine dropdown menu for additional information.

## *H1N1 Influenza Policy*

The OHSAA's Board of Directors approved the following policy with advice from the Ohio Department of Health and shall observe this policy at tournament time in the event of an H1N1 Influenza outbreak.

1. The Ohio Department of Health has advised that it will be the decision of each local health authority in Ohio as to whether or not to close a school or university due to an influenza outbreak; however, at this time the Centers for Disease Control are not recommending closures except in extreme circumstances.
2. In the event schools remain open, competitors and teams shall be expected to play tournament contests on the dates scheduled.
3. In the event schools are closed, the OHSAA, in conjunction with our District Athletic Boards and tournament personnel, shall reschedule the tournament contest for the schools thus affected.
4. Please watch the OHSAA web site home page at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and the specific sport page on the web site for more information.

## *Lightning and Inclement Weather-NEW*

### **OHSAA Lightning and Inclement Weather Regulations (Approved By the OHSAA Board of Directors 6-3-19)**

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. 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.

## *Acclimatization and Exertional Heat Illness Precautions*

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** during the day leading up to the contest/training, and to drink 8-to-12 ounces of water or sport drinks 20 minutes prior to the contest or any training session. This procedure can help prevent problems during practice and contests.
- **Schools shall have unlimited amounts of water** and sport drinks on hand during practices and contests, 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 contests, 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 also 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.
- **Please review the OHSAA policy on inclement weather and lightning.** In short, upon the first indication that thunderstorm development is within 15 miles of the game site, the activity shall be suspended until 30 minutes after the storm has left this 15-mile zone. Individuals should move to a safe area until the storm has moved away.
- **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 and is the recommended standard of care for assessing risk of exertional heat illness.** 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 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
- 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.

## Miscellaneous Information



- **Professionalism**

Your professionalism is of the utmost importance. Your athletes and fans will follow your lead. If you are respectful of the game and the officials, your athletes and fans are more likely to do the same. If you are disrespectful of the game and the officials, it will be reflected in the words and actions of your athletes and fans. Officials aren't perfect and mistakes will be made, but it is all part of the learning process for our young student-athletes. So please take those disappointments and turn them into positive learning experiences. What you permit, you promote.

- **Pre-Season Preparations**

As you know, pre-season meetings are **required**. As part of your pre-season preparations, you are encouraged invite a local official(s) to meet with your team during pre-season workouts. It allows the officials to meet your athletes and discuss new rules. It gives your athletes an opportunity to ask questions and have a discussion prior to game days. We would also recommend inviting an official to a pre-season meeting with your parents. Again, it provides a forum for healthy discussions and an opportunity for your parents to learn more about the game.

- **Scheduling Conflicts**

Certainly, scheduling conflicts are going to arise. **PLEASE COORDINATE WITH YOUR ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATOR TO ENSURE THAT OFFICIALS ARE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE OF ANY CHANGES.** When dates, times, and / or locations are changed it not only affects the officials scheduled for that game, but also other games they are scheduled to work. They will appreciate your help in this area.

- **Importance of Coaches Rating System**

The Rating/Voting procedures have changed in recent years, however the coaches' vote is an important part of the officials' tournament selection process. Ratings are done at the conclusion of each game, allowing you to rate each official you have. Voting is now done at the conclusion of the season by your athletic administrator online with information being sent to him/her electronically. **Please vote conscientiously in your rating.** Your involvement is critical to ensuring that we can provide the best officials for our tournament.

- **Inquiries**

Our OHSAA office is here to help as needed, but depending on the time of the year it can be difficult to reach us. However, there are other sources of assistance. Our website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)) includes a great deal of information that covers many of the inquiries we often receive. The website provides soccer regulations, general sport regulations, tournament regulations, uniform regulations, etc. Your OHSBCA Officers are another great resource for you as well. Their contact information can be found on their website ([www.ohsbca.org](http://www.ohsbca.org)).

- **Coaches' Comments to the News Media**

OHSAA 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 comments regarding the players, coaches, or schools. Coaches are expected to follow the same procedure. Failure to follow this request will result in disciplinary action.



## Looking Ahead to Tournament

The OHSAA sponsors the OHSAA Soccer Tournament in 3 Divisions for Boys' and 3 divisions for Girls'. Each of the state's District Athletic Boards are empowered by the OHSAA Constitution to organize and conduct soccer tournaments at the Sectional and District levels. They are conducted according to the tournament regulations adopted by the Board of Directors at their December meeting. The divisions are determined by the EMIS reports from the **August 2016** count AND Competitive Balance numbers. These divisions will be in effect for the 2018 soccer season.

<u>Division</u>	<u>Boys Enrolled</u>	<u>Total Schools</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Girls Enrolled</u>	<u>Total Schools</u>
I	357 and more	190	I	344 and more	178
II	199 - 356	191	II	189 - 343	178
III	198 and less	192	III	188 and less	180

### Tournament Draw Dates

The draw date for tournaments is established by the Board of Directors. The official date for 2019 is **October 6, 2019 @ 2:00 p.m.** for boys and 3:00 P.M. for girls.

### Sectional/District Sites and Assignments

It is the responsibility of each District Athletic Board (DAB) to assign schools to Sectional/District tournaments and determine play dates for that level of tournament play. A few noteworthy items:

1. Tournaments are built "back" from State and Regional tournaments. Therefore, Regional and State tournament dates will not change from published and Board approved dates.
2. There is no requirement whether games are to be played on home sites at the Sectional/District level. Games may NOT be played on home sites at the Regional or State Semi-Final level.
3. There is no requirement whether games are to be played on artificial or natural grass surfaces at any level. Great effort is made to assign games to good facilities with good management.

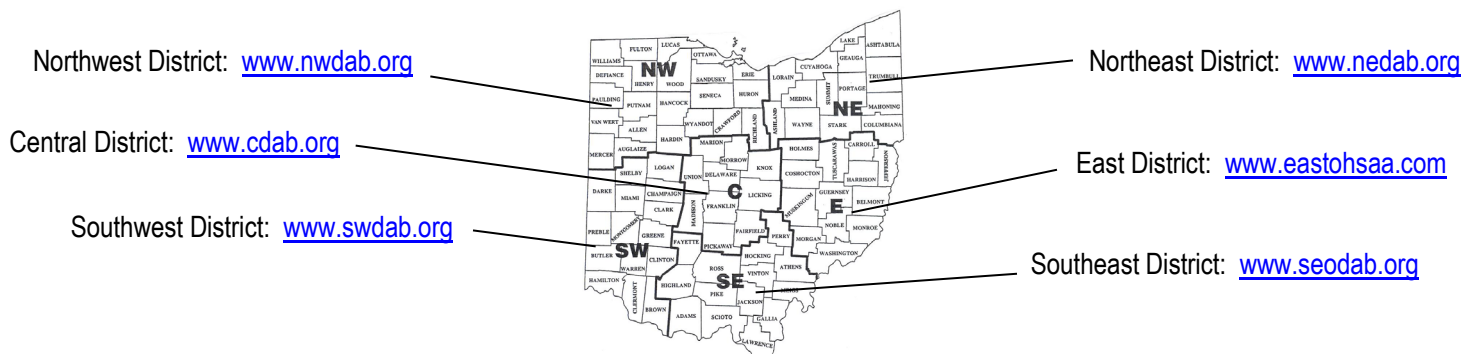
### Regional, State Semi-Final and State Final Dates

Regional Girls' Semi-Finals & Finals	October 29 & November 2 @ Sites TBA
Regional Boys' Semi-Finals & Finals	October 29 & November 2 @ Sites TBA
Girls' State Semi-Finals	Tuesday, November 5 @ Sites TBA
Boys' State Semi-Finals	Wednesday, November 6 @ Sites TBA
Girls' State Finals	Saturday, November 9 @ MAPFRE Stadium, Columbus
Boys' State Finals	Sunday, November 10 @ MAPFRE Stadium, Columbus

### Athletic Districts

Representation to the Regional tournament (the number of Regional 'qualifiers') from District winners is determined by a formula based upon the number of teams participating in the previous year's tournament.

The complete tournament regulations that were adopted by the Board of Directors at its' December meeting will be able to be read in their entirety by logging on to [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and navigating to the SOCCER webpage under the "Sports and Tournaments" pull down menu. With a few exceptions, most schools in the counties listed below are assigned sites from the respective District Athletic Boards. You are encouraged to visit their websites for additional information.





## OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214  
614-267-2502  
FAX 614-267-1677  
[www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)

### SPECIAL PERMIT REQUEST-Waiver to Uniform

Please complete and return to Kathleen Coughlin at [kcoughlin@ohsaa.org](mailto:kcoughlin@ohsaa.org)

NFHS Soccer rules and OHSAA regulations permit schools to request a waiver to the Uniform Regulations in Rule 4-1-1 of the NFHS Soccer Rules Book. The waiver is granted 1 time per season for schools participating in a contest conducted for a specific cause, such as but not limited to "Kick for the Cure" events. Upon approval, the waiver will permit schools to wear an alternate colored jersey that may include the sponsoring event's logo but will still require all teams to meet the 'number requirements' outlined in Article 1 (i) of Rule 4, (6" player unique numbers on back of jersey).

**Name of School Making Request:**

**Type of Event/Sponsoring Organization:**

**Nature of Request (sponsoring agency's logo on jersey, etc.):**

**Date of Contest:**

**Opponent:**

**Head Coach's Name:**

**Head Coach's Email:**

**Athletic Director's Name:**

Email request to Kathleen Coughlin, Director of Sport Management, at: [kcoughlin@ohsaa.org](mailto:kcoughlin@ohsaa.org)