

*The Ohio High School Athletic Association*

*August 27, 2014*

*POSSIBLY time to take a breather with all sports under way. Believe it or not, tournaments are just around the corner. So, this is a great time to catch up, work ahead and tackle a few things that will occur all over again for winter sports.*

### Football Game Week 1

Fans think you just 'watch games'. They have no idea what goes into game week in Football. Remember to report your scores into the myOHSAA system. This is critical to allow us to keep up on Harbin ratings as well as reporting statewide scores to the media. I know you have others but please get it into myOHSAA as soon as possible following the game.

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### The No-Contact Period Ends – The Individual Instruction Regulation Begins & Fall Baseball

This is the second year that school coaches are permitted to provide INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION outside the season of play. This begins Tuesday following Labor Day – September 2. Basketball Coaches will be the first that will start taking advantage of this and **they are all being emailed a detailed explanation of this on Thursday, Aug. 27.** This is a very rigid regulation and despite coaches often indicating “they heard you could do ‘this’ or ‘that’....”, ALL the ‘what if’s’ have been answered in the list of Q and A’s for Basketball Coaches attached to this email. The Regulation (OHSAA General Sports Regulation 8.2) is **not a ‘workout regulation’**. It is a regulation permitting coaches to INSTRUCT INDIVIDUALS in skills such as shooting, dribbling, hitting, pitching, etc. Many coaches WANT to turn this into off-season “Team Workouts” and the parameters simply do not permit it. It is important to remember the intended purposes AND understand the limitations that prohibit this from being utilized improperly. There is a short presentation (10 minutes) you can watch and also share with your staff at this link: <http://ohsaa.articulate-online.com/4244037503>  
I have also attached a copy of a “Fall Baseball” information posting that is being sent to all BASEBALL coaches. You should find this helpful and it is also on our website at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/2014/TWIB14/2014TWIB3.pdf>

### Having a “Kick for the Cure” game? – And...Other “Special Permits”

Each sport offers the ability to waive regular NFHS Uniform Regulations permitting such items as “pink” jerseys (where white might normally be required) or use an organization’s logo on a jersey for the dedicated event. Simply make the request to the respective sport administrator at the OHSAA by navigating to a “Special Event Request at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/SOspecialeventuniformrequest.pdf> Though the waiver you will find is specific to “Soccer”, it is a “Word” document and you can alter it for any sport you wish to request. Also, if you have a medical request (golf cart in golf matches, insulin pumps, etc., or religious uniform requests (generally with leg or headware), simply make that request on your school letterhead in a fax/email to the OHSAA including the name and grade of the student-athlete and the sport for which you are requesting. A formal permit will be issued so you can show the official prior to the contest.

### Have a Soccer Player that Decided to Kick for the Football Team – Late “Arrival” for Football?

Football is a ‘numbers game’ and this occurs all the time. A common question arises “does that player still need to go through the acclimation period” since they have been running in pre-season soccer for the past few weeks? The answer is “YES”, they do. Even a kicker must be taught the correct methods of tackling, the wearing of safety equipment, etc. So, no matter WHEN they come out – they must acclimate.

And, I am often asked if there is a ‘cutoff’ date in which no one is permitted to join a team. The OHSAA does NOT have one but many school’s choose to develop one.

### Rating and Voting for Officials - myOHSAA Tips and Reminders

This is important, especially now that events are under way and you can focus attention on ‘other things’. Tournament assignments for officials are based upon a combination of RATING and VOTING. Coaches Rate **NOW** – Athletic Directors (and others) Vote **AT THE END OF THE SEASON**. Since this is critical to insure the best officials receive tournament assignments, everyone MUST do their part or face fines at the end of the season. A few simple reminders to insure this happens:

- Make SURE your CONTESTS are entered into the myOHSAA Data Management System
  - o Though the system is to help you with contracting, etc., only VARSITY CONTESTS need to be entered
- Make SURE your OFFICIALS are entered into the myOHSAA Data Management System
  - o This is ESPECIALLY critical for sports in which you have an ‘outside’ assignor assigning officials in the system to RATE officials. Put a date in your calendar (let’s say September 10) to send a memo to all your head coaches reminding them to rate their officials. On or about that time, I’ll be sending you a reminder as well and a detailed explanation (it is simple!) on how they do this. You will be able to forward these simple instructions to them.

### Looking Ahead

This is a great time to send a short memo to all Fall Sport Coaches in your school reminding them:

- Not to add ANY player until YOU check their eligibility and approve them (to help YOU!)
- To REMIND their players about Non-Interscholastic Rules
- That 7-8 graders are NOT permitted to practice or play with 9-12
- Send a note to coaches reminding them of their Tournament Seed/Draw Dates (more on this coming up)
- Download their Coaches’ Guides/Pre-Season Manuals from their respective sport website at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)

Take a look at the MANY free resources that are helpful to them, please and reports at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)