

2024 BOYS AND GIRLS SOCCER TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

NOTE: The following regulations apply to all levels of tournament unless otherwise specified. They have been adopted by the Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors on Aug. 29, 2024. The Executive Director is authorized to modify these regulations when deemed necessary, subject to ratification by the Board of Directors.

1) ORGANIZATION OF TOURNAMENTS

- a) District Athletic Boards (DAB) organize and conduct Sectional and District Tournaments in their respective districts, subject to the rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors. Sectional and District site managers will receive supplemental information from respective District Athletic Boards. Site selection and play dates of Sectional and 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 five boys divisions and five girls divisions. 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.

2) 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.

3) DIVISIONS AND REPRESENTATION

a) There will be five divisions in the boys and girls Sectional, District, Regional and State Soccer Tournament.

b) Representation to Regional Tournament – 2024

BOYS	I	II	III	IV	V
Central District	6	5	2	2	1
East District	0	0	1	2	1
Northeast District	3	7	6	4	5
Northwest District	1	1	3	3	3
Southeast District	0	0	1	2	2
Southwest District	6	3	3	3	4

GIRLS	I	II	III	IV	V
Central District	6	3	1	1	1
East District	0	0	1	2	1
Northeast District	4	7	6	5	5
Northwest District	1	2	3	3	4
Southeast District	0	0	1	1	2
Southwest District	5	4	4	4	3

4) RULES

a) The rules and regulations of the NFHS shall govern the conduct of all tournament matches.

5) TOURNAMENT BALL

a) The official soccer shall be the Wilson Vivido ball. For the Sectional and District level, any NFHS approved ball may be used. The OHSAA shall provide the Wilson Vivido ball beginning at the Regional level through the State Finals. However, for all levels of the tournament no matter if the Wilson Vivido ball is provided, a NFHS approved may be used. *See 16.a for more information.

6) TOURNAMENT DATES - 2024

Oct. 14-19	Sectional Tournament
Oct. 21-26	District Tournament
Oct. 29 - Nov. 3	Regional Tournament
Nov. 5	Girls Soccer State Semifinals
Nov. 6	Boys Soccer State Semifinals
Nov. 8-9	Girls State Finals
Nov. 10-11	Boys State Finals

Note: Regional tournament dates will not be moved due to schedule changes at the District level. Additional days/time should be built into tournaments at the District level.

7) TOURNAMENT DRAW

NOTE: The established date for all seeding and drawing meetings in Ohio is Sunday, October 6, 2024. Boys Tournament Draws at 2:00 p.m. and Girls' Tournament Draws at 3:00 p.m.

- a) In the Sectional Tournaments that precede or do not precede District Tournaments, seeding is mandatory in the Sectional. (**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 OHSA sponsored Tournaments.
- b) All teams assigned to the first round of the tournament 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.

8) SEEDING PROCEDURES

- a) 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.
- b) Voting on Seeded Teams
 - i) 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.
 - ii) All head coaches shall vote via a ballot which shall be made public, selecting their choice for the #1 seeded team. The team with the greatest number of votes shall be seeded #1, second highest #2, etc., until all teams are seeded.
- c) Policy for Breaking Ties in the Tournament Seeding Process:
 - i) The team that receives the most individual votes at the tied position or above shall receive the higher seed.
 - ii) If the results are still tied, the tie shall be broken by a coin toss. The school that calls the toss shall be the first one to appear in the alphabet (official school name without the respective city name ahead of it unless the city name is part of the official school's name), going from A to Z in even-numbered years and Z to A in odd-numbered years.

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.

d) Placement on brackets

- i) Each District Athletic Board shall determine placement of teams in the brackets. If a school fails to have a representative present at the seed and draw meeting, the manager shall place the school (s) on the bracket in accordance with the respective District Athletic Board's Policy.
- ii) The tournament manager will distribute brackets to representatives of participating teams. All brackets shall designate the 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.

9) TOURNAMENT ENTRY AND PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS

- a) Member schools wanting to participate in the OHSAA Soccer Tournaments must indicate their intent to participate on their OHSAA Sports Participation Card in myOHSAA. Tournament entry confirmation begins **July 1, 2024** and ends **September 23, 2024**. Schools that change their tournament participation after **September 24, 2024** will be subject to a \$50 penalty per sport.
- b) Participating schools must provide all program material, travel party lists and any other materials as requested by the respective tournament managers and OHSAA staff.

10) PARTICIPATING SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

- a) A school administrator or a person designated by the school shall assist the tournament site manager with crowd supervision when asked. 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.
- b) 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.

11) FAILURE TO APPEAR

- a) 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 match, 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 in General Sports Regulations 21.

12) PRE-MATCH PROTOCOL

- a) Both teams are guaranteed a minimum of 30 minutes of uninterrupted warm-up time.

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, teams clear the field
6:50 pm	Pre-Match Conference Coin Toss International walkout National Anthem Team introductions (non-starters, starters, coaches of visiting and home teams)
7:00 pm	Kickoff

- b) The 30-minute clock will begin approximately 40 minutes prior to kickoff, guaranteeing the minimum 30-minute warm-up. The start of the clock may be started prior to 40 minutes prior to kickoff to accommodate pre-game announcements, national anthem, etc.
- c) Both teams may be permitted access to the field one (1) hour prior to kickoff (presuming there is not another match immediately prior).
- d) The remaining estimated 10 minutes prior to kickoff will be utilized for the sportsmanship conference, coin toss, pre-match introductions, and the national anthem.
- e) A sample pre-match schedule is below for a 7:00 pm kickoff.

13) TEAM INTRODUCTIONS

- a) Team introductions shall be coordinated in the following format:
- Both teams shall walk out international style to midfield (both teams lined up and walking out with the officials to midfield). If benches are on opposite sides of the field, one referee will meet the team on the opposite side of the field and walk the team to center field as the other officials walk the other team.
 - Public address announcers shall announce all non-starters, starters and coaching staff beginning with the visiting team and concluding with the home team.
 - Hosts may adjust the timing to complete the pre-match announcements and introductions prior to the desired kickoff time.

14) INTERRUPTED TOURNAMENT MATCHES

- a) Tournament matches interrupted because of events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority shall be continued from the point of interruption.
- b) Any ejected player or coach cannot participate in the resumed match.
- c) Teams, playing short, will continue to play short.
- d) NFHS Rule 7-1-3 is not in effect for interrupted tournament matches.

15) GOAL DIFFERENTIAL AND LENGTH OF MATCHES

- a) 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 any unusual delay deemed necessary by the officials.
- b) Should the goal differential reach eight (8) at the end of the first half or during the second half of the post-season tournament, the match is terminated. At that time, the score stands and is counted as a complete match.

16) TEAM REGULATIONS

- a) Match Ball. For regionals through the state semifinal, the Wilson Vivido ball shall be provided and used.
- b) Ball Persons. Each team shall provide three ball people during all tournament contests, including regional and state tournament play. These individuals must be listed on the thirty-five (35) person travel party list.
- c) Travel party size. It is the responsibility of the coaches and tournament manager to ensure that the number of players does not exceed twenty-five (25) in uniform for each match. 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 match.
- d) Co-Ed Teams. Any team that includes males and females must compete in the boys' 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.
- e) Bench Area. Thirty-five (35) 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 thirty-five (35) but may not be on the field at any time during warm-up. It is the responsibility of the coaches and tournament manager to ensure that the number of individuals does not exceed thirty-five (35).
- f) Award presentations. All participants are required to respectfully participate in an awards presentation 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.

17) SCHOOL REGULATIONS

- a) Cheerleaders, Bands and Mascots. Bands, cheerleaders, and mascots shall not be permitted at any level of the OHSAA Tournament.
- b) Property Damage. There is no insurance covering property damage. 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. 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.
- c) Crowd Control. Student crowd control at all levels of the tournament is the responsibility of each Principal from the competing schools.
- a) Videotaping by Schools. Filming or videotaping of tournament matches by one or both schools playing the match is permitted. Schools must receive prior permission from the tournament manager. Schools are limited to one individual from each school who must be listed on the team travel party form. All expenses for videotaping shall be incurred by the school filming.

18) UNIFORMS

- a) The home team shall wear dark jerseys and socks, and the visiting team shall wear solid white jerseys and socks.
- b) All aspects of the uniform must conform to NFHS Rule 4-1.
- c) Effective August 1, 2026: In accordance with NFHS Rule 4.1, teams who are found to be in violation of the uniform requirements for the regular season 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.

19) UNSPORTING CONDUCT REQUIREMENTS AND PENALTIES

- a) Participation in athletic contests is a privilege. Everyone is expected to conduct him /herself in an exemplary manner while participating.
- b) 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	Matches missed AFTER day of event
Yellow	May still play	0
Double Yellow	Ineligible for remainder	1
Red	Ineligible for remainder	2
Red-Violent Conduct/Fighting	Ineligible for remainder	4

Note: The definition of fighting is found in the NFHS playing rules and reads as follows: "Fighting is any attempt by a player or non-player to strike or engage a player or non-player in a combative manner unrelated to the sport. Such acts include, but are not limited to, attempts to strike an opponent(s) with the arm(s), hand(s), leg(s), or foot (feet), whether or not there is contact."

20) MATCH REGULATIONS FOR OVERTIME PROCEDURES

- a) Coin Toss. A coin toss shall be held as in NFHS Rule 5-2-2 (d)(3)
- b) 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.
- c) Prior to the first overtime period, a coin toss shall be held as in Rule 5-2-2 (d)(3).
 - i) Teams will play one 15-minute sudden victory overtime period. If neither team scores during the first overtime period, teams shall alternate the kickoff and change ends to play a second 15-minute sudden victory overtime period.
 - ii) There shall be a two-minute interval between overtime periods.
 - iii) 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 in the Match Management Procedures.

Overtime Procedures Outline

5:00min Intermission after regulation time

15:00min First overtime period

2:00min Intermission

15:00min Second overtime period

2:00min Intermission

Begin penalty kicks

- d) Match Management for Overtime Procedures:
 - i) The head referee shall choose the goal at which all the penalty kicks shall be taken based upon field and weather conditions.
 - ii) 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.
 - iii) 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.

- iv) 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.
- v) Teams will alternate kickers.
- vi) The ball may not be played by anyone except the goalkeeper after it has been kicked. There is no follow-up.
- vii) 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.
- viii) The defending team may change the goalkeeper prior to each kick.
- ix) 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.
- x) Sudden victory begins with the second set of kicks, wherein if one team scores and the other teams does not score, the match is ended without more kicks being taken.
- xi) 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

- i) Players eligible to participate in the penalty kick shootout include the goalkeeper and any eligible, rostered players on or off the field. Those who have been disqualified or ejected are not eligible to participate in the penalty kick shootout.
- ii) Each coach will select five players per set of kicks based upon the following guidelines:

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

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

- iii) 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

i) Cautioned Players in Overtime

- (1) 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.
 - (a) 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 16th kick.
 - (b) 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 16th kick.
- (2) 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.
- (3) 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.

ii) Disqualified Players in Overtime

- (1) 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.

21) OFFICIALS

a) Assignments

- i) Sectional and District. Officials shall be assigned by the District Athletic Boards from pools provided by the OHSAA.
- ii) Regional and State. Officials shall 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.

b) Touchline Official Assignments and Responsibilities

- i) 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.

- ii) 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.
- iii) Each touchline official shall arrive a minimum of forty (40) minutes prior to the scheduled kickoff and shall fully participate in all the officials' pre-match duties and their pre-match conferences.
- iv) During the match, the touchline official's normal position is in the official area, standing near the scorer's table.
- v) 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.
- vi) The touchline official(s) shall not use a whistle to signal for substitutions.
- vii) 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.
- viii) 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.
- ix) 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.
- x) 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.
- xi) The touchline official is to employ less-intrusive solutions when a situation may be resolved without creating greater conflict, tension, or confusion.
- xii) 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.
- xiii) The touchline official(s) shall have such additional duties as are assigned by the head referee.
- xiv) 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.

22) GENERAL TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

a) General Admission and Admission Policies

- i) Tournament tickets will be available using an online platform, HomeTown Ticketing.
- ii) No re-entry will be allowed at any match site.

TOURNAMENT LEVEL	STUDENT TICKET	ADULT TICKET
Sectional Tournaments	\$5.00	\$8.00
District Tournaments	\$5.00	\$8.00
Regional Tournaments	\$5.00	\$11.00
State Semifinal Tournaments	\$10.00	\$15.00
State Tournament	\$10.00	\$15.00

* State Finals will require online ticketing.
Ages 5 and under are free

b) Team Admission

- i) For all levels of the tournament, teams are limited to a total of thirty-five (35) personnel in the bench area. The travel party form shall consist of twenty-five (25) players in uniform and ten (10) additional personnel who shall be determined by the school and may include but are not limited to coaches, athletic trainers, additional student-athletes, etc. The principal or principal's designee shall certify the OHSAA travel party form. In addition to the thirty-five (35) travel party, three (3) ball persons, one (1) videographer, one (1) photographer and one (1) bus driver shall be admitted with the official travel party.
 - ii) For State Finals only, commemorative bag tag credentials will be provided upon arrival at the site and used for team entry. Each participating school will receive complimentary admission for eight (8) school administrators, digitally, through HomeTown Ticketing. One digital code will be provided to each school. Each code will have eight (8) tickets attached to each code. The same code will be utilized as the school advances in the tournament.
- c) Banners and Signs. Team Banners and signs will be permitted at the discretion of the host, provided they are not sponsor related, negative, unsportsmanlike, or vulgar. 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) Artificial Noisemakers. Noisemakers are permitted provided they do not interfere with the match as determined by the site manager or officials. This includes but is not limited to drums and Vuvuzelas. Air horns and noisemakers that required electric or alternate sources of power are not permitted in the facility.
- e) Videotaping by Spectators. Any and all videotaping by spectators shall be for personal use and shall not interfere with the view of the athletic contest by other spectators. 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. The tournament site accepts no liability for damage or theft of spectator equipment or injury because of privately owned equipment. The tournament site shall not be expected to provide power

sources for video equipment. Violation of this regulation may result in the removal of the offender from the premises.

- f) 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.

- g) 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) Sale Restrictions. The sale, distribution, or consumption of alcoholic beverages or drugs is not permitted at the site of any contest involving OHSAA member schools.
- i) Raffles. There shall be no raffles or any type of matches of chance permitted at the site of tournament contests.
- j) Parking. Host sites are permitted to charge for parking if the fee doesn't exceed \$5.00.

23) MEDIA

- a) Radio, Press and Photographers. All requests for space shall be directed to the tournament manager for Sectional and District and Regional/State Semifinal matches. Credential requests for State Tournament matches shall be Directed to the OHSAA Director of Communications. Proper credentials must be presented for admission at the 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.

24) AWARDS

- a) Only awards furnished by the OHSAA may be presented at the OHSAA tournament site.
- b) Tournament Level Awards
 - i) Sectional. Sectional trophies will not be awarded.
 - ii) District. Trophies will be presented to the winner and runner-up teams. Individual medallions will be presented to the individual team members and coaches of the teams. Both teams will remain present for the Awards Ceremony.
 - iii) Regional. A trophy and individual medallions will be presented to the regional winner and runner-up.
 - iv) State. Team trophies will be presented to the State Champion and Runner-Up. Individual medallions will be presented to the individual team members and coaches of the teams. Both teams will remain present for the Awards Ceremony.

25) 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 regarding the management of these tournaments and the sale of any items and/or any audio-visual reproductions.
- c) Any sale of food, clothing, souvenirs, or items by anyone other than the OHSAA licensed providers 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.

26) WEATHER (OHSAA Lightning and Inclement Weather Regulation)

- a) Recognition. Coaches, athletic trainers, athletes, administrators, and officials should be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm development. Since the average distance between successive lightning 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:
 - i) 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.
 - ii) 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.
- b) Management
 - i) 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.
 - ii) 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.

27) REGIONAL AND STATE TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

- a) Home Team Determination. The top line on each bracket shall be deemed the 'home team'.
- b) Site Determination. The OHSAA shall determine sites for each Regional Semifinal, Regional Final and State Semifinal.
- c) State Finals. The State Finals shall be hosted at Historic Crew Stadium in Columbus, OH. There will be a mandatory finalist meeting for coaches and administrators leading up to the State Finals. The meeting may be in-person or virtually.