



IOWA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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Dear Soccer Administrators and Coaches:

We have had numerous people comment on how good it has been to be outside as the late winter weather has been so good. We hope that it will continue with the arrival of spring. We want to make you aware of some changes for this spring.

Rule Changes - There were only two rule changes for this spring. Rule 1-1-1 has changed the minimal dimension recommended for a high school field. The minimal recommended dimensions are 110 yards by 65 yards. The Soccer Advisory Committee has recommended that we attempt to place all sub-state games on minimum size fields. We know this cannot be done in all areas. Rule-4-3 now makes the head coach responsible for ensuring that players are properly equipped. There is now a consequence (caution – yellow card) for failing to do so. This is not a rule change, because it has been previously announced, but Rule 4-1 regarding shinguards will be enforced this spring. All players must wear NOCSAE approved shinguards. Officials will be looking for either an embossed NOCSAE seal or a NOCSAE tag on all shinguards.

IHSAA Policy Changes - We have some significant changes in IHSAA policies for this spring.

- 1). **Classifications** – There will be three classes of soccer this spring. Class 3A will be the largest 48 schools, followed by Class 2A with 48 schools, and Class 1A with the remaining schools. Each class will qualify eight (8) schools to the state tournament.
- 2). **Sub-state Dates** – In the past the opening two dates for sub-states were the same dates as the state track and field meet. With three classes, sub-state play can now be accomplished on three dates. Accordingly, sub-state play will be on Thursday, May 26; Thursday, May 28; and Monday, June 1. Please make note of these dates as they are different from what was previously published in the Handbook and on the wall calendar.
- 3.) **Sub-state Assignments** – The Soccer Advisory Committee recommended, and the Board of Control approved a method for involving the Iowa High School Soccer Coaches Association rankings in the pairing process. Ranked teams will in essence be seeded on the bracket and then unranked teams will be assigned using the alphabetical system. This means ranked teams will receive byes and be given the opportunity to host. We will be posting the sub-state geographic assignments on the

website soon. Actual pairings, sites and dates will not be posted until the week of May 11th.

4.) **State Tournament** – The state tournament will be played on June 4, 5, and 6, at the Cownie Soccer Park in Des Moines. As many of you know, Cownie was flooded last spring. We are working closely with Des Moines Parks and Recreations regarding the availability and condition of the facility. A contingency plan will be in place if conditions this spring do not allow play at Cownie. We will have to have an earlier starting time each day to accommodate the additional class. A full state tournament schedule will be posted on the website as soon as it has been finalized.

Online Game Reports – We are not requiring, but we have a high expectation that administrators and coaches will complete the online game reports. This information has been used and a high level of participation is important to the success of these efforts. Administrators will report only after home varsity boys' games. Coaches will report after all varsity boys' games. The reports are available on the IHSA website soccer page. The reports require a username and password which is below. The username and password are case sensitive and should be entered in CAPITAL letters.

Administrators - Username -
Coaches- Username -

Password -
Password -

Player and Coach Conduct – Please be reminded that we have consequences in place for varsity teams who have repeated misconduct. The most important is that if a varsity team has four (4) red cards (coach and player) during the season that team will not be allowed to participate in the postseason tournament. If this occurs with your team, there will be correspondence during the season to the athletic administrator and principal regarding the status of your team. We need to make coach and player conduct a high priority so these situations do not develop.

Rules Meetings - The rules meetings are all completed for this spring. We hope that the online meeting was helpful. You may be interested in knowing that 303 coaches, 151 officials and 49 "unaffiliated" people participated in the online meetings. Based on your comments, we will continue to offer online meetings in the future.

We are hoping for a great 2009 soccer season. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely

David Anderson