Ohio High School Athletic Association

2016 Field Hockey Notes

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WELCOME (just a bit early) to the 2016 OHSAA Field Hockey Season! I am honored to continue serving you and the OHSAA as your Director of Officiating Development and State Rules Interpreter for our sport. I enjoyed meeting most of you at last year’s face-to-face state rules interpretation meetings. I look forward to continuing to work in tandem with each of you in an effort to grow the sport in the state of Ohio and in surrounding areas.

This bulletin will be brief but will review a couple of important items.

Item 1 ~ Field Hockey Umpire Clinic Announcement (for CURRENT UMPIRES): I’m excited to inform the OHSAA Umpiring Community that a one day clinic is being planned (tentatively) for Saturday, July 23rd in the Columbus area (9:30 AM – 4:00 PM). This is something that I had hoped to do last year, and it did not come to fruition. This year’s clinic is going to be open to All High School Field Hockey Officials and will emphasize several areas of concern that have been raised through our Umpire Improvement Program. As details become finalized, I’ll share more information, but I do anticipate having some very high level officials (from Ohio and beyond) as instructors. There will be field work as well as a classroom session or two. PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

Item 2 ~ OHSAA Officiating Permit Renewals: Please remember to renew your OHSAA Permit for the new school year 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 the MyOHSAA site and accessible from your Dashboard (http://officials.myohsaa.org/LogOn?ReturnUrl=%2fOfficials). You should have received an email reminder from the OHSAA this week.

Item 3 ~ Concussion Certification Reminder: Ohio Law, effective in the spring of 2013, requires that any individual working any sport with youth (under age 18) hold a concussion training certificate. Certificates are valid for a three year period, so many of our officials need to renew their certification before stepping out on the field this year. Officials can check the date of their certification by logging into MyOHSSA. Once on your Dashboard, find “My Concussion Certification” in the left hand column. There, you can access a concussion course OR you can enter your new Certificate Number.
**Item 4 ~ State Rules Meetings:** We will be conducting this year’s State Rules Interpretation Meeting online. Officials and School Representatives (Coaches) are required to view one State Rules Meeting each year in each sport where they participate. The meeting will become available sometime in late July and will be accessible, without charge, for about three weeks. Each of you will be advised when it goes live.

**Item 5: Field Hockey Umpire Classes** (for NEW UMPIRES): We continue see attrition in our officiating team. These umpires need to be replaced, especially as we add new Club and High School teams. To that end, OHSAA Umpire Training Classes are being offered in 3 locations again this year. Classes will be offered Central, Southwestern, and Northeast Ohio. If you know anyone who might possibly be interested, please have them contact one of us. PLEASE SHARE THE NAMES AND EMAIL ADDRESSES OF ANY PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS. (These might include former players, coaches, or officials from other sports).

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Feel free to contact any of us with questions.

**Item 6:** Our Umpire Improvement Program has now been in place for two seasons and has proved to be quite helpful to me, and I hope also to the officials being 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.

There will be more bulletins prior to and during the season. Please contact me with potential issues/situations for inclusion in those:

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

Your ideas will be considered for (anonymous) inclusion in subsequent bulletins!

*Have a great summer!*