

# OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



## 2023 OHSAA SOCCER OFFICIALS' GUIDE

*A Season's Guide for OHSAA Soccer Officials*



## A Message from OHSAA Director of Soccer Officiating Development,



Good day, everyone.

On behalf of Director of Sport Management for Soccer Kate Barnett, Manager of Officiating Administration Lizzy Wilson, I thank you for all your dedication to the student athletes and the pursuit of perfecting the craft of soccer officiating.

With the start of the season comes exciting changes and new challenges. I look forward to providing the tools, support, and guidance to ensuring you a successful soccer season.

Remember we are the example, first, and last impression. In that cadence, strive to create fair competition by leveling the pitch, maintaining focus, and be in constant pursuit of the example of excellence, one call at a time.

Go out and create your best season!

Holly Herrholtz  
OHSAA Director of Soccer Officiating Development



### ***The OHSAA's Mission Statement***

***The Ohio High School Athletic Association's mission is to regulate and administer interscholastic athletic competition in a fair and equitable manner while promoting the values of participation in interscholastic athletics as an integral part of a student's educational experience. The OHSAA represents its member schools by recognizing and promoting academics, the safety of participants, good citizenship and lifelong values as the foundation of interscholastic athletics.***



## Important Soccer Dates

July 31	Coaching & Tryouts Begin
August 2	First Day Previews/Scrimmages
August 11	First Day of Competition
September 4	Non-interscholastic Date
October 8	Tournament Seed/Draw Date
October 17 – 21	Sectional Tournaments
October 24 – 28	District Tournaments
Oct. 30—Nov. 4	Regional Tournaments
November 7	Girls' State Semifinals
November 8	Boys' State Semifinals
November 10	Girls' State Finals
November 11	Boys' State Finals
November 11	Last date for Games

## OHSAA Soccer Contact Information

**Kate Barnett, Director of Sport Management** [kbarnett@ohsaa.org](mailto:kbarnett@ohsaa.org)  
*Administers the sport of soccer and oversees tournament, writes Soccer Sports' Regulations, Soccer Tournament Regulations*

**Holly Herrholtz, Director of Soccer Official Development** [hherrholtz@ohsaa.org](mailto:hherrholtz@ohsaa.org)  
*Responsible for overseeing soccer officials in Ohio. Serves as liaison with NFHS and oversees the education and recruitment of soccer officials in Ohio.*

## Communicating with the OHSAA

*It is understandable with 817 schools in Ohio and the number of soccer teams in Ohio from Junior High to High School, the volume of calls and emails coming into the office is quite high and nearly impossible to answer at peak times. Most questions can and should be answered by the Athletic Director at your school. To make our communication as efficient as possible, we ask school ADMINISTRATORS (including your Athletic Director) to communicate directly with us...therefore our policy of not answering calls by parents and community members. One can only imagine the impossibility of that.*

*Additionally, every effort is being made to provide useful information via our website. I encourage you to check the website (both the main page and soccer specific page) and additional information is provided in this manual regarding weekly informational items (Ohio Soccer Weekly) that should prove beneficial for coaches at all levels.*

*The Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association is also an excellent resource for coaches. I encourage your membership in that organization to help strengthen the great sport of soccer in Ohio.*

## ***Mandatory Rules Interpretation Meeting***

**Rules Interpretation Meeting are MANDATORY for all Officials and Head Coaches.** IF you are a coach and have an OHSAA Official's license, **you will be required to complete both meetings, since the content is specific to each group.**

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

Go to your myOHSAA account and look for Find State Meeting in the menu on the left-hand side. Click on it. Click on the online state rules meeting and rock and roll. There will also be in-person state rules meetings listed. I hope to see you at one.

**The ONLINE Rules Meeting link will be live on Thursday, July 20, at 9:00 a.m.**

A \$50.00 late fee will be charged for access to the online state rules meeting after Monday, August 14, 2023. The last day for completion of the online version with a late fee, is 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, October 1, 2023.

AFTER COMPLETION:

1. Your Official's myOHSAA profile will be updated to reflect your attendance.
2. Please do not call the OHSAA office for verification. Attendance WILL be reflected in the profile.

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Contact</u></b>
7/18/2023	6:30 pm	Walsh Jesuit H.S., Library 4550 Wyoga Lake Road, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44224	Roy Miller, IV
7/24/2023	7:15 pm	Sylvania Southview High School, Auditorium 7225 Sylvania Avenue, Sylvania, OH 43560	Barbara Nye
7/26/2023	7:15 pm	Parma Recreation Center 7335 Ridge Road, Parma, OH 44129	George Balasko
7/31/2023	6:30 pm	West Chester Lakota West High School Auditorium, 8940 Union Center Blvd., West Chester, OH 45069	Susan Kukanza

## **These are the requirements for upgrade to Class 1 in soccer.**

### **2. Classification Upgrade**

**Note:** The promotion from one class to another class does not become effective until the year following, provided the official renews their officiating permit.

#### **A. From Class 2 to 1 or Class 3 to 2 – All sports except Gymnastics**

##### **i. Application & Examination Deadlines – Class Upgrades**

**The upgrade application deadline is November 1, 2023.**

**The upgrade examinations, rules and mechanics, both online, will be held from November 15 – 30, 2023.**

**Step 1:** Submit Upgrade Materials – Print an application to obtain an application form and instructions regarding examination time, place and observation procedure (**Click here to print application form:**

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Officiating/forms/UpgradeApplication.pdf>)

**Step 2:** Pass Observation of officiating in two scheduled athletic contests by two Class 1 officials –Both observations must be signed by the observing official. Neither the observing official nor the Association are permitted to charge the applicant any fee for their observing service. Observations may be conducted by a Class 1 official working in the same athletic contest as the applicant official. (Click here to print out the referee observation form:

[https://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Officiating/forms/SOobsv\\_Referee.pdf](https://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Officiating/forms/SOobsv_Referee.pdf)

**Step 3:** Send completed form to OHSAA – via email to [canderson@ohsaa.org](mailto:canderson@ohsaa.org) or mail to Officiating Department, OHSAA, 4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, OH 43214.

**Step 4:** Prepare for Officiating Exam – Study your rule books in preparation for the online test. Applicants will be provided via email their username and password, and directions for the online test prior to the test dates. I have more information on what to study immediately following these requirements.

**Step 5:** Take Officiating Exam – Applicants must receive a passing score of 80% or higher on an online review exam. See examination dates in Section C. Two attempts will be permitted.

### **NOTE: BRAND NEW STUFF for UPGRADE:**

#### **B. Off-Season Classification Upgrade Exception**

i. Officials are now allowed a one-time option to take the upgrade exam via a hard copy.

ii. To obtain this exam, you will need to reach out to your District Administrator. Send them your completed upgrade application with the two required signatures (UpgradeApplication.pdf (windows.net).

They will send you a copy of the test. iii. Once the official completes the test, send it back to the District Administrator so they can grade it.

a. If the official passed the exam, the District Administrator will let the Manager of Officiating know and they will upgrade your permit accordingly. If the official fails the exam, they will need to wait until the upgrade testing window. Please note there is only get one attempt to pass the hard copy test.

iv. To find out what district you are in:

a. Please log on to your myOHSAA account.

b. Click on the blue "Profile" icon on the top right-hand side of the page.

c. Scroll down to "Official Information". There you will see Athletic District. There you will find out what district you are in.

#### **Your District Administrator (DA)**

The District Administrator is the primary resource for local association officers to direct requests for assistance. The DA will assist the OHSAA office staff with investigations and administrative services.

Central – Malt Brown – [maltbrown@prodigy.net](mailto:maltbrown@prodigy.net)

East – Matt Abbott – [mdabbott163@gmail.com](mailto:mdabbott163@gmail.com)

Northeast – Ron Knight – [ronknight46@hotmail.com](mailto:ronknight46@hotmail.com)

Northwest – Ken Myers – [refkam@yahoo.com](mailto:refkam@yahoo.com)

Southeast – Wayne Horsley – [whorsley@athenscsd.org](mailto:whorsley@athenscsd.org)

Southwest – Jerry Fick – [swdoc@fuse.net](mailto:swdoc@fuse.net)

#### **What to Study**

**NOTE: In soccer, there is a rules exam and a separate mechanics exam.**

From the DoD: in order to assist you in studying for the two exams, please study the following: (1) 2023-2024 NFHS Rules Book; (2) 2023-2024 OHSAA General Sports Regulations:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/GeneralSportsRegulations.pdf> (3) 2023 OHSAA Soccer Regulations: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/Soccer/SoccerRegs.pdf> (4) 2023 OHSAA

## Tournament Regulations:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/Soccer/SoccerTournamentRegulations.pdf> and (5) 2023-

## 2024 OHSAA Handbook for Officials:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Officiating/OHSAAOfficialsHandbook.pdf>



## 2023-2024 NFHS Rules Changes Explained

By Director of Soccer Officiating Development

Good day, everyone.

I hope that you are doing very well.

Following is an explanation, with examples, of the NFHS rules changes for the 2023 season, and points of emphasis.

Legend: New NFHS material within each rule is underlined.

### **NF 3.3.2(b)(2) and NF 3.3.2(b)(3): Clock is stopped to check on a player; player may remain in the match unless attendant is summoned.**

**ART. 2...**Time for Substitutions: either team may substitute an unlimited number of players from the bench, provided the players report to the scorer's table or nearest official and are beckoned in as per 3-4-1a:

b. when a player is injured:

2. If the referee stops the clock and beckons a coach or appropriate health-care professional on to the field for an apparent injury to any field player or goalkeeper, the field player or goalkeeper will have to shall leave the field. and the goalkeeper shall be replaced by either a substitute or a field player. If the referee signals the clock to be stopped and the health-care professional or coach is not beckoned, the player does not have to leave the field.

3. The field injured player leaving the field may be replaced from the bench. If the injured player is the goalkeeper, they shall be replaced by either substitute or a field player.

**Rationale:** Referee has the authority to stop the clock to review game situations at any time. This rule change affords the ability for the referee to assess situations without negatively effecting a player's ability to remain in the game. However, once the referee beckons medical professional or coach onto the field to further assess, the player must leave the field of play. **DoD's Note:** We ask referees, in their prematch with the coaches, to remind them of this.

**DoD:** THE COACHES MAY SUB FOR THESE PLAYERS AT THIS TIME AND THE INJURY SUB RULE WOULD THEN APPLY, NF 3.3.2, I.E., UNLIMITED SUBS FROM THE BENCH.

**DoD's NOTE: If there is an apparent head injury, the referee should not delay in beckoning on the coach or an AHCP.**

If sideline personnel enter the field (without a beckon from the referee), the injured player must leave the **field**.

### **NF 3.3.7: Playing shorthanded except for misconduct**

**ART. 7 . . .** A team that elects or is required to play shorthanded for reasons other than misconduct may have the player(s) re-enter the game during a dead ball. The re-entry shall occur from the official area after being beckoned in as per 3-4-1a.

**Rationale:** The rule change clarifies that a player should re-enter the game from the official area at midfield. This avoids potential confusion as to who is or is not in the game.

**Example:** #13 was asked to leave the field to correct improper equipment and the team chose to play shorthanded. #13 may re-enter at the next dead ball from the official area after being inspected by a referee and being beckoned by the referee.

**DoD IMPORTANT:** A player removed from the field for other than misconduct, may not EVER return during the run of play. Such a returning player may only re-enter during a dead ball, and can return, regardless of who possesses the restart, NF 3.3.7.

### **NF 3.4.1: Procedures for Substitution, Entering/Leaving the Field**

**ART. 1 . . .** To request a substitution, a substitute who desires to enter the game shall report to the official's area scorer, giving the jersey number and the number of the player being replaced.

- a. The substitute shall remain at the scorer's table official's area until a referee beckons the substitute onto the field of play. When there is no separate scorer/timer, incoming substitutes shall report directly to the nearest official from the official area.
- b. A substitute may enter the field of play at the beginning of a period without being beckoned by the referee. After a goal is scored and when a player is injured and removed from the field, substitutes must be beckoned.
- c. If entry is requested at any other time, the scorer shall require the timer to signal for the substitution
- d. When an entry is taking place on a throw-in, a goal kick or a corner kick, the substitute(s) must have reported to the scorer (or official area prior to the dead-ball situation).
- e. The player being replaced shall exit the field on the bench side unless the player is injured and unable to exit to that side.

**Rationale:** To assist the officials in the managing of substitutions, players should exit the field from the bench side when the substitute(s) are beckoned on by the referee unless the player(s) is unable to do so because of an injury. This avoids unnecessary interaction with opposing teams and fans and minimizes the potential for unsporting behavior.

**IMPORTANT:** Exit must be to own team's Team Area, not through the opponent's Team Area.

**DoD:** The substitute who has reported in may not be withdrawn by the coach AFTER the substitute has been beckoned on by the referee. See, NF 18.1.1(rr). If a coach withdraws a substitute who had reported in, before the referee stops play, the sub must report in again to the official scorer (in the Official Area) or to the nearest official should there be no official scorer, before becoming an eligible substitute.

2007 NF Soccer Guide—Substitutes Should Be at the Table: Substitutes who desire to enter the game shall report to the scorer, giving their jersey number and the number of the player being replaced . . . . The substitute shall remain at the scorer's table until the referee beckons the substitute onto the field of play (3.4.1 Situation).

A coach may withdraw the substitute prior to being beckoned onto the field. Once beckoned, the coach cannot withdraw the substitute (3.4.1 Situation). A player who leaves the scoring table [i.e., the Official Area] ceases to be a substitute.

**DoD's Example:** B-14 reports to the official scorer in the official area. The coach withdraws B-14 from the official area. The referee then stops play. B-14 cannot enter at that time. B-14 is not an eligible sub, as B-14 must report in again and remain in the official area.

## **NF Rule 4: Player Equipment....Reorganized but not changed**

The uniform rule has been reorganized to offer clarity.

### 4-1: Required Uniform

- Art. 1 Requirements
- Art. 2 Jersey
- Art. 3 Shorts
- Art. 4 Socks
- Art. 5 Shinguards
- Art. 6 Shoes

### 4-2: Other Equipment

### 4-3: Illegal Equipment

### 4-4: Coaches' Responsibilities

**NFHS: Rule 4 Reorganization:** Adjusts the structure of the uniform rule to offer clarity. **Rationale:** The reorganization of the uniform rule breaks up the rule into bite-sized pieces that are easier for coaches and officials to apply.

**There is a big change from 2022: plastic beads that are not securely fastened to the head are now IMPROPER EQUIPMENT. No longer is a caution to be issued in this instance. Follow these play rulings in addressing this situation.**

**4.2.3 SITUATION A:** During team warmups, the officials notice a player on Team A wearing plastic beads at the end of long braids. The braids are (a) pulled back and secured in a bun with an elastic hair band; (b) free flowing, allowing the braids with beads to sway back and forth as the player moves. **RULING:** (a) legal; (b) Improper equipment. **COMMENT:** Hair-control devices and other adornments in the hair that are securely fastened to the head and do not present a risk of injury to the player, teammates or opponents are permitted. In (b), the official shall notify the coach of Team A and allow the player to correct the improper equipment by securing the beads to the head to minimize risk of injury.

**4.2.3 SITUATION C:** During the game, the referee observes player A2 wearing beads on the end of an unsecured ponytail. **RULING:** Improper Equipment. **COMMENT:** Player A2 is wearing improper equipment because the hard adornments are not secured to the head. The referee shall not stop play and address player A2's equipment at the next stoppage, unless the improper equipment presents a dangerous situation (4-4-4). If A2 can immediately secure the ponytail with beads, then A2 may do so and is not required to leave the field. If player A2 cannot immediately correct the improper equipment, then the referee must instruct A2 to leave the field and no caution is administered (4-4-3). Player A2 may be replaced by a substitute. If Team A chooses to play short-handed, then A2 may re-enter at the next dead ball after reporting to an official who shall be satisfied that A2's ponytail with the beads has been secured to the head in compliance with the rule.

## **NF 4.2.12: Wearable Technology, which is also a Point of Emphasis**

**ART. 12...Wearable technology devices must be securely fastened and not present a risk to the player, teammates, or opponents. Devices may be worn on the shoes or on the body under the uniform but not worn on under the arm.**

**NOTE:** Medical appliances and/or medical devices are not considered wearable technology.

**Rationale:** Sets a national standard for wearable technology. The change clarifies that these devices can only be safely worn as a part of the shoe and/or under the uniform and not worn on the arm or below the level of the shoulder. Coaches and players are still not permitted to utilize technology to communicate during the game.

**2023 Preseason Guide, Play 3:** A1 is wearing a fitness device that tracks performance such as motion, heart rate and/or blood oxygen levels. The device is worn: (a) as a watch on the wrist, (b) on the upper arm, (c) on the shoes, (d) on the ankle over the socks/shinguards, (e) on the ankle under the socks/shinguards, (f) on the chest under the jersey top. **Ruling 3:** Medical appliances and/or medical devices are not considered wearable technology. If the device is used for medical purposes, team A must have received prior authorization from the state association. Without such authorization, the device is only legal in (c), (e) and (f) since the device is worn



either “on the shoe or on the body under the uniform.” The device cannot be worn on the arm without state association approval as a medical device.

**4.2.12 SITUATION A:** A player enters the game wearing a (a) fitness tracker on the wrist, (b) workout heart rate monitor on the chest under the jersey, (c) pedometer integrated into the shoe, (d) vest with an integrated electronic performance tracking system device under the jersey. **RULING:** Illegal in (a), even if covered. Legal in (b), (c) and (d). **COMMENT:** All wearable technology devices must be secured, not worn on the arm below the shoulder, and cannot create a safety hazard to the player, teammates or opponents. Electronic performance tracking system devices are examples of wearable technology that may also communicate or transmit information. No electronic device may be used to communicate with the on-field players during the game as prohibited by 12-8-1e.

**4.2.11 SITUATION B:** A player enters the game wearing a diabetic monitoring patch on the upper-arm. **RULING:** Legal. Medical appliances/devices are not considered wearable technology and may be worn on the arm so long as they do not pose any risk of injury or hazard to the player, teammates or opponents [and written OHSAA approval is at the match site].

## **NF 11.1.5: Deliberately Played by an Opponent**

### **SECTION 1 OFFSIDE**

**ART. 5...** A player in an offside position receiving the ball from an opponent, who deliberately plays the ball (except from a deliberate save), is not considered to have gained an advantage.

**a. To deliberately play the ball, the player must have time and space, and sufficient sight of the ball to control the ball with the possibility of:**

- 1. Passing the ball to their teammate; or,**
- 2. Gaining possession of the ball; or**
- 3. Clearing the ball [DoD: e.g., kicking or heading, etc.]**

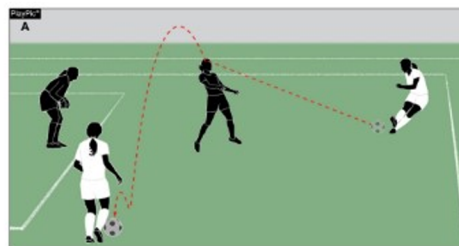
**b. A save is when a player stops, or attempts to stop, a ball which is going into or very close to the goal with any part of the body except the hands/arms (unless the goalkeeper within the penalty area).**

**NFHS:** Rule 11.1.5 defines the criteria for deliberately playing the ball when determining an offside infraction. A player must have the time and space and sufficient sight of the ball to control the ball and have the possibility of passing the ball to a teammate or gaining possession of the ball.

Rule Change

## **OFFSIDE 11-1-5 (NEW)**

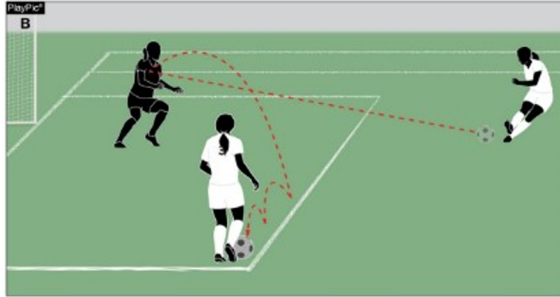
In the PlayPic, the second attacker is offside because the ball merely glanced off of the defender's head (not a deliberate play).



**OFFSIDE– deflection off a defender who did not deliberately play the ball**



## OFFSIDE 11-1-5 (NEW)



In the PlayPic, the goalkeeper makes a deliberate save. White #3 is offside.



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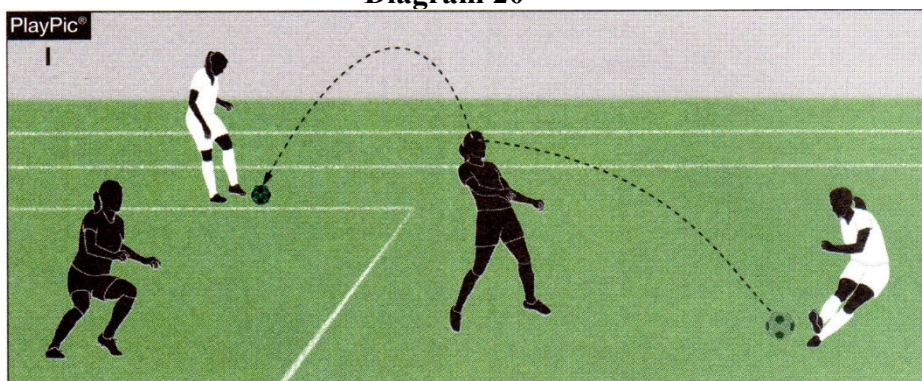
2023 Preseason Guide, Play 1: A2 attempts to pass the ball to A3 who is in an offside position. B3 extends the leg in an attempt to intercept the pass and the ball goes off the outstretched leg to A3 who shoots and scores. Ruling: No goal. A3 gained an advantage by being in the offside position. B3 did not make a deliberate play on the ball. The touching of the ball on the foot did not satisfy the criteria specified above [i.e., in NF 11.1.5].

2023 Preseason Guide, Play 3: A2 attempts to pass the ball to A3 who is not [in an] offside [position]. B2 intercepts the pass, turns and directs a clear toward the touchline. The ball goes to A4 who was in an offside position at the time of the initial pass. Ruling: A4 is not to be penalized for being in an offside position since the ball was deliberately played by B2.

### Please study these:

11.1.4 SITUATION D: A10, in an offside position, receives a header from B7 who had time and space to make a controlled play on the ball. RULING: Not offside. COMMENT: The player is not offside because the ball was deliberately played by an opponent, who had time and space to make a controlled play on the ball.

Diagram 20



**Defender Making a Play on the Ball** Player A1 passes the ball and a defender (B1) heads the ball directly to Player A2, who is in an offside position. A2 is not penalized for being in an offside position, however, because

this player received the ball directly from a defender who had time and space to make a controlled play on the ball.

## **NF 12.1.1; 12.1.2; 12.1.3 and 18.1.1(c) and 18.1.1(n): FOULS**

### **SECTION 1 FOULS**

**ART. 1 ... Direct and indirect free kicks and penalty kicks can only be awarded for offenses committed when the ball is in play.**

**ART. 2 ... A direct free kick is awarded if a player commits any of the following offenses against an opponent in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless, or using excessive force.**

**a. charges;**

**b. jumps at;**

**c. kicks or attempts to kick;**

**d. pushes;**

**e. strikes or attempts to strike (including head-butt);**

**f. tackles or challenges;**

**g. trips or attempts to trip;**

**ART. 3 ... If an offense involves contact, it is penalized by a direct free kick.**

**a. Careless is when a player shows a lack of attention or consideration when making a challenge or acts without precaution. No further disciplinary sanction is needed.**

**b. Reckless is when a player acts with disregard to the danger to, or consequences for, an opponent and must be cautioned (12-8-1f(10)).**

**c. Using excessive force is when a player exceeds the necessary use of force and/or endangers the safety of an opponent and must be disqualified (12-8-2d(1)).**

**Rationale:** Fouls involving physical contact are generally categorized as careless, reckless, or using excessive force. This new section in rule 12 and added definitions to rule 18 define the seven direct free kick fouls and provides consistency for officials interpreting misconduct.

**ART. 4 ... A player shall not charge into an opponent when neither player is within playing distance of the ball.**

**PENALTY:** Direct free kick.

**DoD:** There is no longer an indirect free kick foul for a fair charge not within playing distance of the ball, NF 12.4.4.

### **NF 12.3.2 & 12.3.3: Handling**

**ART. 2... A player shall be penalized for handling if they score in the opponent's goal directly from their hand/arm, even if accidental, including by the goalkeeper.**

**ART. 3... A player shall be penalized for handling if they score in the opponent's goal immediately after the ball has touched their hand/arm, even if accidental.**

**Rationale:** The new articles eliminate the necessity for the referee to determine if the hand/arm contact was accidental or deliberate. Now neither accidental nor deliberate contact with the hand/arm result in a goal for greater consistency and ease of interpretation.

### **NF 12.7.5: Goalkeeper Restrictions**

#### **SECTION 7 RESTRICTIONS ON THE GOALKEEPER**

**ART. 5 ... The goalkeeper has the same restrictions on handling the ball as any other player outside the penalty area. If the goalkeeper handles the ball inside their penalty area when not permitted to do so, an indirect free kick is awarded but there is no disciplinary sanction. However, if the violation is playing the ball a second time (with or without the hand/ arm) after a restart before it touches another player, the goalkeeper must be cautioned if the offense stops a promising attack or ejected if the offense denies an opponent or the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity.**

**Rationale:** Adding language and direction for officials regarding goalkeeper handling outside the penalty area and inside the penalty area when they are not permitted to handle the ball.

**NF:** Rule 12.7.5 adds language and direction for officials when a goalkeeper illegally handles the ball both inside and outside the penalty area. If a goalkeeper handles the ball inside the penalty area when not permitted to do so, an indirect free kick is awarded but given no disciplinary sanction. However, if the violation is playing the ball a second time (with or without the hand/arm) after a restart and before touching another player, the goalkeeper shall be cautioned if stopping a promising attack. The goalkeeper is ejected if denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity while improperly handling the ball.

**DoD:** Be very careful with the last sentence of NF 12.7.5. It applies only where there is a restart and the goalkeeper commits a “Double-Touch” Foul.

**DoD:** Because neither the NFHS nor the IFAB has defined “promising attack,” let us use the definition of the Professional Referee Organization of July 16, 2021.

“In order to help officials to consistently identify the SPA offenses, the following considerations provide assistance in correctly categorizing the outcome of an incident.

### **1) Speed, space and options**

Referees will evaluate the following when assessing whether attack is to be considered ‘promising’:

**Speed** – The player(s) is (are) moving forward with pace in their attack.

**Space** – There should be green space in front of the player with the ball to dribble, pass or shoot and/or green space in front of other attackers who would/could receive the ball.

**Options** – Either the player with the ball has options to take on a defender or has other teammates to which he could pass the ball.

The key here is that these considerations relate to a promising attack which has a possibility of becoming a goal-scoring opportunity, and not simply every forward movement.

### **2) Blatant/Cynical Offenses**

The defender blatantly or cynically holds/fouls the attacker as they are starting or during an attack. In this consideration, the nature of the holding offense is one that cannot be ignored, even if the promising attack is only just emerging or the offense occurs well into the defensive half. The hold occurs because the defender feels that without this blatant, deliberate offense, the opponents will have an attack for which they will not be able to defend. These offenses should be punished with the issuing of a caution (yellow card).

### **3) Possible denial of an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO) situation, but with considerations missing.**

In all of these situations, the consistent application of considerations by officials will help them to correctly recognize tactical fouling from teams or individual players. While every incident may have subtle differences, which can make a difference to the final outcome, using these factors provides solid reference points for every level of officiating.”

## **NF 12.8.4: DOGSO Misconduct, Criteria**

### **SECTION 8 MISCONDUCT**

#### **ART. 4 ... Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO):**

**a. When determining if an offense denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity, the following must be considered and present for a DOGSO offense:**

- 1. distance between the offense and the goal;**
- 2. general direction of the play;**
- 3. likelihood of keeping or gaining control of the ball;**
- 4. location and number of defenders;**

**Rationale:** This rule defines the considerations of an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to provide additional consistency and clarity for referees.



## DENYING AN OBVIOUS GOAL SCORING OPPORTUNITY (DOGSO)

Denying an Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity (DOGSO) is an egregious attempt to prevent opponents from scoring.

For a player to be sent off for denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity the following four criteria must be present:

1. Distance between the offense and the goal (the offense must be near the goal).
2. General direction of play (the attacking players are generally headed toward the goal).
3. Likelihood of keeping or gaining control of the ball (the player must have or been able to control the ball in order to score).
4. Location and number of defenders (If another defender, including the goalkeeper is in a closed enough position to make a lawful tackle or attempt a save then this criteria is not met).



If any element is missing, the player cannot be sent off for denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity.



## DENYING AN OBVIOUS GOAL SCORING OPPORTUNITY (DOGSO)

Questions to ask when judging on the four considerations:

- Where does the offense occur on the field?
- Did the foul occur inside or outside the penalty area?
- What is the distance between the offense and the goal?
- What is the direction of play?
- Does the player have control of the ball?
- Can the player gain control of the ball?
- How many defenders are involved in the situation?
- Where are the defenders located?
- Does the offense lead to a direct free kick or an indirect free kick?
- If no offense were to occur, would the player have an obvious opportunity to score a goal?
- Does the player deliberately handle the ball to deny the opposing team a goal?
- Was the offender attempting to play the ball?



**IMPORTANT FROM NF:** Although it is not expressly listed as an example, an indirect free kick foul inside the penalty area that is ruled a DOGSO would be a disqualification, falling into the "in all other circumstances" clause of the rule and potentially also under the example "no possibility to play the ball" or "etc."

### **NF 12.8.4(b): DOGSO Misconduct, where PK awarded**

#### **SECTION 8 MISCONDUCT**

**ART. 4 ... Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO):**

b. Where a player commits an offense against an opponent within their own penalty area which denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity and the referee awards a penalty kick, the offender is cautioned if the offense was an attempt to play the ball; in all other circumstances (e.g. holding, pulling, pushing, no possibility to play the ball, etc.) the offending player must be disqualified.

Rule Change

## DOGSO INSIDE/OUTSIDE THE PENALTY AREA

DOGSO offenses committed *OUTSIDE* the penalty area where a goal is not scored are sanctioned with a disqualification (12 -9-2d(3)).

If a defender commits a DOGSO foul *INSIDE* their penalty area resulting in a penalty kick:

- If the offender was attempting to play the ball, they are cautioned (12 -9-1f(15)).
- For all other offenses (e.g., holding, pulling, pushing, no possibility to play the ball, etc.) the offender is disqualified (19 -9-2d(4)).

DOGSO offenses committed by deliberately handling the ball (other than the goalkeeper) and a goal is not scored are sanctioned with a disqualification, regardless of where the handling occurred (12 -9-2d(2)).



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### Examples:

Rule Change

## MISCONDUCT EXAMPLES 12-8-4

Scenario ONE:

If a player carelessly slide tackles their opponent, which is a play on the ball, denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity, they will be disqualified for DOGSO if this foul is located outside the penalty area: the offender is disqualified per 12-8-2d(3), their team must play short-sided, and play restarts with a direct free kick.

If committed inside the penalty area, they are cautioned for unsporting conduct and a PK is awarded per 12-8-1f(15).



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## MISCONDUCT EXAMPLES

### 12-8-4

Scenario TWO:

If a player tackles their opponent using excessive force inside the penalty area, the offender is disqualified for serious foul play. Even though their foul, may also be a DOGSO inside the penalty area from a play on the ball, the nature of the foul rises to the level of disqualification per 12-8-2d(1).

The offender is disqualified for serious foul play, a penalty kick is awarded, and the offender's team must play short-sided.



#### **NF 12.8.4(c): DOGSO Misconduct--Handling**

ART. 4 ... Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO):

c. Where a player denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by committing a deliberate handling offense, except a goalkeeper within their penalty area, the player is disqualified wherever the offense occurs.

#### **ANOTHER BIG CHANGE FROM 2022: VC off of the Field**

**12.8.2 SITUATION B:** Player A2 dribbles along the goal line into the penalty area. The goalkeeper comes out of the goal mouth to challenge A2. A2 pushes the ball by the goalkeeper and steps off the field to go around the goalkeeper. The goalkeeper then steps off the field and violently contacts A2 to prevent A2 from completing the play. **RULING: The referee must stop play, disqualify the goalkeeper for exhibiting violent conduct and restart play with a penalty kick. (12- 1-3, 14-1-1, 18-1-1zz).** Just last year, this would have been an IFK.

#### **REMINDER ON FREES...DEFENDER CANNOT LAY DOWN BEHIND THE WALL OR DANGEROUS PLAY. USE PREVENTIVE OFFICIATING HERE.**

**12.7.1 SITUATION E:** Team A is awarded a free kick and multiple players from Team B line up for a wall at appropriate distance from the spot per the official, and then another player from Team B (the defending team) lays down behind the wall. Before allowing the play to start, the official instructs the player from Team B to stand up. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** A player may play the ball while on the ground providing the player's action does not create a danger to that player or any other player. Laying down behind the wall of defensive players creates a dangerous situation to both the player on the ground and those defending in the wall.

#### **NF 18: New/Revised Definitions**

c. CARELESS - When a player shows a lack of attention or consideration when making a challenge or acts without precaution. No disciplinary sanction is needed beyond awarding a direct free kick.

n. EXCESSIVE FORCE - Using excessive force is when a player exceeds the necessary use of force and/or endangers the safety of an opponent and must be disqualified.

**Rationale:** Fouls involving physical contact are generally categorized as careless, reckless, or using excessive force. Direct free kick fouls to provide consistency for officials interpreting misconduct.

oo. SERIOUS FOUL PLAY - A tackle or challenge that endangers the safety of an opponent or uses excessive force or brutality must be sanctioned as serious foul play resulting in disqualification. Any player who lunges at an opponent in challenging for the ball from the front, from the side, or from behind using one or both legs, with excessive force or endangers the safety of an opponent is guilty of serious foul play.

vv. Tactical Fouls - A tactical foul is committed to stop a promising attack or deny an obvious goal-scoring opportunity.

zz. VIOLENT CONDUCT - Violent conduct is when a player uses or attempts to use excessive force or brutality against an opponent when not challenging for the ball, or when a player, substitute, or bench personnel commits a violent act against an opponent, teammate, substitute, bench personnel, official, spectator, or any other person, regardless of whether contact is made, or if the ball is in or out of play. In addition, a player who, when not challenging for the ball, deliberately strikes an opponent or any other person on the head or face with the hand or arm, is guilty of violent conduct unless the force used was negligible.

**DoD NOTE:** If a player, not challenging for the ball, deliberately strikes an opponent or any other person on the head or face with hand or arm, this is VC, unless the force was negligible.

## NF POINTS OF EMPHASIS

### Coaching and Team Area Decorum

Coaches set the tone for the match with their display of sportsmanship. Officials should focus on the actions of players, coaches and other bench personnel. A positive, open line of communication between officials and coaches ultimately results in a better match for everyone involved.



# COACH/BENCH BEHAVIOR

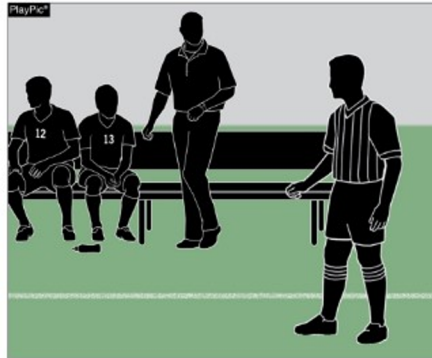
**MUST EXHIBIT PROPER BEHAVIOR....JUST MUST**

**THE FIELD IS AN EXTENSION OF THE CLASSROOM**

- **INAPPROPRIATE BENCH BEHAVIOR SHOWS A CLEAR LACK OF RESPECT**



## COACHING AND TEAM AREA DECORUM

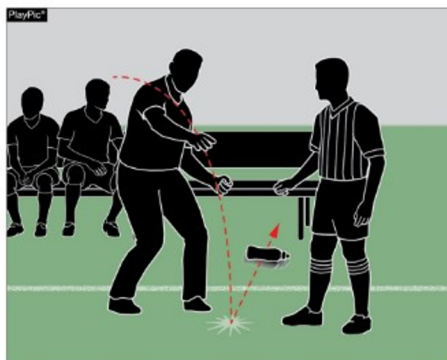


- Coaches set the tone with display of sportsmanship.
- Officials focus on action of players, coaches and other bench personnel.
- An open line of communication between officials and coaches makes for a better game.
- REFEREES MUST ALWAYS ACT PROFESSIONALLY



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## COACHING AND TEAM AREA DECORUM



- Examples of unacceptable behavior:
  - Kicking or throwing objects in reaction to decision.
  - Entering field to dissent or confront an official or player
  - Acting in a provocative or inflammatory manner.
  - Arguing calls constantly.
  - Verbal or physical confrontation with opposing coaching staff/players
  - Confronting/arguing with fans
- Referees must manage this type of behavior.



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**Additional Points of Emphasis for substitutions, wearable technology and DOGSO, have been discussed above.**

Best wishes for the 2023 season!

## *Concussion Legislation & Officiating*

### **CONCUSSION REGULATIONS**

#### **Implementation of State Law and NFHS Playing Rules Related to Concussion and Concussed Athletes and Return to Play Protocol**

It is important for all individuals involved in interscholastic athletics to recognize the potential for catastrophic injury and even death from concussions. Thus it is extremely important that each coach, administrator, contest official and medical support personnel review their responsibilities in protecting students. Further both students and parents have responsibilities in this area as well.

**Note:** It has always been the ultimate responsibility of the coaching staff, in all sports, to ensure that students are only put into practice or contests if they are physically capable of performing. However, all individuals involved in the conduct of interscholastic competition have responsibilities in this endeavor.

In January 2011, the OHSAA Board of Directors adopted a sports regulation which incorporated the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) playing rules related to concussion recognition and management. On April 26, 2013, legislation adopted by Ohio's General Assembly on concussion and head injuries in youth sports became effective. On February 14, 2013, the OHSAA Board of Directors mandated that these regulations become effective on April 26, 2013, for the remainder of the spring sports season and thereafter. This OHSAA regulation, as amended to incorporate this recent legislation, now reads:

Any student, while practicing for or competing in an interscholastic contest, who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the practice or contest by either of the following:

- 1) The individual who is serving as the student's coach during that practice or competition.
- 2) An individual who is serving as a contest official or referee during that practice or competition.

### **RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL**

If a student is removed from practice or competition due to a suspected concussion or head injury, the coach or referee who removes the student shall not permit the student, **ON THE SAME DAY THE STUDENT IS REMOVED**, to return to that practice or competition or to participate in any other practice or competition for which the coach or contest official is responsible. Thereafter, which means no earlier than the next day, the coach or contest officials shall not permit the student to return to practice or competition until both of the following conditions are satisfied:

1) The student's condition is assessed by either of the following: a. A physician, who is a person authorized under Chapter 4731 of the Ohio Revised Code (OCR) to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine or surgery (M.D. or D.O.) b. Any other licensed health care provider that the school district board of education or other governing authority of a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school, authorizes to assess the student who has been removed from practice or competition.

2) The student receives **written authorization** that it is safe for the student to return to practice or competition from a physician or other licensed health care provider authorized to grant the clearance. Go to the "Sports Medicine" Section of the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)) to retrieve the OHSAA's Medical Authorization to Return To Play (RTP) form.

A school district board of education or governing authority of a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school may authorize a licensed health care provider who is NOT a PHYSICIAN to make an assessment and grant authorization for a student to return to participation ONLY if the provider is acting in accordance with one of the following as applicable to the provider's authority to practice in Ohio:

- 1) In consultation with a physician;
- 2) Pursuant to the referral of a physician;
- 3) In collaboration with a physician, or
- 4) Under the supervision of a physician.

Note: A physician or other licensed health care provider who makes an assessment or grants clearance for a student to return to participation may be a volunteer.

## COACHES' REQUIREMENTS

All coaches, paid and volunteer, must possess a current Department of Education-issued Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit. When renewing this permit, the coach will be required to complete an online concussion education course as stipulated in the section entitled **Approved Online Concussion Education Course**. This course is valid for three years and expires at the time the Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit expires.

## CONTEST OFFICIALS REQUIREMENTS

Legislation signed into law by the Governor provides that no school “shall permit” an individual to referee interscholastic athletic contests unless the individual holds a Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or has successfully completed within the last three years a training program in concussion recognition. Therefore, all OHSAA licensed officials shall possess either a current Department of Education issued Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or **show evidence of completing an approved online concussion education course** as stipulated in the section entitled **Approved Online Concussion Education Courses**. This course is valid for three years from the date of completion and must be entered on the official's myOHSAA profile.

## STUDENT AND PARENT REQUIREMENTS

All students and their parents or legal guardians shall review and sign the “Concussion Information Sheet” which has been developed by the Ohio Department of Health and which shall be distributed by OHSAA member schools to all students and their parents prior to each sports season. Students and parents shall review and sign this form each year and should keep a copy of the form. In addition, parents and students are encouraged to complete an approved concussion education course. The Concussion Information Sheet can be found here: : [https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports-Medicine/PPE\\_2020-21.pdf](https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports-Medicine/PPE_2020-21.pdf)

## APPROVED ONLINE CONCUSSION EDUCATION COURSES

The following free online training courses have been approved by the Ohio Department of Health for coaches and contest officials: **National Federation of State High School Associations Concussion in Sports:** <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/61151/concussion-in-sports>

This free online course is available through the NFHS. Complete a brief registration form to take the course. In addition:

1. Click the “order course” button to access the free concussion course. Continue following prompts. Although it may look like you will be charged for the course, there is no cost.
2. Once you've completed “Checkout,” you will be able to take the free online course.
3. When you have completed and passed the course, you have the option of printing a certificate of completion.
4. All Ohio Officials should select this option to print, retain a copy of the certificate and carry it with them to all contests.

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Heads Up Concussion in Youth Sports Online Training Program:** <https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/training/index.html>

**PLEASE NOTE:** Both courses offer a “certificate of completion” upon successful passage. The **NFHS course** allows organizations to search for and track coaches and other individuals such as contest officials who have completed the course, while the CDC course does not.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. What are the “signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion?”

The National Federation rule lists some of the signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with a concussion. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has published the following list of signs, symptoms and behaviors that are consistent with a concussion:

#### SIGNS OBSERVED BY OTHERS

• Appears dazed or stunned • Is confused about assignment • Forgets plays • Is unsure of game score or opponent • Moves clumsily • Answers questions slowly • Loses consciousness • Shows behavior or personality changes • Cannot recall events prior to hit • Cannot recall after hit

#### SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY ATHLETE

• Headache • Nausea • Balance problems or dizziness • Double or fuzzy vision • Sensitivity to light or noise • Feeling sluggish • Feeling foggy or groggy • Concentration or memory problems • Confusion

**2. Who is responsible for administering this rule?** All individuals who have responsibilities and duties in the interscholastic athletics environment are responsible: coaches, contest officials, administrators, students, parents and medical personnel.

### **3. What is the role of coaches in administering this rule?**

- Coaches are to review and know the signs and symptoms of concussion and to prohibit any athlete who displays these signs or symptoms from participating in a practice or a contest.
- Coaches are not medical professionals and have no authority to determine whether or not a student has sustained a concussion. The coach is responsible for insuring that the student's parents are notified and the student is referred to a medical professional.
- Coaches shall be aware that any student removed from a practice or a contest due to a suspected concussion or head injury **shall not return to participation on the same day as the removal.**
- Coaches shall possess a current Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit and shall take one of the approved online concussion courses upon renewal of the permit.

### **4. What is the role of contest officials in administering the rule?**

- Officials are to review and know the signs and symptoms of concussion and to direct immediate removal of any student who displays these signs or symptoms. When informing the head coach about removal of an athlete, the official shall be accompanied by another (second) official if possible.
- An official **shall not permit the athlete who has been removed under this rule to return to competition that same day.**
- If a contest official is aware that a student has been permitted to return to competition on the same day as removal, that official shall immediately stop play and remove that student from competition and report the incident to the OHSAA.
- Note that officials are not medical professionals and have no authority to determine whether or not a student has sustained a concussion. The official is responsible for directing removal when he or she observes signs and symptoms that may indicate a student is concussed.
- All Officials shall possess either a current Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or shall complete one of the online concussion courses which are valid for three years from the date of completion.
- At initial licensure or renewal of the OHSAA officiating permit, the official shall indicate that he or she has either a current Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or has completed one of the approved online concussion courses.
- All officials should carry with them evidence of completion of one of these options at all times while officiating a contest.
- Officials are required to submit to the OHSAA the "OHSAA Concussion Report" within 48 hours whenever a student has been removed from a contest under this regulation.

### **5. What are the expectations of student-athletes in concussion management?**

- While all individuals involved in the interscholastic athletics program have a responsibility to recognize the potential for catastrophic injury and even death from concussions, it is also the responsibility of student-athletes to recognize the signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with a concussion.
- Student-athletes who exhibit symptoms such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems, have the responsibility to report these immediately to their coach and/or health care professional. Teammates also share the responsibility to report these symptoms when they are exhibited by a fellow student-athlete.
- Student-athletes shall review and sign, on an annual basis, along with their parents or legal guardians, the Ohio Department of Health's Concussion Information Sheet found on the OHSAA website and at this link:  
[https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports-Medicine/PPE\\_2020-21.pdf](https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports-Medicine/PPE_2020-21.pdf)

### **6. Who decides if an athlete has not been concussed and/or who has recovered from a concussion?**

- **Only** an M.D. (Medical Doctor), D.O. (Doctor of Osteopathy), or another health care provider approved by the school's Board of Education or other governing body who is acting in accordance with one of the following as applicable to the provider's authority to practice in Ohio:
  - 1) In consultation with a physician;
  - 2) Pursuant to the referral of a physician;
  - 3) In collaboration with a physician;
  - 4) Under the supervision of a physician is empowered to make the on-site determination that an athlete has not received a concussion. **Even if that determination has been made, however, the student may not return to practice or competition on the same day he/she has been removed from a practice or competition** (see No. 7 below).
- If any one of these physicians or authorized medical providers has answered that "yes" there has been a concussion, that decision is final.

## **7. Can an athlete return to play on the same day as he/she has been removed from a practice or competition for a suspected concussion?**

- No, under no circumstances can that athlete return to play that day. • No coach or contest official shall allow a student to return to practice or to competition on any day after the initial removal until that student has been assessed and cleared for return with **written authorization** by a physician or licensed health care provider authorized by the school.
- If the event continues over multiple days, then the designated event physician has ultimate authority over return to play decisions.

## **8. Once the day has concluded, who can issue authorization to return to practice/competition in the sport for a student who has diagnosed with a concussion?**

- Once a concussion has been diagnosed by a physician or other approved health care provider, only a physician or approved provider can authorize subsequent Return To Play (RTP), and such authorization shall be in writing to the administration of the school. This written **RTP authorization shall be kept at the school indefinitely** as a part of that student's permanent record. Go to the "Sports Medicine" section of the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)) to access the OHSAA "Medical Authorization to Return to Play" Form.
- School administration shall then notify the coach as to the permission to return to practice or play.

## **9. What should be done after the student is cleared by an appropriate health care professional?**

- After a clearance has been issued, the student's actual return to practice and play should follow a graduated protocol.
- The National Federation of State High School Associations has included the following graduated protocol in its Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion in Sports: (**Note:** This is simply a suggested protocol. The appropriate health care professional who issues the clearance may wish to establish a different graduated protocol.)

### **NFHS SUGGESTED MEDICAL CLEARANCE RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL**

1. No exertional activity until asymptomatic.
  2. When the athlete appears clear, begin low-impact activity such as walking, stationary bike, etc.
  3. Initiate aerobic activity fundamental to specific sport such as running or skating, and may also begin progressive strength training activities.
  4. Begin non-contact skill drills specific to sport such as dribbling, fielding, batting, etc.
  5. Full contact in practice setting.
  6. Game play/competition.
- Athlete must remain asymptomatic to progress to the next level. (It is often suggested that an athlete not be allowed to progress more than one level per day.)
  - If symptoms recur, athlete must return to previous level and should be reevaluated by an appropriate health care professional.
  - Medical check should occur before the athlete engages in any unrestricted or full contact activity.). (Final written clearance from the medical professional shall be obtained before the athlete engages in any unrestricted or full contact activity.)

### **QUICK LINKS FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**Information for Coaches, Officials, Parents and Students, Plus Additional Resources –**  
<https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/child-injury-Prevention/youthconcussions/>

**Ohio's Return to Play Law –** <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/child-injury-prevention/resources/rtp-law>

### **ADDITIONAL CONCUSSION RESOURCES**

**Nationwide Children's Hospital – Concussion Information Toolkit** <http://www.nationwidechildrens.org/concussion-toolkit>

**CDC Materials on Returning to School for Parents, School Nurses and Educators**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/schools/index.html>

**NEVER** may a player who has been removed for a **SUSPECTED** concussion **RE-ENTER** a contest on the same day as an event.

**NEVER**

## *Wilson & Game Ball Information*



Wilson is the official game ball for the OHSAA and is used at all REGIONAL and STATE games. Other National Federation (NFHS) approved balls are able to be used for regular season play and for tournament play at the Sectional & District levels. The approved Wilson ball is the “Vivido.” Please note that ‘pink’ (or other commemorative colored) balls are **not permitted** to be used when playing games for ‘special occasions’ such as “Kick for the Cure”.

# The Field

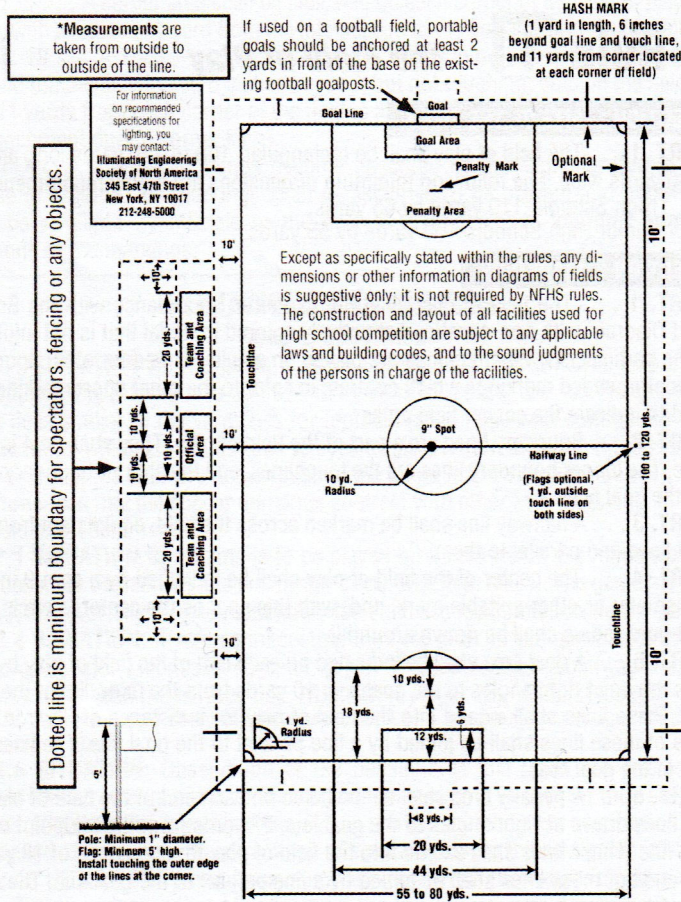
By rule, a soccer field shall be between 100 to 120 yards long and 55 to 80 yards wide.

The following dimensions are **recommended**:

**High School Fields (9-12):** 110 yards long by 65 yards wide

**Junior High Fields (7-8):** 100 yards long by 55 yards wide

## Soccer Field Diagram



**NOTE:** An engineered natural turf soccer field should have a minimum of one-and-one-half percent (1.5%) slope for fields which are surface drained. For natural turf fields with a sub-surface drain system the slope should be no less than one (1.0%) percent. For synthetic turf fields with a sub-surface drain system the slope should be no less than one half of one (0.5%) percent. Slope is measured from center to side. For consulting services, contact SportsPLAN Studio, 816-842-5200.

## Game Management

In cooperation with Officials, the Information below is **also** provided to Athletic Administrators and Coaches relative to game management.

**Placement of Teams:** The Board of Directors strongly recommends that **when possible**, team benches be placed on opposite sides of the field. This will be at the direction of the home Athletic Department. When teams are placed on opposite sides of the field, the team area shall extend 10 yards from the halfway line on each side of the field of play. The home team shall supply a person who is situated at a table at the halfway line on each side of the field to signal substitutions. If time is kept at field level, the official time shall be kept on the home side.

**Officials to Leave Immediately at End of Match:** All contest officials are to leave the field immediately at the conclusion of the match. Supervision of all post-match activities of any nature is not the responsibility of the match officials. Supervision of all post-match activities is the responsibility of the authorized institutional representatives of the participating schools.

**Administrator at Varsity Matches:** The Board of Directors **strongly** recommends that a school administrator be present at all varsity boys' and girls' soccer matches. Coaches should note (and be prepared) that when no school administrator is present at games, they should be prepared to deal with administrative issues such as Crisis Management Plans, etc.

**Hot, Humid Weather Break:** On hot humid days, the referee may stop play for a water break. Note: This is usually done at a stoppage in play midway through each half. The referee should inform the teams of the water break stoppage prior to the match, to avoid any misunderstandings.

### SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST REGULATIONS

Ohio law requires additional coaching requirements for all interscholastic coaches (paid and volunteer) and new educational standards for parents and student-athletes regarding Sudden Cardiac Arrest. This law, known as Lindsay's Law, became effective beginning with the 2017-18 school year.

The OHSAA has collaborated with the Ohio Departments of Health and Education, along with other major Ohio healthcare organizations and the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Cardiology, to provide education that is relevant and easily accessible so that interscholastic coaches and the parents of our student-athletes can come into compliance with the statute.

With the leadership provided by ODH, ODE, the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Cardiology and other major Ohio healthcare organizations, we have developed our own "Ohio" materials to be used to comply with this requirement. The materials include a short video for parents, which is posted to the ODH, ODE and the OHSAA (OHSAA.org) websites; an informational handout and a sign-off form (much like the current Concussion Form) which must be signed by parents and student-athletes and is included in the package of consent forms found in the OHSAA PPE and the paper forms; and a training video and informational handout for coaches which is posted on the ODE website and includes a completion certificate for verification. This training will be the only acceptable coursework to meet this standard and is provided at no cost to anyone.

The videos can be assessed through the OHSAA website (OHSAA.org) under the "Sports Medicine" section. Likewise, the educational materials for parents and students, which include a short memo and video, and the



sign-off forms for parents and students, are also available on the OHSAA website (OHSAA.org) under the “Sports Medicine” section.

## Lightning and Inclement Weather

(OHSAA Sports Regulation)



These guidelines provide a default policy to those responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of practices and contests based on the presence of lightning or thunder. The preferred sources from which to request such a policy for your facility would include the nearest office of the National Weather Service.

### Proactive Planning

1. Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during practices and contests.
  2. Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safer areas, and determine the amount of time needed to get everyone to the designated safer area:
    - a.) designated safer place is a substantial building with plumbing and wiring where people live or work, such as a school, gymnasium or library. An alternate safer place from the threat of lightning is a fully enclosed (not convertible or soft top) metal car or school bus.
  3. Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:
    - a.) When thunder is heard or lightning is seen\*, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for at least 30 minutes and vacate the outdoor activity to the previously designated safer location immediately.
    - b.) 30-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or lightning is witnessed\* prior to resuming play.
    - c.) Any subsequent thunder or lightning\* after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
    - d.) When lightning-detection devices or mobile phone apps are available, this technology could be used to assist in making a decision to suspend play if a lightning strike is noted to be within 10 miles of the event location. However, you should never depend on the reliability of these devices and, thus, hearing thunder or seeing lightning\* should always take precedence over information from a mobile app or lightning-detection device.
- \*At night, under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it may be safe to continue an event. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low on the horizon, the storm may not pose a threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty.
4. Review the lightning safety policy annually with all administrators, coaches and game personnel and train all personnel.
  5. Inform student-athletes and their parents of the lightning policy at the start of the season.

## *Suspended and Complete Matches*

Every fall, Ohio weather brings attention to the **Official NFHS Rule** regarding Duration and Length of Games.

**NFHS 7.1.3 states:**

*In the event a game must be suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue play, the head referee shall declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been played unless otherwise set forth by state association adoption. If less than one-half of the game has been played, the game may be rescheduled from the start, or restarted from the suspension of play, according to state association adoption. (18.1.1(pp))*

**NOTE: OHSAA has elected not to change this national playing rule by state association adoption.**

**Important Notes Regarding Rule 7.1.3:**

- Weather and lack of sufficient lighting are conditions that *normally* make it impossible to continue play.
- ANY time a complete half is played and conditions make it impossible to continue play, **the game is considered complete and the score is FINAL. FINAL.**
- Games that are unable to be completed and a complete half is played **cannot be completed at a later date.**
- Games that are unable to be completed and a complete half has **NOT** been played: the game shall resume from the exact point of suspension. Coaches/game personnel should make note of time on clock, position of ball, etc. The game is **NOT replayed from the opening kickoff.**

League or Conference Rules may **NOT** override this NFHS Rule.

## Noisemakers, Vuvuzelas...Pep Bands?

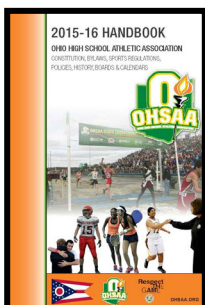
Those in attendance at last season's State Tournament witnessed the increased fan support for high school soccer in Ohio. Pep Bands **ARE PERMITTED** at soccer games. Horns that pep band members have are NOT considered compressed air horns. The World Cup has made the 'Vuvuzela' popular and while many may consider them *annoying*, they ARE permitted at soccer games. There are several leagues/conferences that HAVE made regulations prohibiting various noisemakers and they ARE permitted to create and enforce that rule for league/conference contests.

Compressed air horns and horns connected to outside power sources are **NOT permitted** at contests.

## Friday Night Futbol!

This year, the OHSAA's Board of Directors accepted a recommendation to change the start date of soccer contests to Friday, August 11, with the hope and encouragement that schools will participate in our "Friday Night Futbol" initiative. This initiative, which the Columbus Crew SC has become a partner, is simply an encouragement for schools to play a soccer game 'under the lights' where possible on the first Friday of the school year. High school football does not begin until the following week. Please note that for these games, we are permitting halftimes to be extended with the additional encouragement for high school bands to perform at halftime of their games. At the time of this printing, there are MANY schools that have chosen to participate and we anticipate great media coverage for the various contests around the state.

## OHSAA's General Sports Regulations



School teams, student-athletes and coaches are bound by regulations that are approved by the OHSAA's Board of Directors on an annual basis. Such items as "number of contests", "number of halves per day of participation", etc. are examples of these regulations. These regulations are detailed for coaches in THEIR pre-season Coaches' Guide and the basis for their Rules

Interpretations. Which is the main reason we have separate rules meetings for Officials and Coaches.

**It is NOT the responsibility of OHSAA Officials to enforce or interpret the OHSAA's Sports Regulations**

## *The Uniform Rules for Soccer*



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

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

1. **PLAY THE GAME. PLAY THE GAME. PLAY THE GAME.** Games should never be 'cancelled' because the officials deem the uniforms unacceptable or noncompliant. **PLAY THE GAME.**
2. Submit a report to the OHSAA via the normal reporting system. The OHSAA will follow-up with the report and inquire as to the school's uniform rotation, etc.
3. **Officials should understand that the solid white jersey and socks apply only at the varsity level.**

## *TEAM Uniforms & "Special Event" Games*

The OHSAA is certainly supportive of the many 'special events' coaches and teams assist with for local charities. "Kick for the Cure" has been one of several different 'special events' that teams across Ohio have become involved in. A few important notes for those participating in those events:

### **Special Uniforms**

Requests often are received by schools to permit alternate uniforms for participating in games that have a charitable tie. The OHSAA's policy as recommended by the NFHS is to permit such requests one time with number requirements still intact. Though the use of a pink jersey may be permitted for a home game, the "number requirements" outlined in Article 1 of Rule 4 must comply with NFHS regulations. Any requests should be made utilizing the Request Form located in the back of this manual OR online at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/SOspecialeventuniformrequest.pdf>. Once Waiver Requests are approved, they will be returned to the school and a copy should be made available for contest officials. Coaches/School Administration should notify the opposing school as well as the contest officials in advance.

## *OFFICIAL'S Required Uniform Information*

### **C. Required Uniform**

- i. Each soccer official is required to have the new, solid, U.S. Soccer yellow and green jerseys, both long and short sleeves. These are the required OHSAA jerseys.
- ii. The referee crew, with the approval of the head referee, may wear the red, black or blue solid U.S. Soccer referee jerseys rather than the gold or green U.S. Soccer referee jersey, provided that all officials wear the same color and sleeve length and the jersey contrasts with all field players of both teams. All officials are to wear the same color and sleeve length.
- iii. All-black shorts which may contain the U.S. Soccer logo.
- iv. Black socks with two or three white rings.

v. Predominantly black shoes and laces.

vi. For 2023 and 2024, officials who choose to wear a cap may wear either an all-black, baseball-type cap with or without the current OHSAA logo on the front. Beginning in 2025, officials who choose to wear a cap must wear an all-black, baseball-type cap with the current OHSAA logo on the front.

vii. The OHSAA soccer official's patch shall be worn on the left breast pocket. No other logos, patches, emblems or numbers are permitted on the uniform. **Exception:** An American Flag patch/emblem is optional and, if worn, shall be on the left sleeve approximately two inches below the shoulder with the star field facing to the front.

viii. Jewelry shall not be worn except for a wedding band and/or a medical alert necklace or bracelet. A religious medallion which is not visible is permitted. A watch is permitted only when an official has a duty for timing during the contest.



## *Officials' Code of Ethics*

(From [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and the OHSAA Handbook for Officials)

### V. Officiating Code of Ethics

Schools have entrusted the OHSAA and sports officials to assist them in the education and development of their youth through athletics. The proper operation of such a process requires that officials be independent, impartial and responsible to people they serve. In recognition of these expectations there is hereby established a Code of Ethics for all officials. The purpose of the code is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all officials.

- An Official must devote time, thought and study to the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to carry out these rules so that one may render effective and creditable service in a fair and unbiased manner.
- An Official must work with fellow officials and the state association in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that may arise during debate of issues.
- An Official must resist every temptation and outside pressure to use one's position as an official to benefit oneself. Under all circumstances, officials must avoid promoting the special interest of any person or group of persons other than the athletes we serve.
- An Official must constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the officiating industry in all personal conduct and relations with student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public, to be a worthy example to the athletes under one's jurisdiction.
- An Official will be prepared both physically and mentally, dress according to expectations of sport standards, and maintain a proper appearance that is befitting the importance of the game.
- An Official shall avoid the use of tobacco and tobacco products at the contest site.
- An Official shall not consume alcohol (or any illegal/illicit drug or controlled substance) prior to or during the contest.
- An Official must remember and recognize that it is important to honor contracts regardless of possible inconvenience or financial loss. Every member of the officiating profession carries a responsibility to act in a manner becoming a professional person. The conduct of any official influences the attitude of the public toward the profession in general as well as toward the official in particular.

- An Official shall not delay the process of completing and returning paperwork provided by a site needed to process the game payments and will provide a W-9 when requested.



## *Coaches' Code of Ethics*

### **From the NFHS Soccer Rules Book**

The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. An interscholastic program should be designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each student should be treated with the utmost respect and his or her welfare should be considered in decisions by the coach at all times. Accordingly, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the NFHS Board of Directors.

**The Coach** shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.

**The Coach** shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with students, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

**The Coach** shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse.

**The Coach** shall avoid the use of alcohol and tobacco products when in contact with players.

**The Coach** shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct the program in harmony with the total school program.

**The Coach** shall master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team members. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.

**The Coach** shall exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.

**The Coach** shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

**The Coach** should meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the event before and after the contest.

**The Coach** shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give students special consideration.

**The Coach** shall not scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the league and/or state high school athletic association.

## Important Sports' Medical Information

The safety of our student-athletes is of utmost concern at all times. Information regarding the following important topics can be found at the OHSAA's "Healthy Lifestyles and Sports Medicine" webpage at <http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/default.asp> Additional information listed below relative to various equipment and rules relative to medical issues can be found in the following pages of this Officials' Guide.

- Heat Stress and Athletic Participation
- Recommendations for Hydration to Prevent Heat Illness
- Suggested Guidelines for Management of Head Trauma in Sports
- Links to the following sites:
  - Joint Advisory Committee on Sports Medicine
  - Ohio Athletic Trainers Association
  - American Medical Society for Sports Medicine
  - Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth
  - National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA)
  - Gatorade Sports Science Institute News

## Heat Stress & Athletic Participation

### HEAT ACCLIMATIZATION AND EXERTIONAL HEAT ILLNESS PREVENTION

The following information should be reviewed with coaching and sports medicine staff prior to any interscholastic practice this August. Please remember that there are four OHSAA sports that have a required acclimatization period prior to the commencing of any contests or physical contact, which is the case for football. The other sports are boys' and girls' cross country and 7-8th grade track and field, which require a minimum of 10 days of interscholastic practice prior to any competition for a student. The following is the regulation that addresses the mandatory five-day period in football.

**Five Days of Acclimatization Required** — *Acclimatization is a period of time when players can become accustomed to the heat and humidity. Health professionals recommend at least a five-day period. All football candidates must participate in five days of pre-season, non-contact acclimatization prior to any physical contact. No pads may be worn on the first two days. Shorts, helmets, shoes may be worn. Shoulder pads may be added on day three and four, but no contact is permitted. Full equipment may be worn on the fifth day, but contact is prohibited. Candidates reporting late must participate in five days of non-contact acclimatization.*

*This rule applies to all school teams from grades 7-12.*

All coaching and medical staff personnel shall observe the following precautions for **all sports competed outdoors and/or in a hot, humid environment:**

- **Stress to participants the importance of properly hydrating** themselves during the day leading up to the contest, and also to drink 8-to-12 ounces of water or sport drinks 20 minutes prior to the contest. This practice can help prevent problems during practice and contests.
- **Schools should have unlimited amounts of water** and sport drinks on hand during a contest, and coaches in team sports should be prepared to play a lot of players rather than just the starters.
- **Contest officials are permitted to establish predetermined breaks** during a contest, such as halfway through each period. At that time players can drink water and remove their equipment, which should also take place at halftime (the more skin that is exposed, the more cooling that can take place). **This provision applies to all sports.**
- **NFHS football playing rules allow the referee to shorten periods** per mutual agreement by the opposing coaches. In addition, by mutual agreement a game may be terminated at any time.

• **Contest managers are advised to monitor conditions** for others affiliated with the contest, like cheerleaders, band members, coaches, officials and especially spectators.

• **In football, if schools decide NOT to play a contest, it becomes an open date for both.** If one school desires to play but the other does not, there are no forfeits involved. Again, it would become an open date for both schools. However, schools do have the option to reschedule contests, and OHSAA regulations do permit schools to play more than one contest per week. There also are no OHSAA regulations that prohibit games from being played on Sundays. The same concepts apply to all other OHSAA sports.

• **Know both the Temperature and Humidity.** The greater the humidity, the more difficult it is for the body to cool itself. Test the air prior to practice or a game using a wet bulb, globe, temperature index (WBGT index) which is based on the combined effects of air temperature, relative humidity, radiant heat and air movement. The following precautions are recommended by the Korey Stringer Institute when using the WBGT Index: (ACSM's Guidelines for the Team Physician, 1991):

Below 64 - Unlimited activity

65-72 - Moderate risk

74-82 - High Risk

82 plus - Very high risk

89.8 F No outdoor workouts. No indoor workouts unless air conditioned.

### **WBGT Recommendation (KSM P&P, Korey Stringer Institute)**

<79.7°F Normal activities. Three separate 3 minute breaks per hour.

79.8-84.6°F Three separate 4 minute breaks per hour. Helmets and other equipment should be removed when the athlete is not directly involved with the competition, drill or practice and it is not otherwise required.

84.7-87.6°F Maximum practice time of 2 hours. Four separate 4 minute breaks per hour FB: Limit to helmet, shoulder pads, and shorts during practice. Considering postponing practice to later in the day. Allow athletes to change to dry shirts and shorts at defined intervals.

87.8-89.7°F Maximum of 1 hour of training with four separate 5 minute breaks in that hour. No additional conditioning allowed. FB/LAX: No helmets, should pads, or other equipment is permitted. Consider postponing practice to later in the day. Allow athletes to change to dry shirts and shorts at defined intervals.

89.8°F No outdoor workouts No indoor workouts unless air conditioned

The OHSAA advises careful monitoring of the weather and plans to modify training and competition including:

One other method of measuring the relative humidity is the use of a sling psychrometer, which measures wet bulb temperature. The wet bulb temperature should be measured prior to practice, and the intensity and duration of practice should be adjusted accordingly. Recommendations are as follows:

Under 60 F Safe but always observe athletes

61-65 F Observe players carefully

66-70 F Caution

71-75 F Shorter practice sessions and more frequent water and rest breaks

75+ F Danger level and extreme caution

The OHSAA advises careful monitoring of the weather and plans to modify training and competition including:

- 1.) Modification of equipment, if applicable to the sport;
- 2.) Allowance for more frequent rest breaks and the use of shaded areas for those breaks;
- 3.) Modification of practice time;
- 4.) Availability of water always;
- 5.) Availability of cold water immersion tubs for onsite cooling;
- 6.) If exertional heat stroke is suspected, immediate onsite cooling using cold water immersion before transport by EMS, and
- 7.) Review and practice of the OHSAA's recommended Emergency Action Plan, "Anyone Can Save A Life," or similar plan for all sports teams with special emphasis on the heat illness section.

## OHSAA Media Regulation

### Section 3. — Regular Season and OHSAA Tournament Contests

#### Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones)

- a.) For purposes of this policy, an unmanned aircraft systems (“UAS”), commonly known as a drone, is any aircraft without a human pilot aboard the device.
- b.) The use of drones can only be authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). If a license is granted to an individual by the FAA for use of a drone and that authorization is verified, it is the responsibility of each local school district to establish additional policies for the use of drones during home regular season contests (including previews and scrimmages) and practices.
- c.) The use of drones is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at both OHSAA tournament contests, beginning an hour before the scheduled start time to an hour after the contest ends, and practices for tournament contests. At tournament contests, if management discovers that a drone is being used, management shall attempt to locate the operator to have the drone removed from the facility area, but the contest shall not be delayed. Management shall remove anyone attempting to use a drone and/or confiscate the drone until the event has been completed
- d.) An exception to this policy may be made in specific cases for the OHSAA’s official television partner or official photographer, provided the operator of the drone is licensed by the FAA, that authorization can be verified and the management of the tournament facility permits the presence of drones for broadcast purposes under the control of the OHSAA. Note: Such approval for certain stadium events means the FAA issued Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs), and aircraft operation has been authorized by Air Traffic Control (ATC).
- e.) For drone safety and security concerns at home sites/home facilities or OHSAA tournament contests, contact an FAA Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) special agent (847-294-7521) or the Central Regional Operation Center, which is staffed 24/7 (817-222-5006).

## *Comments by Coaches to News Media*

### **B. Coaches’ and Participants’ Comments to the News Media**

OHSAA Bylaw 8, Section 2, reads in part, “Great care shall be exercised in the selection of officials, well in advance of the contest and agreed upon by schools involved. When the contest begins each school waives all of its rights so far as objecting to the officials.” Public criticism of officials is a direct reflection upon those who were responsible for assigning the officials to the game.

Officials are trained and expected to make no derogatory public comments directly to the media or through the use of social media regarding other officials, the players, coaches or schools. Coaches and participants are expected to follow the same procedure and make no derogatory public comments directly to the media or through the use of social media regarding not only the officials, but also the players, coaches or schools. Failure to follow this request will result in penalties as outlined in Bylaw 11.

## *Equipment/Safety Information*

### **Headgear**

Please note, the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee has concluded that, “While padded headbands may assist in reducing the incidence of abrasions, the risk of concussions and other serious head injuries will remain a concern in the sport of soccer. A head band is not a substitute for an appropriate post-injury recuperative period.”



**In 2017-2018, the NFHS promulgated NFHS 4.2.9:** Soft-padded headgear is permitted.

**Notes:**

1. The use of soft-padded soccer headgear is permitted but not required. Schools, parents and students are free to make their own assessments relative to this piece of equipment. The relevant ASTM standard can be found at [www.astm.org/Standards/F2439.htm](http://www.astm.org/Standards/F2439.htm).

2. No headgear can stop athletes from suffering concussions, and all sports should be played, coached and officiated in recognition of that fact. (Appendix C, page 107)

**4.2.9 SITUATION (2017):** During pregame warmup, the referee observes A5 is wearing (a) soft-padded headband; (b) soft-padded headgear of an approved material. **RULING:** (a) and (b) are legal. **COMMENT:** The use of a soft-padded soccer headband or headgear is permitted but not required.

**2017 NFHS Points of Emphasis #1 Headgear:** Though not required equipment, soft-padded headgear is permitted to be used by any soccer player. The SMAC emphasizes that there is no research or data available that shows that wearing soft-padded headgear prevents or lessens the possibility of a concussion. The determination regarding wearing soft-padded headgear is entirely up to the individual or school district. Schools, parents and students are free to make their own assessments relative to this piece of equipment. The relevant ASTM standard for the soft-padded headband can be found at [www.astm.org/Standards/F2439.htm](http://www.astm.org/Standards/F2439.htm).

**2017 NFHS Comments on the Rules:** The use of soft-padded headgear is now permitted but not required. The change provides an expanded scope of the use of headwear to include soft padded headgear and headbands. Coaches, parents and players are able to make their own assessment on the need to use headwear.

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**Protective Facemasks**

**RULE 4.2.8:** “A protective face mask may be worn by a player with a facial injury. The mask may be made of a hard material, but must be worn molded to the face. A medical release for the injured player signed by an appropriate health care professional shall be available at the game site.”

**NFHS Soccer Rules Committee Rationale:** “Permits participation by an injured player when a doctor signs a release. Masks protect the player and do not pose a threat to other players.”

**NFHS Comments on the Rules (from 2006-07):** “Prior to this rule [i.e., NFHS 4.2.8], face protection of any kind was declared illegal. Manufacturers have now developed protection for the face that is safe to the player wearing it and to other players. The committee is concerned that players would play without protection, putting them at serious risk. This new rule allows players to play as long as they have a medical release from an appropriate health care professional. Officials still have the authority to declare any equipment illegal if it is dangerous or confusing.”

**NFHS Press Release, from February 2, 2006:** “Rule 4-2-8 was added so that players who have incurred facial injuries can continue to play without fear of re-injury. This rule was made possible as a result of new technology in protective face masks. ‘The new masks are molded to the face... , providing no additional risks to the player or opponents, and are legal with appropriate medical sign-offs,’ said Bob Lombardi, chair of the NFHS Soccer Rules Committee and associate executive director of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association. According to Lombardi, this new rule will also prevent players with facial injuries from continuing to play with no protection.”



The National Federation identifies certain rules that may or may not be adopted by each state's Athletic Association. These are known as "state adoptions". These state adoptions are identified below and the OHIO High School Athletic Association's adoption is indicated for each.

1. **Commemorative or memorial patches may be worn on the jersey for special occasions, not to exceed 4 square inches [4.1.1(f)].—Adopted in Ohio.** Schools must apply, using form at end of this manual.
2. **Players may wear caps in inclement weather** (NFHS 4-2-1h Exception 2) – **Adopted in Ohio**  
Players may wear soft and yielding caps in inclement weather. Caps must be the same color.
3. **Artificial limbs** (NFHS 4-2-5) – **Adopted in Ohio**  
The coach or athletic administrator must request permission in writing from the OHSAA in order to secure permission for the prosthesis to be worn during play. Photos of the prosthesis in place on the individual must accompany the written request. Once it has been determined that the prosthesis meets the guidelines in NFHS 4-2-5, written permission will be provided. No student may play with an artificial limb until such permission has been granted.
4. **Systems of Officiating** (NFHS 5-1-1) – **Adopted in Ohio**  
The game officials shall be a head referee and a referee (dual system of officiating), a head referee and two assistant referees (diagonal system of officiating), or a center referee and two side referees (double dual system of officiating) assisted by a timer, scorer and at least two ball holders. An additional fourth official can also be used for the three referee systems (see fourth official sample guidelines). Note: Schools may choose a system by prior agreement.
5. **Officials' Shirt Color** (NFHS 5-1-3) – **Adopted in Ohio**  
The officiating uniform for soccer officials is provided in the OHSAA Handbook for Officials, on our website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)) and within this manual. The uniform indicated shall be worn in all OHSAA games, preseason, regular season and the entire post-season tournament.
6. **Time kept on field** (NFHS 6-2-1) – **Adopted in Ohio** (in part)  
The home school timer shall be the official timer. However, the head referee is permitted, at his/her discretion, to take the clock onto the field when the timer has failed in his/her duty so many times as to imperil match control.
7. **Score kept by referee** (NFHS 6-3-1) – **NOT Adopted in Ohio**
8. **Fourth Official as scorer** (NFHS 6-3-3) – **NOT Adopted in Ohio**  
Refer to OHSAA tournament regulations for additional information regarding use of fourth officials during tournament play.
9. **Four equal quarters rather than halves** (NFHS 7-1-1) – **NOT adopted in Ohio**
10. **Shortened periods** (NFHS 7-1-2) – **NOT Adopted in Ohio**
11. **Suspended games** (NFHS 7-1-3) – **NOT Adopted in Ohio**  
In the event a game must be suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue play, the head referee shall declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been played. **Per OHSAA Board**

**adopted policy**, if less than one half has been completed, the game may be restarted from the point of suspension of play.

Tournament games interrupted because of events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority shall be continued from the point of suspension. Any ejected player or coach cannot participate in the resumed game. Teams playing short will continue to play short. NFHS 7-1-3 is not in effect for tournament games. Where a full half has been completed, teams are not permitted to complete the game. League or conference rules to the contrary do not take precedence over this national playing rule and the OHSAA has not chosen to allow completion where a complete half has been played.

12. **Goal differential** (NFHS 7-1-5) – **Adopted in Ohio, 2022 OHSAA Soccer Reg. 12(A)(1.8):** Goal Differential/Running Clock – During any regular season or tournament contest, any time the score differential reaches 6 goals or more AFTER the first half of the contest, a running clock shall be used. After the 6-goal differential has been met but the score drops below 6 goals, the clock reverts to regular timing. The clock shall be stopped only for an injured player on the field or when there is any unusual delay deemed necessary by the officials.
13. **Regular Season Overtime procedure** (NFHS 7-3-1) – **NOT adopted in Ohio**  
NFHS 7-3-1 refers to overtime procedures during regular season play. No overtime procedures will be conducted during regular season play in Ohio.
14. **Disqualified player barred from competition** (NFHS 12-8-3 Note) – **Adopted in Ohio**  
Refer to OHSAA Soccer Regulations for specific penalties for disqualified or ejected players and/or coaches.
15. **Sample Tie-Breaking Procedure** – **Adopted in Ohio, in part**  
Please refer to “Game Procedures: Tournament Overtime Procedures,” above.
16. **Incidental Use of Vulgar or Profane Language** (12.8.1(d) NOTE) – **Not adopted in Ohio**
17. **Sample Fourth Official/duties** – **Adopted in Ohio, in part for post-season tournament play only**

## Soccer Player and Coach Ejection Protocol

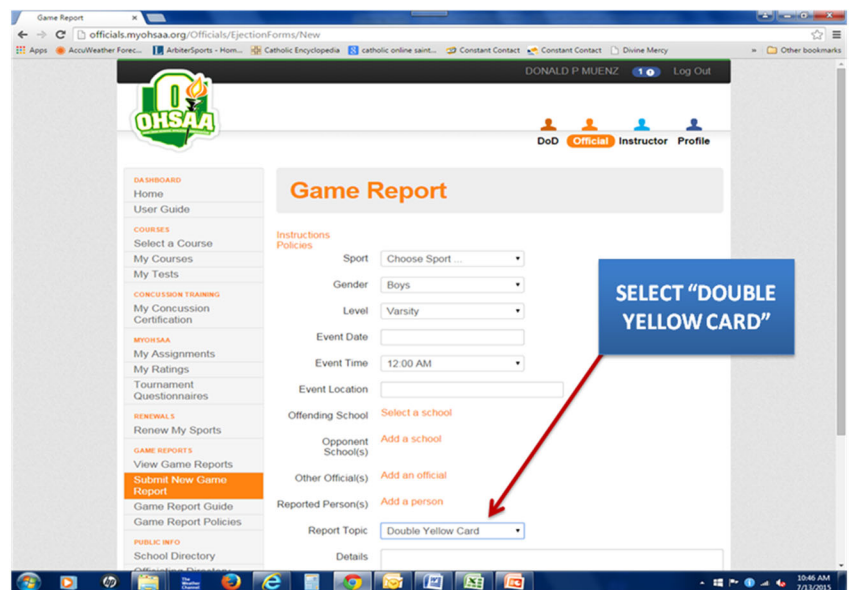
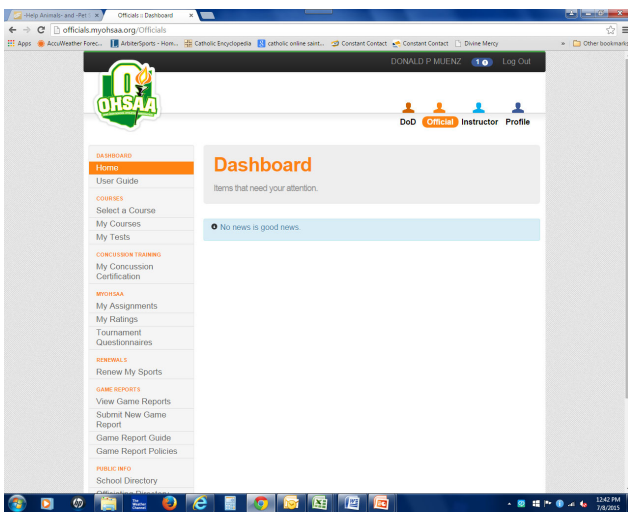
### ALL PLAYER and COACH EJECTIONS ARE FINAL

No later than noon of the first SCHOOL day following an ejection, the officials are required to make contact with the Athletic Director or Principal of the violator’s school to advise the administration of the ejection. Contact may be made with a school administrator after the match. Also, upon a disqualification or ejection, the official **files a report ONLINE in the myOHSAA system with the OHSAA**. Since the procedures listed below are all triggered by the submission of the Officials’ Report online, officials are penalized in accordance with OHSAA adopted policies in the event they do not submit the report. After this written report that includes narrative is submitted:

- **The report is automatically sent electronically to the OHSAA and copies to the school’s Athletic Director.**
- **The school’s Athletic Director is required to submit a reply that includes the school and coach/player side of the events/ejection/disqualification.**
- **In the submitted reply from the school’s Athletic Director, he/she is required to submit the coach’s email address**

- Upon the Athletic Director's submission of the "Response Form", an email is sent to the ejected coach explaining the consequences (below) of the ejection:
  - An ejected coach is suspended from ALL GAMES for the remainder of the day of the ejection PLUS ALL GAMES UNTIL THE REQUISITE NUMBER OF GAMES AT THE LEVEL OF THE EJECTION ARE COMPLETED. For example, a JV coach ejected from a JV contest cannot coach a JV OR Varsity contest until the requisite number of JV contests have been played.
  - Ejected coaches must also pay a \$100.00 fine and complete the National Federation of State High School Association's (NFHS) "Teaching and Modeling Behavior" course within 30 days of the ejection. The payment of the fine is completed with an online payment per the instructions provided to the coach on the email he/she receives that is triggered by submission of the School Response Form.
  - Consequences of ejections are to be enforced by the school administration and served by coaches/players even if the above protocol is not completed.

1. All Scrimmage Ejections MUST be Reported
2. All Subsequent Cautions MUST be Reported



### Specific Soccer Ejection Policy Explanations

- The Ejection Policy for players now permits the individual player to be on the bench and in the locker room area during the period of suspension. The suspended player, as a result of an ejection, is not permitted to be in any school warm-up or uniform during the time of suspension and is strictly prohibited from being on the field during pre-game or halftime warm-up time.

### Specific Card Procedures

#### **Straight RED CARD**

- Given to player, coach or bench personnel under NF 12-8-2(a), -(b), -(d), -(e), -(f), -(g); **to a coach under NF 12.8.3**; to coach, player or bench personnel under OHSAA Tobacco Regulation for tobacco use or to a player under OHSAA Soccer Regulation 12(A)(1.1) for playing more than three halves in one day or more than 42 halves in one season.

- A red card only is displayed.
- The official is required to submit the online Game Report and follow the Ejection Protocol.
- The ejected individual is also prohibited from playing, coaching or participating in any match for the rest of the day of the ejection.
- The ejected coach or player is suspended from all matches until **the requisite number of** matches at the level of the ejection have been played or days has expired.
- The number of players on the field is reduced for a straight red card given to a player.

### **The SUBSEQUENT CAUTION or “DOUBLE YELLOW” for Players, Coaches and Bench Personnel**

- Given to a player, coach or bench personnel for a second yellow-card offense in the same match, under NF12-8-2(c).
- The disqualified person is prohibited from participation in the remainder of the match and the remainder of the day.
- The disqualified person is ineligible for all levels of soccer until one match has been played at the level of the disqualification. For example, a jv player is disqualified in the jv (i.e., the first) match of a jv-varsity doubleheader. That player would not be eligible to participate in the second (i.e., varsity) match that day, and would also be ineligible for all levels of soccer until one jv match has been played or the requisite number of days has expired.
- The disqualified coach is subject to an OHSAA fine and required online education.
- A person disqualified under NF 12.8.2(c) is NOT considered “ejected” for purposes of OHSAA Regulations.
- The yellow card is first displayed and returned to the pocket. The red card is then displayed and returned to the pocket.
- **A Game Report is required and the official must follow the Ejection Protocol.**
- **The school *MUST* be contacted by the official.**
- Number of players on the field **IS** reduced for a “double yellow” or subsequent caution to a player.

## *Sportsmanship*

### **NFHS Sportsmanship Mission Statement**

Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. The ideals of sportsmanship apply equally to all activity disciplines. Individuals, regardless of their role in activities, are expected to be aware of their influence on the behavior of others and model good sportsmanship.

### **The OSSCA & Sportsmanship**

Good Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association (OSSCA) stands tall in its commitment to good sportsmanship. The school-based experience is one that affords tremendous opportunities to student-athletes that they will remember for a lifetime. Those experiences are dependent on the role model the head coach provides. The OSSCA encourages all coaches to exhibit behavior that serves as a role model for the student-athletes we serve. In conjunction with the OHSAA’s Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity (SEI) Committee, the OHSCA annually selects a recipient of the SEI Award.

### **The Official’s Role in Sportsmanship**

In 2004 the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO) conducted a survey of 550 sports officials and asked “*what is the number-one problem in our games today?*” Not too surprising, the number one response was “Poor Sportsmanship”. As a result, the NASO brought together some of the best and brightest in youth, high school, collegiate and pro sports to examine the issue and explore the official’s role in promoting positive on-field behavior. The results were

published in the book at the right and identified 3 critical ideas:

1. What is at Stake
2. What is Expected, and,
3. What steps to Take



As a result, the following are important results of this study and publication:

1. 65% of respondents indicated their respective associations do not do *enough* to help improve sportsmanship.
2. 89% of officials responding consider themselves PARTNERS with players, coaches and administrators in improving sportsmanship.
3. 54% of officials responding indicated they felt they DO have the training, authority and knowledge to make an impact.

The conclusion:

Sportsmanship is EVERYONE'S job and we are all partners in this endeavor.

### Special Note on Sportsmanship

Expectations need to be placed on team members relative to sporting behavior. High School soccer continues to grow and improve each and every year. I urge coaches to be at the forefront of setting examples of behavior and translating that into expectations for their student-athletes. It is good for the game and will allow the continued growth of soccer.

During my years administrating sports, I have 'heard it all' and the most common response from ejected coaches is "*I was only sticking up for my players*". I can assure you that NO official has ever set out to degrade or disrespect the game of soccer and we ALL need to remember that the game is 'for the players.' I continue to urge you to keep that at the forefront of the leadership and guidance you are entrusted with. Two areas of concern that have arisen in the past few years that coaches can assist:

#### Warm Up at Conclusion of JV Game

During the first game of a 'doubleheader' night (JV game or the boys/girls' playing prior to the second game), teams will often begin their warm-up prior to the conclusion of the first game. This often leads to a team 'circling the field' prior to the first game ending. We are discouraging this as nearly 30 minutes are provided as ample time for warm-up when the game concludes. Additionally, there are growing sportsmanship issues with players unsupervised as they cross paths with opponents' team areas. This is an area that COACHES can assist with.

#### Running over to Fans at the Conclusion of a Game

Yes, it may be an 'accepted' thing...a 'soccer thing'; a team runs across the field together to the opposite touch line at the conclusion of a game to share the joy of victory with other students. But...we are encountering more and more acts of unsporting behavior that occurs when fans of the OTHER team are in that same area. Please utilize your leadership role and prevent issues before they occur. Address this frequently with team members.



### *The OHSAA & Sportsmanship*

As we prepare for the upcoming seasons, the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) wishes to emphasize to each of you the importance of your leadership role in the promotion of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity. The professional manner in which officials and coaches conduct themselves prior to, during and following a contest unquestionably impacts the behavior of others who may be involved.

The OHSAA has joined the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) in its quest to improve sportsmanship, ethics and integrity. We are involved in an ongoing campaign in every sport to do just that. Printed below is the mission statement of the NFHS concerning sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity. Please take the time to read and digest this statement and then carefully consider your impact upon students, officials, coaches, and fans. Thank you and have a great season!

The Ohio High School Athletic Association challenges all of us in the soccer community to take positive steps toward the goal of attaining the high ideal of good sportsmanship. It is the responsibility of each of us to serve as a positive role model and set high expectations for others.

Roxanne Price  
Assistant Commissioner

### **ADMINISTRATORS**

Athletic departments are comprehensive, pre-eminent teaching departments with a subject matter all their own: self-confidence, leadership, teamwork, discipline, perseverance, respect for others, strategic thinking, dedication, the importance of rules, and sportsmanship. These are true life lessons and participation in athletics provides another forum for learning. Coaches and Officials are responsible for promoting sportsmanship and positive behavior on the field. Administrators, we need your continued assistance in promoting sportsmanship and controlling fan behavior in the stands! Let the parents and fans know what you expect!

### **COACHES**

Your athletes will demonstrate the attitudes and behaviors they have learned from you, either through direct instruction or through observation of your actions. ***Never underestimate the influence you have on your players!*** You must:

- Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
- Set a good example for players and spectators to follow.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will serve to create a positive impression of you and your team.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Develop a program that rewards participants and spectators for displaying proper sportsmanship and enforces penalties on those who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.

It is difficult to develop a great finisher, a great centerback or a great goalkeeper. That is true. However, your greatest challenge is to develop mature young adults who will become great citizens and role models in your community.

### **OFFICIALS**

Your job is not an easy one, but the official must be aware that they are an important component in the educational development of students. To carry out this responsibility, you must:

- Know the rules and mechanics of our sport and the philosophy behind them.
- Get fit and stay fit. An official with all of the rules and mechanics knowledge and people skills in the world does no good if he or she cannot physically keep up with play.
- Maintain professional and ethical relationships with athletic administrators, especially in the area of fulfilling game contracts.

- Work cooperatively with fellow officials during games and within the referees' association to improve members' performances.
- Maintain at all times and when interacting with all participants, an attitude of civility and professionalism.
- Practice effective preventive officiating as much as possible before, during, and after a match. The quiet word, proper signals, timely verbal instructions, a simple thank-you to a player for avoiding an unsporting act, and well-thought-out pre-game conferences with the teams and other game officials will result in an improvement of sportsmanship by eliminating the chance for things to go wrong.

### **STUDENT-ATHLETES**

You serve as a role model for your younger siblings, young fans in the stands, your teammates, and your classmates. Set high expectations for everyone and help them follow-through! You must:

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility, and the privilege of representing your school and the community.
- Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with others. This will assist everyone in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Treat opponents as you would like to be treated.....with respect.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will serve to create a positive impression of you and your team.

### **CONCLUSION**

Good sportsmanship is everyone's responsibility. It is the essence of interscholastic athletics. Remember...some may question an official's call or a coach's substitution, but no one can question the value of good sportsmanship.

## *Sportsmanship Online Resources*

On the OHSAA's "Respect the Game" pages you will find **Fair Play Codes** for athletes, coaches, and fans, as well as additional information regarding **parents' role in interscholastic athletics**. The sportsmanship page also includes information about the Harold A. Meyer Sportsmanship Award and the Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award. Please feel free to contact us with any additional questions. Please take time to visit this from the OHSAA's website along with MANY helpful items previously mentioned on the NFHSlearn website at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com).



