WELCOME (just a bit early) to the 2015 OHSAA Field Hockey Season! I am honored to continue serving you and the OHSAA as the Director of Officiating Development for our sport. For those of you who do not know me, I am an official, instructor, and association secretary from the Northeast District and look forward to getting to know each and every one among our officiating community.

This will be brief but you’ll find an attachment illustrating rule changes that go into effect for the upcoming season.

**Item 1:** Please remember to renew your OHSAA Permit in a timely fashion. Renewals take place for all OHSAA sports during the month of June. (Late renewals are more expensive...) These are online at [http://officials.myohsaa.org/LogOn?ReturnUrl=%2fOfficials](http://officials.myohsaa.org/LogOn?ReturnUrl=%2fOfficials).

**Item 2:** We will be conducting a face-to-face State Rules Interpretation Meeting again this year. I look forward to seeing your smiling faces as we meet to discuss the impact of playing raised balls (danger), coach’s responsibility for proper/legal equipment, and a few other issues. Here are the meeting dates and times:

- **Mon., Aug. 3** Shaker Hts. Hathaway Brown School 7:15 p.m. Paul Maes 19600 N. Park Boulevard, 44122 Dining Hall
- **Tues., Aug. 4** Columbus Bexley High School 7:15 p.m. Kara Whitlatch 326 S. Cassingham Road, 43209 High School Theater
- **Wed., Aug. 5** Dayton Oakwood High School 7:15 p.m. Joy Manning 1200 Far Hills Avenue Dayton, OH 45419

**SCHEDULED MAKE-UP MEETING FOR COACHES AND OFFICIALS:** Site and date will be determined as needed. $50.00 REGISTRATION FEE REQUIRED FOR THIS MEETING ONLY. To schedule a special make-up meeting: Contact Rick Pollak at the information listed above.
Item 3:  Field Hockey Umpire Classes: OHSAA Umpire Training Classes are being offered in 3 places this year. Mike Burwell will be offering a class in Central Ohio beginning July 12th. I will be offering classes in the Northeast beginning on July 30th and in Southwest beginning on August 14th. If you know anyone who might possibly be interested, please have them contact Mike or myself (WMTC2001@YAHOO.COM or diamondumpire@gmail.com respectively) for information and a direct invitation to sign up for these classes.

My classes are open, at no charge, to experienced officials who may want to sit in and/or help out as we work our way through the classroom and on field training sessions of my classes. (I’m looking for some volunteers to help out on some of the class sessions and I’m guessing that Mike may also welcome you. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.) Note: A special thank you to Coach Don Johnson for his involvement as we focus some of our training efforts on the Southwest District!

Item 4: The Officials Observation Program, initiated during last season’s tournament play, proved to be quite helpful to me and I hope also to the officials that were observed. Please remember that the constructive criticism that you may have received is intended to be thought provoking and helpful rather than a threat. We intend to continue that program moving forward.

Please feel free to contact me:
- Sharing game situations that you struggle with or feel others may benefit from
- Questions regarding NFHS (or Ohio Adoptions) new rules or interpretations
- Questions regarding NFHS (or Ohio Adoptions) Points of Emphasis
- Suggested areas to be addressed in future umpire bulletins
- Or, if you just want to chat about the game

Your ideas (without your name) will be considered for inclusion in subsequent bulletins!

Have a great summer!