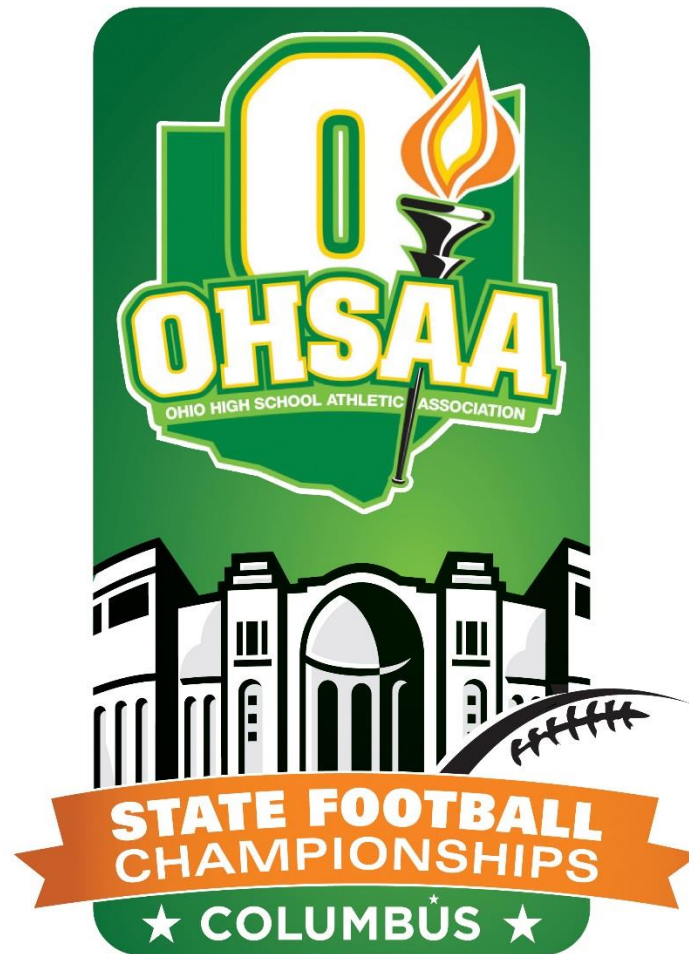


2015 Football Manual



For Coaches & Athletic Administrators

Ohio High School Athletic Association
4080 Roselea Place
Columbus, Ohio 43214

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A Message from OHSAA Assistant Commissioner, Beau Rugg



07/18/2015

The 2015 football season is at hand and the Football Manual is created to help make this season a successful one. Please review this document and make other coaches and administrators aware of information that will assist them in their responsibilities. The student-athlete experience will be enhanced by coaches, officials, and administrators working together to provide a safe environment in interscholastic athletics.

The big change this year is the new Contact Regulations as they relate to **Practice**. There is a difference between pre-season practice and in season practice. Also, it is important to remember that the time restrictions are per player. The details of the regulations are in this manual and the 2015 Football Regulations.

We know that there is tremendous learning that student-athletes receive from education based athletics. I am very appreciative of the dedication that coaches in Ohio have to make this learning happen. Remember, only about 3% of high school seniors will play football beyond high school. Thank you for being great role models!

The 2015 Football Finals will be at Ohio Stadium in Columbus again this year and we have been working very hard to make this experience even better. I hope many of you will join us at the Finals to celebrate a great 2015 season. Good Luck and I wish you all great success. Please contact me at brugg@ohsaa.org if you need assistance.

All OHSAA Football related information can be found at www.ohsaa.org/sports/ft/boys/default.asp.

The Ohio High School Athletic Association 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.

OHSFCA
**Ohio High School Football Coaches
Association**

OHSFCA Officers

President

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Past President

Steve Hale, Liberty High School

Vice President

Matt Dennison, New Philadelphia HS

2nd Vice President

Jim France, Manchester High School

Secretary

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Erik Baker, Mohawk High School

Website Coordinator

Matt Bartley, Xenia High School

Consultant

Spike Berry

Historians

Jim Reinmueller

All- State Game Coordinators

Steve Channell

Wally Hood

OHSFCA Clinic Co-Director

Gerald Cooke

Matt Best, Findlay High School

OHSFCA Representatives

Region I

Doug Pearson, St. John's Jesuit HS

Region II

Erik Baker, Mohawk High School

Region III

Jim McQuaide, Solon High School

Region IV

Dave Dlugosz, Avon Lake High School

Region V

Tom Pavlansky, Lakeview High School

Region VI

John Arlesic, Streetsboro High School

Region VII

Tony Carr, Edison Middle School

Region VIII

Bob Spaite, Columbiana High School

Region IX

Brent Fackler, Kenton High School

Region X

Nathan Hillerich, Hamilton Twp. High School

Region XI

Chad Grandstaff, Zanesville High School

Region XII

Reno Saccoccia, Steubenville High School

Region XIII

Dave Lucas, Dawson-Bryant High School

Region XIV

Jerry Wasserman, London High School

Region XV

Larry Cox, Lakota West High School

Region XVI

Kurry Cummins, Mariemont High School

**The Ohio High School
Football Coaches Association**

Mission Statement: To promote the highest standards in high school football, excellence and ethics in the coaching profession, academic excellence in the classroom, and fairness in competition on the playing field.

What the OHSFCA does for You

1. Conducts an annual convention and clinic in February
2. Holds 4 OHSFCA Board meetings per year (December, February, April, June)
3. Operates a website to disseminate OHSFCA information to membership
4. Conducts the annual OHSFCA All Star Classic in April
5. Conducts the Ohio/Michigan Border Classic in June
6. Selects the Art Teynor Player of the Year Award
7. Selects the Mike Mauk Coach of the Year Award
8. Awards scholarships to deserving seniors (OHSFCA has given out over \$750,000 in past 20 years)
9. Maintains a Hall of Fame with the induction in June
10. Honors head coaches for victory awards and assistant coaches for years of service
11. Works directly with Ohio State University to provide coaches best possible clinic annually
12. Attends all OHSAA Board of Directors Meetings in Columbus
13. Has developed sponsorships with Wilson, Pukka, Under Armor, Equipment Guys, Winning Edge, and Ohio National Guard
14. With Winning Edge selects a Coach of the Year and an Assistant Coach of the Year (Awards a trip to Las Vegas for winners)
15. Selects Academic All Ohio Individuals and teams
16. Sits on committee to review the OHSAA Football Tournament annually
17. Promotes rules changes to OHSAA
18. Provides the voice for Ohio's Football Coaches to the OHSAA on Football related matters
19. Holds a 7-on7 State Championship annually in June
20. Holds an annual Big Man Competition in June
21. Holds Regional meetings in November to select players for Ohio All Star Classic and Border Classic

OHSFCA Membership

1. Membership runs from February through January
2. Membership fee is \$15.00 for active coaches and \$10.00 for retired coaches
3. Memberships are available through the website at www.ohsfca.net

2015 Important Football Dates

June 1 - July 31	Coach contact - 10 days
	7-on-7 non-contact games permitted
	Uniform and equipment may be distributed but not used prior to first day of practice
August 1	First day of coaching permitted
	Two-a-days permitted
August 1 & 3	Helmet, shoes, and shorts - No contact
August 4 & 5	Helmets, shoulder pads, shoes, and shorts - No contact
August 6	Full equipment - No contact
August 7	First day of contact practice
August 2, 9, 16	Mandatory days off
August 10	First high school scrimmage permitted Maximum length is 3 hours for grades 9-12
August 13	First 7-8 grade scrimmage permitted (after 10 days of practice) Maximum length is 2 hours for grades 7-8
August 22	Final high school preseason contest permitted Scrimmage, preview, or jamboree
August 24	Regular season begins
October 12	Non-Interscholastic Date (see below)
November 6 & 7	Regional Quarterfinals
November 13 & 14	Regional Semifinals
November 20 & 21	Regional Finals
November 27 & 28	State Semifinals
December 3-5	State Finals: Ohio Stadium - Columbus
Coach - No Contact Period	Begins on first day after last game and ends after 28th day

Football Non-Interscholastic Date

The OHSAA establishes a "non-interscholastic" date for each sport that is 6 weeks from the first tournament date (November 7, 2014 for football). Though football student-athletes are not permitted to play ANY non-interscholastic football DURING THE SEASON OF PLAY, any player that violates this rule on or after the established 'non-interscholastic date' loses his/her eligibility for the OHSAA tournament at all levels. Please continue to remind your players of the non-interscholastic rule throughout the season.

OHSAA Contact Information

Beau Rugg brugg@ohsaa.org	Assistant Commissioner	Football Administrator/Tournament Coordinator
Bruce Maurer bmaurer38@gmail.com	Director of Officiating Development	Coordinates Education and Recruitment of Officials
Angie Lawler alawler@ohsaa.org	Program Coordinator	Assists with FB Coordination: Season/Tournament

Football Informational Links

OHSAA Football Webpage: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/ft/boys/default.asp>

OHSAA Football Regulations: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rqlts/ft.pdf>

OHSAA General Sports Regs.: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rqlts/GeneralSportsRegulations.pdf>

OHSAA Uniform Regulations: <http://www.ohsaa.org/members/uniform.htm>

2015 OHSAA Football Regional Alignments: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/ft/boys/2015/RegionalMaps.pdf>

2013 & 2014 Regional Assignments: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/ft/boys/ftregion.htm>

2013 & 2014 Divisional Breakdowns: <http://www.ohsaa.org/members/sptdivis15.htm>

Ohio HS Football Coaches Association: www.ohsfca.net

OHSAA Football Officials Website: <http://ohsaafb.com/>

National Federation of State High School Associations: www.nfhs.org

Coaches' Education: www.nfhslern.com

The Role of the Parent in Sports: www.nfhslern.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=18000

State Rules Interpretation Meeting Information

Though we encourage everyone to complete the State Rules Interpretation Meeting online, a very limited number of face-to-face meetings will be offered in 2015 for officials only.

Completion of the State Rules Interpretation Meeting, whether online or face-to-face, is mandatory for all coaches and officials.

Online Method of Completion

The online State Rules Interpretation Meeting link will be available from Tuesday, July 21nd at 4 PM until Friday, August 21st at midnight.

The last day for completion of the online version is Friday, August 21st, after that a \$50.00 late fee is charged for access to the online version.

Officials should visit www.myOHSAA.org. Under the “News + Info” section, officials will need to select the “Football – Officials” link. Once you have clicked the appropriate link for the officials online State Rules Interpretation Meeting, complete the required fields and complete the presentation. Please note that all screens of the presentation must be viewed for credit to be provided.

Coaches should access the online version by navigating to the OHSAA’s Football webpage at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/ft/boys/default.asp>. You will need your school ID number which can be provided by your school’s Athletic Director. Please note that all screens of the presentation must be viewed and any quiz and/or survey completed for attendance credit to be provided. The computer must have Adobe Flash Player (a free download) to watch the presentation online.

Please do not call the OHSAA office to inquire about attendance. Officials will have their profile page updated reflecting their attendance periodically (it is NOT immediate). Schools will have their profile page updated periodically reflecting attendance credit. The system **does not** provide confirmation emails upon completion. **PLEASE do not call the office for verification** after completing the online version; profiles are updated **approximately every 5 days**.

Face-to-Face State Rules Interpretation Meetings – Officials Only

Officials have the option of a very limited number of face-to-face meetings in addition to the online option. If you choose to attend a face-to-face State Rules Interpretation meeting, please take the card that is located in the inside jacket of your mailing and turn this in at the conclusion of the meeting you attend. Meetings and their locations are listed below and can be viewed at <http://myohsaa.org/public/stateMeetings.aspx> or can be accessed through the Officiating Home Page

Coaches may only complete the online Rules Interpretation Meeting, there are no face-to-face offerings.

What's New for 2015?

- 1) **New (& Old) Contact Regulations**
- 2) **Playoff Schedule**

1) **New (& Old) Contact Regulations:**

Spring, Summer, and All Off-Season Contact

Already the rule in Ohio, there is no contact permitted except during the season, and pads may not be worn at any time except during the season. (Many states that allow spring football practice and contact in the summer have a much higher rate of concussions.)

Preseason Practice (all practices prior to the first regular-season game)

Note: the following regulations apply to individual student-athletes. Position groups, etc., can alternate contact to adhere to the regulations. Also, contact with soft equipment such as bags, shields, sleds, etc., does not count toward contact limitations. Additionally, the task force noted that preseason practices may require more full-contact time than practices occurring later in the regular season to allow for teaching fundamentals with sufficient repetition:

1. Physical Examinations: Already the rule in Ohio, a medical examiner must certify each individual's physical fitness no less than once each calendar year and these signed forms must be on file at the school before any candidate for a team may participate in practice.

2. Acclimatization Period: Already the rule in Ohio, a five-day acclimatization period is mandatory prior to any contact drills. Only helmets are permitted on the first and second days of practice. Shoulder pads may be added on days three and four. Full pads may be worn on the fifth day. Full contact is permitted on the sixth day.

3. Full Contact Limited During Two-A-Day Practices: When more than one practice takes place in a day, full contact is permitted only during one of the practices. With the importance of recovery time to help minimize concussion risks, consideration should also be given to the timing of full contact during the next day (i.e. if full contact occurs during session 2 of two-a-days, there should not be full contact in session 1 of two-a-days the following day).

Practice During the Season (all practices after the first regular-season game)

Note: the following regulations apply to individual student-athletes. Position groups, etc., can alternate contact during the week to adhere to the regulations. Also, contact with soft equipment such as bags, shields, sleds, etc., does not count toward full contact limitations:

1. Consider limiting full-contact on consecutive days.
2. A student-athlete is limited to 30 minutes of full contact in practice per day.
3. A student-athlete is limited to 60 minutes of full contact in practice per week.
4. A student-athlete can be involved in full contact in a maximum of two practices in a seven-day span.

2) **Playoff Schedule**

The State Final schedule will be the same as 2014 with one change. This year Divisions V and VII will play their preliminary rounds on Friday nights and Divisions IV and VI will play on Saturday nights. The specific times for the Final games will again be announced after the semi-final games.

Tournament Organization & the Harbin Rating System

From the 2015 Tournament Regulations found here: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/ft/boys/ftrqjt.pdf>

1. Sponsorship & Management

The Ohio High Athletic Association sponsors the Regional and State Football Tournaments. Each tournament game shall be conducted in accordance with the 2015 Football Tournament Regulations and the 2015 OHSAA Football Manual. The OHSAA will contract with member schools, collegiate and/or professional sites to host a tournament contest. A game manager shall be appointed by the administrator of the contracted site. The OHSAA Commissioner retains the right to approve all managers for each football tournament contest. The OHSAA Commissioner is the final authority on all questions and situations arising from the regulations and the management of the football tournament.

2. School Sponsored Football Team Schedule

OHSAA member schools that sponsor a varsity football team shall enter their home games and accept their away games in the myOHSAA system by May 15. Games played with non-OHSAA members (home or away) must be entered by the OHSAA member school. In order for a schedule change to be used for the tournament rating purposes the following conditions apply:

- 2.1 Any addition/deletion or change must be entered into myOHSAA before the game is played and;
- 2.2 There must be a written, signed agreement between the opposing schools dated prior to the date of the game, but not later than October 1, 2015 and;
- 2.3 Provided there is not a cancellation of a game already under contract, except if the date becomes open due to the prospective opponent school being on strike or discontinuing its football schedule and;
- 2.4 The game is not a "playoff" game involving intraleague or interleague play.
- 2.5 All regular season games must be played on or before the Saturday of the 10th week.

3. Division Assignments

The division to which a school is assigned is based upon the male enrollment of the school in grades 9-11 as reported by the State Department of Education. Divisions were established for a two-year period beginning June 1, 2015. Note that the number of schools sponsoring football may change from one year to the next. The division ranges with point values are:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Male Enrollment</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>No. of Schools</u>
I	627 and More	6.5	72
II	423-626	6	107
III	271-422	5.5	107
IV	213-280	5	117
V	156-212	4.5	108
VI	112-155	4	107
VII	111 and less	3.5	108
			Total: 716

4. Eligibility for Football Tournament Participation

In order to be eligible for regional tournament participation the following requirements must be met:

- 4.1 The school must be a member of the OHSAA and in good standing.
- 4.2 A regular season football schedule must be submitted on myOHSAA as required above.
- 4.3 An eligibility certificate listing all eligible players on the football team must be filed in the high school principal's office prior to the first regular season game.
- 4.4 The football team must play a minimum of eight regular season varsity high school games.
- 4.5 All regular season game results must be provided to the OHSAA by 11:00 P.M. on October 31, 2015.

5. Football Team Computer Rating System

The procedure used to rate football teams is based upon a system developed by Jack Harbin of Cleveland and used with his permission. The Board of Directors has modified the original system. Each team will earn points as explained below.

POINT SYSTEM

On the first level:

Points are earned for each game a team wins.

(FULL VALUE)

Points are earned for each game a team ties.

(ONE-HALF VALUE)

On the second level:

Points are earned for each game a defeated opponent wins.

(FULL VALUE)

Points are earned for each game a defeated opponent ties.

(ONE-HALF VALUE)

Points are earned for each game a tied opponent wins.

(ONE-HALF VALUE)

Points are earned for each game a tied opponent ties.

(ONE-FOURTH VALUE)

Points are earned on the following basis:

Division VII opponent win – 3.5 points; tie – 1.75 points

Division VI opponent win – 4.0 points; tie – 2.0 points

Division V opponent win – 4.5 points; tie – 2.25 points

Division IV opponent win – 5.0 points; tie – 2.5 points

Division III opponent win – 5.5 points; tie – 2.75 points

Division II opponent win – 6.0 points; tie – 3.0 points

Division I opponent win – 6.5 points; tie – 3.25 points

5.1 First Level Points are awarded for

- a. Each game a team wins (full value)
- b. Each game a team ties (half value)
- c. No points are awarded for game lost

5.2 Second Level Points are awarded as a result of a team defeating or tying an opponent according to the following formula:

- a. Defeating an opponent awards to the winner the loser's first level points.
- b. Tying an opponent awards the team one half the opponent's first level points.
- c. No second level points are awarded for losing to an opponent.
- d. A divisor is used to determine second level points. It is based on the number of games that opponents have played to date. For each open date that an opponent has had to date, a smaller divisor is used to calculate second level points.

Note: Before any games are played, the computer assumes that the opponents on each school's schedule will play a full complement of games and assigns the divisor of 100 (10 weeks times 10 opponents=100). After each week of the season, for each open date that occurs for an opponent that a school has played to date, the computer subtracts the divisor by one. In other words, if week five has just been completed and all five of a school's opponents have played a full complement of games, then the divisor remains at 100, and second level points are divided by 100. If one opponent on a school's schedule to date has an open date, then the divisor reduces by one to 99, and second level points are divided by 99, and so on. The second level points are then multiplied by the factor 10 in order to move the decimal point higher so that the averages are comparable to those in past years.

5.3 Non-member OHSAA school opponents are assigned a point value based upon male enrollment in grades 9-11. Second level points are awarded based upon the point value of the OHSAA non-member school multiplied times the number of victories by the non-member school (one-half value for a tie).

Note: It is the responsibility of the OHSAA member school to report the weekly results of the games of non-member OHSAA by entering the information into myOHSAA by 10 A.M. on the Monday following the game.

5.31 When the non-member school plays more than 10 regular season games, only the first 10 games will count unless the game with the OHSAA member school is the 11th game in which case the nine games preceding it shall be counted.

5.32 When the non-member school plays less than 10 regular season games, the open dates will be considered an open date except in those states which conduct a state tournament in which case the first round tournament game in those states will be counted, when the first round game is played before the final OHSAA football computer ranking is completed.

5.4 Calculation of Points for Ranking Purposes

Each week, a team's first level points will be added to the team's second level points. The total points obtained will be divided by the number of games played to obtain a per game average. Teams will then be ranked within each region based upon their per game average. The margin of victory is not a factor. A win by one point or 20 points counts only as a win. In order to be eligible for tournament participation, a team must play a minimum of eight games. If a team plays less than eight games during the season, the divisor for the end of season rankings will be eight.

5.5 Only forfeits that result from a violation of OHSAA Bylaws and/or Sport Regulations will affect a team's wins and losses recognized by the OHSAA and thus impact the calculation of first and second level points. Self-imposed forfeits that result from violation of school district policy and/or league/conference policy without a contemporaneous violation of the OHSAA Bylaw or Sport Regulation will not affect wins and losses recognized by the OHSAA and will not impact first or second level points used in these calculations.

6. Reporting Regular Season Results

6.1 Regular season results, during the first nine weeks, must be posted on the myOHSAA site by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday following the game. The OHSAA member host school is primarily responsible. However, the visiting member school shares the responsibility. Results not posted by the deadline will result in a \$150 fine for each school.

6.2 It is the responsibility of the OHSAA member school to report the results of games played by any non-member school which it has defeated.

6.3 Games on Friday, October 31, 2014 must be posted on myOHSAA by 11:00 A.M. Saturday November 1, 2014 or as instructed by the OHSAA. The OHSAA member host school is primarily responsible. However, the visiting member school shares the responsibility. Results not posted by the deadline will result in a \$150 fine for each school.

6.4 Games on Saturday, November 1, 2014 must be posted on myOHSAA no later than 11:00 P.M. The OHSAA member host school is primarily responsible. However, the visiting member school shares the responsibility. Results not posted by the deadline will result in a \$150 fine for each school and may not be utilized in the rankings.

6.5 Games played or completed after 11:59 PM November 1, 2014 will not count in the computer rankings.

The OHSAA Computer Rankings will be released after the game results of the first four weeks of the season. The rankings will be available on the OHSAA web site (www.ohsaa.org) and through the Associated Press on a weekly basis through the end of the season.

The rankings *do not* reflect the relative strengths of teams nor do they predict the results of future games. Rankings are used by the OHSAA to select the best teams for the tournaments based upon the caliber of their opponents.

7. Regional Qualifying Teams

The eight schools (sixteen schools in Division I) with the highest per game average of points in each region will qualify for the regional football tournament. If a school chooses not to participate in the regional tournament, the school with the next higher per game average will become a qualifier.

7.1 In case of a tie in any region, the point values of the tied teams shall be calculated using the third level of competition to break the tie.

On the third level of competition:

Points are earned for each game that a defeated opponent's defeated opponents may win (FULL VALUE)
 Points are earned for each game that a defeated opponent's defeated opponents may tie (ONE-HALF VALUE)
 CASE #1: Team A and Team B after 10 games of the regular season are tied for fourth place in their region, each with an average of 7.6500 points. By using the third level of competition for Team A and Team B, it is determined that Team A earned, with third level points, an average of 12.3500 points and Team B earned, with third level points, an average of 13.2785 points. Team B qualifies for the fourth place in the regional tournament, Team A qualifies for fifth place.

CASE #2: After 10 games of the regular season Team C and Team D are tied for eighth place in their region; each with an average of 12.4500 points. It is determined that Team C had played and defeated an out-of-state school opponent. There are no third level competition points available when an out-of-state or non-member opponent is involved. When the third level of competition cannot be applied in the case of a tie the following steps shall be followed in the order listed.

- 1) The team that won in head-to-head competition.
- 2) If the teams did not play each other, the team with the most regular season victories will qualify.
- 3) If the teams have the same number of regular season victories, the team whose opponents earned the most victories will qualify.
- 4) If the total victories of the opponents are equal, the team with the highest victory percentage will qualify.
- 5) If the teams have identical victory percentages there will be a blind draw conducted by the Commissioner to determine the qualifying team.

7.2 In the event there is an error in determining tournament qualifiers, the OHSAA reserves the right to make the correction and to insert the correct team into the tournament provided the error is discovered prior to 12 P.M. (noon) Tuesday of the week of the regional quarterfinal game. If the error is discovered after the regional quarterfinal game has been played, no change will be made.

7.3 If there is a forfeiture of one or more regular season games after the qualifying teams have been announced and the team announcing the forfeiture is a qualifier and would not qualify for the tournament when the forfeiture(s) is counted, only the qualifying team that forfeits will be removed from the tournament. Their line on the tournament bracket may be taken by the highest ranked non-qualifying team when the qualifying teams were first announced **or** the last team defeated **provided** the ineligibility is determined on or before 12:00 P.M. (noon) Tuesday of the week the game is scheduled to be played. The line on the bracket will remain vacant (a bye) if the ineligibility is determined after 12:00 P.M. (noon) on Tuesday of the week of the game is scheduled **or** if the new eligible team chooses not to participate. **Note: The computer rankings will not be rerun in any other region.**

8. Notification of Regional Qualifying Teams

Qualifiers and pairings for the regional quarterfinals will be available on the OHSAA web site (www.ohsaa.org) and through the Associated Press by 2 P.M. on Sunday, November 1, 2015.

Teams that finish 1-4 (1-8 in Division I) in the final computer rankings will be given the opportunity to be the host (home) teams for finishers 5-8 (9-16 in Division I). Host sites are required to select a game manager. **Game managers are required to meet at 1:00 P.M. site TBA on Monday, November 2, 2015.**

9. Region Assignments

NOTE: The number preceding the school name is the school identification number, not the enrollment. For complete list of region assignment, click on link www.ohsaa.org.

10. Regional Pairings – 2015 OHSAA Football Tournaments – Divisions II-VII

Regional Quarterfinals	Top 4 Teams Host
Regional Semifinals	Neutral Sites - no rebracketing

Regional Finals	Neutral Sites - no rebracketing
Winner to State Semifinals	Neutral Sites - rebracket <u>may</u> occur

Regional Pairings – 2015 OHSAA Football Tournaments – Division I

First Round	Top 8 Teams Host
Second Round	Neutral Sites
Third Round	Neutral Sites
Fourth Round	Neutral Sites
Regional and State Semifinal	Neutral Sites

11. Regional Dates and Times

Quarterfinals/First Round Division I		
Friday, Nov. 7	Division II, III, V, VII	7:30 P.M.
Saturday, Nov. 8	Division I, IV, VI	7:00 P.M.

Semifinals/Second Round Division I		
Friday, Nov. 14	Division II, III, V, VII	7:30 P.M.
Saturday, Nov. 15	Division I, IV, VI	7:00 P.M.

Finals/Third Round Division I		
Friday, Nov. 21	Division II, III, V, VII	7:30 P.M.
Saturday, Nov. 22	Division I, IV, VI	7:00 P.M.

State Dates and Times

Semifinals/Also Division I Regional Finals		
Friday, Nov. 28	Division II, III, V, VII	7:30 P.M.
Saturday, Nov. 29	Division I, IV, VI	7:00 P.M.

Finals		
Thursday, Dec. 4 OR		
Friday, Dec. 5	Division II	TBD
	Division III	TBD
	Division V	TBD
	Division VII	TBD
Saturday, Dec. 6	Division I	TBD
	Division IV	TBD
	Division VI	TBD



Regulations governing the sport of football are divided into two basic categories: **General Sports Regulations** and **Football Regulations (sport specific)**. These are reviewed annually and approved by the OHSAA's Board of Directors.

General Sports Regulations

These regulations can be accessed and address regulations that affect all sports governed by the OHSAA. They include, but are not limited to, such things as Instructional Programs outside the window of the season, Physical Fitness (Conditioning) Programs, Open Gym Regulations, No Contact Periods, Player and Coach Ejection Policies. These are important and *most* areas of concern can be addressed simply by reading through these Regulations or contacting your Athletic Administrator. They are easily accessed via the web by navigating to the "Football" webpage and clicking on "General Sports Regulations" on the left hand side or directly going to <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rqlts/GeneralSportsRegulations.pdf>. I **strongly encourage** you to take the time to read these to familiarize yourself and your staff with the various rules approved by our Board of Directors that govern all sports.

Football Specific Regulations

Each spring, regulations for the upcoming school year are approved by the Board of Directors for every sport the OHSAA sponsors. These address areas such as (but not limited to) Non-Interscholastic competition, number of contests (game, scrimmage, or preview) that are permitted, season start and end dates, out of state travel, etc. All coaches should familiarize themselves with these regulations. Coaches should familiarize their entire staff with the importance of these Regulations as they directly affect the eligibility of student-athletes. Upon approval, they are submitted for printing to the annual OHSAA Handbook (which every administrator has been provided). These are also available through football web page at:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rqlts/ft.pdf>. Football specific AND the General Sports Regulations are found on the left side of the page.



The Officials Program

OHSAA Staff

Angie Lawler, Program Coordinator
Tyler Brooks, Program Coordinator
Ben Ferree, Official's Registrar

Directors of Officiating Development

Lori Powers-Basinger: Gymnastics
Gary Wilkins: Ice Hockey
Don Muenz: Soccer
Jerry Fick: Softball
Ken Gipe: Swimming & Diving
Diane Plas: Volleyball
Jim Vreeland: Wrestling
Bruce Maurer: Football
Dennis Morris: Basketball
Dan McGinnis: Baseball
Dale Gabor: Track & Field
Rick Pollak: Field Hockey



A Message from Bruce Maurer, Director of Football Officiating Development

Welcome to another football season in Ohio. This "Pre-Season Manual" has been compiled for coaches **and** officials to serve as a reference from pre-season to postseason.

Several years ago, the OHSAA's Board of Directors adopted a transition from the long standing "District Officials' Committee (DOC)" to individuals directly responsible for officiating oversight in each specific sport. On the left column of this page, you will read the various directors hired to serve in this important role.

Education and Recruitment are the basic cornerstones for the Official Development Directors and as we make strides to improve these areas; the entire sport will stand to reap the benefits. I continue to work hand in hand with Beau Rugg, the OHSAA's Sport Administrator for football and continue to serve as the lead interpreter of the NFHS Football Rules.

Several years ago we created www.ohsaafb.com to serve as an added resource for educational purposes. This past year we had over 12,000 site visits. In addition to rules interpretations & mechanics discussions, there are 2 weekly quizzes over the 12 weeks of preseason & Weeks 1 – 10.

Added to the Football Manual this year is a detailed Rules Index with nearly 200 listings. This will help both coaches & officials to more easily find Rules.

The utilization of each local association is critical in the communication necessary to meet our goals for providing quality, continuing education while also emphasizing the recruitment of new, young officials.

I continue to look forward to the limitless opportunities this position provides. *Everyone's* efforts, from coaching to administrating to officiating ultimately benefit our greatest resource: the student-athletes in Ohio.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve the officials in Ohio!

Yours in High School Sports,

Bruce Maurer
Director of Football Officiating Development



2015 Rules Information

2015 Football Rules Changes

Note 1: To help navigate the NFHS Football Rules Book, please reference the: [2015 Rules Index](#)

2-10-1c: Spearing Definition Revised

Comment: The definition of spearing was revised to continue the focus on minimizing risk of injury. Spearing is an act by any player who initiates contact against an opponent at the shoulders or below with the crown (top portion) of his/her helmet.

Rule: “Spearing is an act by any player who initiates contact against an opponent at the shoulders or below with the crown (top portion) of his helmet.”

5-1-1b: Correcting a Down Number Added

Comment: The referee is granted authorization to correct the number of the next down prior to the ball becoming live after a new series of downs is awarded.

Rule: “The referee shall have the authority to correct the number of the next down prior to the ball becoming live after a new series of downs is awarded.”

6-1-3; 6-1-4; 6-1 PENALTY: Free-Kick Formations Revised

Comment: In a revision of the 2014 rule change regarding free-kick formations, the timing of the foul for not having at least four players on each side of the kicker now occurs when the ball is kicked.

Rule: (6-1-4 only) “At the time the ball is kicked, at least four K players must be on each side of the kicker.”

9-4-3g: Excessive Contact Added to Unnecessary Roughness

Comment: With an emphasis on risk minimization, the unnecessary roughness provisions were expanded. No player or nonplayer shall make any other contact with an opponent, including a defenseless player, which is deemed unnecessary or excessive and which incites roughness.

Rule: “Make any other contact with an opponent, including a defenseless player, which is deemed unnecessary or excessive and which incites roughness.”

9-4 PENALTY: Roughing the Passer Penalty Clarified

Comment: An automatic first down is not awarded for a 5-yard incidental face-mask penalty against the passer.

Rule: Please view “9-4 PENALTY” in its entirety.

10-2-5: Dead-ball Penalty Enforcement Modified

Comment: The distance penalties for unsportsmanlike, nonplayer or dead-ball personal fouls committed by teams can offset. Equal numbers of 15-yard penalties by both teams will cancel and remaining penalties may be enforced.

Rule: Please view “10-2-5” in its entirety.



2015 Points of Emphasis

1. Point Differential Rule
2. Protests
3. Artificial Limbs
4. Ejection Protocol
5. Overtime Procedures
6. Non-Interscholastic Participation

1) Point Differential Rule

The National Federation Football Rules state in Rule 3, Section 1, Article 2 that:

“A state association may also establish guidelines to use a running clock when a prescribed point differential is met”.

The following is what we have adopted in Ohio:

After the first half, any time the score differential reaches 30 points or more for 11- man football, the following changes, and only these changes, will be made regarding rules determining when the clock will be stopped. The clock will be stopped when:

- 1) An official's time-out is called
 - A. For an injured player
 - B. Following a change of team possession
- 2) A charged time-out is called
- 3) At the end of a period
- 4) A score occurs
- 5) Any unusual delay

The clock will start again on the ready for play signal for the first play after the above situations.

Note 1: The clock will continue to run in all other situations.

Note 2: The use of this rule does not preclude the use of NFHS Rule 3-1-3, which reads: “A period or periods may be shortened in any emergency by agreement of the opposing coaches and referee. By mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee, any remaining periods may be shortened at any time or the game terminated.”

Note 3: After the 30 point difference has been met, if the score drops below 30 points the clock reverts to regular timing.

PA Announcement when Point Differential has Been Reached:



“Ladies and Gentlemen, this game will now be played with a running clock per the new OHSAA point differential rule. The clock will still be stopped after changes of possession, at the end of periods, and for time-outs. If the point differential should fall beneath 30, normal clock operations will resume. Thank you for attending (today's/tonight's) game!”

Provided is a link to a document that can be used by the Clock Operator as a reference for the new Point Differential Rule: [Point Differential Index Card Reference](#)

Here is a snapshot of the informational graphic that may be printed, cut, and pasted onto a 4"X6" notecard:

GAME Clock Operator – Point Differential (2014)

- During the 2nd Half → If score differential reaches **30 points**
- Referee** (White Hat) will point to the timer, tap his wrist, and give the wind signal with his Index FINGER
- All game officials will still use normal timing signals
 ➤ **CLOCK OPERATOR must know when to stop the clock**
- Game clock will be **stopped ONLY** for:
 - **Injured Player**
 - **Charged Team Time Out**
 - **Change of Possession**
 - **End of a Quarter**
 - **A Score → will wind on the RFP on the kickoff**
 - **For the Try / PAT**
 - **An Extended Delay**
 - R will face the clock operator and signal STOP THE CLOCK
- When clock is stopped for any reason in #4, the Clock will start on the Ready For Play – R will face the clock operator and give the **WIND** Signal
- Game Clock will **run** during the following:
 - **Incomplete Pass**
 - **Runner goes out of bounds**
 - **Penalty Enforcement**
 - **A 1st Down is gained**
 - **Change of possession & the team that snapped or free kicked has the ball at the end of the down**
- If differential becomes **LESS than 30 points** then use **NORMAL** timing
 (2014 Gold Book – Page 34)

GAME Clock Operator – NFHS (2014)

- Have clock run out **(1) minute before KO** – ensure game starts on time
- Any** official can signal to **stop the clock**:
 - Kill-the-clock, Incomplete pass, Score, Touchback
- If clock is stopped → Watch "R" (White Hat) → "R" will signal RFP:
 - If "R" "chops" (does not wind) – clock starts on the **SNAP**
 - "R" will **wind clock** when Clock is to start on RFP
 → Penalty, 1st down, official's time out, etc.
- Clock may be stopped for a **pile-up, fumble, etc.**, by any official – if clock is stopped → **"R" may wind clock as soon as pile is cleared**
- On **KICKOFFS** – clock starts when ball is **legally** touched in the field of play → **covering official (s) will wind**
- GAME Clock does **NOT** run on Try, period extensions, etc.
 - "R" will give untimed down signal
- When a run, pass or fumble ends in **End Zone**
 - stop clock even if no signal → especially if officials conference
- We do not run a separate watch on the field – if game clock malfunctions – **let us know time remaining**, and we will pick it up
 - When the clock is operating again, we will pick up the field clock at next convenient game stoppage
- (20) minute halftime** → wait for "R's" signal to start
- After Halftime - (3) **minute warm-up** – put it on the clock & run it
- Turn Game Clock **OFF** after 3rd time if: (3 Strikes – GB Pg. 35)
 - Operator must be corrected or
 - Game Clock malfunctions
- Come in at half time in case of any problems/adjustments

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2) Protests

Protests arising from the decisions of interpretations of the rules by officials during the game will **not be considered**. Per NFHS playing rules, their decisions and interpretations of the rules are **FINAL**. This means that correctable errors must be corrected during the game and within the time established by playing rules. No video evidence is permitted to determine errors or correct them before, during or after the contest.

3) Artificial Limbs

A letter requesting OHSAA approval for wearing a prosthesis during competition must be submitted by school personnel. A photo showing the artificial limb while being worn is also required prior to the OHSAA decision. The OHSAA letter approving use of the limb shall be presented to the Umpire prior to the contest.

4) Ejection Protocol

Following the contest, the official shall contact the Athletic Director or Principal of the violator's school to advise the administration of the ejection. Contact may be made after the game if an administrator is present or by phone the morning on the first school day after the contest.

- All ejections require an Ejection Report to be completed and filed with the OHSAA.
- Ejection Reports are now completed and submitted electronically. Simply click the 'submit' button and it will be transmitted to our staff. This automatically triggers the report to the school.
- In the event of an ejection, a coach is ejected for the remainder of the day of the ejection plus one additional game. 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 responsibility for compliance rests with the school's administration.
- Ejected coaches are required to leave the premises immediately. If no assistant coach is present, the game is over and the score stands 'as is'.
- Ejected players are to remain in the bench area under the supervision of the coach.
- All ejections are final and not permitted to be appealed per the OHSAA's Board of Directors.

5) Overtime Procedures – from [2014 Officiating Gold Book](#)

Overtime (OT): Rules

1. OT: Use the OHSAA OT Procedure indicated below. Do NOT use the OT Procedure listed in the NFHS Rules Book. It is different from the OHSAA OT. Note: BY NFHS Rule each state can adopt their OT Rules.

2. Policy: OHSAA requires that all Varsity Contests have a winner (no ties) & must use this OHSAA OT Procedure. **Overtime is not permitted for sub-Varsity contests.**

3. Definition: An OT Period is defined as the Home Team (HT) & Visiting Team (VT) each having a series.

4. The Start: Both teams go to their team boxes for a maximum 3 minute intermission. Crew meets at 50 YL, reviews OT, & discusses penalty enforcement (no Post Scrimmage Kick enforcement); including any carry-over penalties from 4th period that could be assessed to start OT. LM & LJ answer any Head Coach's (HC) questions.

5. Coin Toss (CT): VT chooses "heads" or "tails". Winner: Choice of defense or offense first, or end of field to play. Loser: other choice. R indicates CT winner; place a hand on his shoulder. To indicate offensive team, R has that captain's face the Goal Line (GL) his team will advance. Indicate with first down signal. Other captain faces offensive captain with his back to GL he will defend. There is only one CT in OT.

6. Time Out's (TO): 1 TO/team/OT period. Unused TO's do not carry over from 4th Period to OT or from one OT Period to the next OT Period.

7. Timing: Game clock is turned off. Play clock is used. Maximum 2 minute intermission between OT Periods, regardless of the number of OT Periods played, & a 1 minute intermission after a team scores.

8. Start First OT Period: Each team has a series of downs. Offensive team: (A), 1ST & 10, B's 20 YL or Succeeding Spot (SS) (if carry-over penalty has been enforced). A has 4 downs. A is awarded a new series when a 1st down is made. Line To Gain (LTG) is established 10 YDS in advance when a new series is awarded. If LTG is not reached, opponent starts on offense. After first team on offense has completed its series, defense will become the offensive team, 1st & 10, at the same 20 YL, anywhere between the HM's

9. Direction: Both teams play at same end of field during an OT Period.

10. COP: If B gains possession, ball is dead immediately. A's series has ended.

11. Scoring: A team may score by TD, FG, & Try ONLY. If A scores a TD, then do the Try, unless points would not affect the game outcome. Team with the most points at the end of an OT Period wins. Final score: Combine points scored in regulation & all OT Periods.

12. Score Tied After 1st OT Period: If the score remains tied after each team has been on offense in an OT Period, then play more OT periods until a winner is determined.

13. Subsequent Captains Meeting: Loser of OT CT has first choice of options (See # 5 above). Additional OT periods: Option choice is alternated (no CT).

14. A Awarded New Series: A shall be awarded a new series when any of the following occurs: 1. LTG is reached; 2. Kicking Team (KT) recovers a FGA between the GL's after it has been touched First by Receiving Team beyond the Neutral Zone; & 3. B is guilty of roughing kicker/holder/snapper/passers.

Overtime (OT): Penalty Enforcement

1. Basic Rule

Succeeding Spot (SS) fouls which occur: A. During last play of the game; B. During the last play of an OT Period; or C. Dead ball fouls which occur after the last play of a game or OT Period. These can be carried over to OT, unless a TD is scored on that play, in which case the penalty can only be enforced on the Try.

2. Fouls that carry over from Regulation to the First Play of OT (or from one OT Period to the following OT Period)

- SS fouls during last timed down of a game or last play of an OT Period, if a TD was not scored.
- Dead Ball fouls (DBF) after last play of a game or last play of an OT Period if TD was not scored during play.
- SS fouls on a Try, if the Try follows a TD on last play of a regulation/OT period.
 - o Unsportsmanlike (UNS) fouls during or after the Try on A or B.
 - o Non player fouls or non-player UNS fouls during the Try on A or B.
 - o DBF after the Try on either A or B.
 - o Fouls on B during the Try, if A accepts the result of the play & chooses penalty enforced from the SS. (These include: Fouls by B or RT on a successful Try or FG; DBF after last play of the game or before OT; UNS or non-player fouls during or after the Try on A or B; in OT, non-player, UNS, & DBF are penalized at SS.)

3. Fouls that do NOT carry over from Regulation to the First Play of OT (or from one OT Period to the following OT Period)

- A foul by an opponent of scoring team on last play of regulation/OT Period during a down in which a TD was scored. Scoring team can only accept this penalty on Try.
- A UNS or non-player fouls by either team on the last play of regulation/OT Period on a down which a TD is scored. Offended team can only accept this penalty on the Try.
- If a TD is scored on the last play of regulation/OT Period & there is a foul after scoring down, but prior to the initial ready for the Try, for which the basic spot is the SS, the offended team can only accept this penalty on the Try.

Overtime (OT): Plays & Rulings

1. Play. Last timed down of 4th period. A 1 scores TD, making score B 22 & A 20. On a Try A 2 passes to A 3 for successful Try (2 points). After Try, B 1 commits UNS. Ruling. B 1 UNS foul is enforced at SS to begin first OT Period. R explains to Home Team (HT) & Visiting Team (VT) Captain's prior to Coin Toss (CT).

2. Play. Last time down of 4th period. A scores TD & score is A 14 – B 13. A has successful Try-Kick & B 1 roughs kicker/holder. Ruling. If A accepts score, penalty is enforced to start OT. If A accepts penalty, Try will be replayed at the 1½ YL.
3. Play. End of 4th period score is tied. After last down of 4th period, A 1 strikes B 1. Ruling. DQ A 1. Enforce personal foul at SS. If A is first on offense in OT, it is A 1st & 10 on B 35 YL. If B is first on offense it is B 1st & G on 10 YL. OHSAA OT: Ball is initially placed at 20 YL.
4. Play. 4th Period ends with a TD. During A's successful 2 point Try, B 9 commits Defensive Pass Interference (DPI). A makes successful 2 point Try which ties game & results in OT. A elects to take DPI penalty at SS to begin OT. R explains to HT & VT Captain's prior to CT in OT.
5. Play. Regulation game ends in a tie. In OT, A wins CT & selects offense. A 1 scores TD. After A 1 scores TD: (a) A 2 clips B 1 or (b) B 1 strikes A 2. Ruling. DBF in both (a) & (b). TD counts. Penalties in both (a) & (b) are enforced at SS, the Try.
6. Play (OT). A 4th & 5. TD by A. After score, but before Try, B 1 commits UNS. Ruling. Penalty enforced at SS on Try. Non player, UNS, & DBF are penalized at SS.
7. Play (OT). A 3rd & G on B 4 YL. B recovers fumble or intercepts pass. Ruling. Down & series ends with B's fumble recovery or intercepted pass. B cannot return them. Ball is dead immediately.
8. Play (OT). A 3rd & G on B 4 YL. Attempted FG by A is unsuccessful & B 1 recovers FB on – 1 YL. Ruling. Down & series ends for A with Change of Possession.
9. Play (OT). A 3rd & G on B 4 YL. B commits DPI on incomplete pass. Ruling. A 3rd & G on B's 2 YL.
10. Play (OT). A 2nd & G on B 9 YL. A commits OPI on incomplete forward pass. Ruling. A 2nd & G on B 24.
11. Play (OT). A 4th & G on B 6 YL. Attempted FG by A is unsuccessful. B 1 roughs kicker/holder. Ruling. A 1st & G on B 3 YL. Automatic first down for roughing kicker/holder.
12. Play (OT). Home Team (HT) chooses offense first. HT (A) scores TD. During successful Try-Kick, B 1 roughs holder. Ruling. Since HT (A) accepts result of the play (successful Try-Kick), penalize VT (B) at SS. It will be VT ball 1st & 10 at the 35 YL.
13. Play (OT). HT chooses offense first, scores TD & Try-Kick. They huddle in front of their bench. Ruling. Due to the A score, there is a 1 minute intermission after Try.
14. Play (OT). HT chooses offense first & their series ends with no 1st down. They huddle in front of their bench. VT is on the field ready to play. Ruling. The teams must switch sides of the LOS & begin a new series immediately with no break. Do not allow the VT to put the ball in play until the HT is on the field. Penalize HT for delay of game, if warranted.
15. Play (OT). Scoreless 1st OT Period. B lost OT CT. B has choice & chooses to play 2nd OT Period at opposite field end from where 1st OT was played. Ruling. Yes.

6) Non-Interscholastic Participation (includes camps) - from [2015 Football Regulations](#)

4) Non-Interscholastic Participation

4.1) A member of an interscholastic football team may not participate in an athletic contest, a tryout or any type of team or group training or practices with a non-school team in that same sport between August 1 and May 31. Flag football, touch football and arena football are examples of non-permissible events.

Note: This regulation applies to students invited to participate in a tryout, group training or practice at a college or in contests, tryouts, group training or practices with any non-school program or team. (General Sports Regulation 7.2.1).

From June 1 to July 31, a member of an interscholastic football team may participate in an athletic contest, a tryout or any type of team or group training or practices with a non-school

team. This would include 7-on-7 participation. (See General Sports Regulation 7.5 regarding coach's involvement . . . the 10-day rule.)

NOTE: All activities must be non-contact and the only football equipment the player may wear are helmets and cleats.

4.2) Individual Skill Instruction (Camps/Combines)

A football athlete may receive individual skill instruction. Football athletes may also participate in camps and/or combines for individual skill instruction outside the season. (See General Sports Regulation 8.2.1 for specific details).

NOTE: All activities must be non-contact and the only football equipment the player may wear are helmets and cleats.

4.3) All-Star Competition

In the sport of football, only a graduating senior or a student completing athletic eligibility at the end of the current semester may participating in "All-Star" competition.

See General Sports Regulation 7.3.1 for regulations permitting students to participate on non-school teams outside of the school team's season.

See General Sports Regulation 7.6 for regulations permitting coaches to coach their own student-athletes on non-school teams outside the school team's season ("All-Star" Games).

4.4) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Dates

4.41) A football athlete who has not participated for the school team in football that season must cease non-interscholastic football competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the week of the State Semifinals in Football in order to be eligible for OHSAA Tournament competition provided applicable Bylaws and Regulations have been followed.

4.42) Football players may be used for out-of-season demonstrations only if approved in advance by the Commissioner.

4.5) Coaching and Coaches

4.51) All interscholastic football coaches, whether paid or volunteer, must be approved by the Board of Education.

4.52) See General Sports Regulation 8.2.1 for regulations permitting school coaches to provide individual skill instruction from August 1 through May 31.

4.53) See General Sports Regulation 7.5.1 for regulations permitting school coaches to coach their own student-athletes on non-school teams outside the school team's season (10-day rule).

Looking Ahead to Tournament Time

The OHSAA sponsors the OHSAA Football Tournament in 7 divisions. They are conducted according to the tournament regulations adopted by the Board of Directors at their June meeting. The 7 divisions are determined by the EMIS reports from the October 2014 count. These divisions will remain through 2015-16 school year. Divisional Breakdowns are based upon the following enrollments:

[2015 Football Tournament Regulations](#)

Football Divisional Breakdown

<u>Division</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Schools</u>
I	627 and more	72
II	423 to 626	107
III	271 to 422	107
IV	201 to 270	107
V	150 to 200	108
VI	107 to 149	107
VII	106 and less	108
	Total Teams	716

Rating & Voting of Officials



You often hear at tournament contests that “the tournament officials have been selected by a process approved by the Board of Directors”. That ‘process’ is an important one for both coaches AND officials and is the basis for officials assignments to OHSAA Tournaments. To make this process work it requires Coaches and Athletic Directors to do their part. Officials take this process seriously and it is in everyone’s best interest to have the correct input for the assignment of officials. A few important things to note:



1. Coaches **RATE** Officials, other approved individuals **VOTE FOR** Officials. Those ‘other individuals’ are: athletic administrators; approved OHSAA assigners, each local Officials’ Associations, OHSAA Staff and other stakeholders approved by the Officiating Commissioner.
2. Ratings are done at the conclusion of a game; voting is done at the end of the season. As mentioned above, ratings are done by COACHES at the conclusion of a game. Officials **are NOT able** to see how a coach rated.
3. “Pools” of officials are created as a result of ratings and votes. There is only one pool of officials for football. The pool has more officials than are needed. The pool is created by mathematically calculating the rating and voting categories.
4. The OHSAA Office utilizes the pool to assign officials to the **Regional and State Tournament**.
5. All Rating and Voting is done through the *myOHSAA* Data Management System. Therefore, the data **MUST** be entered (official’s name and event) in order to receive ratings and/or votes and be included in a pool.
6. Coaches obtain a User Name and Password for access to the *myOHSAA* system. Information on how to obtain this is listed below.

In order for the process to work effectively, games and officials must be entered into the *myOHSAA Data Management System* by a school’s Athletic Administrator. Schools that are the home team in a contest are the ones required to enter the contest and the officials. In some cases, league assignors have this capability. IF a contest is not entered, there can be no rating of officials. If this is not done, eventually, this will lead to a fine for not rating officials. Please encourage your Athletic Administrator to enter contests into the system.

You will note that using the *myOHSAA* system will allow you to view other teams’ schedules to assist you with possible scouting opportunities as well as serve as a ‘double check’ with often changing schedules due to cancellations or additions of contests.

Instructions for Rating Officials

1. Access the *myOHSAA* system at <http://myohsaa.ohsaa.org> OR from the home page of the www.ohsaa.org
2. Logon to *myOHSAA* using the login credentials provided by your athletic administrator. After logging in, you may be directed to set a new password and provide a security question and answer. Follow the on screen instructions for setting a new password and save your account information.
3. The home page will appear which contains all the tools and information currently available to a Head Coach. A summary of post game reports appears at the top of the home page.
 1. **Click** on your sport in the list of post game reports. The varsity schedule will appear.
 2. **Click “Record”** under the score column of the varsity schedule. The *Report Score/Rate Officials* page will appear.

4. To Report The Score:

- Click **“Report”** in the section labeled “Score”.
- Enter the score for each team and click “Save”.

5. To Rate Officials:

- **Scroll** down to the “Rate Officials” section.
- In the box marked “Requested Officials”, the names of those officials that did not accept the contract prior to the contest will appear. If these officials worked the contest, click the box in front of their name(s) and then click the “Add Official” button. This adds the official(s) to the rating form below. Note: officials that electronically accepted the contract before the contest will automatically display on the rating form.
- If you were the away team and your opponent has not entered the officials for the contest, **“Click to Add Officials for Rating”** will allow you to enter the officials for rating after the event has occurred.
- **Officials may now be rated as a group or individually.**
 - *To rate officials as a group:* simply click the number of the rating.
 - *To rate officials individually:* remove the check mark from the “Rate All Officials” box by clicking on it. Each official’s name will activate. Uncheck any official you do not want to rate or that did not officiate the contest. Click on the number of the rating you want to give to the official.
- **CLICK the “Submit Ratings” Button.**
NOTE: for volleyball the button is labeled “Submit Scores/Ratings” The list of rated officials will appear in the “Details” section of the page.
- **Exit the page by clicking the “Cancel” button.** You will be directed back to your varsity schedule.
- **Repeat** these steps to report the scores and rate officials of all your varsity contests (home or away). Sub-varsity contests may be rated but are not required.



Official’s Ratings may also be accessed through the team’s schedule page. To do this, simply

1. **Access your team’s schedule:** In the left column locate the drop down box labeled “Select Calendar”, using the drop down select your teams calendar from the list.
2. Once your team’s schedule has appeared, **click on the double red stars** in the rating column.
3. Repeat the steps under Number 3 above parts c through h to complete the ratings.

Athletic Administrators receive separate instructions for VOTING for officials at the conclusion of the season.

Please Note:

Officials’ ratings/voting are used for the NEXT season. The officials you rate during the season THIS YEAR, will be assigned to the pool for NEXT YEAR’S tournament.

Miscellaneous Information

Inquiries

Our OHSAA office is here to help as needed, but depending on the time of the year it can be difficult to reach us. However, there are other sources of assistance. Our website (www.ohsaa.org) includes a great deal of information that covers many of the inquiries we often receive. The website provides football regulations, general sport regulations, tournament regulations, uniform regulations, etc. Your OHSFCA Officers are another great resource for you as well. Their contact information can be found on their website (www.ohsfca.net).

Coaches' 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 comments regarding the players, coaches, or schools. Coaches are expected to follow the same procedure. Failure to follow this request will result in disciplinary action.

Pre-Season Parent/Player Meetings

We have encouraged coaches to invite local officials to meet with their team and parents at these meetings. It allows the officials to meet the athletes and discuss new rules. It gives athletes an opportunity to ask questions and have a discussion prior to game days. Since Pre-Season meetings are a requirement for all teams/schools, we also recommended inviting an official to these pre-season meetings. Again, it provides a forum for healthy discussions and an opportunity for parents to learn more about the game.

Pre-season meetings with parents are now **mandatory** and will most likely occur along with other fall sport teams. This is determined by each school's Athletic Administrator. This is the time to cover such things as eligibility requirements, individual school policies, individual sport policies, sportsmanship issues, expectations travel plans for away contests, etc.

Also, though mentioned later in this manual, a course titled "The Role of the Parent in Sports" has recently been offered by the NFHS and is FREE to parents. Encourage them to watch this VERY informative video course. The course is available through the www.nfhslearn.com website.

Wilson & Game Ball Information

- 1) Regular Season – Each team shall provide one or more new or nearly new legal football(s) for use during the game. Ideally, varsity officials should be provided the game ball(s) one hour before the kickoff. Use of a Wilson brand ball is strongly encouraged.
- 2) OHSAA Tournament – The official football of the OHSAA tournament is the Wilson GST. Each team shall provide at least three new or nearly new Wilson footballs (any model) for use during the game. Note: The penalty for a team that uses a football other than a Wilson in tournament play is the forfeiture of all expense reimbursement and ticket bonus, but not to exceed \$2,500.

NFHS: 4 Quarters of Football Helmet Safety

Below is a link to a graphic courtesy of the NFHS website. The graphic emphasizes the “4 Quarters of Football Helmet Safety”. Please view and practice the concepts in the graphic.

[4 Quarters of Football Helmet Safety](#)

Coach Certification & Education Requirements

All coaches of middle school/junior high and high school teams **MUST** have a Pupil Activity Permit issued by the Ohio Department of Education to coach in the state of Ohio. The application for this certificate is available through local schools (usually the Athletic Director). The application requires:

- Completion an approved Sports First Aid Course
- The applicant to possess a valid CPR Card (online CPR is not an accepted method of completion)
- Completion of the required BCI Background Check
- Completion of the NFHS’ “Fundamentals of Coaching” course

The “Fundamentals of Coaching” course through the NFHS is required for **any individual applying for a Pupil Activity Permit online** through the Ohio Department of Education. Any individual that currently possesses the Pupil Activity Permit is required to take the course when applying for a new Permit. Completion of the course is a ‘one-time’ requirement so will not need to be repeated in subsequent renewals of the Pupil Activity Permit. There currently are two methods of completing the course; a “blended” delivery instructed by trained instructors in a classroom setting or “online” accessed through the OHSAA website by clicking on the “Coach Education” logo on the right or going directly to the site at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/EducationAcademy/Coach/default.htm>.

Tournament Entry Forms are completed online and require schools to list their Board of Education approved coaches along with their valid permit number. **ONLY** those coaches listed on this Entry Form and signed by the school Principal will be permitted to coach in the tournament.

“This Week in Football”

Each week (approximately) of the football season, an informative newsletter is posted on the OHSAA’s football webpage to provide current information, helpful suggestions, and current announcements for football coaches (and officials) throughout the state. Questions that may arise during the season can be submitted and answered through this medium for the benefit of ALL coaches in Ohio. I encourage you to provide this link to your assistant/sub-varsity coaches. Each newsletter is archived to allow coaches to view past postings at any time. This link can be accessed directly at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/ft/boys/2015/TWIF2015.htm>

Note on Scheduling & Out-of-State Competition

The first date for GAMES is **Monday, August 24, 2015**.

- You may not play any regular season contest prior to Monday, August 24, 2015.
- If you scrimmage another opponent, it must be part of the other team’s allotted scrimmages also. In other words, it cannot be a ‘scrimmage’ for YOUR team and a regular season contest for the

OTHER team. ANY contest in a non-bordering state MUST be counted as a GAME for both schools involved.

- Teams may not travel out of state **JUST to practice** but may practice while out of state for a contest.
- Teams may travel to a non-bordering state ONE TIME ONLY per season only and MAY NOT MISS ANY SCHOOL FOR TRAVEL OR COMPETITION
-

The adopted and approved penalty for violations of the above are ineligibility for the OHSAA tournament.

Concussion Management

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. Click here <http://ohsaa.org/medicine/AuthorizationToReenter.pdf> 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

New 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.

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:

<http://www.healthy.ohio.gov/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/4Updated%20Interscholastic%20Organization%20Concussion%20Form%20%20ODHpdf.pdf>

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 contact. (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

Ohio Department of Health Concussion Information Sheet

<http://www.healthy.ohio.gov/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/4Updated%20Interscholastic%20Organization%20Concussion%20Form%20%20ODHpdf.pdf>

Online Concussion Management Training : <http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/>

ADDITIONAL CONCUSSION RESOURCES

CDC Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports

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

<http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/schools.html>

Ohio Legislative Service Commissioner HB 143 Bill Analysis

<http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/analyses129/12-hb143-129.pdf>

Brain Injury Association of Ohio

www.biaoh.org

Return to Play Form for Schools

Ohio High School Athletic Association
4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214
PH: 614-267-2502; FAX: 614-267-1677
www.ohsaa.org

Medical Authorization to Return to Play When a Student Has Been Removed Due to a Suspected Concussion

Please follow this link to access the “Return to Play Form”:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/AuthorizationToReenter.pdf>

Lightning and Inclement Weather

Emphasis on Lightning and Inclement Weather is addressed as an OHSAA Sports Regulation (20). Though all officials received these procedures in pre-season communication, it would be wise to review with them prior to the game. The Lightning and Inclement Weather Policy is relative to ALL OHSAA Sports.

WEATHER

Recognition:

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

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

Management:

- **Evacuation-** If lightning is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators shall evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues.
- **Thirty-minute rule-** Competition or practice shall be suspended once lightning has been recognized or thunder is heard. It is required to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard prior to resuming practice or competition. Given the average rates of thunderstorm travel, the storm should move 10-12 miles away from the area. This significantly reduces the risk of local lightning flashes.

Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count shall reset the clock, and another count shall begin.

Bands

- A. It shall be the responsibility of the host school's Athletic Director to notify the visiting school's Athletic Director whether the visiting school's band will be permitted at its homecoming.**
- B. The half-time intermission shall be limited to 20-minutes. The clock will start immediately when both teams and the game officials clear the field. At the conclusion of 20-minutes, a three-minute warm-up period is required for both teams and will be timed on the game clock.**
- C. If the bands of both competing schools are to perform at half-time, no more than 9-minutes shall be allotted to the host schools band for its performance and no more than 9-minutes shall be allotted for the visiting schools band performance.**
- D. A full band is not permitted to play through amplified microphones during the football game.**
- E. Bands shall assemble and stay outside the field of play and end zone until the first half has been completed before coming onto these areas. The same shall be repeated at the end of the game.**
- F. The home team's band shall not be seated behind the visiting team's restraining area which is commonly referred to as the 25 to 25 yard lines.**
- G. Bands shall not play music at football games while the ball is in play, or while signals are being called by the quarterback. This means that it is not permissible to use either:
 - 1. Drum roll or beat**
 - 2. Cymbals clashing**
 - 3. Horn sounds, or**
 - 4. Any other kind of musical instrument while the play is underway in football.****
- H. Roving bands shall be allowed to participate at the discretion of the host Athletic Director. However, such bands shall not perform while the ball is in play or while signals are being called by the quarterback.**

Also, the roving band shall not perform behind the visiting team's bench area. If a roving band is found in violation of this agreement, that band shall be suspended from roving the remainder of that season at any football games.

Questions & Answers

The OHSAA receives a *large* volume of calls and email at the conclusion of the season in regard to what coaches 'can and cannot do'. Though this is not inclusive, a few guidelines are listed below to assist you AND your middle school and sub-varsity coaches. Please remove, copy and share this page with others on your staff. Please go through your Athletic Administrator for questions related to the OHSAA's Bylaws and Sports' Regulations.

#1

Q. A college has contacted one of my players and asked them to participate in a camp. Can I give them all of their equipment?

A. No! Do not allow them participate in a camp in full equipment/pads, they may only use a helmet.

#2

Q. I have been asked to be a volunteer running backs coach at our Junior High School. Is it really necessary to obtain a Pupil Activities Validation Permit?

A. Yes. The Ohio Department of Education requires that every coach have a PAV Permit. You may phone 614-728-5004 to locate classes near you.

#3

Q. My friend is the Head Coach. He said to just show up and not worry about the ODE requirements or school board. He said it only matters for Head Coaches.

A. Whoa! Bad advice for you and the school. All coaches must be approved by the Board of Education. All coaches must meet the Ohio Department of Education criteria. Failure to do so violates OHSAA Bylaws and results in even greater exposure to liability risks for you and the school.

#4

Q. How can I check the heat – humidity factor or heat index and protect the health of our players?

A. Local TV news broadcasts often report the heat index for the day. You may also use a sling – psychrometer. Another readily available option is a digital psychrometer, which is an easy to use tool. Remember to adjust practices when the heat index climbs.

#5

Q. Can I count some of my coaching contact days I use in July as five acclimatization days and go full contact when we start two-a-days?

A. No. Physicians and Athletic Trainers agree on the importance of the first five days of practice being used to acclimate players to the heat and humidity. Beginning August 1st players can practice two days with helmets, shoes and shorts. Days three and four are in helmets and shoulder pads. Day five can be in full uniform. Day six is the first contact day.

#6

Q. One of our varsity soccer players wants to kick for the varsity football team on Friday nights. Should I make him (or her-there are schools that have girl kickers) practice with the football team?

A. Yes. All athletes joining the team for the first time at any point during the season after the first day permitted for coaching also must participate in a five-day acclimatization period prior to any contact drills. There must be an adequate recovery period between practice sessions.

#7

Q. A college has contacted one of my players. He's been told he needs to attend that college's football camp so that he can be evaluated for a scholarship. Our player has asked to use our school's football equipment in order to participate in this contact camp. Should I let him use the equipment?

A. No! Do not allow him to use your equipment. More importantly, do not allow any player to attend a contact football camp. Ohio football players are only permitted to participate in non-contact camps and out-of-

season play. No equipment other than helmets can be worn until the third day of scholastic football practice.

#8

Q. Can members of our team play indoor – arena-style-football after the football season ends.

A. No. Kids can only play non-contact football during the June 1 – July 31 time frame.

#9

Q. Can football players play “flag” or “touch” football in an organized setting in the spring?

A. No. Kids can play non-contact football, but only during the June 1 – July 31 time frame.

#10

Q. Must a physician be in attendance at all our football games?

A. Certainly having a physician or trainer on-site and available for any football game is highly desirable. Likewise, it is desirable to have a squad of EMT's at games. There is no OHSAA requirement that physicians, trainers or EMT's (squad) be present at regular season football games.

#11

Q. Can a student-athlete use summer school to become eligible in the fall?

A. Students cannot establish eligibility through summer school grades. Eligibility is established at the conclusion of the final grading period of the year for the first grading period of the following year. It may be permissible for a student-athlete to raise his GPA through a summer school. Check with your Principal.

#12

Q. What is meant by non-contact football? What can we do in June and July?

A. A working definition of **contact** football is: Player to Player contact that is normal activity in the game or practicing of football (i.e., blocking, tackling, hitting). Therefore, such activity is not permissible in the period of time that allows non-contact football. During June and July non-contact passing leagues and games are permitted. The use of padded equipment, such as hand-held dummies, would be permitted during drills and instruction. Players are prohibited from wearing football equipment except for a helmet and shoes.

#13

Q. What is the definition of non-contact as it applies to football practice, especially the first five days of practice?

A. No person on person contact is permitted until day six of practice. Use of hand-held dummies, sleds and stand-alone dummies is permissible.

#14

Q. A freshman coach was ejected from the freshman game on Thursday. Can he help coach the varsity team on Friday night?

A. No. The freshman coach is ineligible to coach in any game until he sits out one freshman game.

#15

Q. What is the penalty for a coach or coaches who exceed the 10 day coaching limit during June and July?

A. The penalty is at the discretion of the OHSAA Commissioner. Previous violations have resulted in coaching suspensions, reduction in future coaching contact days, probation for the football program and monetary fines. Intentionally violating OHSAA regulations may lead to denial of tournament participation.

#16

Q. I am a junior high coach. I have a student that has reported for practice, but we're already in the sixth day. Does he have to go through acclimatization? Does he have to practice for 10 days before being allowed to participate in a scrimmage?

A. Yes to both questions. In addition, a student-athlete must practice 15 days before entry into a game.

Specific Information for Officials



Tournament Selection Process



Tournament selection and contracting is done through the *myOHSAA* management system. It is utilized to capture and certify the availability and eligibility of OHSAA tournament eligible officials in ALL sports. All officials who are tournament eligible are sent an email with step-by-step instructions on how to access and complete the OHSAA tournament application. Applications **must** be completed in *myOHSAA* by the posted deadline and officials will receive this notification approximately 14-20 days prior to the application deadline.

Contracts for tournament contests are issued electronically through the *myOHSAA* system. The OHSAA office is responsible for all of the football tournament's assignments.

Being an OHSAA tournament ELIGIBLE official is **not a guarantee** of an OHSAA Tournament assignment.

Ejection Protocol

Officials shall file a report with the school and the OHSAA office whenever a coach or player is ejected from an athletic contest. Officials will file the report by clicking the "Submit New Ejection Form" from their *myOHSAA* profile Dashboard. The report shall be filed with the reported school and the OHSAA within 48 hours of the ejection. Whenever an ejection occurs, the ejecting official shall speak with the offender's principal/athletic director no later than the first school day following the ejection. An official failing to follow the ejection protocol and/or failing to file the Official's Report may be penalized in accordance with Section 7 of the OHSAA Handbook for Officials.

The "Official's Report" form is also used to report good or poor sportsmanship, severe injuries, facility problems, or equipment problems. Ejections other than players or coaches and other items of which the Commissioner should be made aware must be provided.

General Ejection Procedures

General Sports' Regulation 10.2 (passed by the OHSAA's Board of Directors in 2008) requires any coach ejected from a contest (paid OR volunteer) to complete the **Teaching and Modeling Behavior** course through the NFHS and submit payment of a \$100.00 fine within 30 days of the ejection.

Handbook for Officials

All officials are responsible for being knowledgeable and practicing the content found in the Handbook for Officials, found here: [Handbook for Officials](#)

Pre-Game Public Address Script

The Board of Education, Superintendent, Principal and Athletic Council of

_____ (Host School)_____ High School extends to each of you a cordial welcome. We are pleased that you are here (today) (tonight).

_____ (Visiting School)_____ High School and the
_____ (Home School)_____ High School are members of the Ohio High School Athletic Association and abide by high standards of conduct, competition and relations with member schools.

The athletes in this game are friendly rivals. While play may be fierce, all in attendance (today) (tonight) are reminded that this is a game between youngsters and that sporting behavior is expected.

The officials assigned to this game have been selected and assigned according to the procedures adopted by the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the _____(League/Conference)_____.

The officials are:

Referee _____
Umpire _____
Linesman _____
Line Judge _____
Back Judge _____

And now the introduction of the players for each team.

Coaches' Code of Ethics



From the NFHS Football 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 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.

Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship is EVERYONE'S Responsibility!

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 Official's Role in Sportsmanship

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 exactly is at Stake
2. What is Expected of Officials, and,
3. What steps need to be taken



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.

Sportsmanship for Parents

The NFHS has made a NO COST online course available to PARENTS...to help them understand their role in their son/daughter's athletic career. The course is titled “The Role of the Parent in Sports” and is easily accessible through the “Learning Center” at www.nfhslearn.com. And, again...it is FREE and a good tool for coaches to use in dealing with parents.

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 football 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.

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 shooter, a great rebounder or a great free-throw shooter. 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.

OHSAA Resources

On our website (www.ohsaa.org – click on “Sportsmanship” on the right side of the screen) 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, the newly adopted “Respect the Game Challenge” and the Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award. Please feel free to contact us with any additional questions.

XVII. Addendum A: OHSAA Guide to Officials: Being a Good Guest

Sport officials play an important and integral role in the fulfillment of contests providing educational value to high school young men and women. Our conduct and handling of situations provides an important contribution to the development of participants and high school spectators. You represent the very integrity of the game. Your conduct before, during, and after the contest will reflect and ultimately shape attitudes towards authority figures and sports officials in general. As a contest official, you represent not only yourself and your respective association, but all officials and the OHSAA.

Prior to the Contest

1. Respond promptly to a contract offer to officiate.
2. If the school attempts to contact you to confirm the game, inform you of changes or important details such as change of venue, opponent, Senior Night, time, respond promptly. Return all calls and emails timely and professionally.
3. Call the school to confirm if the school has not called you. Leave your cell phone number if available. If possible, obtain a contact and number that you can call if a last minute issue arrives.
4. Email the Athletic Director. Secure a phone number to call on the day of the contest if travel complications arise.
5. Get directions so you know where the contest is held, particularly if it is not on school grounds.

Arrival at the Site

1. Be courteous to all you meet. The memory of your conduct will last long after the game.
2. Park intelligently. Avoid areas where boosters may be congregating. If officiating a sport where your locker room is the parking lot – be aware of what can be seen. Be discreet and as invisible as possible.
3. Let the AD/coach know you are at the site.
4. Dress in a manner that reflects well upon yourself, other officials, and the OHSAA. Be mindful of team colors in your dress. Dressing in a bright red shirt as you officiate the “Big Red” may cause some speculation from an opponent.

Dressing Room

1. Check to see if there are changes to the event schedule.
2. Take care of any requested paperwork or vouchers.
3. Treat the dressing room appropriately and respectfully. Leave it in better shape than when you arrived. Place all towels that were provided in one central area.
4. Don't leave bottles or trash strewn about. Gather and secure all trash in appropriate containers as you leave. Leave the room or area in better condition than how you found it.
5. If the game was on an outside venue, don't clean your shoes on the walls or floors.
6. Realize that not every school will be able to provide food or drink. Do not take any frustration out on those helping you or working the concession stand. Treat everyone you encounter with respect and dignity.
7. Don't expect or ask for any special favors or entitlements. You are there to officiate, not be honored.
8. Appreciate whatever is provided.
9. Say “please” and “thank you” and “you are welcome.” They go a long way.

Contest Site

1. Arrive ahead of time; be there as the respective sport requires.
2. Enter together, as a crew. Leave together, as a team.
3. Be friendly, yet firm as needed in gaining cooperation to have any site needed changes made. Explain the need. Be patient; be understanding; but be professionally firm. It is about the players.
4. Ignore the fans unless they are inciting players on the opposing team, using insulting/offensive/abusive language. Do not tolerate gestures or behavior that prevents you from performing your role.
5. Smile occasionally. Let your body language reflect that you are glad to be at the game.
6. Most schools have a no tobacco policy for their premises. Respect their policy and abide by it. Do not use tobacco while on school grounds or fields.

After the Game

1. Shower and pack in a timely manner. Don't hang around. School personnel want to leave as well.
2. Ensure the dressing room is tidy and picked up. Turn off all showers and leave towels in one place. Turn off lights as you leave.

3. Leave with only what you brought. Take no towels, balls, souvenirs.
4. Thank those who helped you. Be gracious even if you were not treated as you deserved.
5. Don't leave any trash/bottles/etc. in the parking lot as you leave.
6. Be the guest whom the host wants to have return.

Some officials bring joy wherever they are; other officials bring joy only whenever they leave.

Addendum B: OHSAA Guide to Being a Good Host

In general, treat officials in the same manner as a guest in your home. Your fans, supporters, coaches, and players will emulate how you treat officials. Show how you value the role officials perform by treating them with respect and in a professional manner.

Introduction

Officials play an extremely important, integral role in an interscholastic athletic event. Yet we are facing an increasing shortage of officials in most sports and activities. How one hosts and treats officials when the event is their responsibility speaks volumes in showing the respect and appreciation for their role, effort, and hard work in these educational contests. Providing officials with a welcoming atmosphere and basic essentials for the several hours they will be at your event will benefit everyone. By showing your appreciation, more officials will continue in this avocation and will help the OHSAA to continue to build and maintain a strong base of experienced, competent officials.

The OHSAA recognizes that the school administration has many duties and responsibilities on game day and nights. There are also limitations with regard to facilities, funding, and staffing. It is our hope that you will consider the suggestions provided in this publication and put into practice as many as possible. Officials ask no more than what you expect of them – to give it your best. Thank you for hosting and treating officials in the best possible manner. Ultimately, it is in your best interest.

Prior to the Contest

1. Ensure there are contracts for all your games and activities.
2. Obtain the list of the officials assigned to your games and double check dates/times/locations.
3. Have an alphabetical list of your upcoming event officials along with contact numbers in case of a cancellation/postponement/delay.
4. Officials are to contact you to confirm date, time, and site several days in advance of the contest. If you do not hear from an official, do not assume all is okay.
5. Inform officials of any special parking instructions, who will be there to meet them upon their arrival, and details of any special ceremonies such as homecoming, senior night, etc.
6. Notify officials when there are changes, postponements, or delays.
7. Take appropriate measures to provide security for officials before, during, and after the game.
8. Insure that the playing surface/field is properly prepared for the contest: well-maintained; lined properly; team and official areas marked in accordance with NFHS diagrams; no safety hazards; scoreboards and horns/buzzers operating; PA system in working condition.
9. Provide trained individuals to perform needed game functions – scorekeepers, timers, table workers, announcers, site managers. Have at least one experienced individual on site.
10. Provide proper medical personnel at the contest. Notify the officials who they are and where they will be during the event. If there are special procedures for requesting emergency medical assistance, please advise the officials. Let the officials know where safe shelter is located in the event of inclement weather or a weather emergency.

Day of the Event

1. Reserve appropriate number of parking spots for officials.
2. Have your host greet and meet the officials upon their arrival and escort them to their dressing room.
3. Provide a clean, spacious private area to be used as a dressing and/or meeting room. If there are male and female officials, provide appropriate accommodations for everyone.
 - a. The facility should have a toilet and a shower if possible. Make sure there are enough chairs and lockers that can be locked available.
 - b. The areas should not be used by coaches or other school personnel during the contest.
 - c. Provide water, sport/energy drinks, soda for half-time and after the game. Having a cooler with the drinks in them is very convenient.
 - d. Officials will spend several hours or more in getting to, working, and leaving the contest. Many will not have eaten for many hours so some snacks are most appreciated.
 - e. Provide towels if possible.
 - f. Insure the showers are working and providing hot water.

- g. Escort the officials to and from the dressing room. Notify them of time remaining at half-time. Be sure to lock the room when the officials leave and have the room unlocked prior to the officials returning. Having to wait for the room to be unlocked provides an opportunity for unfortunate situations.
4. Provide officials with any needed instructions for the contest: pre-game times, names of bench personnel, and information on special pre-game or half-time ceremonies.
5. Make sure the officials are aware of any special conference policies or procedures.
6. Have needed paperwork for game payment available upon the officials' arrival. Provide proper security for the completed papers. Make them aware of when the check should be mailed.
7. Provide officials with properly inflated game balls, pucks, softballs, baseballs, etc. Have extras available if needed.

During the Contest

1. Set high expectations with your coaches in regard to their sportsmanship and behavior and insist they do the same with their players. If coaches and players role model proper behavior towards an official, the fans may behave properly.
2. Read the OHSAA statement about sportsmanship and officials.
3. Introduce the officials prior to the starting lineups.
4. Make sure site managers understand clear instructions as to their duties and responsibilities.
5. Ensure proper arrangements have been made and that plans are in place to contact appropriate personnel in case of an emergency.
6. Keep all locker rooms, dressing areas, and other areas used by officials, players, and coaches clear from unauthorized personnel.
7. Have trainers and doctors available when possible.
8. Make arrangements to have supplies available to clean up any blood/bodily fluids. Provide proper maintenance to clean floors, wrestling mats, etc. as needed.
9. Have someone carefully observe the contest and the spectators and be prepared to handle problems as necessary and appropriate. Handle those that might directly affect the officials and their ability to work the game.
10. Be prepared to support officials and assist fully with any request that they may have in regard to problems with spectators. Remove a spectator when requested or needed.
11. Inform the officials of the best means to find and communicate with you or the site manager during the contest.
12. If necessary, have someone serve as ball personnel (football, soccer); retrieve balls (volleyball, basketball), return foul balls (baseball, softball).
 - a. Require Chain Crew and the Timer to meet with the Football crew prior to the game.
 - b. Have someone notify the Basketball crew when there are 3 minutes left before the end of the halftime intermission.

After the Contest

1. Provide an escort to ensure that the officials return safely to their dressing rooms.
2. Do not allow unauthorized individuals access to the officials.
3. Provide refreshments for the officials after the contest whenever possible.
4. Be prepared to provide an escort for the officials to their cars when needed.
5. Regardless of the outcome, show respect and appreciation for their hard work and efforts. Thank the officials, and better yet, have your players and coaches thank them.
6. Have your coach submit officials' ratings on-line in an appropriate, timely manner.