Please review the following soccer information. If you have questions, contact Lisa Brinkmeyer at Lisa@ighsau.org or 515-401-1835.

**Administration Presence:** The IGHSAU is emphasizing an administration presence by the home team management throughout the match. Please provide the referees with the approximate location of the administrator during the match.

**Club Team Reminder:** When a student is playing on a non-school team she is not permitted to practice, train or participate in a contest with or against a college team. (Players are allowed a one-time tryout per college.) Violating this rule could compromise your players’ high school eligibility. Coaches with players involved with club teams, please share this information with your players and parents.

Student-athletes wanting to compete on non-school teams during the season should consult their school administration as it is local control if non-school participation is permitted during the high school season.

**Regional Site Availability:** If you would like to be considered to host regional matches, please have your athletic director complete the site availability form in Varsity Bound by April 16th (today). The current list of schools that applied to host is on the IGHSAU website.

**Ejection Information:** All ejections must be reported by school administration and match officials to Lisa Brinkmeyer the following business day. The administration must meet with the offender and file the Ejection form (on the IGHSAU website) with the State Office. The offender is required to file a written summary of the events which led up to the ejection with the State Office. The offender must also watch the NFHS Sportsmanship video on the NFHS website and submit the certification of completion to Lisa Brinkmeyer. The normal penalty for a first offense is a **one date** suspension. A lesser or more severe penalty may apply upon review of the incident.

Please note the one **date** notation. For example: if a player is ejected in a Tuesday match and the school’s next scheduled date is a Saturday tournament, the ejected player will miss the **entire** Saturday tournament. If a player is ejected in the first match of a Saturday tournament, the offender can play in the remaining matches of the Saturday tournament, but will miss the next scheduled date on the schedule.

**Role of Assistant Coaches:** Assistant coaches are to be silent partners regarding communication with officials. Assistant coaches are not to question or challenge the calls of the officials during the match. They may communicate with players on the field, but inappropriate communication with the officials will result in a yellow card.
Coaches Post-Game Reports: To file your post-game report, go to your schedule in Varsity Bound and click on the white squad with three horizontal dots in a white square. A dropdown box will appear the click “Officials”. This will take you to a screen where you list your match officials. In order to fill out the form, you are required to enter the match officials’ names. The information you provide is very useful to the IGHSAU and our soccer official coordinator for educational purposes.

Mercy Rule: Any game that reaches halftime (or anytime in the second half) with a 10-goal differential shall be ruled a complete game and conclude immediately. The first half is to be played to completion regardless of a 10-goal differential.

Overtime Procedures: During regular-season games, the procedure of two ten-minute sudden death overtimes is required to be played, if no goal is scored during either 10-minute OT period, then teams will move into penalty kicks.

A game that has met the complete game requirements (one half completed) but has ended due to weather/facility/injury may be recognized as a complete game, even if it ends in a tie. By NFHS rule: the head referee shall declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been played. If less than one-half of the game has been played, the game may be rescheduled…from suspension of play according to state association adoption.

Caution (Yellow Card) Re-Entry: Coaches are reminded when a player is removed for five minutes due to receiving a yellow card, the coach is not to send them in as a substitute to re-enter until the entire five minutes has elapsed. Several situations occurred last year where coaches were sending them up prior to the five minutes elapsing.

A coach who sends his player to re-enter as a substitute prior to the five-minute expiration is in violation of misconduct and subject to a yellow card (caution) for this game violation. Just a reminder that a player receiving a yellow card during the last five minutes of the second overtime is disqualified from participating in the penalty kick phase if it is needed.

Field Markings: Please make sure your team box area is properly marked on your field. Schools playing on grass fields should use paint to mark the area unless permanent boundaries require use of pylons or other visible marks. Schools using artificial grass fields should use pylons or other clearly visible marks to distinguish the team and coaching area.

PLEASE MAKE SURE THE TEAM BOX AREA IS THE PROPER DISTANCE FROM THE TOUCHLINE. This is a safety issue for players, coaches and officials and an issue regarding sportsmanship for communication between coaches and officials. There needs to be a buffer area in which the coaching staff cannot be in the same spot as the AR1 during the game. They need to be 10 feet away and stay in that area.
Officials Exiting the Field: It is the expectation of the IHSAA, IGSAU, and the IRC that the officiating crew leave the field IMMEDIATELY upon the conclusion of the match. There is no need for them to be on the field for any post-game acknowledgement of teams.

Covid Protocols: Masks are encouraged to be worn during the pre-game conference, which is to take place near centerfield.

Lisa Brinkmeyer
IGHSAU Assistant Director/Soccer Administrator