



# Ohio High School Athletic Association

## “Soccer Out of Season Regulations for Players & Coaches” OHSAA General Sports Regulations 7, 8 & 9

For explanation purposes, the “Out-of-Season” period is defined as the period:

- Outside the defined season of play (official start date to team’s last contest),
- Outside the “No-Contact Period”
- Outside of June 1 – July 31

Below is an overview of the “Out-of-Season” Regulations and its effect on coaches and players. Indoor Soccer and “Futsal” are addressed at the end of this document. This document does NOT describe the permissions granted within OHSAA General Sports Regulation 8.2 that permits coaches to provide Individual Instruction outside the season of play.

### COACHES

1. All OHSAA sponsored sports have a defined Start Date and End Date for each sport season.
2. Sports Regulation 7 defines all activities that can be conducted by coaches and participated in by players during ‘Out-of-Season’ time.  
**COMMENT:** All Sports Regulations are approved annually by the OHSAA’s elected Board of Directors that represent the schools that voluntarily join the OHSAA. Their voluntary membership (which is free) is also an agreement to monitor, comply and administrate the OHSAA’s Sport Regulations.
3. During the Out-of-Season period, school coaches for grades 9-12 are not permitted to coach individuals in grades 9-12 that played for **their school team** the previous season in team play at any time.  
**COMMENT:** A school **7-8 coach** may coach an individual in **grades 9-12** in team play during the Out-of-Season period.
4. During the Out-of-Season period, school coaches in grades 7-8 are not permitted to coach individuals in grades 7-8 that played for **their school team** in team play at any time.  
**COMMENT:** A school 9-12 coach may coach an individual in grades 7-8 in team play during the Out-of-Season period.
5. Players grade is considered to be the current grade they played in the previous season until August 1 of the next school year.  
**EXAMPLE:** An 8<sup>th</sup> grader that played soccer for Spiro T. Agnew Junior High during the previous season remains considered an 8<sup>th</sup> grader for this regulation until August 1 of the next school year.
6. Volunteer coaches and Paid coaches must comply with all regulations.  
**COMMENT:** All individuals in the state of Ohio that work with student-athletes as part of a school program whether paid or volunteer, are required to be approved by their respective Boards of Education (or governing body). Therefore, there is no distinction regarding off-season regulations whether a coach is paid or not and must comply. ALL must comply.
7. Coaches that indicate they will not return to coach the team the next season are still under the Out-of-Season Regulations for the school they coached at the previous season.
8. There is no regulation that would prohibit a school coach from coaching individuals in team play from other schools.
9. There is no regulation that would prohibit a school coach from coaching individuals in team play that played for a non-member school.  
**COMMENT:** Many middle schools/junior highs are members of the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) and not the OHSAA. Individuals that play in the CYO programs and do NOT play for the school are not under OHSAA regulations and therefore there is no regulation prohibiting school coaches from coaching them.
10. A school coach (paid OR volunteer) that is also a parent of a player that plays for the same school is not provided an exception that would permit him/her to coach his/her son/daughter on an out-of-season team.  
**EXAMPLE:** Mary Doe is a volunteer assistant coach for Will Ferrell High School’s girls’ soccer team. Mary has a daughter that played freshmen soccer during the previous season for WFHS. Mary is NOT permitted to coach a ‘travel/club’ team outside the season of play that her daughter is on - except during June and July.
11. School Administrators are expected and required to monitor compliance as a condition of membership in the OHSAA.
12. Attendance at any Out-of-Season Activity cannot be made mandatory nor considered to be criteria for team selection in the coming year.

### PLAYERS

1. Individuals that played for a school sponsored team the previous season are governed by the Out-of-Season Regulations.
2. Individuals that played for a school sponsored team the previous season are permitted to receive INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION anytime during the season or out-of-season. They may receive this instruction individually OR in a group **BUT** the instruction must be INDIVIDUAL instruction.  
**COMMENT:** Individuals are not permitted to receive TEAM instruction. This prohibits a group of players that played for a school team the previous season from getting together and being coached in team concepts outside the season.

## A few common Q and A's regarding coaching OUT-OF-SEASON:

**Q:** Can I coach athletes from my school's team in the off-season?

**A:** No. Current regulations prohibit you from coaching individuals from your school in TEAM or INDIVIDUAL instruction anytime outside the season of play (except of course during June and July).

**Q:** Can I coach athletes from other schools in the off-season?

**A:** Yes. There is no regulation that would prohibit you from coaching athletes at any level from another school. In fact, we would encourage it.

**Q:** How many players from our school are permitted to be on the same NON-school team (such as club or travel)?

**A:** No more than 5 players that played for the 9-12 school team(s) are permitted to be on the same NON-school team anytime outside the season of play except during June and July.

**Q:** When are players from our school team permitted to play for their 'club' or 'travel' team (non-interscholastic team)?

**A:** As soon as their season is complete.

**Q:** If a player is a JV player only, do they have to wait until the Varsity team is out of the OHSAA Tournament before playing in club or travel soccer?

**A:** No, however, once a player DOES play in club or travel soccer (non-interscholastic), they are not eligible to dress or compete on the tournament roster.

**Q:** Are players from our school team permitted to play "Futsal" in excess of the 50% limitation?

**A:** Yes. Since Futsal is played on a 'unique' surface AND a different ball is used, it does not fall under normal OHSAA Soccer Regulations.

**Q:** If players are permitted to play Futsal outside the season of play in excess of the 50% limitation, does that mean I can coach my own players in Futsal?

**A:** No. It is still not permissible to coach players that played on your own school team the previous season (except graduating seniors).

## Indoor Soccer

Over the course of the past several years, there has been an increase in the number of Indoor facilities being built across the state. Years ago, generally the only place Indoor Soccer could take place was in Ice Arenas. At that time, the OHSAA adopted the understanding and subsequent policy that "Indoor Soccer" was permitted in excess of the 50% limitation of players (5 from a school). However, as newer and LARGER facilities were being built, an interpretation appeared to have developed that basically led coaches to believe that "if it was played INDOORS, it was legal". That was **never** the interpretation that existed and every effort will be undertaken through this mailing and Rules Interpretation meetings to correct this misunderstanding.

### **Per OHSAA Soccer Sport Regulations:**

*Participation in indoor soccer is not a violation of OHSAA non-interscholastic team Sports' Regulation 7.3 for student-athletes provided the rules of The United States Soccer Federation(USSF) **Indoor Soccer Rules** are followed that specifically include the team limitations outlined in these rules and the facilities uses 'boards' as outlined within these same rules.*

Key Points:

1. Team limitations defined in USSF Indoor Soccer Regulations must be followed (the number of players on a side)
2. "Boards" must be used as are required in the official USSF Rules of Indoor Soccer.
3. Field Dimensions required in USSF Indoor Soccer Regulations must be used to permit players to play in excess of the '50% player limitations'.

## "Futsal"

Many facilities are now offering "Futsal" leagues. The OHSAA currently interprets Futsal being different than the sport of soccer, due to the type and size of the ball used, the field dimensions, etc. Playing in "Futsal" is not in violation of the OHSAA Non-Interscholastic Team Sports Regulation provided they are playing under the **official rules of Futsal**. You can read about these rules at: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Futsal> Therefore, players that played for school teams the previous season may play Futsal in excess of the '5 player per team' rule. However, as stated earlier, school coaches may not coach players that played for their school teams the previous season – except of course during June and July.