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March 22, 2010

Dear Soccer Administrators and Coaches:

Obviously the winter weather is causing some difficulties with the beginning of soccer practice. We hope that the improved forecast will continue as we move into the beginning of competition. We want to make you aware of some changes for this spring.

Rule Changes - There were only a few rule changes for this spring. Rule 3-1-3 now allows the team roster to be submitted by any team personnel. Previously, a coach was required to present the roster. Rule-4-2-1g now reads “ankle braces made of metal or unyielding materials, unless covered by a stocking or other suitable material. **Ankle braces not made of metal or unyielding material may be worn outside a stocking.** The change deals with the bold statement. Rule 4-1 regarding shin guards is in force this spring. All players must wear NOCSAE approved shin guards. You officials will be looking for either an embossed NOCSAE seal or a NOCSAE tag and height range on all shin guards. Beginning in 2012 the NOCSAE seal and height range shall be permanently marked on the front of the shin guard. The 2010 Spring Sports Manual is posted online at www.iahsaa.org. Please read the soccer portion of the manual for additional adaptations to National Federation rules and overtime procedures.

IHSAA Policy Changes - We have some changes in IHSAA policies for this spring. The changes in these policies will change officials assigning and possible availability.

- 1.) **Sub-state Dates** – Sub-state play will be on Monday, May 24; Wednesday, May 26; and Saturday, May 29. Please make note of these dates as they are different from the dates used last year.
- 2.) **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 assignment and 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. The posting of sub-state assignments will be delayed so the rankings can be considered in assignments. Actual pairings, sites and dates will not be posted until the week of May 10th.

3.) **State Tournament** – The state tournament will be played on June 3, 4, and 5, at the Cownie Soccer Park in Des Moines. 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 – **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 IHSAA 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 - XXXXX
Coaches- Username - XXXXX

Password - XXXXX
Password - XXXXX

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. All of our conduct policies are included in the Spring Sports Manual which is posted online.

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 2010 soccer season. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

David Anderson