NEW RULES: Hopefully everyone has had the opportunity to participate in the State Online Rules Interpretation Meeting by now. My apologies to those who had a difficult time hearing my portion. I'll try to get over my shyness and shout a bit more next year. 😊 Please remember that every official and each school are required to complete the State Rules Meeting by midnight on August 31, 2016. The presentation may be viewed after that date with payment of a $50.00 penalty. As indicated, there are eight Rule Changes and those should be pretty clear at this point. As a part of a major rewrite, there were a tremendous number of Editorial Changes in the book. Officials have received new rule books, but coaches only automatically receive new books every other year. (I encourage coaches ask their athletic administrators to purchase copies from OHSAA this year. Another source is http://www.nfhs.org/ebooks/ for $5.99.)

Rule 12.3.1, on page 59, indicates “Use of video monitoring, replay equipment or personal wireless communication devices during the game by coaches is permitted outside of the team area.” As indicated in the State Rules Meeting, by OSHAA adoption, the areas from which these may be used are limited to a press box or any stands. This would include any permanent seating area such as bleachers as in a stadium or bleacher stands that may be moved in and out for different sports.

- Please remember that we cannot permit coaching to take place from outside of the team area (and behind the team line). So no coach is permitted be in or utilize a radio, cell phone, or a camera from the spectator area along the sideline. They must be in the stands or in the press box.
- These electronic devices are permitted for coaching purposes only and may not be shown to officials (or shared with the media) for the purpose of either questioning a call or discrediting an official’s judgement. We would expect any coaches who may be seated among parents and fans to abide by the OHSAA Coaches Code of Conduct.
- The electronic devices are permitted but not required. Therefore, one team may choose to utilize these while their opponent may not.
- These devices may be independent of a facility’s radio system in which case the home team is not required to provide access to the facility’s system. However, when the home team chooses to utilize its facility’s radio system (as that used for football) during a contest, the home team administration shall also provide access to the visiting team.
PRESEASON RULES REMINDERS:

- **SAFETY** is our primary concern! Rule 1.6.7 (page 21) indicates that “Required equipment shall not be modified from its original manufactured state and shall be worn as intended by the manufacturer.”
  - **Goggles**: Rule 1.6.5 (page 20) indicates that “All field players shall wear eye protection that meets the current ASTM standard for Field Hockey.
  - **Mouthguards**: Rule 1.6.1 (page 20) indicates that all players shall wear mouth protectors (not completely white or clear) and makes recommendations about these fitting properly.
  - **Jewelry** is addressed in Rule 1.5.5 (page 19) and is prohibited “except for religious or medical medals.” A religious medal must be taped and worn under the uniform. A medical-alert bracelet must be taped and may be visible.

- **RULE ENFORCEMENT**: The official’s jurisdiction begins when one official arrives on the field. The official’s jurisdiction ends and the final score is approved when the officials leave the field at game’s conclusion (Rule 2.1.1; page 27). Where issues arise, at least in some parts of the state, is that we need to do a better job of enforcing the safety rules mentioned above.
  - **First steps**: Rule 2.1.4 (page 27) indicates that the officials should arrive approximately 15 minutes prior to the game and examine the field paying particular attention to:
    - **Field Equipment and Lines** (goal cages, field markings, placement of team benches, etc.) Rule 2.1.4.a.1-4
    - **Observe and check teams during warm-ups** (jewelry, eye protection, mouth protectors, etc.) Rule 2.1.4.d.1-5
  - **Summary**: Players who are participating in warm-ups that involve a stick and/or a ball must be wearing eye and mouth protection. These must be worn properly and according to the manufactured state. (Mouth guards and made to be worn in the mouth; goggles should cover the eyes, even during warm-ups.) Players who are on the field, by NFHS Rules are not permitted to be wearing jewelry.
  - **Next Steps**: If during the pregame field examination, it is determined that there are issues or deficiencies of the field, I’m sure that most officials bring that to the attention of the game administrator and get it fixed to ensure safety and fair play. We also need to address mouth guards, goggles, and jewelry in a similar manner. PLEASE bring any and all infraction of this nature to the attention of the coach (or site manager if no coach is available) and have the player removed from the field until she is properly equipped as required by NFHS Rules. (Coaches: For your own protection, these regulations also apply to practice sessions.)
    - **The result** will be a safe warm-up, a safe contest, and fewer misconduct cards.

- **Thank you for your cooperation on this.** If we enforce this consistently from the first scrimmage to the first game, and throughout the season, we’ll end up helping the coaches to oversee the administrative issues and let them actually coach their players during the actual games.
Illegally Uniformed Team: Rule 1.5.6. PENALTY 2 (Page 19) indicated that “When an illegally uniformed team is unable to correct the situation or cannot verify state association approval of a uniform, the game shall be played...” This applies to uniforms and not to required equipment! In Ohio, the game shall be played, the head coach shall be issued a Green Card (misconduct) at the time of the Captains Meeting, and one of the two officials (table-side official by default in Ohio) shall send an email to dmoore@ohsaa.org indicating the offending school, game level, and date of the contest.

Field Hockey Umpire Clinic (for CURRENT UMPIRES): One-third of the state’s registered Field Hockey Officials registered for and attended the first ever OHSAA Field Hockey Umpire Clinic on July 23rd, at Olentangy Liberty High School. We were pleased to have Gus Soteriades and Chip Rogers join me as instructors. We challenged those in attendance to begin to look at the game in a new light. Most of a very warm day was spent on the field and many eyes were opened as our game continues to evolve. In addition, we had roughly 60 players (from Dublin Coffman, Bishop Watterson, New Albany, Olentangy Liberty, Olentangy Orange, & Worthington Kilbourne) in the day’s training. Many thanks to the young ladies and to their coaches!

Rules Interpretation and Eligibility Questions: As indicated in the online State Rules Meeting, we welcome questions regarding rule interpretations from real game situations. While all parties are encouraged to check the rule book before asking, we know that a few things might require further analysis and discussion. Coaches should feel free to contact me with questions. I prefer to receive these in writing so email is best (diamondumpire@gmail.com). Officials should, after checking the rule book, contact their Local Association Rules Interpreter. (Todd Shapiro, from NOFHOA at ohiodude441@aol.com; Bill Gardiner, from the COFHOA at wgard4121@sbcglobal.net; and Chip Rogers from SWOFHOA at rogers28@miamioh.edu) These gentlemen should be able to address your question. If not, they may choose to refer questions to me. If need be, Dr. Moore and I will take these directly to the NFHS Rules Committee.

All eligibility issues and questions should originate from school administrators and be directed to Dr. Moore (dmoore@ohsaa.org).

Have a great season!