

12. 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.)

The penalty for exceeding the participation limitation during a contest is forfeiture of the contest in which the ineligible player is participating. When discovered, the ineligible player is removed from the contest, and the contest may continue to completion; however, the result of the contest shall be a forfeiture by the offending team.

- 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 “NoContest.” 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) Special Waiver — A scrimmage or preview scheduled against a Special Olympics team, or a team of similar designation, may be approved by the OHSAA to be played in addition to the maximum allowable number of scrimmages or previews. A waiver for approval of such contests can be found on the “Soccer” section of the OHSAA website. This waiver must be submitted to, and approved by, the OHSAA soccer administrator prior to the contest taking place.
- 1.7) 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 OHSAA soccer administrator and are subject to approval.

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 after obtaining approval from the Executive Director’s office (Bylaw 9-2-1).

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.

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 as well as one subsequent contest of the same level. 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 (NF Rule 12-8-2) 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” (NF Rule 12-8-2(c)) and shall be ineligible to participate for the remainder of the current contest as well as one subsequent contest of the same level.

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 forfeited by the offending team.

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 varsity 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 by Monday, September 6, 2021, 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: Monday, September 6, 2021 – 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 Regulation 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 of 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 September 6, 2021.

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 Regulations 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 any 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, 2021.**
- 2) **First match — Friday, August 20, 2021.**
- 3) **Friday Night Futbol — Friday August 13, 2021.**
- 4) **Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament Entry — October 4, 2021.**
- 5) **Tournament draw/seeding meeting — October 10, 2021, Boys-2:00 p.m. and Girls-3:00 p.m.**
- 6) **Coaching and Season end — November 13, 2021.**
- 7) **Scrimmages or Previews — Maximum of four scrimmages plus one preview.**
- 8) **Regular season contests permitted — 16.**

Exception: Schools who participate in “Friday Night Futbol” shall have the contest count as a regular season contest and are permitted a total of 17 regular season contests.

9) Rules — National Federation Soccer.

10) Uniform Rules — National Federation Soccer.

11) Officials

- 11.1) Varsity — Regardless of the number of officials, minimum of two OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 officials required.
- 11.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity — Regardless of the number of officials, minimum of two OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 officials required.
- 11.3) Freshmen — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 required. All other officials shall be OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 or officials in training.
- 11.4) 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, 2021.**
- 2) **First match — Friday, August 20, 2021.**
- 3) **Coaching and Season end — November 13, 2021.**
- 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 Soccer.**

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- 7) **Uniform Rules — National Federation 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	2021	2022	2023
Coaching and Tryouts Begin	8/1	8/1	8/1
Season Begins	8/20	8/19*	8/18*
Sectional	10/18-10/23#	10/17-10/22#	10/17-10/21#
District	10/25-10/30	10/24-10/29	10/24-10/28
Regional	11/2-11/6	11/1-11/5	10/31-11/4
State	11/9-11/13	11/8-11/12	11/7-11/11
Season Ends	11/13	11/12	11/11
Thanksgiving	11/25	11/24	11/23
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).

*Subject to change