

## 2020 GENERAL SOCCER TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

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**NOTE:** The following regulations apply to all levels of tournament competition unless otherwise specified. They were adopted by the Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors on September 14, 2020. The Executive Director is authorized to modify these regulations when deemed necessary, subject to ratification by the Board of Directors. Changes from 2019 to 2020 Tournament Regulations are shaded in gray. Due to Covid-19, these regulations are subject to change.

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### I. ORGANIZATION OF TOURNAMENTS

- A. Each District Athletic Board (DAB) organizes and conducts Sectional and District Tournaments in their respective districts, subject to the rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors. Sectional / District site managers will receive supplemental information from respective District Athletic Boards. Site selection and play dates of Sectional/District tournaments are at the discretion of each District Athletic Board.
- B. The Regional and State Tournaments are under the direct control of the Executive Director's office. There will be three boys divisions (I, II, and III) and three girls divisions (I, II, and III). Site selection for Regional Tournaments is at the discretion of the Executive Director's office and may be changed at any time.
- C. There is no restriction/requirement at any level of play regarding artificial or natural surfaces. Sites must meet minimum requirements of the NFHS.
- D. The OHSAA maintains the authority to change the site, date, or time of any Regional or State tournament assignment.
- E. Completion of the OHSAA Tournament Entry Form is the school's agreement to play at the site, day and time assigned by the Executive Director's office.

### II. ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS AND COACHES

- A. All participants must be eligible under the Bylaws and Sports Regulations of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Only one school team sponsored by a member school is eligible to participate.
- B. A student who uses anabolic steroids or other performance enhancing drugs is ineligible for interscholastic competition until such time as medical evidence can be presented that the student's system is free of anabolic steroids or other performance enhancing drugs.
- C. Only Board of Education approved coaches with valid Pupil Activity Coaching Permits issued by the Ohio Department of Education are permitted to be in the bench area or locker room prior to, during, and after any tournament contest.

### III. TOURNAMENT ENTRY AND PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS

- A. Tournament Entry/Withdrawal  
Member schools wanting to participate in the 2020 OHSAA Soccer Tournaments must indicate their intent to participate on their 2020-21 OHSAA Sports Participation Card in myOHSAA. Tournament entry confirmation begins August 1, 2020 and ends October 5, 2020. Schools that change their tournament participation after October 5, 2020 will be subject to a \$50 penalty per sport.
- B. Tournament Paperwork Requirements  
Participating schools must provide all program material, pass lists and any other materials as requested to the respective tournament managers

### IV. TOURNAMENT DRAW AND SEEDING PROCEDURE

**NOTE: The established date for all seeding and drawing meetings in Ohio is Sunday, October 11, 2020. Boys' Tournament Draws at 2:00 p.m. and Girls' Tournament Draws at 3:00 p.m.**

- A. In the Sectional Tournaments that precede District Tournaments, seeding is mandatory in the Sectional. In District Tournaments not preceded by Sectional Tournaments, seeding is mandatory. (**NOTE:** This means that at least one seeding is to take place in either the Sectional or District Tournament.) The following seeding method shall prevail for all OHSAA sponsored Tournaments.
- B. Soccer Tournaments

1. **All teams shall be seeded.** For purposes of seeding, the last matches to be counted will be those played on the date established by the District Athletic Board.

C. Soccer Tournament Seeding Procedure

1. Tournament managers will post the records of all teams in their tournament. It is the responsibility of each school to have its records compiled as shown below and given to the tournament manager prior to the start of seed voting. The records will include the number of wins and losses in the divisions of the teams played, e.g., 18 team schedule – Division I school:

12 wins – 2 losses – Division I

3 wins – 1 loss – Division II

All matches played shall be recorded.

D. Voting on Seeded Teams

1. All head coaches shall vote **via ballot which shall be made public**, selecting their choice for the #1 seeded team. The team with greatest number of votes shall be seeded #1, second highest #2, etc, until all teams are seeded. In case of a tie only the tied teams will be re-voted upon. If a tie should occur the second time, a flip of the coin shall determine the seeded team. NOTE: If electronic balloting is utilized in a District, the results shall be sent to the manager and made public by the manager at the drawing meeting.
2. Each District Athletic Board (DAB) is permitted to determine voting protocol – whether teams may be permitted to vote for themselves and/or whether high and low voted seeds are dropped.

E. Placement of Teams on Brackets

1. Each District Athletic Board shall determine placement of teams on brackets. If a school fails to have a representative present at the seeding and drawing meeting, the manager shall place the school (s) on the bracket in accordance with the respective District Athletic Board's Policy.
2. Sample brackets will be distributed to each manager. Samples of brackets are included in the manager's materials and can be found on the OHSAA web site. The tournament manager will distribute brackets to representatives of participating teams. All brackets shall designate date and time of match. Since many districts permit higher seeded teams to host on their home field, designation of the HOME team is determined by each District Athletic Board.

V. **TOURNAMENT DATES**

- A. **Sectional Tournaments** - shall be scheduled to be completed by **October 24, 2020**.
- B. **District Tournaments** – shall be scheduled to be completed by **October 31, 2020**.
- C. **Regional Tournaments** – shall be **November 3, 4, and 7 2020**.
- D. **State Tournaments** – shall be **November 10, 11, 13 and 14, 2020**.

**Note:** Regional tournament dates will not be moved due to schedule changes at the District level. Room should be built into tournaments at the District level

VI. **PARTICIPATING SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES**

A school administrator or a person designated by the school shall assist the tournament site manager with crowd supervision when asked **and will assist in all covid-19 related issues**. The school administrator or designee should report to the tournament site manager upon arrival to the site. Knowing in some cases this person may be the coach, the coach should be informed of this responsibility prior to the contest and reviewed at the seed meeting.

- A. No team will be permitted to compete in a tournament contest unless accompanied by the coach or a person authorized by the Board of Education. This school representative shall be present throughout the tournament contest. Teams unaccompanied by such school representative will be disqualified.

VII. **OFFICIALS**

- A. **Sectional and District** – Officials shall be assigned by the District Athletic Boards from pools provided by the OHSAA.
- B. **Regional and State** – Officials will be assigned by the Executive Director's office according to the procedure adopted by the Board of Directors. Only OHSAA Soccer Class I officials shall be used.

### C. Touchline Officials (Fourth Officials)

1. During regional finals and state tournament play, the OHSAA office will assign one touchline official where both teams are on the same side of the field and two where the teams are on opposite sides of the field. Regardless of chosen set-up, please ensure that both teams are treated equitably. \*Covid-19 recommendations state that when possible, teams be on opposite sides of the field.
2. Each touchline official shall dress in the OHSAA-approved official's uniform and shall bring the short-sleeved and long-sleeved: gold jersey with black stripes and each of the OHSAA-approved alternate official's jerseys
3. Each touchline official shall arrive a minimum of sixty (40) minutes prior to the scheduled kickoff and shall fully participate in all of the officials' pre-match duties and their pre-match conferences.
4. During the match, the touchline official's normal position is in the official area, standing near the scorer's table.
5. The touchline official(s) shall be responsible for signaling substitutions and each shall be provided with an air horn and an adequate supply of propellant.
6. The touchline official(s) shall not use a whistle to signal for substitutions.
7. The touchline official shall keep records of goals scored and misconduct cards issued and shall inform the referee of any irregularity in starting and stopping of clock.
8. The touchline official performs any equipment, uniform, blood-on-the-person or blood-on-the-uniform check as determined by the referee in the pre-match conference. The inspection shall be accomplished prior to a substitute's entry of the match or the reentry of a player.
9. The touchline official(s) shall notify the referee as quickly as possible if a player, coach or bench personnel has been cautioned or disqualified based on an incorrect identification; if a player, coach or bench personnel has not been disqualified despite having received a second caution or if violent conduct has been committed by anyone outside of the view of the referee and assistant referees.
10. The touchline official(s) shall: keep each team area and each official area under observation, manage bench decorum and be prepared to bring to the attention of the referee any instances of misconduct in or outside of either area, or of players, coaches or bench personnel entering the field of play without permission of the referee.
11. The touchline official is to employ less-intrusive solutions when a situation may be resolved without creating greater conflict, tension or confusion.
12. The touchline official is to involve the coach(es) and/or team officials in identifying and preventing unacceptable behavior within the team areas and is to solicit their assistance when necessary to prevent or correct problem situations. The touchline official is to invoke the referee's authority as a last resort in these situations.
13. The touchline official(s) shall have such additional duties as are assigned by the head referee.
14. In the event that one of the OHSAA-assigned officials cannot officiate, the officials shall determine among themselves who will be head referee and who will be the assistant referees. Where able, the official who cannot officiate shall fill the open touchline official's position.

### VIII. FAILURE TO APPEAR

If national playing rules do not address failure to appear, the following regulations will apply.

If a team fails to appear or is not ready to play within 30 minutes of the scheduled starting time of the tournament game, the space on the bracket may be declared vacant. A "forfeit" shall be declared, and the opposing team shall advance to the next round of competition. See Failure to Appear under Section 16.4 of the General Sports Regulations.

### IX. GAME REGULATIONS

- A. **Coin Toss** – a coin toss shall be held as in Rule 5-2-2 (d)(3)
- B. **Rules** – National Federation 2020-2021 Soccer Rules shall be used in all games.
- C. **Tournament Tie Procedures**

When the score is tied at the end of regulation time, the referee will instruct both teams to return to their respective team benches. There will be five minutes during which both teams may confer with their coaches and the head referee will instruct both teams as to proper procedures.

- i. Teams will play one 15-minute sudden victory overtime period. If neither team scores during the first overtime period, teams will play a second 15-minute sudden victory overtime period.

- ii. Prior to the first overtime period, a coin toss shall be held as in Rule 5-2-2 (d)(3).
  - iii. If neither team scores during the first 15-minute overtime period, teams shall alternate the kickoff and change ends for the second overtime period.
  - iv. There shall be a two-minute interval between periods.
1. If neither team scores during the second overtime period, all coaches, officials and team captains following a two-minute interval shall assemble at the halfway line to review the procedures for a penalty kick shootout as outlined below:

**D. Game Management Procedures**

1. The head referee shall choose the goal at which all of the penalty kicks shall be taken based upon field and weather conditions.
2. Per Rule 1-6-1, spectators shall be confined to areas at least 10 feet from the touch line, team/official area and goal line. No one shall be permitted directly behind either goal unless seated in bleachers,
3. The coin toss shall be held as in Rule 5-2-2 (d)(3) and the team winning the coin toss will have the choice of kicking first or second.
4. Prior to commencement of each set of penalty kicks, each coach will submit a list of five kickers by name, number, and sequence (i.e. first through the fifth) to the head referee. Substitution for a kicker is only permitted for injury or as provided for in IX (F), "Misconduct Procedures," and must be coordinated through the head referee.
5. Teams will alternate kickers.
6. The ball may not be played by anyone except the goalkeeper after it has been kicked. There is no follow-up.
7. During all tie-breaker penalty kicks, the ball remains alive until its momentum is spent, it goes out of bounds or it is retouched by the kicker.
8. The defending team may change the goalkeeper prior to each kick.
9. The tie-breaker procedure initially requires a maximum of five kicks per team. The team scoring the greater number of goals from their kicks shall be declared the winner. Where a team has taken fewer than five kicks and has already scored a greater number of goals than their opponent can score if that opponent is permitted to take all five of its kicks, the tie-breaker procedure is terminated and the winner is declared to be the team which has already scored the greater number of goals.
10. **Sudden victory** begins with the second set of kicks, wherein if one team scores and the other team does not score, the game is ended without more kicks being taken.
11. Both teams are permitted on the field, along the halfway line, during taking of kicks from the penalty mark. Kickers of each team must remain within the center circle, until called for their kick. Coaches and nonkicking, rostered players shall remain along the halfway line. The home team shall occupy the halfway line closer to the touchline on the bench side, while the visiting team shall occupy the halfway line closer to the opposite touchline.

**E. Selection of Kickers**

1. **Eligible Players** – Players eligible to participate in the penalty kick shootout include the goalkeeper and any players on or off the field, except those who may have been disqualified or ejected.
2. Each coach will select five players per set of kicks based upon the following guidelines:

Step	Set of Kicks	Available Players	Status
1	1 <sup>st</sup> set of 5	All eligible players	All 10 players kick (5 per team)
2	2 <sup>nd</sup> set of 5	All eligible players <b>except those who participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> set</b>	SUDDEN VICTORY
3	3 <sup>rd</sup> set of 5	All eligible players	SUDDEN VICTORY
4	4 <sup>th</sup> set of 5	All eligible players <b>except those who participated in the immediately preceding set</b>	SUDDEN VICTORY

If a tie still remains, repeat steps 3 and 4 until a winner is determined.

3. If, after any odd-numbered set of five kickers, one team has fewer than five eligible players for the next, even-numbered set of five kickers, due to injury disqualification or ejection, etc., that next, even-numbered set shall consist, for both teams, of the same number of eligible players also eligible under Section IX(E)(2), above.

Example: After completion of the first set of five kickers, with each team having scored four goals, Team A has only three players eligible for the second set of five kickers, i.e., who are on the roster and who did not kick in the immediately preceding set of five kickers. The second set of kickers will consist of the three remaining Team A players who did not kick in the immediately preceding set of five kickers and any three of Team B's eligible players who did not kick in the immediately preceding set of five kickers.

#### F. Player Misconduct Procedures

##### 1. Cautioned Players

- a. One of the five players listed to take a kick is cautioned after taking the kick. That player is not eligible to kick again until he/she has been held out of one set of kicks for which he/she would otherwise would have been eligible.
  - i. Player "X" is one of the first five kickers, and is cautioned after taking his/her kick. Player "X" is not eligible to kick again until the set beginning with the 16<sup>th</sup> kick.
  - ii. Player "Y" is one of the second set of five kickers and is cautioned after taking his/her kick. Player "Y" is not eligible to kick again until the set beginning with the 16<sup>th</sup> kick.
- b. One of the five players listed to take a kick is cautioned before he/she takes the kick. That player is not eligible to kick until the next set of five kicks. Another eligible player not listed in that set of kicks must take the cautioned player's original turn.
- c. When a goalkeeper is issued a caution during any set of five kicks, he/she cannot re-enter until the next opponent completes his/her kick. A substitution is permitted for the cautioned goalkeeper.

##### 2. Disqualified Players

- a. Any player, including the goalkeeper, who is disqualified, may not participate any further. If his/her kick is not already completed, a substitute is permitted.

#### G. Interrupted Tournament Games

1. Tournament games interrupted because of events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority shall be continued from the point of interruption.
2. Any ejected player or coach cannot participate in the resumed game.
3. Teams, playing short, will continue to play short.
4. Rule 7-1-3 is not in effect for tournament games.

#### H. Warm-Up Time and Timing of the Pre-Match Sportsmanship Conference

1. Both teams are guaranteed a minimum of 30 minutes of uninterrupted warm-up time.
  - The 30 minute clock will begin 40 minutes prior to kickoff, guaranteeing the minimum 30 minute warm-up.
2. Both teams may be permitted access to the field one (1) hour prior to kickoff (presuming there is not another match immediately prior).
3. The remaining 10 minutes prior to kickoff will be utilized for the sportsmanship conference, coin toss, pre-game introductions, and the national anthem.
4. A sample pre-game schedule is as follows for a 7:00 pm kickoff:

Time	Item
6:00 pm	Teams permitted to take the field (if available)
6:20 pm	30 minute clock starts
6:20 pm	Guaranteed 30 minutes of uninterrupted warm-up time begins
6:50 pm	Uninterrupted warm-up time is concluded
6:50 pm	Pre-Match Conference using Covid-19 recommendations & mandates Coin Toss Pre-Game Introductions National Anthem
7:00 pm	Kickoff

##### I. Goal Differential

During any 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.

## X. TEAM REGULATIONS

### A. Game Ball

1. Sectional/District- Each participating team will provide three balls for use in each contest during sectional and district tournaments. Any NFHS Authenticated Ball is permitted to be used in sectional/district play.
2. Regional/State- The Wilson Forte FYbrid II ball shall be used during regional and state tournaments. Per our agreement with Wilson, the OHSAA adopted ball for regional and state play, six game balls will be provided for each contest at regional and state sites, and each participating team will receive three at the conclusion of the contest.

B. **Ball Persons** – Each team will provide **two** ball persons during all tournament contests, including regional and state tournament play.

C. **Size of Squads** –It is the responsibility of the coaches **and** tournament manager to insure that the number of players does not exceed 22 in uniform each game. If either team is over the limit, it must be corrected at once. Failure to comply with the regulation at any time after the request of the head officials shall result in the forfeiture of the game.

D. **Co-Ed Teams** - Any team that includes males and females must compete in the boys' tournament.

E. **Bench Area** – 29 individuals are permitted to be in the bench area and/or on the field during team warm-up for any contest. Players serving a suspension for a red card ejection may be one of the 29 but may not be on the field at any time during warm-up. It is the responsibility of the coaches **and** tournament manager to insure that the number of individuals does not exceed 29.

### F. Uniforms

1. The home team shall wear dark **jerseys** and socks, and the visiting team shall wear **solid white jerseys** and socks.
2. All aspects of the uniform must conform to NFHS Rule 4-1-1.

### G. Unsporting Conduct Requirements and Penalties

Participation in athletic contests is a privilege. Each individual is expected to conduct him /herself in an exemplary manner while participating.

1. During participation in OHSAA Tournaments, any student or coach will fall into one of the categories below as it relates to penalty and repercussion:

	Day of penalty	Games missed AFTER day of event
Yellow	Can still play	0
Double Yellow	Ineligible for remainder	1
Red	Ineligible for remainder	2
Red-Violent Conduct	Ineligible for remainder	4

2. All participants are required to respectfully participate in Awards Presentations at the conclusion of District, Regional and State Final contests. This includes attention to opposing team presentations of individual and team trophy awards. Coaches and school administrators are expected to enforce this requirement.

## XI. SCHOOL REGULATIONS

### A. Cheerleaders & Mascots

- a. Eight (8) cheerleaders in uniform, one student mascot and one sponsor will be admitted free provided a certified list is filed at the pass gate by the high school principal.
- b. Only cheerleaders in uniform are permitted to lead cheers at field level.
- c. Mascots will not be permitted on the playing field or near the team benches.

### B. Property Damage

- a. There is no insurance covering property damage.
- b. If property is damaged at a tournament site by competing school teams, student body or spectators, the school from which the students and/or spectators come shall be liable and pay the cost of repair or replacement.
- c. Other damages to facilities not attributed to a competing school could be a legitimate tournament expense and will need verified with the District Athletic Board or OHSAA Sport Administrator.
- d. Student crowd control at state sponsored tournaments is the responsibility of the Principals of the competing schools.

### C. Videotaping by Schools

- a. Filming or videotaping of tournament games by one or both of the schools playing the game is permitted provide the permission of the tournament manager is secured and it is done at the expense of the school involved and a maximum of one individual per school is permitted.

## XII SITE REGULATIONS

### A. Admission and Admission Policies

Tournament tickets will be available using an online platform.

1. Sectional and District prices - \$8.00 per person
2. Regional admission - \$10.00 per person
3. State admission - \$12.00 per person
4. All spectators, regardless of age, will be charged admission

### B. Team Admission

1. Regionals - Twenty-two (22) players, two (2) coaches, one (1) manager, one (1) trainer, and two (2) others (to include the bus driver) will be admitted at the pass gate by the approved OHSAA Pass List. Four (4) administrators, plus one (1) guest for each, may be added to the pass list. Separate passes for administrators will not be issued since they will be included and listed on the pass list.
2. State - Twenty-two (22) players, two (2) coaches, one (1) manager, one (1) trainer, and two (3) others will be admitted at the pass gate via Commemorative "Bag Tags" provided at the Finalists Meeting. There will be no Pass List Used at the State Semi-final or Final games. (2) passes for all State Tournament sessions will be provided to the superintendent, principal, athletic administrator, and bus driver of each participating school.

### C. Banners and Signs

1. Team Banners and signs will be permitted provided they are not sponsor related, negative, unsportsmanlike or vulgar.
2. All signs must be coordinated with site managers according to facility policies. If signs are permitted by the site manager, the visiting school representatives who hung the signs are responsible for removing them, and all evidence of them, following the contest.

### D. Noisemakers

1. Noisemakers are permitted provided they do not interfere with the game as determined by the site manager or officials. This includes but is not limited to school bands, drums and Vuvuzelas
2. Air Horns/noisemaker prohibited  
Air horns and noisemakers that required electric or alternate sources of power are not permitted in the facility.

### E. Videotaping by Spectators

1. Any and all videotaping by spectators shall be for personal use.
2. Any and all videotaping shall not interfere with the view of the athletic contest by other spectators.
3. The tournament site shall not permit the use of more than the seating space for which the spectator has paid when seating is needed for paying fans.
4. The tournament site accepts no liability for damage or theft of spectator equipment or injury as a result of privately owned equipment.
6. The tournament site shall not be expected to provide power sources for video equipment.
7. Violation of this regulation may result in the removal of the offender from the premises.

### F. Re-Entry – No re-entry will be provided at any game site unless following Covid-19 parameters regarding severe weather or emergency situations.

### G. Prohibited Advertising – There shall be no advertising through printed media, billboards, radio or television that includes beer, wine, liquor, tobacco, political parties or candidates or any other advertising contrary to the philosophy of interscholastic athletics.

### H. Prohibited Sales – The sale of, the distribution of, or the consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is not permitted at the site of any contest involving OHSAA member schools.

### I. Raffles Prohibited – There shall be no raffles or any type of games of chance permitted at the site of tournament contests.

J. **Drones (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles)**

The use of drones is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at OHSAA tournament contests. Tournament management shall remove anyone attempting to use a drone and/or confiscate the drone until the event has been completed.

**Note:** An exception to this policy may be made in specific cases for OHSAA broadcast partners, provided the management of the tournament facility permits the presence of drones for broadcast purposes under the control of the OHSAA.

XIII. **MEDIA**

- A. **Radio, Press and Photographers** – All requests for space shall be directed to the tournament manager for Sectional/District and Regional games. Credential requests for State Tournament games shall be Directed to Tim Stried, OHSAA Director of Communications. Proper credentials must be presented for admission at the pass gate.
- B. **Television** – Tape-delayed requests shall be directed to the appropriate tournament manager. Live request shall be directed to the Executive Director's office.

XIV. **AWARDS**

- A. Only awards furnished by the OHSAA may be presented at the OHSAA tournament site.
- B. **Sectionals** – Sectional trophies will not be awarded.
- C. **District** – Trophies will be presented to the winner and runner-up teams. Awards will be presented to the individual team members and coaches of the teams. Both teams will remain present for the Awards Ceremony.
- D. **Regionals** – A trophy will be presented to the Regional winner and runner-up.
- E. **State** – Team trophies will be presented to the State Champion and Runner-Up. Individual team members and coaches of both teams will be presented with gold or silver awards. State Tournament Participation Certificates are provided to all players permitted in uniform (22) and coaches (3).

XV. **SPONSORSHIP AND RIGHTS**

- A. The OHSAA is the sponsoring association for the Sectional, District, Regional and State Boy's and Girl's Soccer Tournaments.
- B. The OHSAA reserves all rights in regard to the management of these tournaments and the sale of any items or any audio-visual reproductions.
- C. Any sale of food, clothing, souvenirs, or any other items is strictly prohibited without permission of the respective District Athletic Boards for Sectional and District tournaments and the OHSAA Executive Director for the Regional and State Tournaments.

XVI. **WEATHER (OHSAA Lightning and Inclement Weather Regulation)**

A. **Recognition:**

Coaches, athletic trainers, athletes, administrators and contest officials should be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm development. Since the average distance between successive lightening flashes is approximately two to three miles ANYTIME that lightning can be seen or heard, the risk is already present. Weather can be monitored using the following methods:

- B. **Monitor Weather Patterns** – Be aware of potential thunderstorms by monitoring local weather forecasts the day before and morning of the competition, and by scanning the sky for signs of potential thunderstorm activity.
- C. **National Weather Service** – Weather can also be monitored using small, portable weather radios from the NWS. The NWS uses a system of severe storm watches and warnings watch indicates conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a warning indicates severe weather has been reported in an area, and everyone should take proper precautions. Any thunderstorm poses a risk of injury or death even if it does not meet the criteria for severe weather. Therefore, anytime thunderstorms are in the forecast (even if it is only a 20 percent chance), event organizers shall be at a heightened level of awareness to the potential danger of lightning.

D. **Management:**

1. **Evacuation-** If lightening is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators shall evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues.
2. **Thirty-minute rule-** Competition or practice shall be suspended once lightning has been recognized or thunder is heard. It is mandatory to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard prior to resuming practice or competition. Given the average rates of thunderstorm travel, the



storm should move 10-12 miles away from the area. This significantly reduces the risk of local lightning flashes. Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count shall reset the clock, and Another count shall begin.

## XVII. REGIONAL TOURNAMENT HOSTING

- A. The top line on each bracket shall be deemed the 'home team'. The home team shall be responsible for hosting each contest and for all game arrangements, along with the tournament manager. \*If the home team cannot host due to insufficient NFHS field standards, or is not willing to host, the opportunity to host will then go to the visiting team.

## XVIII. STATE TOURNAMENT INFORMATION ONLY

### A. STATE TOURNAMENT SUMMARY

1. **Dates** - the State Tournaments will be held **November 10, 11, 13 and 14, 2020.**
2. **Semifinal Sites** – TBD
3. **Finals Site** - TBD

### B. COACHES MEETING

1. State Finalist Coach Meeting will take place in an online format TBD

### C. MEDIA CREDENTIALS

1. **Semifinals** - Requests for State Semifinal games need to be forwarded to the site managers.
2. **Finals** - Requests for the State Final games should be forwarded to Tim Stried at [tstried@ohsaa.org](mailto:tstried@ohsaa.org)



## 2020-21 Soccer Requirements and General & Rule Recommendations

In support of the Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities, the NFHS Soccer Rules Committee offers this document for state associations to consider whether any possible rules could be altered for the 2020-21 season. The considerations outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment.

*Note:* This is not an exhaustive list and there might be additional steps in each school, city, and state to help prevent the spread of virus. Even when taking all precautions, there will still be risk of transmitting illnesses. Everyone should stay vigilant about the health of members of their teams. Lastly, the situation with COVID-19 is rapidly changing. These considerations may quickly become outdated. Please keep up with the latest from the CDC and other health officials in your area.

*Visit the COVID-19 General Guidance Document for further requirements and recommendations that apply to all sports, including soccer. Please know that some of the requirements and recommendations in this sport-specific document duplicate state guidance.*

*A **requirement** must be adhered to and followed. A **recommendation** is a consideration to the sport and allows for optional guidelines. Recommendations are not required but are permitted.*

## REQUIREMENTS

### Requirements for Coaches:

- Coaches must wear face masks at all times, including arriving and departing the facility and during active play.
- Limit day-of roster to 22 dressed players.

### **Requirements for Facility Hosts**

- Inform the local health district when events are scheduled and establish a plan to handle those persons who fail a symptom assessment or temperature check or exhibit signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- Predetermine areas for all participants, coaches, contest officials and game-day personnel to shelter in the event there is lightning and/or thunder.
- Limit sideline personnel to participants, coaches, medical staff and game-day staff.
- If possible, provide designated space (locker room, classroom, etc.) for officials' pregame, halftime and post-game activities. If the designated space cannot accommodate six-foot social distancing of all officials, then a separate space should be provided where officials can observe six-foot social distancing and be removed from spectator/team interaction.
- Clearly review prior to the contest mandates, best practices and school/host facility policies with visiting team administrators and/or coaches and officials as they relate to, but are not limited to, parking; entrances and exits; medical care; spectators; ticketing; locker rooms/showers; athletic training rooms and restrooms; water; towels; equipment, and shelters in the event there is inclement weather.

## **2020 NFHS RULE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### ***Pregame Conference (NFHS Rule 5-2-2d)***

- Limit attendees to head referee or center referee, the head coach from each team, and a single captain from each team.
- Move the location of the pregame conference to center of the field. All individuals maintain a social distance of 6 feet.
- Suspend the pregame world cup introduction line and send players to their field positions with bench personnel lined up on the touch line (6 feet apart) for introductions.
- Suspend handshakes prior to and following the Pregame Conference.

### ***Ball Holders (NFHS Rule 6-1)***

- Encourage social distancing of 6 feet
- No more than 4 ball holders; each ball holder to cover 1/4 of the field

### ***Team Benches (NFHS Rule 1-5-1)***

- Encourage bench personnel to observe social distancing of 6 feet.
- Benches on opposite sides of the field to allow greater social distancing
- Players on the bench and coaches should be masked

### ***Substitution Procedures (NFHS Rule 3-4)***

- Maintain social distancing of 6 feet between the substitute, officials and/or teammate(s) by encouraging substitutions to occur closer to the center line.

### ***Officials Table (NFHS Rule 6-2; 6-3)***

- Limit to essential personnel which includes home team scorer and timer with a recommend distance of 6 feet between individuals. Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential personnel and will need to find an alternative location.

## **Soccer Rules Interpretations**

- ***Rule 4-1 EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES***

- Cloth face coverings are permissible.
- Gloves are permissible.
- **Rule 4-2 LEGAL UNIFORM**
  - Long sleeves are permissible. (4-1-1)
  - Long pants are permissible. (4-1-1)
  - Under garments are permissible but must be of a similar length for the individual and a solid like color for team. (4-1-1d)
- **Rule 5-3 OFFICIALS UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT**
  - By state association adoption, long-sleeved shirt/jackets are permissible. (5-1-3)
  - Electronic whistles are permissible (supplies are limited).
    - Choose a whistle whose tone will carry outside.
    - Fox 40 Mini -
    - Fox 40 Unisex Electronic - 3 tone
    - Ergo-Guard - (3 tone) - orange
    - Windsor - (3 tone) grey
    - Check the market for other choices
  - Cloth face coverings are permissible.
  - Gloves are permissible.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### General Recommendations

- Participants and coaches from visiting teams and officials should arrive at the contest facility dressed in partial or full uniforms or coaching/officiating gear and should plan to leave the contest facility in partial or full uniforms or coaching/officiating gear (e.g. not dress or change in visiting locker rooms).
- Consideration should be considered to limiting contests against only teams in your local area or, if out-of-state, against teams located in counties that are contiguous to Ohio.
- Coaches should not share clipboards, whiteboards, dry erase boards, or any other equipment used for coaching purposes.
- Contest officials should not share whistles or any other equipment used for officiating purposes.
- When conducting temperature checks, take into account the potential for environmental factors causing an elevated temperature. Should the temperature be elevated, it is appropriate to isolate the individual and recheck the temperature after 5-to-10 minutes of sitting in a cool environment.

### Recommendations for Facility Hosts

- If applicable, stagger the entry of all participants, coaches, officials, student game-day auxiliary groups and spectators to adhere to six-foot social distancing.
- Consider multiple points of entry to help ensure there is six-foot social distancing.
- Use contact-less payments where possible.
- Bench water may be provided by the facility host, but the visiting team/participants should supply their own coolers unless agreed upon by the facility host. If used, water coolers shall be sanitized prior to use and frequently during the contest and disposable one-time-use cups shall be utilized.
- Limit press box space to essential personnel only and demonstrate social distancing as much as possible.
- Appoint an individual(s) who is responsible for assisting the host facility manager(s) in logging all incidents and action plans when mandates have not been followed and/or incidents occur; logging recommendations for improving the host facilities' game-day strategies, and creating reports on said items that were logged.