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March 24, 2011

Dear Soccer Athletic Administrators and Coaches:

The weather today indicates that the beginning of the competitive high school soccer season must be near. We will hope that the weather improves before our first official playing date which is next Thursday, March 31.

Rule Changes - There were only a few rule changes for this spring. Rule 3-3-1c is a new statement that allows unlimited substitutions by either team "when a player is injured and removed from the field." Rule 3-1-1c3 is a new National Federation policy which deals with **concussions**. The NFHS rule could soon be in conflict with Iowa law as the legislature is currently considering a bill that would have somewhat different guidelines than the NFHS rule. Very simply, when a player is injured, you will stop the game and the player will leave the contest. If the injured player presents at the scorer's table for substitution, the school has determined that the player is not displaying signs and symptoms of a concussion and you should allow the player reenter the game. Rule 4-1-1i2 now is clear that the uniform can only have name, patches, emblems, logos or insignias that reference the school are permitted. This change is to eliminate reference to professional teams or other organizations from the uniform. Rule 4-2-1c has been changed to no longer require a physician's statement for players wearing hard and unyielding items. The rules for padding remain. Rule 15-1-3 now requires that the opponent during throw-ins must stand at least two yards from the point at which the throw-in is being taken. This now brings NFHS rules in compliance with a FIFA change made several years ago.

IHSAA Tournaments – Here are the dates for the substate and state boys' soccer tournaments.

1). **Sub-state Dates** – Sub-state play will be on Monday, May 23; Wednesday, May 25; and Saturday, May 28. Please make note of these dates.

2.) **Sub-state Assignments** – As we did last year the IHSAA will use the Iowa High School Soccer Coaches Association rankings in the assignment and pairing process. Ranked teams will be seeded on the bracket and then unranked teams will be assigned using the alphabetical system. Actual pairings, sites and dates will not be posted until the week of May 9th.

3.) **State Tournament** – The state tournament will be played on June 2, 3, and 4, at the Cownie Soccer Park in Des Moines. 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 athletic 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 should report after every home boys' varsity game. Coaches should report following all varsity games. The links will be found on the IHSAA website on the 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.

Administrator -
Coach-

Username - XXXXX
Username - XXXXX

Password - XXXXXX
Password - XXXXXX

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. **Administrators need to report soccer ejections at all levels for their schools using the online ejection report which is part of the member school link on our website.**

Rules Meetings - The live rules meetings are all completed for this spring. However, the online meeting is still available until March 31 at 4:00 pm. If you have not attended or viewed a rules meeting, you should do so.

QuikStats – The IHSAA is expanding statistics reporting to soccer this year. We have posted a “Soccer Statistics Manual” on our website. The process will be quite simple but will require an effort by our soccer coaches. The posting of soccer statistics is required. We will be checking to see if schools are in compliance on Monday, April 18, Monday, May 2 and Monday, May 23. There is an expectation that substate statistics be updated within 24 hours of the completion of the substate game. Schools not in compliance receive communication from the IHSAA and failure to comply can lead to tournament expenses being withheld. A sheet of instructions for the entry of statistics into the system has also been attached to this email.

We are hoping for a great 2011 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 "Todd Tharp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Todd Tharp

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

David Anderson