

**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 12.)

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) All games shall consist of 2 halves of the following length:

Varsity: 40 minutes

Junior Varsity and Freshmen: 36 minutes

Junior High: 30 minutes

- 1.3) 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.

- 1.4) 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 six (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.

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

Any team with a boy on it is consider a boys team. Boys teams, either consisting of all boys or co-ed athletes, shall compete against other boys teams (either consisting of all boys or co-ed athletes). A boys team with girls on it is only eligible to compete in the boys OHSAA Tournament. Girls who have been participating on both boys and girls teams during the regular season must choose if they will participate on the girls team or boys team for the OHSAA Tournament. Therefore, a girl may not compete on both boys and girls teams during the OHSAA Tournament.

**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).

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

See **Ejection for Unsporting Conduct (Disqualification for unsporting conduct or flagrant violation) under Section 14 of the General Sports Regulations.**

**4) Uniform**

- 4.1) Effective August 1, 2026: In accordance with NFHS Rule 4.1, teams who are found to be in violation of the uniform requirements shall be subject to a \$100 fine per occurrence. Failure to have NFHS complaint uniforms by the start of the OHSAA post season shall result in removal from the OHSAA Tournament.

**5) 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 starting with varsity regular season contest number 10 for any remaining regular season contests, scrimmages, and the OHSAA postseason tournament.

**6) Non-Interscholastic Participation**

Reference the Regulations for Non-Interscholastic Participation in General Sport Regulation 7 for what is permitted in and outside of a school season and penalties that shall apply if violated, as outlined in Bylaw 11

A soccer athlete who has not participated for the school in soccer that season must cease non interscholastic soccer competition by Monday September 2, 2024 order to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition provided 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 2, 2024

6.2) Non-Interscholastic Soccer Participation Exceptions:

- 6.2.1) 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 United States 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.

- 6.2.2) A student-athlete may use a one-time waiver per season to attend an identification camp after the student-athlete has participated in an interscholastic scrimmage, preview or contest. The definition of an identification camp refers to an individual workout or individual camp being offered by a college or university and not any other type of team showcase or non-school competition or practice. The waiver may be used for any events that take place from August 1, 2024 through the non-interscholastic date of September 2, 2024. The waiver form may be accessed on the OHSAA website and returned to the appropriate sport administrator.

- 6.3) 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 that may be on an indoor soccer team. Interscholastic coaches are permitted to coach their own interscholastic players on an indoor soccer team.

**7) Individual Skill/Coaching Instruction**

In accordance with General Sport Regulation 7.10.2, soccer is permitted 13 contact days beginning May 15, 2024 – July 31, 2024. In addition to these 13 days, soccer coaches are permitted 5 additional contact days intended to be used between July 16, 2024-July 31, 2024 Therefore, soccer coaches are permitted a total of 18 contact days between May 15, 2024 – July 31, 2024. These contact days are not mandatory.

**8) Instructional Programs**

See *Regulations for Instructional Programs* under Section 7 of the General Sports Regulations.

**9) No Contact Period – Coaches**

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

**B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS – GRADES 9-12**

- 1) **Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin – August 1, 2024**
- 2) **First match – Friday, August 16, 2024**
- 3) **Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament Entry – September 23, 2024**
- 4) **Tournament draw/seeding meeting – October 6, 2024, Boys-2:00 p.m. and Girls-3:00 p.m.**
- 5) **Coaching and Season end – November 11, 2024**
- 6) **Scrimmages or Previews – Maximum of five scrimmages**
- 7) **Regular season contests permitted – 17**
- 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.

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- 10.3) 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.
- 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, 2024**
- 2) **First match — Friday, August 16, 2024**
- 3) **Coaching and Season end — November 11, 2024**
- 4) **Scrimmages — Two scrimmages**
- 5) **Regular season contests permitted — 14 plus 1 postseason tournament not to exceed 4 games**
- 6) **Rules — National Federation Soccer**
- 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 CALENDAR**

<b>Soccer</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>
Coaching and Tryouts Begin	8/1	8/1			
Season Begins	8/16	8/15			
Sectional	10/15-10/19#	10/14-10/19			
District	10/22-10/26	10/21-10/26			
Regional	10/29-11/2	10/28-11/3			
State	11/5-11/9	11/5-11/11			
Season Ends	11/9	11/11			
Coach — No Contact Period					
#Unless an earlier date is established by a District Athletic board (no earlier than two days prior to the established date).					
*Subject to change					