

2016 GENERAL SOCCER TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

NOTE: The following regulations apply to all levels of tournament competition unless otherwise specified. They were adopted by the Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors on September 6, 2016. The Commissioner is authorized to modify these regulations when deemed necessary by the Commissioner, subject to ratification by the Board of Directors. Changes from 2015 to 2016 Tournament Regulations are shaded in gray.

I. ORGANIZATION OF TOURNAMENTS

- A. Each District Athletic Board (DAB) organizes and conducts Sectional and District Tournaments in their respective districts, subject to the rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors. Sectional / District site managers will receive supplemental information from respective District Athletic Boards. Site selection and play dates of Sectional/District tournaments are at the discretion of each District Athletic Board.
- B. The Regional and State Tournaments are under the direct control of the Commissioner's office. There will be three boys divisions (I, II, and III) and three girls divisions (I, II, and III). Site selection for Regional Tournaments is at the discretion of the Commissioner's office and may be changed at any time.
- C. There is no restriction/requirement at any level of play regarding artificial or natural surfaces. Sites must meet minimum requirements of the NFHS.
- D. The OHSAA maintains the authority to change the site, date, or time of any Regional or State tournament assignment.
- E. Completion of the OHSAA Tournament Entry Form is the school's agreement to play at the site, day and time assigned by the Commissioner's office.

II. ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS AND COACHES

- A. All participants must be eligible under the Bylaws and Sports Regulations of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Only one school team sponsored by a member school is eligible to participate. An eligibility certificate must be submitted to the tournament manager.
- B. A student who uses anabolic steroids or other performance enhancing drugs is ineligible for interscholastic competition until such time as medical evidence can be presented that the student's system is free of anabolic steroids or other performance enhancing drugs.
- C. Only Board of Education approved coaches with valid Pupil Activity Coaching Permits issued by the Ohio Department of Education are permitted to be in the bench area or locker room prior to, during, and after any tournament contest.

III. TOURNAMENT ENTRY AND PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS

- A. Tournament Entry/Withdrawal
Member schools wanting to participate in the 2016 OHSAA Soccer Tournaments must indicate their intent to participate on their 2016-17 OHSAA Sports Participation Card in *myOHSAA*. Tournament entry confirmation begins August 1, 2016 and ends October 3, 2016. Schools that change their tournament participation after October 3, 2016 will be subject to a \$150 penalty per sport.
- B. Tournament Paperwork Requirements
Participating schools must provide the OHSAA eligibility certificate to their sectional site manager per their instruction.

IV. TOURNAMENT DRAW AND SEEDING PROCEDURE

NOTE: The established date for all seeding and drawing meetings in Ohio is Sunday, October 9, 2016.

- A. In the Sectional Tournaments that precede District Tournaments, seeding is mandatory in the Sectional. In District Tournaments not preceded by Sectional Tournaments, seeding is mandatory. (**NOTE:** This means that at least one seeding is to take place in either the Sectional or District Tournament.) The following seeding method shall prevail for all OHSAA sponsored Tournaments.
- B. Soccer Tournaments
 - 1. **All teams shall be seeded.** For purposes of seeding, the last matches to be counted will be those played on the date established by the District Athletic Board.
- C. Soccer Tournament Seeding Procedure
 - 1. Tournament managers will post the records of all teams in their tournament. It is the responsibility of each school to have its records compiled as shown below and given to the tournament manager prior to the start of seed voting.

The records will include the number of wins and losses in the divisions of the teams played, e.g., 18 team schedule – Division I school:

12 wins – 2 losses – Division I
3 wins – 1 loss – Division II

All matches played shall be recorded.

D. Voting on Seeded Teams

1. All head coaches shall vote **via ballot which shall be made public**, selecting their choice for the #1 seeded team. The team with greatest number of votes shall be seeded #1, second highest #2, etc, until all teams are seeded. In case of a tie only the tied teams will be re-voted upon. If a tie should occur the second time, a flip of the coin shall determine the seeded team. NOTE: If electronic balloting is utilized in a District, the results shall be sent to the manager and made public by the manager at the drawing meeting.

E. Placement of Teams on Brackets

1. Each District Athletic Board shall determine placement of teams on brackets. If a school fails to have a representative present at the seeding and drawing meeting, the manager shall place the school (s) on the bracket in accordance with the school's seeded position.
2. Sample brackets will be distributed to each manager. Samples of brackets are included in the manager's materials and can be found on the OHSAA web site. The tournament manager will distribute brackets to representatives of participating teams. All brackets shall designate date and time of match with the ~~home team being listed on the top of the bracket~~–Since many districts permit higher seeded teams to host on their home field, designation of the HOME team is determined by each District Athletic Board.

V. TOURNAMENT DATES

- A. **Sectional Tournaments** - shall be scheduled to be completed by **October 22, 2016**.
- B. **District Tournaments** – shall be scheduled to be completed by **October 29, 2016**.
- C. **Regional Tournaments** – shall be **November 1, 2 and 5, 2016**.
- D. **State Tournaments** – shall be **November 8, 9, 11 and 12, 2016**.

Note: Regional tournament dates will not be moved due to schedule changes at the District level. Room should be built into tournaments at the District level

VI. PARTICIPATING SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

A school administrator or a person designated by the school shall assist the tournament site manager with crowd supervision when asked. The school administrator or designee should report to the tournament site manager upon arrival to the site. Knowing in some cases this person may be the coach, the coach should be informed of this responsibility prior to the contest and reviewed at the seed meeting.

- A. No team will be permitted to compete in a tournament contest unless accompanied by the coach or a person authorized by the Board of Education. This school representative shall be present throughout the tournament contest. Teams unaccompanied by such school representative will be disqualified.
- B. If a girl's team coach is male, it is *recommended* that a female (non-high school student) accompany the team.

VII. OFFICIALS

- A. **Sectional and District** – officials shall be assigned by the District Athletic Boards from pools provided by the OHSAA
- B. **Regional and State** – officials will be assigned by the Commissioner's office according to the procedure adopted by the Board of Directors. Only OHSAA Soccer Class I officials shall be used.

C. Touchline Officials (Fourth Officials)

1. During regional and state tournament play, site managers are encouraged to provide one touchline official where both teams are on the same side of the field and two where the teams are on opposite sides of the field. Regardless of chosen set-up, please ensure that both teams are treated equitably.
2. Each touchline official shall dress in the OHSAA-approved official's uniform and shall bring the short-sleeved and long-sleeved: gold jersey with black stripes and each of the OHSAA-approved alternate official's jerseys
3. Each touchline official shall arrive a minimum of sixty (60) minutes prior to the scheduled kickoff and shall

- fully participate in all of the officials' pre-match duties and their pre-match conferences.
4. During the match, the touchline official's normal position is in the official area, standing near the scorer's table.
 5. The touchline official(s) shall be responsible for signaling substitutions and each shall be provided with an air horn and an adequate supply of propellant.
 6. The touchline official(s) shall not use a whistle to signal for substitutions.
 7. The touchline official shall keep records of goals scored and misconduct cards issued and shall inform the referee of any irregularity in starting and stopping of clock.
 8. The touchline official performs any equipment, uniform, blood-on-the-person or blood-on-the-uniform check as determined by the referee in the prematch conference. The inspection shall be accomplished prior to a substitute's entry of the match or the reentry of a player.
 9. The touchline official(s) shall notify the referee as quickly as possible if a player, coach or bench personnel has been cautioned or disqualified based on an incorrect identification; if a player, coach or bench personnel has not been disqualified despite having received a second caution or if violent conduct has been committed by anyone outside of the view of the referee and assistant referees.
 10. The touchline official(s) shall: keep each team area and each official area under observation, manage bench decorum and be prepared to bring to the attention of the referee any instances of misconduct in or outside of either area, or of players, coaches or bench personnel entering the field of play without permission of the referee.
 11. The touchline official is to employ less-intrusive solutions when a situation may be resolved without creating greater conflict, tension or confusion.
 12. The touchline official is to involve the coach(es) and/or team officials in identifying and preventing unacceptable behavior within the team areas and is to solicit their assistance when necessary to prevent or correct problem situations. The touchline official is to invoke the referee's authority as a last resort in these situations.
 13. The touchline official(s) shall have such additional duties as are assigned by the head referee.
 14. In the event that one of the OHSAA-assigned officials cannot officiate, the officials shall determine among themselves who will be head referee and who will be the assistant referees. Where able, the official who cannot officiate shall fill the open touchline official's position.

VIII. FAILURE TO APPEAR

If a team fails to appear or is not ready to play within 30 minutes of the scheduled starting time of a tournament game, the space on the bracket may be declared vacant. A "no contest" will be declared, and the opposing team will advance into the next round of competition. See **No Contest** under Section 32 of the General Sports regulations.

All decisions relative to this regulation shall be made by a representative of the respective district athletic board or the OHSAA Commissioner's office.

IX. GAME REGULATIONS

- A. **Coin Toss** – a coin toss shall be held as in Rule 5-2-2 (d)(3)
- B. **Rules** – National Federation 2015-2016 Soccer Rules shall be used in all games.
- C. **Tournament Tie Procedures**

When the score is tied at the end of regulation time, the referee will instruct both teams to return to their respective team benches. There will be five minutes during which both teams may confer with their coaches and the head referee will instruct both teams as to proper procedures.

- i. Teams will play one 15-minute sudden victory overtime period. If neither team scores during the first overtime period, teams will play a second 15-minute sudden victory overtime period.
 - ii. Prior to the first overtime period, a coin toss shall be held as in Rule 5-2-2 (d)(3).
 - iii. If neither team scores during the first 15-minute overtime period, teams shall alternate the kickoff and change ends for the second overtime period.
 - iv. There shall be a two-minute interval between periods.
 1. If neither team scores during the second overtime period, all coaches, officials and team captains following a twominute interval shall assemble at the halfway line to review the procedures for a penalty kick shootout as outlined below:
- D. **Game Management Procedures**
1. The head referee shall choose the goal at which all of the penalty kicks shall be taken based upon field and weather conditions.

2. Per Rule 1-6-1, spectators shall be confined to areas at least 10 feet from the touch line, team/official area and goal line. No one shall be permitted directly behind either goal unless seated in bleachers,
3. The coin toss shall be held as in Rule 5-2-2 (d)(3) and the team winning the coin toss will have the choice of kicking first or second.
4. Prior to commencement of each set of penalty kicks, each coach will submit a list of five kickers by name, number, and sequence (i.e. first through the fifth) to the head referee. Substitution for a kicker is only permitted for injury or as provided for in IX (F), "Misconduct Procedures," and must be coordinated through the head referee.
5. Teams will alternate kickers.
6. The ball may not be played by anyone except the goalkeeper after it has been kicked. There is no follow-up.
7. During all tie-breaker penalty kicks, the ball remains alive until its momentum is spent, it goes out of bounds or it is retouched by the kicker.
8. The defending team may change the goalkeeper prior to each kick.
9. The tie-breaker procedure initially requires a maximum of five kicks per team. The team scoring the greater number of goals from their kicks shall be declared the winner. Where a team has taken fewer than five kicks and has already scored a greater number of goals than their opponent can score if that opponent is permitted to take all five of its kicks, the tie-breaker procedure is terminated and the winner is declared to be the team which has already scored the greater number of goals.
10. **Sudden victory** begins with the second set of kicks, wherein if one team scores and the other team does not score, the game is ended without more kicks being taken.
11. Both teams are permitted on the field, along the halfway line, during taking of kicks from the penalty mark. Kickers of each team must remain within the center circle, until called for their kick. Coaches and nonkicking, rostered players shall remain along the halfway line. The home team shall occupy the halfway line closer to the touchline on the bench side, while the visiting team shall occupy the halfway line closer to the opposite touchline.

E. Selection of Kickers

1. **Eligible Players** – Players eligible to participate in the penalty kick shootout include the goalkeeper and any players on or off the field, except those who may have been disqualified or ejected.
2. Each coach will select five players per set of kicks based upon the following guidelines:

Step	Set of Kicks	Available Players	Status
1	1 st set of 5	All eligible players	All 10 players kick (5 per team)
2	2 nd set of 5	All eligible players except those who participated in the 1st set	SUDDEN VICTORY
3	3 rd set of 5	All eligible players	SUDDEN VICTORY
4	4 th set of 5	All eligible players except those who participated in the immediately preceding set	SUDDEN VICTORY

If a tie still remains, repeat steps 3 and 4 until a winner is determined.

3. If, after any odd-numbered set of five kickers, one team has fewer than five eligible players for the next, even-numbered set of five kickers, due to injury disqualification or ejection, etc., that next, even-numbered set shall consist, for both teams, of the same number of eligible players also eligible under Section IX(E)(2), above.

Example: After completion of the first set of five kickers, with each team having scored four goals, Team A has only three players eligible for the second set of five kickers, i.e., who are on the roster and who did not kick in the immediately preceding set of five kickers. The second set of kickers will consist of the three remaining Team A players who did not kick in the immediately preceding set of five kickers and any three of Team B's eligible players who did not kick in the immediately preceding set of five kickers.

F. Player Misconduct Procedures

1. Cautioned Players

- a. One of the five players listed to take a kick is cautioned after he/she takes the kick. That player is not eligible to kick again until two complete set of five kicks have completed beyond the set of kicks in which the caution was issued.
 - i. Player "X" is one of the first five kickers, and is cautioned after taking his/her kick. Player "X" is not eligible to kick again until the set beginning with the 16th kick.
 - ii. Player "Y" is one of the second set of five kickers and is cautioned after taking his/her kick. Player "Y" is not eligible to kick again until the set beginning with the 16th kick.
- b. One of the five players listed to take a kick is cautioned before he/she takes the kick. That player is not eligible to kick until the next set of five kicks. Another eligible player not listed in that set of kicks must take the cautioned player's original turn.
- c. When a goalkeeper is issued a caution during any set of five kicks, he/she cannot re-enter until the next opponent completes his/her kick. A substitution is permitted for the cautioned goalkeeper.

2. Disqualified Players

- a. Any player, including the goalkeeper, who is disqualified, may not participate any further. If his/her kick is not already completed, a substitute is permitted.

G. Interrupted Tournament Games

1. Tournament games interrupted because of events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority shall be continued from the point of interruption.
2. Any ejected player or coach cannot participate in the resumed game.
3. Teams, playing short, will continue to play short.
4. Rule 7-1-3 is not in effect for tournament games.

H. Warm-Up Time and Timing of the Pre-Match Sportsmanship Conference

1. Both teams are guaranteed a minimum of 30 minutes of uninterrupted warm-up time.
 - The 30 minute clock will begin 40 minutes prior to kickoff, guaranteeing the minimum 30 minute warm-up.
2. Both teams may be permitted access to the field one (1) hour prior to kickoff (presuming there is not another match immediately prior).
3. The remaining 10 minutes prior to kickoff will be utilized for the sportsmanship conference, coin toss, pre-game introductions, and the national anthem.
4. A sample pre-game schedule is as follows for a 7:00 pm kickoff:

Time	Item
6:00 pm	Teams permitted to take the field (if available)
6:20 pm	30 minute clock starts
6:20 pm	Guaranteed 30 minutes of uninterrupted warm-up time begins
6:50 pm	Uninterrupted warm-up time is concluded
6:50 pm	Pre-Match Sportsmanship Conference Coin Toss Pre-Game Introductions National Anthem
7:00 pm	Kickoff

I. Goal Differential

During any tournament contest, any time the score differential reaches 6 goals or more AFTER the first half of the contest, a running clock shall be used. After the 6-goal differential has been met but the score drops below 6 goals, the clock reverts to regular timing. The clock shall be stopped only for an injured player on the field or when there is any unusual delay deemed necessary by the officials.

X. TEAM REGULATIONS

- A. **Game Ball / Ball Persons** – Each team will provide three ball persons during all tournament contests, including regional and state tournament play. In addition, each participating team will provide three balls for use in each contest during sectional and district tournaments. Per our agreement with Nike, the OHSAA adopted ball for regional and state play, six game balls will be provided for each contest at regional and state sites, and each participating team will receive three at the conclusion of the contest.
- B. **Size of Squads** – It is the responsibility of the coaches and tournament manager to insure that the number of players does not exceed 22 in uniform each game. If either team is over the limit, it must be corrected at once. Failure to comply with the regulation at any time after the request of the head officials shall result in the forfeiture of the game.
- C. **Bench Area** – 29 individuals are permitted to be in the bench area and/or on the field during team warm-up for any contest. Players serving a suspension for a red card ejection may be one of the 29 but may not be on the field at any time during warm-up. It is the responsibility of the coaches and tournament manager to insure that the number of individuals does not exceed 29.
- D. **Team Expenses**
1. Sectional / District - the respective District Athletic Boards will determine Sectional and District game expenses
 2. Regionals – \$4.00 per mile one way for each day of participation and a one-time \$200.00 participation reimbursement (paid for the semifinal game only)
 3. State - \$5.00 per mile, one way for each day of participation and \$400.00 for each day of participation.
- E. **Uniforms**
1. The home team shall wear solid white jerseys and socks, and the visiting team shall wear dark jerseys and socks.
 2. Both socks shall be the same dominant color, but not necessarily the color of the jersey.
 3. If other visible apparel is worn under the uniform, it shall conform to NFHS Rule 4-1-1. All team members do not have to wear the additional apparel.
 4. Shin guards are mandatory and shall be fully covered by the socks. They must meet NOCSAE specifications.
 5. All aspects of the uniform must conform to NFHS Rule 4-1-1.
- F. **Unsporting Conduct Requirements and Penalties**
- Participation in athletic contests is a privilege. Each individual is expected to conduct him /herself in an exemplary manner while participating.
1. During participation in OHSAA Tournaments, any student or coach ejected for unsporting conduct or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for contests for the remainder of that day as well as for all contests in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests are played at the same level as the ejection.
 2. Individuals ejected for unsporting conduct shall be reported to the OHSAA Commissioner by the tournament manager. The Commissioner will investigate the situation and may impose additional penalties in accordance with Bylaw 12 if the situation warrants.
 3. All participants are required to respectfully participate in Awards Presentations at the conclusion of District, Regional and State Final contests. This includes attention to opposing team presentations of individual and team trophy awards. Coaches and school administrators are expected to enforce this requirement. Failure to comply may result in forfeiture of team expense reimbursements.

XI. SCHOOL REGULATIONS

- A. **Cheerleaders & Mascots**
- a. Eight (8) cheerleaders in uniform, one student mascot and one sponsor will be admitted free provided a certified list is filed at the pass gate by the high school principal.
 - b. Only cheerleaders in uniform are permitted to lead cheers at field level.
 - c. Mascots will not be permitted on the playing field or near the team benches.
- B. **Property Damage**
- a. There is no insurance covering property damage.
 - b. If property is damaged at a tournament site by competing school teams, student body or spectators, the school from which the students and/or spectators come shall be liable and pay the cost of repair or replacement. The tournament manager is authorized to deduct from the school's share the cost of any damages caused by competing schools.

- c. Other damages to facilities not attributed to a competing school could be a legitimate tournament expense and may be deducted from tournament receipts.
- d. If damage is extensive, the District Athletic Board or Board of Directors will become involved.
- e. Student crowd control at state sponsored tournaments is the responsibility of the Principals of the competing schools.

C. **Videotaping by Schools**

- a. Filming or videotaping of tournament games by one or both of the schools playing the game is permitted provide the permission of the tournament manager is secured and it is done at the expense of the school involved and a maximum of one individual per school is permitted.
- b. **Videotaping of a potential opponent's tournament game is PROHIBITED.**

XII **SITE REGULATIONS**

A. **Admission and Admission Policies**

Tickets for admission will be used and provided to each person paying an admission charge. Tickets will be issued and torn with half provided to the spectator and the other half kept for auditing purposes.

- 1. Sectional and District admission prices - established by the respective District Athletic Boards
- 2. Regional admission - \$7.00 per person
- 3. State admission - \$8.00 per person

B. **Team Admission**

- 1. Regionals - Twenty-two (22) players, two (2) coaches, one (1) manager, one (1) trainer, and two (2) others (to include the bus driver) will be admitted at the pass gate by the approved OHSAA Pass List. Four (4) administrators, plus one (1) guest for each, may be added to the pass list. Separate passes for administrators will not be issued since they will be included and listed on the pass list.
- 2. State - Twenty-two (22) players, two (2) coaches, one (1) manager, one (1) trainer, and two (3) others will be admitted at the pass gate via Commemorative "Bag Tags" provided at the Finalists Meeting. There will be **no Pass List Used at the State Semi-final or Final games.** (2) passes for all State Tournament sessions will be provided to the superintendent, principal, athletic administrator, and bus driver of each participating school.

C. **Banners and Signs**

- 1. Banners and signs will be permitted provided they are not personal, negative, unsportsmanlike or vulgar.
- 2. All signs must be coordinated with site managers according to facility policies. If signs are permitted by the site manager, the visiting school representatives who hung the signs are responsible for removing them, and all evidence of them, following the contest.

D. **Noisemakers**

- 1. Noisemakers are permitted provided they do not interfere with the game as determined by the site manager.
- 2. Air Horns/noisemaker prohibited
Air horns and noisemakers that required electric or alternate sources of power are not permitted in the facility.

E. **Videotaping by Spectators**

- 1. Any and all videotaping by spectators shall be for personal use.
- 2. Videotaping shall not be for the purpose of scouting or coaching.
- 3. Any and all videotaping shall not interfere with the view of the athletic contest by other spectators.
- 4. The tournament site shall not permit the use of more than the seating space for which the spectator has paid when seating is needed for paying fans.
- 5. The tournament site accepts no liability for damage or theft of spectator equipment or injury as a result of privately owned equipment.
- 6. Equipment shall not be permitted in any playing area – only in the spectator seating area.
- 7. The tournament site shall not provide power sources for video equipment.
- 8. Violation of this regulation may result in the removal of the offender from the premises.

F. **Pass-Outs** – No pass-outs will be provided at any game site.

G. **Prohibited Advertising** – There shall be no advertising through printed media, billboards, radio or television that includes beer, wine, liquor, tobacco, political parties or candidates or any other advertising contrary to the philosophy of interscholastic athletics.

H. **Prohibited Sales** – The sale of, the distribution of, or the consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is not permitted at the site of any contest involving OHSAA member schools.

I. **Raffles Prohibited** – There shall be no raffles or any type of games of chance permitted at the site of tournament contests.

J. **Drones (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles)**

The use of drones is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at OHSAA tournament contests. Tournament management shall remove anyone attempting to use a drone and/or confiscate the drone until the event has been completed.

Note: An exception to this policy may be made in specific cases for OHSAA broadcast partners, provided the management of the tournament facility permits the presence of drones for broadcast purposes under the control of the OHSAA.

XIII. **MEDIA**

A. **Radio, Press and Photographers** – All requests for space shall be directed to the tournament manager for Sectional/District and Regional games. Credential requests for State Tournament games shall be Directed to Tim Stried, OHSAA Director of Information. Proper credentials must be presented for admission at the pass gate.

B. **Television** – Tape-delayed requests shall be directed to the appropriate tournament manager. Live request shall be directed to the Commissioner's office.

XIV. **AWARDS**

A. Only awards furnished by the OHSAA may be presented at the OHSAA tournament site.

B. **Sectionals** – Sectional trophies will not be awarded.

C. **District** – Trophies will be presented to the winner and runner-up teams. Awards will be presented to the individual team members and coaches of the teams. Both teams will remain present for the Awards Ceremony.

D. **Regionals** – A trophy will be presented to the Regional winner and runner-up.

E. **State** – Team trophies will be presented to the State Champion and Runner-Up. Individual team members and coaches of both teams will be presented with gold or silver awards. State Tournament Participation Certificates are provided to all players permitted in uniform (22) and coaches (3).

XV. **SPONSORSHIP AND RIGHTS**

A. The OHSAA is the sponsoring association for the Sectional, District, Regional and State Boy's and Girl's Soccer Tournaments.

B. The OHSAA reserves all rights in regard to the management of these tournaments and the sale of any items or any audio-visual reproductions.

C. Any sale of food, clothing, souvenirs, or any other items is strictly prohibited without permission of the respective District Athletic Boards for Sectional and District tournaments and the OHSAA Commissioner for the Regional and State Tournaments.

XVI. **WEATHER (OHSAA Lightning and Inclement Weather Regulation)**

Recognition:

Coaches, athletic trainers, athletes, administrators and contest officials should be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm development. Since the average distance between successive lightening flashes is approximately two to three miles ANYTIME that lightning can be seen or heard, the risk is already present. Weather can be monitored using the following methods:

- **Monitor Weather Patterns** – Be aware of potential thunderstorms by monitoring local weather forecasts the day before and morning of the competition, and by scanning the sky for signs of potential thunderstorm activity.

- **National Weather Service** – Weather can also be monitored using small, portable weather radios from the NWS. The NWS uses a system of severe storm watches and warnings watch indicates conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a warning indicates severe weather has been reported in an area, and everyone should take proper precautions. Any thunderstorm poses a risk of injury or death even if it does not meet the criteria for severe weather. Therefore, anytime thunderstorms are in the forecast (even if it is only a 20 percent chance), event organizers shall be at a heightened level of awareness to the potential danger of lightning.

Management:

- **Evacuation-** If lightening is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators

shall evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues.

- **Thirty-minute rule**- Competition or practice shall be suspended once lightning has been recognized or thunder is heard. It is **mandatory** to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard prior to resuming practice or competition. Given the average rates of thunderstorm travel, the storm should move 10-12 miles away from the area. This significantly reduces the risk of local lightning flashes. **Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count shall reset the clock, and Another count shall begin.**

XVI. STATE TOURNAMENT INFORMATION ONLY

A. STATE TOURNAMENT SUMMARY

1. **Dates** - the State Tournaments will be held **November 8, 9, 11 and 12, 2016.**
2. **Semifinal Sites** - to be determined based upon geographic considerations.
3. **Finals Site** - the finals will be played at the Columbus MAPFRE Stadium under the supervision and sponsorship of the Ohio High School Athletic Association with the cooperation of The Columbus Crew SC.

B. COACHES MEETING

1. Details regarding any meeting of coaches will be distributed to all State Tournament Semifinal qualifiers by Regional Site Managers.

C. MEDIA CREDENTIALS

1. **Semifinals** - Requests for State Semifinal games need to be forwarded to the site managers.
2. **Finals** - Requests for the State Final games should be forwarded to Tim Stried, Director of Information at the OHSAA office - (614) 267-1677 (fax)